

A 'Big Story' escape



Bible verses:

Daniel 6:5-28

Daniel and the lions



Aim:

To know the impact Daniel had on King Darius

Today's fruit:

Joy



Joy is seen when King Darius knows he can trust in Daniel's God. Can we know joy even when God doesn't appear to answer our prayers?

In this session we meet Daniel, a Bible character who saw visions and stayed close to God regardless of the circumstances.

Daniel continued to pray to God even when his life was in danger and he stood firm when he faced a night in the lions' den. Through Daniel's example, we experience the joy of seeing King Darius believe in God for the first time.

Each child will need:

- A plastic or paper cup, yellow, green, black and orange pieces of paper, googly eyes, glue, scissors and pens
- One of the Bible verses from the *Daniel 6:22* handout
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Joy*
- To watch *Daniel and the lions' den VBC Craft 2* by Family Ministry at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1:09)



Start it

Explain to the children that today's Bible story features an animal. Ask them to guess what it might be. Ask the children to watch the clip carefully and be ready to answer the questions when it is finished. See how many they get right.

Video

Lions Animals for Kids episode 1 by Smile and Learn (stop at 3:42)

Lion quiz

1. Why is the lion described as a vertebrate mammal? **It has an internal skeleton.**
2. What does it mean if an animal is a carnivore? **It eats other animals that live in the same habitat**
3. How tall is the average lion? **8ft (nearly 2.5m).**
4. What is a group of lions called? **A pride.**
5. Who is in charge of hunting? **Lionesses.**
6. Why is it easy to spot an adult male lion? **They have a large mane.**
7. Name one country where lions can be found. **Kenya, Tanzania, Gambia, Senegal and India.**
8. How fast can lionesses run? **Up to 50mph.**
9. When do lionesses prefer to hunt? **At night.**
10. How long can lions sleep for in a day? **Up to 20 hours.**
11. What is causing the number of lions to decrease? **People hunting them.**
12. What was your favourite fact that you discovered about lions?

Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month reminds us that all Scripture is inspired by God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ICB*)

Say:

Our song for today is based on our memory verse. There are many different translations of God's 'Big Story'. They all say the same thing in a slightly different way. As you sing the song based around 2 Timothy 3:16, see if you can spot any words that are different from our version of the memory verse.

Song

'2 Timothy 3:16' (All Scripture) by The Rizers (2:54)

Alternative translation

'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 NIV)

When the song has finished, discuss with the children any words that they spotted that were different and clarify their meaning.

Tell it

Say:

Around two per cent of The Big Story is helped along by people who had visions from God. We heard about one last week when we learned about the prophet Jeremiah. This week we will discover more about another prophet, Daniel. Daniel faithfully served God and had a close relationship with him. In our story today we see Daniel standing firm in his faith despite the opposition ... and a den full of hungry lions.

Make sure the children understand that the term 'den' means a place where the lions (or other wild animals) live – their lair/home.

Video

Daniel and the lions' den by Saddleback Kids (3:39)

Watch 0:00 to 0:55 '...the king made plans to place him in charge of the entire empire.'

Ask:

- What have you learned about Daniel so far?
- What kind of person was Daniel?
- How did others in the palace know that Daniel followed God?
- What was King Darius planning for Daniel?

Watch 0:56 to 1:45 '...and once a Babylonian king signed a law it could not be overruled.'

Say:

The other leaders in the palace were jealous of Daniel. They knew they would never find a reason to accuse him, so they came up with a cunning plan.



Ask:

- Why do you think King Darius signed the new law?
- If he changed his mind about the new rules, could he change the law back again? If not, why not?
- What do you think Daniel did next?

Watch 1:46 to 2:45 ‘...so at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be thrown into the lions’ den.’

Ask:

- Why do you think the king wanted to try and save Daniel?
- Do you think he realised his mistake? If so, how?

Watch 2:46 to end.

Read:

‘So King Darius gave the order. They brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May the God you serve all the time save you!”’

(Daniel 6:16 *ICB*)

Say:

Even though King Darius believed in other gods, he could tell there was something different about Daniel’s God.

Ask:

- What do you think was going through King Darius’s mind when he found Daniel perfectly safe in the lions’ den?
- In what way do you think it changes his opinion of Daniel’s God?

Display the *Joy* sign.

Say:

Our fruit for today is joy, and the final part of our story shows the joy of King Darius. Daniel showed his commitment to God and trusted that he would be safe in the lions’ den. This had a huge impact on King Darius who wrote these words:

Read:

‘Then King Darius wrote a letter. It was to all people and all nations, to those who spoke every language in the world:

I wish you great wealth.

I am making a new law. This law is for people in every part of my kingdom. All of you must fear and respect the God of Daniel.

Daniel’s God is the living God.

He lives for ever.

His kingdom will never be destroyed.

His rule will never end.

God rescues and saves people.

*God does mighty miracles
in heaven and on earth.*

God saved Daniel

from the power of the lions.

'So Daniel was successful during the time that Darius was king. This was also the time that Cyrus the Persian was king.'

(Daniel 6:25-28 ICB)

Action it

The children are going to create their own lion showing the following Scripture:

'My God sent his angel to close the lions' mouths.'

(Daniel 6:22 ICB)

The instructions for the craft activity are shown in the clip below. This is either for the leader's use or can be shared with the children to show them how to make the lion.

Video

Daniel and the lions' den VBC Craft 2 by Family Ministry at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church (1:09)

A handout, *Daniel 6:22*, is provided to cut out the Bible verses for the craft activity.

When the children have finished their lion, read the Scripture verse out loud together.

Pray it

Ask:

- Think about today's Bible story. Who were the two main characters?
- Describe how Darius spent the night while Daniel was in the lions' den.
- Do you think Daniel was as worried as King Darius? If not, why not?

Say:

King Darius spent the night worrying and struggling to sleep, but Daniel knew God was there with him. Daniel shows us the importance of building a strong relationship with God through prayer. When we do this, we can stay close to God even in the toughest of times.

The Pray It section today will be led by the children's thoughts and questions. Watch the clip together and discuss why it is important for us to pray regularly. Talk to the children about their prayer life. How do they like to pray? Encourage them to share ideas of how they can pray regularly.

Video

Why do we pray? By Crossroads Kids' Club (1:01)

When you have discussed how the children pray, share a prayer together or sing the prayer song shown below to bring the session to a close.

Song

'I will pray' official music video, Yancy & Little Praise Party from Taste and See by YancynotNancy (2:54)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

A 'Big Story' escape

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Daniel 6:5-28

Daniel and the lions



Aim:

To know the impact Daniel had on King Darius



Today's fruit:

Joy



Create

Create your own lion drawing or painting as a reminder of God's faithfulness to Daniel. If you need a little help, then watch the clip below. Remember to write Daniel 6:22 on to your drawing.

How to draw a lion easy step by step by QWE Art



Bake

Ask someone at home to help you create these amazing lion cake pops.

Kim-Joy's recipe for lion cakes on theguardian.com

www.theguardian.com/food/2019/nov/20/kim-joy-recipe-for-lion-cake-pops



Song for the week

'2 Timothy 3:16' (All Scripture) by The Rizers



Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 /CB)

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Children
& Youth

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**Bible verses:**

Daniel 6:5-28

Daniel and the lions

**Aim:**To hear about Daniel
and King Darius**Today's fruit:**

Joy



Memory verse

'All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching how to live correctly.'

(2 Timothy 3:16 *ICB*)

Start it

Who helps to keep you safe? Who do you go to / speak to if you need help? Today we are going to hear about Daniel, who trusted God to keep him safe.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Daniel 6:5-28.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Which is your favourite animal?
- What do we most like about lions?
- How would you feel if you suddenly found yourself next to a group of lions, in their home/den, and what would you do?
- King Darius could not sleep. What keeps you awake?

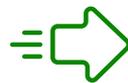
- If you were Daniel, what would you pray while in the den of lions?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Pretend the different story moments: Daniel praying to God, Darius struggling to sleep, the lions moving around the den, Darius's joy knowing that God looked after Daniel.
- Move and sound like our favourite animals.