



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: Magnetic Tiles Forts

SUPPLIES: magnetic tiles, small toy person figure, pom-poms

Before kids arrive, set out magnetic tiles, the small toy person figure, and pom-poms. Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! I'm so happy you're here! Come see what we have today.

Encourage kids to build forts of protection using magnetic tiles. Have kids hide a small plastic toy person inside the fort. Encourage kids to toss pom-poms at their fort to see if they made it strong enough to protect the toy inside.

We built a strong fort to protect our toy person. Today we'll learn in our story how God protected Daniel in an amazing way!



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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.

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?**