

“Animal Tales” - LESSON 6

“The Lion”

Main Focus:

God will protect me from harm



Power Verse:

“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.” – Psalm 46:1



Watt's Up:

“I'm Not A Scaredy-Cat, I'm Re-LION On God!”

LEADER'S INFO

Every day we face trials and temptations. Some days, we face situations that are way beyond anything we have ever faced. In those moments, we must rely on the godly character that has been built in our lives over time.

Daniel faced a night with the lions. He couldn't begin building character at that moment, he had to rely on the character that had already been built. It's the same for us. We must make the hard choices in our lives today so we can endure the hardships and trials of tomorrow.

In this lesson, we will observe some of the things Daniel did to help build godly character in his life so that he could “survive a night with the lions.”



“The Spark” Intro Video

Emilie goes to Africa



“Watt's Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt's Up?”



Character Skit

“The Actor”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Is It True Or Am I LION?”



Bible Story

“Daniel In The Lion's Den”



Power Verse Video

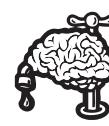
“God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.”

- Psalm 46:1



Call To Action

“How To Survive A Night With The Lions”



Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

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**Watt's Up:**

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Offering Time**Game On!**

“Is It True Or Am I LION?”

Bible Story

“Daniel In The Lion’s Den”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“How To Survive A Night With The Lions”

Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience**Lesson 6 Materials Needed:****“The Spark” Intro Video**

- “Animal Tales” Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “The Actor” Theme Graphic/Music
- Large goatee
- Moustache
- Sunglasses
- Lion costume
- Handheld mirror

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Is It True Or Am I LION?” Game (in PowerPoint Presentation)

Bible Story

- “Daniel In The Lion’s Den” Graphics (in PowerPoint Presentation)
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “How To Survive A Night With The Lions” Graphics (in PowerPoint Presentation)
- A baseball bat
- A toy gun (i.e. nerf gun)
- A sword

Brain Drain

- PowerPoint Review Game (in PowerPoint Presentation)

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Props Print Piece (in Small Group)
- Scissors
- Yarn
- Tape
- Daniel Print Piece (in Small Group)
- Weapons Print Piece (in Small Group)
- Small bowls
- Shut Trouble Down Print Piece (in Small Group)
- Pencils, crayons, or markers



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “The Actor” (he is a “method actor” who really gets into his roles which just happen to always be animal roles)

ACTOR: (comes out in a lion “costume”) Yes, yes - thank you! Thank you! Please, hold your applause. Thank you! (takes a bow) Wow, you all must REALLY like my costume!

Leader: I have to say, you do make a pretty good Lion.

ACTOR: (laughs) You must be confused. Today, we’re talking about caterpillars. Observe as I inch along the ground on my belly! (gets on his stomach and wiggles around)

Leader: Please, get up! You look ridiculous. You’re not acting like a lion at all.

ACTOR: (jumps up, takes a bow) ACTING! THANK YOU! You’re still confused though, you keep saying I’m a lion. I am OBVIOUSLY a caterpillar!

Leader: What kind of caterpillar goes around looking like THAT?

ACTOR: An ADORABLE one! Now, excuse me while I do the internationally recognized call of the caterpillar. (clears throat, then starts to growl and roar like a lion)

Leader: (rolls their eyes, walks offstage, comes back holding a mirror, holds it in front of the actor’s face)

ACTOR: (SHRIEKS) WHO LET THAT LION IN HERE?!

Leader: It’s YOU, you big goof!

ACTOR: (looks down at his costume, shrieks again) But - but - but - I’m SCARED of lions! Who let me do this?! (grabs the mirror, yells at his reflection) WHY DID YOU LET ME DO THIS?! AGH! Lion! (tries to run away with the mirror in his hand, keeps looking at his reflection over his shoulder) IT’S FOLLOWING ME! HELP!

Leader: Calm down! Just calm down! There’s no need for you to be afraid!

ACTOR: Oh, there is PLENTY of reasons to be afraid of lions! Just look around and ask a ZEBRA.

Leader: I don’t see any zebras around here.

ACTOR: EXACTLY.

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: Listen, just calm down. I'm going to help you - today's lesson is all about how to survive a night with the lions!

ACTOR: Lions have slumber parties?

Leader: No. I'm talking about how God can help you through a scary situation!

ACTOR: A lion slumber party sounds pretty scary. I think i'm going to have a panic attack.

