



LESSON 46

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Faithfulness to God.

Bible Character: Daniel

Scripture Reference: Daniel 6



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read Daniel 6. As you read, notice Daniel's faithfulness throughout his life. He was characterized by integrity. Daniel 6:5 says, "So they concluded, 'Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion.'" Take time to reflect on every part of your life and see if you are characterized by faithfulness and integrity. Do you stay faithful to God no matter what? Is your faith in God known by those around you? Does your integrity and character change in different environments? Do you model the love of Christ in every situation?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Water Ripples

Supplies:

Large bowl (1 per bin)

Pitcher or bottle of water (1 per bin)

Small rock (1 per bin)

Before campers arrive, pour some water in a bowl. When class begins have the campers gather around and look at how still the water is. Drop the small pebble in. Point out the ripple effect and how one stone can make a big difference. We will expand on this later in the lesson.

Daniel Word Search

Supplies:

Worksheet – word search side (1 per bin)

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Revised: 4/24

Have campers complete the word search.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will continue studying the book of Daniel. We will look at the faithfulness and steadfastness that characterized Daniel's life. We will also see how God protected Daniel. Even though God did not take Daniel out of the lion's den, He protected him through it.



SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What happened to all of the hikers? (One followed the map and found the trail; two did not follow the map and got lost.) **What did they learn that you can apply to your life?** (Following our map in life, God's Word, is the right thing to do even if we're alone; faithfulness in following God could make others come to know Him.)

Last week, whom did we learn about? (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.) **They were taken to live under King Nebuchadnezzar's authority in the empire of Babylon. Did they obey all of the King's commands at first?** (Yes, they respected him and obeyed his commands.) **When did they not obey the king?** (When he asked them to worship a golden statue. They refused to turn from worshipping God, knowing it could get them killed) **What happened when they refused to bow to the statue?** (King Nebuchadnezzar ordered them to be thrown into a fiery furnace, but God saved them from death.) **They trusted in God's plan for them, even if it meant dying. King Nebuchadnezzar then praised God. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had the choice to trust in God's plan for each of them. We also have the choice of whether we will trust God with our life or not. We can trust that God knows what is best for us because He is sovereign, and His plan is for the best.**

Today, we are going to read about Daniel. Daniel was faithful to God, following Him no matter what. He worked hard at everything he did, and was known for being honest and trustworthy.

Let's begin by reading the Bible in Daniel 6 [NLT].

Daniel 6:3-6

3 Daniel soon proved himself more capable than all the other administrators and high officers. Because of Daniel's great ability, the king made plans to place him over the entire empire.

4 Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. 5 So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."

6 So the administrators and high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! 7 We are all in agreement—we administrators, officials, high officers, advisers, and governors—that the king should make a law that will be strictly enforced. Give orders that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions."

Character Counts



The purpose is to see how Daniel showed integrity and faithfulness to God throughout his life.

Supplies:

Bucket labeled "Daniel" (1 per bin)

Bucket labeled "Others" (1 per bin)

Character cards (2 sets per bin)

Divide the campers into two teams. Have each team line up (single file) at one end of the room with the buckets at the other end of the room. Each team gets a set of cards. The first person from each team picks up the top card and decides if it should go in the "Daniel" bucket or the "Others" bucket. They drop the card in the bucket, tag the next person in line, and go to the end of their line. The first team with all the cards in the correct buckets wins. Read through the character traits of Daniel before moving on. (Teachers, please clip cards back into two sets when activity is over.)

Tie It Together



Daniel was a man of strong character. He was faithful to God in everything he did. He believed in and trusted God. The men who were jealous of Daniel's job could not find anything wrong with him. Can people that know you find things that are wrong about you? Should you try to be faithful to God all the time or only when you are at church? Do you try to follow God's commandments all the time, even when it is hard, or do you only follow them when it is good or easy for you? (Allow responses.)

King Darius has made a law that forces Daniel to make a choice: he can either start praying to King Darius to save himself from death, or he can continue to pray to and worship the one true God. Can you remember in our last lesson when we talked about having to make a decision? (Allow responses.) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had to make a decision to continue worshiping God or choose to save themselves by worshiping the gold statue King Nebuchadnezzar created. They continued

worshiping God, and were thrown into a fiery furnace, but God saved them from death. Their choice caused King Nebuchadnezzar to praise their God, the one true God.

Let's continue reading the Bible to see what choice Daniel makes.

Daniel 6:10-17

10 But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. 11 Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. 12 So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. "Did you not sign a law that for the next thirty days any person who prays to anyone, divine or human—except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions?"

"Yes," the king replied, "that decision stands; it is an official law of the Medes and Persians that cannot be revoked."

