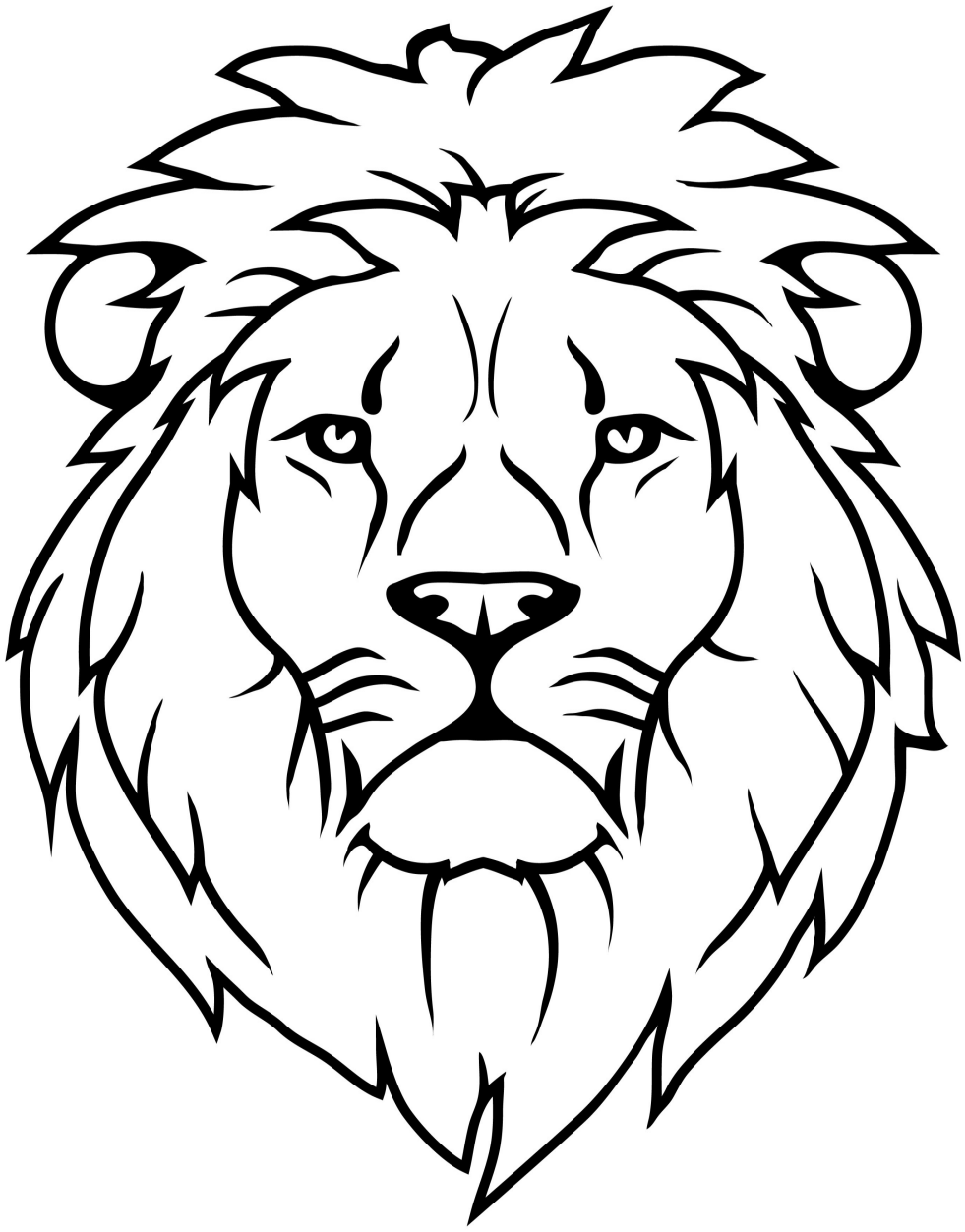


DANIEL

Servant of the Most High God

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2021

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Lesson 6

Scripture: Daniel 6:1-28

Memory Verse: Psalm 91:2

This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.

*Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the book of Daniel.



