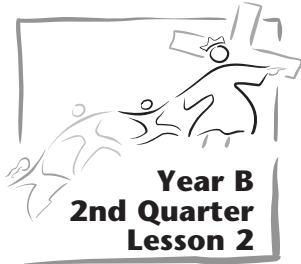


LESSON



Daniel and the Lions

WORSHIP

We worship the Creator.

References

Daniel 6:1-23; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 539-548.

Memory Verse

"[Daniel] went to his room three times a day to pray" (Daniel 6:10, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that God wants them to talk to Him.

Feel confident that God listens to their prayers.

Respond by praying every day.

The Message



I can talk to God every day.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Darius, the king, commands that people may not worship anyone except himself. Anyone who does will be thrown into a den of lions. But Daniel continues to pray to God three times a day. Daniel is thrown into the lions' den. But the lions don't hurt him because God protects him.

This is a lesson about worship.

Daniel knew how necessary it was to talk to God each day. It was so important to him that he wasn't willing to sacrifice

this time with God even if it meant certain death. Talking with God was not only a way to worship God, but it was also a lifeline for Daniel. Daily communication with the Father not only enables us to share our troubles with God, but it also allows God to speak wisdom, instruction, and comfort to our minds.

Teacher Enrichment

"With calmness [Daniel] performed his duties as chief of the princes; and at the hour of prayer he went to his cham-

TWO



ber, and with his windows open toward Jerusalem, in accordance with his usual custom, he offered his petition to the God of heaven. . . . Thus the prophet boldly yet quietly and humbly declared that no earthly power has a right to interpose between the soul and God. Surrounded by idolaters, he was a faithful witness to this truth" (*Prophets and Kings*, pp. 541, 542).

"For an entire day the princes watched Daniel. Three times they saw him go to his chamber, and three times they heard his voice lifted in earnest intercession to God" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 542).

"Daniel's house probably had a flat roof, like the majority of both ancient and modern houses in Mesopotamia. Usually on one corner there is an apartment raised above the flat roof that contains latticed windows for ventilation" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 812).

Room Organization

This program is designed for a traditional beginner setting.

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Book Basket</i> B. <i>Animal Corner</i> C. <i>Peekaboo Basket</i> D. <i>Zoo Corner</i> E. <i>Rocking Chair</i> F. <i>Puzzles</i> G. <i>Basket of Lions</i> H. <i>Lion Kids</i>	board books about animals, especially lions toy stuffed animals hand towel, play objects blocks, zoo sets, plastic animals adult-sized rocking chair lion picture puzzles toy stuffed and/or plastic lions lion's roar recording (optional)
3 Getting Started	up to 10	A. Welcome B. Prayer Time C. Visitors D. Offering E. Birthdays	wooden sticks or rhythm sticks lion-shaped or lion-decorated offering container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	A. <i>Memory Verse</i> B. <i>God's Friend</i> C. <i>Window Prayer</i> D. <i>Daniel Worked for Jesus</i> E. <i>Daniel Prayed</i> F. <i>Daniel Prayed Again</i> G. <i>A Bad Law</i> H. <i>Daniel Prayed</i> I. <i>Daniel Prays for Protection</i> J. <i>Daniel Is Trapped</i> K. <i>Thrown to the Lions</i> L. <i>God Sends Angels</i> M. <i>Daniel Prayed</i> N. <i>We Pray</i> O. <i>Jesus Sends the Angels</i> P. <i>Thank You, God</i>	felt or cardboard "Bibles" rhythm sticks or bells cardboard box, table felt board, pictures or felts of children, picture of Jesus felt lions and felt board or stuffed toy or plastic lions felt or mitt or stick angels felt lions, felt Daniel felt or other angels toys, paper plate steering wheels, pillows or blankets felt or other angels

5	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1		<i>Lion Mask</i>	paper plates, yellow paper or fabric; glue, scissors, elastic (optional), stapler (optional)
	Week 2		<i>Angel Sticks</i>	reproducible angel pattern (see p. 70), card stock or heavy paper, glitter glue (optional), glue or stapler, craft sticks, scissors
	Week 3		<i>Praying Hands Book</i>	paper, crayons, stapler, stickers of things for which to thank God
	Week 4		<i>Toilet Paper Roll Lion</i>	toilet paper or paper towel tubes; yellow cloth, paper, or crayons; heavy paper; reproducible lion pattern (see p. 71); yellow yarn; glue
	Week 5 (Optional)		<i>Lunch-sack Lion Puppet</i>	lunch-size paper sacks, reproducible lion pattern (see p. 72), glue sticks, scissors
	Snack Center* (Optional)		<i>Lion's Face Crackers</i>	napkins, large round crackers, peanut butter, pretzel sticks, raisins, sealable plastic bags (optional)

