Teaching Guide - Preschool & VSN

Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King

"Remember that I commanded you to be strong and brave. So don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go." Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

Lesson - I can live for the King every day!

Welcome back to Heaven's Kingdom: Living for the King! Last week, we learned that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego worshiped God only and chose His way. Today, we are learning about their friend Daniel!

When Daniel was a young man, he was taken far away from his home in Judah to a place called Babylon. Many people there did not worship God, but Daniel continued to love God and follow His ways. Years passed, Daniel grew older, and different kings ruled the land, but Daniel kept living for God. Now a king named Darius was ruling, and Daniel worked for him. Daniel was about to show us how we can live for God every day!

SAY IT: I live for the King!

DO IT: Point toward heaven, then point to yourself.

Daniel was one of the leaders who helped King Darius. Daniel did his work well, told the truth, and made good choices. Some of the other leaders were jealous of Daniel. They watched him carefully and tried to find him doing something wrong, but they couldn't! Daniel was trustworthy. That means people could depend on him to tell the truth and do what was right. Daniel's everyday choices showed that he lived for God. Victory Kids, we can live God's way every day too! We can tell the truth, obey, be kind, and do our best.

SAY IT: I choose God's way every day!

DO IT: Give two thumbs up.

The other leaders made a sneaky plan. They knew that Daniel prayed to God every day, so they convinced King Darius to make a new law. For 30 days, everyone was supposed to pray only to the king. Anyone who disobeyed would be thrown into a den of lions. Daniel heard about the new law, but he kept following God. He went home, got down on his knees, and prayed to God three times that day, just like he always did. Daniel talked to God every day, and we can talk to God every day, too!

SAY IT: I can talk to God every day!

DO IT: Put your hands together like you are praying!

The leaders saw Daniel praying and told King Darius. The king was upset because he cared about Daniel, but the law could not be changed. Daniel was taken and put into the lions' den.

SAY IT: Oh no, lions!

DO IT: Let's roar like a lion: ROAR!

A stone was placed over the opening, and Daniel stayed in the lions' den all night. But Daniel was not alone. God was with him! King Darius was worried about Daniel. He couldn't sleep that night. Early the next morning, the king hurried to the lions' den. He called out, "Daniel!" And Daniel answered! God had sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths! Daniel was safe! The king was so happy! He had Daniel lifted out of the lions' den, and Daniel was not hurt.

SAY IT: Shout, Yay Daniel is safe!

DO IT: Raise your hands and cheer.

When King Darius saw what God had done, he knew that Daniel's God is the one true God! Daniel showed everyone that he loved God by the way he lived every day. When we pray, tell the truth, share, obey, and show kindness, we can show others that God is our King! We can live for the King every day!

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, You are our King, and we want to live for You every day. Help us choose Your way, talk to You, tell the truth, and make choices that please You. Help the way we live show others how great You are. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lesson Questions - 10 Mins

2 & 3Yr Olds

1. What was the man's name in our Bible story? **(Daniel)**
2. Did Daniel pray to God? **(Yes)**
3. Did the lions hurt Daniel? **(No)**
4. Was Daniel safe? **(Yes)**

4Yrs - 1st Grade

1. What was the man's name in our Bible story? (**Daniel**)
2. Why was Daniel thrown into the lions' den? (**He kept praying to God)**
3. How many times did Daniel pray that day? **(Three times)**
4. How did God protect Daniel? (**God sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths)**

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Activity 1: Shut the Lions' Mouths!

Items Needed: Lion pictures or lion-face cutouts, clothespins

Connection: God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths and kept Daniel safe.

Step 1: Place the lion pictures around the activity area with their mouths open.
Step 2: Give each child a clothespin and explain that the clothespins will help "close" the lions' mouths.
Step 3: Let children take turns walking to a lion and clipping its mouth closed.
Step 4: Each time a lion's mouth is closed, have everyone say, "God was with Daniel!"
Step 5: Continue until all the lions' mouths have been closed.

Activity 2: Pin the Tail on the Lion

Items Needed: Pin the tail on the lion game

Connection: God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouth.

Step 1: Pin up lion template on the wall.
Step 2: Blindfold the children one by one
Step 3: Allow the children to try and pin the tail on the lion while blindfolded.
Step 4: The child who comes closest wins.

Activity 3: Bubble Party or Story Time

Items Needed: Bubbles and music OR book basket

We've got some extra time today, so let's spend it worshipping and dancing with bubbles or reading a book to the class (please show the pictures on each page).

Craft or Coloring Sheet (use 1 or 2 options depending on class age & time)

Craft 1:Daniel in the Lions' Den Craft

Items Needed: gisgfim 28 Set Daniel and The Lion's Den Craft Kit

Connection: Daniel kept praying and following God even when he was thrown into the lions' den.

