#### Lesson 10:

#### Daniel in the Lion’s Den

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Daniel 6

#### MEMORY WORK:

Bible skills 1-6 Psalms 119:105

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

I will try to be like Jesus all the time—not just when it seems “cool” or safe. Then I can be a good

influence (example) for the people around me.

 **LESSON STARTS HERE**

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we talked about a king named Belshazzar who had a big party. What strange thing happened during the party?

Have you ever been scared by some kind of animal? Today we’ll see how Daniel faced some scary animals and how God took care of him.

#### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. In previous lessons, we saw that the Babylonian Empire had conquered Judah and taken its people off into captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar and other kings after him ruled the Babylonian Empire, including Belshazzar. As Daniel prophesied, Belshazzar was killed and the Medes and Persians took over Babylon.
2. When Darius the Mede conquered the Babylonian Empire (October 12, 539 B.C.), he set up a system of officials (satraps) to help him rule over the lands he had conquered. One of those government officials was the prophet Daniel. King Darius wanted to prevent corruption in his government and make sure all tax revenues made it to his treasury.

**NOTE:** Daniel would have been in his mid- to late-80’s at this time. See the Historical Notes from Lessons 8-10 for more historical background for this lesson.

1. Daniel was very good at his job “because an excellent spirit was with him” (Daniel 6:3; cf. 5:12,14; 9:23). He was honest and trustworthy, and he loved God very much. Other officials in the government who were jealous of Daniel wanted to get rid of him, but they couldn’t find any fault with him or with the way he did his job. They decided that the only thing they could really accuse him of was being more loyal to God than to the king. Daniel’s devotion to God was so evident in his life, so much a part of him every day, that others could not see anything wrong of which to accuse him! [Remember the Jews’ desperate accusations of Jesus?]
2. These jealous officials met “by agreement” (6:6, ESV) and went to the king twice, appealing to his own pride and ego, and persuaded him to sign a new law. The new law prohibited anyone in the entire empire from pleading for anything from a god or man except the king himself, for 30 days.
3. The men who convinced the king to sign this ridiculous law watched Daniel “by agreement” (Daniel 6:11, ESV), apparently knowing about Daniel’s practice of praying three times a day. Daniel knew about the law the king had signed, but he also knew that he could not (and would not) worship the king instead of God. So Daniel continued to pray in his upstairs room, with the windows wide open toward Jerusalem. He did not go into hiding nor was he afraid of others seeing him pray at his window.
4. He could have waited until the 30 days were over before praying at the window, and he could have simply prayed in his mind during the 30 days. He knew, however, that no law made by man should take priority over worshiping and serving God. Daniel had a “custom” of praying three times each day towards Jerusalem (Daniel 6:10), a custom that he probably had since he had been in Babylon, and he did not want to break that custom. The New Testament tells Christians to have a practice/custom of prayer as well, and to never stop from keeping that custom (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
5. The men who were so eager to get rid of Daniel “assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God” (6:11). Their trap had sprung. They went to tell the king what they had seen—and to remind him of the law he had signed without thought for the consequences (how it would really affect people). The king was heartbroken, “greatly displeased with himself” (6:14), because he cared very much about Daniel. He tried to find ways to rescue Daniel from the law’s punishment, but he was reminded that any law he signed could not be changed. He allowed himself to be pushed into a further mistake: he ordered Daniel thrown to the lions. He told Daniel, “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you” (Daniel 6:16).
6. A huge stone was rolled over the opening of the pit where the hungry lions were kept. The king and his nobles sealed the stone with their signet rings. [Explain this to the kids with a shaped stamp or ring pushed into hot wax or Play-Doh®. In the New Testament, Pilate’s seal was used on the stone that covered the tomb of Jesus so that it should not be opened, and so that it would be known if it had been opened.]
7. King Darius could not sleep or eat that night, and he didn’t want to be entertained. He was worried about Daniel. As soon as the Sun began to rise the next morning, he hurried to the pit and ordered the massive stone removed. King Darius called out to Daniel, calling him a “servant of the living God” (6:20). He questioned whether God really did save Daniel, as the king had asked the day before.
8. Daniel’s response: I was protected from harm because (1) I was innocent before God Himself, and (2) I was innocent in regard to the king. “I was found blameless” before God, he said, and had done the king “no harm” (6:22, ESV). Thrilled that his friend and trusted advisor had not been hurt by the lions, the king ordered Daniel to be lifted out of the pit and the men who had plotted against Daniel be thrown to the lions instead.
9. Knowing none of the idols that his people and he worshiped were as powerful as the God of Daniel, Darius sent a decree, in many languages, to people throughout his kingdom to tell them that they should “tremble and fear before the God of Daniel” (Daniel 6:26).

**NOTE:** Daniel 6:24: “those men who had maliciously accused Daniel...” is literally “those

men who had devoured the bones and flesh of Daniel….”

1. Daniel’s courage proved to be a valuable lesson to everyone in the whole Persian Empire. He would remain a powerful force for good during the reign of the next king, Cyrus.
2. Daniel was a wonderful influence on everyone around him. To be a good influence means that you show people, by the ways you talk and act, that trying to live as God has told us through His Word is the most important thing in the world to you. [With older children, you can illustrate this idea with soft clay and anything that will make a carved impression. Just as we can make an impression in clay, we make an impression for good or bad on the lives of people every day.]

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (**note disclaimers**):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

##### Daniel ABeka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMERS: card 2.6—change “Jesus Rock of Ages” to “The Kingdom of God”; use the cards, not the lesson book)

##### Free Bible Images saved on flash drive for tv presentation Suggest script is in lesson file.

##### Bible Study Guide for All Ages (BSGFAA) Lesson 20. These visuals will look like a black and white comic strip on one large piece of cardstock. To use these attach it to the magnetic dry erase board. Use dry erase markers to follow the directions. Let students take turns marking on the page.

##### *Daniel, God’s Faithful Follower*, I Can Read book

##### Lots of Bible story books are available for this lesson

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS :

# Prophet SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Let the children act out the story. Provide lion masks or paperbag puppets for the children to pretend they are the lions. A Mask template is provided in activity sheets
* Make a lion face using a paper plate: use yellow or gold yarn for the mane, black yarn for

 the whiskers, and round buttons for the eyes. Draw the nose and mouth on the plates

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

#### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Sit in a circle and talk about how important it is to pray. Take prayer requests, and then pray together as a class

Review Questions

1. Why did Daniel do well at his job?
	1. God was with him. Because he loved God
2. What was the only thing the officials could use to get Daniel in trouble?
	1. Daniel was more loyal to God than the king
3. What did the officials convince the king to sign?
	1. A new law that prohibited anyone from worshiping anyone or anything except for the king for 30 days.
4. Even though he knew what could happen to him after the law was made, how many times a day did Daniel continue to pray?
	1. Three times a day
5. Because Daniel had broken the law, what did the jealous officials convince the king to do to him?
	1. Throw him in the lion’s den
6. What did the king tell Daniel before he was thrown in with the lions?
	1. “Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you” [Daniel 6:16].)
7. Why did King Darius not sleep or eat that night?
	1. Because he was worried about Daniel
8. What did King Darius do when he went to the pit the next morning and the stone was removed?
	1. He called to Daniel.
9. What was Daniel’s response to King Darius?
	1. That he had been saved because he was innocent before God, and he was innocent in regard to the law of the king
10. What happened to the jealous officials that had plotted against Daniel?
	1. King Darius commanded that they be thrown in with the lions in the place of Daniel.



Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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