

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith	
Lower Elementary	<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God takes care of us.</p> <p><b>FACE OF A LION:</b> Kids use cheese and tortillas to create a lion face as they review Daniel and the Lions.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> None</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Aluminum foil, spoon, plastic knives, bowls, baking sheets, broiler, oven mitts, cooling racks, tortillas, Cojack cheese, cheddar cheese, string cheese, olives (green or black), pepperoni, red bell pepper, paper plates, napkins</p>
Upper Elementary	<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Worship God only.</p> <p><b>DIPPIN' DANIEL:</b> Kids create vegetable Daniels with lion face dip as they review the story.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Bamboo skewers, toothpicks, paper plates, serving plate, measuring cups, spoons, plastic wrap, cheddar cheese, string cheese, celery, baby carrots, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, olives, dill pickles, soft cream cheese, shredded cheddar cheese, string cheese, raisins, knife, bowls, cutting board</p>
All Kids	<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> Trust God.</p> <p><b>FACE CAKES:</b> Kids review the story as they turn rice cakes into characters' faces.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> None</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Plastic knives, plates, napkins, bowls, spoons, mini rice cakes, frosting, mini baking chips, shredded coconut, colored sprinkles, gumdrops, spreadable cheese, sunflower seeds, shredded cheddar cheese, raisins, ring-shaped cereal</p>



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.



**Workshop Focus:** God takes care of us.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Daniel and the Lions Storytelling

**Welcome to Cooking! Who are some of the people who take care of you?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **What are some of the ways they take care of you? Has anyone ever saved you from a wild animal attack? Our story is about someone who did just that!**

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to each of the kids. Help kids find Daniel and the Lions on pages 184-189. Encourage kids to follow along as you read. **Use your body to act out the story as it is read.** Read the story aloud using a lot of expression.

**Let's talk about the story. Who did Daniel pray to every day? (God) Who did the new law say Daniel was supposed to pray to? (King Darius) What happened when Daniel prayed to God instead of the king? (He was thrown into the lions' den.) What would you have done if you were Daniel?** Allow kids to respond. **Daniel must have been afraid of the lions, but Daniel knew God would take care of him. God did take care of Daniel and Daniel wasn't hurt. God takes care of us!**

**Let's make some lions to eat while we talk about the story!**

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Face of a Lion

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Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

### Ingredients (makes one lion face per kid):

- Tortillas, 1 per kid
- Cojack cheese (shredded), 2 Tbs. (30 ml)
- Cheddar cheese (shredded), ¼ C (60 ml)
- String cheese, 1 stick per kid
- Olives (green or black), 2 slices per kid
- Pepperoni, 1 or 2 slices per kid
- Red bell pepper, 1 thin strip per kid

**Set Up:** Measure out each kid's portion of cheese into individual bowls. Slice the olives, pepperoni and pepper if necessary. Prepare a space where kids can work.

### Activity Instructions

**Daniel was thrown into the lions' den for praying to God instead of King Darius. Daniel must have been afraid of the lions! God took care of Daniel and the lions didn't hurt him. We're going to make tortillas that look like the lions that Daniel spent the night with!** Remind kids to wash their hands before starting the activity.

1. Gather the kids at the workspace.
2. **Who was Daniel's good friend? (King Darius) Here's something shiny to remind you of the king.** Give each kid a piece of aluminum foil to work on.
3. **King Darius put Daniel in charge of a large part of his kingdom.** Give each kid a tortilla to place on their foil.
4. **Why were some men jealous of Daniel? (They were only in charge of a small part of the kingdom.) Make a small circle of cheese in the middle of your tortilla to show the small amount the men were in charge of.** Have each kid spread their Cojack cheese into a circle in the middle of their tortilla.
5. **The men tricked King Darius into making a law. Who did the law say everyone was supposed to pray to? (King Darius)** Have kids put an olive slice toward the top of their cheese circle for King Darius. **Who did Daniel pray to instead? (God)** Have kids put a second olive slice on their cheese for God.
6. **The men caught Daniel praying to God and told King Darius about it. They reminded the king about the punishment for breaking the law. What was supposed to happen to Daniel? (be thrown into the lions' den)** Give kids the cheddar cheese. **Sprinkle this cheese in a circle, all around the outside edge of your other cheese, for the lions' den.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Aluminum foil  
Spoons  
Plastic knives  
Paper plates  
Napkins  
Bowls  
Baking sheets  
Broiler  
Oven mitts  
Cooling racks

