

Week of November 22, 2009

Lessons for the Leader

How do you sense the presence of God in your life? Consider how God protected Daniel and how He can protect you.

- Read Daniel 6:1-5. What characteristics were used to describe Daniel? In what area of his life did those plotting against him look? How would your enemies describe you? In relation to your spiritual life, can your enemies find weaknesses?
- Read Daniel 6:6-9. Did you notice the wording of these verses? The “administrators and satraps” met, made this decision and presented it to King Darius. Reread verse 1. Was Daniel not an administrator? Why was he excluded in this decision?
- Read Daniel 6:10-18. Why do you think Darius was concerned with Daniel? How do Darius’s words in verse 16 contradict the ordinance? Do you think Darius really thought God could save Daniel? In what situations do you find yourself that you feel it will take a miracle to protect you?
- Read Daniel 6:19-24. Compare the protection of Daniel with the outcome of the men who plotted against him. When was the last time you experienced the presence of God in your life? How has God protected you?
- Read Daniel 6:25-28. The presence of God in Daniel’s life not only impacted Daniel, but also impacted Darius and others in the land. How does the presence of God in your life impact people around you? How does seeing God’s hand of protection on you impact your worship of Him?

Spend time this week thanking God for His presence and protection. Do not take His protection for granted, but consider it a privilege that the God who created the universe cares enough to protect you.

What do these symbols mean?

- ➔ **Application Activities Format:** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.
- 1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



Powerful Protection

Focus Passage: Daniel 6

Key Bible Verse: Psalm 121:8

Life Application

I can trust God’s protection.

Level of Biblical Learning (God)

God is everywhere at all times.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Welcome the Children

Create Lion Masks

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Sing “Our God Reigns”

Call to Worship

Pray

Sing “Almighty God”/Receive Offering

Show “All Access Irwin” Video

Introduce Bible Story

Tell Bible Story

Make Life Application

Use Worship Guides

Learn the Key Bible Verse

Sing “Ancient Words”

Application Activities (10 minutes)

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

1 → Welcome the Children

2 → Create Lion Masks

Pull It Together

Paper plates; large paper grocery bags; brown, tan, yellow, and black construction paper; scissors; glue; pencils; markers; mirror

- Explain: "Part of our Bible study today includes lions. Use the materials to create lion masks to wear during our Bible study."
- Offer assistance as children design masks.
- Invite the children to wear their masks and look at themselves in the mirror.

Worship

3 → Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" (DVD, 3 minutes)

4 Sing "Our God Reigns" (DVD, 3 minutes)

5 → Call to Worship (3 minutes)

- Say: "We worshiped God by singing His praises. God is glad when we worship Him. Let's worship Him by praising Him for who He is! Listen to what I say and respond by saying 'Hallelujah!'"
- Lead in the following responsive praise:
 - Praise the Lord in the heavens! (*Hallelujah*)
 - Praise Him, all His angels! (*Hallelujah*)
 - Praise Him all the earth! (*Hallelujah*)
 - Praise the Lord for He has kept us safe! (*Hallelujah*)
 - Praise Him with song! (*Hallelujah*)
 - Praise Him with prayers! (*Hallelujah*)
 - Praise the Lord for He is good and kind! (*Hallelujah*)

6 → Pray (1 minute)

7 → Sing "Almighty God"/Receive Offering (DVD, 3 minutes)

- Receive offering.

8 → Show "All Access Irwin" Video (DVD, 8 minutes)

- Ask: "In what ways does the military protect our country? What about doctors, how do they protect us?"

- Show video.
- Continue: "God protects us in many ways. In what ways does following the Ten Commandments protect us? Why do you think God allows us to do some things that cause us harm?"
- Conclude: "Today we will learn how we can trust in God's protection."

9 → Introduce Bible Story (3 minutes)

- Invite children to place their masks on their faces.
- Say: "You are an important part of our Bible study. When I get to the part about lions, I want to hear your best lion roars."
- Continue: "Before we get to our Bible story, let me tell you a little bit about lions."
- Utilize the lion facts to help children gain an understanding of the size and power of lions.

Lion Facts

- Male lions can be up to 8 feet 2 inches long and weigh between 330 to 550 pounds.
- Female lions weigh between 264 to 400 pounds.
- Female lions do most of the hunting.
- A lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away.

10 → Tell Bible Story (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Pencils

- Print and display "Lion" Teaching Picture (CD).
- Open your Bible to Daniel 6.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words.

