



Daniel and the Lions' Den

Lesson Aim: To live a life of prayer in a trusting relationship with God.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27

What He has done: God protected Daniel from the lions.

Key Verse: Daniel 6:10

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Matthew 6:9-13

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Dry Bones, Ezekiel 18:30; 36:26-28; 37:4-6	God gave Ezekiel the dry bones vision and the promise of a new heart.	To understand what it means to have a new heart and a new life. (Salvation Message)
44	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-29; 4:3	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace and protected them from the flames.	To exemplify a life that puts God first.
45	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27	God protected Daniel from the lions.	To live a life of prayer in a trusting relationship with God.
46	Haggai and the Temple, Haggai 1:7-9; 2:4, 9, 23	God sent a message telling the people to give careful thought to their ways.	To know the Holy Spirit will help us put God first and make good choices.
47	Malachi and God's Message of Tithing, Malachi 2:2; 3:7-10	God challenged His people to give Him their tithes and offerings.	To know giving our tithes and offerings brings us closer to God.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Daniel 12:1-13. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for guiding the children in their choices. Fill them with Your Spirit so they can make choices that are right in Your eyes. Give them courage to choose Your way. Amen."

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THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Lions' Den Freeze Tag	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Chosen People" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "At the Name of Jesus" "I Am the Way" "Not by Might" "Search Me, O God" "You Will Seek Me" "Prepare to Meet Your God" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "I Love You, Lord" "Fairest Lord Jesus" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Worship Jamz Series Shout Praises Kids: Hymns
		Worship Scripture Reading: Daniel 7:13-14	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 45 The Love Sub script or storybook
		Read the Word: Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Matthew 6:9-13	
		Golden Bowl	
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treats—P.R.A.Y. Magnet, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Chosen People," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Lion Snack	Animal-shaped crackers or cookies
	Up to 10	Game: Let's P.R.A.Y.	None
	Up to 15	Craft: P.R.A.Y. Plaque	Felt, tempera paint, paper plates, sponges, scissors, glue, thin cord, assorted craft supplies
	Up to 10	Discussion: Daniel and King Darius	Bible, pencil, piece of paper or poster board
	Up to 10	Activity: Sign the Cross	Wooden cross with flat surfaces for signatures, markers
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Praise Tag	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Four Praise Corners	Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, paper, marker
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

Meet & Greet Question: What do you think is the scariest wild animal?

GAME: LIONS' DEN FREEZE TAG

Purpose: Children will be introduced to the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den.

Supplies: None

Today, we will discover what happened when the prophet Daniel was thrown into a den filled with hungry lions. God rescued him by sending an angel to shut the mouths of the lions. Let's play "Lions' Den Freeze Tag" to celebrate Daniel's rescue.

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be the angel and one child to be the king. All the other children are lions.
2. The angel chases the lions and tries to tag (touch) them.
3. When the angel tags a lion, the lion freezes in place to show its mouth has been shut by the angel.
4. Frozen lions may be unfrozen and reenter the game when they have been tagged by the king.
5. After a few minutes, choose a new angel and king and play again.

Limited space? Play "Mouths Closed Charades." Write animal names and/or well-known Bible stories on index cards. Mix up the cards in a bag. Children take turns drawing a card and acting it out for the other children to guess. The acting children must keep their mouths closed, just like the lions which were in the den with Daniel.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship the God who is Lord of all. He is three in one: Father, Son, and Spirit. Daniel called God the Father, “the Ancient of Days.” He called God the Son, “the Son of Man.” God gave Daniel a vision of the day when Jesus will return to earth. Read Daniel 7:13-14.



On that day, God will judge everyone. His followers, “the saints,” will all worship Him. But, we don’t have to wait until that day to worship Him as the Lord of all. As His saints, we can worship Him right now. One way we can worship Him is by giving thanks with our offerings to the church. Sing the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song “Chosen People” as the offering is collected.

Imagine what it will be like to see Jesus coming on the clouds! Sing: “Prepare to Meet Your God” and “At the Name of Jesus.”

