

An illustration at the top of the page shows Jesus on the left, looking towards the right. In the center, a man in a blue robe (Daniel) is looking up. To the right, a man in a red robe is writing on a scroll. In the background, there are dark, shadowy figures of lions. A yellow circle in the top right corner contains the text '2-4 year-olds'.

JESUS AND THE LIONS' DEN

LESSON PLAN

2-4
year-olds

Session Summary: God's word tells us that God saved Daniel from the lions.
Daniel's story gets us ready to understand Jesus' story.

Pray

Let's talk to God before we read the story:

Father God, please teach us what Daniel knew about you. Amen

Listen*

(Read the story from *Jesus and the Lions' Den*.)

Game and Thinking

We are going to play a game, and then I'm going to ask three simple questions about that story.

The game is like musical statues. As the music plays, you need to stomp about and roar like lions. I am going to hide behind the (chair, curtain, etc...). When I stop the music I will appear. I am the "angel" from the story and you (all) need to freeze and shut your mouth.

Did Daniel trust God and keep praying?

Did God save Daniel from the lions?

Does Daniel's story remind us of Jesus' story?

Listen to God from the Bible

This is Daniel 6, verses 26-27:

Daniel's God is the living God.

He lives forever.

His kingdom will never be destroyed.

His rule will never end.

God rescues and saves people.

God does mighty miracles
in heaven and on earth.

God saved Daniel

from the power of the lions. (ICB)

Pray

Let's talk to God again now:

Father God, you are the real forever, powerful, saving God. Wow! Thank you for saving Daniel from the lions. Thank you for our Rescuer, Jesus. Amen

Craft Idea

Draw a lion's face on a piece of paper or a paper plate. Your child can add a mane in various ways: finger painting or handprints, gluing on strips of coloured paper/balls of tissue paper or even pieces of pasta, printing using fork prongs dipped in paint.

See ideas at the end of the session below for things to do "In the Week".



* *Jesus and the Lions' Den* by Alison Mitchell and Catalina Echeverri is available from Christian retailers and at www.thegoodbook.com (US) or www.thegoodbook.co.uk (UK).

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY IDEAS

Using minimal resources... Draw round one hand (your thumb tucked in) to be a lion's body. Turn your hand round 180 degrees and draw round it again such that the palm outlines overlap but the fingers on the second hand shape stick up as the mane. Colour in the body, face and mane and add facial details.

Using things you may have around...

- you'll need a paper plate, glue, coloured paper/tissue paper/pasta: draw a lion's face on the plate, use glue to attach any of the materials to make a mane.
- you'll need paper, fork, paint: draw a circular lion's face and use the fork prongs dipped in paint to add a printed mane.
- you'll need a pizza or pancake with toppings of choice: use fruit, olives and/or crudités to make a lion's face, and add a mane around the edge using pepperoni pieces or segments of orange.

More of a project: <http://www.biblesongsandmore.com/2012/11/01/lion-origami/>
<https://ministryark.com/craft/lion-origami-bible-craft/>

Both of these websites give instructions on how to make a chatterbox (also known as a Cootie Catcher) into a roaring lion's face. Your child might like to work out how to add verses or ideas from the session under the flaps as children do when they make these toys as "fortune tellers".

If you have a printer: enjoy the art and activity sheets from the *Jesus and the Lions' Den Art and Activity Book* on the next three pages.

IN THE WEEK

Start calming down for bed by playing sleeping lions! Who rescued Daniel by shutting the lions' mouths? What else can they remember?

Learn a memory verse. As a family, learn a verse over the course of the week. You could write up the memory verse somewhere and cover words with post-it notes or write out the initial letters only, or try setting it to a familiar tune for instance as you learn it...

