

Let There Be Art

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Regina

Passage

Story: Daniel and the Lion's Den

Workshop: Let There Be Art!

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Purpose

1. Children will be able to find the book of Daniel in their Bibles, learn the sequence of events and details of the story of Daniel in the den of lions.
2. Older children will read parts of the story from their Bibles.
3. Children will be encouraged to pray and trust God when they are afraid.

Preparation

Art Workshop: Let there be art!

Scripture: Daniel 6:1-28

The book of Daniel in the Old Testament is divided into 2 different sections. The first half of the book (chapters 1-6) tells how Daniel and three of his friend from Judah are taken prisoner by the Babylonian army when Jerusalem was captured and became important officials in the government at Babylon. The second half of the book of Daniel is where Daniel reports several visions and their meaning.

Concepts

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

Materials List

- Colored construction paper or backgrounds
- Copies of prayers from the Book of Common Prayer and/or Book of Alternative Services
- Fancy scissors & glue
- Fine lined colored markers
- Staplers

Advance Preparation Requirements

- Become familiar with lesson plan and the scripture & memory verses.
- Visit the workshop before your lesson so that you know where everything is located. Memory Verse: “Don’t ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9.”

Presentation

Open - Introduction

1. Introduce yourself and tell the children they’re going to talk about how Daniel prayed and how they can also pray.
2. Open with a brief prayer, thanking God for the day and asking for help in learning.

Opening Prayer

Scripture/Bible Story

Daniel 6:1-28 - Review the story, using this summary as a guide. Unless this is the first Sunday of the rotation, let the children help you tell the story. This will give you an idea of how much they already know.

This story happened after the army of Babylon had conquered Israel and taken the Jewish people back to Babylon as captives. Daniel was a Jew who grew up in Babylon and was an assistant to the Babylonian king. Daniel did a good job and King Darius trusted him and planned to make Daniel the boss of all the other assistants.

The other assistants were jealous of Daniel and tried to figure out a reason to complain about him to the king. But Daniel hadn’t done anything wrong, so his enemies set a trap for him. They persuaded King Darius to sign an order that people could pray only to the king. Anyone who disobeyed the order would be thrown to the lions.

But Daniel worshipped God, not the king, and the king’s order did not stop him from praying to God. Three times a day he went to his house, where the upstairs windows were opened to face Jerusalem, and prayed. His enemies went to his house and caught him praying and told the king. The king was upset, but according to the law he had to carry out his order, so he commanded that Daniel be thrown to the lions, saying, “May your God deliver you!”

The next morning the king hurried to the lion’s den and called, “Daniel, did your God save you?” And Daniel answered, “God sent an angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me.”

The king was overjoyed. Daniel was freed unharmed from the lion’s den and King Darius wrote a message to all the world saying, “In all my kingdom people shall fear the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring for ever. He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.”

Discussion: Reread verses 10-11.

- What did Daniel pray for? (praised or “thanked” God)
- How many times a day did Daniel pray? (3)
- How did Daniel pray? (on his knees)
- Why do you suppose he prayed in front of an open window where he was sure to be caught? (he did not want to hide his faithfulness to God, he wanted to show other believers that we should still pray.)
- Ask the children about their prayer habits: When/where/how they pray. What do they pray for? Do they pray regularly? Just when they need help?
- Daniel was in serious trouble in the den. If you were Daniel, what would you pray for? Children might answer: “Help”! What kind of help? Wait until you get responses like: “Kill the lions”, “get me out of here!” God didn’t do that though.
- How did God help Daniel? (6:22 God shut the mouths of the lions so they couldn’t hurt him)
- Does God always help us the way we ask God to help? (God answers ALL prayer. Sometimes it just isn’t the answer we want. But, it always is the right answer!.) What kinds of things might you ask help for? What might you talk to God about?

Talk about the types of prayer, ie. talking to God, which we need to do:

- A – Adoration = praise of God and recognising that He is all-powerful
- C – Contrition = saying sorry for things done or not done
- T – Thanksgiving = thank you God for all you give us: life, health, peace, joy, love, and for answering our prayers
- S – Supplication = big word for asking God to come into our lives and change things eg. when people are angry @ each other, ill, in danger, needing strength

Now introduce the Prayer Book which they are going to make for themselves.

Have each student choose the seven prayers that they would like for the seven days of the week. They can copy those prayers onto a piece of a paper (one for each day) and decorate the paper.

Categories:

- Personal (a prayer for myself)
- Family
- Friends
- The Church (local & around the world)
- World issues
- The Community (neighbourhood, city, province)
- Those in authority

They can use decorative scissors to make the paper look fancier. Make a cover with the title something like _____’s Prayer Book.

Encourage the students to put a couple of extra papers in so they can add prayers of their own at home to create their very own prayer book to keep by their beds.

The prayer book can be updated – eventually they might need a larger notebook to write in their prayer requests! It is always good to note when prayers have been answered.

Closing

Close in prayer!