

Daniel and the Lions | Lesson Plan

How can we trust God, even when facing difficult situations?

Students will learn about the biblical story of *Daniel and the Lions*, understand the theme of trusting God and being brave even when things are difficult, and reflect on how they can apply this lesson in their own lives.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the importance of trusting God even when things are difficult.
- Identify a story's main characters, setting, problem, and solution.
- Make connections to how students can be brave in their own lives.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Trust:** Firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.
- **Faith:** Complete trust or confidence in God.
- **Jealous:** A feeling of resentment toward someone who has something that you don't.
- **Den:** A wild animal's lair or shelter, typically a cave or hole in the ground.
- **Lion:** A large, powerful cat native to Africa and Asia, known for its strength and ferocity.
- **Prayer:** A solemn request for help or expression of thanks addressed to God.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.R.2, CCRA.R.3, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.W.10, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2

Academic Subject Areas: Life Lessons, Bible, Judeo-Christian Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Daniel and the Lions* (Click [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Daniel and the Lions* (Click [Here](#))
- Optional Extension Activity Materials: Stuffed lions

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by asking students if they have ever heard of a man named Daniel from a story in the Bible.
2. Introduce the story of Daniel and the Lions briefly, explaining that it's a story about a man who trusted in God and showed great courage in the face of difficulty.
3. Help students make connections by asking them to share a time when they acted bravely, even when it was difficult to do so. Tell them to be on the lookout for ways that Daniel demonstrates courage throughout the story.



Watch, Discuss, and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Daniel and the Lions* to the students.
2. Pause at key points to discuss the story's structure and encourage students to predict what might happen next.
 - Who are the main characters of the story?
 - Where does the story take place?
 - What problem does Daniel face?
 - How is his problem solved?
3. After viewing, facilitate a brief discussion about the story. Ask questions like:
 - How did Daniel demonstrate bravery throughout the story?
 - Why do you think Daniel continued to pray to God even when it was dangerous?
 - What do you think the lions did to Daniel when he was in the den?
 - How do you put your trust in God?
4. Provide each student with a copy of the *Otto's Tales: Daniel and the Lions* worksheet. Review the elements of the story (main characters, setting, problem, solution) and either complete the graphic organizer as a class or have students complete it independently. These can be collected as a formative assessment if completed independently.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Instruct students to "turn and talk" to a classmate about the ways in which Daniel showed faith in God in the midst of danger and how God rescued Daniel.
2. Recap the story briefly, emphasizing Daniel's trust in God and his courage. Reinforce the lesson's main ideas: trusting in God and being brave even when things are difficult.
3. Ask students how they can continue to be brave in their own lives, just like Daniel.

Extension Activity: Role Playing

Divide students into small groups to act out the story of Daniel and the Lions. Students can act out the entire story, or they can act out their favorite scene. (Optional: Provide stuffed lions for students to use during the role-play activity.)

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.