

Old Testament

Mission Arlington ◦ Mission Metroplex Curriculum ◦ 2011

One Year Plan



GOD'S WORD

Created for use with young, unchurched learners Adaptable for all ages.

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN



DANIEL 6

Memory Verse:

Never stop praying, especially for others.
Always pray by the power of the Spirit.
Stay alert and keep praying for
God's people.
(Ephesians 6:18)

Lesson Goals

1. Understand that the king planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom.
2. Recognize that the evil men wanted to kill Daniel.
3. Learn that Daniel prayed as always, knowing it might mean he would die.
4. Understand that God protected Daniel.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to deliver us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you follow Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to be delivered from sin.

GOD'S WORD

Read Daniel 6:1-11. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God made a way to save us from being separated from Him because of our sins. God sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus died and came back to life three days later. If we believe and trust Him, we can go to Heaven and be with God forever. (John 3:16; Romans 10:9-10) If you want to know how to trust Jesus, talk to your teacher.

Application

Daniel had faith in God. He did not worry about getting in trouble for praying to God. He trusted God to protect Him. Do you trust God? Do you let people stop you from following God? Ask God to help you by giving you more faith and strength to follow Him, no matter what.

Begin With Prayer

A new man became king over Daniel and his friends. His name was King Darius. The king liked Daniel and planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. (Daniel 6:1-3)

But some other men hated Daniel because they wanted his position and power for themselves. These men said, "We must find something wrong with Daniel, to get rid of him." Daniel was a good man. He followed God and loved Him very much. The men tried and tried to catch Daniel doing something wrong, but they couldn't find anything wrong in Daniel's life. If someone was trying to find you doing something wrong, could they?

The evil men thought of a plan. They saw Daniel pray three times a day to God. They thought of a dishonest way to keep Daniel from taking command of the kingdom. They said to King Darius, "O King, you are very great. We want you to make a new law, to honor you. The law is this: Nobody may pray to any god for 30 days. People may only ask the king for things that they want. And if anyone does pray to a god, he must be thrown into the den of lions." (Daniel 6:6-7)

King Darius listened to the men. He thought, "That will make me like a god." This is pride. The Bible tells us that we should not be proud. The king decided to make it a law. King Darius did not realize the men had laid a trap for Daniel. (Daniel 6:8-9)

The next day, Daniel prayed to God just like he always did. He knew that God was the only true God. Daniel took time to pray three times a day. God wants us to seek Him in prayer.

The men watched Daniel. They looked through the window and saw him kneel to pray. Quickly they hurried off to tell the king. They reminded the king of his law. Then they told him that Daniel had broken the law and prayed to God. The king was very sad. He liked Daniel and did not want to throw him in the lion's den. But the king had put his name on the law and he could not change it. So, he sent for Daniel. The king said, "Daniel, may God, whom you serve, save you." (Daniel 6:12-16)

Then they threw Daniel into the den of lions. They put a big stone across the door of the den. The lions were hungry. They walked around Daniel. They sniffed at him, but God protected him. God sent an angel to close the mouths of all the lions. The next morning, King Darius ran to the place where Daniel was. He shouted, "Daniel! Daniel! Did your God save you?" He listened for an answer. (Daniel 6:17-19)

Daniel replied, "Yes, an angel from God protected me." (Daniel 6:20-21)

