

LESSON PLAN

LIONS' DEN

Daniel 6

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 118:6 - "The Lord is on my side: I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

Lesson Aim: We must put our trust in God to take care of us and not be afraid of wicked men.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Can anyone tell me which animal is considered the strongest of all animals? It is also called, "the king of the beasts." (Yes, it is the lion.) Lions have very strong front legs and can break the neck of many beasts with one swipe of their paws. They also have thorny claws, sharp teeth and powerful jaws to help kill their victims. They are very quick, can leap up to twenty feet and can run swiftly for short distances. They are very, very dangerous, especially when they are hungry, and can kill any other beast if they need to do it. That is why they are called "the king of the beasts." The Lord makes those who trust in Him to be bold as a lion (see Prov 28:1).

HE (for Authority): If a man would attack you, would you trust in the Lord and be bold as a lion? If you have received Jesus as your Savior, He is on your side and He will take care of you. You do not need to be afraid. Do you know the Lord well enough to trust Him when you are in danger? Psalm 118:6 is our memory verse and it will be very helpful for you to know this verse if you should ever be in danger. It says, "The Lord is on my side." He is, if you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and if you are obeying Him. The verse goes on to say, "I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Can you say that? A man can destroy your life, but he cannot destroy your soul when you give it to Jesus

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our story today we will hear a story about a man who was not afraid of some men who wanted to kill him. He was not even afraid of lions. He was not afraid because he trusted in the Lord. He knew the Lord was on his side and He would take care of him. His name was Daniel.

I. The Power of Daniel - Daniel 6:1-3

When Darius became king of Babylon, he chose 120 princes to help him rule his kingdom and he chose three presidents to rule over the princes and Daniel was first among the presidents. The Scriptures tell us why he was given this high position. He had an excellent spirit in him. He was an honorable, honest, hard-working and helpful man. He was so good that the king was planning to set him over his whole kingdom. What gave Daniel this power? It was his fear of the Lord that gave him wisdom (Prov 9:10). He was not afraid of the Lord, but he had a holy respect for the Lord. That is what "the fear of the Lord" means. Since Daniel had a holy respect for the Lord, He gave him wisdom to do excellent work for the king. This made him very powerful in the kingdom of Darius. The Lord was on Daniel's side as our memory verse says.

WE: We can say, "The Lord on our side," when we have a holy respect for Him. When He is on our side, we will receive wisdom from Him. This wisdom will enable us to our work much better than we had hoped. Leaders will notice and they will promote us just like it happened to Daniel. If we give all credit to the Lord, we will have power where the Lord wants us to work for Him. He wants to give us power to win souls and to defeat Satan. If we love God and serve Him with all of our heart, God will give us great power and we will be great in God's sight.

II. The Plot Against Daniel - Daniel 6:4-9

When Daniel became so powerful the other leaders became jealous and wanted to get rid of him. They tried to find something wrong in his life or in his business, but they found nothing wrong. They decided they would have to trick the king into making a law that would make Daniel disobey the king. They suggested that the king make a law that no one could pray to anyone but to him for thirty days. If they disobeyed, they would be cast into the lion's den. They knew Daniel prayed three times a day and they were sure that he would not stop praying, even if the king did make this law. The king was very unwise in listening to these wicked men without checking with Daniel, who was his first president. The suggestion appealed to his pride; he made a big mistake. He took their suggestion and made it a law for thirty days.

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WE: If we faithfully do God's work, we will find that some people will be against us. Satan will set them against us. We should not be surprised when this happens, but when it does, we should not be afraid. God will be with us to protect us.

III. The Prayer-life of Daniel - Daniel 6:10-11

When Daniel learned about the new law, he had to make an important decision. Should he stop praying to God for thirty days or should he keep on obeying God and be willing to die for his obedience? He decided that he would rather go to the lions' den than miss one of his prayer meetings with God. This was a brave decision, but a very wise one. He knew that it was safer to trust God to protect him from his enemies than to trust the king, so he prayed three times a day as usual. He did not try to hide when he prayed, but he prayed before the open window that faced toward Jerusalem as he had always done, and he thanked his God. Daniel's decision to pray showed that he was not afraid of wicked men.

WE: We must talk to the Lord so He can help us make the right decision. Then we must trust the Lord to take care of us and He will. . Satan trembles when we are on our knees before the Lord. We must not let the fear of man cause us to make the wrong decision. Daniel was wise when he kept on praying after the law was made. If we die because we have obeyed the Lord, we will be welcomed into Heaven as a hero.

IV. The Persecution of Daniel - Daniel 6:12-17

Daniel's enemies quickly went back to the king and told him that they had found Daniel praying to God. The king now was very sad that he had made that new law. He knew he had been tricked by these wicked men, but there was nothing he could do. The law could not be changed and Daniel had to be cast into the den of strong, wild and hungry lions. The king could only encourage Daniel to keep on trusting God because there was nothing he could do to save him. It looked quite hopeless to the king, but Daniel did not seem worried. He was eighty years old now and he had trusted God many times before this. If God wanted to keep him alive, He could easily do that, and if He wanted him to die, Daniel still would be protected by the Lord from going to Hell. Daniel was persecuted by men, but he was not afraid of them. The Bible says, "All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (2 Tim 3:12).

WE: We must be willing to suffer for Jesus' sake and not be afraid of what man can do to us.

V. The Protection of Daniel – Daniel 6:18-23

The king was heavy-hearted and could not sleep because he had caused Daniel to be cast into the lions' den. He had been unable to deliver Daniel **from** the lions' den, but God had been with Daniel all through the night and had delivered Daniel while **in** the lions' den. This was a miracle! God had shut the lions' mouths and had protected Daniel from being hurt by them because Daniel had not done anything wrong. When the king came to the lions' den early in the morning, he was relieved that Daniel was still alive and he was overcome with joy to learn that the Lord had protected Daniel from the lions. He immediately commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den.

WE: We will be protected by the Lord when we trust in Him. He is greatly pleased when we put your complete faith in Him.

VI. The Prosperity of Daniel - Daniel 6:24-28

Daniel's enemies were then cast into the lions' den for their wickedness against the king and against Daniel. The Bible says that these lions attacked these men before they even reached the floor of the den. All of their bones were broken by these same powerful lions that were so quiet when Daniel was in the den. Then Darius made a good law and told his whole kingdom that everyone was to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel because He was the living God and His kingdom would never be destroyed. Daniel's life was a powerful testimony for the Lord before the whole nation of Babylon.

WE: We will find that the troubles and difficulties that we receive because we live for God will become a great blessing to us when we continue to trust in the Lord. The Lord knows how to judge our enemies and He also knows how to take care of us.

BE (for Action): Memorize Psalm 118:6. Review it every day until you can say it without thinking. Then you will be ready for any trouble that Satan may try to give you. When trouble comes, recite this verse over and over until you completely trust the Lord to protect you. Repeat it until your fear is gone.