



# God Delivers Daniel from the Lions' Den

*Daniel 6*



## LESSON GOAL

Students will live a faithful life before God.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Describe how Daniel was faithful to God.
- Explain why Daniel was thrown into the lions' den.
- Tell why Darius was happy that Daniel was alive.
- Analyze what God revealed about Himself by saving Daniel.

## KEY VERSE

"The king spoke, saying to Daniel, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?'" (Daniel 6:20b).

## APPLICATION

- Live a faithful life.
- Make it a habit to pray continually.
- Serve God continually.
- Trust that God will be faithful to those who belong to Him.

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul. You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

Nebuchadnezzar's vision had begun to come true. The gold head (representing Belshazzar) had fallen from power, and the chest and arms of silver (representing Medo-Persia) had begun to reign (Dan. 2). The Medo-Persian empire was the most powerful kingdom the world had ever seen. The Lord had faithfully delivered Israelites such as Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego under the Babylonian empire, but would His faithfulness continue throughout the time of Gentile domination? In Daniel 6, Daniel reveals that God's faithfulness did not change with the fall of Babylon, but that God will always faithfully defend those who are faithful to Him. God used Daniel's faithfulness to display His own attributes.

#### Daniel's New King, New Position, and New Enemies (Daniel 6:1–3)

Although Daniel had been mostly forgotten during the reign of Belshazzar, Darius, the new ruler of Babylon, recognized Daniel's potential. When Darius (perhaps another name for King Cyrus) began his reign, he reorganized his kingdom, dividing it under 120 officials called "satraps" and then placing three governors in charge of those satraps (Dan. 6:1–2). Perhaps because of Daniel's nearly 40 years of serving Nebuchadnezzar, as well as his recent interpretation of the writing on the wall, Darius made Daniel one of the three governors. God blessed Daniel's work so much that the king planned on putting him in charge of both the administrators and the satraps (6:3). Unsurprisingly, both satraps and administrators were jealous of Daniel's upcoming promotion and desired to discredit him before the king.

#### Daniel's Faithful Life (Daniel 6:4–5)

The satraps and administrators tried to discredit Daniel, but they could find "no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him" (Dan. 6:4). Daniel was blameless, both personally and professionally. He not only was morally above reproach, but he also did his job well. The only weakness the officials could perceive in Daniel was his profound commitment to obey God's Law (6:5). After living in pagan Babylon for 65 years, Daniel's reputation was so spotless that even his enemies recognized his holiness.

Daniel was known not only for his professional excellence and personal holiness, but also for his prayer life. Three times a day he fell on his knees, prayed, and gave thanks to God, "as was his custom since early days" (6:10). For at least 65 years, Daniel (who was now over 80 years old) had faithfully devoted himself to seeking God's face in prayer three times a day. (A powerful example of Daniel's prayer is recorded in Daniel 9:4–19.) Daniel's prayers were matched by his life. Not more than a year or two had passed since Darius had begun to rule Babylon, but Darius already recognized that Daniel was someone who served his God

continually (6:16). The pagan king appreciated that whatever Daniel did, he did in service to God. Men could see Daniel's prayers and recognize his devotion, but the greatest evaluation of Daniel's faithfulness came from God. When God delivered him from the lions, Daniel was able to say that he had been "found innocent before Him" (6:22). Daniel was confident that his sins had been forgiven by God and that God was pleased with the life he lived. His evaluation of his own heart had been confirmed when God rescued him. Later, the text says that Daniel was saved "because he believed in his God" (6:23). Whether in daily prayer or in the lions' den, Daniel lived his life faithfully unto the Lord.

### **Daniel's Enemies Plot to Kill Him (Daniel 6:6–17)**

Unable to find any fault with Daniel's life, the satraps and administrators developed what seemed like the perfect plan to get Daniel put to death for breaking Darius's law. But first they had to get Darius to make a law they knew Daniel would have to break! Aware of Daniel's prayer life (Dan. 6:11), the officials lied and said that all the officials wanted the king to make a law that every prayer had to be addressed to the king (6:6–7). They recommended that whoever did not obey should be punished by being thrown into the lions' den. King Darius, no doubt flattered by the request, signed the unchangeable decree (6:8–9). Little did Darius know that he had just signed the death sentence of his favorite advisor!

After Daniel learned of the decree, he went home and prayed. He would not let the death sentence change his pattern of prayer. As always (and probably knowing he was being watched), Daniel opened up his windows and looked toward Jerusalem, where the temple had been. The three prayers he offered that day clearly were not being addressed to the king (6:10). Daniel was not making a show of his prayers, but neither would he change his pattern of prayer to avoid persecution.

