

Daniel & the Lion's Den ~ Story Table Scene Guide

Session 1 (Scenes 1-6)	
Scenes	Characters & Props
1. King Darius Chooses Daniel	Palace, King Darius, Daniel, other people nearby
<p>Daniel worked hard for the new king. The new king put Daniel and two other men in charge of all 120 regions in his empire. But Daniel was a much better leader than the other two men. So King Darius decided to put Daniel in charge of ALL the regions. The other two governors or officials were bitterly jealous of Daniel.</p> <p><i>What were the officials thinking? How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
2. Officials Plot Revenge	Two other officials
<p>The officials decided they would find a way to get Daniel in trouble with the king. But try as hard as they might, they couldn't catch Daniel doing anything wrong. "This man never does anything wrong," they said. "We'll have to find something about his Jewish religion that will get him into trouble." And so they plotted and schemed....</p> <p><i>How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
3. The King's Command	Palace, King Darius, two officials, people, paper with the ruling written on it
<p>The jealous officials came up with a plan to get rid of Daniel. They went to the king and tricked him into making a new law. People were required to pray only to the king for the next month. Once the law was signed it was sealed with the seal of the King. Such a law could not be broken. And here was the worst part – anyone who broke the law would be thrown into a den of lions! Now King Darius didn't realize the officials were trying to trap Daniel. Daniel was his friend. So, without realizing what was really happening, King Darius signed the new law.</p> <p><i>Why were the officials jealous? Why did they have to find something in Daniel's religion to pick on? Why would the king sign a law against Daniel? How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
4. Daniel gets the news	Daniel, paper with the ruling on it, officials near by
<p>The officials were very cunning men. They knew exactly what they were doing, even if King Darius didn't. They knew that Daniel prayed every day. Soon, they would trap him! Soon Daniel would be lion chow and they would be rid of him forever!</p> <p>Daniel heard about the law. He probably figured out that the officials were trying to trap him. Daniel must have wondered if he should just pray silently, maybe move inside his room, instead of praying next to his window facing Jerusalem.... After all, God would still hear his prayers, right? <i>How could we show this scene?</i></p>	

5. Daniel prays at his window	Window of Daniel's house, Daniel, officials sneaking nearby, Daniel's prayer
<p>But no! He decided he would not give in. He continued to pray by his open window as he had always done. He prayed out loud to God, just like he had always done. And, sure enough, the officials who were watching saw Daniel praying disobeying the King's new law.</p> <p>Why didn't Daniel just pretend to stop praying? Why didn't Daniel do what he had to do to save his skin? Wasn't he crazy to do what would bring certain death? What do you think Daniel prayed that day? <i>How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
6. The King gets the news	King Darius, two officials, palace
<p>The officials were watching closely. With glee, they saw Daniel praying out loud at his window and ran quickly to the king to report the news. The king realized he had been trapped by his officials, but there was nothing he could do. The law could not be broken. Sadly, he gave the order for Daniel to be arrested. <i>How could we show this scene?</i></p>	

Session 2 (Scenes 7-12)	
Scenes	Characters & Props
7. Daniel is thrown to the lions	Daniel, King Darius, officials, lions, lions' den
<p>The king felt so bad that he came along. Before they threw Daniel into the lion's den, he said, "You always serve your God faithfully. May he save you!" Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. A large stone was rolled across the opening so he couldn't escape. The King sealed the opening with his special ring.</p> <p><i>How do you think the king feels knowing he has been tricked into putting his friend to death? How do you think Daniel is feeling? What do you think Daniel did while in the lion's den? How could we show this scene?</i></p>	
8. Sleepless in Babylon	King Darius, nighttime, palace, stars, moon
<p>Now the king felt just terrible about this whole situation. Daniel was his trusted friend. How could he have been so stupid! How could he have been so gullible? What was he thinking? All night long the king paced back and forth, worried about Daniel. He felt so guilty for letting this happen.</p> <p><i>What do you think the king learned from this? What might the king have been saying? (worrying, Poor Daniel, What have I done) How can we show this scene?</i></p>	

9. The Next Morning	King Darius, daylight (sun, blue sky), Daniel, lions sleeping,
<p>As soon as the sun was up, the king ran from the palace to the lion's den where Daniel was. He called out to him, "Daniel, Was your God able to save you from the lions?" And amazingly enough, Daniel answered him. "My king, God sent his angel to shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't hurt me at all." <i>How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
10. Daniel lifted out	King Darius, Daniel, lions in den
<p>King Darius was overjoyed! His servants lifted Daniel from the den. There wasn't even a scratch on Daniel! <i>How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
11. Hungry Lions	Lions, two officials, lions' den
<p>Then King Darius ordered the officials who had tried to trick Daniel to be brought to him. They were thrown into the den of lions right then. And this time the lions did not keep their mouths shut! <i>How can we show this scene?</i></p>	
12. A New Decree!	King Darius, people, Daniel, palace
<p>Then King Darius wrote to the people of all the nations, saying, "Everyone in my kingdom must respect and honor Daniel's God. He is the living God. He will live forever. He sets people free and saves them. He does miraculous signs and wonders. He does them in the heavens and on earth. He has saved Daniel from the power of the lions." <i>How can we show this scene?</i></p>	

What are some of the most important messages from this story?
How was Daniel's courage used to tell other people about God?
How can you do what is right when others around you are not?
How did Daniel's practice of praying three times a day make his faith stronger?