



Daniel and the Lions' Den

Lesson Aim: To know God keeps us safe.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Is Lord of All

THE WORD

Bible Story: Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27

What He Has Done: God kept Daniel safe from the lions.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

Unit 9: The Prophets and God's Sovereignty			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
43	Ezekiel and the Sheep, Ezekiel 34:6, 11-15, 31	God showed Ezekiel that we are like sheep and He is the shepherd.	To know God will care for us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.
44	Ezekiel and the River, Ezekiel 47:1-12	God gave Ezekiel a vision of a river flowing out of the temple.	To know life and growth come from God.
45	Daniel's Friends and the Fiery Furnace, Daniel 3:12-21, 24-28	God was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the furnace.	To know God is with you wherever you go.
46	Daniel and the Lions' Den, Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	God kept Daniel safe from the lions.	To know God keeps us safe.
47	Daniel's Dream About Heaven, Daniel 7:1, 13-14	God gave Daniel a dream about Jesus' return.	To know we will see Jesus coming with the clouds one day.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 4:1-8. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your protection and Your reminders that Your kingdom will not fail. Fill the children with Your Spirit so they will want to obey and serve You as the Lord of all. Amen."

TEACHER'S TIP

Young children have short attention spans—about one minute for each year of age. Try alternating quiet activities with more active ones.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a lion
		Coloring Center: Daniel and the Lions' Den	Coloring pages of a Daniel and the Lions' Den, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: God's Help	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Puppet Center: Noisy Lions	Lion puppet and other animal puppets (See the Puppet Center for how to make your own.)
		Bible Memory Verse Center: Bubbling Praise	Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Let Everything That Has Breath" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Give Thanks to the Lord" "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Lift Up My Eyes" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The Lord Is Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 46
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Daniel 6:22 Visuals: Picture of the Bible story, umbrella, sunglasses
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Lion Mask	Lion mask template (available on ResourceWell.org), sturdy yellow or light brown paper, shredded yellow or orange paper, yarn, glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Act It Out	3 Bible-robe costumes (large t-shirts or pillowcases with holes cut for neck and arms with cords for belts), crown, "Lion Mask" crafts, large brown sheet
		Game: The Lions' Den	Chairs, praise music
		Snack: Lion Snack	Animal-shaped crackers
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 46
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Balloon	Balloon
	Up to 10	Game: Instrument Praise	Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story assuring children of God's protection

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a lion. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a lion help you remember God kept Daniel safe from the lions.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of a Daniel and the Lions' Den, crayons

DO

Children color the picture while talking about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Have you ever seen a lion? (Children respond.) **Our story today is about Daniel and the lions' den. God keeps Daniel safe from the lions. He sends an angel to shut the mouths of the lions so they could not hurt Daniel. God is the Lord over the angels, the lions, and everything.**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD'S HELP

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about asking God for help. Encourage children to hearts with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Do you ever get scared? (Children respond.) **What scares you?** (Children respond.) **What people can help you when you are scared?** (Parents, grandparents, older siblings, police, doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers.) **Who else can help you?** (God.) **God loves you very much. If you are scared, you can pray and ask God to help you and He will.**

THE WELCOME *continued...*

PUPPET CENTER: NOISY LIONS

SUPPLIES

Lion puppet and other animal puppets (Create your own puppets by drawing or printing pictures of animals and attaching a paper loop to the back to create a finger puppet.)

DO

Children play with the animal puppets while taking about animals and the Bible story.

TALK ABOUT

Encourage children to play with the animal finger puppets. **What animal do you have?** (Children respond.) **What sound does that animal make?** (Children respond.) **What is your favorite animal?** (Children respond.) **What sound does that animal make?** (Children respond.)

In our story today, a man named Daniel is put in a cave full of hungry lions. What sounds do you think he heard? (Children respond.) **Do you think he was scared?** (Children respond.) **Would you have been scared?** (Children respond.) **When you are scared, who can you trust is always with you?** (God.) **God kept Daniel safe from the lions and He can keep you safe, too.**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE CENTER: BUBBLING PRAISE

SUPPLIES

Bubbles, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

DO

Play the Bible Memory Verse Song and blow bubbles for the children to keep in the air with their breath.

TALK ABOUT

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Remember, "Lord" is one of God's special names. The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Put your hands on your stomach as you breathe in and out. We can use our breath to keep bubbles in the air. Demonstrate by blowing bubbles and keeping them in the air by blowing on them. **Let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song as we play.** Encourage the children to blow on the bubbles you make.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body. (breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body. The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalms 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The God who is Lord of all

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



What people watch over us and keep us safe? (Parents, grandparents, older siblings, police, doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers.) **Who else keeps us safe?** (God.) **That's right. Every moment of the day, He keeps us safe. Let's pray and thank Him for that.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, Thank You for giving us people who help keep us safe. Thank You for loving us so much that You watch over us and keep us safe, too. Amen.**



We know we can trust God to always be with us because He is faithful to all His promises. Sing: "The Lord Is Faithful."

