

## “Step Inside the Lion’s Den”

by  
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- What** This script presents options to go simple or go all-out to bring the story of Daniel in the lions' den to life. As an interactive skit, the audience gets to step inside the lions' den with Daniel, as they learn that God is always there for us when we honor Him.
- Special Word of the Day: Honor.  
“God is always there for us when we honor Him.”
- Themes: Kids Ministry, Daniel and the Lion’s Den, Bible Stories, Honor, Trust, Obey
- Who** Daniel  
Voice of the King
- When** Bible Times
- Wear (Props)** A darkened room with additional elements is used to give the feeling of being inside the lions’ den. (see below).  
Daniel should wear a simple tunic.
- Why** Daniel 6
- How** Transform a classroom or large space into the lions’ den! Place speakers around the room and play sounds of lions growling and roaring as children enter and at the start of the skit until indicated to discontinue (there are many free sound samples available online). For ideas on how to Go Simple! or Go Big! with your lions’ den, continue reading below:

Go Simple! To create the inside of your lions’ den, you need it to be darker. Darken the room by covering any outside windows with sheets, black paper or plastic. If possible, to create a more uniform look for your lions’ den, cover all the walls with sheets or blankets in a solid color such as grey or black. For your lions, you could construct a simple lion out of cardboard boxes and tubes.

Use a longer, rectangular box for the bodies and a larger square box for the heads. You can use additional cardboard to cut out a mane and other facial features, or you could draw a lion’s face on poster board and affix it to the square box. Use cardboard rolls from inside rolls of wrapping paper, paper towel, and toilet paper to construct legs and paws. Paint the lions in shades of brown and tan. Brown packaging paper can be used to construct a tail. You should have at least 2-3 lions. If you are unable to construct a lion, you could also hang up lions’ faces drawn on poster board around the room along with your lion sound effects.

Go Big! Create a small tunnel for the children to crawl through when entering the room, as if they are entering through the lions’ door. PVC pipes painted silver or black can be fastened to the front of the tunnel like a prison bars or a grate which can be opened to allow the children to crawl into the tunnel. Darken the room by covering any outside windows with sheets, black paper, or plastic. Cover all interior walls of the room with stone wall or grey brick plastic scene setters which can be purchased online by the roll. You could also paint your own backdrops using canvas or sheets. For your lions, create cardboard lions as above or you could also use PVC pipes to create a lion’s structure. Cover your cardboard or PVC structure with felt or faux fur fabric and create lifelike facial features and open, growling, teeth filled mouths. You should have at least 3-4 lions. Prop bones placed around the room could also be used. For additional impact, at the end of the skit, have a light source shining down from above on Daniel as he speaks, to give the feeling of being down inside a pit with the sun shining down

Note to performer: If you’ve ever worked with kids before, you know they’re unpredictable. They’re going to throw out answers and ask questions all throughout your monologue, and that’s great! That means they’re with you. Be ready to roll with it and answer crazy questions. It’s important to have other children’s workers there to thwart any unruly behavior or a child that is monopolizing the time.

**Time**      Approximately 5 minutes

*At start of scene the audience is waiting outside of the room. Daniel calls out to them.*

**Daniel:** *(from inside the lions' den) Hello? Anyone out there? (Waits for children to respond) It's me Daniel. I'm down here in this lion's den with no way out. Is anyone brave enough to come in here with me? (Waits for children to respond) You should know there are a whole bunch of lions down here and they look pretty hungry. But if you're brave enough, I'd love to have some company and the chance to tell my story. If you're ready, come on in.*

*Assists all children inside. Once everyone is settled, Daniel speaks.*

Thanks for coming everyone. I know there are a lot of places you could go that are a lot more fun than trapped in a pit full of lions. Where are some of your favorite places to go?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

Those places sound a *lot* more fun than being in a lions' den. *(Points out one of the lions) Check out that guy. He has really large teeth, doesn't he? (Jumps back, frightened. Looks at another lion) Is it just me or is that lion licking his lips and looking at me like I'm a tasty snack?*

*Runs to another part of the room, maybe hides behind a child for a minute.*

Are you afraid of lions? Will you protect me? *(Crosses back center) Trust me, no one is more surprised than me that my friend, the king, had me thrown in here. Do you know why he did that?*

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

Those are all good ideas, but why don't I just tell you what happened? It all started here in Babylon when King Darius decided to form a group of 120 leaders to run things in the kingdom. He then decided to put three people in charge of the leaders, and he chose me to be one of them! Can you believe it? Have any of you ever been in charge of something?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

If you've ever been in charge of something you know that you must be a hard worker, you must be trustworthy and you must be honorable. I tried very hard to be all of those things and King Darius came to trust and rely on me above all others. Some of the other leaders didn't like that King Darius trusted me so much, so they formed a plan to get me in trouble with the king. They tried to catch me doing something that would make the king unhappy, but I was always a hard-working, trustworthy, honorable man, so they weren't successful. The jealous

leaders knew that there was only one thing more important to me than my work with King Darius. Do any of you know what it is?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

Yes! God is the most important thing in the world to me. No matter what, I would pray three times a day and worship God by my open window. So the other leaders wrote a new law saying that everyone should pray only to King Darius and made the king sign it. The law said that anyone who disobeyed it would be thrown into a den of lions! What a crazy law, huh? Can you guess what happened next?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

That's right. Now I'm not normally a rule breaker, but nothing could stop me from praying to God. So that very night after the law was signed, I went home and by my open window, I prayed to God. The jealous leaders saw me and told King Darius. The king had no choice but to have me arrested even though he didn't want to. He tried everything he could think of to change the law but there was nothing he could do. So he threw me down here in this den of lions. Do you know what he said to me just before I was thrown in here?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

He said "Your God, whom you continually serve, will rescue you!" (*Looks upward*) And that's how I got here. (*Looks around*) I don't know about you, but I think these lions are getting hungrier. Does anyone have any ideas on what we should do?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses. Feel free to ad lib, in character, in response.*

If I were as old and wise as Noah, maybe I could charm the lions into walking away from me, two by two. Or if I had Samson's hair, maybe I could use his superhuman strength (*flexes muscles*) to overpower the lions, like he did in the vineyards of Timnah. (*Looking down, sadly*) But I don't have superhuman strength and I'm not old and wise. I'm just a hardworking, trustworthy, honorable man. (*Looks up and has an idea*) I suppose there's only one thing I can do—the thing I've always done, no matter what, three times a day. Do you know what it is?

*Calls on children as they raise their hands to give responses.*

That's right. I'm going to pray to God. Will you pray with me?

*Folds his hands, then prays. As he prays, turn off sound effects of lions.*

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for being by my side during all the good times in my life as well as all the bad times. Thank you for being there for me to turn to when I'm happy, sad, proud, upset, and scared. I know that you are the one true God and no matter what the world throws at me, no matter how much others may try to bring me down, I will always honor you above all. Please be with me now in this difficult time. Amen. *(Looks up and looks around)* Do you hear that? The lions are quiet! And they don't look so hungry anymore. I think God has heard my prayer!

*If using a light, it shines down on Daniel. Daniel looks up as Voice of King Darius is heard.*

**Voice:** Daniel, servant of the living God, was your God whom you continually serve able to rescue you from the lions?

**Daniel:** My God sent his angel and closed the lions' mouths so that they have not harmed me, because I was found to be innocent before him. Nor have I done any harm to you, O king.

**Voice:** What wonderful news! Peace and prosperity! I have issued an edict that throughout all the dominion of my kingdom people are to revere and fear the God of Daniel. For he is the living God; he endures forever. His kingdom will not be destroyed; his authority is forever. He rescues and delivers and performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions! Release Daniel from the lions' den!

**Daniel:** *(to children)* You heard the king! I'm getting out of here and you should too! Just remember, God is always there for us when we honor him. You don't have to pray three times a day like I do, but know that whenever you need him, he is there for you. Now, let's get out of here and honor God before these lions realize they didn't get their midnight snack.

*Walks children to the exit. End of scene.*