

# HOPE IN THE LIONS' DEN

Daniel 6:6-27

**KIDS**  
**3RD-6TH**

NL

**Key Verse:**

“[God] delivers and rescues, [God] works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth; for [God] has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Daniel 6:27

**The Point:**

We can trust in God's faithfulness.

**Making Connections:**

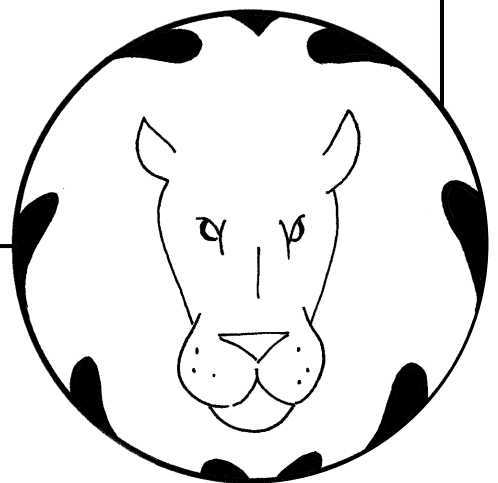
The Hope of the Messiah

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

The Exile

**Spiritual Practice:**

Prayer



# BACKGROUND

## Making Connections

In Jeremiah, God promises a new covenant, in which our relationship with God will be based only on God's work, not our own. In the meantime, the Israelites continued to disobey. The consequence for their disobedience was being captured and exiled by the Babylonians. While in exile, some Israelites who remained committed to God—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were falsely accused of disloyalty to the king but were delivered from the fiery furnace. Then, Daniel was saved from the lions' den, another illustration of the hope of a powerful God.

## Story Summary:

### *Hope in the Lions' Den*

King Darius of Persia was pressured by his officials to make a law saying that anyone caught praying to anyone other than the king would be thrown into a den of lions. Daniel believed in God and trusted God's faithfulness. No human law was going to stop him from praying to God. Daniel continued to pray to God three times a day.

Those who conspired against Daniel reported this to King Darius. The king knew Daniel to be a good man. He did not want to throw Daniel to the lions, but the leaders insisted the signed law be enforced. Even as the king regretfully gave the go-ahead for Daniel to be dropped into the den of lions, he hoped Daniel's God would be faithful. His words to Daniel all but called upon God's faithfulness.

The next morning, the king went to the den with the hope that Daniel's God had delivered him. And indeed, God was faithful and had sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. The king was relieved to find Daniel alive. Daniel was removed from the den, and the king had Daniel's accusers thrown to the lions. The king made a decree that people should worship Daniel's God.

## The Point

**We can trust in God's faithfulness.** Young children often hear "No," or "Stop that!" or "Do what you are told." They are accustomed to what may appear to be conditional approval or disapproval. They may think that God's love and faithfulness are also conditional. The point of today's lesson is that it is not our actions that make God faithful to us, but rather God's faithfulness that helps us to know how to act. We can be courageous like Daniel, relying on the fact that we are in the hands of a faithful God whose love is unconditional.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### *The Exile*

After King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon besieged Jerusalem, the Jewish people lived in exile for seventy years. Their captors expected them to live by a set of rules other than those God had given them. They were immersed in a culture that worshipped many gods. Early on, the king of Babylon selected some of the promising Israelite youth to serve in the palace. Daniel was one who was selected to serve the king. While Daniel did his duty and served the king, he stayed true to God. He knew that God was with him even when he was living in exile. Knowing this, he lived his faith boldly, counting on God's faithfulness to manage the details.

## Spiritual Practice: Prayer

Daniel was in the habit of offering prayers of praise to God morning, noon, and night. Although praying three times a day is not a formula for getting prayers answered, it is an example of maintaining communication as part of a close relationship with God. That regular connection with God can keep students focused on God, preparing them to live courageously, counting on God's love and faithfulness to support them.



