

**God's
Story
@ Home**

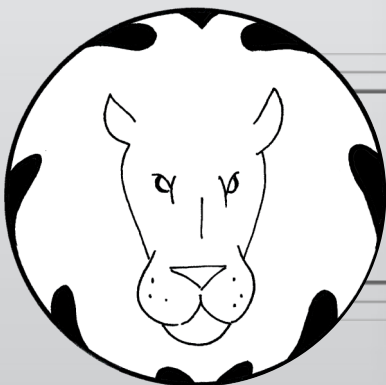
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Living the Word

God's Story @ Home

Family Faith Formation

2020 – 2021



Family Guide

Winter Unit

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Lesson #3-12

Hope in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:6-27

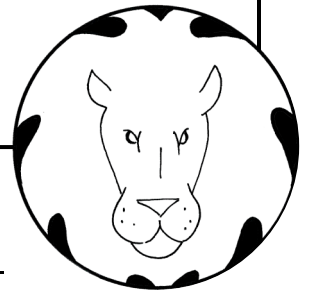


Key Verse:

"[God] delivers and rescues, [God] works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for [God] has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."
Daniel 6:27

The Point:

We can trust in God's faithfulness.



Introduction

Daniel was living in Babylon and prayed to God three times a day. The local rulers made a law forbidding anyone to pray to anyone but the king. Those who broke the law would be thrown into a pit of lions. Daniel heard about the law, but he kept praying. The rulers found out and told the king. King Darius liked Daniel and tried to find a way around the rule, but he could not, and Daniel was thrown into the den of lions. Things seemed hopeless, but Daniel trusted God. In the morning, the king called out to Daniel asking if God had saved him. Daniel answered! God was faithful!

The Point

We can trust in God's faithfulness. Children often hear "No," or "Stop that!" or "Do what you are told." They are accustomed to what may appear to be conditional approval or disapproval. They may think that God's love and faithfulness are also conditional. It is not our actions that make God faithful to us, but rather God's faithfulness that helps us to know how to act. We can be courageous like Daniel, relying on the fact that we are in the hands of a faithful God whose love is unconditional. We can celebrate that God's actions are not dependent on our faithfulness, because God is always faithful!

Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Introduction

The "Mane" Thing

Build a lion's mane while sharing scary things.

5 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-12.A
- † Orange paper
- † Scissors
- † Glue stick or tape
- † Pens or pencils

Learning the Story

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

15 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-12.B
- † Activity Sheet #3-12.C
- † Card stock
- † Marker
- † Photo of a lion

Activities

God with Us

Discover God's power.

5 min.

- † Clear bowl
- † Water
- † Paper towels
- † Large paper clip

Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Activities

Advent Mural

Create the first step of an Advent mural.

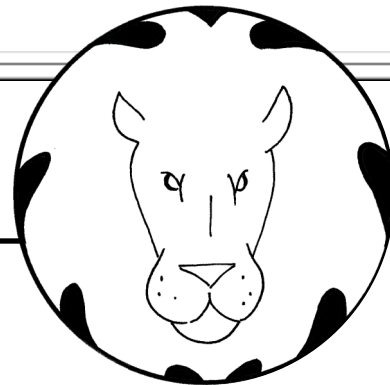
10 min.

- † Blue or purple paper
- † Yellow or orange paper
- † White paper
- † Markers
- † Scissors
- † Glue sticks or tape
- † Optional: green paper

Prayer

- † Activity Sheet #3-12.D

God's Story @ Home



Introduction (5 minutes)

The "Mane" Thing

Build a lion's mane while sharing scary things.

Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #3-12.A
- † Orange paper
- † Scissors
- † Glue stick or tape
- † Pens or pencils

Preparation:

1. Cut strips of orange paper to 1 inch by 8.5 inches (at least one per person).
2. Attach Activity Sheet #3-12.A to the wall at a height where everyone can reach to attach the orange strips of paper as the lion's mane.

Instructions:

1. **Hello! I hope you are having a great day today, full of good things, but I also know that sometimes we have to face things that are scary. Can you think of something you have had to face that was scary?**
2. **Write down or draw one scary thing on the orange strip in front of you.**
3. **When you are finished, we are going to attach your strips to this face.**
4. Attach the strips in a circle around the lion face to make a mane.
5. **There are lots of things that can feel scary.**
6. Read some of the responses on the strips aloud as examples.
7. **In our story today, Daniel had to face lions like this one** (point to lion face). **It was pretty scary, but Daniel knew that God would be faithful.**

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #3-12.B
- † Activity Sheet #3-12.C
- † Card stock
- † Marker
- † Photo of a lion

Preparation:

1. Cut out the cue cards from Activity Sheet #3-12.C.
2. Place the cue cards in order by their number. You will use the lion photo several times as you tell the story, so keep it separate from the stack of cue cards.
3. It may be helpful to have an extra copy of the activity sheet and have one person reading and another holding up the cue cards.

Instructions:

1. **We know that Daniel trusted God and that Daniel had to face lions, but let's find out what exactly happened in our story today!**
2. **First, I will need some helpers!**
3. Assign as many of the following parts as you are able. People may double up on parts as needed. All parts will need to be volunteers with basic reading skills, except for the lions. Volunteers can read multiple parts.
 - Daniel
 - King Darius
 - 3 satraps
 - 3 lions
4. Introduce King Darius, Daniel, the satraps, and the lions. Invite the satraps and the lions to stand together.
5. **Now we are going to hear the story. Helpers, as I read, you will see cue cards. They will tell you what to do. For example, if I hold up a cue card that says, "Daniel: pray on your knees" then, Daniel, you should get on your knees and pray.**
6. **Lions, when you see a picture of a lion, roar loudly. Let's try it (hold**



up a picture of a lion).

7. Read the story on Activity Sheet #3-12.B and hold up cue cards as noted.
8. **Our helpers knew what to do because they followed the cue card. It gave them direction.**
9. **Knowing God gives us direction when we face scary situations. Daniel knew that God was with him no matter where he was, even in exile, so he continued to pray. Daniel also knew that God is faithful, and that God would be with him in the lions' den, so Daniel trusted in God, even though he had to face something very scary. God rescued Daniel, because God is always faithful! No matter what you are facing you can pray, because God is with you no matter what!**

Activity (5 minutes)

God with Us

Discover God's power.

Supplies:

- † Clear bowl
- † Water
- † Paper towel
- † Large paper clip

Preparation:

1. Prepare a clear bowl of water on a table.
2. Place the paper towel under the bowl of water (making sure not to get it wet) so that it blends in and appears to be simply protecting the surface from water. Note: a “quilted” or thicker style paper towel will work better than a commercial brown paper towel.
3. Test the experiment first.

Instructions:

1. **What do you think will happen if I drop a paper clip into this bowl of water?** *[It will sink.]*
2. Drop a paper clip and allow them to see that it sinks.
3. **Do you think there is anything that I can do using just what is on this table to keep the paper clip from sinking when I drop it in the water?**
4. Take the paper towel out from under the bowl and place it flat on the surface of the water. Quickly, but gently, place the paper clip on top of the paper towel. Watch as the paper towel saturates with water, but the paper clip remains floating on the paper towel.
5. **It was hard to imagine how that paper clip would float. I bet it was hard for Daniel to imagine how he could possibly make it through the night in a den of lions, too. Though Daniel's situation looked bleak, God was able to bring hope**



and rescue.

6. Usually, paperclips will sink in water, but when the paper towel was with it, it was able to float. God is faithful and is always with us, and that means some amazing things can happen even when we face things that are scary or seem hopeless.
7. In fact, God sent Jesus to be with us here on earth in a way that we could see and touch. Jesus is sometimes called Emmanuel. Does anyone know what Emmanuel means? [*God with us.*] Jesus' name reminds us that God is always with us. God sent Jesus to show us God's love and to live among us so that we would know God even more.

Activity (10 minutes)

Advent Mural

Create the first step of an Advent mural.