Lesson 6: The Most High God Blesses His Servants

In our last lesson we saw Belshazzar, the ruler of Babylon, throw a party that ended his reign. Under the command of Darius, the Medes walked right into the city and took over. As ruler, Darius divided the conquered kingdom and put 120 rulers in charge of the new provinces. Then he appointed administrators to supervise the rulers of each province and to protect the king's interests. One of them was Daniel who "soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators...Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire!" (6:3)

When word got out about Darius' plans, the other administrators were jealous. They began to search for anything that could be used against Daniel, but he was so trustworthy and responsible that "they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn." (6:4b) Can you imagine? Daniel was a holy man. He had dedicated his life to pleasing God, not the rest of the world or its leaders. That is why the jealous administrators knew that their only hop of trapping Daniel would have to do with his faithfulness to God. They finally had an idea and ran straight to King Darius to put their plan into motion. The administrators began with a lie. They told the king that ALL the administrators and high officers were in agreement, but Daniel had never been consulted and would never agree! Then they puffed the king up a bit by suggesting that for the next thirty days no one should pray to anyone except the king. That, of course, sounded great to the king so he signed the law. Now, one thing you may not know is that an official law of the Medes and Persians, once signed, cannot be abolished!

"But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down <u>as usual</u> in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, <u>just as he had always done</u>, giving thanks to his God." (6:10) You see, Daniel lived to please God, not people, and there were some very jealous people who were very unhappy with him. As you have probably already figured out, the administrators were there and they were ready to catch Daniel doing what would defy the law of the king. When they were sure of Daniel's prayers, the officials ran straight to King Darius. "Didn't you sign a law?" they asked. "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day." (6:13) Do you hear the contempt in their words? ("that man Daniel," "one of the captives," "his God") Daniel is now an old man. He has lived in Babylon most of his life and he has had great responsibility in service to the kings, but the other officials couldn't see how hardworking and capable Daniel was; they just saw a foreigner with a foreign God and they wanted him out of the way!

When the king realized what had happened, he was upset "and he tried to think of a way to save

Daniel." (6:14) Come evening, he hadn't thought of a single thing because once the law to pray only to him had been signed, it couldn't be cancelled, not even by him! "So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, 'May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you.'" (6:16) The mouth of the lions' den was then covered with a large stone and sealed with the king's royal seal and the seals of the nobles.

The king returned to the palace, but it wasn't entertainment as usual. The king was so upset he refused the usual entertainment, he didn't eat, and he couldn't sleep. By morning, the king could wait no longer! He got up, hurried out to the lions' den and called out, hoping Daniel had somehow been saved. "Daniel, servant of the Living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the mouths of the lions?" (6:20) Doesn't that sound crazy? The day before, Daniel had been thrown into a pit with very hungry lions. Who could survive that? Except King Darius was hoping that Daniel's God had done something miraculous. That is why he called out to Daniel.

Where there should have been silence, came the response, "Long live the king!" Daniel was alive! He even explained that God had sent an angel to close the lions' mouths. Those hungry lions had to smell Daniel all night long, but couldn't eat him! "The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God." (6:23)

The jealous administrators who had accused Daniel were arrested and punished. Then, the king sent a message all over the land that everyone should worship and honor the Most High God of Daniel who, "Is the Living God, and [who] will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed and His rule will never end. He rescues and saves His people; He performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." (6:27)

LIVE IT OUT

Our memory verse says, "This I declare about the LORD: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him." (Psalm 91:2) Daniel wasn't simply defying the king by praying three times a day at home. Daniel trusted God and prayer to the Most High God was the practice of Daniel's life. He was honoring God, without fear of the consequences.

How about you? Do you simply take a stand for things when you are told NOT to do them or do you make it the practice of your life to be faithful to God?

Activities

- Memory verse activity: Provide your students with paper. Instruct them to write the name of God in large, open, block letters. Encourage them to fill in the letters with words or pictures that show why they can trust in God. (Prompt students to think of ways they remember God taking care of them.)
- Provide coloring pages of the story.
- Make lion masks out of paper plates and construction paper.
- Make a mini-book of the events of Daniel chapter 6.
- For Further Study: What if you were arrested based on what you say you believe. Would there be enough evidence to convict you?.....



Psalm 91:2



This I declare

about the Lord.

He alone is my refuge,

my place of safety.

Word Search

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

King Darius

Administrators

Jealous

Daniel prayed

Three times a day

Law of the Medes

Lions Den

Honor God

He Saves



Word Search

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

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