7. **Did King Darius want to put Daniel in the lions' den? (no) But the men reminded him of the law. What do you think Daniel thought about being thrown into the lions' den?** Allow kids to respond. **Let's finish making our lions.**
8. Give each kid a slice or two of pepperoni and a plastic knife. **Cut the pepperoni into pieces to use for your lion's nose and ears.**
9. Give each kid a stick of string cheese. Demonstrate how to pull strings off of the stick. **Use these strings of cheese to make whiskers for your lion.**
10. Give each kid a strip of bell pepper. **Add this pepper to make the mouth.**
11. Set broiler temperature to Low. **It's time to put Daniel in the lions' den with the lions!** Help kids place their foil sheets on baking sheets.
12. Broil tortillas for 1 to 3 minutes, until cheese melts, but doesn't burn. **What did King Darius do all night while Daniel was in the lions' den?** (*stayed awake worrying*) **What did Daniel do when he was in the lions' den?** (*prayed for God to help him*)
13. Remove tortillas from the oven and let cool on racks. **When morning came, King Darius rushed to check on Daniel. What did the king find?** (*Daniel was safe.*) **What did Daniel tell the king?** (*God was with him and kept the lions' from hurting him.*)
14. Enjoy the tortillas! **King Darius was so happy to see that God kept Daniel safe! The king believed in God from that day on. God took care of Daniel just like God takes care of us!** Remind kids to wash their hands before coming to Wrap Up.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for coming to Cooking! Daniel and King Darius were friends. Some men were jealous of Daniel. The men tricked King Darius into a law that said everyone must pray to the king. Who did Daniel pray to? (God) What happened to Daniel? (He was thrown into the lions' den.) Daniel wasn't hurt. God took care of Daniel just like God takes care of us. How does God take care of you?** Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

## Prayer Time

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Invite kids to pray. **Copy my words and actions.**

**Dear God,**

**Daniel prayed to you.** (lift folded hands)

**Thank you for taking care of Daniel.** (make lion paws)

**Thank you for taking care of me.** (hug self)

**Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** Worship God only.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Daniel and the Lions Storytelling

**Welcome to Cooking. What is your favorite way to worship God?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following questions. **What are some other ways to worship? Is prayer a way to worship? (yes) Let's read a story about worshipping God through prayer.**

Have kids find Daniel 6:1–28 on pages 964–965 in their Spark Bibles. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Something I Like or Something I Don't Like Spark Bible Sticker as they read, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. **We'll take turns reading from this passage.** Read the passages as follows:

- Leader—Daniel 6:3–7
- Kids—Daniel 6:10–11
- Leader—Daniel 6:14, 16, 18–20
- Kids—Daniel 6:21–22
- Leader—Daniel 6:24–26

**Let's review. What law did King Darius make?** (*No one could pray to anyone but the king for 30 days.*) **What was the punishment for breaking the law?** (*be thrown into the lions' den*) **Who did Daniel pray to?** (*only God*) **What do you think might have happened if Daniel prayed to King Darius instead?** Allow kids to respond. **God**

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Pencils

**commands us to have no other gods before him. Daniel worshipped God only. Daniel was saved, the satraps were destroyed, and King Darius became a new believer. There is only one God. Worship God only!**

**Let's make a fun snack to dip while we review the story.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Dippin' Daniel

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*Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.*

#### **Ingredients:**

##### **Dippin' Daniel (makes one per kid):**

- Cheddar cheese, 2 or 3 chunks per kid
- String cheese, 2 or 3 chunks per kid
- Celery, 2 or 3 chunks per kid
- Baby carrots, 2 or 3 per kid
- Cucumbers, 2 thick slices per kid
- Cherry tomatoes, 2 or 3 per kid
- Olives (green and black), 2 or 3 per kid
- Dill pickles (midget sized), 2 or 3 per kid

##### **Lion Face Dip (makes one plate of dip):**

- Soft cream cheese, 8 oz (237 ml)
- Shredded cheddar cheese, 1/2 cup (118 ml)
- String cheese, 1 stick
- Raisins, 1/4 C (60 ml)

**Set Up:** Cut cheese and vegetables into similar sized chunks and place these in bowls. Prepare a work surface where kids can work.

#### **Activity Instructions**

**Daniel knew to worship God only! We're going to use pieces of food to make a Daniel figure and then dip Daniel into a dip that looks like a lion's face!** Remind kids to wash their hands before starting the activity.

