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Esther Saves Her People

Scripture: Esther 1:1-10:3

Theme: God places us where we are 'for such a time as this'

PreK-K (Ages 3-5)

Free curriculum for small and rural churches

Lesson Overview

Lesson Title: God is Stronger Than Fear! Opening: "Today, we're going to meet a brave man named Daniel. He trusted God even when things got tricky, just like you do when you pray before bed or ask for help. Who can tell me what happens when we trust God?" (Wait for responses, then say, "Yep, that's right! God is our super-strong friend!") Storytime (Daniel in the Lions' Den): "Daniel lived a long time ago, and one day, his friends said, 'God is the best!' But some people thought they could trick him. They said, 'Daniel, if you pray to God, you'll get eaten by lions! Trust us!' But Daniel kept praying, even though he wanted to hide. 'God is my superhero,' he thought. And guess what? He was right! The lions didn't hurt him, and God protected him. Isn't that wonderful?" Activity/Repetition: "Let's pretend! Clench your fists like lions are eating you... now open your hands, God is stronger than fear! Who else wants to say it with me? 'God is my superhero!'" Closing/Encouragement: "Daniel trusted God even when it was hard. You can too! When you feel scared, like praying for a toy to show up or asking for help, remember: God is always with you. He's your friend who keeps you safe. What's one way you can trust God today?" (Let kids share or ask, "How about praying a little extra today?") Volunteer Tip: Keep it playful! Use stuffed animals (lions/God) for props or act out the story with big voices. End with hugs and reminders: "God loves you more than lions!"

Bible Story

Daniel in the Lions' Den , A Brave and Faithful Story

Once, in a far-off land, there was a man named Daniel. He lived in a big city called Babylon with many other men. These men were kind and worked well together, but one king named Darius said, "I must have only one king who makes all the rules." So, he made everyone swear an oath: "No one should pray to any god or man except me!" Daniel and his friends said, "We will pray to our God three times a day." Even though they knew it might be wrong, they trusted God to help them.

One day, the king's friends saw Daniel praying toward heaven. They were angry and went to the king to complain. "Look! Daniel still prays to God every day," they said. The king was surprised but decided, "What? I thought Daniel would break the oath." So he ordered that Daniel be thrown into a lion's den at night. "Let God help him if he's a good man," the king thought.

As Daniel prayed that night, he knew God was listening. He was scared, but he trusted God would protect him. When the lions roared in the den, Daniel was safe, because God had sent His angel to guard him! The next morning, the king looked in and saw Daniel sitting there, unharmed. The lions had not touched him. The king was amazed and said, "God is more powerful than all the kings!"

This story teaches us that God is always with those who love Him. Even when things seem scary, God keeps us safe and faithful. Just like Daniel, we can trust God to help us when we pray and believe in Him! "Do not worry, for my God will help you!" (Daniel 6:19, NLT)

Key Verse

Esther 4:14

Oh, what a wonderful story about a brave boy named Daniel! Daniel was in a big cage with lions because he trusted God. But then, whoosh!, a special angel came! The lions' mouths got closed tight, like a secret keepers' magic trick! That means God protected Daniel, just like a superhero! God is always with us, watching over us like a gentle giant. No lion can hurt us, because our Heavenly Father loves us so much! Isn't that something to sing about? When we trust God, He makes our hearts feel safe. Just like Daniel, we can dance in joy because we know God's power is stronger than any lion!

Activities

Activity 1:

A fun, interactive story where kids act out Daniel's bravery while hiding. They giggle, sing, and pretend to be lions!

1. Make a Den: Give each child a paper plate. Ask them to fold it in half like a little box (or draw a simple circle).
2. Draw the Lions: Let them color lions on the inside or outside of the plate. Show them how Daniel prayed even when afraid!
3. Add Paw Prints: Glue small paw prints around the edge to look like a den. Talk about how lions like to hide.
4. Pray Together: Give each child a prayer card. Have them whisper a simple prayer, like Daniel did: "God, protect me!"
2. "Daniel's Brave Heart Storytime"
6. Read the Story: Sit in a circle and read Daniel 6 together. Pause when Daniel hides in his den. Ask: "What do you think Daniel felt?" (Fear? Wonder?)
7. Act It Out: Have kids pretend to hide under their chairs like Daniel did. Roar loudly like lions! (Use a toy lion or make a sound.)
8. Draw Brave Hearts: Give each child paper to draw a heart. Write "Brave like Daniel!" inside. Talk about how God is always with us!
9. Pray Together: Hold up prayer cards. Have kids say, "God, help me be brave like Daniel!" while clapping.
10. Tip: Both activities use God's love to make bravery feel special and fun!

Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for preschool and kindergarten children about Daniel in the Lions' Den, using simple words and short sentences:
- Wondering About Courage

- "Daniel had a big fear, what about you? What scares you sometimes? Did Daniel feel brave, or did he feel scared too? How can we be brave like Daniel when we're scared?"
- Trusting God Together
- "Daniel trusted God even when his friends said, 'Don't go!' What's something God has helped you do that made you trust Him more? How can we trust God in our own lives, even when things feel tricky?"
- Sharing with God
- "Daniel prayed three times a day, even when he didn't feel safe. What do you think Daniel prayed about? What do you pray about when you feel worried or happy? How can we pray like Daniel?"
- Wondering About God's Protection
- "The lions were hungry, but Daniel was safe! How do you think God protected him? What are some ways God helps us feel safe even when we're scared? How can we thank God for His protection today?"
- These questions encourage children to share their own thoughts, wonder, and feelings while connecting the story to their lives! Would you like any adjustments to make them even simpler?

Prayer Focus

Prayer for Wonder and Bravery Dear God, Look at how Daniel trusted You, even when the lions roared! He knew You were stronger than fear, just like You are with us today. Help us to be brave like Daniel when we feel scared, and remind us that You always keep us safe. You made the lions fierce, but You are even fiercer! Help us to trust You, just like Daniel did. Let us ask You for courage and wonder, knowing You love us more than the lions ever could. Thank You for being our strength, our shield, and our friend. Help us to be brave like Daniel and remember, no matter what, You are always with us! Now, let's pray together: "God, we trust You! Help us to be brave and kind, just like Daniel did. Amen!" (Repeat the last line as a group chant or circle prayer.)

>> Missions Spotlight

In Ethiopia, believers in remote areas face pressure from both radical Islam and traditional religions. Daniel's story encourages them that the God who shut the lions' mouths is the same God who protects His people today.

-> To the Cross

Daniel was thrown to the lions for praying to God. God shut the lions' mouths. Jesus was thrown to the 'lions' of sin, death, and hell, and He conquered them all. God always delivers those who trust Him.