13 Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

14 Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel. He spent the rest of the day looking for a way to get Daniel out of this predicament.

15 In the evening the men went together to the king and said, "Your Majesty, you know that according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, no law that the king signs can be changed."

16 So at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."

17 A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den. The king sealed the stone with his own royal seal and the seals of his nobles, so that no one could rescue Daniel.

Daniel chose not to change! He continued to stay faithful to God and worship Him through prayer, even though he knew he would be thrown into the lion's den. Have you ever had to make a choice to stay faithful to God or change your ways to do what someone else wanted? What did you do? (Allow responses.)

God saved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they faced death. What do you think will happen to Daniel? Do you think God will show up and save Daniel, just like He did for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible to find out.

Daniel 6:18-23

18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night fasting. He refused his usual entertainment and couldn't sleep at all that night.

19 Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den. 20 When he got there, he called out in anguish, "Daniel, servant of the living God! Was your God, whom you serve so faithfully, able to rescue you from the lions?"

21 Daniel answered, "Long live the king! 22 My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

23 The king was overjoyed and ordered that Daniel be lifted from the den. Not a scratch was found on him, for he had trusted in his God.

Protection During the Storm



The purpose is to see how God may not remove us from the trial, but protect us through it.

Supplies:

Umbrella (1 per bin)

Pieces of scrap paper (1 per camper)

Give each camper a piece of scrap paper to crumple up into a ball. Have the campers throw the paper balls in the air above the umbrella and show how the umbrella shelters anything underneath it. Then, choose one camper to stand in a corner, using the umbrella as a shield and let the other campers try to hit that camper with their paper balls. Allow other campers a turn.

Tie It Together



What was the purpose of the umbrella? (Allow responses.) It protected anything under it from being hit with the paper crumbles. What does an umbrella do for us in rainy weather? (Allow responses.) When we go out in the rain, the umbrella protects us from getting wet. We still have to be out in the rain, but we do not get wet. Daniel had to go into the lion's den. God did not take him out of the den, but He did protect Daniel from the lions. Sometimes we have to be in a difficult situation. God does not take us out of the situation, but He does protect us just like the umbrella protects us from getting wet. We can follow God's commandments and trust that God will protect us, even if we find ourselves in a "lion's den" or a hard situation.

Our Protection



The purpose is to remind us that God is our protector.

Supplies:

Worksheet – umbrella side (1 per camper)

Markers

Have campers turn to the umbrella side of their worksheets. Ask them to draw a picture of themselves under the umbrella. Then ask them to write or draw pictures of hard things they might face in the raindrops above the umbrella. (Ex: afraid of the dark, thunderstorm, loneliness, a bully,

parents fighting, sickness, feeling left out, being treated unfairly, afraid to try something new, etc.)

Tie It Together



The Bible tells us to trust God always. He is our protector. The Bible says in Psalm 91:2, “He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him,” and in Psalm 121:7-8, “The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.” We can trust God because He protects us and keeps us safe. His Word tells us He will always watch over us. Since we can trust God and His word, we know He will never leave us and we can obey His commandments. Daniel trusted God just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did. Daniel was faithful and followed God’s commandments, even though he knew he would be put in the lion’s den.

God saved Daniel from the lion’s den. How do you think everyone reacted when they found out that Daniel was not eaten by the lions? (Allow responses.) God used Daniel’s faithfulness to help others.

Let’s keep reading the Bible and see how God used Daniel.

Daniel 6:25-28

25 Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world:

“Peace and prosperity to you!

26 “I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.

*For he is the living God,
and he will endure forever.*

*His kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his rule will never end.*

*27 He rescues and saves his people;
he performs miraculous signs and wonders
in the heavens and on earth.*

*He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions.”*

28 So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Water Ripple



The purpose is to see that how we live our lives affects others around us.

Supplies:

Large bowl (1 per bin)

Pitcher or bottle of water (1 per bin)

Small rock (1 per bin)

Review the plug in activity with the campers. Have the campers gather around and look at how still the water is. Drop the small pebble in. Point out the ripple effect and how one stone can make a big difference illustrating how Daniels' faithfulness to continue praying impacted others.

Tie It Together



Daniel was faithful to continue praying to God even when he was faced with death. Daniel's faithfulness to continue praying impacted others. Because of his faithfulness, God's power and protection was seen by others and God was given praise and honor. Daniel was just one person, but his life impacted a lot of other people. You can impact other people as well. The way you act and behave will affect those around you. When you love others the way God loves you, it will change their lives. God can use you to love and show Himself to others. He can use us when we are faithful to Him.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help us stay faithful to Him no matter what hard situations we face. Ask God to use each camper's life to bring others to Jesus.



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