

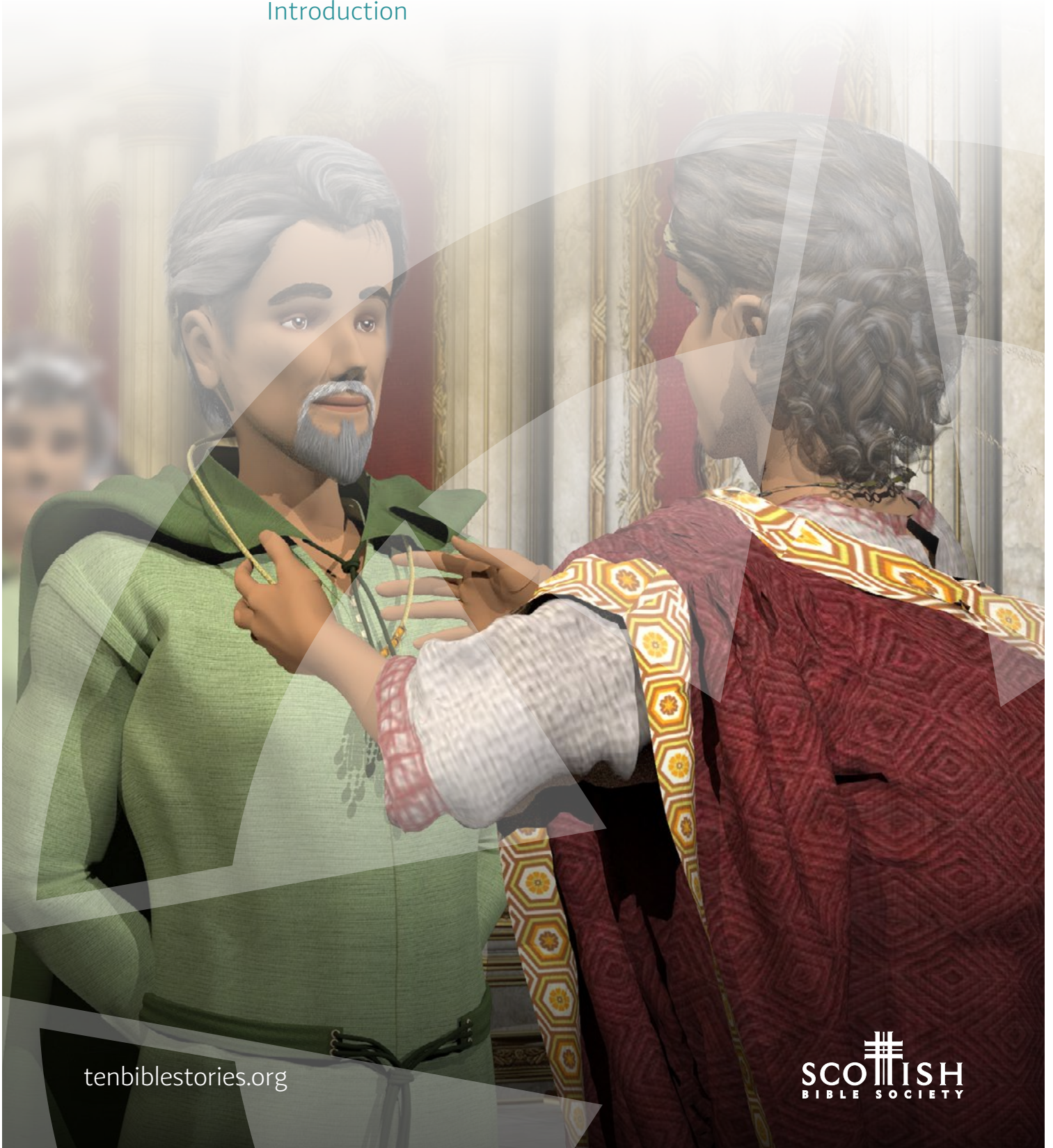


MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

Daniel and the Lions' Den

Introduction



Introduction

This topic is part of a suite of classroom resources developed by Ten Must Know Bible Stories. It is available as a First and Second Level resource.

These resources are designed to support learning across the curriculum and demonstrate how RME can be embedded within learning and will support the values and ethos of the school. This fits with the 4 capacities and the 4 contexts of learning.

