

THE LORD PROTECTS DANIEL FROM THE LIONS.

Bible Reference: Daniel 6:16-28

Daniel was thrown into the pit of hungry lions. Then, a stone was rolled over the entrance and sealed.

The king was very upset that he had been tricked into doing this. He was so upset that he didn't eat and couldn't sleep all night. The next morning, very early, the king ran out to the den of lions and called to see if Daniel was still alive.

Daniel 6:20-22 NIV

When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

Daniel answered, “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.”

The evil rulers who had tricked the king are then thrown into the den of lions, and they are killed.

Daniel lived and continued to serve the king. God continues to use Daniel for years to come, even showing him some of the things that will happen at the end of this age.

LIFE APPLICATION

1 JOHN 4:4

YOU ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN, AND HAVE OVERCOME THEM, BECAUSE HE WHO IS IN YOU IS GREATER THAN HE WHO IS IN THE WORLD.

God is greater than anything we could ever face in this life. As a Christian, keeping our mind set on this truth is vital.

We should think this way: It doesn't matter what happens or comes against me, I have The Greater One inside me, and He is greater than anything that I face.

Paul instructed Timothy not to think something was wrong because of the persecution and people saying mean things.

2 Timothy 3:10-12

10 But you know all about me. You know what I teach and the way I live. You know my goal in life. You know my faith, my patience, and my love. You know that I never stop trying. 11 You know about my persecutions and my sufferings. You know all the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—the persecution I suffered in those places. But the Lord saved me from all of it. 12 Everyone who wants to live showing true devotion to God in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The persecution that we suffer could be people speaking evil against us, mocking Jesus and the truth He teaches, or even physical attacks.

But we refuse to give in to that because we have The Holy Spirit inside us, giving us the strength to stand!

OBJECT LESSON

You'll have 2 oranges and a clear container filled with water. Begin by peeling one of the oranges. Show the children the two oranges, explaining that the peeled one represents disobedience while the unpeeled one symbolizes obedience to the Lord. Prompt them to predict what will happen when each orange is placed in the water (the peeled one will sink, and the unpeeled one will float).

Lower the peeled orange into the water, illustrating how, when we stray from seeking and believing in God's truth, we may sink under the pressures of the world. Then, gently place the unpeeled orange into the water, symbolizing those who embrace God's truth and seek Him. Emphasize that with God as our guide, no matter the challenges we face, we'll always remain buoyant and rise above.