

DANIEL 6 - DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

KIDS' LIFEGROUP GUIDE

WEEK: 11/17/19 - 11/23/19

OVERVIEW:

- **Part 1:** Catch Up On Life (15 Minutes)
- **Part 2:** Kidtown Lesson Review (15 Minutes)
- **Part 3:** Reflection (15 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3a: Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3b: Snack (5 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3c: Sing (5 Minutes)
- **Part 4:** Prayer Time! (15 Minutes)

PART 1: CATCH UP ON LIFE (15 minutes)

Setting: Sit in a circle with kids and adults interspersed! Adults sitting amongst the kids helps everyone engage and pay attention. Parents - you are always responsible for your kids, but you're also looking to engage with other kids in your group.

- *Leader Note: If your group eats dinner with your kids, this is the best part of the guide to do together while you eat. Add 15 minutes for everyone to get their plates and start eating. Then shift into intentional conversation as the kids are starting to finish their food.*

Vision: God calls the church -- and our LifeGroup -- to be family! Because of this, we want our kids to know our adults and our adults to know our kids. The best way to get to know each other is to ask each other questions and tell each other about our lives.

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, you can ask kids if they remember why we ask each other questions. Help them to remember that God's making us family, so we want to get to know each other.*

Questions:

- 1.) What was your high and low from the week?
- 2.) **Kids Pick!** Let each kid ask the adults in the group one question.
 - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Kids to ask Adults if they're having a hard time thinking of any.
- 3.) **Adults Pick!** Have each adult ask the kids in the group one question.
 - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Adults to ask Kids if they're having a hard time think of any.

PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (15 minutes)

Vision: God uses the Bible to show Himself to us. He also uses it to help us love Him and others better. We don't only want to learn *about* the Bible; we're also called to apply it to our lives -- to change the way we think (Head), what we love and value (Heart) and what we do (Hands).

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, ask kids if they remember why we study the Bible.*

Lesson: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Bible Passage: Daniel 6

REVIEW:

- 1.) **Kids what do you remember from the story you learned about on Sunday?** (Pause and let them think of what they can remember.)
- 2.) **Can anyone remember the main characters?**
 - God/Jesus! (*Leader Note: Almost always a right answer. Helps reinforce that the entire Bible is about God and points forward to Jesus*)
 - King Darius
 - Darius' advisors
 - Daniel
- 3.) **Ok, does anyone remember any of the story points?**

Story Point #1: Daniel was faithful even in exile.
Story Point #2: Daniel obeyed God even though it might cost him everything.
Story Point #3: God protected Daniel in the lion's den.
- 4.) **Awesome! And can anyone remember how this story connected to Jesus?**

Christ Connection: Like Daniel, Jesus obeyed God even though it *did* cost Him everything.

Transition: That was awesome! Ya'll did a great job remembering. Ok let's watch the video and see if we remember anything we forgot or notice anything new this time.

WATCH THE VIDEO STORY:

Click [here](#) to watch the Gospel Project Video Story.

TALK THROUGH THE STORY POINTS:

Leader Note: If your kids are younger, it helps to give them journals. For each question, have them write their answers first and then go around the circle and share.

Leader Note: Say each story point and have the kids repeat it.

Story Point #1: Daniel was faithful even in exile.

- Question: Does anyone remember why Daniel and God's people were in exile?
- Teach: God's people were in exile because they had been sinful and ignored God's patient warning. Think about it like a big, big time out for the whole nation.
- Question: What do you think it would be like to be in exile? What would the hardest part be?
- Teach: It would be really difficult. You would miss all kinds of things about home. You would hate being stuck and not allowed to go back. Isn't it incredible that Daniel is faithful to God despite how bad the circumstances of his life are?

PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Story Point #2: Daniel obeyed God even though it might cost him everything.

- Question: Can you think of a time when it was hard for you to obey God? What made it so hard? (Adults answer first. Then kids!)
- Question: Why do you think Daniel was ok with trusting God even if it meant he would get eaten by lions?

Story Point #3: God protected Daniel in the lion's den.

- Question: Do you remember some other folks from the Bible from our lesson a couple of weeks ago that were also threatened with death?
- Teach: That's right! The Bros--Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego--were told by King Nebby--Nebuchadnezzar--that they would be thrown into the fiery furnace if they didn't bow down and worship his statue.
- Teach: Remember, The Bros didn't know if God would rescue them, but they refused to bow down and worship King Nebby's statue. It's possible that Daniel didn't know if God would protect him when he was thrown into the lions' den, but He still remained faithful to God.

REVIEW THE CHRIST CONNECTION AND APPLY IT:

Christ Connection: Like Daniel, Jesus obeyed God even though it *did* cost Him everything.

- Adults - how is that good news to you?

Main Application(s): Because Jesus gave His life for us, we can trust and obey God no matter what.

- Adults first then kids - When is it hardest for you to trust and obey God?
- Adults first then kids - How can you repent and grow in trusting and obeying God no matter how scary it is or no matter how much you just don't want to?!
 - Hint: For kids, a huge way they can grow in trusting and obeying God is by trusting and obeying their parents!

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE:

Ask any of the kids if they can remember the key passage. Help lead them through it leaving out words and see if they can fill them in.

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

PART 3: REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

As well, have everyone (kids and adults) share an area in their life that they need God's help. Have the person sitting to their right pray for them.

OPTIONAL - PART 3a: LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Option 1: Lion, lion, Daniel

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to be *It*. *It* will walk around the circle, gently tapping each kid's head. With each tap, *It* will say "lion" until *It* gets to a kid of his choosing. Then *It* will tap that kid and say, "Daniel." The kid he chose will chase *It* around the circle and try to tag *It* before he sits in her spot. Play as time allows.

Say • In our game, there was one "Daniel" surrounded by lots of lions. It would be pretty scary to be surrounded by hungry lions. Imagine if you were in a cage with even one lion! Today we're going to learn that Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, but God shut the mouths of the lions to save Daniel.

Option 2: Key Passage Activity

Form two groups. Write each word of the key passage on a separate piece of paper. Create two sets. Mix up each set and stack the sets on one side of the room. Instruct the teams to line up on the opposite side of the room from the papers. The first person in each line will put on oven mitts to be "lion paws," run to her team's stack, find and pick up the first word in the key passage, and run back. Teams must return the key passage words in order and lay them on the floor to display the complete key passage.

Say • You guys are doing a great job memorizing our key passage! Let's keep working on it for one more week.

OPTIONAL - PART 3b: SNACK (5 minutes)

If your group doesn't eat dinner together, now is a great time to stop for a snack break before spending time praying together and talking about living on mission. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks in case a kid has Gluten allergies.

OPTIONAL - PART 3c: SING (5 minutes)

Play this video of the [key passage song](#) and sing and dance along!

PART 4: PRAY FOR THE MISSION (15 minutes)

Vision: God calls His people to share with others the good news of Jesus. This means that we try to love others with our actions and with our words. We want all our friends to know about Jesus and His great love for them.

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?
- Who could we invite to do something fun with our LifeGroup friends this month?

Pray: Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!