

Week 26 Parent Sheet: Daniel and the Lions

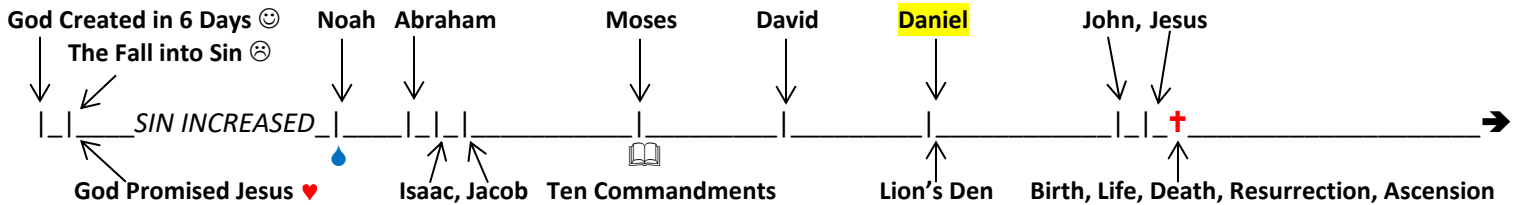
Daniel 6 NIV

As the LORD saved Daniel from the lions, so He has provided eternal salvation for everyone through Jesus!

Bethlehem Family Childcare – Wednesdays: Story Time (9:30-10:00) and Bible Time (10:00-10:30)

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The Old Testament covers approximately 4,000 years; this timeline shows some key events:



Previous history:

1. Because the southern kingdom was disobedient, the LORD allowed the Babylonians to conquer them.
2. The king of Babylon gave this order: "...bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility--⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace" (Dan. 1:3-4). // Among those young men was Daniel.

Daniel and the Lions:

1. The King Planned to Promote Daniel: ¹ It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom,² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel...³ 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.
2. Daniel Was Blameless: ⁴ 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...
3. The King Made a Foolish Law: ⁵ 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."⁶ So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: "O King Darius, live forever!⁷ 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 man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den."⁸ Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered..."⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing.
4. Daniel Honored God and Prayed: ¹⁰ 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.
5. Daniel's Enemies Told on Him: ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

- ¹² 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 man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands..."¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king... He still prays three times a day."
6. The King Tried to Save Daniel: ¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him.
7. Daniel Was Thrown to the Lions: ¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, "Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed."¹⁶ 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!"¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den...¹⁸ 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.
8. God Saved Daniel: ¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.²⁰ 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?"²¹ Daniel answered...²² "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions..."²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out... ...no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.
9. His Enemies Were Thrown to the Lions: ²⁴ At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. ...the lions overpowered them...

Thoughts:

1. For Daniel, he put God over the laws of the king.
2. As God saved Daniel from the lions, so He has provided eternal salvation for everyone through Jesus!