

GOD WATCHES OVER DANIEL

Timeless Truth: The Lord's plans don't harm, but bring hope and success.

Bible Basis: Daniel 6:1–23

Key Verse: [Daniel] went to his room three times a day to pray. He got down on his knees and gave thanks to his God. —Daniel 6:10 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 18: "God Watches Over Daniel"

PARENT TIPS

Read the key point from the Sunday school class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity encourages you to have a family sleepover. The Extra Mile looks at a video about God's protection through his angels.

GET THE POINT

Daniel is loyal to God and God protects him. I can be loyal to God.

TABLE TALK

- **Daniel followed God's rules instead of the king's and got in trouble. Have you ever gotten in trouble for doing the right thing? If so, what happened?**
- **Daniel prayed even though he knew it could cost him his life. What are some things you pray about?**
- **Daniel's punishment for praying to God was to be thrown into the lions' den. Everybody take turns doing their best lion's roar (even parents). Who protected Daniel from the lions?**
- **King Darius knew Daniel served God. The king even said, "You always serve your God faithfully. So may he save you" (Daniel 6:16). Daniel showed King Darius true faith in God with his actions (by praying and trusting him for protection) without saying a word. What are some actions you can take to show others you serve the one true God?**

LIVING FAITH

Daniel was forced to have a sleepover with some hairy, scary friends. Follow his example—sort of—by planning a family sleepover. You can do it in your bedroom, a living room, or family room. Pick either a Friday or Saturday night and plan ahead to make it fun. At the beginning you can pray,

"God, you protected Daniel during his sleepover with the lions, and we know you'll be with us tonight, too. Amen." Try these ideas or make up some of your own to create some family memories.

- Play Simon Says.
- Play one of your kids' favorite board games.
- Put together a puzzle.
- Rent a video and pop popcorn.
- Have everybody write down a tongue twister (or make one up). Fold up each paper and put it in a hat. Take turns drawing one and trying to say the tongue twister five times fast.
- Play charades. Have family members act out the title to a favorite song, movie, or TV show.
- Hide the thimble. Take turns hiding a thimble (or other small object) in the room with nobody looking. As everybody searches, the "hider" gives clues by saying, "You're getting warmer" (if a person is close to finding it) or "You're getting colder" (if a person is going the wrong direction).
- Share characteristics of each person that you appreciate.
- Make a yummy dessert or snack as a family.
- Go to bed a little later than normal (for younger children); then wake up in the morning, cook breakfast, and clean up as a family.

EXTRA MILE

God's protecting angels show up a couple of times during this chapter of *The Story*. First, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are thrown into the fiery furnace, King Nebuchadnezzar sees four people in the flames—instead of three. He exclaims, "The fourth man looks like a son of the gods" (Daniel 3:25). Then when Daniel is thrown into the lions' den, he tells King Darius, "My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions (Daniel 6:21). Ask:

- **Do you think God sends his protecting angels today?**

Watch "The Divine Protector" video at www.tangle.com/view_video.php?viewkey=93f193e8811f1b2e9090.

Angels are specially created beings by God. They serve the wishes of their heavenly father. Look at these other verses about angels: Exodus 14:19–20 (with Moses and the Israelites fleeing Egypt); Judges 6:12–22 (with Gideon); Matthew 2:13–20 (with Joseph, to help protect the baby Jesus). God's angels are mentioned throughout the Bible!