



# Daniel & the Lion's Den

Daniel 6

## *Items Needed*

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Pencils/Markers
- ✓ Copies of Anagram
- ✓ Copies of Coloring Sheet
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



## Daniel and the Lion's Den

### Objective of Lesson:

The objective of this lesson is to demonstrate the gospel and point out Christ in the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den.

### Scripture Reference

*Daniel 6*

### Lesson Instructions:

1. A few weeks ago Jackson asked me if I would do a Sunday School Lesson on Daniel and the Lion's Den. I realized I had never done a lesson on that story. This is a very popular story in the Bible. It is one of the first stories told to children from the Bible. It shows us how strong our God is, but this is also a picture that teaches us how God saves His people from their sins. As with everything written in the Bible, God tells these stories, not because He wants to entertain us, but because He knows our brains can't understand anything that talks about Spirits or spiritual things. Do you remember in the story of Adam and Eve, when Adam fell into sin in the garden, we all lost the ability to see spirit? It made us blind to God, (Hold your hands over your eyes), deaf to His words (Hold your hands over your ears) and dumb to spiritual things (Hold your hands over your mouth).

2. What are spiritual things? They are the things that have to do with our spirits. Can we see spirits? No! Can we look in the mirror and see our own spirits? No! This is the reason God records these things in the Bible, because we can't see or understand them any other way.
3. Let's set the scene for our story. Israel, God's chosen people, had been captured by a group of people called the Babylonians. The Babylonian people made all of Israel live and work in their kingdom. They weren't allowed to live and work anywhere else. Babylon was a huge and beautiful city, but it was full of sin and religious idols. The Babylonian people worshipped their king and various other made-up gods. The Israelite people were free to live and work and even worship the true and living God in this kingdom. The Babylonian people didn't have them in chains in a prison somewhere. Actually, if you met one of the Israelite people, at first sight it would appear they were a free people. It appeared they were free from Babylonian rule, but they weren't. They were not allowed to leave the kingdom or leave the rule of the Babylonian King. They could make all kinds of decisions, create businesses, and raise their families, but they could never leave.
4. How is this a picture of our sinful natures? (Romans 7:14-29) We are free to live and work and make decisions but we can never get away from our sinful nature. (Isaiah 40: 6, Romans 3: 10) Upon appearance we look like our natures are free from sin. We look like we live uprightly and faithfully to our Lord God, but we are never able to leave the rule of sin in our hearts. (Matthew 23:25-27) It's always there. We are able to move around freely in our minds and lives, but we will always be a captive of our sinful nature. (1 Samuel 16: 7, Romans 7:1, Romans 7:5, ) It controls our thoughts. It rules our motives, just like these Israelite people being captives of Babylon and its sinful King. (Romans 3: 12)
5. There was a man named Daniel. He was an Israelite man who loved God and God loved him. Our Lord God gave Daniel special gifts that no one else in the entire kingdom had. Daniel was able to speak of things no other man knew.

God gave him the ability to know what the King of Babylon dreamed and what his dreams meant. Who might this be a picture of? Christ! Our Lord is able to speak of things no other man knows. (Matthew 7: 29, John 7: 45-46) He has gifts no other man has. (Matthew 11: 2-11) Daniel is a picture of Christ here!

6. Daniel was loved by the King of Babylon. The king knew of Daniel's gifts and he gave Daniel a special place in his kingdom. The king chose 120 men to rule the different parts of the kingdom and over those men he chose three princes. Daniel was the head over it all. These rulers of the kingdom were very jealous of Daniel. They said, "What?! You mean Daniel is above us?! Why would the king do that?! He is a Jewish man. He is in captivity to us and the King is making him to be our ruler! No way is this guy going to rule over us. He is not even Persian!" The rulers of the kingdom were full of envy over the power that was given to Daniel. They couldn't stand the fact that Daniel was a Jew. Wait a minute! Does this reaction sound familiar? This is exactly what happened to our Lord Jesus Christ when He came to do the work of God. God chose the Lord Jesus Christ to be the head of His kingdom! The Pharisees of His day were very jealous of the power that God had given our Lord and Savior. They thought, "How could God choose such a one to rule over us? He's from Bethlehem. He's not even from our holy city of Jerusalem! We will not have this man to rule over us!" (Luke 19: 14, John 15:25, Psalms 2:1-3) You see? Daniel is a picture of Christ.
7. Daniel was a good man. God had made him kind, just, and faithful. Daniel had never hurt or given the rulers and princes of the kingdom any reason to hate him. Every ruler in the kingdom got together and said, "We have to get rid of this guy. He has way too much power. We need to come up with a way to take him down. Let's send out some spies to spy on him. If we watch his every move then as soon as he messes up we'll tell the king about it so the King will get rid of him. After all, nobody is that good. He'll mess up eventually. It's just a matter of time." So they sent spies to spy on Daniel. The spies

followed him around everywhere and snuck around his house and even looked in his windows, hoping to catch him doing something wrong. Who does this sound like? Our Lord Jesus Christ! The religious people, the Pharisees, treated our Lord Jesus Christ the same way. They spied on Him and watched His every move. (Matthew 22: 15-22) They question Him and tried to cast Him in a bad light. (Luke 20: 20) See how this story is a picture of how Christ saves His people? It is showing us exactly what was going to happen when Christ came to this earth to save His people. God is showing us how everything was going to unfold.

