



Daniel and the Lions Story

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

13 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")

13 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-27 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

King Darius



Governor #1



Governor #3



Governor #2
Daniel



40 Princes

40 Princes

40 Princes

Before holding up the picture:

What did we learn about in our last lesson? *(The hand writing on the wall)*

Who was the Babylonian king after Nebuchadnezzar? *(Belshazzar)*

What did the writing on the wall mean? *(your days have been numbered, you have been weighed, your kingdom will be divided)*

What happened to Belshazzar? *(he was killed that night by Darius the Mede)*

Hold up picture:

So now Darius the Mede is ruling over the land and he has divided the kingdom up and he appointed 120 princes to rule over the kingdom. Then over these 120 princes he appointed three governors. Daniel was one of the three governors.



Hold up picture:

And Daniel distinguished himself above the other governors, so that King Darius planned to appoint Daniel over the entire kingdom. How do you think that made the other two governors feel? (*angry, jealous*)



Hold up picture:

The other governors and princes were jealous of Daniel and wanted to find something they could accuse Daniel of doing wrong, but they could find nothing wrong in Daniel's conduct.



Hold up picture:

These men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against Daniel unless it has something to do with the God he worships.”



Hold up picture:

So they went to see the king and they said, “King Darius, the royal advisers and governors have all agreed that you should issue a law that anyone who prays to any god, except you, during the next thirty days, shall be thrown into the lions’ den.” King Darius thought this sounded like a good idea so he signed the law - and laws of the Medes and Persians could not be changed.



Hold up picture:

Now when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God, just as he had done since his early days.

Discuss/Ask:

Do you have a special place you like to pray to God? *(answers will vary)* Daniel had a custom, or a habit, of praying three times a day to God, and he had been doing this since he was young. You are young, and now is a good time to start a habit of praying to God three times a day like Daniel.

Did Daniel let the new law affect his custom of praying? *(no)* Would it have been ok if Daniel had still prayed at home, but he had done it where he wouldn't be seen (away from the window, behind closed doors)? *(answers will vary; we should not be ashamed of our faith in God, Daniel wasn't afraid or ashamed)*



Hold up picture:

Daniel's enemies went to King Darius and said, "Your Majesty, Daniel does not obey the order you issued. He prays to his God regularly three times a day. He must be thrown into a pit filled with lions."



Hold up picture:

When the king heard this, he was upset and tried until sunset to find some way to rescue Daniel. But these men reminded the king that the laws of the Medes and Persians could not be changed.



Hold up picture:

So King Darius gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

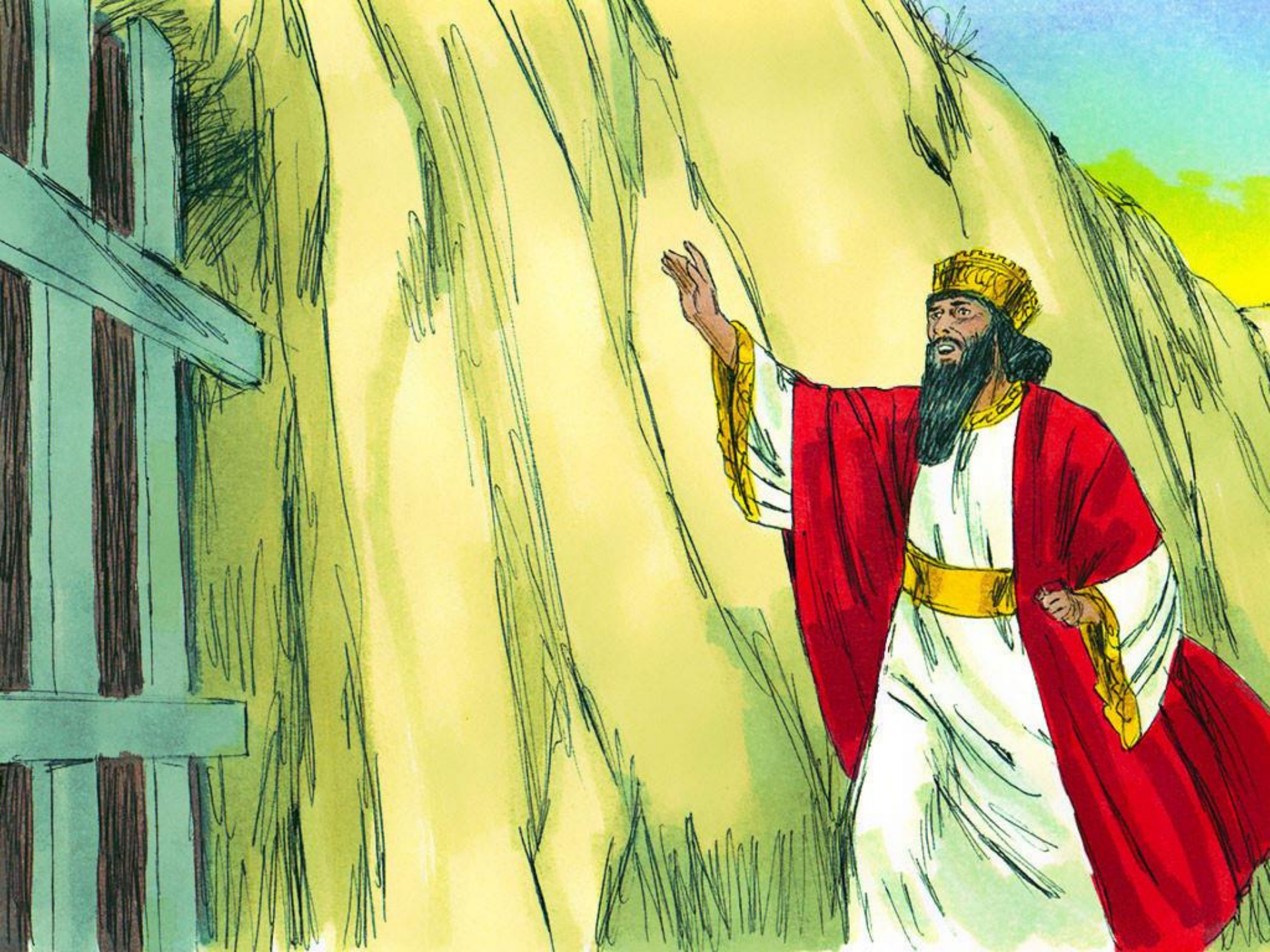
A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own royal seal. Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night **fasting** and no musicians performed for him. And he could not sleep.

Ask/Discuss:

What was the importance of putting a royal seal on the stone covering the lions' den? *(Just like a seal on a bottle of ketchup, it shows that it hasn't been tampered with. Nobody has tried to take any ketchup out and nobody has tried to add anything harmful to the ketchup. The king's seal on the stone would have been broken if a person had tried to help Daniel.)*

What does it mean to **fast**? *(to not eat food for a period of time)*

Why do you think the king fasted and didn't want to listen to any music, and couldn't sleep? *(He was probably worried about Daniel.)*



Hold up picture:

Then the king arose very early in the morning and hurried to the den of lions. When he came to the den he cried out, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”



Hold up picture:

Daniel answered, “May your Majesty live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

King Darius was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in God.



Hold up picture:

Then at the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought and thrown into the lions' den. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.



Hold up picture:

King Darius wrote to the people of every nation. “I command that everyone should fear and respect the God of Daniel. He is the living God, and He will rule forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and His power will never come to an end. He rescues and performs miracles. He saved Daniel from being killed by the lions.” So Daniel enjoyed success during the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Ask:

What are some lessons that we can learn from this story about Daniel? *(obey God’s laws over man’s laws; trust in God; don’t be ashamed of your faith)*