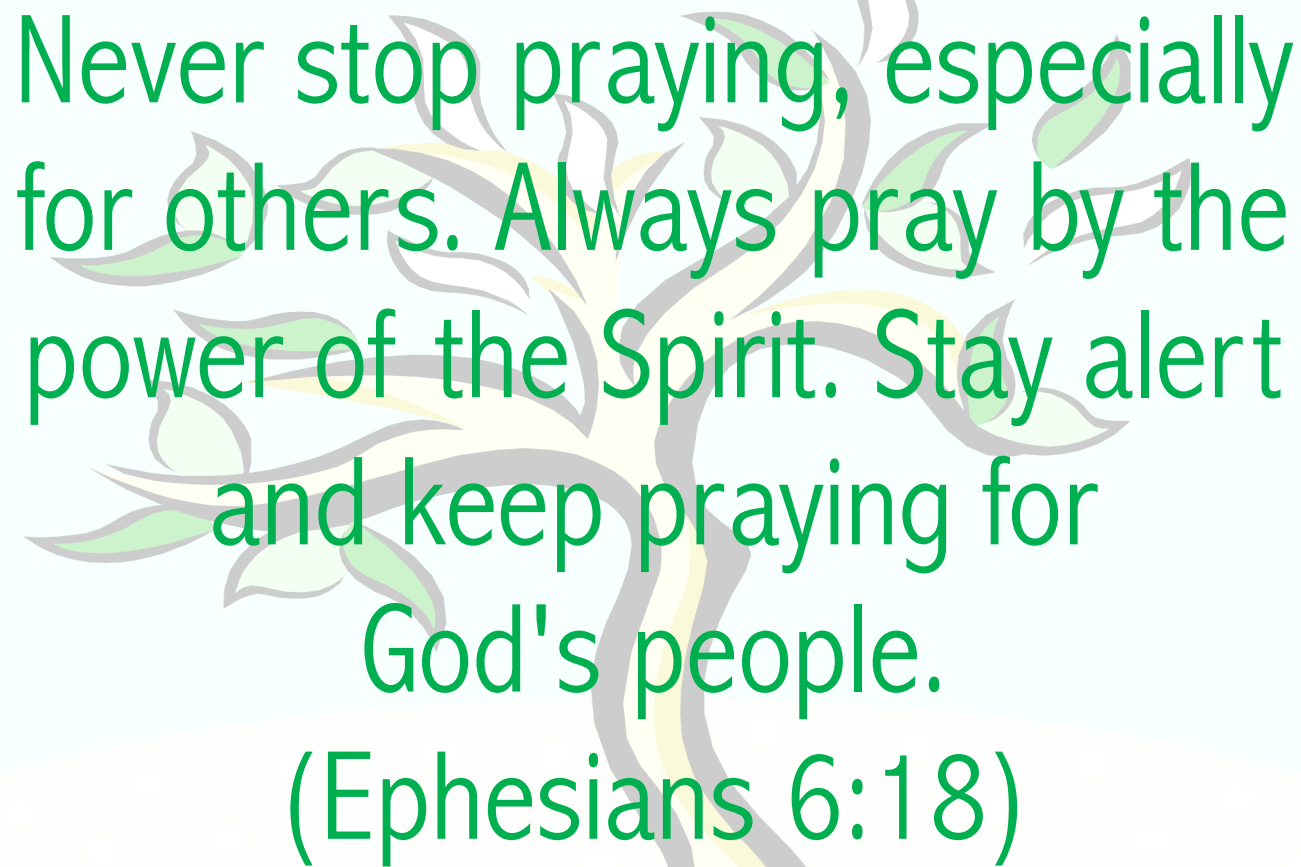
They happily took Daniel out of the lion's den. The king made a new law. It said that Daniel's God is the living and true God. Everyone must serve Him. (Daniel 6:22-28)

God saved Daniel's life. Everyone knew for certain that God was real and true.

Review

- 1. What happened to Daniel?** (The king planned to put Daniel in charge of the kingdom.)
- 2. What happened next?** (Some evil men tried to find a way to kill Daniel.)
- 3. What did the king do?** (The king signed a law that everyone must pray to him only for 30 days.)
- 4. What happened next?** (Daniel prayed to God as he always did.)
- 5. What did God do?** (God sent an angel to protect Daniel from the lions.)

Memory Verse



Never stop praying, especially
for others. Always pray by the
power of the Spirit. Stay alert
and keep praying for
God's people.
(Ephesians 6:18)

Preschool Lesson

Read Daniel 6:10-11. (Hold your Bible throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

Teacher: Make a lions den. Create a box (den) with cardstock. Use animal crackers to put the lions in the den.

Daniel was a man who loved God very much. He prayed to God three times during the day. The king really liked Daniel and decided that he would be a very important person in the palace.

Some of the other men heard of the king's plans. They wanted to be important, so they tried to find something wrong that Daniel had done. Daniel was a good man and treated people fairly. He never cheated or lied to anyone.

The men could not find anything wrong with Daniel. Then, they remembered that he loved God very much and he prayed three times a day to God. Suddenly, they had a very sneaky, mean idea.

They told the king that everyone should only pray to the king and not to anyone else. The king thought that was a good idea. A law went out to only pray to the king.

