

Sunday School Stories – Daniel in the Lion’s Den  
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**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**Daniel purposed in his heart to represent God**

Read and discuss Daniel 6:10-13 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. <sup>5</sup> Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.” <sup>6</sup> So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! <sup>7</sup> The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions’ den. <sup>8</sup> Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.” <sup>9</sup> So King Darius put the decree in writing. <sup>10</sup> Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. <sup>11</sup> Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. <sup>12</sup> So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?” The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

<sup>13</sup> Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.”

- \*What do we learn about people from this passage – the officials, the king, Daniel?
- \*Are you challenged by the faithfulness and holy habits of Daniel?
- \*What rhythms are part of your own life that help you remain faithful?

**Daniel remained loyal to God even amidst the lions**

Read and discuss Daniel 3:16-23 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

<sup>17</sup> A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. <sup>18</sup> Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

<sup>19</sup> At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. <sup>20</sup> When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

<sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

<sup>23</sup> The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

- \*What do we see about the character of God in this story?
- \*What does it mean to be a 'servant of the living God'?
- \*When has hope or faith given you courage in your journey?

**The grandest hero of the Biblical story is always God**

The story is much bigger than showcasing the courage or steadfastness of Daniel

- \*What observations can you make about the way God works in difficult circumstances, regardless of the outcome?
- \*What stories of celebration of justice do you have to tell from your own life?
- \*How do you sense you are being called to respond to the story of Daniel and the lions?