



Living differently

These activities and more can be found on the web pages of Scripture Union Light Live. www.scriptureunion.org.uk/lightlive . Resources for Sunday and midweek groups.

Ideas for a session based around Daniel 6

Bible story idea 1

You will need:

- A doll (Daniel)
- Toy lions

1 Show the children your 'Daniel' doll. Say: 'Do you remember who this is? This is Daniel. He was one of God's special friends. We are going to hear a story about Daniel from the Bible.'

2 Invite the children to hold their hands up in the air each time they hear you say, 'talk to God'. Practise this a few times.

3 As you tell the story, use your doll to act out the events.

This is Daniel. (Show the doll.)

Daniel knows he can talk to God all the time. Daniel talks to God in the morning. Daniel talks to God at bedtime.

Some men don't like Daniel. They trick the king into making a law that says no one can **talk to God**.

But Daniel goes to his room. (*Walk 'Daniel' across the floor.*) Daniel **talks to God**.

The men tell the king that Daniel has broken the law. They say that they saw **Daniel talk to God**.

Daniel is taken to see the king. (*Take 'Daniel' over to one of the children.*) The king says that Daniel must be thrown in with the lions. The king is very sad because



Daniel is his friend.

Daniel is put with the hungry lions. (*Put 'Daniel' with the toy lions.*) Daniel **talks to God**.

In the morning, the king comes to see Daniel. Daniel is safe and well. He comes out. (*Take 'Daniel' away from the lions' den.*) Daniel tells the king that he **talked to God**.

The king says that everyone must **talk to God**, too.

BIBLE STORY Idea 2

Daniel talks to God

You will need:

- 3 areas set up: Daniels room, the palace and the pit of lions.
- You might use 3 leaders one per area who tells their part of the story.

1 Let the children help you set up the three areas. Explain what each one is.

2 Begin the Bible story with everyone sitting in the king's palace.

Daniel worked for the king. He was very good at his job. He answered the king's questions and tried his best to help the king.

Some other men saw how clever and hard-working Daniel was - and were very upset! 'The king likes Daniel more than he likes us,' they said to each other. So they decided to get rid of Daniel.

Three times a day, Daniel went home. (*All go over to Daniel's room.*) He opened his window and knelt down. (*Kneel down.*) And he talked to God.



One day, he saw some men outside his window - the men who wanted to get rid of him.

So Daniel prayed, asking God to help him. The men went to the king. (*All go to the palace.*) 'Please make a new law that nobody can pray to God any more. If they need help, they should only ask you.'

The king said quickly, 'What a good idea! That will make me even more important.'

'If anyone breaks the new law,' the men said, 'throw them into the pit with the lions.'

'What a good idea!' agreed the king.

(What will Daniel do? Will he stop praying? Go to Daniel's room to find out.)

When Daniel heard the new law, he thought, 'I won't stop praying. God is much more powerful and important than the king.'

So three times a day, Daniel went home. He opened his window and knelt down. And he talked to God.

The men saw him praying. They hurried back to the king. (*All hurry to the palace.*) 'Someone's broken your new law!' they announced. 'Someone has prayed to God, not to you!'

The king was angry. 'Who is it?' he asked.

'Daniel,' they told him. 'Throw him in the lions' pit.'

The king was upset. He really liked Daniel, but he had to keep the new law. So Daniel was put in the lions' pit. (*All sit in front of the pit.*)

(How might Daniel feel now? What will he do? Suggest that he might have prayed.)

In the morning, the king came to the lions' pit. He looked in. (*What do the children*



think he saw?)

Daniel was all right. The king helped him out.

‘God looked after me,’ he told the king. ‘He shut the lions’ mouths.’

‘He is a great, powerful God,’ the king said. ‘Everyone should pray to him.’

Bible story idea 3

Audio Bible story 'Daniel prays to God'

1 Help the younger children in your group grasp the details of today’s Bible story, using the straightforward retelling from *The Big Bible Storybook*.

2 Read the story aloud from the book or pdf (downloadable from AMD webpage) Daniel prays to God . Encourage the children to listen carefully or to follow the words in the book as you read.

3 Alternatively, encourage the children to listen to the story from the audio book or from mp3 file here

<http://www.wordlive.org/uploads/wordlight/resources/Audio%20for%20Audio%20Bible%20Story%20'Daniel%20prays%20to%20God'.mp3>

4 If you have time and extra adult help available, early readers may enjoy reading the story themselves.

Action prayer

1 Remind the children that Daniel talked to God every day.

2 Say that we can talk to God too - and that you are going to pray (*talk to God*) right now!

3 Ask the children to copy your actions as you pray:



Dear God, we want to talk to you when we're happy (*smile*), when we're sad (*look sad, dropping your head*), when we're scared (*look alarmed, hands spread*), when we're safe (*hug yourself*). We want to talk to you when we're sorry for what we've done (*hang head*), when we're pleased with what we've done (*punch the air*), when we're excited (*jump about*), when we're bored (*fold arms*). Whatever we do, wherever we are, we can talk to you. Thank you, God!

4 Let the children suggest other times to talk to God and include them in the prayer.

Bible story picture

You will need:

- Bubbles story picture 1 per child
- Crayons or felt tips

1 You can use the picture as an introduction to the Bible story or to help you review the story together.

2 Describe how Daniel always prayed to God - and how men, who did not like him, got the king to put him in with the lions! These were not cuddly toy lions or plastic models - these were big, hungry lions with lots of teeth!

3 Ask the children what they think happened next. (Be prepared for gruesome details!)

4 Then look at the Bible-story picture to see what really happened: the lions did not hurt Daniel at all because God stopped them!

Free play and chat

1 The aim of this activity is to provide experience of situations which we can talk to God about. During play, note what happens, both positive and negative.



2 Set out the toys and let the children choose freely and play for as long as possible, leaving 5 minutes for discussion together at the end.

3 Ask the children what they enjoyed doing. Talk about the good things you saw - when children shared, when they were having fun, and so on. Say, 'When things are going well, we can talk to God about it.' Say a short prayer of thanks: 'Dear God, thank you for times when we're having fun because we share with each other.'

4 Point out anything that went wrong (without naming names!) Say you can talk to God when things go wrong, too. Pray: 'Dear God, we're sorry when things go wrong. Please help us be kind to each other.'

CRAFT Lion masks

You will need:

- A paper plate for each child with a lions face drawn on it it black felt tip and the eyes cut out. See idea below
- Strips of orange and yellow tissue or crepe paper
- Glue sticks
- Crayons or felt tips
- Spoons or lolly sticks and sticky tape.

1 Give each child a mask. They can draw the lion's face and then colour the face yellow.

2 Show the children how to paste strips of orange or yellow tissue paper around the edge of the face to form the mane.

4 Tape a spoon or stick to the back of the mask to form a handle.

5 Let the children play with their masks, pretending to be lions. Then think how

hard it must have been for Daniel to talk to God, knowing he was in danger.

6 Remind the children that we can talk to God too, even when we are afraid or lonely. God wants us to pray, whatever is happening to us.