Supplies:

- † Blue or purple paper
- † Yellow or orange paper
- † White paper
- † Markers
- † Scissors
- † Glue sticks or tape
- † Optional: green paper

Preparation:

1. Arrange or cut blue or purple paper into four large rectangles, whichever your faith tradition follows. These will be the candles of the Advent wreath. Each “candle” should be 5 1/2 inches by 8 1/2 inches or larger. Adhere the four large blue or purple rectangles to a wall or space where they can remain until Christmas. Add greenery below the candles if you desire using the green paper.
2. Use the yellow or orange paper to cut out four flame shapes to go on top of the candle. Add the flames during the activity, “lighting” an additional candle by adding a new flame each week.
3. Cut the white paper into small strips that people can use to write a word that describes God and add them to the candle. Cut enough that each person will receive one strip.

Instructions:

1. **This is the first Sunday of Advent, a season of the church. Advent means coming, and it is the time where we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of Jesus at Christmas. We are going to add things to this mural each week as we count down to Christmas. Each rectangle is a candle, and we will add a flame each week as well.**
2. Give each person a white rectangle and hand out markers.
3. **I would like you to write one word on your piece of paper that**



describes God. When you have written it, add your word to the first candle.

4. Help pre-writers as necessary. When everyone has finished, read the responses aloud.
5. **These are some great descriptions of God. Because of who God is, God's people know how to act. God's people can pray and trust in God always, because God is always faithful and God is with us even in the worst situations. We know God and we know that God is faithful. We know that God loves us and is always us. God even sent Jesus to be Emmanuel, God with us! Let's light the first candle and we wait with hope for Christmas.**
6. Place the flame above the first candle.



Prayer

Supplies:

- † Activity Sheet #3-12.D

Preparation:

1. Print Activity Sheet #3-12.D.

Instructions:

1. **Let's review our lesson for today. When I say we can trust God, you say, "Because God is faithful!" Let's try:**

Leader: **We can trust God...**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **Daniel knew that we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **Even if we are facing a den of lions we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **Even if someone tries to tell us we should not pray we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **When we are alone we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **When we are afraid we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **When we are at home we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **When we are far from home we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **When it feels like God is close we can trust God**

All: Because God is faithful.