8. Daniel went about his daily routines. Every day, three times a day, Daniel went into his home, bowed down on his knees and prayed and worshipped the Lord God. He was a good and upright man and conducted business honestly. He was a faithful servant of God. The spies said, "This guy is perfect! He doesn't do anything! How can we sit and watch this guy for so long and he not mess up even once!?"
9. Finally the spies threw up their hands and they went back to report to the rulers. They said, "This Daniel guy is perfect. He is so perfect that he even bows down and worships his God three times a day." The rulers said, "Well NOW what!? We can't get anything on this guy. We had these spies follow him everywhere and there is nothing. We can't even get the king mad at Daniel, much less get rid of Daniel. Guys, I think it's time we come up with another plan. If we can't find anything we can use to get rid of him, then there is only one thing left to do, we need to make up something, but what could we do? I know! Let's pick something we know he does every single day and make it a crime! Yes! Is there anything Daniel is faithful to? The spies said, "OH YES! Every single day, three times a day, Daniel bows down on his knees to pray and worship his Lord God. All the Jews do it. If there is one thing we know for sure, it's that Daniel is faithful to his God. He never misses a day." The rulers said, "That's it! We will make it a crime for him to pray to his God instead of praying and worshipping King Darius!" - Hmm... this

sounds familiar too! When Christ was on this earth, the religious Jews did the same thing to Christ. They didn't have anything they could accuse Christ of either. The religious Jews decided to make up something, because they couldn't find any sin to charge our Lord Jesus Christ with. (1 Peter 2: 22-23) They accused our Lord Jesus Christ of saying He was King above the ruler of Rome, Caesar, and He should be put to death for saying it! (Luke 23: 1-3, John 19: 13-15) See how our stories are similar? Our Lord is perfect and the rulers of the times took the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father, made it a crime with the penalty of death. They accused him of treason against Caesar. All these things, which are happening to Daniel, are a picture of how our Lord Jesus Christ was going to be treated. It shows us how our Lord was going to be rejected by his own people (John 7:3-5, Matthew 21: 42-43, John 12: 37-38, John 1: 11) and accused of lies and deceit. How our Lord was going to be spied on and how the rulers of the day were going to make up laws so they could sentence him to death. Do you see how this is teaching the gospel story?

10. The rulers of the kingdom cooked up this plan and they set out to present it to King Darius. They came in and said, "OH King! You are such a great King! We want to honor you. We think you are so amazing and we want to do something that shows our love and dedication to you. We've decided we want to make a law in the kingdom that will give you all honor and praise. For the next thirty days, anybody in the kingdom who bows down, worships and prays to anybody but you should be put to death and thrown in the lion's den." The king thought, "Wow! These guys really love me!" The king said, "I think this is a grand idea!! Let's do this! Where do I sign?" The rulers wrote the law up and presented it for King Darius to sign. The new law said, "Anyone caught bowing down and worshipping any other person or any other god but King Darius for the next thirty days, will be sentenced to death and thrown into the lion's den." Now, once King Darius signs that written law, then it becomes the law of the entire kingdom and nothing can change it or take it away. It is

a law forever and if you break it, the penalty is death.

11. Hmm... wait a minute. Does this sound familiar? Who has given a law that can never be changed or taken away? God has. God has His holy law and His law can never be changed. Why? Because God does not change. (Numbers 23: 19, 1 Samuel 15: 29, Isaiah 46: 8-11) God's law is good and holy and just and it cannot be changed or erased. (1 Timothy 1: 8, Luke 16: 13-18) Either you keep it or you pay the penalty of death. (Ezekiel 18: 20, Romans 6: 23) As a matter of fact, the first commandment God gave in His holy law was similar to the law King Darius made. The first commandment of God's law is, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3). King Darius said nobody else in the kingdom could put any other men or rulers before him. King Darius's law was petty and sinful, but God's law is good and just. (Romans 7: 12, Psalm 19: 7, James 1: 25, 2 Timothy 3: 16) God's law must be kept and if it is broken then the penalty is death, just like the law King Darius put in place. (James 1: 15) The law must be honored! (Romans 8: 3, Romans 8:13, James 2: 10, Matthew 5: 19, Deu. 27: 26, Gal. 3:10)
12. As soon as King Darius signed the new law the rulers sent out their spies to catch Daniel worshipping his Lord. Daniel heard about this new law in the kingdom. He knew exactly what these evil men were trying to do. The next day, as soon as Daniel awoke, he walked over and purposefully opened up his blinds to his house, then he knelt down and prayed and worshipped the Lord God, King of heaven and earth. The spies were there, looking in Daniel's windows. Daniel knew they were there. He wanted them to see! He worshiped and served his God openly. Daniel was not afraid of what the men could do to him. (Matthew 10:28, Psalm 56: 11-13, Psalm 118: 6) Daniel boldly, openly and faithfully worshiped God. As soon as Daniel worshipped and prayed to his Lord God the spies jumped out and said, "We've got you now Daniel!" The rulers of the kingdom had Daniel arrested and brought him before the King. They said, "Daniel has broken your law oh King! He has bowed down and worshipped and prayed to his God and you said that anybody that bowed