As we give our offering today, let's remember that when we are afraid, we can remember God is with us. Sing or play: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" while collecting the offering.



In today's story, God kept Daniel safe from the lions. He sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths so they could not hurt Daniel. God is the Lord over the angels, the lions, and everything. Let's find out if Delbert and Lello know about Daniel and the lions' den.

Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 9, Lesson 46.



Let's praise God for helping us by saying and singing our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice a few times with the motions.

"Let everything (everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.

that has breath (breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord." (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.

Psalm 150:6 Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath."



God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Daniel 6:22, picture of the Bible story, umbrella, sunglasses

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Open the umbrella, being careful to open it away from the children. **Who can tell me what I brought today?** (An umbrella.) **What do we use umbrellas for?** (To protect us from the rain.) **I brought one more thing with me.** Show children the sunglasses. **What are these?** (Sunglasses.) Put them on. **What do we use sunglasses for?** (To protect our eyes from the sun.) **When it is raining, an umbrella will keep us safe from the rain. When the sun is shining, sunglasses will keep our eyes safe.**

If we are in a scary situation, who can we trust to keep us safe? (God.) **Daniel learned that lesson when he came face-to-face with a den of hungry lions. Let's find out what happened.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Daniel 6:22.



WATCH THE WORD: DANIEL 6:14-23, 25-27

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- Daniel was a good man.
- He was thrown into the lions' den.
- The king was very worried,
- For Daniel was his friend.

- Daniel said, "I am safe,
- For an angel God did send.
- The angel shut the lions' mouths;
- God saved me in the lions' den."

- The king was very happy.
- He made a new law for the land.
- He said, "All must honor Daniel's God,
- For God's kingdom will not end!"

Who did God send to shut the lions' mouths? (His angel.) **God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den. Does God keep us safe?** (Yes.)



God keeps us safe

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: LION MASK

Purpose: To remind the children of the story of Daniel and the lions' den.

Supplies: Lion mask template (available on ResourceWell.org), sturdy yellow or light brown paper, shredded yellow or orange paper, yarn, glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: On sturdy yellow or light brown paper, print and cut out the lion mask template. On it, print:

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27

Cut two 1-foot lengths of yarn. Punch a hole on each end of the lion mask and tie a piece of yarn to each hole.

Optional: Instead of sturdy paper, cut the mask from craft foam. Use crepe paper or yarn for the mane. Substitute a paper plate for the mask: cut out holes for the eyes and mouth. Around the edges of the plate, tape or glue shredded paper or yarn for the mane.

Directions:

1. Color the lion's face.
2. Glue shredded paper around the edges of the lion's face for a mane.
3. Help the children tie the masks around their heads.

Craft Discussion:

- **Where did the king put Daniel?** (In the lions' den.)
- **Did the lions hurt Daniel?** (No.) **God sent the angel to shut the lions' mouths and Daniel was safe.**
- **God kept Daniel safe. He will keep you safe, too!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: Children will act out the story of Daniel and the lions' den.

Supplies: 3 Bible-robe costumes (large t-shirts or pillowcases with holes cut for neck and arms with cords for belts), crown, "Lion Mask" crafts, large brown sheet

Prepare: Hang or drape a sheet on one side of the play area to be the lions' den.

Directions:

1. Choose children to be Daniel, the king, and the angel. Distribute their costumes. The remaining children can be the lions and sit in the lions' den.
2. Read the following script and help children act out the story as directed:
 - **Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.** (Daniel enters lions' den.)
 - **King Darius was Daniel's friend. He was very sad that Daniel was in the lions' den. He went to bed, but could not sleep.** (King Darius lies down.)
 - **The lions were very hungry.** (Lions crawl, open their mouths wide, and roar.)
 - **God sent an angel into the lions' den.** (Angel enters lions' den.)
 - **The angel shut the mouths of the lions.** (Angel touches each lion on the head to close their mouths. Lions try to roar with their mouths shut.)
 - **King Darius was very happy to see that God saved Daniel.** (Daniel and the king hug.)
 - **King Darius told everyone to praise Daniel's amazing God.** (Everyone claps or sings in celebration!)
3. Play again, allowing different children to play the parts of Daniel, the king, and the angel.

GAME: THE LIONS' DEN

Purpose: To remember God keeps us safe.