1. Gather kids at the workspace. Give each kid a paper plate, a bamboo skewer, and 4-6 toothpicks.
2. Have kids find their skewers. **What was the name of the king Daniel served? (King Darius)** Give each kid two cucumber slices. **Thread one cucumber slice lengthwise on your skewer for Daniel and one for King Darius. Slide them together to look like the start of a snowman. Leave a small amount of room on the top of the skewer.**

#### **Spark Resources**

None

#### **Supplies**

Bamboo skewers, 1 per kid  
Toothpicks, 4 or more per kid  
Large paper plates, 1 per kid  
Serving plate, 10-12 inches (25-30 cm)  
Measuring cups  
Spoons  
Plastic wrap  
Knife  
Bowls  
Cutting board

3. **Why were the satraps jealous of Daniel?** (*King Darius was going to put him in charge of the entire kingdom.*) **You might say, "Daniel had a good head on his shoulders!"** Have kids choose a piece of food to add to the top of their skewer as a head.
4. **The satraps tricked King Darius into making a law with a severe punishment. What was the law?** (*Everyone must only pray to King Darius for 30 days.*) **Add one leg to Daniel for the law.** Have kids insert a toothpick into one side of the bottom slice of cucumber and thread pieces of food onto it for a leg.
5. **What was the punishment for breaking this law?** (*being thrown into the lions' den*) **Let's add the other leg for the punishment.** Have kids add the next leg.
6. **Who did Daniel pray to before the law was made?** (*God*) **Add one arm to represent Daniel praying to God.** Have kids stick a toothpick into one side of the top slice of cucumber and thread food onto it for an arm.
7. **Who did Daniel pray to after the law was made?** (*God*) **Add another arm to represent Daniel still only prayed to God!** Have kids add the next arm.
8. **Just as they had expected, the satraps caught Daniel praying to God. What punishment did King Darius have to give Daniel?** (*throw him into the lions' den*) **Let's make a lion waiting for Daniel.**
  - a. Gather kids around the serving plate.
  - b. Invite volunteers to spread the cream cheese all over the plate with spoons.
  - c. Have kids sprinkle shredded cheese around the outside edge of the plate for a mane.
  - d. Allow kids to use raisins to create eyes, ears, nose and a mouth for the lion.
  - e. Have kids pull strings from the string cheese to add as whiskers.
9. Set the plate of dip in the middle of the kids' workspace. Have kids surround the dip with their Daniel figures. **What did King Darius find in the morning when he went to the lions' den?** (*Daniel was safe.*) Have kids pick up their figures.
10. **What did God do to protect Daniel?** (*shut the lions' mouths*) **What did King Darius do when he saw Daniel was safe?** (*had the satraps thrown to the lions and decreed everyone in the land should worship God only*) Invite kids to dip pieces of their Daniel figures into the lion face dip and enjoy the snack. Encourage them to take the food pieces off the skewer and then dip them so they don't double dip.
11. **Daniel trusted God. Daniel knew, no matter what, to worship God only. God kept Daniel safe and King Darius believed in God. Like Daniel, we worship God only!** Have kids put their remaining Daniel figures and some dip on a plate covered in plastic wrap to take home. Remind kids to wash hands before coming to Wrap Up.

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for coming to Cooking! We learned about a law that said everyone must pray only to King Darius. Who did Daniel pray to? (God) Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. What happened to Daniel? (nothing) God kept Daniel safe and King Darius believed in God. Like Daniel, we worship God only! What are some other ways we worship God?** Allow kids to respond.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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**Let's lift our hands as a way to worship God while we pray.**

**Dear God,**

**Daniel worshipped you only and you kept Daniel safe. Like Daniel, we worship you only, God! You are awesome, wonderful, number one, the best! Amen.**

**Workshop Focus:** Trust God.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Daniel and the Lions Storytelling

Enlist a volunteer to fall backward into your arms.

**Welcome to Cooking!** Ask the volunteer. **Do you trust me?** (yes) **Then fall and I will catch you.** Catch volunteer. **Why did [Name] trust me?** Allow kids to respond. **Today we're going to learn about someone else who is trustworthy.**

Hand out Spark Story Bibles to the younger kids, and Spark Bibles to the older kids. Help younger kids find Daniel and the Lions on pages 184-189. **Make faces to show me how each of the people feel in this story while we read it.**

Have older kids find Daniel 6:1-28 on pages 964-965 of their Spark Bibles. Have kids mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their responses in the margin. Have kids read verses from their Spark Bibles after the following sentences in the story.

- "But King Darius had to follow his own law."—Daniel 6:16
- "Daniel answered, 'I'm here.'"—Daniel 6:22

**Spark Resources**

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**

Pencils

**Who did Daniel pray to?** (God) Point to the picture on page 186. **What happened to Daniel?** (He was thrown to the lions.) Direct the older kids to read Daniel 6:26 on page 965. **What did King Darius do when he saw Daniel unharmed?** (decided everyone should worship God) **What do you think God thought about all of this?** Allow kids to respond. **Daniel trusted God and God kept Daniel safe. Like Daniel, we trust God!**

**Let's make some snack cakes to help us review the story!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Face Cakes

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Before serving any food, check with caregivers for kids with food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

#### Ingredients (makes 4 cakes per kid):

- Mini rice cakes, 4 per kid
- Frosting (two colors), 1 spoon each per kid
- Mini baking chips, 1 spoon per kid
- Shredded coconut, 1 spoon per kid
- Colored sprinkles, 1 spoon per kid
- Gumdrops, 1 per kid
- Spreadable cheese (two colors), 1 spoon per kid
- Sunflower seeds, 1 spoon per kid
- Shredded cheddar cheese, 1 spoon per kid
- Raisins, 1 spoon per kid
- Ring-shaped cereal, 1 spoon per kid

**Set Up:** Pour loose ingredients into separate bowls. Prepare a workspace with a plate, knife, and napkin for each kid.

#### Activity Instructions

**Daniel, King Darius, the men, and the lions all played important parts in this story. We're going to turn some rice cakes into the faces of each of these characters as we review the story, Daniel and the Lions!** Remind kids to wash their hands before starting the activity.

1. Gather the kids at the workspace. **What was the name of the king that Daniel served?** (King Darius) Give each kid a rice cake.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Plastic knives  
Plates  
Napkins  
Bowls  
Spoons

2. **Daniel did good work for King Darius, and King Darius was pleased. Daniel and King Darius were friends. What did the king do for Daniel?** (*put him in charge of much of the kingdom*) **Let's make King Darius' face on this rice cake.**
  - a. **What color do you want to make King Darius?** Give kids a spoonful of frosting or cheese to spread on the rice cake.
  - b. **What will you use for the eyes? Did King Darius have a beard?** Allow kids to choose ingredients to complete the king's face.
  - c. Give each kid a gumdrop. **Here's a crown for King Darius' head.**
  
3. **Some men called satraps were jealous of Daniel. They wanted him to get in trouble. What law did the men trick King Darius into making?** (*Everyone must pray only to King Darius for 30 days.*) **Let's make a face for one of the men.**
  - a. Give each kid a rice cake and spoon of frosting or cheese to spread on it.
  - b. **What do you think the man's face looked like? How do people's eyes and eyebrows look when they are upset?** Encourage kids to choose ingredients to complete the man's face.
  
4. **The men caught Daniel praying to God. They told the king and the king had no choice but to punish Daniel. How did the king have to punish Daniel for breaking the law?** (*throw him into the lions' den*) **The king told Daniel he hoped his God would take care of him, and then Daniel was thrown into the lions' den. Let's make a lion face!**
  - a. Give each kid a rice cake and spoon of frosting or cheese to spread on it.
  - b. **What do lions have around their faces?** (*mane*) **What did God do to the lions' mouths?** (*shut them*) Have kids choose ingredients to make their lions' face and mane with.
  
5. **Daniel trusted God. What did King Darius find out when he went to the lions' den the next morning?** (*God kept Daniel safe.*) **The king was overjoyed; Daniel was safe! The king made a new rule that told everyone to worship Daniel's God from now on. Let's make a face for Daniel.**
  - a. Give each kid a rice cake and spoon of frosting or cheese to spread on it.
  - b. **What kind of hair do you think Daniel had? How did Daniel feel after God kept him safe from the lions?** Allow kids to choose the remaining ingredients to complete Daniel's face.
  
6. Invite kids to eat their snack. **Daniel prayed to God before King Darius' law and after King Darius' law. Daniel trusted God to always take care of him and God did—even in a lions' den! God always takes care of us, too. Trust God!** Remind kids to wash their hands before Wrap Up.

# Send (5 minutes)

## Wrap Up

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Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

**Thanks for coming to Cooking! King Darius made a law saying everyone should pray to the king. What happened when Daniel prayed to God instead?** (*He was thrown into the lions' den.*) **Daniel trusted God and God kept Daniel safe. Like Daniel, we can trust God. What are some things you trust God to do for you?**  
Allow kids to respond.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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Invite kids to hold hands with a partner for the closing prayer.

**Dear God,**  
**Daniel trusted you and you kept Daniel safe.**  
**I trust you, too.**  
**Thank you for keeping me safe and taking care of me this week.**  
**Amen.**