The officials' plan was working perfectly. As soon as they saw that Daniel's prayers had not changed, they went to the king and proclaimed Daniel's disobedience (6:11–13). King Darius regretted making the law and did everything he could to deliver Daniel (6:14). But as the day wore on, the officials reminded Darius that the king's law could not be changed (6:15). Although not wanting to, Darius gave the command for Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. Before sealing up the den so no one would rescue Daniel, Darius announced his hope to Daniel: "Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you" (6:16). Perhaps Darius had heard about God's rescue of the Israelites from Egypt, or Meshach, Shadrach, and Abed-Nego's deliverance from the fiery furnace. Or perhaps Daniel's devotion to God had convinced Darius that this God was different from the myriad of idols the pagans served. Darius certainly hoped to see Daniel alive the next morning.

### **Daniel's God Delivers Him (Daniel 6:18–24)**

After a sleepless night spent fasting (Dan. 6:18), Darius went to the den early in the morning to check on Daniel's condition. His call to Daniel betrayed mixed emotions. His voice was "lamenting" (6:20), showing that he feared the worst, yet he still called into the hole, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" (6:20). The king was "exceedingly glad" when he heard Daniel's voice (6:23).

Daniel gave God glory for his safety through the night. While still in the den, he told the king that God had sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths because he was innocent before both God and the king (6:21–22). While he had broken the king's unjust command, Daniel was righteous because he had obeyed God's commands. Just as his three friends had exited the fiery furnace without even their clothes

being singed, Daniel came out of the lions' den without a single scratch from the lions (6:23). The true miracle of God's deliverance was emphasized when the accusers and their families were thrown into the den to suffer the punishment they intended for Daniel. Their bodies were crushed by the lions in midair (6:24). The lions were healthy, hungry, and capable of destroying Daniel, but God had rescued Daniel because of his faith (6:23).

### **Daniel's God Is Praised (Daniel 6:25–28)**

Just as Nebuchadnezzar had done when God rescued the three men from the furnace, King Darius responded to God's miracle by praising Him. Darius published a decree that the inhabitants of his kingdom "tremble and fear before the God of Daniel" (Dan. 6:26). Having seen God's miraculous deliverance, Darius praised God because "He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end" (6:26). Although the Medo-Persian empire was magnificent, it was nothing compared to God's unending kingdom. Darius had personally seen that God "delivers and rescues, and He works signs" (6:27). God had worked through Daniel's faithful life to show His own power. Darius finished by praising the God "who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions" (6:27). God had rescued Daniel and continued to bless him throughout his life in Babylon (6:28).

### **Conclusion**

Unlike many Bible characters, Daniel remained faithful throughout his life. He served God continually and prayed without ceasing. He had an unblemished testimony and unwavering confidence in God. His dependence on the Lord allowed for unique opportunities to see God's glory demonstrated in his life. God used Daniel's faithfulness to bring Himself glory among the most powerful men in human history.

Believers who desire their lives to be a faithful testimony to God's faithfulness must look at Daniel's life and recognize his complete dependence on God. Only by depending on God, relying on the death of His Son for forgiveness, and submitting to His Spirit's control can the believer live a faithful life like Daniel's. While depending on God, the believer must follow Daniel in making wise choices, such as being committed to pray daily and continually, to obey God's law, and to serve God wholeheartedly. God will glorify Himself when a believer devotes his life faithfully to Him.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"*  
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

*Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.*

Did Belshazzar listen to Nebuchadnezzar's warning to be humble?

*No. Belshazzar did not listen but was proud.*

Why was Belshazzar so proud?

*The city of Babylon was being attacked, but Belshazzar believed that he was invincible against the attack. He trusted in his own strength rather than the strength of God, and instead of praising God, he praised gods of gold, silver, and wood.*

What did the king see during his meal?

*The king saw a hand writing a message on a wall.*

What did the message say?

*The message said "counted, counted, weighed, divided."*

What did the king do when he could not read the message?

*He called for the wise men to try and interpret it.*

What did Daniel say that this message meant?

*Daniel explained that God had numbered Belshazzar's kingdom and ordained how many more days the king would live. He also said that God had weighed the king and found him wanting.*

What happened that night to the king?

*He was killed when the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon.*



### Again and Again

A habit is something that you do repeatedly, again and again. Some habits are good and some are bad; some are necessary and some are personal preferences. Ask the students what some of their habits are (brushing teeth, bathing, eating, saying prayers before going to bed, etc.). You could have a competition to see which student is able to stop blinking for the longest time. Blinking helps keep our eyes healthy, and so our body does it without us even thinking about it. How important is praying for our health? How long should we or could we go without praying? Daniel was in a habit of praying every day, and he would not go without it even to save his own life.