Daniel saw the law, but he knew that God was the only real God and he must pray to Him only. So, Daniel went to his home and prayed by the window. The evil men were watching Daniel and saw him pray to God.

They ran back to the king and told him the news. The king was very sad because he liked Daniel. He tried to find a way to save Daniel, but nothing helped.

Daniel's punishment was to be put in a cave where lions lived. These lions were very hungry and would eat up anything that came into the den.

The king talked to Daniel and told him that he hoped Daniel's God would rescue him. They threw Daniel into the den and put a big stone at the door.

The king was so upset. When he went back to the palace, he could not eat or sleep because he was worried about Daniel.

What was happening to Daniel? God sent an angel to shut all the lions' mouths. (Put your hand over your mouth) They could not eat Daniel. Daniel was safe the whole night.

The next morning, the king ran to check on Daniel. He yelled "Daniel, did your God rescue you?"

Daniel said, "YES!"

They pulled Daniel out of the den and everyone saw that he did not even have a scratch on him.

They thanked God and knew that Daniel's God is the only real God.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus.

Preschool Memory Verse

Never stop praying,
especially for others.

Ephesians 6:18



Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Bring coloring pages of praying hands. Write the memory verse at the bottom.

•**Test your memory** — Bring pictures of scenes from the story. Place the pictures on a wall or poster board as you tell the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring animal cookies.

•**Think about it** — Daniel always prayed. When a law was passed not to pray to anyone but the king, Daniel prayed to God. Talk about the importance of praying to God alone.

King Darius praised God because of Daniel's obedience and faith. Talk about the importance of obeying God and trusting God.

•**Touch activity** — Watch the Veggie Tales Movie about Daniel.

Make a lion's den. Create a box (den) with cardstock. Use animal crackers to put the lions in the den.

Make a wall mural of Daniel in the lion's den. Use newsprint or butcher paper. Let the children color the scenes with chalk.

Make lion masks.

•**Run and play** —

Make signs for everyone to wear. Have some wear a sign that says: lion, Daniel, Darius, evil men, and angel. Turn the signs around so that no one can see them. If they are an angel or Daniel they cannot be tagged. Everyone else must try to tag the others. When they are tagged by Daniel or the angel they must stop. The others can pretend and tag them but then they must say they are a "lion, evil men, or Darius." Then they may continue running until they are tagged by Daniel or the angel. When Daniel and the angel have tagged everyone, the children can trade signs.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to pray to Him only.

•**Sing** — Sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer," "Tell It to Jesus," or another song related to the story.

•**Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids who did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handout with the Bible verse to those who were absent. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Rooted and Grounded



Pray

Thank God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins.
Ask God to give us strength to do what is right even when it's hard.
Pray for those who need to have Jesus in their life.

Read the Bible Daily

This week, read Daniel 5 and 6. Also, read a chapter out of Psalms and Proverbs each day.

Think About It

If people wanted to get you in trouble by finding wrong things you had done, would it be easy for them? Would they find you praying and obeying God? Reading the Bible?

Do It

Over and over in God's Word, He tells us to pray. If this is something you haven't been doing, ask God to help you make time to spend with Him each day. It is so important!

Tell About It

Share the Bible story with a friend. Talk about the importance of spending time with God.

Change it

Maybe you have some bad habits that are not pleasing to God. Confess your sins to God, and ask Him to help you turn away from your sin. As Christians, we must be a good example for others of living for Jesus.

Study it

Attend Bible study this week.

