

Old Testament

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Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part Two



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Last week we learned that Belshazzar was the son of Nebuchadnezzar. He worshipped idols and was proud. He took the special worship cups from the temple to serve wine at his party. Belshazzar did not honor God. This made God angry. God judged Belshazzar.

Daniel 6

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 6:8-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

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 CEV)

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. (Daniel 6:4-5) If someone was trying to find you doing something wrong, could they?

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.

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)

Sure enough, 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. (Jeremiah 33:13; Matthew 6:33)

The men watched Daniel. They looked through the window and saw him kneel to pray. Quickly they hurried off to tell the king. (Daniel 6:10-11)

Daniel in the Lion's Den — Bible Facts

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

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.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God made a plan to save us because we were separated from Him because of our sins. God sent us His Son Jesus to die for our sins. Jesus died and came back to life three days later. He died for all our sins. 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.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.
3. Ask God to help you seek Him in prayer.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to seek God in prayer.

Application

King Darius planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom. This made some evil men very jealous. They wanted to kill Daniel. They tricked the king into signing a law that would ensure that Daniel would die. Daniel prayed as always, knowing it might mean he would die. Daniel was thrown into the lion's den but God protected Daniel.

Planning for Next Week

God's Love for His People — Hosea 11, 14

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Daniel 6:8-23 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: 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 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. From then on, the king and his kingdom worshipped God only.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.
3. Ask God to help you seek Him in prayer.

Memory verse for younger children

Stay alert and keep praying for God's people. 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 lions 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** — Play "Simon Says" but say King Darius says.....

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 "Whisper a Prayer," "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.

LION DANIEL DARIUS

EVIL
MEN ANGEL LION

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

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Daniel

was

thrown

into the

lion's den

Word Search

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

DANIEL

MEN

WRONG

PRAY

KING

HATED

DISHONEST

SEEK

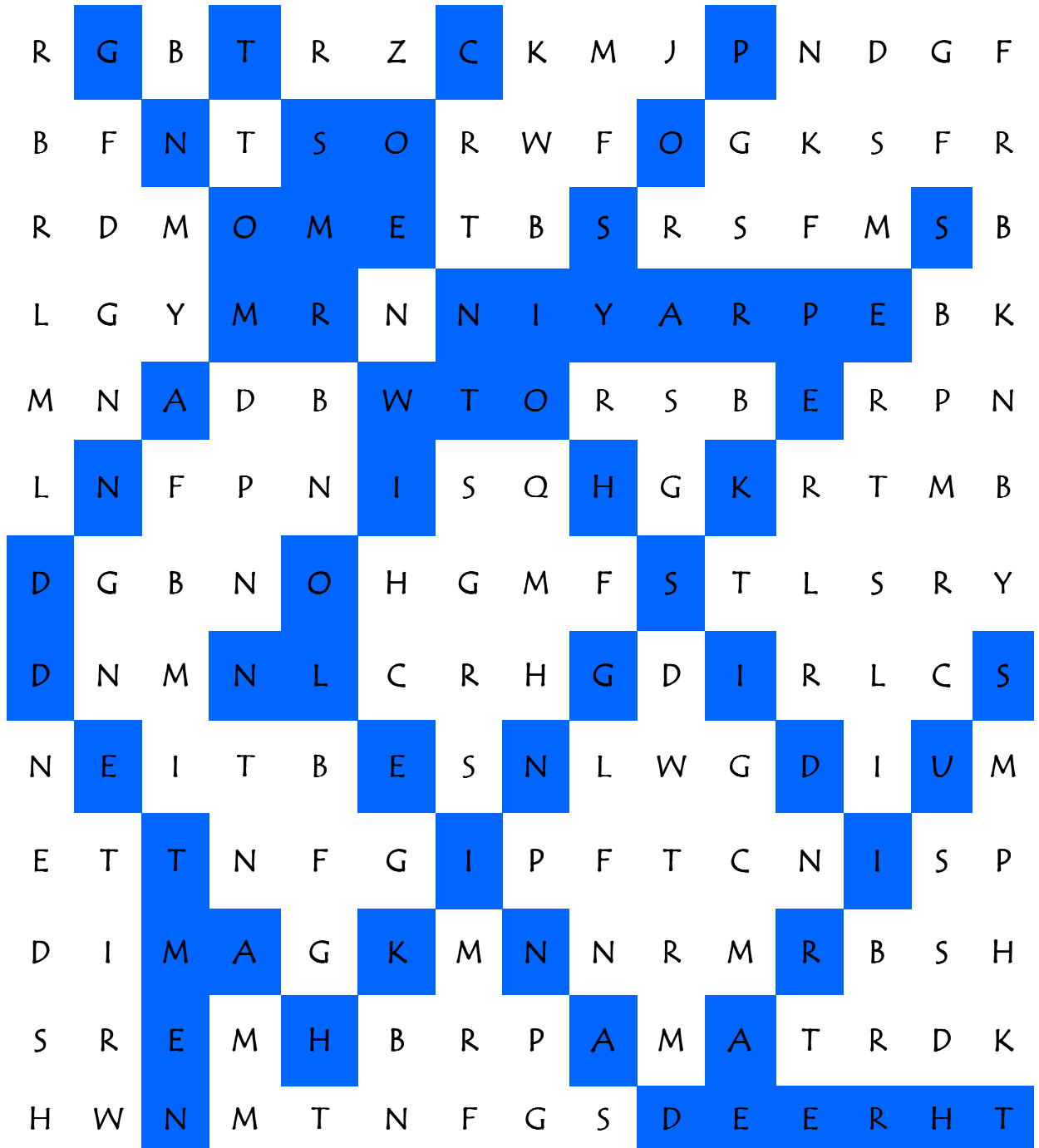
DARIUS

POSITION

COMMAND

THREE

Word Search



DANIEL

KING

DARIUS

MEN

HATED

POSITION

WRONG

DISHONEST

COMMAND

PRAY

SEEK

THREE

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

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

Anagram

REEVN

SPTO

RYPA

THROSE

WEROP

PRITSI

RATEL

PPOLEE

IHANSSEEP

Anagram

NEVER

STOP

PRAY

OTHERS

POWER

SPIRIT

ALERT

PEOPLE

EPHESIANS