

# King's Theatre

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

## Passage

**Story:** Daniel and the Lion's Den

**Workshop:** King's Theatre

## Purpose

The students will hear/read the story of Daniel in the lions' den and act out the various roles in the story. Discussion that follows will allow the children to make connections from the story to their own lives. The gross motor activity of acting out the story will allow many students to fully experience the story and to help them better remember this Bible story and the meaning/messages that it brings to us.

## Preparation

**Scripture:** Daniel 6:1-28

**Key Verse** – Daniel 6:26, “I command everyone in my kingdom to worship and honor the God of Daniel. He is the living God, the one who lives forever. His power and his kingdom will never end.” (CEV)

### Concepts

- God is with us in good and bad times.
- God listens to us when we pray.
- God helps us when we are in trouble.
- Daniel prayed regularly.
- Daniel trusted God even when it was hard.

### Materials List

- Bible
- Bible Storybook – Schroeder family has a copy
- Script (copies if you are using it with older kids or plan on having younger kids read it)
- Costumes/propsPresentation

## Presentation

### Open - Introduction

Welcome the kids. Start the lesson with prayer

### Opening Prayer

### Scripture/Bible Story

1. Review the scripture passages that this workshop is going to focus on.
2. You might also choose to read the story from a Children's Bible Storybook, but take the time to have the children locate the book of Daniel in the Old Testament so they will know where in the Bible the story is.

## Application

1. Younger kids: You read the script and have the kids act out the story as you read. You can also tape yourself reading the story so that you can play it for the final “production”. Some classes might also be able to improvise various scenes from the story (see below).

You could also have the kids simply do some drama warm-up activities that would have them assume various roles in the story. For example, you might ask how they would look if they were the jealous governors. They would spend a minute experimenting with that prompt and then upon a signal from you, assume that personae. Other possible characters, King Darius feeling flattered, Daniel when he hears he can't pray without being punished, the lions, etc.

Depending on the size of the class, you may need to do the story/drama activity twice so that each child can have a chance to participate in the drama. You might also have ½ the kids for the first ½ and the other half do the remaining part of the play.

Older kids: You can use the provided script, or have the kids improvise their own scenes. If you like the idea of having kids creating their own skits, I suggest that you divide the class into three groups and have each group focus on a different part of the story.

One group could be the group of rulers watching Daniel, deciding how to trap Daniel and getting King Darius to make the rule. The second group could act out what happens after the law is made and how Daniel handles the situation and what King Darius finally has to agree to. The third group can act out the lions' den scene (everyone will want this scene!) and the outcome.

If you think that everyone WILL want to act out the lions' den scene, divide the class in half and have each group do one of the first two suggestions and then have both groups do the lions' den scene!

Another option for the older kids would be to have 2 people be each character – one the voice and one the “actor”, then they could switch places for the repeat show. This avoids trying to have kids read and move at the same time.

2. Perform! Have the kids put on costumes, get any stage props that they think will enhance their scene. Remind them this is not going to be a polished performance! Some of them might even be holding scripts as they are acting.
3. Discussion:
4. a. Was God with Daniel only when things were going good?  
b. How do you think Daniel felt when he heard he couldn't pray without getting into trouble?  
c. Do you think Daniel trusted God? Why?  
d. The Bible tells us Daniel prayed regularly – when should we pray?  
e. What is the main or most important part of this story? Why do you think that?

Younger kids will do better with fact recall type questions (What was the King's name?), but try and encourage them to think deeper into the story, beyond “right” answers.

## Reflections

Each child should spend a few minutes reflecting on the lesson of the morning. This might include drawing a picture, writing a few words, sequencing the story, writing their response to some prompts that you as workshop leader give them (e.g. What character were you in the story and did you like playing that part?)

## Closing

Be sure to conclude the morning session with a prayer, review of the key scripture passage, song or item you think will help the children remember/understand some of the concepts that this story reveals to us. You may ask for prayer requests. Thank God for listening to us when we pray. Ask God to help us when we are in trouble and help us to remember that God is always there for us.

## References

Year One Lesson Sets from St. Elmo's Choir, Daniel and the Lion's Den

Children's Illustrated Bible, retold by Marjorie Newman, World International Publishing Limited, 1989

Camp Bible Wahoo, Hilliard Presbyterian Church, Hilliard OH, Neil MacQueen, Coordinator, 2000  
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