The Daniel and the Lions Learning Resource could be used:

- In a context on refugees or transition.
- When you're discussing peer pressure or 'feeling like an outsider'.
- To start thinking on 'prayer'? 'Why do Christians pray?' 'What is prayer?'
- As a stand alone topic you can link to other areas of the curriculum.



Note to Head Teachers:

This topic delivers key parts of the RME curriculum, and supports Literacy, Health & Well-being and Outdoor Learning. In helping children to explore what it must be like to feel like an 'outsider', it also supports the wider school culture, ethos and values. It can further help the school support families and develop wider community links, e.g. with charities and faith groups.



Note to Teachers:

The Biblical account of Daniel and the Lions is a story packed with drama and suspense. Will the lions eat Daniel? Will God save him? This engaging story showcases the Christian beliefs that God rescues his people, listens when they pray and is in control of their circumstances. The glimpse we get into Daniel's life will help children understand how Christians believe God wants them to live. The story can be used to learn about the Christian practice of prayer. The story raises questions that allow children to explore and express their own beliefs and thoughts on how the world should work.

- How should we treat those who are outsiders? Daniel is an Israelite exiled in the country of Babylon. How must it feel to be an 'outsider' in a community? How should we treat those in a similar position? What parts of our identity do we want to maintain if that's the position we're in? How can we do that?

- Active Learning: There is lots of potential for being creative, it's a great story to act out and provides wonderful opportunities for discussions on standing up for your beliefs and not succumbing to peer pressure.
- Belief affects how we live. Children are beginning to understand that what we believe affects the way we live. Their understanding of Christian belief will deepen as they are taught that Christians believe that they should only worship God and follow his ways even if that makes them different from the culture around them.

The section of the Bible on which this topic is based is: **Daniel 6.**



Note to School Chaplains or School Workers:

You can work in partnership with teachers in your school to help deliver this material. Some of the resources can also be adapted to create really lively Time for Reflection school assemblies.



How to use the material for this story

As with all other Ten Must Know Bible Stories, you need to start with Session 1: Hear and explore the story. You can then 'pick and mix' from the sessions that follow. Each session can stand by itself or can be combined with other sessions depending on the age of your children and the length of your lesson.

First level

Session 1: Hear and explore the story.

Session 2: Daniel prayed. What is prayer?

Session 3: Exploring Daniel's character.

Second level

Session 1: Hear and explore the story.

Session 2: Daniel prayed. What is prayer?

Session 3: Exploring Daniel's character.

Session 4: Daniel as an outsider.

Additionally you can access:

Additional Resources for Daniel and the Lions

Daniel and the Lions: PowerPoint and images. (This is a free downloadable resource from the Scottish Bible Society. The images can be used to help you tell the story or for activities such as sequencing.)

Each session supports learning across the curriculum for example Literacy, Health & Well-being and Social studies.

The sessions are designed to be extended with learning across the curricular areas. This will increase the depth and richness of the children's learning, ensuring they know the story and have been allowed to explore the many aspects of it. Some ideas are provided below but we're sure you'll have more of your own.



Extending the Learning across the Curriculum

Expressive Arts

- Enjoy creating some artwork from this story. A mural of the story perhaps or some lion masks?
- Make puppets of the characters or masks from the story and act it out.
- Use old/traditional children's Bibles with graphics and compare them with the Scottish Bible Society images. Which do children prefer and why?
- Create some outdoor artwork using natural objects.
- Create a lion pit – maybe outside or using a shoebox.

Social Studies

- Investigate whether people are still persecuted for their faith today. The website of the Barnabas fund may help. www.Barnabasfund.org
- Focus on refugees. Find out where there are currently refugees and why. Write a diary imagining they were taken away from their home and had to live in another country. Why did it happen? How did they travel? How did they feel? What are they determined not to forget?
- Support a local refugee charity.
- Are there children in the class from a country other than Scotland – can the class discover together more about that country and its culture.
- Read more about Daniel and his friends in the Bible. Daniel chapter 1 and Daniel chapter 3 are two other great stories to help children think about peer pressure, identity and living in another culture.

Languages

- Can you retell the story?
- Write a diary as if you were Daniel.
- Write a job description for a King's helper.
- Imagine you were in a pit of lions. Describe how you would feel.

Health and Well-being

- Focus on some of the other character traits. Can they act out scenarios demonstrating those traits. Are they good traits or bad traits? Why? Which of the traits would you look for in a friend?