

## DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

*“Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you” (Daniel 6: 16).*

The Lord can best protect those who look to Him and trust in Him. The story of Daniel in the lions' den is a beautiful illustration of this ideal state of trust in the Lord. Daniel was in the habit of praying to the Lord three times each day, and he continued this practice even though a new law prohibited it. The consequence was being put in a den of ferocious lions, but the Lord protected Daniel, sending an angel to close the mouths of the lions.

### **READING THE WORD: Daniel Trusts in his God**

Read and discuss the story of Daniel and the lions' den (Daniel 6).

- ◆ Why were some men jealous of Daniel?
- ◆ What law did Darius sign at the urging of the men jealous of Daniel?
- ◆ Did this law cause Daniel to change his daily routine?
- ◆ Why was king Darius sad when he realized that Daniel was disobeying the new law?
- ◆ Why wasn't Daniel afraid of the lions?
- ◆ Would you be frightened if you were in a den of lions?
- ◆ Who protected Daniel? Who protects us from evil?
- ◆ Why could the Lord protect Daniel? (He was “found innocent.”)

### **ACTIVITY: Dramatize the Story** *(for young children)*

Make simple costumes for Daniel, Darius, the angel, and the lions. Then retell the story while the children act it out. Have the angel go to all of the lions to “shut” their mouths.

### **READ: “Daniel Worships the Lord” by the Rev. Kurt Horigan Asplundh**

This is an illustrated children's talk designed for use with young children.

(Note: This talk is part of the Early Childhood Program with creative instructional activities for preschoolers of all ages. Contact the [Office of Education](#) for more information.)

### **PROJECT: Shoebox Diorama** *(for young children)*

### **READ: “Daniel in the Lions' Den” a sermon by the Rev. Patrick A. Rose**

### **COLORING PAGE: Daniel in the Lions' Den** *(for primary and up)*

### **ACTIVITY: Sequencing Strips for Daniel in the Lions' Den**

This retelling of the story is ready to be cut into strips for sequencing by one or more children.

### **ACTIVITY: A Story-Line for Daniel in the Lions' Den**

Make a story line reflecting your perspective on whether the events in this story are happy, sad, or “neutral.”

### **ACTIVITY: King Darius, Daniel, and Me** *(for teens and up)*

In addition to protecting Daniel, the Lord also helped King Darius. This activity can help you explore how the Lord helped both King Darius and Daniel, and also reflect on how He helps us.

**PROJECT: Close the Lion's Mouth** *(for little ones)*

Here is a picture of a lion to color, then fold to close the mouth of the lion. Talk with your children about the Lord sending His angel to close each lion's mouth to protect Daniel and keep him safe.

**PROJECT: Make Models of Lions**

Use a modeling compound (such as playdough, plasticene, or clay) to make a lion. In this story about Daniel, the lions picture the power and danger of evil. But in other places in the Word, a lion pictures the Divine power of the Lord, all powerful against the forces of evil.

**READING THE WORD: Lions in the Word**

You may want to read these quotes about a lion picturing the power of the Lord and about lions when they portray the fury of the hells against what is good and true.

**PROJECT: False Teeth** *(for teens and up)*

The teeth of lions picture falsities that want to tear and destroy truths. On this drawing of a lion roaring, write a truth and then a false idea that wants to "tear" our understanding and application of that truth. For example, one of the Lord's commandments is that we should not take His name in vain, using it in talking about something that is not holy. A false idea or rationalization that can damage our application of this truth is that everyone does it, so it can't be that bad.



## THE LORD'S PROTECTION

If the Lord did not protect a person moment by moment,  
and in every shortest instant, he would immediately perish....  
*(Arcana Coelestia 59:2)*

We depend on the Lord's protection, for without it we would be powerless against evil.

**FAMILY WORSHIP: The Lord Our Protector**

Take turns reading aloud quotes **From the Word** about the protection of the Lord.

**READ: "The Lord's Protection" a sermon by the Rev. Jeremy Simons**

**PROJECT: The Lord Protects Us with the Light of Truth**

Have children make a picture of the Word above them, showing the light of truth flowing from the Lord through the Word. (Use a yellow highlighter or golden glitter to make the light.) The Lord protects people by means of Divine truth, surrounding those who are receptive of His truth with a sphere of light (see *Apocalypse Explained* 395:2).

**ACTIVITY: Make a Collection of Prayers Seeking the Lord's Protection**

Write prayers that seek the Lord's protection. You may want to adapt the selected quotes **From the Word** about the Lord's protection, look through the Psalms in the Word, and consult *Learning to Pray: Prayers from the Word for Personal Use* collected and arranged by the Rev. Kurt Horigan Asplundh (available through the [General Church Book Center](#)). You could print these in a special book to read whenever you feel the need for the Lord's protection. Or memorize a few so they are always with you!

