

Sleeping in a Lions' Den

Bible Treasure: Daniel 6

Daniel loved God. Daniel lived in the land of Babylon. He prayed three times a day and knew that God would never leave him. Daniel had been put in charge of various things in the kingdom, and King Darius trusted him.

But not everyone was happy with him. "Hmm, Daniel thinks he is better than us. We will get him!" some said. These bad men were thinking of ways to get Daniel in trouble and have King Darius hate him. The bad men suggested an idea to the king to make a law that everyone worships only him.

"OK, it's now a law, and anyone who breaks this law will be thrown into a lions' den," said the king.

"Aha, now Daniel has no choice but to obey this law," said the bad men.

When Daniel heard of this new law, he continued to pray, and he did not stop praying! The bad men couldn't believe their eyes! "How can Daniel not obey this law? He is in trouble now," echoed the bad men. Daniel was not afraid, for he knew that God would be with him.

Daniel was a witness showing there is a God of heaven. Daniel was not afraid to pray even though the bad men were watching him. These men reported what they saw to the king, who was disappointed,

because he liked Daniel. He had no choice but to throw Daniel into the lions' den for disobeying the law. Daniel was not afraid, but still trusted God to save him.

"Look at Daniel. It's over for him; we will see if his God will save him, ha-ha, ha-ha," the bad men laughed.

As Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, King Darius watched sadly. "Daniel, I hope your God will save you," he said. Daniel was in the lions' den all night. Early the next morning the king went to check to see if Daniel was still alive. "Daniel, did your God save you?" asked the king. Daniel yelled out that he was safe. The king was happy to hear that Daniel was kept safe from the lions. God had protected him! The bad men were so angry that their plan had failed.

It won't always be easy when you are put through tough

things, but God can protect us, too. Sometimes when you stand for God, you will be hated by your friends, but He has promised: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10, NIV).

IT'S YOUR TURN

- Have you ever been tempted to disobey your parents or your teacher at school?
- Read Matthew 5:16. In what way was Daniel's witnessing a light for the king?
- Try some creative ways to pray. Maybe do a prayer walk with an adult and friends in your community.