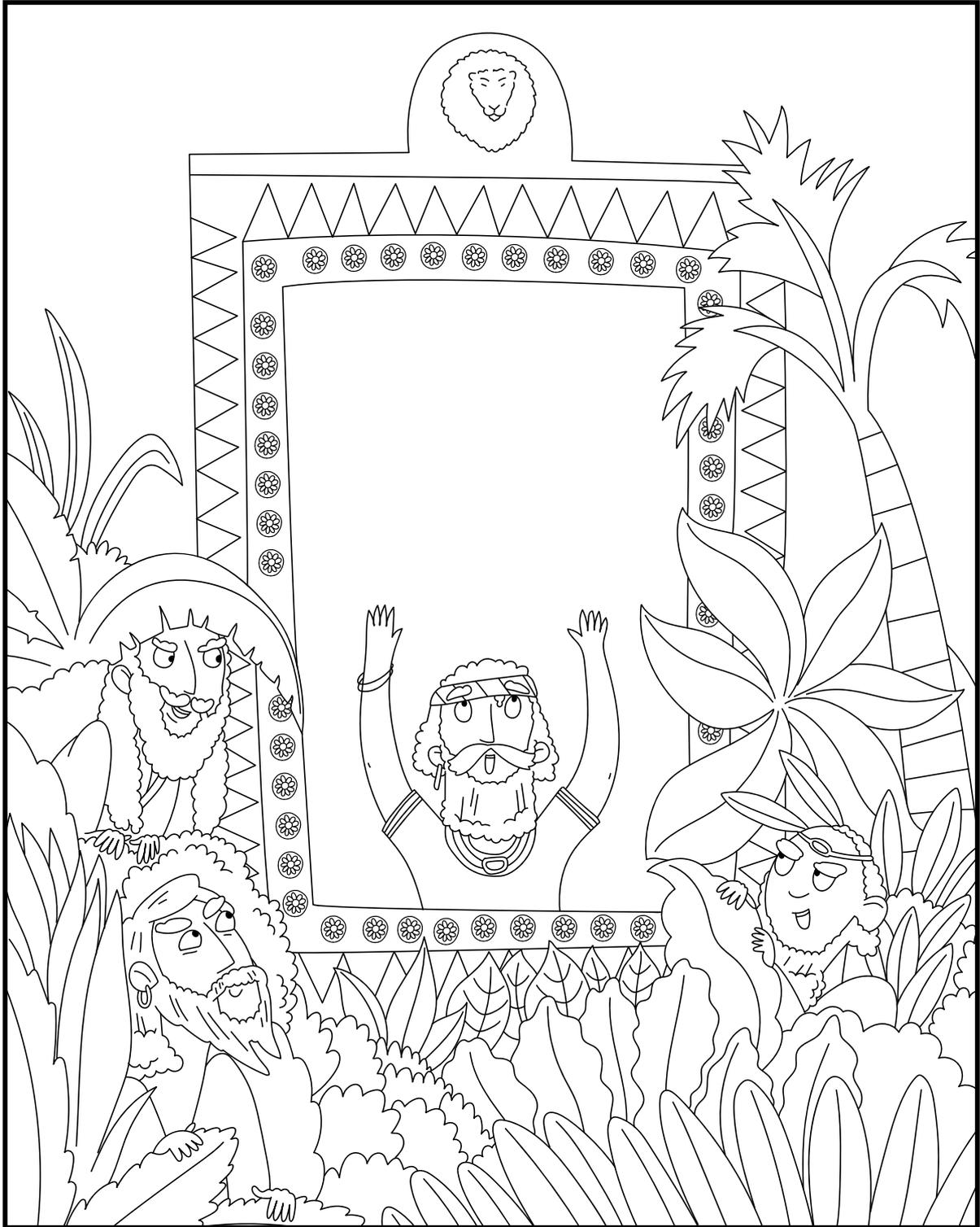
"God rescues and saves people. God does mighty miracles in heaven and on earth. God saved Daniel from the power of the lions." (Daniel 6 v 27)

Enjoy singing about Daniel's story. "In a Foreign Land" from *The King, the Snake and the Promise*. You could also enjoy a song about the fact that all Scripture is about Christ: "Big Bible Story" (Colin Buchanan, *Colin's New Testament Big Bible Story Songs*) and/or two songs about God's Old Testament promises ultimately fulfilled in Christ: "God's People in God's Place" and "A Long Long Long Long Time Ago" (Awesome Cutlery, *This is Awesome Cutlery*).



