

Lesson A2.4 - God Keeps Us Safe



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Daniel 6:3-10, 13-23

► Bible Characters: King Darius, Daniel

During the time of the exile, the Prophet Daniel faithfully served in the court of the Persian King Darius. But Daniel's enemies plotted to have him removed. When forbidden to worship, Daniel continued to pray to the Lord, for which he received the sentence of death and was thrown into a den of lions.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Exile

God's people were attacked and conquered in the north by the Assyrian Empire, then later in the south by the Babylonian Empire. Many of the people were carried away in exile, far from home.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "B-I-N-G-O" ("There was a farmer had a dog..."). No accompaniment is needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for today
and for your loving-kindness.*

*Open up our hearts; open up our minds;
grow our faith in you, and help us learn about you.*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

It is a good thing to know that God watches over us. It reminds us that **God keeps us safe**. That is one of the reasons we pray to God, especially in times when we are afraid. We want to know that **God keeps us safe**.

- Think about your mom or dad. What are some things they do to keep you safe? [*Choose a few children to answer.*]
- Who are some other people who keep you safe? [*Teachers, grandparents, police, doctors, etc.*]

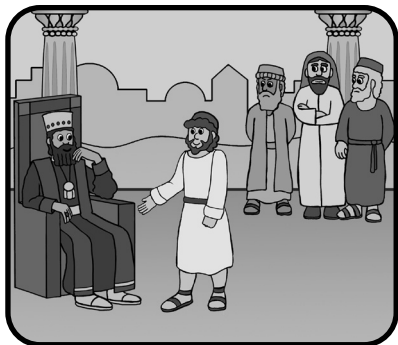
In our story today, a man named Daniel was in trouble. Even though he didn't do anything wrong, some mean guys wanted to get rid of him. When Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, he learned that **God keeps us safe**.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

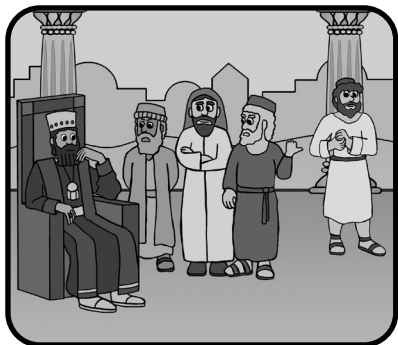
The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: A long time ago, many of God's people had been taken to a faraway land called Persia. One of these people who believed in God was named Daniel.

Read the caption: Daniel was a wise man who worked for the king of Persia. The other servants were jealous because the king liked Daniel best.

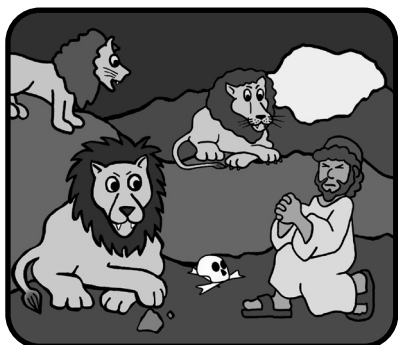
- *Who is the man sitting on the big chair? [The King of Persia; his name was Darius.] Do the king and Daniel get along? [Yes, the king liked Daniel.]*
- *Look at the three men in the back. Do they like Daniel? [No] Why not? [Because Daniel did a good job, and the king liked Daniel best.]*

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: The other servants tried to find something to blame on Daniel, but they couldn't. Daniel was a good man; he didn't do anything wrong. But still, ...

Read the caption: The others wanted to get Daniel in trouble. So they told the king, "Daniel is a servant of God, not you; he doesn't listen to what you say."

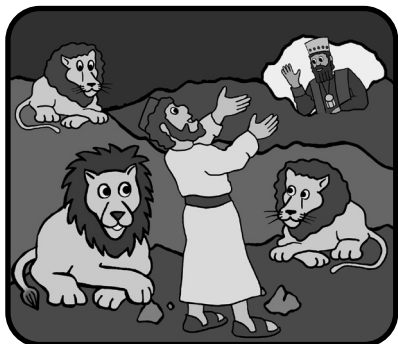
- *What are the three men saying to the King? [They are trying to get Daniel in trouble; they are saying that Daniel does not obey the king.]*
- *Do you think Daniel knew what the other servants were saying about him? [Probably.] Did Daniel stop believing in God? [No, he kept on praying.]*

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: The bad guys tricked the king into making a law that everyone had to bow down to a statue of the king. No one was allowed to pray to God.

Read the caption: Under the law, everyone had to obey the king. But Daniel still prayed to God. So they had Daniel thrown into a den of lions.

- *Look at the lions in the picture. Do they look friendly or mean? [They look mean, showing their teeth.] What did people think would happen to Daniel? [The lions would eat him!]*
- *How do you think Daniel felt? [Scared] What is Daniel doing? [Praying to God]*

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: The king worried all night. He still liked Daniel and he didn't want anything bad to happen. Early the next day, he went to look in the lions' den.

Read the caption: The next morning, everyone was surprised to see Daniel was still alive. Daniel said, "God saved me from the lions' mouths!"

- *Look at the lions now. Do they look friendly or mean? [Friendly.] How come the lions did not eat Daniel? [God closed the lions' mouths; God saved Daniel.]*
- *Was the king happy to see that Daniel was still alive? [Yes] Do you think that the king started to believe in God like Daniel? [The Bible says he did!]*
- *When Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, he learned that God keeps us safe.*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*In Babylon so far away,
Daniel prayed to God each day.
Even when they told him stop,
Daniel kept on praying to God.*

*The leaders, they decided then
to throw him in the lions' den.
The King was sad for his young friend.
He worried it would be his end.*

*But God protected Daniel there.
The lions didn't touch a hair.
God had closed the lions' mouths;
the next day Dan walked safely out.*

h. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Quiet as a Lion Game

Materials:

- Beach ball, nerf ball or stuffed animal
- Space to play a game

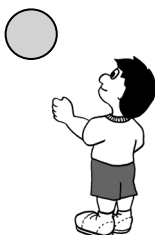
Instructions:

Daniel told the king that God had shut the mouths of the lions, and because of this, his life was spared. In this game, which is like Monkey in the Middle, choose one child to be "Daniel." The others will be the "lions."

Invite the lions to stand in a big circle, with Daniel standing in the middle. The lions will try to toss the ball back and forth across the circle without letting Daniel catch it. If Daniel succeeds in catching the ball, however, he changes places with the lion who threw it and that person becomes "Daniel" for the next round.

If a lion makes a sound or drops the ball, that lion must sit down in place and is out of the game. Lions must try to throw the ball to different people whenever possible so everyone gets in on the action. Daniel can jump up or pivot around in order to catch the ball or stuffed animal.

Play as many rounds as you like!



h. Song (optional)

This song has some simple suggested hand motions (below) and others that can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites.

I've Got Peace Like a River

Verse 1: hands in wave motion

**I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. (Repeat)**



Verse 2: hands in spout motion

**I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul. (Repeat)**



Verse 3: hands spreading wide

**I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul. (Repeat)**



i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

- **Start: Some men who worked for the king were jealous of Daniel because the king liked Daniel best. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*Thank you, thank you, Jesus Lord, for loving me today.
Help me see all that you do
and learn the things you say.*

*I ask that you be with me as I learn and laugh and play.
Please grow my faith and bring me back
to learn again, I pray. Amen.*