



For ages 5-7

IDEAS FOR A SESSION USING Daniel 6. Living differently.

These activities and more can be found on the web pages of Scripture Union LightLive. www.scriptureunion.org.uk/lightlive . Resources for Sunday and midweek groups.

Bible story idea 1: With mime and sound effects

Explain to the children about Daniels life so far, his exile and subsequent settling in the Kings Palace and the work he had to do.

In today's story they are going to hear about something very frightening that happened to Daniel. Choose four children to be the king, Daniel and two jealous officials. The rest will be lions (have a bit of practice roaring). Provide the king with a 'throne'. The Bible account is very straightforward, so it can be read straight from a childfriendly translation such as the Contemporary English Version, which is available online at www.biblegateway.com.

Read Daniel 6:1-5. Ask Daniel to mime doing his work while the other two men whisper to each other. Ask the children whether they have any ideas about what the two men are plotting. (*They want to get Daniel into trouble.*)

Read verses 6-9. (*The officials mime going to the king, who then mimes writing his law.*) Ask the children what they think Daniel should do now, and why.

Read verses 10 and 11. (*Daniel mimes praying, the two officials mime watching.*) Ask the children what they think will happen next.

Read verses 12-14. (*The officials mime going to the king; the king is thinking hard.*) Ask the children whether they think he will change his new law. Why not?

Read verses 15 and 16 (*ask the lions to roar*), then read verses 17 and 18. (*The king mimes lying down but he is not able to sleep, he keeps turning over.*) Ask the children what they think will happen. (*Ask the lions to roar again, then signal*



them to close their mouths.)

Read verses 19 and 20. (*The king mimes hurrying to the pit, where the lions are lying down quietly.*)

Read verses 21-23. (*Daniel comes out of the pit.*)

If you have time, read the story through again without stopping, with another four children playing the four roles.

3 Think about

Ask the children why Daniel was kept safe. Re-read verse 23b as a reminder. Ask the children what they think happened to the king. Read verses 25-27. Say that Daniel's faith and courage meant that the king believed in God too, and wanted everyone in the country to worship him.

4 Response

Discuss whether it was easy for Daniel to disobey the king's new law. Explain that in some countries today it is against the law to worship God. In some countries people have to decide whether to obey God or to obey their rulers; sometimes people are put in prison for worshipping God. (Make sure you do not frighten the children.) Reassure them that in most Western countries people are allowed to worship God and they are unlikely to have to make difficult choices like Daniel did. However, say that they may sometimes have to make difficult choices about how they should behave.

Say a prayer, asking God to help the children (and leaders!) to live for God as Daniel did.

Bible story idea 2

As radio news and phone-in

You will need:



- PDF script for broadcast and phone in (can be downloaded from AMD web page)
- Radio made out of a box
- Telephones x 2

1 Ask the children to imagine they live in Old Testament times (a few pictures of some of the more dramatic stories would help here, or use SU's Bible Timeline) to imagine that they are making a TV or radio programme - which story would they choose and why? Say that nowadays we hear about what is happening in our country and across the world by watching TV or listening to the radio. Daniel lived thousands of years before TV and radio were invented, but we are going to imagine how a radio programme about what happened to him might have sounded.

2. News broadcast

Use the script and read it as a TV reporter. Pause after each section to sum up. Ask the children what has happened, and what they think about the news.

3. Phone-in

Say that many TV and radio programmes have 'phone-ins' so that people can contact the presenters and give their opinions. Tell the children that they can phone in and say what they think about the story of Daniel or ask questions about it. Put one telephone in front of the children and explain that if they want to 'phone in' they must pick up the telephone and make a ringing sound. A leader should then pick up the other telephone and lead the conversation. Ask questions, such as: 'Why did Daniel keep praying to his God?' 'Why was he kept safe?' 'Why did the king send out his message?' and so on.

4. Prayer

Remind the children that we don't need a telephone to talk to God. He is always ready to listen to us, whether we want to say 'Thank you', ask questions or ask him for help. If you did 'Discussion' in the Switch on section, refer back to this and allow the children to ask God for help and perseverance with the things they find difficult.



Prayer walk.

You will need:

- PDF response for Prayer Walk (can be downloaded from AMD web page)

1. Read Daniel 6:26,27 and ask the children to guess who originally spoke the words. It wasn't Daniel, but King Darius, who learned about living for God when he was older.

2. Practise saying the words aloud in two parts. Walk with the children to two or three safe places around your church building or meeting place, and say the prayer aloud. Encourage the children to say this prayer (or their own prayers), asking God to help your church members of all ages to keep living for God.

Craft:

You will need:

- Mobile PDF of Daniel and Lions (can be downloaded from AMD website)
- Crayons or felt tips
- Scissors
- Sticks 2 per child
- String

1. Allow the children to colour and cut out the attached pictures of Daniel and the lions. Follow the instructions to make the mobile.

2. Ask the children to stand in a circle holding their mobiles. Go round the circle asking each child what they have learnt from today's story. Suggest they hang their mobiles in their bedrooms. Whenever they find things difficult they should look at their mobile and remember that Daniel dared to live for God, even though it wasn't easy.



Game

1 Play a short game of 'Simon says'.

2 Ask the children to sit down. Talk about the things their parents and teachers ask them to do. Do they always obey? What would they do if someone asked them to do something they knew was wrong?

3 Play 'Simon says' again. Encourage the children to mime the 'good' instructions but keep still for the 'bad' instructions

Suggestions:

Good and bad instructions for 'Game'

- Tidy up your toys.
- Get ready for bed.
- Say this bad word.
- Listen to the teacher.
- Run across the road.
- Listen to this rude joke.
- Come and lay the table.
- Put your coats on.
- Pull the girl's hair.
- Make faces at the boys in church.
- Brush your teeth.
- Steal some sweets from the shop.
- Say your prayers.
- Throw your crisp packet on the ground.
- Put your rubbish in the bin.
- Wash your hands.
- Throw stones at the cat.
- Do your homework.
- Laugh at the old lady.
- Put your pencils down.

4. Explain that in today's story Daniel is told to do something he knows is wrong.



Scoring game

1 Give out pens and paper and invite each child to make ten small scorecards, one for each of the numbers zero to nine.

2 Mention some things they might be asked to do: sums, swimming, praying, doing what they're told. Ask them to hold up a score on how difficult it is: zero is 'easy-peasy' and ten is 'impossibly difficult'. Use their scores to chat about why some things are difficult.

3 Explain that they can't all be brilliant at sums or football, but that God will always help them to do the things he wants.

Thank you song

1 Ask the children to call out places they go during a typical day. Ask who is there with them. To the tune of 'Frère Jacques', sing the following, changing the first line according to the children's suggestions:

When I'm at school, when I'm at school (...in bed ...playing ...frightened)

You're there too. You're there too.

You are always with me. You are always with me.

Thank you God. Thank you God.

2 Say that today they will find that God was with Daniel in a very strange place.

Extra idea

Daniel and the lions' is on the Friends and Heroes DVD, Series 1, Episode 1 *Long Journey*.