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Christ’s return.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 45.



God rescues Daniel

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned God rescued Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace in Babylon. What happened inside that furnace? (The king saw a fourth man; the men were unharmed.) **Today, we will hear what happened to Daniel when he was thrown into a den of lions.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Daniel (580 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

If a map is available, point to Ancient Babylon. **Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Daniel was a captive in Babylon who risked his life by worshiping the one true God. He was greatly respected and served four different Babylonian kings. He advised them and explained their dreams. Daniel's enemies were jealous, so they tricked King Darius into making a law which stated that, for 30 days, anyone who prayed to a god or to anyone other than King Darius would be thrown into the lions' den.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share it with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23, 26-27.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Raise your hand if you have ever heard the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den. As I read, I want you to listen closely. Raise your hand each time you hear something new about this story. Once you raise your hand high, put it back down, so we don't interrupt the story for others. Let's see what new things God will show us as we read. We will begin our story with the CHOICE Daniel made to pray to the one true God and the results that followed. Read Daniel 6:10, 14-16, 19-23.

Then King Darius made a new decree, or rule, stating the WARNING for everyone to worship God and a PROMISE about God's kingdom. Read Daniel 6:26-27.



Pray like Daniel prayed

THE WAY

With the new “No Prayer” law in place, what **CHOICE** did Daniel make? (To pray anyway.) How did God save Daniel in the lions’ den? (An angel shut the lions’ mouths.) **King Darius** saw this miracle and made a decree that was a **WARNING** for everyone to respect Daniel’s God. What was the **PROMISE** about God’s kingdom that King Darius told the people? (It would never end.) The kingdoms in Babylon would not last, but God’s kingdom would last forever.

In some countries today, believers are not allowed to worship together or to talk about God. Other countries have laws that only allow praying in certain places. Can those laws stop us from praying silently in our hearts? (Children respond.) What kinds of things besides laws can cause you to break your habit of daily prayer? (Forgetfulness, being busy, being tired, etc.)

Many of us say a blessing at mealtime. What else do you think God wants us to pray about? (Children respond.) God wants us to pray to Him about everything!

Let’s see what ideas we can learn from Daniel and each other about building a strong habit of prayer. God hears our prayers whenever, wherever, and however we pray. When, where, and how did Daniel pray? (Three times each day, in his room, on his knees.) When, where, and how do you like to pray? Encourage discussion of the children’s favorite times, places, and positions of prayer. What do you think would be the best time, place, and way for you to pray alone each day? (Children respond.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In his prayers, Daniel praised God, requested what he needed, and admitted his sin. 600 years later, Jesus taught us a prayer we can say daily. It has the same three parts: Praise, Request, Admit. As I read the Lord’s Prayer, raise your hand when you hear one of the parts.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 6:9-13. Let’s find this scripture. Read Matthew 6:9-13, pausing to help children recognize praises, requests, and admissions of sin.

Just as Jesus did, you can pray with three parts to your prayer. To remember the three parts, think of the first three letters in the word PRAY.

P: Praise God.

R: Request God’s help.

A: Admit your sins.

Y: Yes! Close your prayer by saying, “Amen!” which means “Yes!”

As a memory aid, have the children create hand motions for each letter. Remember, praying is talking to God. There are many ways to pray. God always loves to hear your prayers!

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a P.R.A.Y. magnet. Tell your family why Daniel was in the lions' den. Tell them how God saved him. Make the choice this week to pray every day. For an extra challenge, try to pray three times a day like Daniel did.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 45 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of an angel shutting the lions' mouths when Daniel was in the lions' den.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Chosen People," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: LION SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat animal-shaped crackers or cookies while discussing habits of prayer.

Snack Suggestion: Animal-shaped crackers or cookies

Where did Daniel like to pray? (Upstairs, near his window.) **Daniel had a special place to pray. You can have one special place to pray or you can pray anywhere. You can pray by yourself or with other people. God just wants you to talk with Him every day in any place! Let's see if we can find any lion-shaped crackers while we talk about the places where you like to pray.**

Directions:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"Where is your favorite place to pray?"**

GAME: LET'S P.R.A.Y.

