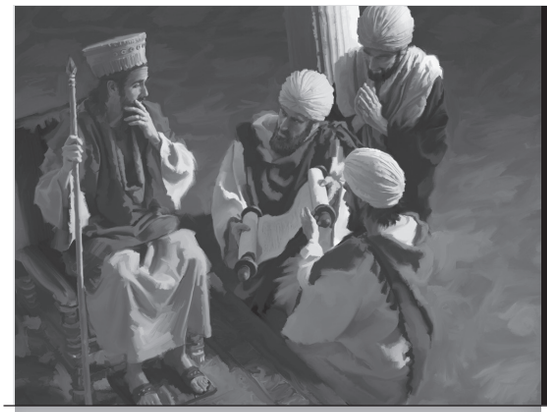


YEAR D | QUARTER 4

9

Lion Lunch

Worship
God's presence changes our lives.

POWER TEXT

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 6
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 44, pp. 539-548
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 55-59
- Student story on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 8, The Great Controversy
- No. 3, The Father
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that we can worship God by being confident of His care.
- **Feel** that God is in control of everything.
- **Respond** by facing challenges optimistically and sharing our faith with others.

POWERPOINT

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Daniel is an old man. He has seen the rise and fall of empires. When Darius appoints him as the senior statesman, it makes others jealous. The only area in which his opponents can trap Daniel is in his worship of God. Although Daniel knows the consequences, he refuses even to give the appearance of turning away from God. God does not prevent Daniel's enemies from throwing him in the den of lions. He allows it in order to make his deliverance even more remarkable.

This is a lesson about worship.

Daniel stands as an example of fearless worship. Even though he recognized the consequences of his actions, he did not falter in worshiping God. As God was with Daniel, so He is with us, protecting us and helping us to triumph through the power of grace.

Teacher Enrichment

"From the story of Daniel's deliverance we may learn that in seasons of trial and gloom God's children should be just what they were when their prospects were bright with hope and their surroundings all that they could desire. Daniel in the lions' den was the same Daniel who stood before the king as chief among the ministers of state and as a prophet of the Most High. A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity, when the light and favor of God and of man beam upon him. Faith reaches to the unseen, and grasps eternal realities.

"Heaven is very near those who suffer for righteousness' sake. Christ identifies His interests with the interests of His faithful people; He suffers in the person of His saints, and whoever touches His chosen ones touches Him. The power that is near to deliver from physical harm or distress is also near to save from the greater evil, making it possible for the servant of God to maintain his integrity under all circumstances, and to triumph through divine grace" (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 545).

How can I keep my heart stayed on God?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?**

Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Who Is in Control?*	paper, pencils
		B. Total Protection	table tennis balls OR paper, table tennis paddle, cardboard shield
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket, protective items
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, supplies (art, drama, music)
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*It Never Goes Out*	trick candles (if possible), matches OR lighter
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Passing It On*	art supplies, paper
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Who Is in Control?

Give each student a pencil and paper.

Say: **Can you write your name and address holding the pen in your left hand (right if you are left-handed)? Now do it again using the other hand. Let's compare the results.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Why is your writing worse with your left hand?** Accept a variety of responses. Guide the discussion toward the idea of our not having the same control with the left (right) hand. **How is writing with the left (right) hand like or unlike trying to control our lives?** (When we try to control our lives, it is like writing with the left [right] hand.)

Say: **When we let God control our lives we do not need to be afraid of anything. Our power text, Psalm 56:3, 4, is a wonderful promise about God's care and protection. Let's say it together.**

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

We are learning today that

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ table tennis paddle
- ☐ table tennis balls OR paper
- ☐ cardboard shield

Total Protection

Ask for two volunteers—one who is good at sports played with a ball and one who is not. Provide the one who is good at sports with a table tennis (Ping-Pong) paddle, and ask them to come and stand at the front. Give everyone else a table tennis (Ping-Pong) ball, or balls made of scrunched up paper. Say: **When I count to three I want you all to throw your balls at** (name of volunteer)**. You can pick up your ball and throw it again for a maximum of three times.** (name of volunteer)**, I want you to protect yourself with the paddle.**

When everyone has had their three throws, invite the second volunteer to the front. Have a large shield of cardboard that comes between them and the balls. Say: **I want you to throw the balls again.** (name of volunteer)**, you can protect yourself by staying behind the cardboard shield.**

Debriefing

Ask the first volunteer: **How did it feel when everyone was throwing things at you? What was it like having only a small paddle to defend yourself?** Ask the second volunteer: **What was it like behind the shield?**

Ask: **How is our life like when people throw balls at us? How do we get along when we think that we are skilled enough to take care of ourselves?** (Life usually sends more at us, and faster than we can take care of ourselves.) **How is it when we admit we are not very capable of controlling things ourselves and trust God to care for us?**