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Reflect on this quotation for a moment. Then share your thoughts on it. "The power of a mother's prayers

cannot be too highly estimated. She who kneels beside her son and daughter through the vicissitudes of childhood, through the perils of youth, will never know till the judgment the influence of her prayers upon the life of her children" (*The Adventist Home*, p. 266).

Week 2

A little Russian girl was in Sabbath School one morning. In talking about what God has done, the children said that they were thankful for flowers, clothes, shoes, etc. The Sabbath School leader asked who would like to pray, and the 4-year-old volunteered. "Dear God," she prayed, "please take good care of

Yourself. If anything happens to You, what are we going to do?"

Aren't you glad that we never have to worry about that? Share a sweet little prayer your child may have prayed. How did their faith affect you?

Week 3

"Mama, can we have a sandbox?"

Three-year-old David had just been playing at his friend's house, and the favorite activity was digging in the sandbox.

"I'm sorry, honey, but we can't have a sandbox in an apartment," I explained. "You need a yard for that."

Not to be discouraged, he said, "Then I'll ask Jesus for a yard!" How I wished that we *could* have a yard, but there were simply no houses in our area within our price range.

That night we read stories and had prayer. I started to turn off the light, and David said, "Mama, we forgot to pray for a yard!" So out of bed he hopped. "Dear Jesus, please send us a yard so we can have a sandbox. Amen!"

We tucked him in, and I went to answer the ringing telephone. It was a person I occasionally worked for, checking on a project. Then to my utter amazement he asked, "Say, do you know of anyone who'd like to rent a house?" It was just right for us, within our budget, and with a perfect place for a sandbox! Never take for granted the faith of your child!

As parents, how can we encourage childlike faith when logic defies it?

Week 4

I've prayed this same prayer for years now. It is taped to the inside of my medicine cabinet, so I see it every morning and every evening: "Lord, teach me to do my best. Teach me how to do better work. Give me energy and cheerfulness" (*Child Guidance*, p. 148).

I want to do my very best in raising my children. I worry that I'm not disci-

plining them enough, being too protective, not being protective enough, and on and on. If only I had those two things, energy and cheerfulness, I could get lots done at home and play with my kids without falling asleep on the floor while playing with toy cars and trucks. I would be cheerful all the time!

What are the prayers that you've prayed again and again? How has God answered them?

Week 5 (or optional)

One night at our worship my almost 3-year-old prayed such a sweet prayer: "Dear Jesus, I love You, Jesus! Thank You for Mama and Daddy and my baby brother. You come over to my house a-morrow, OK, Jesus?"

My heart was touched that my precious son considered Jesus his friend and wanted Him to come over tomorrow. I thought about that a lot. "Yes, Jesus, You come on over, OK?"

Share your thoughts on Jesus's coming over to your house. Share a time when your child's prayer brought you closer to Jesus.

Any Week (optional)

"Let mothers come to Jesus with their perplexities. They will find grace sufficient to aid them in the management of their children. The gates are open for every mother who would lay her burdens at the Saviour's feet. He who said, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not,' still invites the mothers to lead up their little ones to be blessed by Him. Even the babe in its mother's arms may dwell as under the shadow of the Almighty through the faith of the praying mother. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his birth. If we will live in communion with God, we too may expect the divine Spirit to mold our little ones, even from their earliest moments" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 512).

What does “live in communion with God” mean to you personally? How can

we encourage one another to live in communion with God?

2 ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities for the early children on the carpet or on a blanket, sheet, or quilt inside the semicircle. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child’s play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children’s ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about animals.

B. Animal Corner

Provide toy stuffed animals (including lions and some that make noises) and soft sculptured objects for children to hold.

C. Peekaboo Basket

Make available a basket that includes a hand towel and play objects (a block, ball, rattle, stuffed animal, etc.). Parents hide an object under the towel. The children will enjoy playing peekaboo to find something that God has made as the parent says this rhyme:

Peekaboo!
Let’s see who
Finds a (name of object)

God made for you. (*Child picks up the object.*)

(Name) did! (*Hug child. Affirm child.*)

D. Zoo Corner

Provide blocks or other “building” play sets for children to build a zoo and play with the (toy) animals that God made.

E. Rocking Chair

Provide an adult-sized rocking chair so children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities can be rocked by a parent.

F. Puzzles

Cut out pictures of lions from magazines, mount them on foam core or cardboard and laminate them. Cut the pictures in half, and place them on a table or quilt so children can match the two halves of the pictures.

G. Basket of Lions

Have a basket full of toy stuffed, plastic, felt, paper, etc., lions. Encourage the children to count the lions while taking them out of the basket and putting them back in.

H. Lion Kids

Encourage children and parents to get on hands and knees and pretend to be lions. If possible, play a recording of a lion’s roar.

3

GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- wooden sticks or rhythm sticks

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today. Sabbath is a special day. We see many friends at church on Sabbath. Let's greet each other in a special way to say good morning.**

Greet each child with a smile and handshake as you sing the welcome song. Sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 1).

Good morning, Good morning, Good morning we say;
We're happy, so happy to see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Sabbath School is a special place to be every Sabbath morning. You can make your sticks sound like the tick-tock of a clock as we sing.**

Distribute the sticks for the children to tap together as you sing together "Tick-tock Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 2).

This is what the clock says,
Tick-tock, tick-tock,
This is what the clock says,
Tick-tock, tick-tock,
This is what the clock says,
Tick-tock, tick-tock,
Come to Sabbath school at half past nine o'clock.

—Clara Lee Parker

B. Prayer Time

Say: **When we pray, we are talking to Jesus. Jesus loves to hear us talk to Him. He wants us to talk to Him often during the day.**

Prepare for prayer by singing "Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 18).

Listen, little children, quiet as can be.
Can you kneel, fold your hands,
Close your eyes, and pray with me?

—Norma June Bell

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As a response, sing "Thank You for Hearing Our Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 20).

Thank You, God,
Thank You, God,
Thank You for hearing our prayer.
Amen.

—Janet Sage

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C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor individually, and then sing the following words to "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 5).

I'm glad you came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad you came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad you came to Sabbath school,
On this bright Sabbath morning.

—Edith Smith Casebeer. Adapted.

D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ lion-shaped offering container or one decorated to look like a lion

Say: **The money we bring to Sabbath School goes to help other children learn about Jesus and how much He loves them.**

Children may bring their offerings and place them in the des-

ignated offering container while you sing "Hear the Money Dropping" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 31).

Hear the money dropping!
Listen while it falls;
Ev'ry piece for Jesus,
He will get it all.
Dropping, dropping,
dropping, dropping;
Hear the money fall!
Ev'ry piece for Jesus,
He will get it all.

—William J. Kirkpatrick

Say: **Thank you for bringing your offering to Jesus. Close your eyes now while we ask Jesus to bless the money.**

Pray a simple prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, this money is for You. We want others to know about Your love. Amen.**

E. Birthdays

Say: **Someone has had a birthday. Who has had a birthday?**

Lead the birthday child to a special birthday chair. Light the birthday candles as you lead in singing the following words to "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 37).

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift (optional)

Mary* has a birthday, we're so glad.
Let us count how many she* has had.
As we count the money we are told
[count]
Yes, the money says she's* two* years old.

—Johnie B. Wood. Adapted.

*Insert name, appropriate pronoun, and age of child.

While the candles are still lit, sing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 38).

Just five* years old today,
Just five* years old today,
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
Edna's* five* years old today.
—C. Harold Lowden

*Insert child's age and name

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Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Say: **Jesus loves you so much; we want to thank Him for making you.** Say a special prayer for this child. If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ felt or cardboard "Bibles"

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Give each child a small "Bible." **Let's look inside our Bible as we sing.**

Sing "The Bible Is God's Word to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 52).

The Bible is God's Word to me.
The Bible says that God loves me.

—Enid G. Thorson

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Say: **Daniel loved God very much. Because he loved God so much, Daniel wanted to talk to God a lot. Daniel talked to God three times a day. And that's our memory verse for today.**

Sing "Daniel Prayed" (see music on p. 73). Sing several times to teach the children the song and the motions.

