

Vacation Church School
Heroes Unit # 1

Lesson: Daniel

Daniel 6

Goals:

1. Know the story is from the Bible.
2. Remember the Daniel's name.
3. Retell the events of the story.

Materials Needed and Preparation:

Intro:

- Bible
- Poster board
- Glue
- Crayons or markers
- Color and Glue following pictures to poster board: (pictures should be included in teacher's packet)
 1. bird
 2. bird's nest
 3. a fish
 4. water
 5. Lion
 6. Lion's den

Story:

- Flannel board or Another piece of poster board and Velcro dots to attach figures.
- Poster board
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons or Markers
- 3x5 note cards
- String
- Scotch tape
- Color the following Pictures:(Should be included in packet, if doing the memory game activity you will need three copies)

1. Palace scene
 2. King Darius on the throne
 3. Daniel
 4. The King's Advisors
 5. The King's Scribe
 6. Praying Daniel
 7. Daniel's house
 8. King Darius standing
 9. Roaring lions in den
 10. Sleeping lions in den
- Prepare: (People will be made into puppets)
 1. Glue pictures of the palace, house and two lion's den to poster board and cut out.
 2. Glue pictures of the people to the poster board and cut out.
 3. Cut a string 24 inches long for each of the people characters.
 4. Fold one note card in half for each character.
 5. Lay a piece of string inside each card and tape or glue the edges of the card together.
 6. Tape the two dangling pieces of string hanging from each card to one of the people figures to make a puppet.

Optional Activities:

Daniel in the Lion's Den Memory Game:

- People pictures from the story
- Poster board
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Crayons or Markers
- Prepare
 1. Make two copies of:
King Darius
His advisors
Daniel praying
Roaring Lions
 2. Glue pictures to poster board squares

Game: Lion, Lion, Roar (Variation of Duck, Duck, Goose)

Craft: Hear Me Roar Lion's Mask

- ❑ 12" plastic plates, one for each student
- ❑ scissors
- ❑ yellow and brown yarn
- ❑ string
- ❑ Glue
- ❑ Enough yellow felt needed to make lion ears for each student.
- ❑ Stapler
- ❑ Wet Wipes
- ❑ Prepare:
 1. Cut center out of plastic plates, leaving a ring in the center.
 2. Cut many 5-7" strips of yarn of each color
 3. On yellow felt, draw and cut out one pair of 3" high triangle shaped ears per child.
 4. On each ring, with scissors make holes where the child's ears will be.
 5. Cut two 12" strips of string per child. The string will be threaded through the holes where the child's ears will be and tied around the back of the child's head to keep the mask on.
 6. Make sample for children to see finished product.

Shut the Lion's Mouth Memory Verse Activity:

- ❑ Lunch size paper bags
- ❑ Black and Yellow markers
- ❑ Yellow construction paper
- ❑ Glue
- ❑ Yellow and brown yarn
- ❑ Ruler
- ❑ Scissors
- ❑ Prepare:
 1. Turn bag with bottom flap facing up.
 2. Glue fold to bag.
 3. Fold bottom over again.
 4. With black marker, draw solid black cat nose, whiskers and outline and outline of eyes on the outside fold.
 5. Use yellow marker to make "Cat eyes"

6. Below the fold, draw a black smile line to make a large mouth.
7. Open fold as if mouth is opening.
8. Draw circle for mouth and large, sharp upper and lower teeth.
9. On yellow construction paper, draw two 3" rectangles for lion's ears. Cut out and glue to the top of the bag.
10. Cut several 5-6" strips of yellow and brown yarn.
11. Open side fold of bag and glue loops or straight strips of yarn around the face to make the mane.
12. On remaining yellow construction paper, use ruler to draw squares or rectangles for each word of the memory verse. (Memory verse may be something that goes along with the theme of Vacation Church School.)
13. Cut out squares/rectangles and write one word of memory verse on each piece of paper.
14. On last piece of paper put the scripture reference.
15. Optional-Make memory verse squares for each child to take home for further practice.

Daniel In The Lion's Den

Introduction:

Each animal has a special home. This is a bird.

Hold up picture of bird.

Where do you think a bird lives?

Hold up the picture of a nest.

What is this?

Hold up picture of a fish.

Where does a fish live?

Water.

Where does a lion live?

Hold up picture of a lion.

A lion sometimes lives in a den. That is like a cave.

Hold up picture of lion in a den. Pick up the Bible.

The Bible tells us about a brave hero that spent the night in a Lion's den. Let's find out what happened to him.

Story:

Set up Palace scene.

Long ago, there was a king named Darius.

Dangle puppet of King Darius against palace scene.

Daniel was a good man who loved God.

Dangle picture of Daniel.

Daniel worked for King Darius. Daniel did such a good job for King Darius that the king gave Daniel more and more work to do. Some of the king's other helpers did not like this.

Remove Daniel and dangle the advisors.