**FOR REFLECTION: Hell Is Like a Huge Lion**

In *True Christian Religion* 123, the Lord's combat against hell is compared to a conflict with all of the ferocious wild beasts on the earth. And hell is compared to a huge lion. Without the Lord's help, we could never fight our evils and be led to heaven. If we choose what is good and right, the Lord can fight for us. The Lord fights against hell in every person who is being regenerated (see TCR 123:6).



**ACTIVITY: Symbols of the Lord's Protection**

Try the online activity showing illustrations of symbols of the Lord's protection and quotes from the Word. These quotes can also be printed out for children to match with symbols.

[Interactive Symbols of Protection Activity](#)

[A Symbols of Protection Matching Activity to Print Out](#)

**PROJECT: Make a Collage of Symbols of Protection**

Make a collage of quotes and symbols of the Lord's protection. This can be a collaborative project for the whole family or done individually.

**FOR REFLECTION: Protection of the Eye**

When the Lord created people, He made sure that the human body is protected. For example, the eye is well protected. Can you think of specific ways it is protected?

## **WHO CAN THE LORD PROTECT?**

**The Lord cannot protect a person unless he acknowledges the Divine and lives a life of faith and charity; for otherwise a person turns himself away from the Lord.**  
(see *Heaven and Hell* 577:3)

The Lord our heavenly Father wants nothing more than to keep us safe from evil and falsity. But He also treasures our freedom to choose between good and evil, and the way we choose to live affects the extent to which the Lord can protect us.

**FOR REFLECTION: Strong in Truth** (*for teens and up*)

What truths have you learned that protect something precious in your life? Use this journal page with a beautiful pattern of light to write down examples of these truths, such as the teachings about conjugal love.

**PROJECT: Make an "Invisible" Shield** (*older children and up*)

Use a piece of clear plexiglass to make a shield. Use fine-point, permanent colored markers to write quotes from the Word on the shield, picturing the protective quality of truth. For good is protected by truth and the understanding of it (see *Apocalypse Explained* 1121).

**ACTIVITY: A Demonstration of the Protection**

How can a clear glass, a cotton ball, and a bowl of muddy water help you illustrate the Lord's "invisible" protection of those who look to Him?

## **TRUSTING IN THE LORD'S PROVIDENCE**

Peace holds within itself trust in the Lord, the trust that He governs all things and provides all things, and that He leads toward an end that is good.

*(Arcana Coelestia 8455:1)*

Sometimes it can be challenging to trust in the Lord's providence. When things don't seem to be going well, we may wonder if the Lord is caring for us. Whether or not we believe it, He is always trying to lead us toward eternal happiness. If we can believe it, then we feel at peace even when troubles come our way.

### **ACTIVITY: Divine Providence Story-Telling**

In *Arcana Coelestia* 8480, we read that those who trust in the Lord are constantly receiving good from Him and that whatever happens, whether it seems to be advantageous or not, is nevertheless good, for it serves as a means contributing to their eternal happiness. Have a family discussion about this teaching. Share examples from personal experience or draw on movies and books to illustrate this idea. Remember that it is granted that a person can see the operation of the Lord's Providence in the past but not the present (see *Divine Providence* 187).

### **ACTIVITY: A Helping Hand in Trial**

When you find yourself in a difficult situation where you are tempted to break one of the Lord's commandments, try this: Picture yourself as the disciple Peter, walking on the water, but starting to sink. Evil spirits are trying to drag you down and under. Then, in your mind's eye, visualize the Lord's hand reaching out to grab your hand. Your trust and confidence in the Lord is restored. You have the strength to resist in temptation.

### **ACTIVITY: Food for Thought—Trusting in the Lord** *(for teens and up)*

### **PROJECT: Calligraphy of Arcana Coelestia 8455**

Make a lovely border for this quote or print it onto beautiful paper.

### **ACTIVITY: Food for Thought—How the Angels Protect Us** *(for teens and up)*

### **ACTIVITY: Providence Family Float Trip (or do this as a meditation exercise)**

When the weather is warm, try going on a family float trip using a raft, canoe, or inner tubes. Relax and let the river current carry you along. Think about how the Lord is "carrying" us as He endeavors to lead us toward the happiness of heaven. Think of floating down the river as illustrating us when we are trusting in the Lord and letting Him be our guide. Try paddling upstream—fighting the current. This pictures how much harder we make things for ourselves if we trust ourselves rather than the Lord! Relax again, trust in the Lord, and enjoy the ride. (Remember to use sunscreen!)