

In and Out of the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:10-28; Prophets and Kings, pp. 543-545



In some places in our world today people aren't allowed to worship where they want. Our Bible story today is about someone like that. He was told he could not pray to God. Let's see what he did, and what God did about it.

Hurrying to a spot where they could watch Daniel's window, some of the governors waited quietly. They had tricked the king. He had signed their law. No one could pray to anyone except the king for thirty days. Once a law had been signed and sealed, it could not be changed.

Would Daniel pray to the God of heaven as he always had? They hoped so! They knew he prayed by his window morning, noon, and night. Eagerly they waited to catch him breaking the law. Finally there would be a reason to complain to the king about Daniel.

They didn't have long to wait. Daniel knew that the law requiring everyone to pray only to the king was now in place. And he understood exactly

why the law had been made. He knew what the governors were trying to do. But Daniel had decided to put God first, no matter what. He knew that he needed to talk to God more than ever now. No law that any person might make could keep him from worshiping God in prayer. So Daniel went to the window as he always did. He opened the shutters and knelt down to pray.

"Yes! Yes! There he is!" The spying governors spoke in hushed, tense voices.

They smiled as Daniel spoke to his best Friend, God. "Now we've got him!"

The spies watched Daniel for a whole day. They saw him kneel in prayer morning, noon, and again early in the evening.

Early the next morning the governors hurried to the palace.

"Oh, king, live forever," they began as they knelt before Darius. "Did you not make a law requiring everyone to pray only to you for 30 days?"

King Darius studied the faces before him. He could tell that they



The Message

I worship when I pray and wait for God's answers.

Memory Verse

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions"

(Daniel 6:22, NIV).

had some sort of twisted plan, and it troubled him. He waited for them to continue.

"King Darius, sir, we have found someone who has broken that law. Daniel continues to pray to his God. He has broken your law."

Instantly the king understood why the men had been so anxious to pass the law. He knew now that he had been tricked. But there was nothing that could be done. A law that the king signed and sealed could not be changed.

Sadly, King Darius ordered Daniel to be placed in the lions' den. "Daniel, may your God rescue you," the king said as the soldiers led Daniel away.

That night King Darius couldn't sleep. When the first rays of sunlight touched the palace walls, he dashed out to the lions' den. "Daniel, Daniel, are you alive?" he called. "Did your God save you?"

Still in the lions' den, Daniel answered respectfully, "O king, live forever! My God sent His angel, and He shut the mouths of the lions. They have not harmed me in any way."

"He's alive!" shouted King Darius. "Quickly, men! Get Daniel out of there!" ordered the relieved king.

The people around Daniel saw God's love and power because Daniel was faithful in his prayer time and worship every day. They saw that our God is a God who answers prayer.

Daniel knew God could be trusted, no matter what. How about you? Can you show God's love to

those around you by your faithful worship? You can be sure that God hears and answers your prayers. You can trust God, no matter what!





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go to a zoo with your family. Especially notice the lions. What would it be like to be in with the lions as Daniel was?

READ Find a quiet place and read your lesson story together. Teach Daniel 6:22 to your family.

DO Look in an encyclopedia or nature book and learn at least three new things about lions.

PRAY Thank God for animals.

M O N D A Y

SHARE Together with your family, read and discuss Daniel 6:16-18 for worship. What did the king say to Daniel? Did the king believe in Daniel's God? How do you know?

MAKE Make a "lions' den" with a margarine tub or a small box. Put some stones on the bottom. Make a small lion. Put it in the tub or box and put the lid on. The lid is like the cover that kept the lions in the den. Save this for another day.

PRAY Read the text on your memory verse angel. What does this verse mean to you? Thank God for angels who care for you.

S U N D A Y

READ For family worship, read together Daniel 6:10-15. What was Daniel's position in the government? What position was the king planning to give Daniel? Why? Why did the other government officers ask the king to make a new law?

SING Sing "The Lord Hears Me" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 105).

DO Draw, decorate, and cut out an angel. Write your memory verse on it. Save it.

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Daniel 6:19-23. Describe the king's actions. What did Daniel say? Who else is like a roaring lion? (See 1 Peter 5:8.) Who will protect us from him? (See Psalm 34:6, 7.)

MAKE Make a small angel and a figure of Daniel to put into the "lions' den" you made yesterday. How did the angel protect Daniel?

SING Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 116). Then ask God to make you as brave as Daniel.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read these Bible texts together during family worship. Tell who and how the people were helped by angels in answer to prayer:

Genesis 19:15-24 _____

Acts 12:5-10 _____

Luke 22:39-43 _____

DO Review your memory verse. Sing a song about angels before prayer.



T H U R S D A Y

F R I D A Y

DO During worship ask your family: Are you afraid or worried about anything? Read 1 Peter 5:7 together. List your fears and cares on paper. Read your list to Jesus. When finished, tear up the paper. Believe that Jesus is taking care of your fears and cares. Thank Him for doing so.

DO Say your memory verse together. What does this verse mean to you and your family? Sing "A Little Talk With Jesus" (Sing for Joy, No. 98).

Angels' jobs are to protect people, carry messages from God, and remind people of the right thing to do.



DO During worship tell the whole story about Daniel to your family. Or create a lions' den out of cushions and chairs and have your family act out the story.

SING Sing songs about angels and God's care for you. End with "Dare to Be a Daniel."

PRAY Ask your family to tell how they will dare to be like Daniel. Then ask God to help you do so.

IN AND OUT OF THE LIONS' DEN

PUZZLE

Directions: Match the symbols and write the letter on the line.

