

Daniel in the Lions' Den

Theme: Being Loyal to God.

NB: Try doing the memory verse after the story and the prayer activity after the games.

Games

Crash: Split the groups into equally sized teams of between 6 and 12. Each team has a hat or box with an identical set of instructions (see *resources*) Each team stands in a circle and the people take it in turns to take an instruction and go around the outside of the circle in that manner. Once all the team have had a go, the entire team sits down as fast as they can and shouts "CRASH!" The fastest team wins. If you only have one team try timing it (allowing 15 seconds per child should give a good target.)

Cat and Mouse: The children stand, scattered in the available space. Choose a cat and mouse. The cat tries to catch the mouse. However after 5 seconds as mouse that player may tag another player who becomes the cat and the cat becomes the mouse. Continue this way choosing a new cat and mouse if the cat catches the mouse.

Memory verse:

"As long as you obey his commands, you are safe." Ecclesiastes 8 verse 5

Use the "Daniel to the lions' den" game in the *resources* section

Introduction:

Ask the children to think of their best friend. Now ask them if they were given the choice of doing anything they wanted and not speaking to their friend for a long time or being able to speak to the friend and getting into trouble which would they choose ?

Story:

Daniel 6: 3 – 27. See resources for a power play of this story.

Application:

Explain that God wants us to be loyal to him and that this loyalty is rewarded. Tell the group of a time when your loyalty to God was tested and explain the positive outcomes when you remained loyal.

Prayer:

Copy out this prayer so all the children can see the words. Pray it together.

Dear God, Help us to have a great time at Kingsquad, and help us to stay close to you in all that we do. Please be with us right now and help us to remember you always be. Thank you God. Amen.

Craft:

There is a lion mask craft in the *resources*; it will need at least 5 to 10 minutes

Song:

"So Glad" track 6 on *Great Big God 3: God's Love is Big* from Vineyard Music

Resources:

There is a fun sheet, powerplay, lion mask template, game for the memory verse, Crash instructions in the resource section

Daniel in the Lions' Den - Powerplay

King	Pretend to put crown on head.
Wicked	Pretending to look wicked, do best evil laugh.
Pray / praying / prayed	Put hands together and close eyes
Lions	Roar and pretend to pounce.
OK	Two thumbs up
God	Point up
Die	Clutch at throat and fall over (or alternative)
Hooray	Jump up, wave arms and shout Hooray.

As time went on, Daniel also served **King** Darius and became a very important leader in Babylon. Because of this, some of the other leaders who were very **wicked** became jealous of Daniel and schemed and plotted to get rid of him.

They went to the **king** with an idea. No one was to **pray** to anyone or anything except the **king** for 30 days. If they did, they would be thrown into a den of **lions**. This pleased the **king** and he said **OK** and this law was written down. The **wicked** leaders knew that Daniel was loyal to God and **prayed** three times each day and so this would cause a problem for him. What would he do?

When he heard the news, Daniel went to his house, went upstairs to his room, knelt down and **prayed** to **God** at his open window, just as he had always done. The **wicked** leaders were watching him and as soon as they saw Daniel **praying** they went to the **king** and told him that Daniel must be thrown to the **lions** and **die**.

The **king** was very upset. He loved Daniel but a law once written down, could not be broken. So he gave the **OK** for Daniel to be thrown into the **lions'** den, but he hoped that **God** would save him. That night he could not eat or sleep because he was so worried.

The next morning **King** Darius hurried to the **lions'** den. He called out "Daniel has your **God**, who you serve loyally, saved you?" Daniel replied that **God** had saved him, and had sent an angel to shut the **lions'** mouths.

Then **King** Darius ordered that Daniel was to be pulled out of the **lions'** den and that all the **wicked** leaders who had schemed and plotted should be thrown to the **lions** instead.

The **king** also wrote a letter to all the people in his kingdom telling them that this was the only **God** they needed to worship – because He had saved Daniel. **Hooray!**

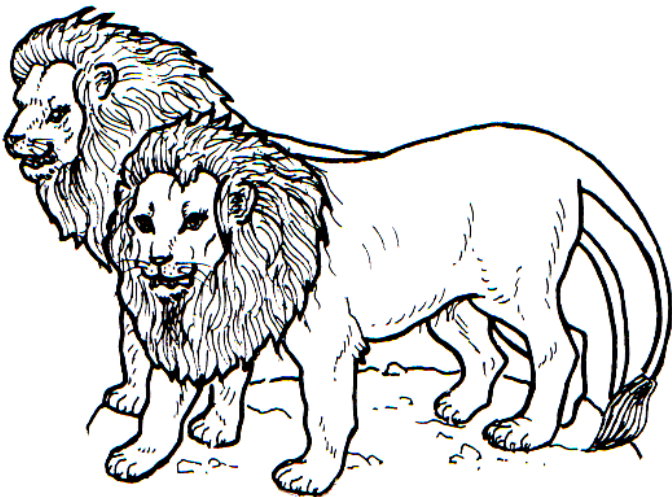
Suggested instructions for game, "Crash". Copy a set for each team.

Follow these in order

- Hop on one foot
- Walking slowly backwards
- Bunny hops
- Skipping
- Crawling on hands and knees
- Pretending to be a chicken (with noises)
- Giant steps
- Like a Penguin (keeping your knees together and arms by your sides)
- Walking one foot after the other (heel to toe)
- Running as fast as you can.

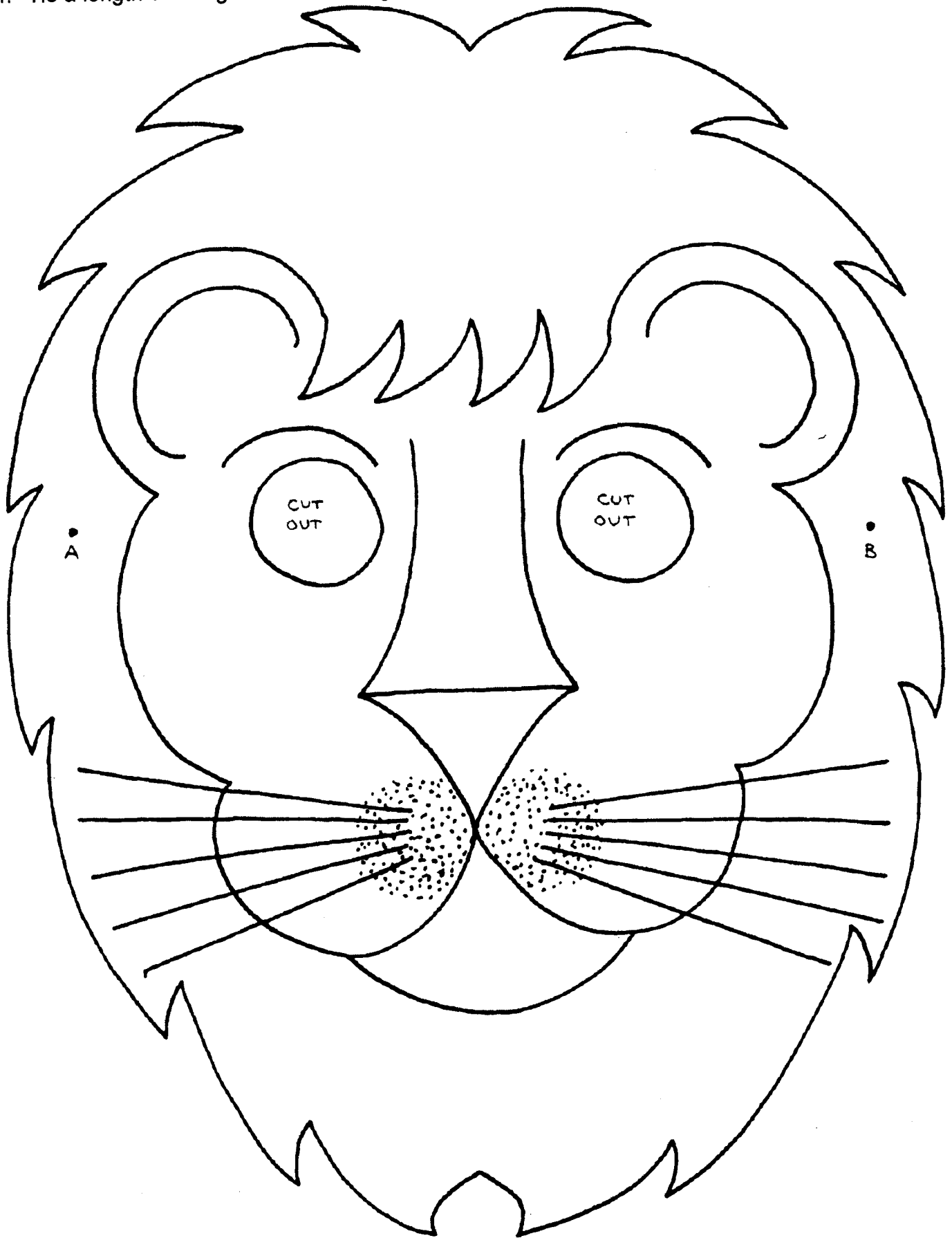
Memory verse game Daniel in the lions' den game (similar to hangman)