Purpose: To learn a helpful order for prayer.

Supplies: None

Who can remember what the letters in P.R.A.Y. stand for? (Praise, Request, Admit, Yes!) **How do you praise God?** (Children respond.) **What are some things you request (ask) of God?** (Children respond.) **What should you admit to God?** (Wrongdoings.) **What word do we use to say "Yes!" when we finish our prayers?** (Amen!) **When you pray, use the four letters in P.R.A.Y. to help you remember what you can pray about!**

Directions:

1. Teach children to sign Praise, Request, Admit, Yes! using the sign language instructions below.
2. Form two teams. Each team lines up shoulder-to-shoulder and teams face each other.
3. On your signal, the first child on each team says and signs the word for "praise." The first child then claps the hand of the second child to signal he or she may sign the next word.
4. In turn, each child signs the next word and claps the next child's hand. If you have more than four children in line, the next child in line restarts by signing "praise."
5. When the last child in line has signed, the entire team shouts "Yes!"
6. The goal is to be the first team to finish the relay.

SIGN LANGUAGE: P.R.A.Y.

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Praise:	Touch lips with index finger (sign for true) and then clap hands (sign for applause).
Request:	Hands are held as in a prayer and moved toward the body.
Admit:	The hand moves from the chest outward and ends with the palm facing up as if to show that what was inside before is now out in the open for all to see.
Yes:	The fist shakes up and down to represent the head nodding.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: P.R.A.Y. PLAQUE

Purpose: To create a plaque as a reminder to pray using the acronym P.R.A.Y.

Supplies: Felt, tempera paint, paper plates, sponges, scissors, glue, thin cord, assorted craft supplies

Prepare: Protect the work surface with newspaper, scrap paper, plastic, or other covering. Cut a sheet of felt in half (about 8½-inches x 5½-inches). Cut sponges into several of each of the following letter stamps: P, R, A, and Y. Pour different paint colors onto separate paper plates. Cut an 18-inch length of cord.

Options: Reinforce the felt by gluing on a backing of sturdy paper, cardboard, or wood. Use sturdy paper instead of felt. Instead of a cord hanger, attach two magnets to the back of the plaque. Instead of using paint, trace the outlines of the letters onto the felt and use markers to decorate them with designs and colors.

Daniel wanted to talk to God, so he prayed. What did Daniel do when the king made a law that he could not pray to God? (He went to a 2nd floor window and prayed three times a day.) **God wants us to talk with Him by praying. Praying helps us get to know God better and to be closer to Him. Just as nothing could keep Daniel from praying, nothing can keep us from praying either!**

Today, we learned we can use the word P.R.A.Y. to help us remember how to pray. What do the letters in P.R.A.Y. stand for? (Praise, Request, Admit, Yes!) **Let's make "P.R.A.Y. Plaques" to help us remember to pray every day!**

Directions:

1. Cut two small holes on opposite ends of the top of your felt plaque.
2. To make a hanger, thread each end of the cord through one of the holes and knot to secure. Teachers may need to assist younger children with knotting the cord.
3. Dab the surface of the "P" stamp onto your chosen paint color.
4. Press the paint-covered side of the sponge onto your felt plaque.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 with the "R," "A," and "Y" stamps.
6. Decorate with assorted craft supplies.
7. Take home your plaque and hang it up where you see it and remember to PRAY every day!

DISCUSSION: DANIEL AND KING DARIUS

Purpose: Children will recognize how our choice to obey God has an influence on others.

Supplies: Bible, pencil, piece of paper or poster board

King Darius didn't believe in God, but through his friendship with Daniel, he learned who God is. Read Daniel 6:26-27 aloud and make a list of all the things Darius learned about the one true God. **What new decree, or law, did King Darius make after seeing how God rescued Daniel?** (He ruled that everyone must fear and respect Daniel's God.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*

ACTIVITY: SIGN THE CROSS

Purpose: To offer encouragement to children who are living in an environment which is unreceptive to Christianity.

