

Daniel Was Rescued

BIBLE PASSAGE: Daniel 6

MAIN POINT: God rescued Daniel.

KEY PASSAGE: Daniel 2:20

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How can we obey God? We trust God to help us obey Him.

SMALL GROUP OPENING (15–20 MINUTES) **LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY** (10–15 MINUTES) **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** (20–25 MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

The fifth chapter of Daniel ends with the death of King Belshazzar when the Persians took over Babylon and Darius was put on the throne. Babylon was on the decline—no longer the powerful, prosperous empire it once was. By this time Daniel was an old man, probably in his early 80s. He served the new king as one of the three leading supervisors in the kingdom.

Daniel was very good at his job. So good, in fact, that King Darius planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom. The other supervisors and governors were jealous of Daniel. They watched for him to do something wrong so they could complain to the king. Read Daniel 6:4. Daniel was

“trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.”

Through the malevolent persuasion of the king’s leaders, King Darius passed a law that no one could pray to anyone but him, the king, for 30 days. Daniel continued to pray boldly to God.

Guide preschoolers to imagine how Daniel might have felt. Was he worried about getting caught? Did he have nightmares about being eaten by lions? Even the king’s threat of death did not stop Daniel from praying. The jealous officials turned him in, and Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den.

As you teach preschoolers, emphasize that Daniel was faithful to God—the true King—and God rescued Him. God’s protection of Daniel served to show all the people that the God of Daniel “is the living God, and He endures forever; His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His dominion has no end” (Dan. 6:26).

God also calls us to trust and obey Him no matter what. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from something much more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death. Pray that through your faith, and that of the preschoolers you lead, “may the name of God be praised forever and ever” (Dan. 2:20).



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The BIBLE STORY

Daniel Was Rescued

Daniel 6

Darius (duh RIGH uhs) **was the new king of Babylon.** King Darius picked Daniel to be one of his helpers. Daniel worked hard, and he was good at his job. The king **liked Daniel.** He decided to give Daniel a more important job.

The other helpers heard that Daniel was going to get a better job. They were not happy. They watched Daniel very carefully. They wanted to catch him doing something wrong, so they could tell on him. But Daniel did what was right.

The helpers thought about Daniel. They knew he loved God and obeyed Him. **They knew Daniel prayed to God, so they made a mean plan to get Daniel in trouble.**

The helpers went to the king. **“King, we think you should make a new law that says everyone can only pray to you.”** Of course, every law needs a punishment for breaking the law. So the men said, **“Anyone who breaks the law will be thrown into the lions’ den!”**

King Darius made the law: people can only pray to the king. **Daniel knew the new law said he couldn’t pray to God anymore. But Daniel went into his house and prayed three times every day, just like he had always done.**

The men spied on Daniel and saw him praying to God. Then they hurried to the king. **“Daniel broke the law! We saw him praying!”** they said.

The king was sad. He **did not want to punish Daniel, but that was the law. So the king ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions’ den.** **“I hope God saves you,”** the king told Daniel.

That night, the king could not sleep. He did not eat. He sat in his palace and thought about Daniel with the lions.

As soon as the sun came up the next morning, the king hurried to the lions' den. He hoped Daniel was OK. **"Daniel!" he called out. "Did God save you from the lions?"**

"Yes!" said Daniel. "God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths! I am safe!"

The king was so happy. **Daniel came out of the lions' den.** He wasn't hurt. Daniel had trusted God to keep him safe. **The king made a new law.** The law said **that everyone must respect God.** God had saved Daniel and kept him safe from the lions.

Christ Connection: God saved Daniel from the lions. God is powerful! God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from something more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that God was with Daniel in the lions' den. Believers can take courage because God promises to be with us through His Son, Jesus, forever. (Josh. 1:9) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Daniel Was Rescued

BIBLE PASSAGE: Daniel 6

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How can we obey God? We trust God to help us obey Him.

Welcome time

- “It Is Well” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “The Lions’ Den” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Lead preschoolers to follow the directions on the activity page and mark the lions accordingly.

SAY • How many lions did you count in the lions’ den?

In today’s Bible story, Daniel had a choice to make. He could obey the king or obey God and be thrown into a den of lions. Can you guess whom he chose to obey?

Sit like animals

Challenge preschoolers to sit like animals. Use the following animals and suggested positions or create your own.

- Fish: lie on tummy, bend knees, lift chest, reach arms back toward toes, and make a fish face
- Rabbit: sit upright on heels, bring arms in front,



touch floor

- Eagle: stand tall, wrap one leg around the other, bring bent arms out in front of you, hold out arms like spread wings, slightly bend knees
- Turtle: sit on heels, bring forehead down to rest in front of knees, place palm of hands flat out in front
- Giraffe: stand tall, look up, reach arms up to sky

SAY • How does a lion sit? [*Lead preschoolers to demonstrate how they think a lion would sit.*] In today's Bible story, the king made a rule that said everyone could only pray to him. Anyone who broke the law would be thrown into a den of lions! Listen to today's Bible story to discover what happened.

Play an animal matching game

Print and cut apart the "Animal Matching" cards. Lead preschoolers to take turns matching an animal's head to the rest of its body. For older preschoolers, lay the cards facedown on the table and play a memory game with the cards.

SAY • Good job matching the animals to their bodies. We are going to hear about some lions in today's Bible story. Lions can be scary, but God has power over lions and everything He created.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to roar like lions as they move to Bible study and to close their mouths when they sit down.

- "Animal Matching" printable
- scissors

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

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Introduce the Bible story

Ask preschoolers if they have ever been to the zoo. Ask them to tell about some of the animals they saw there.

