



Authorised Mess — DANIEL

Your details

Name: Sue Mitchell

Church: All Hallows, Allerton, Liverpool

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| Bible book | Daniel |
| Theme of session | Messy Daniel |
| Notes | Rather than focus on the possibility of being eaten by lions, we looked more at prayer and how important that was to Daniel. |

Session details

| Categories of activities to get a mix | Activity name | Instructions | Resources needed | Reason for doing this activity |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|--|
| Younger participants | Lion mask | Colour the mask with wax crayons. Glue strips of yellow/orange paper around the outside edge for a mane. Finish by attaching some elastic. | Lion mask template, white card, scissors, wax crayons, orange/yellow paper, PVA glue, elastic. | To represent the lions in the den. |
| Older participants | Prayer stone in a box | Decorate the outside of the carton with the cut-out hands and ear shapes. Attach the prayer to the inside of the lid. Fill the carton with the shredded tissue paper and place a pebble on the tissue. | Small polished pebbles, small burger takeaway carton, cut-out hands and ear shapes, shredded tissue paper, printed prayer, glue or sticky tape. | To remind children to pray, and also of the stone that blocked the lion's den. |



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|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Girls | Crown | Make a simple cardboard crown and decorate with pens, jewels and stickers. | Crown template, cardboard, scissors, self-adhesive jewels, coloured stickers, coloured pens, sticky tape. | To represent the crown King Darius wore. |
| Boys | Den building | Set the task of building a den, allowing them a free hand. | Blankets, sheets, curtains, tables, chairs, small ladder, large cardboard boxes. | Create your own lion's den to sit in. Do you feel safe? Or is it scary? What would Daniel have felt like? |
| Word-based | Rules door hanger | Make the card door hangers by cutting the A4 card in half lengthways. Cut out a circle near the top big enough to go over a door handle. Stick the lion cut-out shape below this cut-out hole. Get everyone to write their own rules about prayer on the hanger and decorate. | White card (A4), scissors, lion cut-out shape, glue, pens, materials to decorate. | Sometimes we need rules to help us. King Darius made a rule about not praying to anyone else. Daniel's rule was always to pray. |
| Food-based | Gingerbread Daniel Lion crackers | Decorate the gingerbread with icing and sweets. Add cheese strings for manes/sultanas for eyes to the crackers. | Gingerbread people, large round water crackers, tubes of icing, sweets, cheese strings, sultanas. | God protected Daniel and stopped the lions from eating him. Can you stop yourself eating yours? |



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| Opens up great art | 'Seal' painting | Cut the sponges and vegetables into 'seal' shapes and 'stamp' on to the paper. | Large sheets of paper, paint, sponges, vegetables, soapy water, paper towels. | Represents the 'seal' King Darius made on the stone that sealed the den. |
| Quiet | Signet ring | Design a signet ring with the materials available. | Acrylic rings (available from Baker Ross), acrylic paint or glass paint pens, stickers, materials to decorate. | King Darius had a signet ring that he used to make the seal on the stone. |
| Quiet | Praying hands | Fold the A4 card in half. Draw around your hand with your thumb on the fold to produce a pair of praying hands when you open up the card. Glue the Lord's prayer on the inside of you praying hands booklet. Decorate with stickers. Optional: cut out your praying hands. | White card (A4), pencils, scissors, stickers, Lord's prayer printed out, PVA glue. | Daniel prayed three times each day. Ask the children when and if they pray? |

Celebration suggestion

Retell the story using a puppet for a lion from the den, who was so shocked at not being able to eat Daniel but so glad he didn't in the end! We emphasised the importance of prayer and how God answers our prayers.

Song: 'Our God is a great big God' from *Great Big God* CD, Vineyard Records. For details, see <http://greatbiggod.com/>.



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Meal suggestion

- ✿ Tuna and cheese toasties with crisps and coleslaw.
- ✿ Gingerbread Daniels, Lion crackers (made in the activity) and drinks.

Faith in Homes suggestion

- ✿ Remember to say a simple prayer each day with your family.
- ✿ Consider writing your own family prayer.
- ✿ Think about what you would like to thank God for.