



8-10's

Living differently. Based on Daniel 6

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.

Inspirational charades and Daniel drama

You will need:

- PDF Cards for Inspirational charades and Daniel drama 8-10's pdf;
- PDF : Bible text for Daniel drama and prayer walk 8-10's pdf;

1 Inspired people

Give out the character cards , or invite children to represent Simon Peter, Joseph (Old Testament), Jesus, David, Mary, Moses, Paul and Noah. Challenge them to arrange themselves in a line in chronological order: Noah, Joseph, Moses, David, Mary, Jesus, Simon Peter and Paul. They could use the *Bible Timeline* (or a timeline at the back of most Bibles) to do this. Now invite a child to be Daniel and to put themselves in the right place (between David and Mary).

If time allows, encourage each child to refer to the *Bible Timeline* or the character card and say, 'With God's help, I...' followed by something that their character was inspired to do for God.

(In a small group, sort the cards into chronological order, then place the Daniel card in the correct place.)

Explain that these people lived at different times, but they were all inspired to live for God and faced different challenges.

2 Daniel's challenge

Depending on the size of your group, either stay together to act out the events of Daniel 6 or split into smaller groups, taking one or more 'acts' each, with the



appropriate section of the chapter (see the Bible text attached). Invite the children to choose whether to have speaking parts or to mime while a narrator reads the text.

Act 1 (verses 1-3) The loyal servant

Act 2 (verses 4-9) The enemies

Act 3 (verses 10-14) The king

Act 4 (verses 15-18) The lions

Act 5 (verses 19-24) The end

Give the children time to practise, then encourage them to perform the drama(s), one after the other.

Afterwards, compliment the children on their acting and ask what inspired them to 'perform'. Invite them to suggest what inspired Daniel to serve the king so faithfully - and then what inspired him to put God first, above the king's demands. Say that Daniel's example, in the end, inspired King Darius to live for God, and to call on everyone else in his kingdom to do the same!

Facing the challenge

Discuss with the children situations they face when they find it difficult to live for God. Make it clear that this will be different for each person. This could be a place, such as school, or a situation, such as with a certain group of friends, or it could be because of something that has happened, such as being picked on.

Encourage the children to choose one of these situations to act out in pairs or threes, including a character being inspired to live for God. If this raises issues for some children, make time to listen to them and be ready to pray if the child chooses. (Remember that another adult should always be in the room. Follow the best practice procedures of your church or organisation.)

If children in your group aren't aware of challenges at the moment, chat about what is most helpful to them in living for God, and act out ways that they could help other children who are facing challenges.



Bible chat.

You will need:

- Bibles
- Multiple choice questions
- Inspiration! Sheet for each child
- Crayons/felt tips in appropriate colours.

1 Who was Daniel?

Introduce the Bible setting of Daniel with these multiple choice questions:

1 Daniel lived...

- a before Jesus.
- b after Jesus.
- c at the same time as Jesus.

(Answer a - more than 500 years before.)

2 Daniel was living in...

- a Israel.
- b Babylon.
- c Rome.

(Answer b.)

3 Daniel heard about God...

- a as a boy.
- b as a young man.
- c when he was an old man.

(Answer a - he was born in a Jewish family, and always knew about God.)

4 Daniel's people were in Babylon...

- a on holiday.



b for trade.

c because the Babylonians had taken them prisoner.

(Answer c - about 60 years earlier, the Babylonians invaded the small country of Judah and took the people back to Babylon.)

2 Inspired life! Introduce the main characters in Daniel 6 - Daniel, King Darius and the unnamed 'other officials'. Explain that Daniel is now an old man, and has been listening to God in the foreign land of Babylon for about 50 years. Like other Jews, he is praying for a return to their own country, but God hasn't answered this prayer yet. Meanwhile, Daniel works for the royal court. There is a new king, and Daniel is about to get some enemies. Invite a good reader to read Daniel 6:1-5.

Explain that the children are going to think about these characters, and whether their actions show that they were living for God, even when things were difficult.