Daniel and the Lions

Based on Daniel 6

Under the kingship of King Darius [duh-RIGH-uhs], Daniel had risen to be a man of great responsibility. Darius saw that Daniel was wise and trustworthy and made Daniel one of his leaders. In fact, Darius planned to put Daniel in charge of the whole area.

When the other rulers under King Darius learned about Darius's plan, they decided to find something bad about Daniel. Their problem was, they could not find anything that Daniel did wrong. Instead, the men discovered that Daniel was trustworthy in everything he did.

The men figured out that the only way to get Daniel into trouble was to fault him for his love of God.

The men went to Darius and asked him to make a decree (law) that for 30 days anyone who asks anything of anyone other than the king would be thrown into the lions' den. This meant Daniel would no longer be able to worship God. Darius signed the decree.

When Daniel heard about the law, he went into his house three times a day, just as he had always done, and prayed and gave thanks to God. Daniel did not allow the decree to stop him from worshipping God.

The men watched Daniel as he continued to pray to God. They went to Darius and told him what Daniel was doing. They reminded Darius of the law he had signed.

Darius knew that Daniel must be thrown into the lions' den, but he hoped Daniel's God would protect him. (*Invite the children to act like lions, as you continue the story.*)

Once Daniel was in the lions' den, a large stone was placed in front of the opening. Darius went to the palace and fasted. That night he could not sleep.

Early the next morning, Darius rushed to the den. He called out to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of God, was your God able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel responded, "God sent angels to shut the mouths of the lions. The lions have not hurt me."

Darius was so happy to know Daniel was safe! He called for the men who had tricked him to be thrown into the den.

Darius wrote a decree that all people should honor God because He saved Daniel from the lions.

11 → Make Life Application (4 minutes)

Pull It Together

Pencils

- Print "Life Application" (CD). Copy 1 per child.

- Invite the children to review the facts from the Bible story.
- Ask: "What difference does knowing the story of Daniel in the lions' den make in our lives? What can we learn from this story?"
- Invite the children to respond.
- Continue: "God loves us very much and wants to take care of us. Let's work together to solve a puzzle and discover something special about God."
- Distribute "Life Application" and pencils.
- Guide the children to discover the life application (*I can trust God's protection*).

12 → Use Worship Guides (3 minutes)

Pull It Together

Worship Guides

- Distribute Worship Guides.
- Guide the children to complete the dot-to-dot activity.
- Ask: "What do the words say?" (*God protects.*)
- Continue: "Look at the locations on your Worship Guides. Is God always with us at these locations? What are some ways God protects us in these places?"

13 → Learn the Key Bible Verse (5 minutes)

- Guide the children to locate Psalm 121:8 in their Bibles.
- Select volunteers to read aloud the verse.
- Discuss the verse.
- Help the children understand how God protects them. Be careful not to imply that nothing bad or harmful will ever happen to them.

14 → Sing "Ancient Words" (DVD, 3 minutes)

15 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

16 Complete "Trust Lib" (7 minutes)

Pull It Together

Pencils

- Print "Trust Lib" (CD). Copy one for each child.

- Distribute a copy of "Trust Lib" and pencil to each child.
- Explain: "Look at the words beside the blanks. Write a word on the blank which fits the category. For example, if the word is 'verb,' write a verb such as run, jump, eat. If the word says 'noun,' write a person, place, or thing in the blank. Continue for each blank."
- Provide assistance as needed.
- Guide the children to select partners and read the story using the words written by the children.
- Explain: "This was a silly story about a trip through the jungle. It probably did not make sense because we used different words in the blanks."
- Continue: "The story of Daniel and the lions' den is not a made up story. It is a true story that helps us learn how much God loves and protects us. God loved Daniel and protected him from the lions. God loves us and wants to protect us. We can know that God is always present, and we can trust His protection."

17 Pray (1 minute)

- Express appreciation to God for His presence and protection.

18 Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 3 minutes)

- Continue the song as you dismiss the children to their parents.

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

16 → Review Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite the children to share their Application Activity experiences.
 - Arts and Crafts—Dough Sculptures
 - Dramatic Play—God's Protection Skits
 - Games—"Daniel, Daniel, Where Are You?"
 - Exploration and Discovery—"Evidence of God's Protection"

17 → Pray (1 minute)

- Express appreciation to God for His presence and protection.

18 → Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 3 minutes)

- Continue the song as you dismiss the children to their parents.