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Daniel

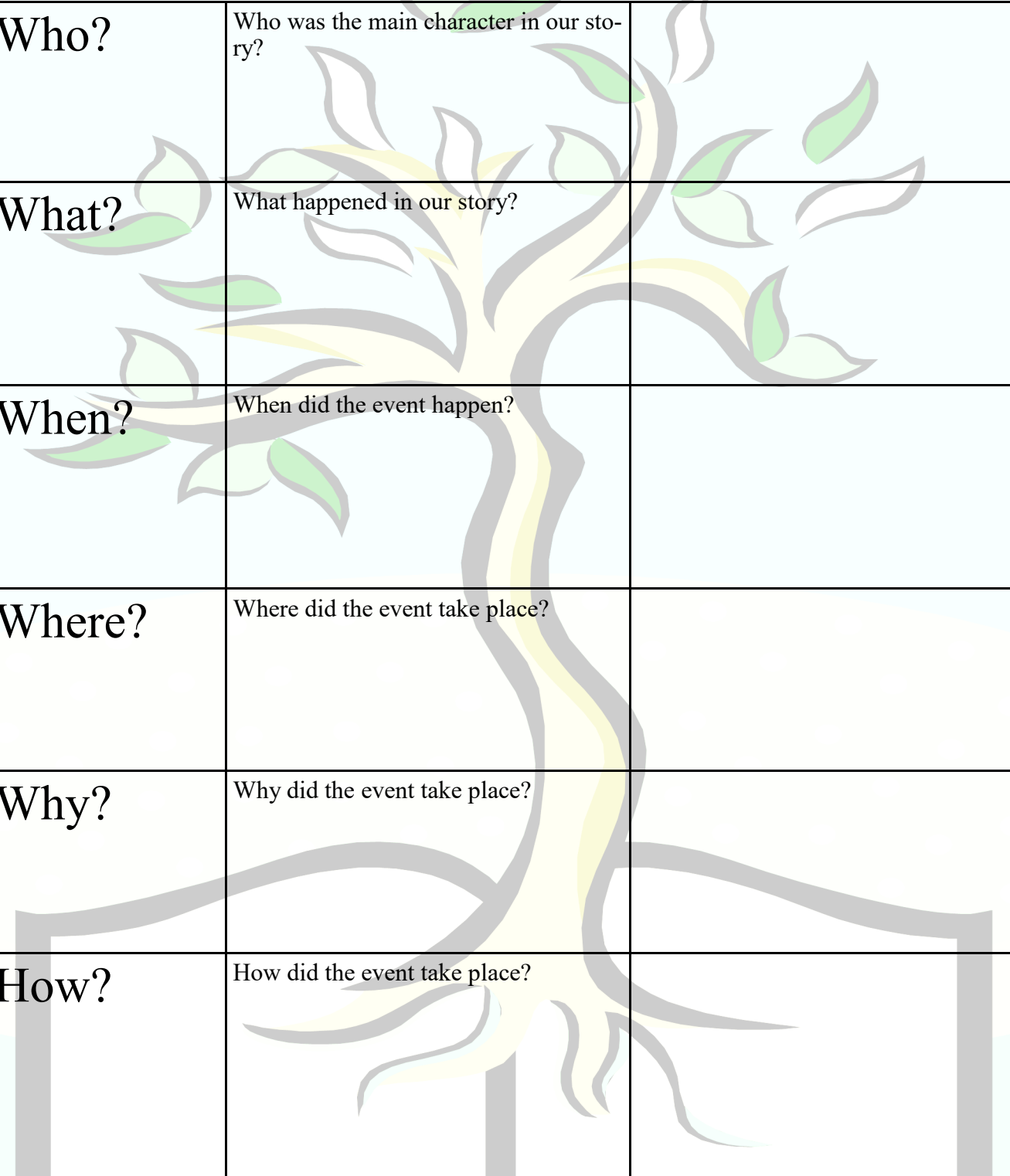
prayed

to

God

GOD'S WORD

Learning the Facts



Who?	Who was the main character in our story?	
What?	What happened in our story?	
When?	When did the event happen?	
Where?	Where did the event take place?	
Why?	Why did the event take place?	
How?	How did the event take place?	

