

Date: 07/06/20	
Theme:	Daniel and the lions
Preparation:	<p>Read the lesson plan below.</p> <p>There are 2 activities: making a lions' den and a colouring sheet.</p> <p>For the craft activity, you'll need a box (ideally a cardboard shoebox, but a plastic box or cake tin will do), paper / pictures from the end of the plan, cardboard tubes (e.g. kitchen or toilet rolls), colouring pens, scissors and glue.</p> <p>For the colouring sheet, you'll need to print the last page of the plan and have colouring pens.</p>
Opening prayer:	<p>Lord, please help us to listen and learn so we know more about your love for us so we can grow in faith.</p> <p>Amen</p>
Introduction	<p>What is the most dangerous wild animal you've ever seen in person, at a circus or a zoo or elsewhere?</p>
Story:	<p>Today's Bible story involves some dangerous lions.  <i>(Reference Daniel 6:11-23)</i>  <b>Daniel and the lions</b>  <i>Read the story below.</i></p> <p>This story takes place in the Old Testament. Many Jews from Israel were captured by their enemies and taken away. One of them was a young man named Daniel. He was faithful to God even though he was a long way from home. He was given important work by the king but other men at the king's court were jealous and set a trap for Daniel.</p> <p>The men watched Daniel and saw him praying to his God for help. They went to the king and said. "Didn't you make a law that forbids anyone to pray to any god or human except you for the next 30 days? And doesn't the law say that anyone who disobeys it will be thrown into a pit of lions?" "Yes, that's the law I made," the king agreed. "And it cannot be changed."</p> <p>The men then told the king, "That Jew called Daniel, who was brought here as a captive, refuses to obey you or the law that you ordered to be written. And he still prays to his god three times a day." The king was really upset to hear this because he liked Daniel, and for the rest of the day, he tried to think of a way to save Daniel.</p> <p>At sunset, the men returned and said, "Your Majesty, remember that the law cannot be changed, even by the king."</p> <p>So King Darius ordered Daniel to be brought out and thrown into a pit of lions. But he said to Daniel, "You have been faithful to your God, and I pray that he will rescue you."</p> <p>A stone was rolled over the pit and it was sealed. Then Darius and his officials stamped the seal to show that no-one should let Daniel out.</p>

	<p>All night long, the king could not sleep. He did not eat anything and he would not let anyone entertain him.</p> <p>At daybreak, the king got up and ran to the pit. He was anxious and shouted, “Daniel, you were faithful and served your God. Was he able to save you from the lions?”</p> <p>Daniel answered, “Your Majesty, I hope you live forever! My God knows that I was innocent, and he sent an angel to keep the lions from eating me. Your Majesty, I have never done anything to hurt you.”</p> <p>The king was relieved to hear Daniel’s voice and he gave orders for him to be taken out of the pit. Daniel’s faith in his God had kept him from being harmed.</p> <p>Discuss with the children to ensure they understand the story. Daniel’s faith in God was unwavering. If we believe in God and pray to him, he will listen and help us in our time of need.</p>
<p>Activity:</p>	<p>Decorate the box like a den.                  Draw / cut out and colour pictures of Daniel, some lions, King Darius and an angel. Attach them to a cardboard tube so that they stand up.                  Use the figures to retell the story. Put the lions in the box; add Daniel; bring the angel to keep Daniel safe; make King Darius look down from the top; and help Daniel out of the den again.</p>
<p>Closing prayer:</p>	<p>Dear God,</p> <p>Thank you for being our strength and our hero.</p> <p>In Jesus’ name,</p> <p>Amen</p>