Leader: Hold on - the first thing you can do is PRAY. Talk to God about what you're going through! He listens to you!

ACTOR: Okay, okay, okay - just a second...*(shuts his eyes really tight, starts mumbling in a high-pitched voice)*
AMEN!! Okay. Still scared. Now what?

Leader: Obey God. If there's something He's told you to do, just do it! And the THIRD thing you can do is DEPEND ON GOD. You can trust Him to do what He says he's going to do!

ACTOR: *(takes a deep breath, shakily holds up the mirror in front of his face, peeks at it, then laughs)* Oh my, who let this handsome lion in here? Growl!

Leader: Easy. The final thing you need to do is to stay humble.

ACTOR: *(looks back at his reflection)* Eh. You're not that good looking. ACTING! THANK YOU!! *(takes a bow)* And thus ends my greatest performance EVER!

Leader: You were acting the whole time?

ACTOR: Yup. Please, hold your applause. Farewell! I am off to eat a zebra!

Leader: There are no zebras around here!

ACTOR: Then I shall stalk and pounce on a poptart. ACTING! THANK YOU!! *(takes a bow)* Exit - stage left - like a robot! *(walks like a robot offstage while making sound effects as his theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Is It True Or Am I LION?”

Items Needed For Game:

Data Disc

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Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint Presentation for Lesson 6; start with the game title slide

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How To Play:

Choose three boys and three girls to play. Tell them they are going to see a crazy statement on the screen. They have to decide if it is true or not. If it's true, they should say, “It's true.” If they think it's false, they should say, “You're LION!”

The team who gets the most correct answers after ten questions will be declared the winner.



Bible Story

“Daniel In The Lion’s Den”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 6; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (as shown)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Daniel 6; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Daniel chapter 6. Daniel was a solid man of God who always did what was right. There was a king named Darius who was very impressed by Daniel and gave him special treatment. The king’s other officials were very jealous of Daniel, so they came up with a plan to get him in trouble. They knew the only way they could get him was to set a trap having to do with his love and dependence on God. You see, Daniel knew that God was the only One who could give him the strength he needed. So, Daniel spent time in prayer with God every single day.



The king’s officials convinced the king to make a decree, or a law. (show pic) The king decreed that nobody was allowed to pray to anyone but him. The punishment for breaking this rule - the person would have to be thrown into a den of hungry lions. The king’s officials knew that Daniel would not obey this rule. And they were right. (show pic)



The Bible says, “But, when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down *as usual* in his upstairs room.” Daniel prayed to God anyway. Why would Daniel break the king’s law? Daniel knew that although obeying the king was important, obeying God was even more important. He knew that he needed God’s help and strength every single day.



When the king’s officials arrived at Daniel’s house, they found him praying and asking God for help. He knew he couldn’t depend on himself. He had to depend on God. So, Daniel was arrested and brought before the king. The king had no choice but to have Daniel thrown into the lion’s den. And that’s exactly what happened. (show pic) Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den, and a stone was rolled over the entrance so he could not escape. Daniel spent the entire night in the lion’s den.

The next morning, the king ran down to have the stone rolled away. He yelled out to Daniel, “Daniel, was your God able to save you?” (show pic) Daniel was in the lion’s den, completely safe. God sent an angel into the lion’s den to shut the lions’ mouths. The lions did no harm to Daniel at all. Daniel was saved not because he depended on his own power, but because he depended on God’s power.

Today, we are going to learn the important things Daniel did that helped him survive a night with the lions. Pay attention! These are the same things that each of you must do if you want to survive life’s difficult moments.



Call To Action

“How To Survive A Night With The Lions”

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a baseball bat; a toy gun; a sword

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Six,” begin with the slide titled “How To Survive A Night With The Lions”

The Message: (title slide)



Today we heard all about how Daniel survived an entire night in a den of hungry lions and was never eaten. He wasn’t even scratched. You might have thought, “WOW! How did he do it? How did he survive a night with the lions?”

He probably had something like this, huh? (*hold up the baseball bat*) He probably swung the bat at those lions and smacked them on the head every time they came near him. Do you think that’s what he did? (*allow response*) No, that would only have made the lions mad.

Well, then I bet he survived a night with lions by using something like this (*hold up the toy gun*). As soon as one of those lions opened its mouth, I bet Daniel shot it right between the eyes. Do you think that’s what he did? (*allow response*) No, of course not. Guns weren’t invented yet.