Leader: **And when it feels like God is far away we can trust God**

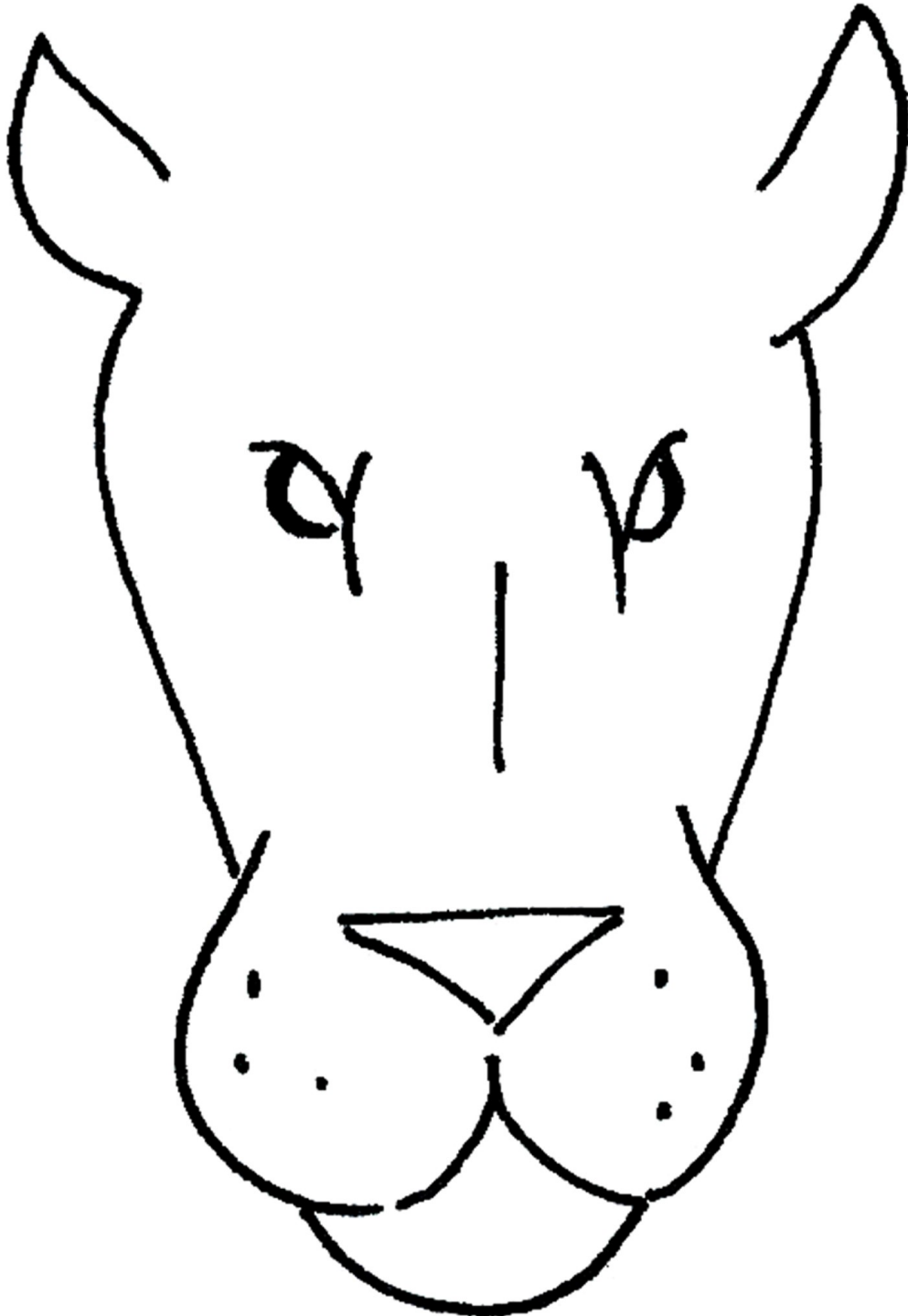
All: Because God is faithful.

2. Using Activity Sheet #3-12.D, find a place that matches the description and go there to pray, because no matter where they are, they can pray. You might also choose to extend this activity throughout the week, praying in a different location each day.

If you have the "Living the Word: Sharing God's Story @ Home" sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!

The “Mane” Thing

Build a lion's mane while sharing scary things.



Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

Our story today is about Daniel

[Cue card 1: Daniel: Wave “hi.”]

At this time Daniel was living in exile, where many of the people around him did not know God and did not worship God.

Daniel prayed to God three times a day.

[Cue card 2: Daniel: Pray on your knees.]

It was a part of his normal routine. Praying was a way for Daniel to be close to God.

A group of local rulers called satraps got together

[Cue card 3: Satraps: Huddle together.]

and decided to make a law that said people could only pray to the king. They made it a rule that anyone who prayed to God would be thrown into a pit of lions.

[Cue card 4: Satraps: Point to lions.]

[Lion picture (lions roar).]

Daniel heard about the law, but Daniel knew God, and he knew God was faithful.

Daniel knew that praying was the right thing to do, and that God would be with him no matter what, even if it meant being thrown into a den of lions. Daniel continued to pray,

[Cue card 5: Daniel: Keep praying.]

and the satraps who created the law found out about it.

[Cue card 6: Satraps: Point to Daniel.]

They went to tell the king.

[Cue card 7: Satraps: Walk over to King Darius.]

They said Daniel had to be thrown into a den of lions,

[Lion picture (lions roar).]

because he was breaking the rule by praying.

The king liked Daniel,

[Cue card 8: King Darius: Look like you are thinking.]

he didn't want to throw him in the pit of lions. However, the other people convinced him that a rule was a rule and he had to throw Daniel into the lions' den.

[Lion picture (lions roar).]