## Daniel & the Lions Den-Daniel 6:22

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# DANIEL WORD SEARCH

- ADVISORS
- ANGEL
- BABYLON
- DANIEL
- DARIUS
- DECREE
- DEN
- KING
- LIONS
- PRAYER
- RESCUE
- WINDOW

L	Q	S	K	E	U	C	S	E	R
M	D	R	R	K	M	H	T	D	W
R	A	O	Q	D	X	X	E	O	C
G	R	S	G	J	A	C	D	Y	S
P	I	I	N	N	R	N	L	D	N
R	U	V	P	E	I	E	I	Y	O
A	S	D	E	W	G	K	F	E	I
Y	N	A	B	N	N	N	K	M	L
E	R	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N	H
R	G	N	E	D	D	R	F	R	Q





**Daniel Chooses the Right**

*Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine (Daniel 1:8).*

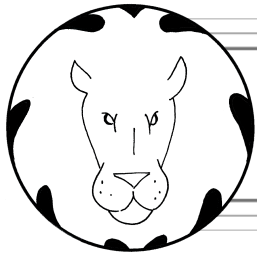
*My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me (Daniel 6:22).*







R. Hughes



# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

**Lesson #3-13**  
**Daniel 6:6-27**

## LAST WEEK

The prophet Jeremiah has a message calling an unfaithful people to repentance with promises of forgiveness. The king burns the prophecy, but the prophet just writes it again (Jeremiah 36:1-8, 21-23, 27-28; 31:31-34).

## THIS WEEK

The people did not listen to the prophets and are sent into exile. Daniel refused to stop worshipping the God of Israel, so he was thrown into a lions' den. God kept him safe throughout the night (Daniel 6:6-27).

## THE POINT

We can trust in God's faithfulness.

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### *The Exile*

To live in exile is to live as a captive. When Babylon attacked Jerusalem, the enemy took the people captive. Those in exile lived in a new culture and had to follow their laws. They were forced to leave their ways behind and to be loyal to the king. We may not be captured by a physical enemy, but there may be other influences that hold us captive. Like Daniel, we can hold fast to a faithful God who will lead us.

## STORY SUMMARY

### **Hope in the Lions' Den**

King Darius of Persia was pressured by his officials to make a law: anyone praying to anyone other than the king would be thrown into a lions' den. Daniel trusted God's faithfulness, so he continued to pray three times a day. The officials reported this to the king. The king did not want to, but he followed his law and threw Daniel to the lions. The next morning, the king went to see that Daniel was alive. God had sent an angel to keep him safe. The king was relieved to find Daniel alive. Daniel was removed from the den, and the king had Daniel's accusers thrown to the lions. The king decreed that people should worship Daniel's God.

## PRACTICE: PRAYER

Daniel's habit of praying to and praising God three times a day is an example of his devotion to God. Daily prayer can also keep families focused on God. Make prayer an active part of your family's everyday life, thanking God aloud for various things throughout the day. See how many things you can praise God for throughout the day.

## NEXT WEEK

The prophet Joel addresses those returning from exile. but it is the gracious and merciful nature of God that will see the people through their difficulties, just as God saw Daniel through the lions' den (Joel 2:12-13, 28-29).



### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ What is the positive message in these verses—one that tells us a good way to live our lives?
- ✚ What is the negative message in these verses—one that might help us know what not to do?
- ✚ What reminder can we make up to help us think about what we read as we live our lives this week?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read Daniel 6:6-27**

Here we see hope in the midst of the lions' den. Make a lions' den out of pillows. Get inside the den and thank God for being faithful to us. Then, jump out of the den.

#### **Monday—Read Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

These are Daniel's visions of judgment. Before reading, use a video recorder (phone, tablet, etc.) to privately record each family member describing God. Come together to watch the entire recording and to read the Scripture.

#### **Tuesday—Read Daniel 9:1-6**

This is Daniel's prayer for the people. If practical and safe, go for a family walk and pray for your neighborhood. Otherwise, look out the windows and pray for your neighborhood.

#### **Wednesday—Read 2 Timothy 4:16-18**

This Scripture tells of God protecting Paul, standing by him, giving him strength. Together, memorize 2 Timothy 4:17a: "But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." Plan to say that together when a family member faces a challenge.

#### **Thursday—Read Psalm 7:1-5**

This is a prayer for protection from our enemies. What are some positive things you would like for your family? Who are the people that do not like you or who you do not like? Pray those positive things for these people.

#### **Friday—Read Joel 1:1-12**

This passage is Joel's lament at the thought of judgment for unrepentance. Play follow the leader. Then, pray for our nation's leaders, that they will follow God's leading. Pray that the rest of us will follow God's direction, too.

#### **Saturday—Read Joel 1:13-14; 2:1-2, 15-16**

This is a call to repentance and prayer. It is about being truly sorry for our bad decisions. Take turns sitting in a time-out chair or wherever someone goes when they are in trouble (even the adults!). No one is perfect. Take time out to pray and repent. Ask for forgiveness and for help to obey more.