



## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Can Protect Us in Amazing Ways

**SCRIPTURE:** Daniel 6

**WORD OF WONDER:** Hebrews 13:5b

When my son was two years old, we went to the zoo and saw the lions. Huge, majestic-looking creatures—safely behind a wall of thick glass. As my son stood with his face pressed to the glass, a lion suddenly leaped toward him, and with a giant crack, the lion's teeth hit the glass! The huge animal fell back a little, stunned. I have never been more glad for the protection of "lion-proof" glass.

When I read Daniel 6, I don't see any lion-proof glass. As you read this chapter, put yourself in the place of King Darius. After being tricked into enforcing his decree against Daniel, he was distressed and determined to rescue Daniel ... but the damage had been done. As the stone is put over the opening

to the lions' den, he calls out, "May your God ... rescue you!" (Daniel 6:16, NIV). He then can't sleep all night, worrying about his best advisor. He runs to the den in the morning, calling out in an anguished voice, "Has your God ... been able to rescue you?" (Daniel 6:20, NIV).

God had done what the human king could not do. Daniel trusted in his God, and no wound was found on him.

What do you need to be rescued from? Have you tried to find your own way out and felt like King Darius—distressed, worried, anguished? What could happen if you trusted in your God's protection for no wound to be found on you?

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children's Pastor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

### DID YOU KNOW?

### FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

#### WHO?

Daniel's life is featured in the book of Daniel. Along with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he was taken from his home in Jerusalem and moved to Babylon. Daniel was a dream interpreter, and he remained committed to Yahweh even in a foreign land.

#### WHAT?

Daniel is well liked by King Darius, but Darius is tricked into passing a law prohibiting prayer to anyone other than the king. Daniel continues to pray to God and is caught. He is thrown in the lions' den, but God protects him from harm.

#### WHERE?

The story takes place in the great city of Babylon. The Babylonians and Assyrians were known for capturing lions and keeping them for pets, and these royal pets had a special role of acting as a means of execution.

#### WHEN?

The book of Daniel spans from about 605 to 536 BC. Daniel 6 takes place after the Persian kingdom conquered Babylon in 539 BC. The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel were contemporaries of Daniel.

#### CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

When King Darius sees Daniel's salvation from the mouths of the lions, he proclaims that Daniel's God is the living God, who acts on behalf of His people. Jesus is the ultimate example of God being alive and acting within human history.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Activity: Shut the Lions' Mouths

In God's big story today, we'll hear about a time when God sent an angel to shut the mouths of some lions to protect someone. Have kids practice roaring like a lion. Then have kids pretend to be lions by walking on hands and knees and roaring. **When I say, "Shut the lions' mouths," you stop moving and roaring. When I say, "Go," pretend to be lions and roar again. Ready?**

Play several rounds of the game with the kids.

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD CAN PROTECT US IN AMAZING WAYS.**

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**GOD CAN**—*Point up.*

**PROTECT US**—*Hug your body.*

**IN AMAZING WAYS**—*Hold your hands up in front of you, palms open.*



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## LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, please show us Your love today. We ask for Your Holy Spirit to guide, teach, and lead us as we learn about Your love and protection. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible special? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

**Tell the Bible story**

The Beginner's Bible, pages 251-256

Daniel and the Lions

### Word of Wonder

#### WORD OF WONDER

**God has said, "I will never leave you."**

— Hebrews 13:5b

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the Word of Wonder with you.

- **GOD WILL**—*Point up.*
- **NEVER LEAVE US.**—*Shake your head.*
- **HEBREWS 13:5**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms up, as if holding an open a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **God says He will never leave you. How does it make you feel to know God is always with you?**
- **Think about other stories in the Bible. What are some other examples of times when God was with His people during tough situations?**