### Faithfulness

Faithfulness is being true to your word and your commitments. God is faithful in that He never breaks a promise but always does what He says He will do. God expects us to be faithful like Him. Have the students ever made a promise and then



broken it, or said they would do something and then forgot? Have the students agree not to smile or talk, and then play a game in which you attempt to get them to smile or to talk. Would the students be faithful to their commitment even if faced with death? Daniel was faithful in prayer even when his life was at stake.

### Lions

Bring a stuffed lion to show the students. It's very soft and cuddly. Are real lions like that? Use the following facts to discuss the strength and disposition of lions: The big, powerful lion is the largest member of the cat family. You can hear its thundering roar across the African plains where it lives. The male lion's long, thick mane gives him a royal appearance and makes him look bigger than he really is. It also protects him during fights with other males. The female does a lot of the hunting, mostly at night. They prefer to eat large game, such as zebras, antelopes, and giraffes. But they will eat anything they can catch, including fish, rodents, birds, and other small prey. They cannot chew their food and have to swallow it in chunks. They can eat 75 pounds of meat at one meal. Lions spend 20 hours a day resting or sleeping. They live to be about 15 to 20 years old. Full-grown males weigh approximately 350–400 pounds and are about 9 feet in length. Females weigh approximately 250–300 pounds and are about 8 feet in length. They both have a shoulder height of approximately 40 inches and a roar that can be heard up to five miles away. What a majestic beast God has created. (Show a color shot of a real lion out of a book or magazine as you give the students these facts.)

## PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

*"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

### Bible Lesson

#### Introduction

Would you be afraid if you were put in a room full of hungry lions? This would be very frightening for most people, but it was not for Daniel. Daniel was more afraid of God. He chose to obey and trust that God would protect him from the lions. Let's see what happens in today's lesson as Daniel is thrown into the lions' den.

#### Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

**LOQ:** What was Daniel's character known for even among those who did not like him?

**Answer:** Even the people who didn't like Daniel could not find anything wrong with him. When they looked for something bad to say about him, there was nothing to say. They knew that he was a man of prayer, personal holiness, and professional excellence.



**LOQ:** How did the people know that Daniel was a man of prayer?

**Answer:** Daniel would open his windows and pray toward Jerusalem three times every day.

**LOQ:** What was the plan of the satraps and administrators to make Daniel look bad in the eyes of the king?

**Answer:** They knew that Daniel prayed every day. Their plan was to have the king make a law that they knew Daniel would break. The law was that every prayer had to be prayed to the king. The consequence for breaking the law would be death in the lions' den. The king agreed to the law.

**LOQ:** What did Daniel do when he heard the king's decree?

**Answer:** Daniel went home and prayed and fasted. He did not change his pattern of prayer but continued to pray as he had always done.

**LOQ:** What was the consequence for Daniel disobeying the king's command?

**Answer:** When the officials saw that Daniel's prayer habits had not changed, they went to the king to tell him what Daniel was doing.

**LOQ:** What did the king do to Daniel?

**Answer:** The king regretfully sent Daniel to the lions' den.

**LOQ:** What did the king do the night that Daniel was in the den?

**Answer:** He did not sleep, and he fasted as Daniel was put into the den. The next morning he went to the den and called into the hole. He said, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" (Dan. 6:20). He was very glad when he heard Daniel's voice call from the den that he was all right.

**LOQ:** What did Daniel say when he spoke with the king?

**Answer:** Daniel gave God the glory for his safety. He said that during the night God had sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions because he was innocent. He came out of the den without a single scratch because God was in control of his life.

**LOQ:** How did King Darius respond to what had happened?

**Answer:** The king praised God and said that others should fear Him also.

### Summary

Daniel was a faithful servant of the Lord. God had used him many times throughout his life to demonstrate His sovereignty over everything. This event was no different. Daniel's faithfulness in prayer was known by those around. He prayed at his open window three times a day toward Jerusalem. The officers under the king did not like Daniel and looked for a way to make him look bad in the eyes of the king. As they looked, they could find nothing that he did wrong. So they made up a plan. They decided to ask the king to make a law that would get Daniel into trouble. The king approved of a law that said that no one could pray to anyone but himself. When Daniel prayed the next day to the one true God, the officers saw him and told the king. When the king heard what had happened, he was very sad because he knew that Daniel would be put into the lions' den. The king did not sleep or eat the night that Daniel was in the lions' den. He went to the den the next morning to see if Daniel had been eaten or if the Lord had protected him. That night, the Lord had sent an angel to close the mouth of the lions and saved Daniel. The king was very happy and praised the Lord.