I know! Perhaps he used something like THIS (*hold up the sword*). Do you think that’s what he did? (*allow response*) The answer is, “Nope.” He didn’t use any of that stuff to survive. What he did to survive that night with the lions started LONG before the night actually began.

Let’s back up to the beginning of the story. Daniel was a solid man of God who always did what was right. The King was very impressed by him and gave him special treatment. The King’s other officials were very jealous of Daniel, so they came up with a plan to get him in trouble. They knew the only way they could get him was to set a trap having to do with his love and devotion to God. You see, Daniel was a man of character. He built godly character in his life, and that helped him survive a night with the lions.

How did he build that character? The same way you and I can. The Bible says that Daniel “prayed three times a day...giving thanks to his God.” That’s one of the things in Daniel’s life that helped him build godly character. It’s something you should also do...

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Call To Action (Continued)

Pray (slide)

Daniel prayed every day. You should also make it a habit to pray. Don’t just pray before meals. You should pray and talk to God and let him talk to you in your heart. That is one of the things that builds godly character in your life. It certainly helped Daniel prepare for the night with the lions.

The King’s officials knew that Daniel was a man of prayer, so they told the King to make a new law that nobody was allowed to pray to anyone but the King. The punishment for breaking this rule was that the person would have to be thrown into the lion’s den. The King’s officials knew that Daniel would not obey this rule.

The Bible says, “But, when Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room.” Why would Daniel break the King’s law? Because Daniel knew, although obeying the King was important, obeying God was even more important. And, that is another thing that will help you build godly character...

Obey God (slide)

Daniel knew it was so important to obey God. That’s why he went ahead and prayed even though it was against the law. He was obeying God. Was it easy to obey God knowing that he could face death in the lion’s den? Of course not! But, Daniel knew that it was important to obey God even when it was hard!

Another thing you can do to build godly character...

Depend On God (slide)

Daniel was arrested and thrown into the lion’s den. A stone was rolled over the entrance, locking him in. The Bible doesn’t tell us what happened all night, but one thing is for sure. Daniel was depending on GOD for his rescue. He knew there was nothing he could do to stop the lions from eating him.

The next morning, the King ran down to have the stone rolled away. He yelled out to Daniel, “Daniel, was your God able to save you?” Now, if you were Daniel, what would be your response? I think I would have said, “DUH! What do you think? Now, let me tell you a thing or two, King!” But, that’s not what Daniel did.

Daniel kept a humble attitude and answered, “Long live the King.” What was Daniel doing? He could have bragged on himself. He could have thumped his fists on his chest and yelled, “Who’s the man?” Instead, he did what you and I should do when God brings us the victory....

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

**Stay Humble** (slide)

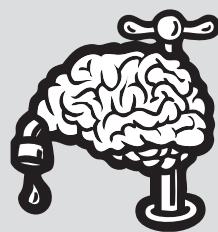
Many times, when God brings you a victory, you want to brag on yourself. You actually think YOU are the one who won the victory. Instead, when God brings the victory, you should thank Him for saving you and keep a humble attitude. That's what a person with godly character does. That's what Daniel did.

Kids, you never know when you are going to face a tough time in your life. You may not face a REAL den of lions, but you may feel like you are going through just as much danger and trouble. It's then that you must rely on the godly character you have in your life.

So, don't wait until you're facing the lions to build that character. Start NOW! Do the things Daniel did. Pray, obey God, depend on God, and keep a humble attitude. Then, you can build the godly character you need to survive “a night with the lions.”

ALTAR RESPONSE (slide)

Pray with the children that they would start NOW developing the godly character they will need to face the toughest circumstances in life. Help them make a decision to pray, obey God, depend on God, and keep a humble attitude.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled “Lesson Six,” begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Ain’t A Scaredy-Cat! I’m Re-LION On God!”

2. What animal did we learn from today?

Answer: Lion

3. Who was the main character in our Bible Story?

Answer: Daniel

4. To whom did the king command everyone to pray?

Answer: Himself

5. Did Daniel obey the king?

Answer: No

6. What happened to Daniel as a punishment?

Answer: Thrown Into Lion’s Den

7. According to our lesson today, to build godly character, we must “_____.”

Answer: Pray

8. According to our lesson today, to build godly character, we must “_____ God.”

Answer: Obey

9. According to our lesson today, to build godly character, we must “Depend On _____.”

Answer: God

10. According to our lesson today, to build godly character, we must “Stay _____.”

Answer: Humble