"The king likes Daniel better than us! We need to do something to get rid of Daniel!" They went to talk where the king couldn't hear them.

Move advisors to other side of board from king.

"Let's think of a way to get Daniel in trouble with King Darius!" the men said. They thought and thought. They talked and talked.

Make buzzing sound as if talking.

"I've got it! One of the bad advisors said. "We all know Daniel loves God. He prays everyday. Let's make a rule that nobody can pray to anybody but King Darius. Anybody who prays to God will be in big trouble with the king! Let's go talk to King Darius."

Move advisors toward the king but not right next to him.

"Oh great King Darius, may we speak to you?" "Come the King will hear you."

Move advisors next to the king.

"Oh great King, you are the greatest in all the land. We want all your people to know how great you are. Make a rule that for 30 days no one is allowed to pray to anyone but you. If they pray to anyone but you, they will be thrown into the lion's den!"

The king thought for a minute. He liked the idea of all the people thinking he was the greatest in the land. "Good idea!" he said. "Call for my scribe so he can write down my new rule."

Remove advisors and dangle scribe next to the king.

"Scribe, write this rule for everyone in the land to follow. For 30 days no one is allowed to pray to anyone but the great King Darius! Whoever prays to anyone but me will be thrown into the lion's den!"

Do you think Daniel obeyed King Darius' rule? Let's find out. Daniel loved God. Daniel knew that God wants us to pray to him everyday. Daniel knew God Doesn't want us to pray to a king, only to Him.

Remove all figures and palace background. Place the background of Daniel's house.

Daniel didn't obey King Darius' bad rule. Daniel obeyed God's rules. He prayed to God.

Dangle praying Daniel.

Who do you think saw Daniel praying in his house? The king's bad helpers!

Dangle advisors a little distance from Daniel.

"We caught him! Now we can get Daniel in trouble with the king!" Off they ran to tell the King.

Remove praying Daniel and house background. Palace background again. Dangle King Darius and his advisors. Move advisors toward king as you are talking.

"Oh great King, Oh Great King! Daniel broke your rule! He is praying to his God!"

King Darius was very sad. He liked Daniel. He did not want Daniel to be in trouble. King Darius wished he hadn't made that bad rule. But, when a king made a rule...he had to follow it.

"Very well," said the king. "Throw Daniel into the Lion's den."

Remove all scenes and place background of roaring lions.

King Darius felt very bad. He couldn't sleep all night long. King Darius hoped that God would save Daniel. When morning came, King Darius went to the Lion's Den.

"Daniel," called King Darius, "Did your God save you?" What do you think the king saw when he looked into the Lion's Den?

Switch to sleeping lion background.

The Lions were asleep! Daniel was all right. Who do you think watched over Daniel? God! King Darius was so happy he said, "No more of that bad rule. Daniel's God is the true God. Everyone can pray to Him!"

Daniel was a brave hero for God. He obeyed God instead of King Darius' bad rule. God wants you to obey Him and love Him and pray to Him, just like Daniel. He can watch over you and protect you just like Daniel.

Optional Activities:

Review: Daniel in the Lion's Den Memory Game

1. Lay cards face down as in the "Memory Game".
 2. Have each child take turns turning over only two cards.
 3. Each time someone gets a match, discuss the picture.
- *If child has a difficult time with only turning over two cards, each child could turn over all the cards until he/she gets a match and then start over with the next child.

Craft: Hear Me Roar Mask

1. Pass out plastic rings to kids.
2. Have children thread string through holes on the side of the mask. Tie with knot. Staple ears to the top of rings.
3. Pour glue into bowl.
4. Fold strips of yarn in half. This will make them look like loops. Dip ends of the yarn into the glue. Press the glued ends against the plastic ring mask.
5. When they have put on as many loops on their mask as they wish, set masks aside to dry.
6. When masks are dry, have kids put on the masks and tie the string to fit their head.

*If time permits you may use black face paint from a costume store to make noses and whiskers on each child's face to complete their lion face.

Game: Lion, Lion, Roar

1. Have children sit on the ground as they would for Duck, Duck, Goose.
2. Instead of Duck and Goose, have child who is it touch each child's head saying, "Lion." When the child that is it picks someone to be tagged "it" they say, "Roar" when touching their head.
3. Child then runs around the circle, roaring until he gets to where that person was sitting.
4. If the person tagged "Roar" isn't able to tag the original child who was "it", they are the next person to be "it". If they are caught, they sit inside the circle until a new game is started.

Memory Verse Activity: Shut the Lion's Mouth Memory Verse Game

1. Stack the words of the memory verse in order.
2. Each child gets a chance to shut the lion's mouth, just like God shut the lion's mouth to protect Daniel.
3. Put the lion puppet on your hand and open up the mouth. Have each child put the words of the memory verse, in order, into the lion's mouth. Help the student say them aloud as he goes. When he has finished the memory verse, shut the lion's mouth.
4. Send children home with a memory verse card activity to practice at home.

Memory Game Pictures:

