**1st – Read the story**

**Then do the question cards…..**

Pick six volunteers. One at a time, hand each child a Lion Card. Have the child read what is on the card. That child can answer, as well as any other child who would like to share their answer. Move on to the next child, next Lion Card. (If the kids are non-responsive, give the suggested answers and let them “vote” for their choice):

**2nd – Now, let’s go visit a real Lion’s Den!**

**3rd –Say - I’m going to go in just to check if they are tied up well, because I don’t want to put you in any real danger. You will hear that they are going to start roaring, because as soon as they see a human, they get hungry!**

**Start the sound tracks!**

**4th – Ok, they are all nicely tied up, but boy are they hungry!**

**5th – Now imagine we are being told that we as Christians are not allowed to worship God anymore in Australia. We all have to deny that there is a God and we have to follow whatever the law tells us, including not going to church and never ever talking about God ever! Or else, we are going to be thrown into the lion’s den!!!**

**6th – This is just like Daniel’s situation!!**

**7th – OK, so what are we going to do? Stop worshipping GOD?**

**NO WAY!!!!!! What did Daniel do? PRAY!**

Explain that Daniel prayed to God. God always answers prayers but he doesn’t always answer the way we want. His answer may be yes, no, maybe or I have a better way. What do you think Daniel prayed for? I wonder what you would have prayed if you were Daniel? To get out of the Lion’s Den? For God to Kill the Lions? Did God answer Daniel’s prayer, how?

**8th - I know, let’s say a prayer and ask God to protect us, because I’m pretty sure we will NOT EVER stop worshipping God, so we better be ready to be thrown in.**

**Pray – God, please protect us from the Lion’s. We want to keep worshipping you.**

**9th – We have to enter the lion’s den now, but I’m going to blindfold you so that you don’t see the angel… Do not ever take it off until we are out again!!**

**10th – Go in and say – wow, the lions are going crazy!!! Stand still!! Don’ move!!**

**Oh dear – the lion looks like he is going to lick you… Can you feel that? How does it feel?**

**But not to worry he won’t bite – here comes the angel…. And the angel is just closing their mouths… ok, all good. They are chained up and their mouths are shut. \_**

**Shut down the music!**

**11th – Do you want to feel the lion? Take hand and let them feel the mane and the body.**

**12th – oh guys, you won’t believe it but there are a few old bones lying around here… I hope they are not human bones.. Do you want to feel it?**

**13th – We better get out of here before they find a way to open their mouths again.**

**14th – Wow – that was scary! I am so thankful to God for protecting us! I like lions, but not when they are this close to me!!**

**Discussion afterwards:**

**Life Application:**

It takes strength and guts to believe in God and obey God's commands and be a role model to others. Also, believing one thing and doing another is wrong, so saying you love God but not obeying God is wrong.

**Reflection Time**

Ask the children to think about time when they feel pressured not to worship GOD. What will be the consequences? Being laughed at or feeling confused maybe because the other people have not even heard of God?

Explain that those are very small “consequences”. Daniel was prepared to be torn up by Lions!

If we feel that we are under pressure, we should always just stay calm and ask God to help us to know what to do.

**I’m going to give each of you this Memory Verse to remember that we should never be afraid:** "Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

**Closing Discussion:**

I'm sure Daniel thought about giving-in and hiding the fact that he was a follower of God. But Daniel decided to stand up for his belief in God, even if it meant death. There are times when even a kid has to stand up for their beliefs. When they see someone treating another badly. When they hear gossip. When they have the tough choice of sleeping in or going to church. When it's time to pray and they'd rather play. When others say speak negatively about God or the church. When there are things that are pulling them away from God. Distractions and Lions come in all shapes and sizes!

**Closing Prayer:**

All children: Tell the children you are going to have a moment of silence for them to offer their problem to God in a prayer. Encourage the children to bring their envelopes home and talk with their parents, their friends, a trusted adult or their pastors.

AND BEFORE YOU GO – don’t tell your siblings what to expect – I want it to be a surprise for them too next week!