

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Based on NLT (2004)

Daniel 6:1-5

...Daniel ... proved himself *very* capable, *so* the king made plans to place him over the entire empire. Then, the other ... high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy. So they concluded, "Our only chance of finding grounds for accusing Daniel will be in connection with the rules of his religion."

Daniel 6:6-9

So the ... high officers went to the king and said, "Long live King Darius! We are all in agreement...Give orders that ... any person who prays to anyone...except to you, Your Majesty—will be thrown into the den of lions. And now, Your Majesty, issue and sign this law so it cannot be changed,..." So King Darius signed the law.

Daniel 6:10-14

But when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God. Then the officials went together to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking for God's help. So they went straight to the king and reminded him about his law. ...Then they told the king, "That man Daniel, one of the captives from Judah, is ignoring you and your law. He still prays to his God three times a day."

Hearing this, the king was deeply troubled, and he tried to think of a way to save Daniel...

Daniel 6:15-18

But the officials insisted and... at last the king gave orders for Daniel to be arrested and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to him, "May your God, whom you serve so faithfully, rescue you."

A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den... the king couldn't sleep at all that night.

Daniel 6:19-27

Very early the next morning, the king got up and hurried out to the lions' den...He called out ..., "Daniel...! Was your God ... able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "... My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths ...!"
... Then King Darius sent this message to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world:... "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever....He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

Teaching this Story

What did you like about this story?

Was there something in this story that you did not understand?

What did you learn about “man” (human characters in the story)?

What did you learn about God/Jesus in this story?

What do you need to apply to your life from this story?

When teaching the story to challenge people who work in challenging situations, you can add the following questions:

Was it important that Daniel had relationships in the kingdom?

How have those relationships helped him?

What types of people might you have opportunity to relate to?

What was the area of his life that Daniel would not compromise?

Do you have a plan to remain faithful in this part of your life?

What is that plan?