

leader bible study

The fifth chapter of Daniel ends with the death of King Belshazzar when the Persians took over Babylon and Darius was put on the throne. Babylon was on the decline—no longer the powerful, prosperous empire it once was. By this time Daniel was an old man, probably in his early 80s. He served the new king as one of the three leading supervisors in the kingdom.

Daniel was very good at his job—so good, in fact, that King Darius planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom. The other supervisors and governors were jealous of Daniel. They watched for him to do something wrong so they could complain to the king. Read Daniel 6:4. Daniel was “trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was found in him.”

Through the malevolent persuasion of the king’s leaders, King Darius passed a law that no one could pray to anyone but him, the king, for 30 days. But Daniel continued to pray boldly to God.

Guide kids to imagine how Daniel might have felt. Was he worried about getting caught? Did he have nightmares about being eaten by lions? Even the king’s threat of death did not stop Daniel from praying. The jealous officials turned him in, and Daniel was thrown into the lions’ den.

As you teach kids, emphasize that Daniel was faithful to God—the true King—and God rescued Him. God’s protection of Daniel served to show all the people that the God of Daniel “is the living God, and he endures forever; his kingdom will never be destroyed, and his dominion has no end” (Dan. 6:26).

God also calls us to trust and obey Him no matter what. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from something much more dangerous than lions. Jesus rescues us from sin and death. Pray that through your faith, and that of the kids you lead, “may the name of God be praised forever and ever” (Dan. 2:20).

Vision for Grace Airways

**We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!**



There are many stories- both from scripture and after the Bible was written- about people who find themselves in wild situations! Oftentimes people face fear, uncertainty, and confusion in these places and feel like they can't get out of it alone. We are going to look at some people and their stories and see how they trusted in the Lord to get them through.

We can trust the Lord in a wild world!

Grace Airways True North Content in Children's Ministry will focus on "wild stories" in the Bible and some Missionary highlights to continue our VBS theme of trusting in the Lord.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 100 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 7th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

Aug 9th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 24th Film Summer Psalm & All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Sept 7th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

We can trust in the Lord in a Wild World



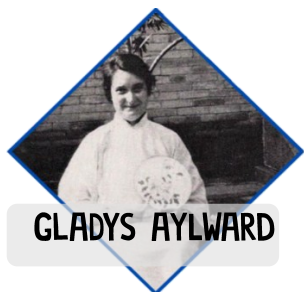
NOAH & THE ARK



PATRICK OF IRELAND



BATTLE OF JERICO



GLADYS AYLWARD



DEBORAH



DAVID & GOLIATH



LILLIAN TRASHER



KING JOSIAH



CORRIE TEN BOOM



DANIEL & THE LIONS



JOHN GASANGWA



ELIJAH & THE WIDOW

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co-Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co-pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

Pick up expected to begin at 9:40



10 min

Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

- Prompt kids to tell about a time when they heard something unbelievable. Maybe they heard news that was so good it was hard to believe or perhaps they saw something amazing that they had never seen before.

Big Picture Question

Throughout our time together, we are focusing on the big picture question: **Why can I trust the Lord in every situation?**

I can trust in the Lord because I know His character and He is God.

Key Passage

Our key passage helps answer the BPQ!

Encourage and build excitement for memorizing, we will video the children on Sunday, August 24th

³ **Know that the Lord is God.**

It is he who made us, and **we are his**;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁵ **For the Lord is good and his love endures forever**;
his **faithfulness continues** through all generations.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

- King Darius was the new king in Babylon, and Daniel was one of Babylon's leaders. Daniel was very good at his job, so Darius decided to put Daniel in charge of all of Babylon. When the other leaders heard about this they were jealous and watched him closely to get him in trouble. Even though Daniel didn't follow King Darius's orders, Daniel decided to do what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
- Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.



15 Min

Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to [Daniel 6](#). Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story.

Daniel was an honest man and worked hard in his role within the kingdom. When he returned to his house to pray, Daniel wasn't trying to be rebellious against the king. Daniel knew that God was greater than any earthly king, and Daniel wanted to obey God rather than King Darius. Daniel was willing to risk being thrown to the lions to remain faithful to God. It might seem surprising that God allowed Daniel to get caught and thrown to the lions at all. But because Daniel went into the lions' den, God received glory. God shut the mouths of the lions to save Daniel. God showed King Darius that He is the living God who rules forever.

Sometimes it may feel like God isn't watching, especially when we are going through hard times. Maybe you have prayed, and it seems like God won't answer or that He doesn't hear you. But one thing we learn from this story is that God is always listening. He is always watching out for us. He uses even our scary situations to show His power! Remember, we pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us. And God always answers our prayers, even when He gives an answer we do not expect. Whenever God does something differently from how we expect, we can trust that God's way is much better than ours.



- Daniel needed rescued from the lions and we all need saved from a much bigger enemy: sin. God showed His power to rescue Daniel from the lions, but Daniel was just a small part of a much bigger story. God ultimately rescued us from a much bigger problem— sin and death— through His Son, Jesus.

Age Appropriate Story

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Daniel 6

King Darius (duh RIGH uhs) was the new king in Babylon. The king picked Daniel to be one of the leaders. Daniel was very good at his job, so Darius **decided to put Daniel in charge of all of Babylon.**

When **the other leaders** heard about this, they **were jealous.** They watched Daniel and waited for him to do something wrong so they could get him in trouble. But Daniel did what was right.

The leaders knew Daniel obeyed God, so they made a plan to get Daniel in trouble for praying. They said to King Darius, "King, all of your leaders think it would be a good idea to pass a law: For the next 30 days, no one may pray to any god or man except to you. Anyone who disobeys the law will be thrown into the lions' den." King Darius agreed to pass the law.

Daniel knew the law meant he was not allowed to pray to God. Still, Daniel went into his house and prayed to God three times a day, just like he had always done.

The jealous leaders saw Daniel praying, and they told the king that Daniel had broken the law. King Darius was upset. He didn't want to punish Daniel. The king thought all day about how he could save Daniel from the lions. "**The law can't be changed,**" the men reminded King Darius.

So King Darius ordered Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den. "May the God you serve save you," he said. The king went to his palace for the night. He did not eat and he could not sleep. He thought about Daniel with the lions.

As soon as the sun came up the next morning, the king hurried to the lions' den. He cried out, "Daniel, has your God rescued you from the lions?" Daniel shouted back, "God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths! I am safe!"

The king was so happy! He ordered for Daniel to be taken out of the lions' den. Daniel wasn't hurt because he had trusted in God.

King Darius made a new law: everyone must respect God. King Darius wrote, "He is the living God ... he has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions."

God showed His power to rescue Daniel from the lions, but Daniel was just a small part of a much bigger story. God ultimately rescued us from a much bigger problem—sin and death—through His Son, Jesus.

Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Daniel 6. Ask a volunteer to tell you if the Book of Daniel is in the Old or New Testament. (Old Testament)
Lead the group to discuss:

1. **Why did the other leaders want to get Daniel in trouble?** (They were jealous of him, Dan. 6:3-4)
2. **What law did Darius create?** (For thirty days; people could not pray to anyone except him, Dan. 6:7)
3. **What was Daniel's response to the king's law?** (Daniel continued praying, Dan. 6:10)
4. **Why do you think Daniel obeyed God rather than King Darius?** God is our ultimate authority. We are called to obey God above any earthly leaders. If Daniel were to obey the king's decree to pray to him, Daniel would have been sinning against God.
5. **Is it always easy to obey God? Why or why not?** obeying God can be difficult. We have to fight against our own sin, and we may face persecution from non-believers. We can also remember that Jesus faced punishment and even death when He was obedient to God's plan to rescue sinners. (Heb. 5:7-9)

Flying Higher (higher level of thinking):

1. **How can you trust God when facing something hard?** *Assure kids that even when we face difficult times, we have a loving heavenly Father. Jesus prays for us according to God's will. God will use each situation in our life for His glory and our good. He cares for us, sees us, knows us, and loves us.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 8:26-28.)

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God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-Trustworthy -Protector

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Three Thanks

Invite kids sit in a circle. Go around the circle and encourage each child to name three things she is thankful for. When everyone has shared, spend a minute thanking God for the way He has blessed everyone in the class.

- Today we heard a story about Daniel. He loved God and prayed to God many times each day. What do you think Daniel did when the king made a law saying prayer to God would be illegal?

Lion, Lion, Daniel

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to be *It*. *It* will walk around the circle, gently tapping each kid's head. With each tap, *It* will say "lion" until *It* gets to a kid of his choosing. Then *It* will tap that kid and say, "Daniel." The kid he chose will chase *It* around the circle and try to tag *It* before he sits in her spot. Play as time allows.

- In our game, there was one "Daniel" surrounded by lots of lions. It would be pretty scary to be surrounded by hungry lions. Imagine if you were in a cage with even one lion! Today we learned that Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, but **God shut the mouths of the lions to save Daniel.**

Key Passage Activity

Form two groups. Write each word of the key passage on a separate piece of paper. Create two sets. Mix up each set and stack the sets on one side of the room. Instruct the teams to line up on the opposite side of the room from the papers. The first person in each line will put on oven mitts to be "lion paws," run to their team's stack, find and pick up the first word in the key passage, and run back. Teams must return the key passage words in order and lay them on the floor to display the complete key passage.

Make a Prayer Journal

Give several sheets of paper to each kid. Demonstrate how to fold the papers in half along the width, and staple them into a booklet. Provide markers or colored pencils, stickers, decorative tape, or other art supplies for kids to decorate their journals. Encourage the kids to write or draw three things they pray for each day throughout the week.

- Even though the king passed a law making it illegal to pray to anyone other than him for thirty days, Daniel still prayed to God as he had always done. Daniel loved God and knew that obeying Him was worth any punishment he faced. The same is true for us. God is our Creator and King. We need Him each and every day!

Play “Follow the Law”

Make up some new “classroom laws” for children to follow. Call out commands and lead children to do what you say. Tell children to hop, touch an ear, turn around, or say, “God is powerful!” Allow children to take turns making new laws for the group to follow.

- Today we heard about a law that King Darius made that Daniel could not follow. The law said that people could only pray to the king. Anyone who disobeyed the law would be thrown into a den of lions. Listen to our Bible story to hear what happened when Daniel obeyed God instead of the king’s law.

Hear Me Roar

Direct the kids to form a circle. Ask for a volunteer to be *It*. The kid who is *It* will walk around the circle and roar at each person, trying to make him or her laugh. *It* can do silly movements or make a funny face while roaring. The kids around the circle should try not to smile or laugh at the roar. If a player smiles or laughs, she is the next *It*.

- This is a fun and silly game. Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about a man named Daniel who faced real lions—lions that did not make anyone laugh; in fact, they were very scary. We will see how God took an impossible situation and displayed His power through it.



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space— a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/ find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (PreK & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.