## Application

Daniel was a faithful servant of the Lord throughout his life. He remained faithful and prayed continually. Daniel had confidence in and dependence on God that would not change because of his circumstances. Believers should also have this unwavering faith and obedience to the Lord. Those who have trusted Christ have much to be thankful for. They should be men and women about whom others have nothing bad to say. The motivation of the believer's action should be the desire to live a holy life and to please God.

## Presentation Ideas



### A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



### Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



### Persecution

Your students likely will not understand what persecution is like. They don't understand how believers around the world suffer for their faith. Help the students better understand what it is like by "persecuting" some of them. Ask them to vote on what their favorite sport is. All the students who think that baseball is the greatest sport will be those who are persecuted. Explain that those students will not be allowed a particular privilege (participating in play time, getting a snack, etc.). Use this illustration to talk about the persecution that Daniel faced during this lesson.



### Muzzle

Bring in a dog's muzzle. Ask the students what it is for. After listening to their ideas, explain that the muzzle is used to keep a dog quiet and to prevent it from biting people. Ask what animals you could use a muzzle on. Then ask the students whether they think a muzzle would stop a lion from biting them. Ask what they would do if they were locked in a cage with a hungry lion. Instruct them to listen to today's lesson and see what happened when Daniel was facing a hungry lion.



### Hungry Lions

At the beginning of class, give the students a snack they will like a lot (a piece of candy, a snack cake, etc.). (Make sure to ask the parents whether the snack is acceptable.) Tell the students that they cannot eat the snack, no matter how hungry they are, until you say so. As you describe the hungry lions and how God stopped their mouths from eating Daniel, ask the students how many of them ate even a little of their snack. God stopped the lions from eating even a little of Daniel. But just as the lions eventually were fed, make sure the students get to eat their snacks at the appropriate time!

## Praise and Worship

*God Is So Good*

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

*I Will Call upon the Lord*

*Make Me a Servant*

*My God Is So Great*

Sweet Hour of Prayer  
Trust and Obey  
What a Friend We Have in Jesu

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).*

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Pass the Letter

We learned in this chapter of Daniel that two letters were sent throughout the kingdom. In verses 4–9, it was bad news of a command to pray only to the king for 30 days. Then, in verses 25–27, it was good news of a decree to fear the living God. Play various pass-the-letter games.

**Hot Potato:** Have the students sit in a circle. While music plays, pass a scroll around the circle. When the music stops, the student holding it is out. You also could send around two scrolls. Whoever is holding a scroll when the music stops opens it to find either good or bad news. Students who receive bad news are out. For younger students, the good and bad news could be pictures of a happy face or a green light and a sad face or stop sign.

**Pass the Baton:** Divide the class into teams, and send one member at a time across the room to deliver a scroll or bring it back. Or you could let the students take a bad news scroll to one end of the room and return with a good news scroll.



### "Daniel's Habit"

Materials: copies of "Daniel's Habit" craft pages, brads, scissors, glue, crayons

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft pages. Instruct the students to cut out the two circles and to cut along the slits on the clock to form flaps. Glue the two circles together, with the clock on top. Cut out the arrows and attach them to the clock using a brad. When the students lift the flaps, they will see that Daniel had a habit of praying.



### "Circle Lion"

Materials: copies of the "Circle Lion" craft pages on colored paper (see craft pages for color instructions), blank sheets of paper, scissors, glue

Directions: Give each student a copy of the craft pages and a blank sheet of paper. Direct the students to cut out the orange circles and glue them onto the blank sheet, forming a slightly flattened circle or rectangle shape. This will be the lion's mane. Then have the students cut out the yellow circles and glue the larger one to the orange circles to make the lion's face. Then they can glue the medium-sized black circle on as the nose, and the two small black circles on as the eyes. Then the students can glue the remaining five circles to the face, using two for the ears and three to form the mouth. Finally, they should glue the verse to the bottom of the page.



### **“God Protects Daniel”**

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



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### **Journal Page: “Faithful Obedience”**

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.

### **Coloring Pages**

Give each student a copy of the coloring pages at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.

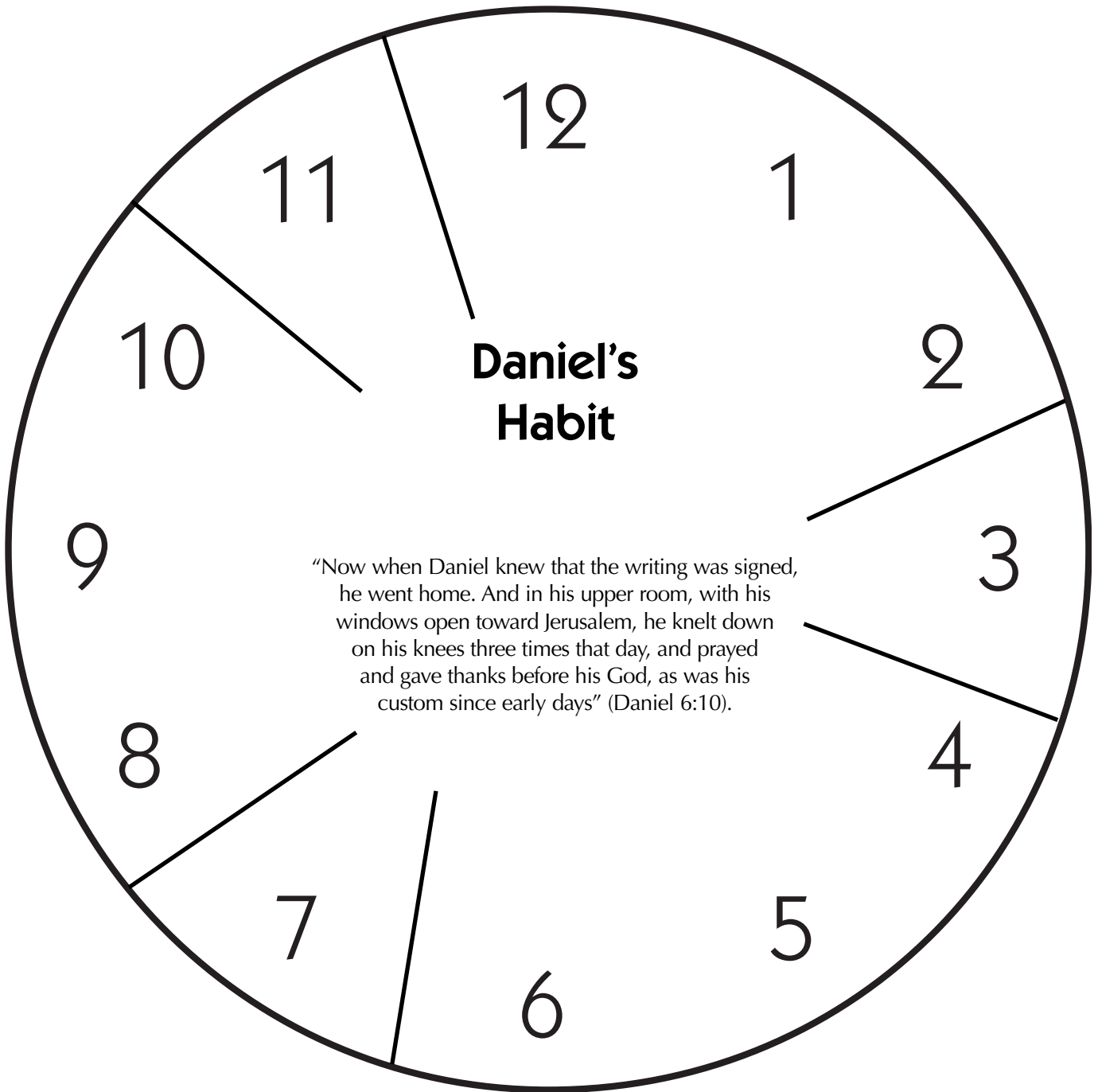


### **MEMORY VERSE**

“Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You”  
(Psalm 25:20).



# Daniel's Habit



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# Daniel's Habit



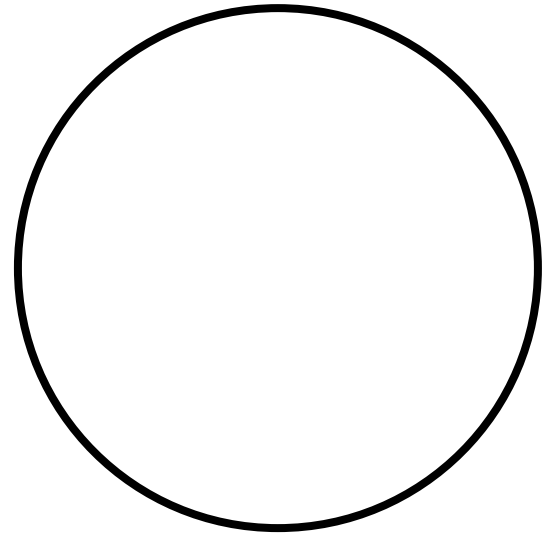
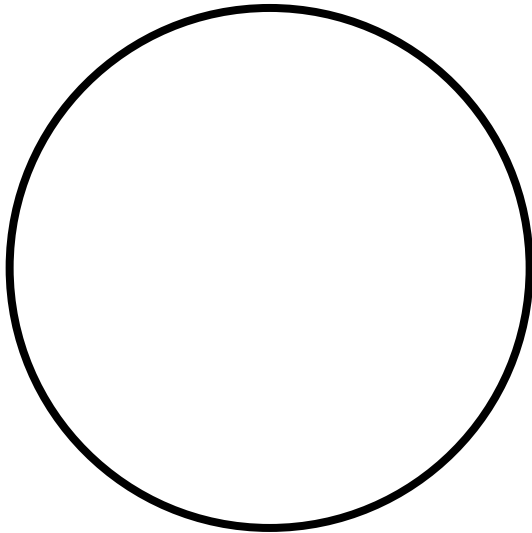
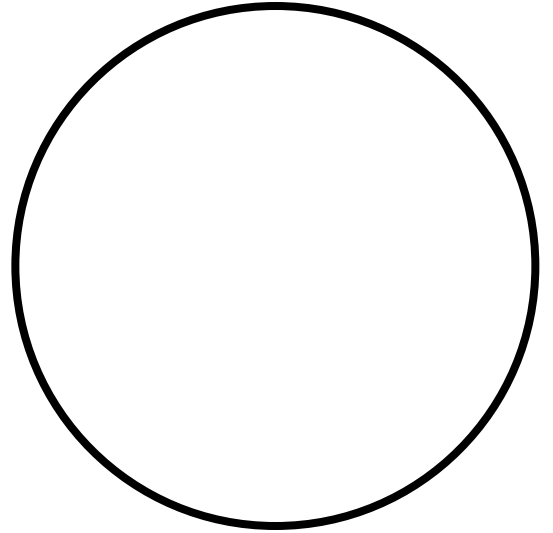
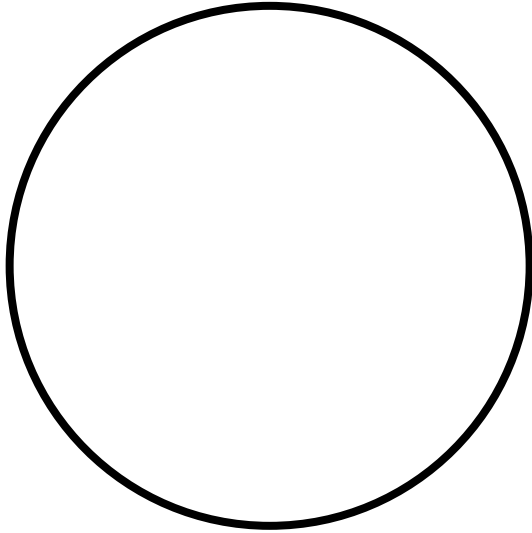




# Circle Lion

Template One

(copy twice per student on orange paper)