Say: **Our power text is a wonderful promise of God's care and protection. Let's say it together:**

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

We are learning today that

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 96)
"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 15)
"You Are My Everything" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 44)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story and compare it to where they are. You could use pushpins to mark where the mission story takes place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **We have so many things to praise God for. One way we can praise and worship him is by giving offerings so that others can enjoy the same blessings we do.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ protective items

Have a variety of protective items such as rubber gloves, umbrella, sun screen, et cetera. Say: **In our daily lives we use protective clothes and measures all the time. What about our spiritual lives? What does God provide for our protection?** Lead students in a prayer commiting themselves to God's care. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

The story of Daniel and the lions' den is so miraculous. To illustrate the idea that God still performs amazing miracles today, consider sharing a story about a modern-day incredible answer to prayer. Perhaps there is someone in your church with such a story, or perhaps you can find one in a book or magazine. Compare the modern and the biblical stories, discussing which is harder to believe.

Say: **Not only did prayers get answered in Bible times, we still have the same amazing God today that shut the lions' mouths. God is doing marvelous things on our behalf every day, just as He did for Daniel so long ago. Let's take a closer look at Daniel's miracle story.**

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ supplies (art, drama, music)

Experiencing the Story

Write the segments of today's story where all can see. Divide the students into groups and assign each a section.

The trap: Daniel 6:1-9
Daniel's reaction: Daniel 6:10, 11
Springing the trap: Daniel 6:12-15
Thrown to the lions: Daniel 6:16-18
Rescued: Daniel 6:19-24
Praise from the king: Daniel 6:25-28

Say: **As a group, read your verses and decide on some way to present that part of the story to the rest of the group (art, music, skit, poetry). If you create art, or mime it, have someone tell your part of the story as well.**

Give students a specified amount of time. When the time is up, present the sections of today's lesson in order.

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Guide students with special needs to groups that offer them assistance in participation. Build on their strengths and encourage them to contribute in ways that allow them to feel comfortable, accepted, and valued.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Divide students into groups. Write on the board the following verses and assign them to the groups. (If time does not permit each group to look up each text, divide the texts among the groups.)

God's protection

Elijah 1 Kings 17:1-6
David 1 Samuel 17:32-58
Peter Acts 12:1-18

God in control

Wind and waves	Mark 4:35-41
Gadarene swine	Matthew 8:28-34
Lazarus	John 11:38-44

Say: **Daniel trusted God and experienced God's care and protection throughout his life. Even if God had not saved him from the lions, Daniel trusted that God was in control of everything. Let's explore these two sets of texts and see what we can discover. Think about the following questions as you find and read the verses: What does this tell me about God? Based on this experience, what should I do when I feel afraid of someone, something, or the future?**

Allow time for the group to report back and discuss their findings. Draw the discussion to a close by repeating the power text together:

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

Our power point reminds us that

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

Accommodation for students with special needs
Have students with certain learning disabilities and those with visual impairments sit close to the board for this activity. Alternatively, prepare in advance handouts with the list of Bible references and questions.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ trick candles (if possible)
- ☐ matches OR lighter

It Never Goes Out

If possible, bring some trick birthday candles (the kind that relight themselves after you blow them out). If you are unable to bring these, bring regular candles. Set the candles in a stable base in the front of the room.

Say: **These candles represent you and me. There are times when the cold wind of fear comes into our lives. We all have things that we are afraid of. It may be something physical, such as spiders or people being mean or taking quizzes and exams. We sometimes feel threatened by other people or events. But no matter what the situation, we can trust God.**

Each one is welcome to come and say something they are afraid of or feel threatened by and blow out the candles. Let the students come up one by one (or have this done in small groups in a large church). Say: **As the candles relight themselves** (or are relighted by you) **join us in saying our power text:**

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

Debriefing

After everyone has had the opportunity of coming to the front, ask: **What did you think when you saw the candles relighting? How does the relighting of the candles compare to Daniel's seeing the sun come up on the day after he was thrown into the lions' den? What can the candles' relighting compare to in your lives?** (Encourage students to share ways that God has taken care of them.)

Say: **There are times in life when everything seems very black, just as it did for Daniel. However, God is in control. He will care for us, protect us, hold our hands, and lead us through to the light again.**

Therefore,

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- □ art supplies
- □ paper

Passing It On

Ask students to tell the class if during the past week they shared with someone personal experiences about God's protection. Ask: **What did you share? How did your friends respond?**

Say: **Think of someone you know who may be afraid or in a difficult situation. Using the art materials make a card that says "God's care and protection is like . . ." Fill in the blank with something that is relevant to them. Explain your comparison. Include the power text and/or power point. Make a plan to share your card with that person as soon as the opportunity opens.**

Let's say together our power point,

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray together for the people who will receive the cards of encouragement.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Daniel sees the future in vision. No matter what happens in the world's history, God is in control.**

Notes

Student lesson

Lion Lunch

Have you ever been tricked? How did you feel? Foolish, angry? In our story today a king was tricked into hurting his best friend, Daniel. Daniel was not worried. He trusted in God, and God did not let him down.