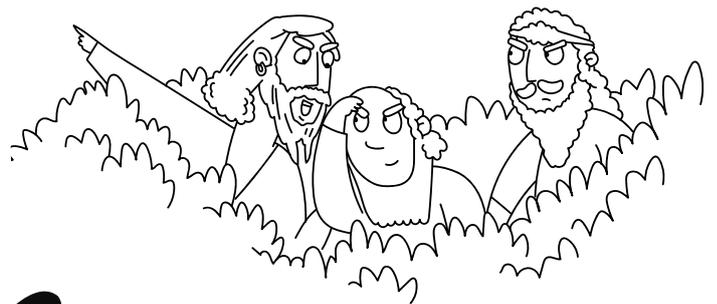
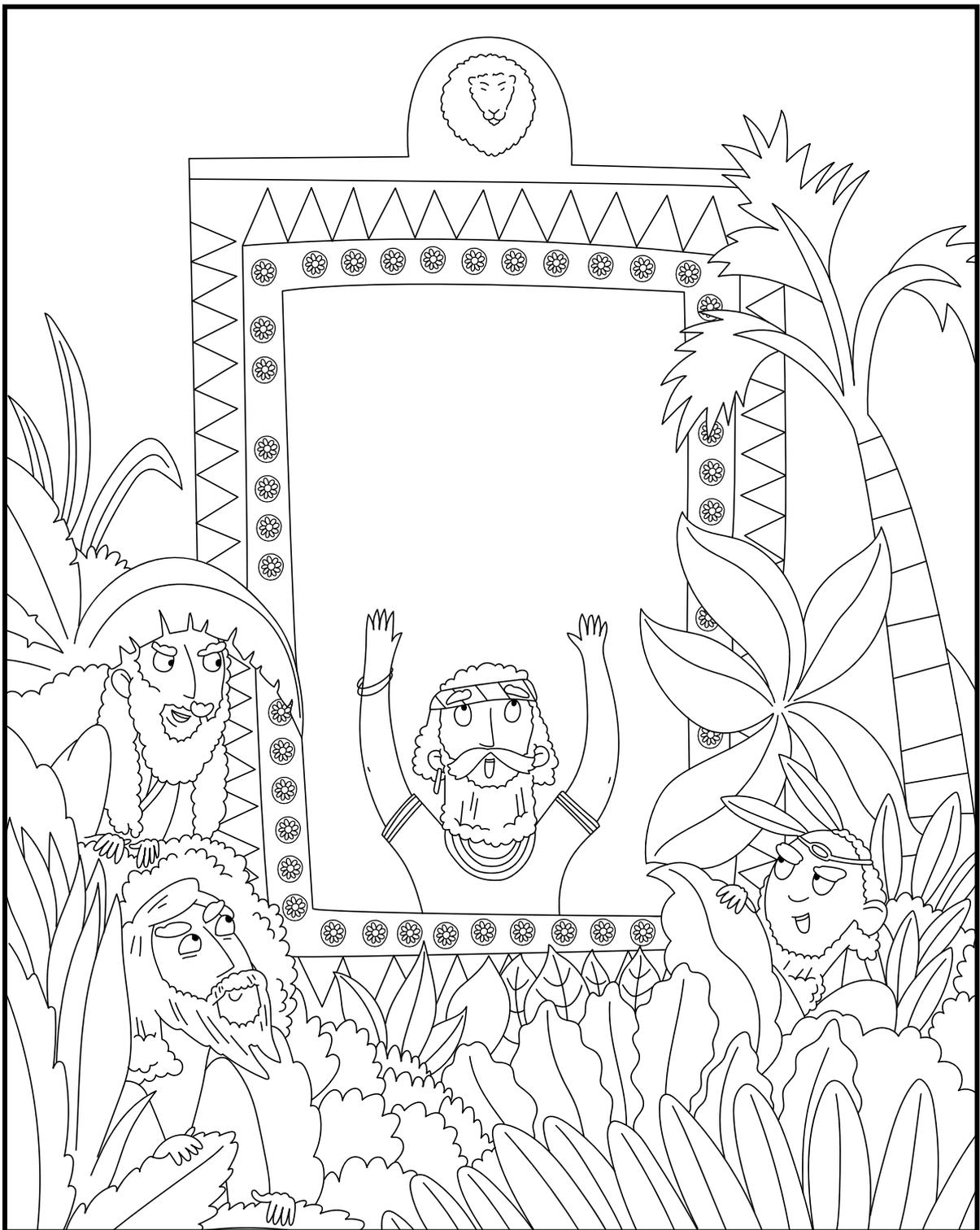
Spot the difference