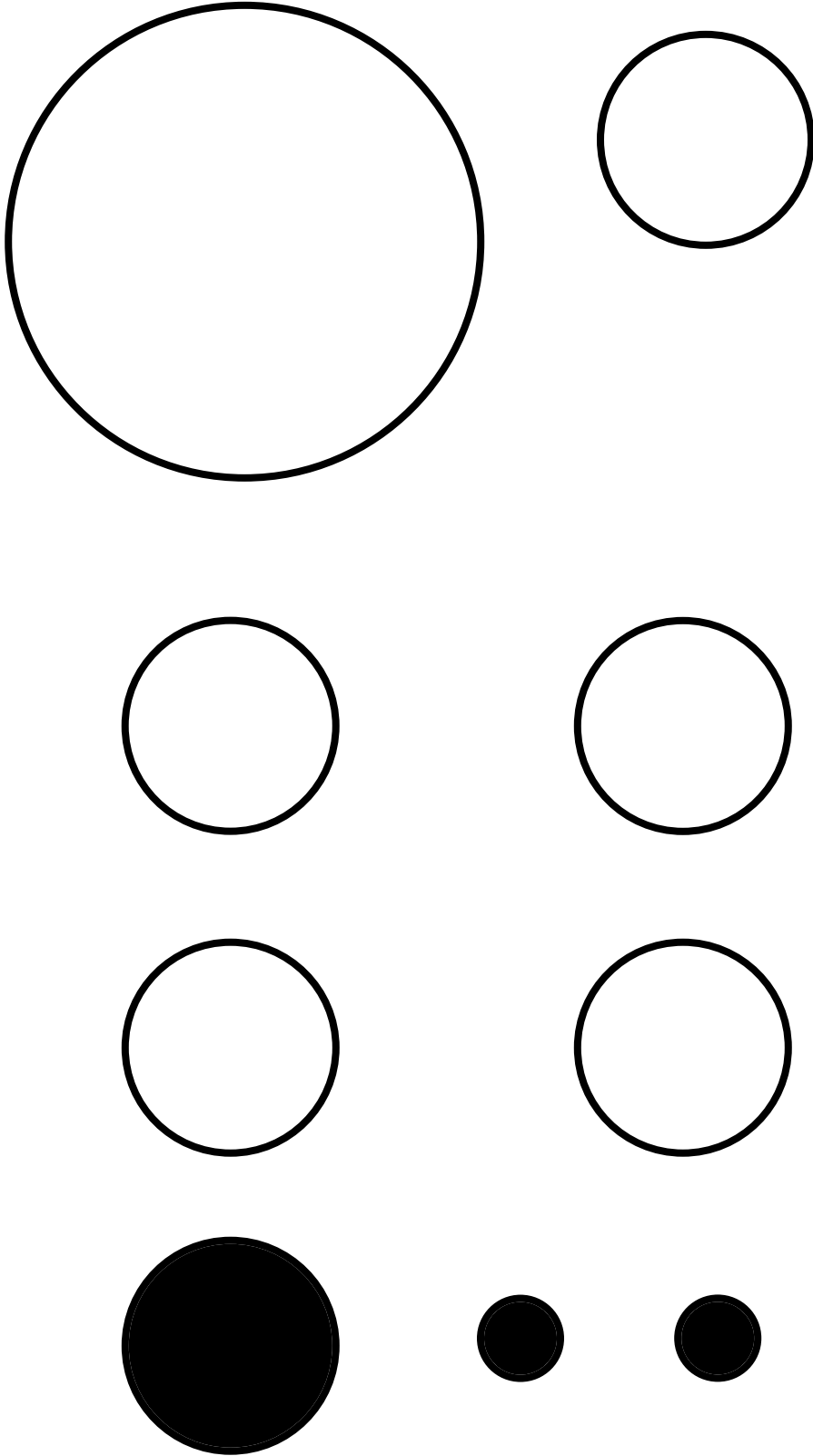




# Circle Lion

Template Two

(copy once per student on yellow paper)



“So the king gave the command, and they brought Daniel and cast him into the den of lions. But the king spoke, saying to Daniel, ‘Your God, whom you serve continually, He will deliver you’ (Daniel 6:16).”



# God *Delivers* Daniel



## Daniel 6

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**1.** The governors and satraps could not find any fault in Daniel because he was

\_\_\_\_\_ (6:4).

**2.** Write out Daniel 6:5. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.** Describe the king's decree. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4.** Did Daniel let the king's decree stop him from praying to God? \_\_\_\_\_

**5.** How did the king punish Daniel? \_\_\_\_\_

**6.** Did the king believe God would protect Daniel? \_\_\_\_\_

**7.** How did God protect Daniel? \_\_\_\_\_



# Faithful Obedience

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“The king spoke, saying to Daniel, ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?’” (Daniel 6:20).

Is it always easy to choose what is right? No. Sometimes it is very difficult, but in today’s lesson Daniel chose to obey God even when it meant he would be thrown to the lions.

Do you think it was easy for Daniel to obey God? Why do you think Daniel chose to obey God?

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There are always times when we must choose to obey or disobey God, such as the ones listed below. Under each circumstance below, write the result.

**DARIUS MADE A DECREE**

*Result:* \_\_\_\_\_

**DANIEL OBEYED GOD AND WAS THROWN TO THE LIONS**

*Result:* \_\_\_\_\_

**THE LEADERS TRICKED THE KING AND PLOTTED AGAINST DANIEL**

*Result:* \_\_\_\_\_

Because Daniel made the choice to please God in a difficult circumstance and because God saved Daniel, King Darius gave God glory. Name three things he praised God for (Dan. 6:25–27).

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# Faithful Obedience

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*Result:* \_\_\_\_\_

**THE LEADERS TRICKED THE KING AND PLOTTED AGAINST DANIEL**

*Result:* \_\_\_\_\_

Because Daniel made the choice to please God in a difficult circumstance and because God saved Daniel, King Darius gave God glory. Name three things he praised God for (Dan. 6:25–27).

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By relying on the death of Christ for forgiveness and by submitting to His Spirit's control, you can live a faithful life like Daniel's, and when you choose to obey God, your life will bring God glory, too. He is faithful, and He will help you (1 Thess. 5:24).

When it is difficult for me to obey, I will

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I would like for \_\_\_\_\_ to see Christ in my life and give God glory.

