

Bible background

Daniel 6

Aim of lesson

To show that God saves those who pray to him, and to teach the children not to be jealous.

Preparation required

If the class have been making the frieze and/or booklets - see lesson 111 - you will need materials to continue.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Remind the class of Daniel and what happened to him so far by looking at the frieze or the booklets.
2. Tell how Daniel had now become a most important official (helper) of the king, and the other officials were jealous. Use this opportunity to teach the children that it is wrong to be cross and jealous when someone else gets something good.
3. Using the three pictures tell about the plot against Daniel, and all that happened as a result. Bring out that Daniel knew it was important to keep on praying to God.
4. After you have finished the story the scene in the lions' den could be acted out. Ask most of the children to be roaring lions on their hands and knees. Have one child as Daniel thrown in and another as an angel who taps each of the lions to let them know that they have to keep their mouths closed. Use this to lead into questions about why Daniel was there, what happened in the morning, and why God had saved Daniel.
5. Teach the last verse of the song 'He's Got The Whole World'.
6. Ask the children to complete the frieze and/or booklets. They can now take the booklets home.

Alternative activities

1. Make lion masks from paper plates or circles of stiff card. Wool or sugar paper curled with a ruler makes a good mane. Attach a piece of thin dowel or very strong card so the mask can be held up in front of the face. Young children often find this type of mask less intimidating than those which fit close to the face with elastic.
2. Make collage lions with textured paper, wool or dried pasta (you'll need strong glue for this) or sponge print them and use finger/hand prints for their manes.
3. Make a lions' den and act out the story. Depending on the space you have available you could: a) use a box, Lego or Plasticine with toy or Plasticine lions and figures, or b) make a den under a table using blankets. The children have lion masks (see first suggestion)

Relevance to the children's lives

To encourage the class to pray to God. Ask the children about their prayers. When do they pray? What do they say? Do they sometimes forget? It may be helpful to tell them about your prayers, perhaps your prayers for them.

Prayer

See if your class can all remember to pray each day this week. (Remember to ask them if they have done so next week.)

Verse

'Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed.' Daniel 6:10.

Song

He's Got The Whole World (Continued from Lesson 113)

- v.7 He's got the roaring lions in his hands (three times)
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- Chorus: He's got the whole world in his hands (four times)

Music and Chorus: Traditional.