Can you spot the eight differences between these two pictures?



Taken from *Jesus and the Lions' Den Art and Activity Book*, available from Christian retailers and at www.thegoodbook.com (US) or www.thegoodbook.co.uk (UK).

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TALES THAT TELL THE TRUTH LESSONS INTRODUCTION



You can use these suggested lesson plans to give you a quick-to-prepare way of engaging with a story in the *Tales That Tell the Truth* Bible storybook series, and with the Scripture that underpins it, helping children see what it means for them.

Each session includes:

- A “Session Summary” to help the adult leading the session know where it’s going.
- A suggested session for pre-school age children (3-4 years).
- A differentiated lesson plan for children from 5-11, with different activities signalled as being for “Younger” (approximately 5-7 year-old) and “Older” (approximately 8-11 year-old) children. In some instances, there are also possible further questions/activities you can use for older children in a family.

Use what you judge appropriate for your children’s experience, understanding and concentration. (You may find the “younger” questions more helpful for an older child who is unfamiliar with the Bible or the gospel message.) But try to include something from the “Let’s listen to God”, “Let’s think” and “Let’s pray together” sections, as well as the story-telling. Feel free to cover the material in more than one sitting!

Each lesson is put together so that it can be read out directly as it is written, with any explanatory notes for adults included in brackets. It is as light on necessary materials as possible but includes many of the elements your children might be used to from Sunday church:

- An introductory activity that establishes a key concept the children will need to help understand the passage.
- Activities to help them engage as they listen to or read the Bible story.
- A story-telling segment that seeks to tell the Bible story in a memorable and visually engaging way. (This involves using part of a book from the *Tales That Tell The Truth* series. In some of the sessions, the book is deliberately read in two parts so that you can look at the Bible before reinforcing the message using the remaining pages of the book.)
- An opportunity to think about a passage of Scripture and what it means using appropriate questions.
- An activity or discussion that encourages the children to understand what the passage means for us today.
- Encouragement to children to pray in light of what they’ve learnt about Jesus in the lesson.
- Games that reinforce the learning, but that also provide a concentration break and a chance to move around!
- Craft activities, ranging from those requiring minimal resources to more complicated projects.

Each session ends with specific suggestions for ways you can revisit what you have been thinking about over the course of the week. Here are some other ideas for ways to recap what you have learnt:

- Show your craft proudly over Zoom/Skype/Facetime etc... to a family member or friend!
- Replay the game. Can your children remember what it reminds us about Jesus?
- Encourage children to have a go at re-teaching the lesson to their dolls/playmobil/Sylvanian families.
- Read the storybook at bedtime.

As far as is currently allowed, why not try to get together with another family with children of a similar age? You can share around the “leading” and enjoy precious time together!

We pray that these resources will give families and churches a way of engaging their children with Scripture at a time when normal church family life has been disrupted and grow all of us in love for our powerful, loving, saving Lord!

