

## Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<b>Lower Elementary</b>		
<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God helps us to be brave.</p> <p><b>DANIEL, BRAVE AND SMALL:</b> Kids use boxes, blocks, and action figures to tell the story of Daniel.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> None</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Story Bible</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Medium-sized boxes, assortment of blocks, assorted rocks, lion toys (plastic, stuffed, puppet, foam, etc.), assorted toy people (action figures, dolls, preschool toys, etc.), small scraps of fabric, kid-friendly scissors, chenille craft stems, yarn, paper scraps, markers, tape</p>
<b>Upper Elementary</b>		
<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God is faithful.</p> <p><b>THE PERSIANS' COURT:</b> Kids present the story as a court case with an assortment of witnesses.</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Empty box wrapped like a present, pencils</p>	<p><b>SPARK RESOURCES:</b> Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Bible time costumes, fabric pieces, costume jewelry, crown, gavel or wooden hammer, robe for judge, stuffed lions, paper bags, newspaper, yarn, scissors, tape, markers or crayons, bed sheets, classroom chairs, small table, music stand or podium, The Persians' Court Skit Script (pages 107-108)</p>
<b>All Kids</b>		
<p><b>WORKSHOP FOCUS:</b> God is always with us.</p> <p><b>DANIEL, GOD, AND THE LIONS:</b> Kids use costumes and props to act out Daniel and the Lions from the Spark Story Bible.</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> Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles</p> <p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Bible time costumes, fabric pieces, beards, sandals, crown, costume jewelry, stuffed lions, jars, baskets, mats or rugs, classroom chair, paper bags, newspaper, yarn, kid-friendly scissors, tape, markers or crayons, bed sheets, construction paper</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 helps us to be brave.

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 Creative Drama! What does it mean to be brave?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following question. **Being brave means to have courage—to face fear or danger without running away. Who would like to share about a time when you were brave? God helps someone to be brave in today's story.**

Hand out a Spark Story Bible to each of the kids. Help kids find Daniel and the Lions on pages 184-189. Encourage kids to follow along as you read. **Pretend you are the different characters in the story. Repeat what I read when I point to you.** Have kids repeat all of the dialogue in the story.

**Let's talk about the story. What law did the three men trick King Darius into making?** (*People must pray to the king, not God.*) Point to the picture on page 186. **Where did the king put Daniel?** (*the lions' den*) **Who kept Daniel safe?** (*God*) **Do you think Daniel was scared?** Allow kids to respond. **Sometimes we are in a scary or dangerous place. Like Daniel, we know that God is always with us, even when we're scared. God helps us to be brave!**

**Let's use some toys to tell the story of Daniel and the Lions.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies  
None

# Activate Faith (25 minutes)

## Daniel, Brave and Small

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**Set Up:** Clear an area of the room for kids to set up their mini stages. Place the boxes, lions, and people where kids can choose among them. Place the blocks, rocks, fabric, and craft supplies where kids can use them.

### Activity Instructions

Before playing the story:

**Daniel was brave because he knew God was with him, not because he was bigger, or stronger, or more powerful than the lions. We're going to use boxes, lions, and toy people to tell Daniel's story in a small way.**

1. Invite kids to choose a box.
  - a. **This box will be your stage. Decide which sides of the box will be the floor, back and sides of the stage.** Help kids cut off the fronts and tops of their boxes so the boxes look like stages.
  - b. Show kids the blocks, rocks, and craft supplies. **Where does this story take place?** (*inside the castle and in the lions' den*) **You may use these things to create props and scenery for your stage.**
  - c. **Practice changing the scene inside your stage.**
2. Have kids choose five people.
  - a. **Choose one figure to be King Darius, one to be Daniel, and three to be the king's assistants.**
  - b. Invite kids to use the supplies to create costumes and props for their figures. **What did Daniel wear? How do we know which figure is King Darius?**
  - c. **Practice moving the characters into, out of, and around on the stage.**
3. Have kids select a few lions.
  - a. **Use these lions during the lions' den scene.**
  - b. **Where will you put the lions? What will they be doing? Where will Daniel be?**
4. Give kids time to practice using their small stages, props, and figures.

Play the story:

1. Have kids find a place in the open area of the room where they can set up their stages.
  - a. Have kids sit in a circle so they can see each other's stages.
  - b. Be sure kids have their people, lions, and any props they wish to use near them.
2. **We're ready to tell the story of Daniel and the Lions.**
  - a. **Set your stage to look like the inside of the castle.**
  - b. **Get ready to use the characters in the story.**

### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

### Supplies

Medium-sized boxes, 1 per kid

Assortment of blocks

Assorted rocks

Lion toys (plastic, stuffed, puppet, foam, etc.), few per kid

Assorted toy people (action figures, dolls, preschool toys, etc.), 5 per kid

Small scraps of fabric

Kid scissors

Chenille craft stems

Yarn

Paper scraps

Markers

Tape

3. Read the story from the Spark Story Bible. Read slowly enough so kids have time to move and act with their characters and props.
4. Cue the kids to change the setting of their stages to the lions' den following page 185.

After playing the story:

Help kids put away the supplies and gather to debrief the activity. **What was your favorite part about playing this story?** Allow kids to respond. Point to the picture on page 185. **Who tricked King Darius into making the new law?** (*some men, king's assistants*) **Who did Daniel pray to?** (*God*) **What happened when Daniel broke the new law?** (*he was put into the lions' den*) **What do you think happened inside the lions' den?** Allow kids to respond. **Daniel knew he was breaking the law when he prayed to God. Daniel trusted God to take care of him, even in a scary lions' den. God did! Like Daniel, God helps us to be brave!**

## 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 Creative Drama! We learned some men tricked King Darius into making a law that everyone must pray only to the king. Who did Daniel pray to?** (*God*) **God helped Daniel to be brave. Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but didn't get hurt. Like Daniel, God helps us to be brave. When do you need God's help to be brave?** 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,**  
**Sometimes I feel scared,** (slump over)  
**I feel very, very small.** (slump even lower)  
**But you help me be brave,** (stand up straight)  
**And stand so very tall.** (stand on tiptoes)  
**Thank you, God!** (cheer)  
**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** God is faithful.

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

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- 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.
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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Daniel and the Lions Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama!** Hold up the present. **This is for the class. You may keep what's inside.** Have a volunteer open the present to reveal it's empty. **Are you disappointed?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following question. **When have you counted on or put your faith in something that let you down? This is a story of someone we can always count on!**

Pass out Spark Bibles to kids, directing them to find Daniel 6:1-28 on pages 964-965. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using a pencil to write their comments in the margin. Have volunteers read the following verses.

- Daniel 6:3-4
- Daniel 6:6-7
- Daniel 6:10-11, 14
- Daniel 6: 16-18
- Daniel 6:19, 22-23
- Daniel 6:25-26a, 28

**Let's review. Why were the satraps jealous of Daniel** (*The king planned to appoint him over the kingdom.*) **Who did Daniel pray to?** (*God*) **What happened to Daniel in**

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Empty box wrapped like a present  
Pencils

**the lions' den?** (*nothing*) **Why do you think the king went along with the satraps' idea?** Allow kids to respond. **Sometimes people think power or money will take care of them, but these things don't last. Daniel knew to trust in God. God always takes care of us. God is faithful!**

**Let's look at Daniel's story from different people's points of view.**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### The Persians' Court

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**Set Up:** Designate a stage area. Divide the stage in half by hanging the two bed sheets side by side as a backdrop. Set the chairs, table, podium and stuffed lions near the stage. Place the costume pieces where kids can choose among them. Place the rest of the supplies in an area where they can be used. Make several copies of The Persians' Court Skit Script.

#### Activity Instructions

Before the skit:

**Each of the people in Daniel's story trusted in something. Only Daniel trusted in God. We're going to tell the story of Daniel and the lions as if it were a court case. Each of the characters will try to make a case for what they put their trust in.**

1. Invite volunteers to play the parts of King Darius, Three Satraps, Daniel, Lions, Judge, and Bailiff.
  - a. Give each actor a copy of the skit. **Read through your part and let me know if you have any questions.**
  - b. Encourage kids to develop a costume. **What would your character wear? Choose from the costume pieces or use the supplies to create your own.**
2. Have a few volunteers set the stage.
  - a. Give kids a copy of the script.
  - b. **Look at how the stage area is divided. Set one side of the stage to look like the lions' den and one side to look like the inside of a courtroom.**
    - i. Show kids the props near the stage.
    - ii. **Where will the lions be? Are there rocks, mats, spiders, or anything else in the lions' den?**
    - iii. **Place a table and chair in the back of the courtroom for the judge. Be sure to set up some chairs and a stand for the witnesses. Are there papers, books, flags, or anything else in the courtroom?**
    - iv. Encourage kids to use the supplies to create any additional props they need.
3. Give the actors a few moments to get acquainted with the staging.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

#### Supplies

Bible time costumes  
Fabric pieces  
Costume jewelry  
Crown  
Gavel or wooden hammer  
Robe for judge  
Stuffed lions  
Paper bags  
Newspaper  
Yarn  
Scissors  
Tape  
Markers or crayons  
Bed sheets, 2  
Classroom chairs  
Small table  
Music stand or podium  
The Persians' Court Skit Script  
(pages 107-108)

Perform the skit:

Gather the kids near the stage. Have the judge and bailiff begin in the courtroom and the lions begin in the lions' den. Ask the rest of the actors to sit in the chairs on stage while waiting for their cues. Invite the rest of the kids to sit in the audience.

**It's time to hear what really happened in the case of Daniel versus the Lions, which is presented now in The Persians' Court!** Cue the actors to begin the skit.

Following the skit:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **Who do you think presented a good argument in this case?** Allow kids to respond. **What did King Darius decree?** (*no one could pray to anyone but him for 30 days*) **What was the punishment for disobeying the decree?** (*being thrown into the lions' den*) Have kids read Daniel 6:14 on pages 964-965 of their Spark Bibles. **Was the king happy about Daniel's punishment?** (*no*) **What do you think the king and Daniel did all night?** Allow kids to respond. **Daniel remained faithful to God even when faced with certain death! Daniel knew God would be with him, no matter what, and God was. God is faithful!**

## 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 Creative Drama! Who was jealous of Daniel?** (*satraps*) **Who were people supposed to pray to according to the new law?** (*King Darius*) **We learned Daniel continued to pray to God even when he was thrown into the lions' den. God kept Daniel safe and King Darius believed in God. God is faithful. When has God been faithful in your life?** Allow kids to respond.

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
None

### Prayer Time

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**During our closing prayer, you may name a way God is faithful, out loud or in your heart.**

**Dear God, you were faithful to Daniel, even in the lions' den! You are faithful in my life, too. You have been faithful when. . .** (pause for kids to insert their ideas)  
**Thank you! Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** God is always with us.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### Daniel and the Lions Storytelling

**Welcome to Creative Drama! Have you ever been in a dangerous or scary situation?** Allow kids to respond to this and the following question. **Where was God? Today's story is about a man caught in a very scary and dangerous situation.**

Direct the older kids to find Daniel 6:1-28 on pages 964-965 in their Spark Bibles. Invite kids to mark the passage with a Spark Bible Sticker of their choice, using pencils to write their responses in the margin. **Follow along while I read the story from the Spark Story Bible.**

Hand out Spark Story Bibles out to the younger kids. Help kids find Daniel and the Lions on pages 184-189. Encourage kids to respond with the following actions as you read. **Every time I say these words, you do the actions.** Demonstrate the the following.

- Daniel—*rub beard*
- King Darius—*make a crown with hands*
- Men—*sneer*
- Lions—*growl*
- Pray—*fold hands*

**Spark Resources**  
Spark Story Bible  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

**Supplies**  
Pencils

Read the story aloud and encourage the kids to do the actions. **Let's review.** Point to the picture on page 185. **What did the men trick the king into doing?** (*making a law to pray only to the king*) **Who did Daniel pray to?** (*God*) **What happened to Daniel?** (*thrown in the lions' den*) **Do you think Daniel was scared?** Allow kids to respond. **Anyone would be afraid of being thrown into a lions' den. Daniel knew that, no matter what, God would be with him. Just like Daniel, God is always with us!**

**Let's act out this story!**

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Daniel, God, and the Lions

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**Set Up:** Designate a divided stage area by hanging the bed sheets side by side as backdrops. Place the costumes and props where kids can choose among them. Set the supplies in an area where they can be used.

#### Activity Instructions

Before the skit:

**King Darius made a law stating everyone must pray to only him, otherwise they would be thrown into a den full of lions! Daniel still prayed only to God. Even though Daniel was thrown into a den full of lions for breaking the law, God was with him. God was *always* with Daniel. We're going to act out Daniel's story.**

1. Choose kids to play the parts of Daniel, God, King Darius, men, and lions.
  - a. **Look through the costumes and props to choose a costume for your character. Use the craft supplies and be creative if you would like to add something else to your costume.**
    - i. **Was Daniel rich or poor? What kind of clothes do you think he wore?**
    - ii. **What do you imagine God wearing?**
    - iii. **How will we know who King Darius is?**
    - iv. **What might the men wear to make them look important and sneaky?**
    - v. **How could you use the costume pieces and craft supplies to make yourself look like a lion?**
  - b. Ask a Shepherd or fluent reader to read Daniel and the Lions on pages 184-189 of the Spark Story Bible with the actors.
    - i. **Think about your character. How and when does he move? Who does he talk to? Where does he go?**
    - ii. Have "God" practice shadowing Daniel. **If God is always with Daniel, where should God stand? How and when should God move?**
2. Invite a group of kids to create the sets for the skit.
  - a. Show kids the stage. **Notice the stage is divided in half. One side should**

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible  
Spark Bibles

#### Supplies

Bible time costumes  
Fabric pieces  
Beards  
Sandals  
Crown  
Costume jewelry  
Stuffed lions  
Jars  
Baskets  
Mats or rugs  
Classroom chair  
Paper bags  
Newspaper  
Yarn  
Kid scissors  
Tape  
Markers or crayons  
Bed sheets (two different colors)  
Construction paper

**look like the castle, while the other side should represent the lions' den. Decide which should be which.**

- b. Point out the props and supplies. **Use these things to help set the stage. What might you find in the castle? What do you imagine the lions' den looks like? Use the supplies to create additional props if you need them.**
  - c. Encourage kids to look at pages 186–187 of the Spark Story Bible for inspiration.
3. Ask a Shepherd or fluent reader to act as the narrator. **You will read Daniel and the Lions from the Spark Story Bible as the narrator. Remember to read at a pace that will allow the actors to act out the story.**

Perform the skit:

Gather the kids near the stage. Have the actors take their places on stage and the narrator stand off to one side. Invite the rest of the kids to sit in the audience. **It's time to look in on our friend Daniel. Be sure to watch how God is always with Daniel, no matter what!** Cue the narrator to begin the story.

Following the skit:

Gather the kids to debrief the activity. **Which part of this skit was your favorite?** Have the older kids read Daniel 6:4–5 on page 964 of their Spark Bibles. **Why did the men want King Darius to make a law about prayer?** (*they were jealous of Daniel, they knew Daniel would only pray to God*) Point to the picture on page 186 of the Spark Story Bible. **What happened to Daniel in the lions' den?** (*Nothing*) **What happened to King Darius after he saw Daniel was okay?** (*He believed in God.*) **King Darius knew Daniel should have been eaten by the lions. Only a God who was real could stay with Daniel and keep him safe. God was always with Daniel just like God is always with us!**

## 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 Creative Drama! Daniel prayed to God. Men tricked the king into making a law saying people could only pray to the king. What happened to Daniel?** (*He prayed to God and was thrown into the lions' den.*) **God was with Daniel, and Daniel was not hurt. Like Daniel, God is always with us. Name some places you didn't think God would ever go.** Allow kids to respond. **Do you think God could go there now?** Allow time for kids to respond.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

## Prayer Time

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Invite the kids to stand in a circle and copy your words and actions during the prayer.

**Dear God,**

**You saved Daniel from the lions,** (make lion paws)

**And stayed with him everywhere he went.** (walk in place)

**Thank you for staying with me,** (hug self)

**Everywhere I go, always!** (arms out, turn in a circle)

**Amen.**

# The Persians' Court—Skit Script

*The scene opens with the judge sitting behind the table, the witnesses sitting to one side of the stage, and the bailiff standing, facing the audience.*

**Bailiff:** All rise. *(everyone stands)* This is the case of Daniel versus the satraps. The Persian's Court will now come to order.

**Judge:** Thank you, bailiff. Daniel, please take the stand and state your complaint.

*(Daniel approaches the stand.)*

**Daniel:** Thank you, your honor. I'm here to accuse the satraps of putting their faith in something other than God, tricking King Darius, and thereby causing me to spend time in the lions' den.

**Satraps:** *(shaking their heads and mumbling among themselves)* That's not true! No way! You've got your facts mixed up!

**Judge:** Thank you, Daniel. You may take a seat. *(Daniel sits.)* I would like to hear from the satraps myself. Bailiff, please escort the satraps to the stand. *(bailiff escorts the satraps to the stand)*

**Satrap 1:** First of all, your honor, no one tricked anyone into doing anything they didn't want to do in the first place.

**Satrap 2:** Daniel has only himself to blame for his predicament. Everyone knows, the more powerful you are, the more things go your way. We can't help it if Daniel chose to align himself with the wrong party. . .

**Satrap 3:** Besides, we didn't make the law, King Darius did.

**King Darius:** Wait a minute!

**Judge:** *(bangs gavel)* Order in the court! Satraps, sit down. Bailiff, please escort King Darius to the stand. *(satraps sit and King Darius moves to the stand)* Well, king, what do you have to tell me?

**King Darius:** First of all, I did make that silly law.

**Judge:** You did?

**King Darius:** Yeah, but only because my satraps told me to. It's their fault. If you can't trust your friends, who can you trust?

**Judge:** With all of this finger pointing, I'm still not clear on what happened.

**King Darius:** With your permission, I'd like to reenact the events as they happened last week.

**Judge:** Please do.

*(King Darius, the satraps, and Daniel move near the lions' den and act out what King Darius says.)*

**King Darius:** I was enjoying life in the kingdom when my satraps came to see me. They told me how wonderful I was and how there should be a law saying no one could pray to anyone but me for 30 days. If they did, they would be thrown into the lions' den. Naturally, I agreed.

**Judge:** What does this have to do with Daniel?

**King Darius:** Well, Daniel was praying to God, as usual, when the satraps caught him. They brought him to me and reminded me of the law I had made! I didn't want to throw Daniel to the lions, but I had no choice!

**Judge:** How could that be? Daniel is still here, today!

**King Darius:** That's the most incredible part of the story. I spent all night worrying about Daniel being mauled and eaten by the lions. As soon as morning came, I ran to the den to see the tragic end of my friend. But when I got there the lions were sleeping and Daniel wasn't hurt! That's when I realized, Daniel's God is more powerful than anything, and Daniel's God is faithful! I want to go on record stating that from now on, Daniel's God is the only God for me and my whole country!

*(The satraps gasp, the king sits, and Daniel approaches the stand.)*

**Judge:** Is this true, Daniel?

**Daniel:** Yes, your honor. My God is almighty and all powerful. He is the only true God and faithful to the end!

**Judge:** Well then, I declare judgment in favor of Daniel and his God! Bailiff, throw the satraps into the lions' den and see how they like it.

**Satraps:** Wait! What? No! We declare a miss-trial!

*(Daniel and the king shake hands while the bailiff throws the satraps into the lions' den and the lions pounce on them.)*

**Bailiff:** So ends another session of The Persians' Court! Thank you all for coming.