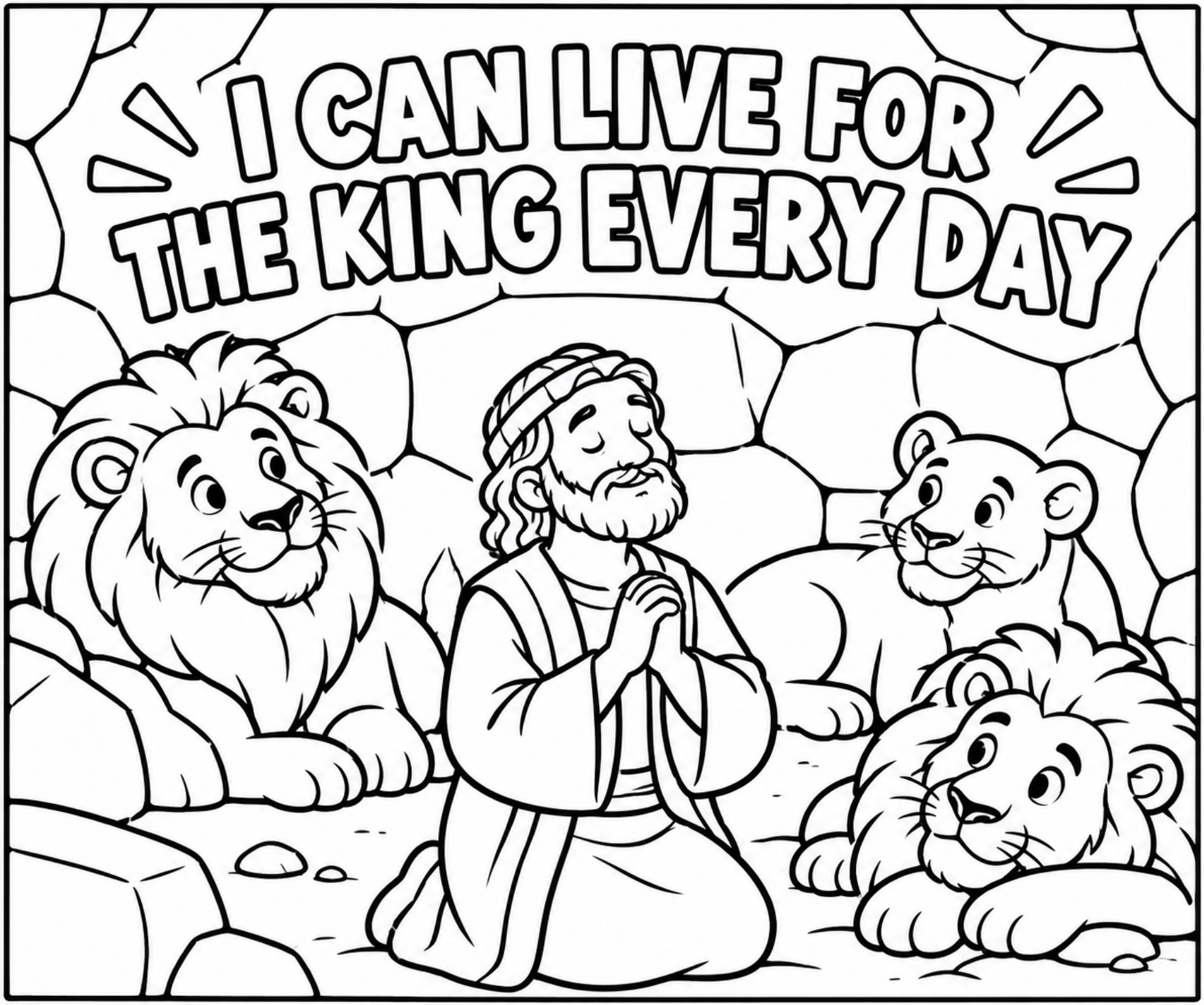
Step 1: Give each child one Daniel and the Lions' Den Craft Kit
Step 2: Have the children assemble the lions' den by placing the pieces in their correct spots.
Step 3: Add Daniel inside the lions' den.
Step 4: Add the lions around Daniel and help children finish assembling the remaining pieces of the scene.

Craft 2: Daniel in the Lions' Den Coloring Sheet

Items Needed: Coloring sheet and crayons.

Connection: Daniel continued praying and following God even when it was difficult.

Step 1: Distribute the coloring sheets and allow time to color.


I CAN LIVE FOR
THE KING EVERY DAY