Word Search

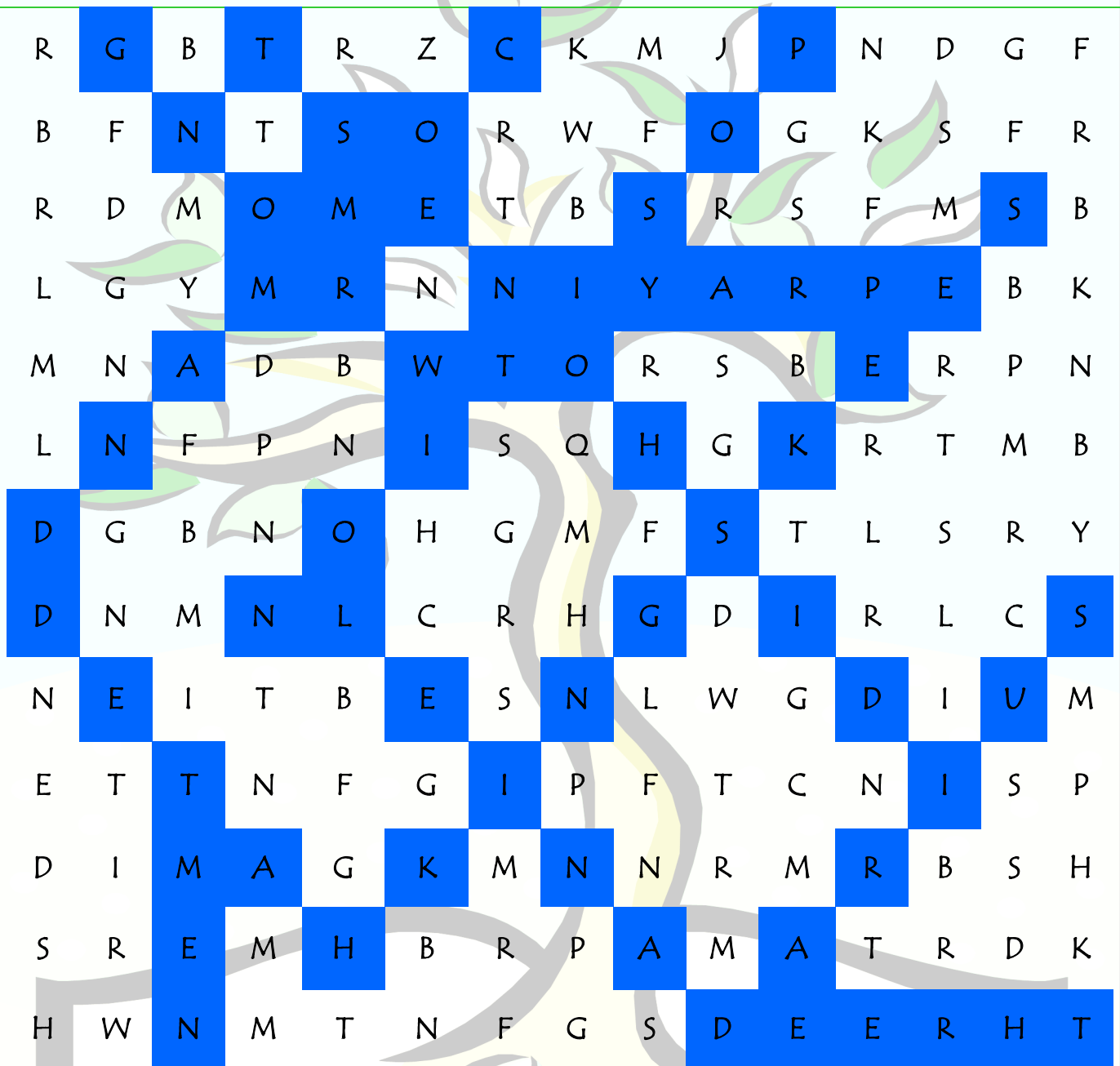
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R D M O M E T B S R S F M S B
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S R E M H B R P A M A T R D K
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DANIEL
MEN
WRONG
PRAY

KING
HATED
DISHONEST
SEEK

DARIUS
POSITION
COMMAND
THREE

Word Search Solution



DANIEL
MEN
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Preschool Word Search



A N G E L M D R G B T F R
D T R M D L B S F G C R C
L I O N F T H M P S K F B
C M B F N G K P B C W T S
D E N K B F G R M R S D P
R M P D F B G S F M S D H
P R A Y G K F M C W S A F
G B L F N Y B K M K D N R
D A N I E L H R T D F S R
L M F B T K N G F S F B D
D A R I U S R B K H P G S
H F R S N B F L G R N M S

DARIUS

DANIEL

PRAY

DEN

LION

ANGEL

Preschool Word Search Solution

A	N	G	E	L	M	D	R	G	B	T	F	R
D	T	R	M	D	L	B	S	F	G	C	R	C
L	I	O	N	F	T	H	M	P	S	K	F	B
C	M	B	F	N	G	K	P	B	C	W	T	S
D	E	N	K	B	F	G	R	M	R	S	D	P
R	M	P	D	F	B	G	S	F	M	S	D	H
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G	B	L	F	N	Y	B	K	M	K	D	N	R
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L	M	F	B	T	K	N	G	F	S	F	B	D
D	A	R	I	U	S	R	B	K	H	P	G	S
H	F	R	S	N	B	F	L	G	R	N	M	S

