

# ASK GOD FOR HELP

**Bible Basis:** Daniel 6:1–13, 16–23; Jeremiah 30:1–3, 8, 10–11; 29:10–14; 31:23–25

**Bible Verse:** “[Daniel] went to his room three times a day to pray. He got down on his knees and gave thanks to his God.” —Daniel 6:10, NIV

**Bible Point:** Daniel is loyal to God, and God protects him. I can be loyal to God.

**Resource:** *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 18: “Ask God for Help”

## STEP 1: COME TOGETHER

**Stuff you need:** paper, rubber bands

Have children tear the paper into strips. Rubber-band together a handful of paper strips to make a pompom for each child. Have children shake their pompoms and cheer with you for a local sports team. Then ask children to sit on the floor.

Say, “Many of us are loyal to [name of local team]. That means that we like them the best, and we are faithful to cheer for them when they play other teams even if the other teams are winning.”

Then ask:

- **If our team loses, do we stop cheering for them and cheer for the winning team?** (*sometimes; no*)
- **Why do we cheer for a team we like even when they lose?** (*We like the players, the colors; their location in our town; our family likes them; but mostly because we are loyal to that team.*)

Say, “People keep cheering for teams they like because they are loyal to them. Today’s Bible story is about a man who was loyal to God. That means that he showed his excitement for God no matter what other people thought.”

## STEP 2: HEAR THE STORY

First, read aloud Chapter 18, “Ask God for Help,” from *The Story for Little Ones*.

Follow the directions to present the following Bible story.

Divide the children into three groups. One group will yell, “I follow God!” when you say, “Daniel.” One group will circle their heads with their hands (like a crown) when you say, “King Darius.” The third group will roar like lions when you say, “lions.” Practice with the children.

**A long time ago, the country of God’s people was torn apart. God sent his people to live in a different country and be ruled by a different king. The king’s name was King Darius.** (*crown*)

One of God's people was named Daniel. *(I follow God.)* He loved God and followed his ways. He was an adviser to King Darius *(crown)*, and the king really liked him. The other advisers were jealous and didn't like Daniel. *(I follow God.)* They wanted to throw him in the lions' den! *(roar)*

The advisers tricked the king. They told him to pass a law that said no one could pray to anyone but the king for 30 days. This was a trick, because the advisers knew Daniel *(I follow God)* loved God and loved to pray to him. There was no way he could go 30 days without praying to God, whom he loved so much! They were sure Daniel *(I follow God)* would pray to God and be thrown into the den of lions! *(roar)*

Daniel *(I follow God)* heard the law. Still, he went to his house and prayed to God. The advisers caught him praying and arrested him to be thrown into the den of lions *(roar)* because he had broken the law!

King Darius *(crown)* was very sad. He liked Daniel *(I follow God)* and did not want him to die. But he had to follow the law and throw him into the den to be eaten by the lions. *(roar)* He yelled, "You always serve your God faithfully. May he save you!" Then the guards shut Daniel *(I follow God)* in the den.

Only God could save Daniel. The next morning, King Darius *(crown)* went to the lions' den. *(roar)* He removed the stone and called, "Did your God save you?"

Daniel *(I follow God)* yelled, "My king, may you live forever. My God sent his angel, and the angel shut the mouths of the lions. *(roar)* God did not allow them to hurt me!"

King Darius *(crown)* was so happy! He ordered the guards to get Daniel *(I follow God)* out of the lions' den. *(roar)*

Great job everyone! Now let's talk about the story. Ask:

- **Who was the king?** *(King Darius)*
- **Who was one of his advisers?** *(Daniel)*
- **Did the other advisers like Daniel?** *(no)*
- **So what trick did they play on the king and on Daniel?** *(They passed a law that people could pray to no one but the king for 30 days.)*
- **Who prayed to God anyway?** *(Daniel)*
- **So what did they do to him?** *(They put him in a den of lions.)*
- **Did the lions eat him?** *(no)*
- **Who protected him? (God) How?** *(God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths.)*

Say, "Daniel trusted in God. He was loyal to God, and God helped him. You can trust in God and be loyal to him, too! Let's ask God to help us be loyal to him like Daniel."

Pray with the children that God will help all of you to be loyal.

## STEP 3: EXPLORE MORE

Choose from these activity options to help children explore the lesson further.

### OPTION 1: LION RELAY

Set up a relay race, with 3–4 children on a team. Have them crawl on all fours and roar like a lion as they take turns crossing the room and coming back to tag the person next in line.

### OPTION 2: GOD'S PROTECTION

**Stuff you need:** beanbags, trash can, masking tape

Place a masking tape line about 4 feet from a trash can. Have children take turns tossing the beanbags into the trash can. Encourage children to clap and cheer for one another while they take turns.

Say, **"When you are playing a game, it feels nice when people are cheering for you. This is one way we can be loyal to each other—by encouraging each other. What are some ways we can be loyal to God?"** (*spend time with him, tell him we love him, sing praise songs to him*)

### OPTION 3: GOD SENDS PROTECTION

**Stuff you need:** God Sends Protection Activity Sheet, crayons

Give each child an activity sheet and crayons. As they color, remind them that just as God protected Daniel, he also protects us.

### OPTION 4: NEVER STOP PRAYING

**Stuff you need:** Never Stop Praying Activity Sheet, crayons

Give an activity sheet to each child. While they color, ask for each picture:

- **What is that child doing?**
- **Is that a good time to pray to God?** (Yes. We can pray to God no matter where we are or what we are doing.)

### OPTION 5: LION PUPPET

**Stuff you need:** yellow paper plates (found at a party supply store), orange tissue paper, glue, black felt triangles (for nose), googly eyes, black permanent marker, wooden craft sticks, tape

**Preparation:** Cut out the black felt triangles for the nose. Rip the orange tissue paper into pieces 2–3 inches long.

Give each child a paper plate. Squirt glue all the way around the edge of the plate, and have children stick tissue paper pieces onto the glue to make a mane for their lion. Dot glue onto the plate for eyes and nose, and have children put on the googly eyes and triangle nose. Draw a mouth

with the marker. Write the child's name on the craft stick; then tape the stick onto the back of the paper plate to form a lion puppet.

## STEP 4: GOING HOME

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Before sending children home, give each a copy of *The Story Preschool Trading Card 18*. Say, **"The front of this card will remind you that Daniel was loyal to God. Show your parents the back and tell them that you can be loyal to God, too."** Have them practice saying this before they leave.

As you are waiting for parents to pick up their children, use *The Story for Little Ones* or *The Story Preschool Trading Cards* to review past stories and Bible points.

Make sure each child takes home a copy of the Trading Card, Activity Sheet(s)/Crafts, and the Parents' Page.