Daniel was an old man. Many things had happened since he'd left his home in Jerusalem as a teenager. From the beginning he had promised to trust in God, and God had never let him down. God had protected him and his three friends. But now things had changed again.

King Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's grandson, did not fear God. During his reign, Babylon was conquered by the Medes and Persians. Now Darius was king. Darius had put Daniel in charge of the government. They had become friends, and from time to time King Darius and Daniel would talk about God.

Not everyone was pleased with this arrangement. Some of the other rulers felt that they should have been given the top job. They watched Daniel closely for a reason to turn the king against him. But the only thing they could find against him was his loyalty to his God. They talked about it, schemed and planned, and finally came up with the perfect idea. They went to the king.

"King Darius, we know that you are a great king. Because you are so great we feel that it is only right that all your subjects worship you and you alone for a month."

The king listened to the plan without suspecting any evil plot.

"What could possibly be a better way to prove their respect and allegiance than bowing down to you and you alone for a month? And if they don't, we think they should be thrown to the lions," the officials replied.

The king began to beam. This was a flattering proposal. He signed his name with an extra flourish. The officials stumbled over one another as they hurried from the throne room, barely containing their joy.

Daniel read the decree and sighed. He knew that it was a trap, but he did not hesitate. He went to his house, opened his window, looked out toward Jerusalem, and knelt down to pray. He had always prayed at this window three times a day. He was not going to stop now. He prayed for courage and wisdom, and thanked God for His protection.

The officials posted themselves where they could watch inconspicuously. This was too easy. *There he was,* they thought, *praying as usual.* They looked at each other triumphantly as they hurried back with the report to the king.

"O king, do you remember the decree you signed yesterday? Someone has already broken it." They tried to hide their glee behind solemn faces.

"Who?" shouted Darius. He had become enthusiastic about the plan.

"Daniel," came the controlled reply.

Suddenly Darius realized that he had been tricked. He began to pace in anger and frustration. How could he rescue his friend?

The officials got their courage back and reminded the king of his decree. "The law is the law," they said, "and it cannot be changed. Daniel must be thrown to the lions."

Darius reluctantly sent a message for Daniel to be brought to the lions' den.

"May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" said the king (Daniel 6:16). Daniel calmly submitted as he was thrown into the pit, and it was sealed with the king's seal.

That night Darius could not sleep. He tossed and turned. Early the next morning he ran to the lions' den. "Daniel," he called. "Has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" (verse 20).

"May the king live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty," came the calm and assured reply (verses 21, 22).

Darius beamed from ear to ear. What an amazing God Daniel worshiped! Darius quickly commanded that Daniel be removed from the lions' den and his accusers be thrown down in his place. This time the lions didn't hesitate. They were not going to refuse lunch a second time.

Darius sent out a second decree. This time he gave glory to God.

"I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel.

"For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions" (verses 26, 27).

Daniel's God is our God too. We can go anywhere He leads with confidence in His loving care.

KEY REFERENCES

- Daniel 6
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 44, pp. 539-548
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 6, pp. 55-59
- Our Beliefs nos. 8, 3, 22

POWER TEXT

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 56:3, 4).

POWER POINT

We worship God by trusting our lives to His care.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read Daniel 6:1-5 and this week's story, "Lion Lunch."

WRITE Write out and tape the power text to the fridge.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Recognize God's protection and praise Him.

Monday

READ Read Daniel 6:6–9.

THINK Whom or what do you trust for protection?

RESEARCH Find out how laws are made in your country.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray to God today by an open window.

Tuesday

READ Read Daniel 6:10–15.

THINK Think about the prayer Daniel might have prayed after reading the decree.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about what you would have prayed if you had been in Daniel's place.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to bless the lawmakers in your country.

Wednesday

READ Read Daniel 6:16–18.

DISCOVER Read about some things you didn't know about lions. What interesting facts did you discover?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the courage to always trust His care for you.

Thursday

READ Read Daniel 6:19–24.

SURVEY Ask friends or family members about a time they experienced God's protection.

SHARE Share how you experienced God's protection.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His protection.

Friday

READ Read Daniel 6:25–28.

PRAISE Share things for which you praise God, referring to things that are specific to your family.

SING Sing praises together at worship.

REPEAT Repeat the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Ask God to bless and protect your family and then praise Him for answering your prayers.