DARIUS

DANIEL

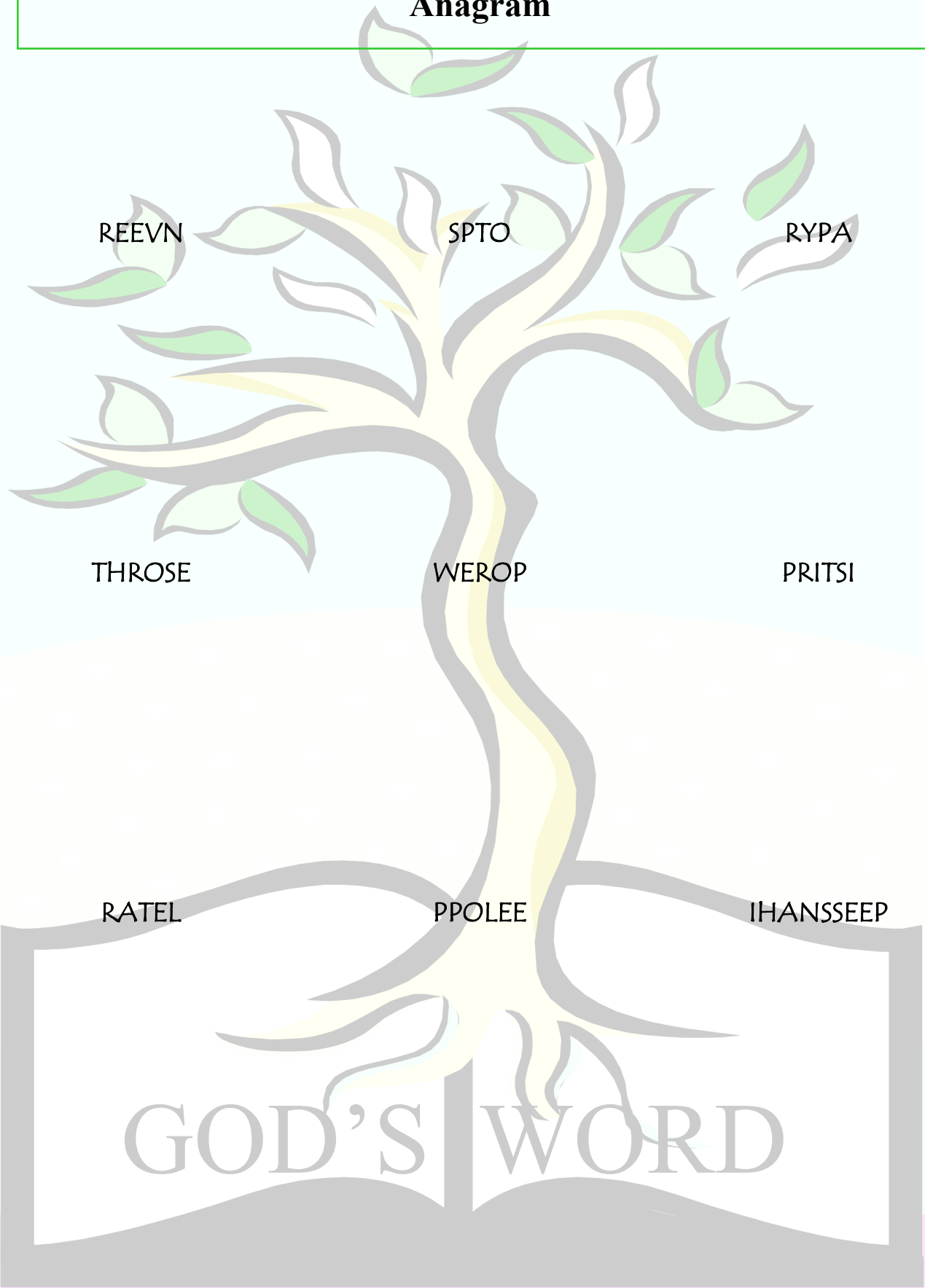
PRAY

DEN

LION

ANGEL

Anagram



REEVN

SPTO

RYPA

THROSE

WEROP

PRITSI

RATEL

PPOLEE

IHANSSEEP

GOD'S WORD

Anagram Solution