The king tried to find a way around the rule, but he could not.

[Cue card 9: King Darius: Look sad.]

He decided that Daniel would have to be thrown in the den of lions.

[Lion picture (lions roar).]

[Cue card 10: Daniel: Go sit with the lions.]

Things seemed hopeless, but Daniel did not give up hope. He trusted that God was faithful and would be with him in the lions' den. The king hoped that God would save Daniel, but the king wasn't so sure. The king couldn't sleep all night

[Cue card 11: King Darius: Toss and turn all night.]

because he was so worried about Daniel. In the morning he ran to the entrance of the lions' den.

[Cue card 12: King Darius: Run to the lions.]

A big stone had been put in front of it to keep Daniel and the lions inside all night. The king called out asking Daniel if God has saved him.

[Cue card 13: King Darius: Yell, "Daniell!"]

[Cue card 14: Daniel: Yell, "I am here!"]

Daniel answered! God was faithful! God had saved him from the lions!

The king was so happy!

[Cue card 15: King Darius: Do a happy dance.]

He ordered that Daniel be taken out of the lions' den at once.

[Cue card 16: Daniel: Leave the lions.]

The king wanted to tell everyone about God. He wrote a letter and tried to get it to everyone in the world with this good news: God is faithful! He told everyone that they should get to know God too. God is strong and powerful. God has saved Daniel, and is a God who rescues and brings hope!

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#1 Daniel:
Wave “hi.”

(cut here)

#2 Daniel:
Pray on your
knees.

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#3 Satraps:
Huddle together.

#4 Satraps:
Point to lions.

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#5 Daniel:
Keep praying.

#6 Satraps:
Point to Daniel.

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#7 Satraps:
Walk over to
King Darius.

#8 King Darius:
Look like you are
thinking.

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#9 King Darius:
Look sad.

#10 Daniel:
Go sit with the
lions.

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#11 King Darius:
Toss and turn all
night.

#12 King Darius:
Run to the lions.

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#13 King Darius:
Yell, “Daniel!”

#14 Daniel:
Yell, “I am here!”

Daniel Drama

Act out the story of Daniel.

#15 King Darius:
Do a happy
dance.

#16 Daniel:
Leave the lions.

Prayer

Go somewhere you would sing to pray this prayer together.

Dear God, thank you for always being faithful. Help us to trust you no matter what. Help us to find time to pray like Daniel. Thank you for the hope you bring us. Amen.

Remember: God is always faithful, no matter where you are, or what you are facing and because of that, we can trust God no matter what!

Go somewhere you would eat to pray this prayer together.

Dear God, thank you for always being faithful. Help us to trust you no matter what. Help us to find time to pray like Daniel. Thank you for the hope you bring us. Amen.

Remember: God is always faithful, no matter where you are, or what you are facing and because of that, we can trust God no matter what!

Go somewhere you would welcome people to pray this prayer together.

Dear God, thank you for always being faithful. Help us to trust you no matter what. Help us to find time to pray like Daniel. Thank you for the hope you bring us. Amen.

Remember: God is always faithful, no matter where you are, or what you are facing and because of that, we can trust God no matter what!

Go somewhere you would care for others to pray this prayer together.

Dear God, thank you for always being faithful. Help us to trust you no matter what. Help us to find time to pray like Daniel. Thank you for the hope you bring us. Amen.

Remember: God is always faithful, no matter where you are, or what you are facing and because of that, we can trust God no matter what!

Go somewhere you would read God's word to pray this prayer together.

Dear God, thank you for always being faithful. Help us to trust you no matter what. Help us to find time to pray like Daniel. Thank you for the hope you bring us. Amen.

Remember: God is always faithful, no matter where you are, or what you are facing and because of that, we can trust God no matter what!

Go somewhere you would worship to pray this prayer together.

Dear God, thank you for always being faithful. Help us to trust you no matter what. Help us to find time to pray like Daniel. Thank you for the hope you bring us. Amen.

Remember: God is always faithful, no matter where you are, or what you are facing and because of that, we can trust God no matter what!