

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF DANIEL

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: DANIEL, HERO AND VISIONARY OF END TIMES (THE BOOK OF DANIEL)

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, MIDDLE SHELF, UNDER "THE PROPHETS"**
- **PIECES: 10" CHAIN, PAINTING OF A GOLDEN FIGURE MOUNTED ON A WOODEN PLAQUE (SEE DANIEL 2:31FF), GOLDEN STATUE, PAINTING OF A GREAT TREE COVERED WITH FRUIT AND SURROUNDED BY ANIMALS OF ALL KINDS MOUNTED ON A WOODEN PLAQUE, WOODEN PLAQUE PAINTED TO LOOK LIKE A GREY STONE WALL WITH THE WORDS MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN WRITTEN IN HEBREW ON IT, LION'S DEN, PAINTINGS OF DANIEL'S 4 VISIONS (THE 4 BEASTS IN DANIEL 7:1-8, THE RAM AND THE HE-GOAT IN DANIEL 8:1-10, GABRIEL IN DANIEL 9:20-27, THE MAN CLOTHED IN LINEN IN DANIEL 10:5-7)**
- **CONTROL**
- **UNDERLAY: THIS UNDERLAY IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT HAS TWO SECTIONS. THE FIRST SECTION IS DARK BROWN FELT (35" X 11") AND THE SECOND SECTION IS MULTI-COLORED CLOTH (29" X 11").**

BACKGROUND

This lesson enriches both the lesson called Exile and Return and the lesson on the Prophet.. The despair that denies its own reality is impossible to cope with directly. Teaching "facts," biblical or otherwise, cannot accomplish the transformation of despair to hope, when all the facts conspire to reinforce the unacknowledged despair.

The hero stories of chapters 1–6 in Daniel and the apocalyptic visions of chapter 7–12 are ways to indirectly and symbolically present a whole new system of meaning to provide permission for the repressed despair to be named and the false goals of society to be challenged by a bright vision of the future.

“Pie in the sky” and other utopian schemes, religious or secular, will not touch such despair, but hero stories about being true to one’s deepest values despite the unworthy values promoted by political leadership and visions of a hopeful future might.

If you don’t think children are susceptible to such despair as that addressed by the Book of Daniel, you need to work for a few years with families who have suicidal children.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Daniel’s story sits on a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is Daniel in the lion’s den. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is unique in that it is in two sections. The first section is dark brown felt (35" x 11"), and the second section is multi-colored cloth (29" x 11"). The first section is about Daniel’s interactions with a king and his court; the second section is about Daniel’s prophetic visions. Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects and images: a 10" piece of chain, a painting of a golden figure mounted on a wooden plaque (see Daniel 2:31ff), a golden statue, a painting of a great tree covered with fruit and surrounded by animals of all kinds mounted on a wooden plaque, a wooden plaque painted to look like a grey stone wall with the words *Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin* written in Hebrew on it, the lion’s den, paintings of Daniel’s four visions (the four beasts from Daniel 7:1-8, the ram and the he-goat from Daniel 8:1-10, Gabriel from Daniel 9:20-27, and the man clothed in linen from Daniel 10:5-7).

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

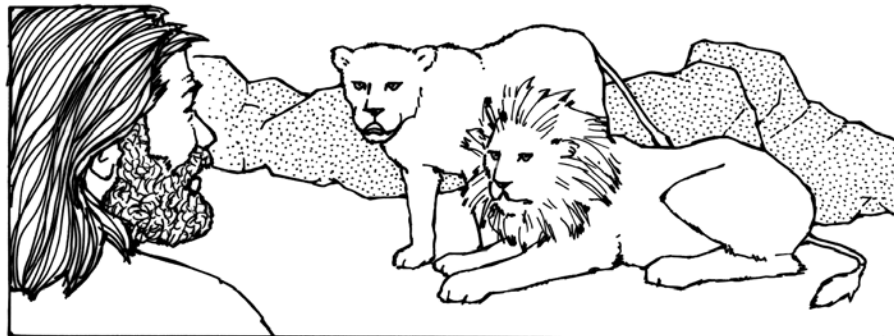
SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

This lesson enriches both the lesson called Exile and Return and the lesson on the Prophets. When you introduce the story of Danile, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of Daniel place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event, a prophecy, or a vision. Unroll the underlay slowly, just enough for each object, as if you are unrolling a life. At the end of the wondering, carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, “Here is Daniel’s vision of the four beasts,” and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



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