Daniel went to his room
three times a day to pray.

—René Alexenko Evans

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Daniel went

Index finger points away from the body.

to his room

Place the palm of one hand against the back of the other with thumbs up; then open out (like doors opening).

three times a day

Hold up three fingers.

to pray.

Palms together, as if praying.

B. God's Friend

You Need:

- ☐ rhythm sticks or bells

Say: **Our Bible story today is about a man named Daniel. Daniel was God's friend. We talk to our friends**

every day. Daniel talked to God every day. Talking to God is called praying. Daniel prayed every day. Let's sing a song about praying.

Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 233, first and second verses).

Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon,
Whisper a prayer in the evening
To keep your heart in tune.

God answers prayer in the morning,
God answers prayer at noon,
God answers prayer in the evening
To keep your heart in tune.

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C. Window Prayer

You Need:

- ☐ cardboard box with the bottom cut so flaps can open out
- ☐ table

Set the box on the table so it resembles a window and so you can open and close the flaps.

Say: **Daniel prayed when he got up in the morning. He prayed in the middle of the**

day at lunchtime. He prayed in the evening before he went to bed. Every time Daniel prayed, he went to his window. He opened his window and knelt down before he prayed.

Invite the children to take turns coming to the "window" and kneeling down while you open the flaps. During this activity, sing the following words to the tune of "I Will Pray" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 229).

Daniel prayed to Jesus,
Morning, noon and night;
Daniel prayed to Jesus,
Morning, noon and night.

—Dorothy Robison. Adapted.

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D. Daniel Worked for Jesus

You Need:

- ☐ felt board
- ☐ pictures of children (either felt, cut from magazines, or photos of children in your class)
- ☐ picture of Jesus

Say: **Daniel didn't live in his own country. He had been taken far away from home. He worked for the king of that country. Daniel asked Jesus to be with him in that faraway country. Daniel asked Jesus to help him to be a good worker. He worked very hard.**

Place the picture of Jesus on the felt board. Give each child either a photograph of himself or a felt child or a magazine picture of a child to bring and put on the board while you sing "I Give Myself to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 192).

I give myself to Jesus,
I want to be like Him.
I give myself to Jesus,
I want to work for Him.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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E. Daniel Prayed

Ask: **How many times a day did Daniel pray? Yes, three!** Sing the memory verse song, "Daniel Prayed" (see page 73), using the motions.

Daniel went to his room
three times a day to pray.

—René Alexenko Evans

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Daniel went

Index finger points away from the body.



to his room

Place the palm of one hand against the back of the other with thumbs up; then open out (like doors opening).



three times a day

Hold up three fingers.



to pray.

Palms together, as if praying.



F. Daniel Prayed Again

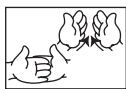
Say: **Not all of the people in that country liked Daniel. They weren't happy that Daniel worked harder for their king than they did. They weren't happy that the king liked Daniel more than he liked them. What do you think Daniel did when he found out these bad men didn't like him? He talked to God. Yes! Daniel prayed!** Sing again the memory verse song, "Daniel Prayed," using the motions.

Daniel went to his room
three times a day to pray.
—René Alexenko Evans

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Daniel went *Index finger points away from the body.*



to his room *Place the palm of one hand against the back of the other with thumbs up; then open out (like doors opening).*



three times a day *Hold up three fingers.*



to pray. *Palms together, as if praying.*

G. A Bad Law

You Need:

- ☐ felt lions
- ☐ felt board

(Option: Use toy stuffed, plastic, or other available lions.)
Say: **The bad men knew that Daniel prayed to God three times a day. They had seen him at his window. They knew that nothing would make him stop praying to God. They wanted to hurt**

Daniel, so they asked the king to make a law that said no one could pray to anyone except the king. If anyone prayed to anyone except the king, he would be thrown into the lions' den.

Distribute the felt lions to the children. Ask them to bring them to the board while you sing the following words to the tune of "God, You Are So Great and Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 204).

God, You are so great and good,
great and good,
great and good.
God, You are so great and good!
How much we love you.

—Noelene Johnsson

H. Daniel Prayed

Ask: **What do you think Daniel did when he heard about the new law? Yes! He prayed!** Sing the memory verse song, "Daniel Prayed," using the motions.

