

Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School: Lessons for Preschool – Kindergarten

Lesson 1.27: DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN — Dan. 6

TEACHER PREPARATION

Read over the story from Daniel chapter 6.

WORSHIP CIRCLE

STORY AND DISCUSSION

Long ago there lived a man named Daniel. Daniel was a good man who loved the Lord. Daniel was also very wise. The king, whose name was King Darius, liked Daniel very much and had made Daniel a special leader. Now there were some other men who were jealous of Daniel and hated him. These bad men tricked the king into making a new rule in the land that whoever prayed to the Lord would get thrown into the lions' den.

Every day Daniel prayed to the Lord in the morning, in the afternoon, and in the evening. He would open the windows in his room and talk to the Lord and thank Him. When Daniel heard about the new rule, he went right home and prayed to the Lord. The bad men caught him praying to the Lord and told King Darius. The king was very upset and very sorry he had made such a foolish rule. He did not want Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den! But the king was not allowed to change his own rules. King Darius wanted to save Daniel but he could not. Before Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, the king said to Daniel, "Your Lord will save you from the lions."

That night, the king could not eat or sleep. He was very worried about Daniel. Very early in the morning he ran from his palace to the lions' den and shouted down to Daniel, "Daniel, has your Lord saved you from the lions?" And from the dark pit Daniel said, "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so they have not hurt me."

How happy the king was! He told his servants to pull Daniel out of the den and saw that he did not have a single scratch on him! Then the king made a new rule, a good rule, that said everyone in the whole kingdom must worship the Lord.

RECITATION

Now we will say something from this story in the Lord's Word. I will say a part, and you say it after me.

"My God sent His angel
and shut the lions' mouths,
so that they have not hurt me...."

PROJECT—Lion Mask

Have the children color a lion's face on a paper plate. (They could add a little texture by gluing precut lions' noses of felt onto the faces.) Punch some holes around the top half of the plate and tie yellow or brown precut strands of yarn into the holes for a mane. Tie a strand of yarn to each side of the plate so the masks can be tied behind the children's heads. Use the masks in the reenactment below.

ACTIVITY—Reenact Daniel in the Lions' Den

Choose one child to be Daniel, one to be the angel, and the rest will be lions. The teacher will be King Darius and another adult will be the bad servant.

Have the "lions" sit in a circle to form the lion's den. Explain to them that when Daniel is put in the middle of them, at first they will roar fiercely at him. But when the Lord's angel comes and touches each of them, they will stop roaring and become gentle. (If you feel that it would be too frightening for a preschooler to play Daniel, an adult could play Daniel instead.)

Now, King Darius makes a command that every one should worship him, or else they will be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel says "no" and kneels down. A bad servant asks Daniel, "Who are you worshipping?" Daniel replies, "The Lord."

The bad servant puts Daniel into the lions' den. The lions roar fiercely at him at first. But then the Lord's angel comes along and touches each lion, and they become gentle.

King Darius then comes running and calls into the den, "Daniel! Did your God save you from the lions?" Daniel answers, "Yes! He sent an angel to close their mouths so they would not hurt me!"