- Place the lions on a board with Daniel a distance away from the lions.
- Set out letters of memory verse as in hangman. Children take it in turns
- to guess a letter adding all correct letters.
- If a letter is not in the puzzle, move Daniel one step closer to the lions.
- Allow 10 steps before Daniel gets to the lion. If Daniel gets to the den before the verse is complete, put the angel in between to demonstrate Daniel being protected.



Daniel and the Lions' den

1. Photocopy onto thin card.
2. Colour in and cut out lion mask.
3. Cut out eye holes and pierce at A and B
4. Tie a length of string or elastic through holes at A and B



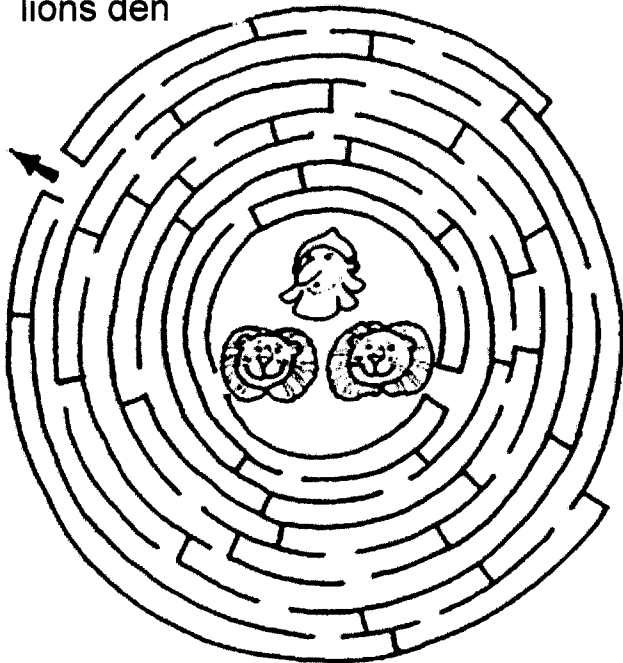
Daniel and the lions' den

“As long as you obey his commands, you are safe.”

Ecclesiastes 8 verse 5

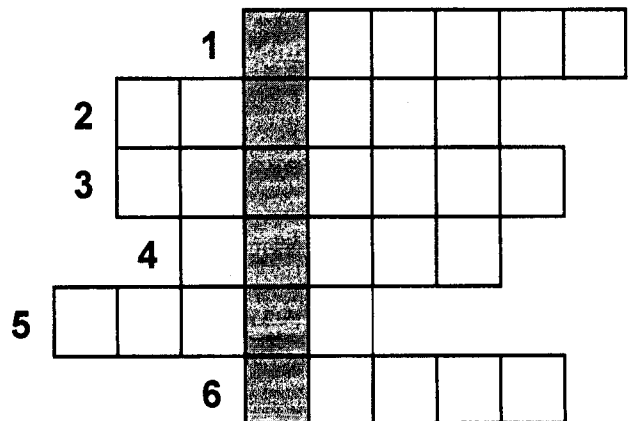


Help Daniel find his way out of the lions den



Find these words in Daniel chapter 6 and write them into the boxes. The letters in the shaded area make another word.

1. The Kings name: verse 1
2. Daniel did this three times a day: verse 10
3. These opened towards Jerusalem: verse 10
4. The King spent a sleepless one : verse 18
5. This shut the lions' mouths: verse 22
6. Daniel was rescued from the ____: verse 22



How many lions can you see on this page?