SAY • Who has seen a lion at the zoo? Did you get to pet one of the lions? Of course not! Lions are powerful and dangerous. In our Bible story today, Daniel was put into a den of lions! Let's find out what happened!

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Daniel 6 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • God's words are in the Bible, and all God's words are true. Today's Bible story is from the Book of Daniel.

Show the Bible story video "Daniel Was Rescued," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Daniel knew obeying God was more important than obeying the king's law. Daniel continued to pray to God like he always did, even though it meant he would be thrown into the lions' den. **God rescued**

- bookmark
- Bible
- "Daniel Was Rescued" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Daniel. God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from something more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. What did King Darius plan to do for Daniel? (*give him a more important job*)
2. Why did the other helpers get the king to make the new law? (*They wanted to get Daniel in trouble.*)
3. Did the king want to punish Daniel? (*no*)
4. Did God save Daniel from the lions? (*Yes, God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths.*)
5. What new law did the king make? (*Everyone must respect God.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Who knows the answer to our big picture question, ***How can we obey God? We trust God to help us obey Him.*** God helped Daniel obey Him even when it meant Daniel might get eaten by lions. Sometimes obeying God can be hard or even scary, but God will help us. God is powerful!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Daniel 2:20. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, “Forever and Ever.”

SAY • Daniel knew that God is the true, forever King. Wisdom and power belong to Him. He is the only One who deserves our prayers and worship!

• Key Passage Poster
• “Forever and Ever” song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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Play “The King Says”

Play “Simon Says” by the traditional rules but use *king* instead of *Simon*. Allow preschoolers to take turns being the *king*.

SAY • Daniel did not do what King Darius’ law said to do, but he did what God, the true King, said to do. Daniel chose to obey God, and **God rescued Daniel**. God showed He is the true King. Obeying God can be hard at times, but God will help us obey. ***How can we obey God? We trust God to help us obey Him.*** Just as God helped Daniel, He will help us too.

Make a prayer chain

Write the names of individual nations on separate strips of construction paper. Include nations where your church supports missionaries as well as nations where Christians are not permitted to worship freely. Invite each preschooler to select a paper strip. Lead a preschooler to display her strip to the group as you point out the nation on a world map or globe. Explain that in some countries, it is against the law to worship or pray to God.

Lead children in praying a sentence prayer for each

- construction paper
- scissors
- markers
- tape
- world map or globe

nation such as, “God, please change the laws in this country so Your people can worship You without getting in trouble,” “God, help Your people in this nation worship You even though it is hard,” “God, please protect Your people in this country,” or “Please help the people in this country to know that You are the only true God.” As you pray for each nation, link the paper strip to the others to form a chain. Display the prayer chain in your classroom.

SAY • The king’s law said that Daniel could only pray to the king. Daniel continued to pray to the one true God, and **God rescued Daniel**. Some of the countries we prayed for also have laws that say a person cannot pray to God. Let’s continue to pray for God’s people in these countries. Let’s pray God will keep them safe and the laws will change, but let’s also pray God’s people will tell others in their country that Jesus rescues people from sin and death.

Play with a parachute

Place soft balls or rolled socks on a parachute or large sheet. Explain that the balls or socks represent lions. Invite preschoolers to hold on to the parachute and move it up and down to “stir up” the lions. You may also lead preschoolers to hold the parachute high in the air as you call a preschooler’s name to “come out of the lions’ den” by running under the parachute and out the other side.

SAY • Daniel knew obeying God was more important than obeying the king, even if it meant going into the lions’ den. Our God is powerful! **God rescued Daniel**, and God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from something more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death.

- parachute or sheet
- soft balls or rolled socks

- large cardboard box
- scissors
- pillows or cushions

Tip: Stop by a home improvement or appliance store and ask for an appliance box.

Pray in “Daniel’s house”

Before the session, use scissors to cut a door and windows in an appliance box to make “Daniel’s house.” Place pillows or cushions inside. Invite preschoolers to play out going in the house to pray.

SAY • Prayer is a great gift God has given us. We can talk to God anytime and anywhere. Daniel continued to pray to God even when the law said not to. There may come a time when laws tell us that we cannot pray to God, but we can continue to pray no matter what! We can remember how **God rescued Daniel** from the lions’ den. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin and death. We do not have to be afraid of anyone or anything.

- construction paper
- glue sticks
- yellow cupcake liners
- markers or crayons

Make a Daniel and lions craft

Provide a sheet of construction paper for each child. Guide preschoolers to glue several yellow cupcake liners to their paper. Lead them to draw a lion’s face including whiskers in the flat part of each cupcake liner. Then invite them to draw Daniel on their paper. Write the main point on each preschoolers artwork.

SAY • One day, you may have to choose between obeying God and obeying people. Remembering how **God rescued Daniel** can help you in those times. God is powerful! We do not have to be afraid of anyone or anything because God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from something more dangerous than lions or people. Jesus rescues us from sin and death.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Lead preschoolers to assemble a lion-shaped snack by laying a miniature pretzel upside down on a graham cracker to serve as the lion's muzzle. Use chocolate chips to fill in the lion's nose and create eyes. Arrange pretzel sticks around the graham cracker to create the lion's mane. Remind preschoolers that God showed His power when He sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. **God rescued Daniel. How can we obey God? We trust God to help us obey Him.** Daniel trusted God to help him obey Him, and God did!

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes his snack, guide him to throw away any trash. He may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of something that scares them and then draw a picture of Jesus beside it. Remind preschoolers that we do not have to be afraid of anything because Jesus has rescued us from sin and death. Pray for the children.

SAY • God, help us to obey You even when it is hard.

Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin and death. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers