

# Daniel in the Lions' Den

## Based on Daniel 6

**King Darius** had a big kingdom to rule. He couldn't do it all alone, so he chose 120 people to help him rule the land. Then he chose three people to make sure that these rulers did their jobs. One of them was **Daniel**.

**Daniel** was so good at his job and so trustworthy that the king decided to make him the most important ruler in the land. He would be the boss over the other two bosses and over all the **satraps**.

The **satraps** were furious! "We can't let this foreigner rule over us," they said. "We've got to get rid of this Jew! What shall we do?"

The **satraps** tried to catch **Daniel** doing something bad. They couldn't find anything wrong with his work, but they did notice that three times a day **Daniel** went to his room to pray to God.

"Aha!" said the **satraps**. "That's it!" So they went to the king with a plan.

"**King Darius**, you are so wonderful," they said. "You should make a rule that anyone who prays to any god or man but you should be thrown into the **lions'** den.

**King Darius** liked the plan. "This is a law that cannot be changed," he said. "For the next thirty days, anyone who prays to any god or man but me will be thrown into the **lions'** den.

**Daniel** heard about the plan, but it didn't matter. He still went to his room three times a day to pray to God.

The **satraps** watched him and went running to the king.

"**King Darius!**" they said excitedly. "Guess what! We saw your big boss **Daniel** pray to his God instead of to you. Throw him in with the **lions** like you said."

**King Darius** was very upset. He loved his helper, and did not want to harm him. He knew that he had been tricked. He tried to think of a way to protect **Daniel**, but he knew the law couldn't be changed. Finally, **King Darius** had to stick to his word.

"**Daniel!**" he said. "May your God, whom you serve, rescue you!" Then he gave the order, and Daniel was thrown into the den with the **lions**. A big stone was rolled over the mouth of the den.

The **satraps** were delighted! "Hurray, we've won!" they said. "We got rid of our enemy!"

All night long, **King Darius** paced back and forth. He could not sleep or eat or listen to music. As soon as the sun came up, he hurried to the **lions'** den and ordered the stone rolled away. What would he see—just some bones?

**King Darius** called into the den: "**Daniel!** Servant of the living God! Has your God been able to rescue you?"

"Yes!" said **Daniel**. "God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the **lions**, and they did not hurt me."

**King Darius** gave the order to take **Daniel** out of the den. He sent a decree around the land: "Hear this, my people. **Daniel's** God is the living God. He will rule forever and ever. **Daniel's** God is great! He kept him safe!

**King Darius** gave **Daniel** even more power and riches than before.

—Story script by Jessie Schut and Sherri Haan, from *Walk With Me* Grades 2-3, Year 1, Unit 9