Supplies: Chairs, praise music

Did the lions ever hurt Daniel? (No.) Who kept Daniel safe? (God.) God will keep us safe, too!

Directions:

1. Create a lions' den by placing several chairs in a circle. Leave space between the chairs and enough space in the middle for everyone to stand.
2. Have the children stand around the outside of the circle.
3. When the music is playing, the children walk around the lion's den. When the music stops, everyone moves inside the lion's den and says together, **"God will keep us safe!"**
4. Play praise music. Stop the music periodically. Direct the children to quickly move inside the lion's den and say together, **"God will keep us safe!"**
5. Children return to the outside of the circle. Play several times.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: LION SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat animal-shaped crackers as they discuss how God keeps us safe.

Snack Suggestion: Animal-shaped crackers

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or another familiar tune.
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again,
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Pray. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Can you find any crackers that look like lions?**
 - **God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den. Can God keep you safe, too?** (Yes.)
 - **Can you think of a time when you needed God to keep you safe?** Give each child a chance to share his or her story.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"Let everything	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body.
that has breath	(breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body.
praise	The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together.
the Lord."	(Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalms 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: DANIEL 6:14-23, 25-27

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Daniel was a good man.** (Thumbs up.)
- **He was thrown into the lions' den.** (Pushing motion with hands.)
- **The king was very worried,** (Hands to cheeks, as if worried.)
- **For Daniel was his friend.** (Hold heart.)

- **Daniel said, "I am safe,** (Point to self.)
- **For an angel God did send.** (Point to heaven.)
- **The angel shut the lions' mouths;** (Point to mouth.)
- **God saved me in the lions' den."** (Point to self.)

- **The king was very happy;** (Clap hands.)
- **He made a new law for the land.** (Point, as if teaching.)
- **He said, "All must honor Daniel's God,** (Point to heaven.)
- **For God's kingdom will never end!"** (Spread arms wide.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Psalm 150:6

GAME: PRAISE BALLOON

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Balloon

Hold your hand in front of your mouth and blow on it. Do you feel your breath? (Yes!) We can use our breath to put air into balloons. Inflate a balloon with your breath and knot it closed. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you. **We can also use our breath to praise the Lord. Lord is a special name we use for God. When I toss the balloon toward you, I want you to bop it (or catch it) and say, "I praise the Lord."**

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. Choose a child. As you toss the balloon toward the child, say **"Let name of child praise the Lord."**
3. When the child bops or catches the balloon, lead them in saying, **"I praise the Lord."**
4. Play until every child has had a turn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE

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

Supplies: Children's musical instruments, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song "Let Everything That Has Breath"

Teacher Tips: Create your own instruments by using two metal pot lids for cymbals, a wooden spoon and metal pot for a drum, or fill a container with a lid with dried beans or rice for a shaker. Children can also keep the rhythm by tapping two sticks together. **No Instruments Option:** Instead of using instruments, assign each child a different animal. Lead children in praising the Lord with the sound of each animal: **Let every name of an animal that has breath praise the Lord.** Children respond by making the sound of that animal.

The Lord wants everyone in the world to praise Him. Can you praise the Lord? (Children respond.)
When you hear the name of your instrument, play it to praise the Lord.

Directions:

1. Children repeat the Bible Memory Verse after you, one word at a time.
2. Give an instrument to each child. Be sure children know the name of the instruments.
3. **All that have name of an instrument praise the Lord.** Children with that instrument play.
4. Repeat step 3 until each child has played an instrument to praise the Lord.
5. Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory verse Song. Have the children praise the Lord together by marching and playing their instruments while they sing along.



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story assuring children of God's protection.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 9, Lesson 46: Daniel and the Lions' Den

PONDER! God kept Daniel safe from the lions (Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27). Who did God send to shut their mouths? (An angel.) Does God keep us safe? (Yes.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, we trust You to save us when we need help. Thank You for keeping us safe. Amen."

PLAY! Cover a table or some chairs with a dark cloth to make the lions' den. Choose family members or friends to be Daniel, King Darius, the angel, and the lion. The lion wears the "Lion Mask" craft. Ask a parent or older sibling to read the Bible story aloud. Act out the story as you hear it. Talk about how God saved Daniel. When has God kept you safe?

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."	(everything) Right fist, thumb pointed up, slides down the thumb of the left fist, thumb pointed up. The right hand then opens up and sweeps away from the body. (breath) Both open hands move back and forth away from the body. The index finger comes off the mouth, followed by clapping hands together. (Lord) Make "L" shape with right index finger and thumb. Move "L" from left shoulder to right hip as a royal sash.
Psalms 150:6	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.