I can trust Christ to help me because

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I have seen Christ glorified in

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By relying on the death of Christ for forgiveness and by submitting to His Spirit's control, you can live a faithful life like Daniel's, and when you choose to obey God, your life will bring God glory, too. He is faithful, and He will help you (1 Thess. 5:24).

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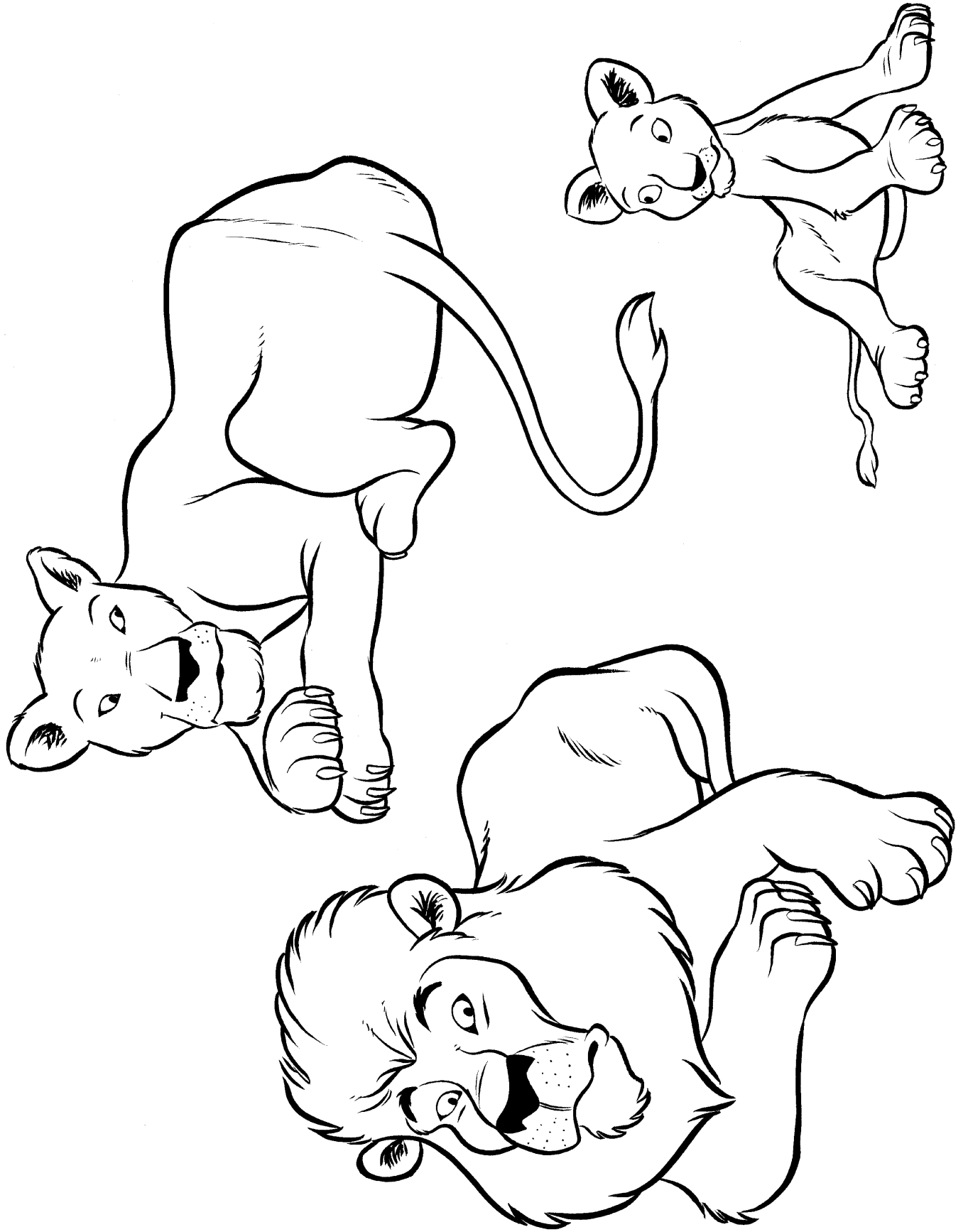
**PRAYER**

Give Christ thanks for being faithful to you, and give Him thanks for faithful Christians. If you would like for Him to help you be faithful in a difficult circumstance, ask Him—He will help you, and He will forgive you for the times you have not been faithful, if you ask Him to.

**PRAYER**

Give Christ thanks for being faithful to you, and give Him thanks for faithful Christians. If you would like for Him to help you be faithful in a difficult circumstance, ask Him—He will help you, and He will forgive you for the times you have not been faithful, if you ask Him to.









**“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home....He knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days” (Daniel 6:10).**





**“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you” (Daniel 6:22).**