down, worshipped and prayed to anybody but you for the next thirty days was going to be put to death and thrown in the lion's den. The King was furious! He said, "NOOO!!! What have I done!? You men have tricked me! How could you do something like this!? You made me think this was all to honor me and really you just wanted to get rid of Daniel!" The King was very upset. He tried all that night to find some way of releasing Daniel and sparing his life. He went through everything and there was nothing King Darius could do to reverse the charge. The law was the law and Daniel had broken it. Daniel was guilty, and the penalty was death. How is Daniel a picture of Christ here? Our Lord knew the Pharisees were watching him, trying to trap him and he purposefully and openly honored God the Father. (Luke 6:7, John 18:20) In order for our Lord Jesus Christ to save his people, he had to honor God's law AND pay our penalty. (1 Tim. 2: 5, Galatians 4: 4-5, 2 Cor. 5: 21, 1 Peter 2: 24) The law must be honored. (Acts 17: 3, James 2: 10, Galatians 2: 21) The law said death and Christ paid it with his own life. (Romans 6: 23, Romans 4: 15) He died on the cross for the sins of his people, that they might be free from the law of sin and death. (Ezekiel 18: 4, Galatians 3: 13, Ephesians 5: 2 ) The law is the law and we have broken it. (John 1: 1, Galatians 2: 16)

13. The King was heart-broken. The next day he had his men cast Daniel into the lions' den. He said, "Daniel, I hope your God is strong enough to save you. I am not able." The King searched and search for a law that would overturn the penalty of death for Daniel, but he couldn't find anything. Nothing in the Persian law could save Daniel. The only thing the law had to say to Daniel was "Death". King Darius shut the door on the lion's den and went back to his palace. He couldn't sleep. He couldn't eat. His heart was in pain. He loved Daniel. The next morning, as soon as King Darius saw the sun coming up, he threw on his clothes and ran as fast as he could to the lion's den. He threw open the door and cried out, "Daniel! Daniel! Was your God able to deliver you from the lion's mouth?!" Daniel said, "Fear not oh King. My God was able to deliver me. He sent his angel down to shut the lion's mouths. I have been



delivered." King Darius said, "OHH!! Daniel! Come out! Come out of that lion's den! The law has no more hold on you! Come out and rule once again in my kingdom!" OH what a beautiful picture this is! Does this sound familiar!? Our Lord Jesus Christ paid the price demanded of the law, which was death, and He rose again. The law was satisfied. (2 Cor. 5: 21, 1 Peter 2: 24, John 19: 30, 1 John 1:7) For all those in Christ, the law has no more hold on them! (Isaiah 4: 31, Romans 8:2, Romans 7: 6, Romans 8:1, Galatians 5: 18) Oh what a glorious and wonderful picture of Christ!

## Lesson Activities

- Read the story
- Coloring Sheet

# Take Home Lesson Overview



## Daniel & the Lion's Den

### Scripture Reference:

Daniel 8

### Lesson Overview:

Daniel & the Lion's Den is one of the most popular stories told in the Bible. Most everyone who has attended church at some time has heard this story. Our objective today was to demonstrate how this story is a picture of how God saves His people from their sins. From the first line of the story, all the way to the last, God is demonstrating the gospel in this wonderful story. It is not just about the strength of God, but the sinfulness of men. Daniel is a picture of Christ. What happens to Daniel is foretelling of what our Lord was going to go through and how he was going to accomplish our salvation. A copy of this lesson is available upon request. This Sunday school lesson was based on a sermon by Chris Cunningham, Pastor of College Grove Grace Church, in College Grove, Tennessee. You may listen to the audio of this lesson by Chris Cunningham on [SermonAudio.com](http://SermonAudio.com), entitled "Is Thy God Able?"



God sent an angel to shut the lion's mouth and Daniel was saved. The conspirators were thrown into the den in Daniel's place.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Daniel & the Lions Anagram



abeellmss \_\_\_\_\_

aejlosu \_\_\_\_\_

hmostu \_\_\_\_\_

aberv \_\_\_\_\_

alsw \_\_\_\_\_

ilnos \_\_\_\_\_

adepry \_\_\_\_\_

cdelos \_\_\_\_\_

aegln \_\_\_\_\_

cdeersu \_\_\_\_\_

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Daniel & the Lions Anagram



abeellmss      blameless

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aejlosu      jealous

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hmostu      mouths

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aberv      brave

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alsw      laws

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ilnos      lions

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adepry      prayed

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cdelos      closed

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aegl n      angel

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cdeersu      rescued

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