

3. How do you plan to get out?

4. How does your faith in God enable you to endure this "lions' den"?

- Have members answer the questions individually and silently. Allow 3-5 minutes for this.

Wrapping It Up

Small group prayer time

- Ask members to form small groups of three. Encourage them to share with the small group something about the lions' den they face.
- Have groups close with prayer for one another.



Faith at Home

Ask family members to tell when they felt like they were in a figurative "lion's den" with no way out. Ask them to tell how they responded to the situation and what ultimately happened. Ask them what part God played in that situation.

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Daniel 6

August 17, 2014

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Defining a word

- Write the word "FAITHFUL" on the chalkboard.
- **What does it mean to be faithful?** Let several respond.
- **There are many people and things in life that demand our faithfulness. We are expected to be faithful to our spouse, to our employer, to our country. But our primary duty is to be faithful to God. Today we will study an experience in the life of Daniel in which he continued to be faithful regardless of the consequences.**



Exploring God's Word

Biblical drama

- The drama requires a minimum of three players (Darius, Daniel, and an accuser), although a large group could be involved by adding administrators and satraps (pres-

dents and princes), their family members (v. 24), guards, and lions.

- Allow 15 minutes for teams to prepare their dramas. Then let each present its version.

Study guide

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following study guide, omitting the answers given in parentheses (duplicate Item 1).

Study Guide

1. To what position of power had Daniel, the Jewish captive, risen? (One of three administrators who answered to the king)
2. What caused all the other political leaders to resent Daniel? (Darius planned to put him over the whole kingdom)
3. Why were the administrators and satraps unable to find grounds for charges against Daniel? (He was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent)
4. What decree did the leaders convince Darius to issue? (Those who prayed to anyone other than him during the next 30 days would be thrown to the lions)
5. What did Daniel do when he learned of the decree? (continued to pray three times a day at his open upstairs window)
6. How did Darius react to the news that Daniel had violated his decree? (Was greatly distressed and made every effort to save him)

7. Why did Darius not cancel his decree to save Daniel? (According to the laws of the Medes and Persians, no decree made by the king could be repealed)

8. What did Darius say to Daniel as he was being thrown into the lions' den?

(May your God, whom you serve continually rescue you)

9. How did the king spend the night? (Without eating, sleeping, or being entertained)

10. At dawn, what did Darius yell into the lions' den? (Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?)

11. What did Daniel say in reply? (O king, live forever! 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, O king.)

12. How did Darius punish the leaders who had caused Daniel to be thrown to the lions? (Had them and their families thrown into the lions' den; they were crushed by the lions before they reached the floor of the den)

13. What decree did Darius then issue? (That the people in his kingdom must fear and reverence Daniel's God)

- Have members work together in groups of two to five persons to complete the study guide. Allow 8-12 minutes. Then lead the class to compare their answers.

Making It Personal

Modernizing a story

- Have members get into groups of three or four. Give each group paper and pencils.
- On the chalkboard or a large sheet of paper, list the following and ask members to copy them on their paper:
 - Daniel
 - Darius
 - Satraps
 - Conviction
 - Lions
 - God
- Ask groups to write a modern story that is parallel to the account of Daniel and the Lions' Den. Give these interpretations of the people and things listed on the chalkboard:
 - Daniel—A committed and faithful follower of God. In the modern story, he would be a dedicated Christian.
 - Darius—A person who has control and power over Daniel. In the modern story, he would be a boss, supervisor, client, legal or political figure, teacher, judge, etc.
 - Satraps—Persons who resent and want to destroy Daniel. In the modern story, they might be co-workers, competitors, town officials, etc.
 - Conviction—Something Daniel was committed to do (or not do) because of his dedication to God

and despite the criticism of others. For the modern story, choose a conviction that could lead unbelievers to criticize.

○ Lions—A terrible fate that Daniel risked in order to be faithful to his commitment. In the modern story, use a modern consequence Christians sometimes face because of their open faith in Christ.

○ God—The one who rescued Daniel from the lions. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Make sure He is credited for the rescue in your modern story.

- Allow ten minutes for groups to write out their modern stories. Then let each group share its work with the class.

Personal application

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following (duplicate Item 2).

In The Lions' Den Again

From time to time we all feel like we are in the "lions' den," threatened by people, circumstances, and situations. What "lions' den" do you find yourself in today? Look around and answer these questions.

1. What are the names of the "lions" that threaten you?
2. How did you get into this "lions' den"?

Study Guide

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den?
2. What caused all the other political leaders to resent Daniel?
3. Why were the administrators and satraps unable to find grounds for charges against Daniel?
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