

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 1 • Unit 10 • Week 4

GOD WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

OBJECTIVE:

The story of Daniel in the lions' den will teach us that God is always with us.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Did you know that God promises to always be with us? He helps us even when we're worried or afraid.

Look at these words and see if you can figure out what they say and how God helps us in difficult times.

Do: Show the Bible verse "The Lord is with me" typed backwards (see end of lesson) to several volunteers and ask them to try to read the words.

Ask: How hard is it to read these words? Why don't they make sense when you first look at them?

Do: Hold the words up to a mirror and have several volunteers read the words.

Say: When we first saw these backward words, it was hard to understand. Sometimes in life things happen to us that are like these words. We might feel like all the wrong things are happening to us. We might feel like we can't understand why things happen to others or us. But we should always remember that God is with us. We can ask Him to help us know what to do.

Here is a Bible story about a situation that reminds us that God is always there.

BIBLE LESSON:

Do: Read this paraphrase of Daniel 6:7-28 or from your Bible.

Daniel was far away from his home in Jerusalem. He had been taken prisoner. But even in far away Babylon, Daniel trusted God and did as God said.

Every day he prayed to God. And God made Daniel wise. He was the wisest of all the wise men of Babylon.

One day the king chose Daniel for a very important job. That made all the other wise men so jealous that they wanted to get rid of Daniel.

Daniel was brave, and they couldn't scare him. And he didn't do bad things so they couldn't get him.

How could they get rid of him? They thought and thought. Then one of them came up with an idea. "Daniel wants to please God even more than he wants to please King Darius. So this is what we'll do. We'll go to the king."

The wise men of Babylon went to King Darius. "O king, everyone should pray to you and not to any other god. We want you to make a new law. Tell everyone they cannot pray to another god or they will be thrown to the lions!"

The king didn't know it was a trick to get rid of Daniel, so he made the new law and it could not be changed.

Soon everyone, even Daniel, knew about the king's new law. But Daniel wanted to please God even more than he wanted to please King Darius. He knew that no matter what, God would always be with him. So he prayed to God, just like he always did.

Daniel's enemies spied on him and saw him, kneeling at his window while he prayed. Their plan had worked so they hurried to tell the king.

"O King Darius there is someone who doesn't obey our new law. It is Daniel who has disobeyed. We saw him ourselves, praying to God at his window. The law is clear. Daniel must be thrown to the lions."

King Darius was very upset. But there was no way the law could be changed. He could not save Daniel.

The lions were hungry. They ROARED for their supper.

"You serve your God faithfully, Daniel," King Darius said. "I hope God can save you!"

They pushed Daniel in with the lions and sealed the door with a huge stone.

All night long the king lay awake, thinking about Daniel and those hungry, roaring lions.

As soon as it was light, the king ran back to the lions' den. The stone still covered the door tight. Everything was quiet. "Daniel! Daniel!" King Darius called anxiously. "Has God been able to save you from the lions?" He felt sure those hungry lions had eaten Daniel for their supper.

But Daniel's voice came back, loud and clear. "Yes, he has! God sent His angel and so the lions haven't opened their mouths all night! I am very safe. Not even a scratch!"

The king was overjoyed! "Let him out at once!" he ordered.

So Daniel came out, and he wasn't hurt at all. He knew that no matter what, God would always be with him. And He was! God saved him from the lions.

God also promises to always be with us.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Finger puppets: Daniel, King Darius and three lions

Mirror

Paper with the Bible verse "The Lord is with me" typed backwards (see end of lesson)

Crayons

Prepare: Copy the finger puppet patterns and cut them out (one set for each child).

Do: Hand out the finger puppets and have the children color them and then glue the ends together.

Read the story of Daniel again. Have the children act out the story with their finger puppets. When Daniel is mentioned, place his finger puppet on your index finger. When King Darius is mentioned, place his puppet on your thumb. When Daniel is put in the lions' den, put the three lions on your remaining fingers. At the end of story you may remove the lions and king, leaving only Daniel.

If there is time, you may want to supplement this lesson with the following discussion:

- When is a time kids your age might feel afraid or worried?
- What are some of the ways God helps us? [Gives us parents and friends. Promises to hear and answer our prayers.]
- What other promises does God give us? [Promises to forgive us when we do wrong, to give us courage.]

Music:

Sing "Daniel in the Lion's Den" from *Heaven's Sake Kids* series, Bible Songs, 1997, Pamplin Music Corp.

Do: While the children color their finger puppets, play the song. If they become familiar enough with it, you may want to have them sing along with the chorus.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 118:6 "The LORD is on my side;; I will not fear."

Do: Print the memory verse on the chalkboard and underline each word. Have all the students say the scripture out loud several times together and individually. Then erase the last word and leave the underline. Repeat the scripture together filling in the blank. Continue this process until there are no words left on the chalkboard and see how many students are able to recite the entire verse. Repeat if necessary.

family activity

THE POINT:

The story of Daniel in the lions' den teaches us that God is always with us.

ASK ME...

- What kind of man was Daniel?
- Was God with Daniel when things were going well?
- Why did Daniel get thrown in the lion's den?
- Was God with Daniel even though something bad had happened?
- What are some of the ways God helps us?
- How do we know that God is always with us?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Have a family discussion about a time each of you were afraid. Have family members take turns and tell why they were scared and how God helped them get through their difficulty.

Discuss other Bible stories where individuals were in difficult situations but God was with them. (Suggestions: Joseph, Noah, Elijah, Deborah, Stephen, Paul, etc.)

Talk with your children about how they can know that God is with them even when they can't see Him.

Take a family walk and notice God's presence in the creation.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)

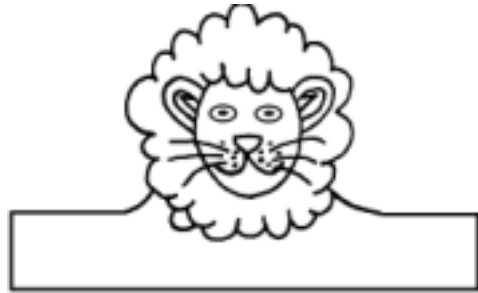
USE THIS FOR THE ATTENTION GETTER:

The Lord is with me.

DANIEL FINGER PUPPETS



Daniel



Lion



King Darius



Lion



Lion