Daniel went to his room
three times a day to pray.
—René Alexenko Evans

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Daniel went *Index finger points away from the body.*

to his room *Place the palm of one hand against the back of the other with thumbs up; then open out (like doors opening).*

three times a day *Hold up three fingers.*

to pray. *Palms together, as if praying.*

I. Daniel Prays for Protection

You Need:

- ☐ felt angels or angel mitts or angel sticks

Say: **Daniel knew that the bad men would tell the king to put him in the lions' den. What do you think Daniel prayed for? He may**

have prayed for Jesus to send angels to protect him from the lions.

Distribute felt angels or angel mitts or angel sticks to the children. Have the children put the angels on the board or wave the angel sticks while you sing the following to the tune of "Jesus Sends the Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 48).

Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels,
Jesus sends the angels to save me
from the lions.

—Florence P. Jorgensen. Adapted.

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J. Daniel Is Trapped

Say the following finger play, and teach the children the motions.

The very bad men *Wag index finger back and forth.*

Were watching to see *Hands shading eyes.*

What Daniel would do. *Index finger to cheek with a questioning look.*

Would he open his window *Spread arms open wide as if throwing open a window.*

And fall on his knees *Kneel down.*

The way he always used to? *Stand up.*

There's Daniel's window; *Point into the distance.*

It's opening wide. *Spread arms open wide.*

He's kneeling—what will he say? *Bow head and kneel.*

Dear Father in heaven, *Fold hands and look upward.*

I love You so much; *Cross arms over chest.*

Only to You will I pray. *Point upward.*

The very bad men ran quickly away. *Stand up and run in place.*

Hurry. They must let the king know that Daniel had prayed to his God up above. *Point upward.*

So into the lions' den he must go. *Hands up to each side of face like lions' claws.*

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K. Thrown to the Lions

You Need:

- ☐ felt lions
- ☐ felt Daniel

Say: **The king was so sad. He knew he had been tricked into making that law. He knew that the bad men wanted only to hurt Daniel.**

But the king had to obey the law too. So he ordered Daniel thrown into the lions' den. He didn't want to do this. But the king knew that Daniel prayed to God three times a day. He knew that God could save Daniel from the lions.

Distribute the felt lions to the children. Place Daniel on the felt board. Invite the children to place the lions around Daniel while you sing "May Your God Rescue You" (see p. 74 for the music).

Daniel, you pray
To your God three times a day.
May He stay with you
And rescue you from the lions.
—René Alexenko Evans

Leave Daniel and the lions on the felt board for the next song.

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L. God Sends Angels

You Need:

- ☐ felt angels or angel mitts or angel sticks

Say: **God did send His angels to take care of Daniel in the lions' den. Not one of those hungry lions hurt Daniel. The Bible says an angel shut the lions' mouths.**

Distribute felt angels, angel mitts, or angel sticks to the children. If you use felt angels, invite the children to place them around Daniel and the lions on the felt board while you sing "God Sent His Angels" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 47).

When Daniel was down in the dark lions' den,
God sent His angels to watch over him.
When Daniel was down in the dark lions' den,
God sent His angels to watch over him.
—Mary E. Schwab

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M. Daniel Prayed

Say: **The next morning the king rushed to the lions' den to see if his friend Daniel was still alive. He was so happy to see that God had answered Daniel's prayers. What do you think Daniel did when he got out of the lions' den? Yes! He prayed! He thanked God for saving him from the lions.** Use the following motions as you sing the memory verse song "Daniel Prayed" (music on p. 73).

Daniel went to his room
three times a day to pray.
—René Alexenko Evans

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Daniel went

Index finger points away from the body.

to his room

Place the palm of one hand against the back of the other with thumbs up; then open out (like doors opening).

three times a day

Hold up three fingers.

to pray.

Palms together, as if praying.

N. We Pray

Say: **Daniel prayed three times a day. We can pray too.** Teach children the following finger play.

Pray when the sun comes up in the morning.

Stretch arms as if waking.

Pray when it's mealtime, too.

Fold hands and close eyes as if in prayer.

Pray again when you're ready for bed.

Fold hands together and rest head on them.

Pray everywhere and in all that you do.

Arms over head in big circle.

