



Daniel



The Praying Prophet

Track 42

Daniel went upstairs to his room and opened the window. He looked out towards Jerusalem, the city where he used to live. But he couldn't see the city. It was too far away!

Sometimes Daniel still missed his old home. Now he worked for a king in a strange, far-off land called Babylon. Lots of other Israelites lived there too. God had made the Israelites leave their homes in the Promised Land because of their sin.



Daniel knelt to pray. Even when he felt sad, he still gave thanks to God.

Down on the street, some of the king's men were whispering. "Look at that Daniel! He's praying again. I wish he would do something bad. Then we could get him into trouble."

"Yes," said one man. "Daniel is the king's favorite officer. If we don't do something quick, the king will put him in charge of everyone in the land – including us!"

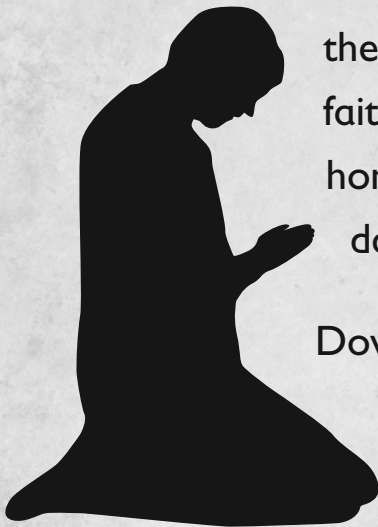
"I have an idea," said another man. "Let's get Daniel in trouble for praying to his God! We'll tell King Darius to make a new law that whoever prays to anyone, *except* to the king, will be thrown into the den of lions."

All the king's officers stopped whispering and grinned with glee. "What a perfect plan!" they said. They went off to trick the king into making the law.

Up in his room, Daniel kept praying. Not one – not two – but three times each day, he would go to his room, get down on his knees and pray.



At the palace one day, Daniel heard about the king's new law. But Daniel knew he must still be faithful to God – no matter what! He went right home, fell on his knees and prayed. Three times a day, he kept thanking God and asking Him for help.



Down on the street, the officers were watching. "Now we caught him!" they said with a smirk. They went off to tattle to the king.

When King Darius heard their words, he was very upset. He tried all day to save Daniel, but it was too late! He could not change his law.

The king's men seized Daniel and brought him to the den. Daniel could hear the hungry growls of the lions below.

As they threw him in, the king called to Daniel, “May the God whom you serve so faithfully save you!”

Inside the den, Daniel didn’t move a muscle. He closed his eyes tightly.

But where were the growls?

The den was quiet.

Daniel sat up and looked around.

There was God’s angel, shutting the mouths of the lions! Not one lion even scratched Daniel the whole night long.

The next morning, King Darius rushed to see Daniel. “Are you safe?” he cried.

When Daniel said yes, the king lifted him out of the den. He threw in the evil officers instead. Then he made a brand new law: “Everyone in my kingdom must worship and pray to Daniel’s God.”

Once again, Daniel prayed and gave thanks. Daniel knew he had been faithful. And he thanked his faithful God for being so faithful to him.

Learn from Daniel’s biography:

- God is faithful to be with His children – even in a lion’s den.
- You can be faithful to God too. Keep praying and giving thanks to Him – no matter what!



Parent Ideas

Daniel, the Praying Prophet

Scripture: Daniel 6

KEY LEARNING POINTS

- God is faithful to be with His children – even in a lion’s den.
- You can be faithful to God too. Keep praying and giving thanks to Him – no matter what!

1. Read-together activity

– Before you read, tell your child to listen for all forms of the word *pray* (prays, praying, prayed, etc.). Each time he hears one of the forms read aloud in the biography, he should drop to his knees and fold his hands as though he was praying. Since this biography is full of action and dialogue, be sure to show dramatic expression and variety in your voice, especially as you read the different character parts.

2. Discussion activity – Talk about faithfulness. A simple definition of faithfulness is “to keep doing what’s right – no matter what.” Why are we faithful? Because we love God, and we want to show Him our love at all times.

To add some fun to your discussion, pull out a real or imaginary microphone and pretend to be news reporters. Interview each other with various factual questions about the biography, including these:

- How did Daniel show his faithfulness to God?
- How did God show His faithfulness to Daniel?

Parents, explain that David showed faithfulness to God by praying and giving thanks, even during a hard situation. God did not leave Daniel when things were hard – He was faithful to be with him and to protect him.

3. Application activity – On the top left-hand corner of a piece of paper write “Wake up,” and on the bottom right-hand corner, write “Bedtime.” Use a line to draw a winding “trail” between the two points. Then help your child to name all the activities or places included in a typical day between waking up and bedtime (e.g., eating breakfast, riding the bus, school, playground, Sparks club, etc.). Along your trail, draw a box for each thing she names. Label each box. Your child can draw a picture of the activity or place inside each box.

Then ask your child to point to the boxes when she prayed today (or yesterday). Mark those boxes with a symbol, such as praying hands. Then ask her to circle any boxes when it’s hard to pray and thank God. Ask her why it’s hard. Maybe she forgets or doesn’t feel like praying then; or maybe something bad or sad happened there today. Remind her of 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. God wants us to keep on praying and thanking Him – whether we are happy or sad, and in good times or bad times.

4. Application activity – When difficult or sad things come up this week, ask your child to join you in praying and giving thanks to God. No matter what happens, God is faithful to love His children and to be with them in those times. We can always thank Him for His Word, His character and our eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.