Supplies: Wooden cross with flat surfaces for signatures, markers

Prepare: To make a cross, use rope to tie two intersecting beams of wood together in the shape of a cross. This cross can be any size large enough for all the children's signatures.

Option: After children sign the cross, display it on a wall.

Babylon was a place where the people and rulers did not believe in the one true God. God was with Daniel even when he lived in a land that did not worship Him. What do people believe where you live? (Children respond.)

God is with you wherever you live. He can help you stay true to Him just like Daniel did. When others see that, they learn about God, too. What has happened in your life that might show other people about God? (Children respond.)

Others will come to know Jesus better as they watch you follow Him. If you are ready to trust Jesus to bring someone you know closer to Him, then come sign your name to this cross. Your name on the cross stands for your life following Jesus. Children volunteer to sign their name to the cross.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

GAME: PRAISE TAG

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster

Read the Bible Memory Verse. **In our Bible Memory Verse, Peter gives four titles to describe people who believe in Jesus. What are they?** (A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God.) **What is the reason given for why God has chosen people to belong to Him?** (So we may declare His praises.) **The verse says God brought us out of darkness, which we call sin, and into His light, which is life with the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and leading us to do things God's way. When we have Jesus in our hearts, we want to praise God! Let's declare our praise to Him while we play Praise Tag!**

Directions:

1. Choose one child to be "It."
2. On your signal, "It" chases the other children and attempts to tag (touch) one of them.
3. If "It" successfully tags another child, then the tagged child becomes the new "It."
4. Children can be safe from being tagged for 10 seconds by shouting a sentence of praise to God: **"I praise God for a truth about who God is or what He has done."** The child then sits and counts aloud to 10. Children may do this as often as they like. You may choose to require children think of a new praise each time.

Limited space? Children sit in a circle. "It" spins a spinner from any board game (or make your own using a paper plate, a paper fastener, and a straw). The child the arrow points to shouts a praise sentence to God. That child becomes the new "It" and spins the arrow. Play until each child has at least one turn shouting praise to God. To add difficulty, require the praises be related to a specific topic such as the previous week's Bible story, creation, family, etc.

GAME: FOUR PRAISE CORNERS

Purpose: Children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster, tape, four signs titled as follows: Chosen People, Royal Priesthood, Holy Nation, People Belonging to God

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Directions:

1. Point out the four corners as the four titles Peter gave to describe people who believe in Jesus.
2. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room, close his or her eyes, and count aloud to 10.
3. The other children rush to stand in a corner before the Caller says, "10."
4. The Caller keeps his or her eyes closed and calls out a corner name.
5. The children in that corner recite the Bible Memory Verse together. As needed, they may read from the Bible Memory Verse poster.
6. Choose another Caller and play again. Allow all the children to remain in the game.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) Ezekiel was a priest and prophet who lived in Babylon with the other Israelites who had been taken captive from their homes in Israel and forced to live and work in Babylon. What do you remember about the vision God gave Ezekiel about the valley of dry bones? (Children respond.) The vision of the dry bones gave us a picture of God's gift of new life. What did God promise Ezekiel about our hearts? (To anyone who turns to Him, He promises to give a new heart and to put His Holy Spirit in us.)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone in Babylon to worship his golden statue. What happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they refused to worship this idol? (They were thrown into the fire.) What did the king see in the fire? (Four men walking around unharmed and untied.) After this miracle, the king praised the one true God.

Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) While captive in Babylon, Daniel stayed faithful to God and became well respected by four different Babylonian kings. He advised the kings and explained their dreams. What did Daniel do when his enemies tricked King Darius into making a law against praying to God? (He prayed anyway.) How did God save Daniel in the lions' den? (An angel shut their mouths.) When the king saw this, He ruled that everyone must respect Daniel's God.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Elijah – Malachi: Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)