

## Daniel the Prophet

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon attacked Jerusalem, took the people captive and carried them away to Babylon. Little Daniel, a fifteen year old boy was among those taken captive. He spent the rest of his life as a captive in Babylon. He was also a prophet of God. God set Daniel up as a bright, contrasting example among the pagan religions of Babylon. Daniel and four of his friends were given new names--this was done in order to conform them to the pagan religions in Babylon. But Daniel and his friends purposed in their heart to not defile themselves. Although they faced fatal persecution for their religious beliefs and practices, God did not allow them to be harmed.

## Say it! Play it! Pray it! Daniel 6

<b>Objectives:</b>	Play out the part of Daniel in the Lion's den Gain insight into our own faith. Have fun with your family.
<b>Number of Players:</b>	4 or more (narrator, God, Daniel, Darius, Governors and Satraps)
<b>Length:</b>	30 - 45 minutes
<b>Set up:</b>	You can get as elaborate as you like. As the story is played out, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel. Props: stuffed lion

**Narrator:** Darius the Mede was set over the Babylonian kingdom. It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, and over these 3 governors, of whom Daniel was one. Daniel distinguished himself above the other governors because an excellent spirit was in him; so the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the other governors and the satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel. But they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

**Governors and Satraps (whispering to each other):** We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

**Narrator:** So these governors and satraps went to Darius, the king.

**Governors and Satraps (to King Darius):** King Darius, live forever! All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.

**Narrator:** Therefore King Darius signed the written decree. Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

Then these men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplications before his God. And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree.

**Governors and Satraps (to King Darius):** Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?

**King Darius:** This thing is true. According to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.

**Governors and Satraps:** That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, does not show due regard for you, O king, or for the decree that you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.

**Narrator:** And the king, when he heard these words, was greatly displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him. Then these men approached the king, and said to the king,

**Governors and Satraps:** Know, O king, that it is the law of the Medes and Persians that no decree or statute which the king establishes may be changed.

**Narrator:** So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke to Daniel,

**King Darius:** Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you.

**Narrator:** Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Now the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no musicians were brought before him. Also he could not sleep.

Then the king rose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried out with a lamenting voice to Daniel.

**King Darius:** Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?

**Daniel:** O King, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you.

**Narrator:** Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God.

And the king wrote this note:

To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever. His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed. And His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth. He has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.



# FAMILY STUDY

**Discussion:** Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played, God's character and their own life. Questions to consider: Have you ever been in a scary situation that you could do nothing to control-- where you had to pray and trust in the Lord? If so, how did it turn out? What encouragement do you get from Daniel's experience in the Lion's den?

**Prayer:** Close in prayer thanking God for His provision, for His mercies that are new each morning, and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.