



ACORN PROGRAM

PRINCIPIA SCHOOL

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Bible Story Lesson Plan (Ages 2-6)

Books	Read and reread the story of Daniel from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• King James Version of the Bible: Daniel 6:2-4, 6-7, 10-13, 16-17, 19-23• Other children's books about Daniel<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daniel in the Lions' Den – Christian Science Publishing Society by Jean Horton Berg• Baby Beginner's Bible: Daniel and the Lions by Zonderkidz• A Child's First Bible by Kenneth N. Taylor• Daniel and the Lions by Katherine Sully• The Story of Daniel by Patricia Pingry	
Discussion Questions	What do you remember? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who was in the story?• Why did the king like Daniel?• What did Daniel do three times each day?• Why was Daniel thrown in the lions' den?• Was Daniel hurt?• Why?• How did the story end? What lessons can we learn from Daniel? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love God. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deut 6:5)• Trust God. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;" (Prov. 3:5)• God is always caring for us.• God helps us.• We don't have to be afraid because God is always with us. "Fear thou not, for I am with thee." (Is. 41:10)• Be obedient to God. "The first duty is to obey God." (SH 496:5)	How can we be like Daniel? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray daily.• Do the right thing; be obedient.• Always listen to God.• Think independently with God. What values can we learn from Daniel's story? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daniel was an independent thinker who prayed to his own God three times each day.• He listened to God, not the king or king's men.• Because of his obedience to God, he was able to listen to God's angel messages and hear what God was telling him.• The king's men were jealous because King Darius liked Daniel a lot. They knew he wasn't supposed to pray to his God, and they watched to see if he would be disobedient to the king's new law that said not to pray. They tricked the king into having Daniel thrown into the lion's den hoping the lions would kill Daniel.• Even though it might have been very scary, Daniel did what he knew was right to do (a great example of moral courage).• He prayed to God.• The growling, angry lions became docile and unafraid. Daniel knew he was safe. The lions didn't hurt Daniel because he was innocent.• When the king let Daniel out of the lions' den, he saw Daniel alive, and he made sure all his kingdom knew about Daniel's God.



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Extension Activities	
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit the lions at the zoo.• Visit the local library and check out books about lions. Search for answers to questions like, “Where do lions live?” “Do they live in your neighborhood?” “Can you have a lion for a pet?” “What do they eat?”
Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Write silly story problems about lions with your children.• Play “lion” memory game – pictures of lions with numbers on the back. Lay lion cards out; turn over two at a time to match numbers. Make it more challenging by matching the number symbol with the number word.
Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit this Website with Daniel activities• Make a lion face with a paper plate and pasta.• Make a lion mask or paper bag puppet.• Draw and cut out a simple lion face. Paint your child's hand with yellow and brown tempera paint and make handprints around the face.• Craft a paper lion out of hearts.
Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lion cupcakes
Parent Resources	<p>Dare to be a Daniel poem by Phillip Bliss</p> <p>Article from the Christian Science Publishing Society related to the topic above:</p> <p>“Moral Courage, -- ‘king of the mental realm,’” by Jeanne Steely Laitner, <i>Christian Science Sentinel</i>, January 2, 1984</p>