

REFERENCES: DANIEL 6; PROPHETS AND KINGS, PP. 539-548.

Three Times a Day

Do you like talking to your friends? You can talk to Jesus just like a friend anytime, anywhere, about anything, just as Daniel did.

The new king, Darius, sat on his throne surrounded by servants. “These are my orders,” he began. “I am going to divide my kingdom into 120 parts. Each part will have a prince to help me rule over it. And there will be three men in charge of the princes. Daniel will be one of them.” Daniel did his job very well, so



the king planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom.

When the other princes heard about this, they did not like it. “Let’s get Daniel in trouble,” they whispered together secretly. “We’ll catch him doing something wrong, and we’ll tell the king.”

But although they watched Daniel carefully every day, they could not find him doing anything wrong.

“I have a new plan!” one prince announced. He huddled together with the other jealous men, and then they went to the king.

“Long live King Darius!” the princes said, bowing low. “We

Memory Verse

“[Daniel] prayed, giving thanks to his God.”

DANIEL 6:10, NIV.

The Message

We worship God when we pray.

think you should make a new law that for the next 30 days the people can pray only to you. And if anyone disobeys, they should be thrown into the lions' den."

King Darius liked to have people bow down before him. And if the king made a law, it could not be changed. So he agreed.

The princes smiled as they left the king. "Now we can catch Daniel! Everybody knows that Daniel prays three times a day with the window wide open."

The princes watched. Soon they saw Daniel praying, not to the king, but to his God. They hurried to the king. "Daniel is still praying to his God," they reported.

King Darius now realized that the princes had asked him to make the law so they could get rid of Daniel. King Darius liked Daniel. But the king had made the law. He had to keep it. Daniel had to go into the lions' den. "May the God whom you serve save you!" the king exclaimed to Daniel as the soldiers took him away.

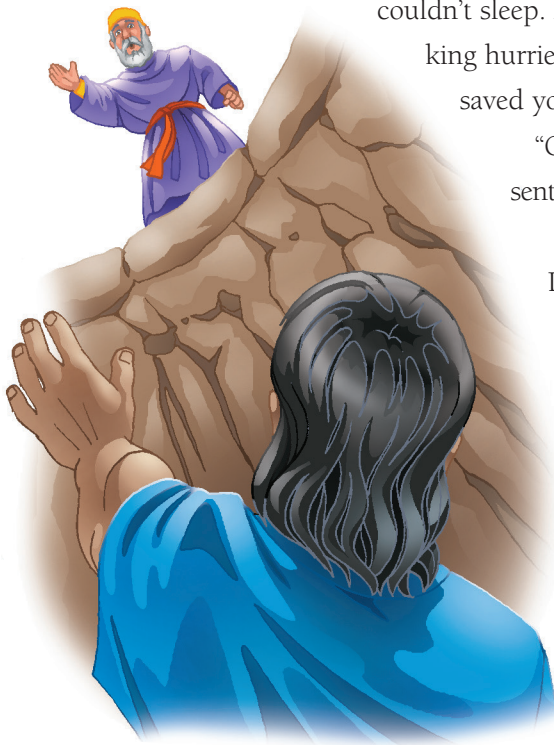
All that evening King Darius worried about Daniel. And when he went to bed, he

couldn't sleep. As soon as the sun peeked over the land, the king hurried to the lions' den. "Daniel! Has your God saved you from the lions?" he shouted.

"O king, live forever!" Daniel called back. "My God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths!"

King Darius smiled as the soldiers lifted Daniel out of the lions' den. He hurried back to his palace and wrote a letter to be read to everyone in his kingdom. "Daniel's God is the living God," the king wrote. "His God can rescue and save people. His God saved Daniel from the lions!"

King Darius' law couldn't stop Daniel from praying. The lions couldn't stop Daniel from praying. God heard Daniel's prayers. God hears your prayers too.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

[Daniel] **prayed**, Put hands together and bow head.

giving thanks . . . Look up; extend arms wide to his God. . . . Point upward.

Daniel 6:10 Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Together, read Daniel 6. Ask: How did the princes trick King Darius? Where did Daniel go to pray? How did God save Daniel? Then what did King Darius say about God?

Help your child find a special prayer place.

MONDAY

Encourage your child to share the Fragrance Jar made in Sabbath School with someone you've helped them choose as they tell them the Bible story. Your child should remind them that their prayers are like a sweet-smelling fragrance ascending to God (Revelation 5:8).

Help your child start a list of things to thank God for. Add a new item each day before prayer.



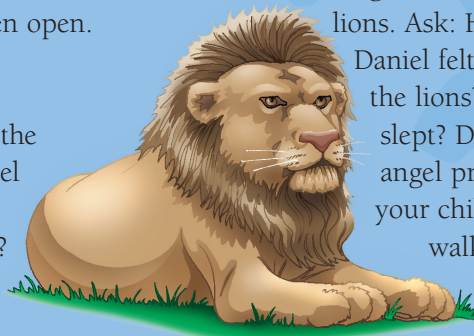
TUESDAY

Talk about Daniel praying in the lions' den. Ask: How would you feel if there was a law saying you couldn't pray to God? What would you do?

Help your child name three places where they can pray, and four things they can talk to Jesus about. Thank Jesus that you can talk to Him anytime.

WEDNESDAY

Together, look at a book about lions. Ask: How do you think Daniel felt staying all night with the lions? Do you think he slept? Do you think he saw the angel protecting him? Blindfold your child, and lead them on a walk around your house.



Afterward, ask: Was it easy or hard to trust that I wouldn't let you get hurt? Was it easy or hard for Daniel to trust God?

THURSDAY

Tell your child about an answer to prayer you've had. Have them tell you one or remind them of one. Start a prayer journal and keep note of how and when your child's prayers are answered.

FRIDAY

Help your child act out the story with your family. Make a lions' den with a blanket draped over chairs or a table.

Have everyone kneel in a circle, hold hands, and tell Jesus one thing for which they are thankful.