



# MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

## Story Script

First Level (Session 1)

## An active retelling of the Bible story 'Daniel and the Lions' Den'

*Beforehand:*

*Find or make a crown.*

*Print or write in large font the words 'faithful' 'trustworthy' and 'responsible'*

*If you wish your children to say the dialogue print of their lines. See below story script.*

We know people who believe in God and the Bible are called Christians. But when this story happened they weren't called Christians, they were called Israelites. God's people were called Israelites. Some of God's people (the Israelites) had been captured and taken to a country called Babylon. The Babylonians didn't believe in God.

Even though the Israelites were far from home, God had not forgotten about them. He was still looking after them.

King Darius was the new king of a country called Babylon.

*(Choose a child to be King Darius, bring them to the front and give them a crown.)*

King Darius soon realised Babylon was too big for him to look after all by himself. He was a wise king so decided to appoint some helpers.

*(Ask King Darius to choose 3 helpers. Bring them to the front to stand with King Darius.)*

The helpers felt very proud. The king had chosen them. They thought 'we are amazing', 'we are super important', 'we are in charge of the country', 'look how great we are'.

*(Ask the 3 helpers to repeat those phrases after you. Or if they're able you could have the words written down for them to read from.)*

The king had one more helper. He was called Daniel.

*(Choose someone to be Daniel. Bring them forward.)*

Daniel was an Israelite. He loved God. He had been taken to the country of Babylon

when he was younger but he had never forgotten God. God had made Daniel clever, and able to understand difficult things and King Darius quickly realised that Daniel was the best helper. So King Darius made Daniel in charge of the whole Kingdom.

But, there was a problem. The other helpers. They didn't like this. They wanted the king to like them best. How do you think they felt?

*(Ask the children for their thoughts and write them down for the helpers to hold. e.g. annoyed, jealous, fed up. Can your 3 helpers pull faces to express those feelings?)*

They whispered together 'let's get rid of him'.

*(Ask the 3 helpers to pretend to whisper together.)*

So they spied on Daniel, they wanted to catch him doing something wrong so they could tell the king and get him into trouble.

*(Ask the 3 helpers to pretend to spy on Daniel.)*

Maybe they would catch him lying or cheating or being lazy and not doing his job.

They watched Daniel while he was washing the dishes at home, they watched Daniel when he was walking to work, they watched Daniel while he was reading books, they watched Daniel while he was doing his shopping.

*(Ask Daniel to act out the various parts of the day as you're speaking. Make sure the helpers keep spying.)*

But they couldn't see Daniel doing anything wrong. Daniel was FAITHFUL, RESPONSIBLE, TRUSTWORTHY.

*(Have these words written out for Daniel to hold.)*

They couldn't find Daniel doing anything wrong at all.

Except there was one thing. Every day. Three times a day – no matter what – Daniel went to his room, closed the door and prayed.

*(Ask Daniel to pretend to pray.)*

‘That’s it’ the helpers thought.. They had a plan to get rid of Daniel. They went to the king and said ‘Let’s make a new law – no-one is allowed to pray to anyone except the king. Anyone who does must be thrown into the lion pit’.

*(Ask the helpers to pretend to speak to the king. Children who are able could read the lines from a script.)*

The king liked their idea.

*(Ask the king to give a thumbs up sign.)*

If everyone prayed only to him it would make him even more important. He didn’t know they were tricking him. So he made the new law.

Daniel heard about the law. He knew it was wrong to pray to anyone except God. He had to do what God said, even if it meant he would die. So Daniel went to his room, closed the door and prayed.

*(Ask Daniel to pretend to pray.)*

The other helpers were watching. They spotted Daniel praying and rushed off to tell the king.

*(Ask the helpers to spy and then rush to tell the king.)*

The king was sad, he had been tricked. He didn’t want to hurt Daniel. He liked him. He was his best helper. But the king couldn’t change the law, and so he let the soldiers throw Daniel to the lions. ‘May your God, who you love so much, rescue you!’ the king said.

*(If the king is able he could read his lines. Ask the rest of the class to be lions. Create a space in the middle of them and pretend to throw Daniel into the lions.)*

The king went back to his palace but didn’t sleep a wink. He was so worried. He tossed and turned, got up and down and up and down.

*(Ask the king to act this out.)*

As soon as it was morning the king ran to the lions pit.

What had happened there? Well God had rescued Daniel. He had sent an angel to close the lions mouths.

*(Ask the lions to 'purr')*

So when the king shouted 'Daniel, has your God saved you?' He heard a big 'Yes!' coming out of the pit.

*(If Daniel and the king are able ask them to say these lines.)*

The king brought Daniel out of the pit. And threw the other helpers in.

*(Daniel comes out of the pit and you can 'throw' the other helpers in)*

What do you think happened to them? Yes the lions ate them up!

*(Ask the lions to roar.)*

And then the king made a new law. He said 'Daniel's God is the living God, the true God, the real God. He is the God who rescues. Pray to him instead.'

*(If the king is able ask him to repeat this)*

*Dialogue to print*

*For the Helpers:*

We are amazing.

We are super important.

We are in charge of the country.

Look how great we are.

Let's make a new law – no-one is allowed to pray to anyone except the King. Anyone who does must be thrown into the lion pit.

*For King Darius:*

May your God, who you love so much, rescue you!

Daniel, has your God saved you?

Daniel's God is the living God, the true God, the real God. He is the God who rescues. Pray to him instead.