

Daniel in the Den of Lions

Scripture:	Daniel 6
Memory Verse:	1 Corinthians 15:58 “. . . be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”
Teaching Objective:	The saved child will choose to remain steadfast and faithful to God even when he must stand alone.
Main Teaching:	God will help you be steadfast and faithful to Him.
Emphasis for Unsaved:	Call on the Lord Jesus to save you.

I. Introduction

Have you ever been tempted to stop doing what is right (reading your Bible, being honest, obeying your parents) because others who are not Christians pressured you? God wants you to be faithful, that is, to do right all the time—even when doing right may get you into trouble. Daniel determined to be faithful to God, no matter what happened.

II. Progression of Events

- A. King Darius gave Daniel a high position for his outstanding work (6:1-3)
- B. The other leaders spied on Daniel, hoping to catch him doing wrong; instead they found him faithful in work and in worship of God (6:4)
- C. Frustrated, they plotted to use Daniel's faithfulness against him (6:5-7)



These men were jealous of Daniel.



Jealousy is sin; it puts murder in your heart. Perhaps you have been jealous of someone because of what they have or can do. Or maybe you have lied to your father, cheated on a test or quit playing a game because you didn't get your way. These things displease God. The Bible says that you and I have sinned (Romans 3:23). The good news is God loves you. That is why He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay for your sins and to rise again. If you are willing to turn from your sin and trust in Jesus and what He has done for you, He will forgive and save you from the punishment you deserve. He will free you from things like jealousy that these leaders were feeling.

- D. Scheming leaders used flattery to trick the king into signing a decree which stated that all prayer should be addressed to the king (6:8-9)
- E. Daniel chose to continue his daily worship in spite of the decree (6:10)



Knowing that it was God who enabled him to be faithful, Daniel chose to keep praying as he always had—even though it could mean death. **If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you to be steadfast and faithful to Him**, even if no one else is, just as He helped Daniel. Being steadfast means being determined in your heart and mind to please God and then faithfully doing it. In the lunchroom, God can help you to pray before you eat, even though others do not. In the classroom, God can help you to tell what you believe from the Bible, even though others may disagree. At home, God can help you get up on Sunday morning to go to church, even though no one else in your family may go with you.

Sometimes when you are faithful to God, others may not understand or may even oppose you, but God's Word says, (read 1 Corinthians 15:58a). Don't let pressure from others stop you from doing what is right. God will help you be faithful, just as Daniel was.

- F. Daniel's enemies accused him before Darius (6:11-13)
- G. The grieved king struggled unsuccessfully to excuse Daniel (6:14-15)
- H. Darius reluctantly commanded that Daniel be thrown to the lions, encouraging Daniel to trust in his God (6:16-17)
- I. As Daniel faced the lions, heartsick Darius could not sleep (6:18-19)



Darius could not help Daniel, but God could. God helped Daniel be faithful; now God would help him face the fearful things others were doing in anger. **If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you to be steadfast and faithful to Him**, no matter how others respond. As you pray at lunchtime, some may make fun of you, but others may notice and begin to think about God's goodness to them. When you share in class about your belief in God, some may argue with you, but someone may listen to what you say and change the way they think about God. As you faithfully go to church each Sunday, some in your family might choose to go with you and begin to learn about God, too. Even if no one ever responds kindly toward you, **God will help you to be steadfast and faithful to Him.** (Psalm 28:7). God will help you to be faithful in doing what's right even when it is hard.

Daniel remained faithful to God even in his desperate situation.

III. Climax

God honored Daniel's faithfulness, protecting him from the lions! (6:20-22)

IV. Ending

- A. Conclusion
 1. Daniel was lifted from the den, totally unharmed (6:23)
 2. The accusers reaped what they sowed: they were cast into the den and devoured by lions (6:24)
 3. The king commanded everyone to worship God (6:25-27)
 4. Daniel's faithfulness was rewarded; he continued as a leader, doing his best (6:28)



B. Invitation (Acts 16:31)

C. Challenge



Sometimes, even when Jesus is your Savior, you may find it hard to be faithful. (Remind children of situations that were mentioned earlier.) Remember Psalm 28:7, and thank God for His help. Will you this week **choose to remain steadfast and faithful to God**, even when you must stand alone? Perhaps God has reminded you of a situation in your life where you find it hard to be faithful to Him. As we pray together, talk to God about that situation, asking Him to help you in a special way this week. (Teacher: Give the children an index card. Have them write down the situation they have asked God to help them with this week. Tell them to take the card home as a reminder to pray about their situation throughout the week. Let them know that you will be praying for them, and they can report back to you next week. If possible you may want to call or text them with a word of encouragement.)