

The Lion's Den



Key Passage: Daniel 6:10-23, The Lion's Den

Lesson: Putting God first is always the right choice.

Objective: Kids will learn that putting God first is always the right choice.

Video: Daniel and the Lion's Den

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odcRHDqcVlc>

INTRO:

Raise your hand if you've ever had to make a really hard choice. Maybe it was deciding what you want for Christmas. Or maybe it was deciding what kind of birthday party to have. Or if you've ever broken a bone, maybe you got to decide what color cast you wanted.

Sometimes choices are a big deal, but sometimes they aren't really. Some choices you really have to think about and some are no-brainers. Some choices have the right answers, and some don't.

In our story today, we will learn that putting God first is always the right choice. Our story is about a man named Daniel who believed in God but lived in a land of people who didn't. His faith could have gotten him in big trouble, but he chose to put God first anyway. Let's read.

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READ DANIEL 6:10-23

MAIN POINT:

So, our story starts with a decree, which just means a law, but let's back up to give a little back story on the why and how of this little law. So, we know our story is going to be about this guy named Daniel, right? Well, he was really good at his job, like so good that it made other people jealous. They were so jealous that they plotted to come up with a way to get Daniel in trouble. But, he was so good at his job that it was practically impossible.

Until these guys came up with a sneaky idea to convince the king to create a decree saying that everyone had to pray to him and him alone. That wouldn't work for Daniel because he only worshipped the one true God. And that's where our story begins. Daniel heard about the decree and he had a decision to make. Would he obey the law and disobey God or would he disobey the law, but obey God? Daniel made the right choice by putting God first, but that got him in big trouble.

Did I mention that the punishment for disobeying the law was that anyone who broke the law would be thrown in a lion's den? One with real, live, hungry lions. Of course, the meanie guys who tricked King Darius into making the law snuck around trying to catch Daniel praying. When the men reported Daniel, King Darius realized the mistake he had made, but the law couldn't be changed. King Darius hoped that Daniel's God could rescue him.

DRIVE IT HOME:

So, having put God first, Daniel was thrown into a lion's den. It seemed pretty scary, but Daniel trusted God. He knew that putting God first was more important than anything else. He knew that putting God first was the right choice.

The king was so worried that he stayed up all night and as soon as it was daylight, he went to check on Daniel. Daniel told him that an angel had shut the mouths of the lions. The king was so relieved. He ordered that Daniel be removed from the lions' den. Daniel was safe!

Hopefully, we'll never be in a situation where we have to choose between disobeying God or being thrown in a lion's den, but we will face tough choices. We might have to choose not to talk badly about someone even though everyone else is. We might have to choose between disobeying our parents or getting made fun of. In these situations, we know that putting God first is always the right choice.

Parent/Child Chat: K - 2nd grade

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why did King Darius make a decree that people could only pray to him?
Why did the men not like Daniel?
Why did the men tattle on Daniel?
Why did Daniel get thrown into the lion's den?

Parent/Child Chat: 3rd - 8th grade

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

How did King Darius feel when he realized that Daniel would be thrown into the lion's den?
How do you think the men who tricked King Darius felt when they realized Daniel was safe?
Why did God send an angel?
How did Daniel choose to put God first in this story?

PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Putting God first seems simple, but it's much easier said than done. Today, we get so caught up in our modern conveniences of phones and streaming. But for Daniel, it wasn't a matter of too many options, it

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was a matter of life or death. What choices in your life can you make this week that put God first? How can you lead your child to put God first in their choices this week?

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Paper

Scissors

Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

INSTRUCTIONS:

Using a half sheet of construction paper, draw a lion. The mouth of the lion should look like 3 sides of a rectangle with teeth. The long side of the rectangle should be around 3 inches. Color the lion however you would like. Fold along the upper lip line (straight line) across the paper. Make sure the fold is really, really crisp – run a craft stick or similar tool across the fold. Next, bring the fold you just made to the bottom lip line (making the fold somewhere between the lips). Your lion should now look like a regular-sized fish. Using one hand to pull the top, and the other hand to pull the bottom, open it up to reveal the blank space! Explain that this shows how the angel shut the lions' mouths.