



Lesson 11:

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN



TEACHING GOAL: Daniel obeyed and trusted in God and God protected him.

1. Play theme song
2. Pray
3. Review last lesson
4. Lesson and discussion
5. Memorize: Younger—**When I'm afraid I'm going to pray.**
Older—**When the hungry lions growled and roared, Daniel put his faith and trust in the Lord.**
6. Close in prayer



SCRIPTURE: **Daniel 6** Daniel and the Lions' Den

MATERIALS: 15 copies of the lion's head on orange paper
Pink or white construction paper (10 sheets)
Clear packing tape
A blindfold (an adult winter cap pulled down over the children's eyes works)
A treat/reward for each child



IN ADVANCE: Cut fifteen hand prints out of white or pink construction paper to be used later.

Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



Big Idea

As you work through this lesson, take time to talk about how God protects us. Read the story of Daniel in the lions' den up to the point in which they throw Daniel in the den and roll the stone over the den for the night.

B Activity

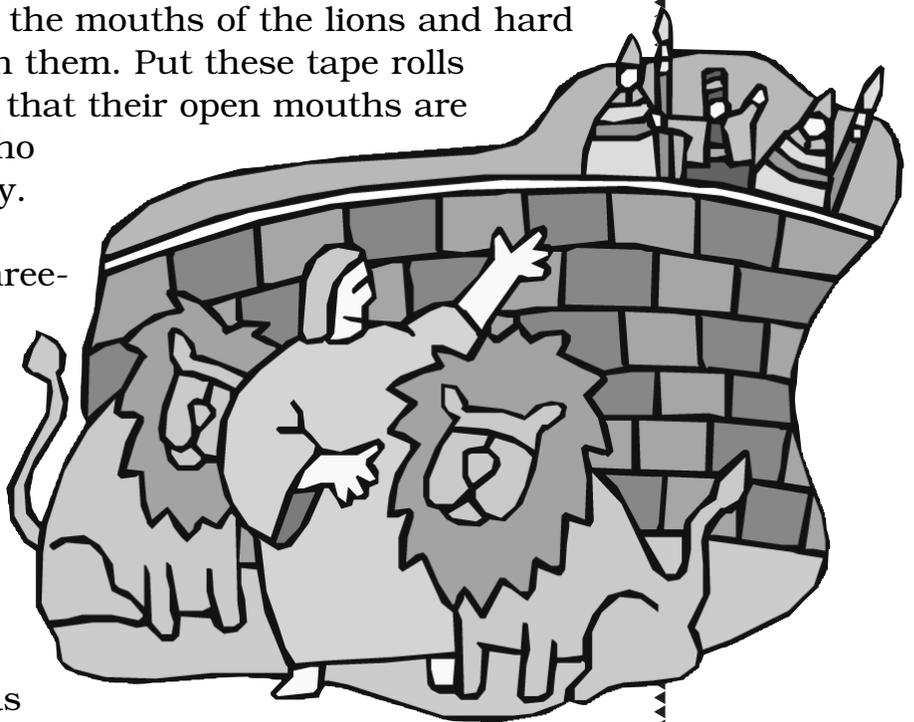
Have the children cut out the lions' heads. You will need a total of approximately fifteen heads. As the kids are making the lions, remind them how dangerous, strong, and ferocious lions are—suggesting that they have a loud roar because they can open their mouths so wide.

Once the heads are cut out, take pieces of packing tape and attach the ends so that the sticky side is on the outside—like you would use to stick a poster to the wall. Make the tape ovals big enough to cover the mouths of the lions and hard to miss when kids step on them. Put these tape rolls over the lions' mouths so that their open mouths are ready to “grab” anyone who happens to walk their way.

Next, identify a two- or three-foot wide path in a room. You may want to use furniture to create boundaries to mark the path. This path is the lions' den. Place the lion heads on the floor in the “den.” The goal is to have at least one of the lions stick to each child as

they “walk through their night in the lions' den” (have the children keep their socks on as it will help the lions stick). Be sure that the den is well saturated with lions.

Have family members stand in a line at one end of the den and, one at a time, each person will walk through the lions. If the tape from a lion's mouth sticks to a sock, that represents being eaten by the lion. Daniel was in the dark so we are going to blindfold you before you walk through the den. (If younger children are nervous about being blindfolded then you can have them close their eyes.) The other family members will be watching, so after you blindfold the next player, move the lion heads around. It's important that everyone has at least one lion head stuck to their sock.



Lesson 11

The lights may be turned off and/or parents and siblings can growl like the lions to add to the effect as each child negotiates the lions' den. If a child is nearing the end with no lion in tow, parents need to move the lions to ensure the last steps serve up dinner for one of the lions. Reset the den for each child to ensure adequate lion saturation.

After each child has had a turn getting gobbled up, tell them they get one more chance to make it through the den without getting gobbled up to get their treat/reward, but they need to wait out of sight in another room while you "reset" the den. While the kids are out, reset the den by placing the "hands of God" you made in advance over the mouths of each of the lions. Make sure that the hand completely covers the tape.

One at a time, bring the kids to the entrance of the den already blindfolded. This time, however, before they start their walk, have them say the following prayer:

**"Dear God,
No matter what is ahead of me,
I know you can protect me. Amen."**

As they make it to the end of the den unscathed, remove their blindfold and give them God's reward for their trust and faith in him. Repeat for each child.

When all the children have made it through the den, pick up and complete the story of Daniel and the lions' den from where you left off earlier in the evening. Be sure to emphasize how the hands of God that protected Daniel are there to protect them too.

Application

End by emphasizing the following three points:

Daniel loved and obeyed God.

Daniel trusted God.

God loved and protected Daniel.