Using the sheet entitled Inspiration! At the end of this document encourage the children, in pairs, to read each part of the story and colour in the star next to each statement, to show how much they think the main characters were living for God. (If most children need help with reading, do this together.) They may want to look at Daniel 6 for more detail.

Have a discussion with the children about what inspired Daniel to keep going. Here are listening to God, talking to God, knowing God etc, but encourage children to add their own suggestions.

3 Our inspiration

Encourage the children to answer the 'following: What inspires you to start a new challenge or activity; to keep going when things are tough; to continue when you don't see results? Talk especially about the things that inspire you to keep going,

Invite children to suggest areas or countries where Christians are in danger for believing in Jesus. Pray for them and challenge the group to find out more for next



Extra ideas

Christian biographies.

Read a short simple biography of a missionary who has lived for God in difficult circumstances, such as Gladys Aylward, Jackie Pullinger, Mother Teresa, George Müller, Jim Elliot.

You could use True Adventures by Anne Adeney (ISBN 9781859992692) - a book with ten inspirational short stories about the true adventures of real-life Christians. Available from www.scriptureunion.org.uk/shop

Craft/Prayer response:

Lion's den

You will need:

- Lion template for Lions den 8-10'spdf per child
- Scissors
- Pens

1 Encourage the children to think about places or situations when it isn't easy to live for God. Encourage them to write each of these on a lion shape, cut it out and place it on the floor to form a den of lions.

2 Give each child a person shape and invite them to write their name on it, cut it out and place it in the 'den'.

3 Read some of the words written on the lions. Say that Daniel's life was full of prayer, even when facing lions. Help the children to pray for each other to live for God in their everyday situations. As the children pray, turn the lions around, facing away from the 'people'.



Learn and remember

‘He supplies / the needs / of those who honour him; / he hears / their cries / and saves them.’ / Psalm 145:19

Write the verse in sections (as above) on seven large sheets of card. Display them at random around the room. Read the verse slowly, and invite the children to run from one section to the next. Repeat. Finally, challenge the children to collect all the sections and rearrange them in order. Talk about how this verse was true for Daniel.

Open worship

1 In advance, cut letters of the alphabet from coloured paper, or cut out the letters from attachment below.

2 Challenge the children to think of words to describe God. You could write these on a flip chart. Invite each child to choose a different word from the list. Encourage them to spell it from the cut-out letters and then make a poster by gluing the letters onto a large sheet of coloured paper. Display your words and read them aloud together.

3 Explain that Daniel also knew these things about God - and it inspired him to worship God. Together, choose something to do to worship God in response to the words.

Prayer walk

You will need:

- Response for Prayer walk ages 8-10 pdf available from AMD web page
- Bibles



1 Read Daniel 6:26,27 and challenge 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, as shown pdf. 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.

INSPIRATION!

Read each of the Bible verses and decide how much each person was inspired by God to do what they did. Colour your score in the star next to each one.



Uninspired



you're learning



well inspired



expired (dead)

- ★ Daniel prays three times every day (v 10).
- ★ The new king, Darius, gets officers to help him rule the country (vs 1,2).
- ★ Daniel works so well that he becomes THE chief officer (like a prime minister) (v 3).
- ★ The other officers are jealous of Daniel and try to get rid of him (vs 4,5).
- ★ The other officers get Darius to sign a law that everyone should worship Darius (they really want to get Daniel into trouble) (vs 6-8).
- ★ Darius agrees to sign the law (v 9).
- ★ Daniel hears about the law and still prays at his window (v 10).
- ★ The other officers tell Darius about Daniel (vs 11-13).
- ★ Darius tries to find a way to save Daniel (v 14).
- ★ Darius can't find a way - his laws can't be changed (v 15).
- ★ Darius prays for Daniel (v 16).
- ★ Daniel spends the whole night in the pit where the lions are kept (vs 17,18).
- ★ Daniel explains that God has kept him safe (vs 21-23).
- ★ Darius orders the other officers to be thrown into the pit. The lions kill them (v 24).
- ★ Darius commands everyone to worship Daniel's God (vs 25-28).



