



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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "We are safe."

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."



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a lion
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "We are safe."
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: "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 Am with You" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		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 Visual: Soft, toy lion
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, stapler, tape or glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Act It Out	Three 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: Daniel, Daniel, Lion	None
		Snack: Lion Snack	Animal-shaped crackers
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 9, Lesson 46 Color This Story: "Daniel and the Lions' Den"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Balloon Bop	Balloon
	Up to 10	Game: Instrument Praise	Assorted 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.



We are safe

THE 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. Today's Whisper Verse is "We are safe."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "We are safe."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| "We" | Right index finger points down at the ground with hand beginning at the right shoulder and moving around the front of the chest in a half circle motion to the left shoulder. |
| "(are) safe." | Make a fist with each hand. Cross hands over the chest to create an "X" shape in front of the body. Pull hands apart and end with the left fist in front of the left bicep and the right fist in front of the right bicep. (This represents the word "secure.") |

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "We are safe," Jeremiah 7:10. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who is Lord of all. That means He is the one in control of everything in heaven and on earth. He is the Lord over all creatures and all people. He is Lord over everything that lives and breathes. Everyone can praise the Lord of all. Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”

Because He is the Lord of all, He is able to keep us safe. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse. Let's try it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “We are safe.” Include sign language.

We can trust God to keep us safe, so we do not need to worry. Sing: “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled.”

Do you think God can keep you safe? (Yes.) As we give our offering today, let's be very still and think about the ways God keeps us safe. Sing: “Be Still and Know” while collecting the offering.



In today's story, God kept Daniel safe from the lions. He sent 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. 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.



God saved Daniel by sending an angel to be with him in the lions' den. God is always with us wherever we go. Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save” and “I Am with You.”



God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;

My mouth quiet as can be,

I will listen to hear,

How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God was with Daniel's friends in the furnace. Today, we will hear how God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den. 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 points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a soft toy lion. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- 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.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Daniel 6:22 from the teacher's Bible.

God kept Daniel safe in the lions' den. Does God keep us safe? (Yes.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "We are safe."** Include the sign language or hand motions.



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, stapler, tape or 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. That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions: "We are 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: Three 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: DANIEL, DANIEL, LION

Purpose: Children will play a version of "Duck, Duck, Goose" and discuss how God keeps us safe.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Seat children on the floor in a circle.
2. Choose one child to be "It." That child walks around the circle, lightly tapping each child on the head and saying, "Daniel."
3. After tapping a few children on the head, "It" taps the next child's head and says "Lion!"
4. The lion chases "It" around the circle.
 - If the lion touches "It" before "It" reaches the lion's spot in the circle, then "It" sits in the lions' den (center of the circle). All the children say and sign the Whisper Verse, **"God will keep you safe!"**
 - If the lion does not touch "It" before "It" reaches the lion's spot in the circle, then he or she is safe.
5. The lion becomes the new "It" and play continues. Any child in the lions' den rejoins the game when another child is tagged and enters the lions' den.

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

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 snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other 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. 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.)
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "We are safe."
 - **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.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Lion Mask" craft. Tell someone that God saved Daniel from the lions.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God keeps you safe, too.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Daniel and the Lions' Den." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Let Everything That Has Breath," as the children color.



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 acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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,** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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 BOP

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

Supplies: Balloon

The Lord wants everything that breathes to praise Him. Every animal has breath. Let's see how many animals we can name. Children name several animals. Let's play a game with this balloon. Each time you bop the balloon, say the name of an animal who can praise the Lord!

Directions:

1. Have children stand in a circle.
2. **We can use our breath to put air into balloons.** Inflate the balloon with your breath. Knot the end as a seal. The children can pretend to blow up imaginary balloons as they watch you.
3. As you toss the balloon into the air, say the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.
4. Children take turns bopping the balloon as they say the name of an animal that has breath to praise the Lord.
5. Play as long as you like.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: INSTRUMENT PRAISE

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

Supplies: Assorted 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 hit two sticks together and keep the rhythm. **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! Read Daniel 6:14-23, 25-27 with your family. The king was worried about Daniel in the lions' den. How did God keep Daniel safe from the hungry lions? What did the king tell all the people about Daniel's God?

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! "Act It Out!" 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?

Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse:

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