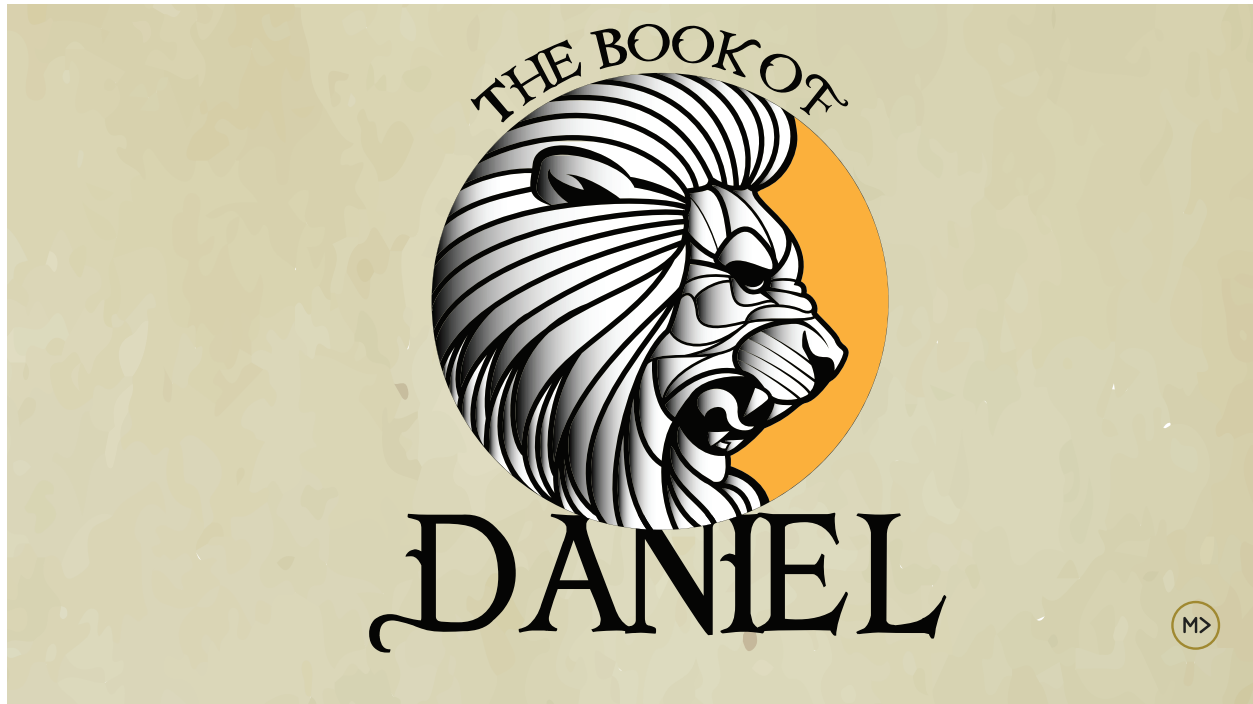


MD KIDS CURRICULUM: DANIEL



Week Six: Daniel in the Den

To the Teachers

The book of Daniel is primarily about how God's people can live in His kingdom in the midst of a culture trying to rule with human kingdoms. Pray that we as a church, our kids included, will learn to love our culture while remaining faithful to our true King.

- **Big Idea:** God delivers His people who trust in Him.

As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** Has someone ever got you in trouble for something you didn't do? How did you feel? Angry? How did you react?
- **Starter:** 'Sleepy Lions'
Play a game similar to freeze dance. While music plays kids can roar and move around. When it stops they must stand still, close their eyes, and pretend to sleep. If they are still moving when music stops they must sit down. Last one standing wins.

Sing Together (15 minutes)

Group Teaching (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

- **Story:** from Daniel 6

Daniel lived in Babylon for a long time and saw many different kings rule after Nebuchadnezzar. One of them was King Darius, who really liked Daniel and made him one of his most trusted advisors. But the other advisors were jealous of Daniel and wanted to find a way to get rid of him. They went to the king and said, "King Darius may you live forever! All your advisors agree you should make a rule that for thirty days, anyone who prays to anyone but you will be thrown into a den filled with hungry lions."

King Darius agreed. He did not know that Daniel was the only advisor who did not agree to this, but once he signed it as a law it could not be changed.

When Daniel learned about this, he continued praying and giving thanks to God, just as he had always done. The other advisors saw him and went to tell the king, "Daniel has ignored you and the law you signed. He prays three times a day to the God of Israel. Because of your law, you have no choice but to throw him in the den of lions." As soon as the king heard this, he was very sad; he wanted to rescue Daniel, but even the king could not change the law once he signed it. So he ordered for Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. He said, "May your God rescue you!"

A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den so Daniel could not escape. The king spent the night fasting and as soon as morning came he got up and hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, has your God you serve been able to rescue you from the lions?" Then Daniel spoke: "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths; and they haven't harmed me, because I was found innocent before God. And also before you, Your Majesty, I have done nothing wrong."

The king was so happy and ordered to take Daniel out of the den. When Daniel came out, he didn't have a scratch on him! The king commanded for the other advisors who accused Daniel to be thrown into the lions and they were not saved like Daniel was.

Then King Darius made a new law:

"I issue a decree that as long as I am king, people must fear the God of Daniel. For He is the living God and He endures forever;
His kingdom will never be destroyed and His dominion has no end.
He rescues and delivers;
He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth,
for He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

[Things to Point Out]

- Ask: Why do you think the other advisors wanted to get rid of Daniel?
 - They were jealous that the king liked him so much
 - They were worried he wouldn't like them as much
- Ask: Remember another story in the Bible where someone was jealous of how much a person was liked?
 - Cain was jealous how much God loved his brother Abel so he killed him
 - Jealousy leads to terrible things, but trust in God allows us to love others and rejoice when good things happen to them
- When Daniel heard that praying to God could get him killed, he went straight to praying!
 - Even if he was scared about being killed for praying to God, he knew the only place to go with his fear was God!
 - He trusted that God would be able to protect him
- Ask: When Daniel was thrown in the den of lions they put a huge stone in front to keep him there. What other story in the Bible tells of someone being closed up by a stone and left for dead?
 - Daniel was rescued from death and the stone was moved for him to come out of the lions den
 - Jesus is the Rescuer who shut up death like he shut the mouths of the lions - and he rolled away his own stone to come to life!

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

- **Prayer:**

Lord, help us to trust in You. We know You are in control of all things and all creatures. Thank You for being a God who rescues us! Amen.
- **Craft:**
 - Using paper plates, have the kids decorate and make lion faces. You can even attach string and cut out the eyes to turn them into masks.
 - Or use the *coloring page* attached
- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

 - **Sabbath:** One day all creatures will be able to rest in God's goodness! But you can take time this week to practice that rest with your family. Ask your family how you can rest this week.

