

BIBLE DOCTRINE

Angels

Objects to have: A drawing of a lion, a cave or pit in the ground. A drawing of a man sitting next to a lion, in a calm relaxed atmosphere.

Introduction to the lesson: In the Bible, we read many exciting things. As we read the bible, God is teaching you and me about things He wants us to know. We learn about Heaven as we read the bible. We learn about sin as we read the Bible. We learn about Jesus as we read the Bible. We learn about obedience as we read the Bible. We learn about Jesus death, burial and resurrection as payment for our sin, as we read the Bible. We learn how to go to heaven as we read and study the Bible. God also tells us about men and women and things that happened to them so we learn more about us. God also teaches us about angels in the Bible. Angels are not people. People will never become angels. Angels are special beings that God created to help him, to help us and work for God. They sometimes protect us. They are God's messengers. They serve God and man in many ways.

The Lesson: Many years ago there was a boy by the name of Daniel. He was playing at his house, just as you do when he heard the noise of war. Over the mountains came the army of Babylon. They were tearing up the land, killing everything that got in their way.

The war did not last long. Israel lost the war and all but a very few very poor people were taken and made prisoners of the land of Babylon. Daniel, his mom, his dad, and all his friends were taken away captives. They were made to walk many hundreds of miles to a country they had never seen. Wow, the city was much different than his home. The smells were strange. The people spoke a different language. The clothing was odd, unlike little Daniel had ever seen. They marched them right down main street as the people made fun of these captives. They marched them right into a prison camp. In the camp, the children were separated from their parents. The boys were then separated from the girls, the older boys from the younger boys. Soldiers often yelled at the children. Some were crying, others were holding on to the very last toy from their home. Some were huddled in the corner afraid that they might be killed. Daniel did not know what to do. All little Daniel could think of was what his parents had taught him back at his home. "Daniel you are never alone, you always have the Lord with you." "No matter what happens Daniel, call upon the Lord he is always there to help you and protect you." While many were crying and others fighting

and yet others hiding. Daniel was praying. Lord help me to do right. Guide my every step. Give me strength that I might not get hurt.

Soon everything started to settle down into a regular schedule. Daniel was given new clothing, a new name and had to go to a new school. His Babylonian name was Belteshazzar. All through this time, Daniel kept trusting in the Lord. Every day Daniel would ask God to help him to learn in the new school he was placed into. Every afternoon Daniel would pray and ask God to give him wisdom on how to act. As the years passed, God answered Daniel's prayer. As Daniel grew and prayed, God opened many opportunities for Daniel. He became a leader of many of the boys. As Daniel became a young man he grew an understanding and wisdom. Because Daniel prayed so much God gave Daniel wisdom and the respect of the rulers of Babylon.

Daniel became one of the leaders of Babylon. One day Daniel was called before the King. The king had a dream that no one could understand. Daniel prayed, and God showed Daniel what the dream was all about. The King was so happy with Daniel that he made him ruler over all the leaders of the country of Babylon. Only one person was higher and more powerful than Daniel, that was the king himself.

Many years passed. Daniel was now a middle aged man. He was the chief over all the kingdom. The princes answered to Daniel, the presidents answered to Daniel all the people of the nation answered to Daniel. Daniel had learned well to depend on God for wisdom, understanding, strength, and how to lead the people. Some of the people did not like Daniel or our God. They had worshiped false Gods. They wanted Daniel out of the government, away from the king and wanted to hear no more about the God of the Bible. Daniel has the same god you and I have. It was the same god that helped Daniel that helps you and me. Well, these men looked for something that Daniel had done wrong. They looked and looked but could find nothing wrong. They watched everything that he did. They watched every place that he went. People followed Daniel like spy's, trying to find him doing something wrong. They watched at work, at play, as he would go to the store, as he would walk home, they even spied on him in his own home.

The more they watched the madder they got. They could find him doing NOTHING wrong. He always was doing right. He never said bad words, or watched something he was not suppose to, he was kind to others, he never

gossiped, he never snuck around behind any ones back. He just did nothing wrong. Every morning, every afternoon, and every evening at the same time Daniel would pray to our God. He would tell God everything that happened and ask the Lord how to do right. He would ask God to lead him in every step. Everything Daniel needed he would care for. Just like he would care for you and me.

Boy, now they were real mad. More than ever they wanted hm gone. How could someone be so good! All the men that hated Daniel go together and planned a way to have Daniel KILLED!

They decided to take a new law to the king. A law that was made just so Daniel would have to die! They wrote a law that said you could pray to NO God for 30 days, if you needed something you could only ask the King. If you prayed to a God then you must be thrown into the lions den. With out Daniel knowing they went to the King and convinced the king to sigh the law, and he DID.

Daniel knew the law was signed. The new law was announced all over the land. Everyone knew it. The day it the new law started the spy's were in their place waiting to see if Daniel would brake the law and pray to our God, or would Daniel disobey God and not pray for 30 days? They watched as Daniel got down on his knees, just as he did every morning , noon and night, and prayed to our God. NOW, they had him. Guilty!! Daniel broke the law of the king. Daniel was guilty of praying!! They took Daniel to the King. Reminded the king about his new law, then told the king that Daniel broke the law.

The king was sad. He loved Daniel and knew that Daniel should have prayed. But, there was nothing the king could do to save Daniel. Daniel would have to be thrown to the lions den. Daniel and the king spoke for a few moments. The king told Daniel that his God would deliver him. Then they rolled away the big stone from the opening of the pit where the lions stayed. You could hear the loud roaring of the many hungary lions. Surly Daniel would be torn apart and eaten by the starving lions in just a few seconds after being thrown in. Daniel was thrown in and the big stone was rolled over the mouth of the door so Daniel could not get out. All night Daniel was in with the lions. What was going to happen. Would Daniel die???

The very moment that Daniel entered the lions den, God sent an Angel to close the mouth of the lions. Not one lion hurt Daniel in any way. The angel saved him. God sent his angel to save Daniel's life. Why? Because Daniel was faithful to God and kept on praying and trusting in the Lord.

When the morning came. The King rushed to the lions den to find out what happened to Daniel. Daniel was fine. The angel God had sent protected him.