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O. Jesus Sends the Angels

You Need:

- ☐ assortment of toy cars, dolls, etc.
- ☐ steering wheels made from paper plates
- ☐ small pillows or blankets

Say: **Jesus sends the angels to protect us, too, just as He sent them to protect Daniel from the lions. Angels watch over us all the time. Do they watch us when we play? Yes, they do.**

Distribute the toys, and allow the children to play with them while you sing the first verse of "Jesus Sends the Angels"

(*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 48).

Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels;
Jesus sends the angels
To watch me when I'm playing.
—Florence P. Jorgensen

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Ask: **When else do our angels watch over us? Do they protect us when we ride in the car? Yes, they do.** Distribute the paper plate steering wheels and allow the children to "drive" around the room while you sing:

Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels;
Jesus sends the angels
To watch me when I'm riding.
—Florence P. Jorgensen

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Ask: **What about at nighttime? Do our angels go to sleep when we do? No. Our angels don't get tired, and they never sleep. They watch over us while we sleep.** Distribute the pillows or blankets, and have the children lie on the floor and pretend to sleep while you sing:

Jesus sends the angels, angels, angels;
Jesus sends the angels
To watch me when I'm sleeping.
—Florence P. Jorgensen

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P. Thank You, God

Say: **Let's thank God for sending angels to watch over us, just as He sent them to protect Daniel in the lions' den.** Sing "Thank God for Angels Bright" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 50).

Angels are watching over me,
I am glad, I am glad.
Angels are watching over me,
Thank God for angels bright.
—Lauretta Wilcox Jarnes

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You Need:

- ☐ felt angels or angel mitts or angel sticks

5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Week 1

Lion Mask

You Need:

- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ yellow paper or fabric
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ elastic (optional)
- ☐ stapler (optional)

Cut the center out of the plate. Cut two cat-shaped ears out of that center, and cover them with yellow paper or cloth. Attach them to the top of the plate rim. Cut triangular pieces of paper or fabric, and glue them around the rim of the plate to create the lion's mane. For best results, overlap the triangles and cover all the rim. The child can either hold up the mask and look through the hole, or you can measure a piece of elastic to go around the child's head, tie a

double knot in both ends, and staple it in place.

Week 2

Angel Sticks

You Need:

- ☐ angel pattern (see p. 70)
- ☐ lightweight card stock or heavy paper
- ☐ glitter or glitter glue (optional)
- ☐ glue or stapler
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ scissors

On heavy paper, make a copy of the angel pattern for each child. (See p. 70.) Cut out the angel, and decorate it with glitter or glitter glue if desired. Glue or staple the angel to the craft stick.

Week 3

Praying Hands Book

You Need:

- ☐ paper
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ stapler
- ☐ stickers of things for which we thank God

Give each child two pieces of paper. Fold them in half and staple in the middle to create a little book with four pages. On the cover, trace around the child's hand. Write the child's name above his or her hand and the words

"Prayer Book" below the hand. On the inside pages, have the children add stickers of things that they pray for or things for which they thank Jesus.

Week 4

Toilet Paper Roll Lion

You Need:

- ☐ empty toilet paper or paper towel tubes
- ☐ yellow paper or cloth or crayons
- ☐ lion pattern (see p. 71)
- ☐ heavy paper
- ☐ glue
- ☐ yellow yarn

Cut the rolls to two-inch (five-cm.) lengths. Cover the roll with yellow paper or cloth, or color it with yellow crayons. Copy and cut out the lion pattern (see p. 71), and glue it to one end of the tube. Cut a hole in the bottom of the other end of the tube, and string through pieces of yellow yarn for a tail.

Week 5 (or optional activity)
Lunch-sack Lion Puppet

You Need:

- ☐ lunch-size paper sacks
- ☐ lion pattern (see p. 72)
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ scissors

Cut out the lion pattern (see p. 72). Glue the head to the bottom of the sack.

Snack Center (Optional)*
Lion's Face Crackers

You Need:

- ☐ napkins
- ☐ large round crackers
- ☐ non-nut based cracker spread
- ☐ pretzel sticks
- ☐ raisins
- ☐ sealable plastic bags (optional)

Create a lion's mane by applying a little of a favorite spread* around the edges of the cracker and sticking pretzel sticks in it to resemble a mane. Use raisins for eyes and a nose. Dab a little of the spread to secure the raisins.

If preferable, put the completed "lion's face" in a sealable plastic bag, and send it home with the children.

*Please be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **Jesus hears our prayers just as He heard Daniel's prayers. Jesus sends the angels to watch us just as He sent them to watch Daniel.**

We can pray to Jesus often just as Daniel did. Let's sing our memory verse song one more time. "Daniel went to his room three times a day to pray." (See page 73.)

Daniel went to his room
three times a day to pray.

—René Alexenko Evans

Based on Daniel 6:10, NIV. Music copyright © 2002 by General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Daniel went

Index finger points away from the body.



to his room

Place the palm of one hand against the back of the other with thumbs up; then open out (like doors opening).



three times a day

Hold up three fingers.



to pray.

Palms together, as if praying.



Say: **Let's say a special prayer thanking Jesus for all that He does for us.** Close with a short prayer thanking Jesus for listening to our prayers and for watching over us. As the children prepare to leave the room, sing "Good-bye to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 45).

Good-bye to you,
Good-bye to you,
Good-bye each little one;
And don't forget,
Jesus is coming soon for you and me.

—S. Vance

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STUDENT LESSON

References

Daniel 6:1-23;
Prophets and
Kings, pp. 539-
548.

Memory Verse

"[Daniel] went to
his room three
times a day to
pray" (Daniel
6:10, NIV).

The Message

I can talk to
God every day.

Daniel and the Lions

See the lions. Lions are big cats. Lions say, "Grrrr, roar!"

See Daniel. (*Point to Daniel.*) Daniel is a brave man. Daniel is God's friend. Daniel is the king's friend too.

See Daniel's house. (*Point to Daniel's house.*) See Daniel's window. (*Point to the window.*) Daniel prays there three times every day

Daniel is a brave man. Daniel is God's friend. Every morning Daniel talks to God. Daniel prays. Daniel says, "I love You, God."

Some bad men want to hurt Daniel. They ask the king to make a new law. The law will say that people who pray to God will be thrown to the lions.

At noon Daniel kneels by the window. Daniel talks to God. He is praying.

At night Daniel kneels by his bed. Daniel talks to God. He is praying.

Daniel is not afraid to pray. He prays one, two, three times a day. (*Count on your child's fingers.*)

Some bad men see Daniel pray. "We will tell the king," they say. "The king will have to put Daniel in the lions' den."

"Daniel prays to God in heaven three times a day," the bad men say. "He must be put in the lions' den."

"Daniel is my friend," says the king. "I do not want to hurt him. But I must do what the law says. Daniel's God will take care of him."

The bad men take Daniel to the lions' den. Grrrr! Roar! (*Roar.*) The lions are hungry. Grrrr! Roar! (*Roar.*)

Daniel is not afraid. His angel is there.

The angel will shut the lions' mouths. (*Show your closed mouth trying to roar.*)

Get up, Daniel. It is morning. Time to pray.

(*Kneel.*) Daniel prays to God. (*Clasp hands; close eyes.*) "Dear God, thank You

for sending Your angel. Thank You for taking good care of me. I love You, God. Amen."

The good king calls, "Daniel, did your God take care of you? Did the lions hurt you?"

(*To child.*) Did the lions hurt Daniel? No! (*Shake head.*) The lions did not hurt Daniel.

"O, King! My God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. God saved me!"

God sends His angels to watch over us too. Let's thank Him for angels. (*Pray a simple prayer.*)



Do & Say

1. Have your child pray by the window three times today just like Daniel.

2. Take your child to visit a zoo, and look for the lions.

3. Pet a kitten while you explain to your child that lions are big, wild cats.

4. You and your child can roar like a lion as you talk about Daniel's story.

5. With your child look at pictures of lions in a book. Notice the difference between the male and female.

6. Take a walk with your child and tell God about all the pretty things you see.

7. Name three things for which you and your child can thank God. Then thank Him.

8. With a piece of paper and a lighted candle, make a royal decree,

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

and drip wax on it for a seal.

9. Let your child find you as you make lion noises while hidden.

10. While praying with your child, thank Jesus for wild animals that will be tame in heaven.

11. Look at pictures of family members with your child. Thank Jesus for each one.

12. Practice one of the finger plays learned in

Sabbath School with your child. (See pp. 41-43.)

13. Help your child decorate a paper angel picture with glitter and crayons.

14. Sing the memory verse song with your child (p. 73); then thank God for watching over you too.

15. Use blankets, sheets, and some chairs to make a lions' den. Have your child's prayer time there today.