



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

November 29-30, 2014

DATE

Daniel and the Lions' Den

LESSON TITLE

Daniel 6; Philippians 4:6  
Adventure Bible (pp. 962-964, 1306)

WHERE TO FIND IT

We can thank God in any situation.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Today kids will have a chance to give thanks that God can take care of them even in scary situations. Think about worries you have that you could turn into thankfulness (or supplement with thankfulness!). Be prepared to model that for kids.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, encourage them to tell their parents what they gave thanks for in Kids' Club today!

## large group heads up

Kids probably spent some time giving thanks this week. We're using the story of Daniel and the lions' den and Phil. 4:6 to talk about why we can give thanks *anytime!*



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### **WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?**

- Use **Play Dough** to make one thing you're thankful for.
- Share it with the group (or with 3 people nearby, if you haven't broken into small groups yet).
- If you finish early, you can have kids make something else they're thankful for.
- **ASK:** When is it easy to be thankful? When is it hard? Why?
- Then ask kids about the best and worst parts of their weeks.

**If you have extra time, remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) recall the story of Daniel and (2) recognize that we can be thankful at any time, even when we're scared

**Why?** Learning to give thanks instead of being afraid is a constant battle, but one the Bible calls us to fight.

**Tip:** If you have a big group, choose ahead of time whether you want kids to use Play Dough again or paper for the small group activity; you don't have to let kids choose.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. Tell me about Daniel. (see what kids can remember about his character)
2. How did following God get Daniel in trouble?
3. What was Daniel's punishment?
4. How would you have felt if you had to spend the night with lions just for praying?
5. How did God save Daniel from the lions?
6. Why could Daniel say "thank you" to God, even when he had to spend the night with lions?
7. What does this story show us about God?

### APPLICATION ACTIVITY

- Lay out one "Thanks" **accordion card** per 5 kids.
- Assign each kid a letter of the word "thanks."
- Have kids write any worries they think of on their letter.
  - You could even see who can come up with the most!
- Swap accordion cards to see what others wrote (or share aloud)
- If kids want, they can separate the letters and take theirs home.

**\*Thank God that he can take care of all our worries. Refer specifically to the accordion cards.**

*Extra time? Use **Play Dough** to **sculpt** one thing that makes you afraid. Tell them it's a little like Connect Time, but this time they are choosing to give thanks even in the midst of their worries. Give thanks that God can help you! You can also keep giving thanks by sculpting more things you're thankful for, like in Connect Time.*

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## special notes

Today, we're focusing on learning to thank God instead of being fearful.

## presenter tips

You'll have a chance to be honest with kids about your own fears. Consider ahead of time what God might want you to share.

## script

*\*Click to play intro music.*

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you. You know, a few days ago, you probably celebrated a holiday. You probably even got a day off school. Maybe you even got to eat a meal with your family. What holiday did you guys celebrate? (Let kids say: Thanksgiving!)

That's right! Let's have a little fun. Everybody think of ONE word that comes to your head when you think of Thanksgiving. (Let kids think.) Now turn and tell a friend! (Let kids share.) Let's hear some of the words that you or your friend thought of. We're going to try to think of as many words as we can—the only rule is we can't say the same word twice (let kids share words like turkey, thankful, pilgrims, family, etc.). Awesome!

### INTRO: THANKFULNESS

Well, there are lots of fun things about Thanksgiving, but you guys also mentioned the reason we celebrate: thankfulness! Now, think about this question: WHEN are you guys thankful? (Pause.) Maybe it's a time of day or when a really great thing happens. What do you think? (Let 2-3 kids respond.) Yeah, I know I usually remember to be thankful when something really wonderful happens.

But we've been reading a verse that has to do with thankfulness. Let's look at it again. As we read it, see if you can figure out when this verse says we should be thankful:

**Phil. 4:6: Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.**

Hmmm, so when should we be thankful, according to this verse? (Let kids respond.) Yep, when we're *worried*. Does anybody typically say "thank you" to God when you feel worried? (Let kids respond.) I know I might ask God for help. I try to pray when I'm worried. But I usually don't



## script continued

thank God. In fact, it can be really hard to thank God when we're worried, because we're usually in a situation that we wish wasn't happening.

### WOULD YOU RATHER

OK, let's play a little game of "Would You Rather?" I'm going to give you two options. If you'd rather do the first option, go to this side of the room (point to one side). If you'd rather do the second option, go over to this side (point to the other side). Are you guys ready? Stand up! (Let kids stand.)

Ask the following questions and let kids respond.

- Would you rather...*be alone in the dark or find a spider crawling on your arm?*
- Would you rather...*go to a new school or pet a snake?*
- Would you rather...*give a speech in front of your whole class or get caught in a thunderstorm?*
- Would you rather...*move to a new city or spend the night in a room full of hungry lions?*

Great job! Now, have a seat. (Let kids sit.) All of those things are worries that people have. And I noticed that some seem scarier to you guys than others. But did you know that in all those, we can say "thank you" to God? Let's think about the worst. We probably all have different types of worries though, so let's hear what you think: out of all those "Would You Rathers," what was the worst? (Let kids respond. Summarize their response.) Yeah, and to me, one of the worst was spending the night with hungry lions...because there's not much chance of making it through that one!

### DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN

But guess what? One guy in the Bible DID spend the night with hungry lions. And his story shows us why we can give thanks to God ANY time. We've talked about how Daniel loved God and was willing to follow him, even when it was hard. In today's story, following God actually gets Daniel in trouble with the king. His punishment was being thrown into a lions' den!

We're going to watch a video to see what happened. As you watch, see if you can figure out why we can say "thank you" to God in *any* situation, even really scary ones!

### Video: KBS: Daniel

Oh my goodness, so how did following God get Daniel in trouble with the king? (Let kids respond.) Right, because some guys who were jealous of Daniel convinced the king to make praying against the rules. So Daniel was thrown into a lions' den, which is really scary! But what did God do? (Let kids respond.) Exactly—he shut the lions' mouths. If God could take care of Daniel in *that* situation, do you think there's anything God *can't* do?!? (rhetorical)

### WE CAN THANK GOD IN ANY SITUATION

Daniel's story reminds us that God can take care of us in any situation. So even if we really are going through a hard time, we can thank God that he is able to help us. And then we can wait to see how he will show up!



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## REMEMBERING TO GIVE THANKS

Now, remembering this isn't easy. So let's try to remember this verse!

**SLIDE: Phil. 4:6: Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.**

Let's say it loud to help us remember. (Break it into smaller, repeatable phrases and have kids repeat it.) Now all at once! (Let kids repeat it.)

## RESPOND

**(Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything.)** We've practiced this verse before but we're going to do it again. Everybody close your eyes again and think about one thing that you worry about. Take a few seconds and in your head, tell God about it. I'm going to tell God about *(refer something you worry about and say what you tell God in order to model it for kids; then give them some silence)*.

**(Ask and pray.)** Now, let's ask God to help us. I'm going to ask God *(refer to the situation and share what you want to ask God in order to model it for kids; then give them some silence again)*.

**(Give thanks to Him.)** Let's thank Him that he CAN help us...in any situation. I'm going to thank God *(model how you would offer God thanks even before your prayer is answered; then give them some silence again)*.

Now open your eyes (let kids open eyes). Remember, we can thank God *anytime*. One way to thank God for who he is, is by worshiping him and singing to him. So let's worship together right now!

First we've got a cool, brand new music video about the story of Daniel. Let's check it out. Then we'll sing another song to remind us to be joyful and celebrate God's love and power.

**Music Video: Daniel Song**

**Music Video: Dance Laugh Love (dance moves on screen)**

## PRAY

Ask somebody to come and thank God that he can help us in any situation!



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per group:  
Play Dough

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## small group supplies

For every FIVE kids, please order one “Thanks”  
accordion card: OT IN-57/6799

Per group  
Markers  
Adventure Bible (pp. 962-964, 1306)  
Play Dough

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## large group supplies

Adventure Bible (pp. 962-964, 1306)

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## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. SLIDE: Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything. Instead, tell God about everything. Ask and pray. Give thanks to him.
3. Video: KBS: Daniel and the Lions Den (<http://vimeo.com/74731629>)
4. SLIDE: Philippians 4:6 (repeat slide)
5. Music Video: Daniel (Mae will have file)
6. Music Video: Dance Laugh Love (Mae will have file)

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## connect questions

Tell me about Daniel.  
Why can we thank God anytime?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc