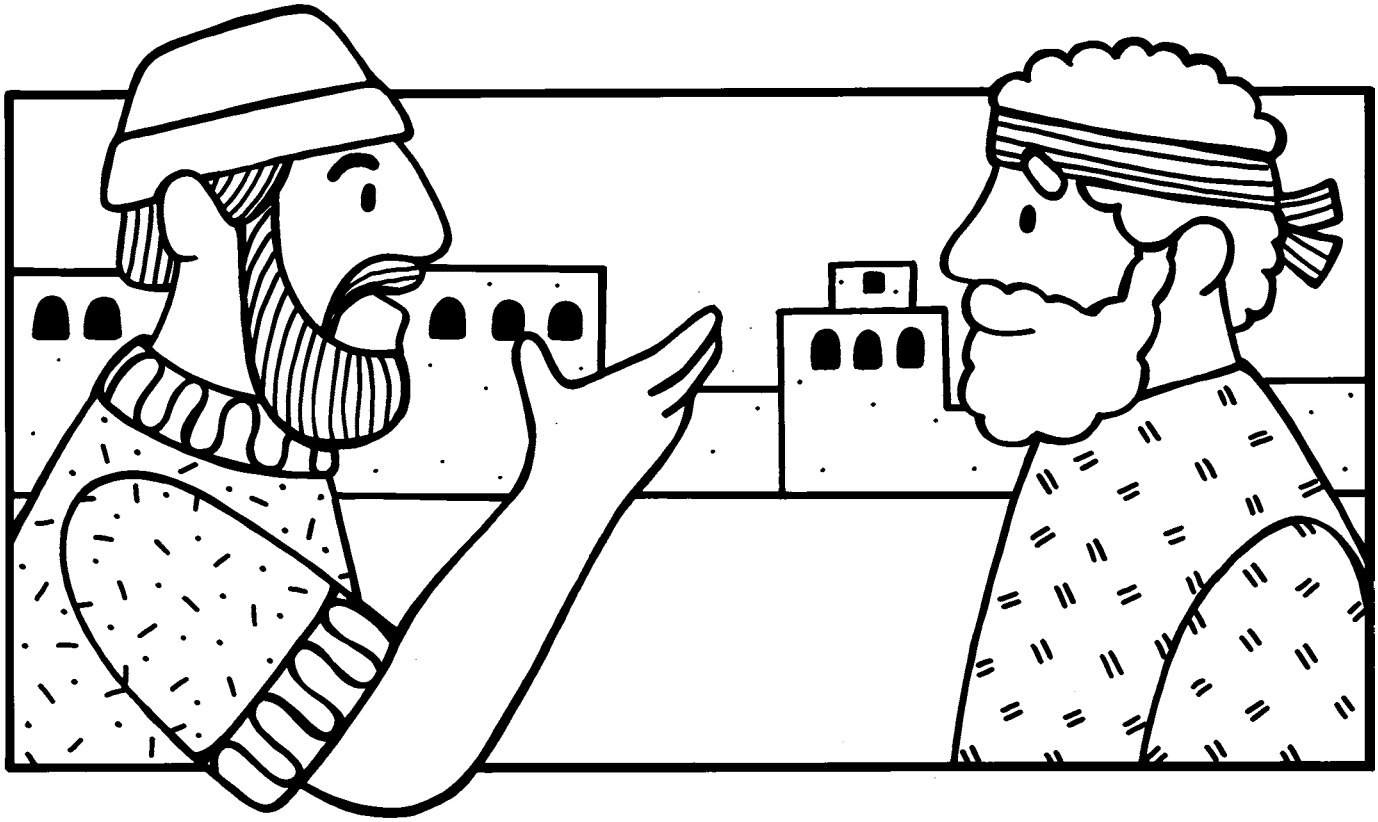
PRIMARY PALS



Daniel Decides

"Daniel, I do not understand why you and your three friends feel you cannot eat this," said the man in charge of the Israelite students. "It is the best food in our land. The king has said that all of you should eat this food for the next three years. But since it is so important to you, I will make a test. For ten days you may eat only beans or lentils and water, as you have asked. The other students will eat this food, which is the same as the king eats. At the end of the ten days we will see who is stronger and wiser—you and your friends or the others."

Daniel smiled. He already knew what would happen. God had shown him that he and his friends should not eat the king's food, even though that was the king's command. Daniel knew God was pleased with them because they were doing what they knew was right. Even an order from the king could not make them do something that would make God unhappy.

One by one the ten days went by. At every meal, the other students ate delicious meat and fancy foods that were the same as the king's food. And at every meal, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego ate their simple food. Perhaps some of the other students were watching these four young men and wondering if they

would pass the test. Were they starting to look thin and pale and hungry? What if they got sick because they weren't eating enough? That didn't worry Daniel and his friends at all. They were trusting God and doing their best to obey Him. They knew that He would not fail them.

And they were right! When the ten days had come and gone, the man in charge of the students could see it too. The four young men were in good health. In fact, they looked even healthier than the others! "You may continue to eat as you wish," he told them.

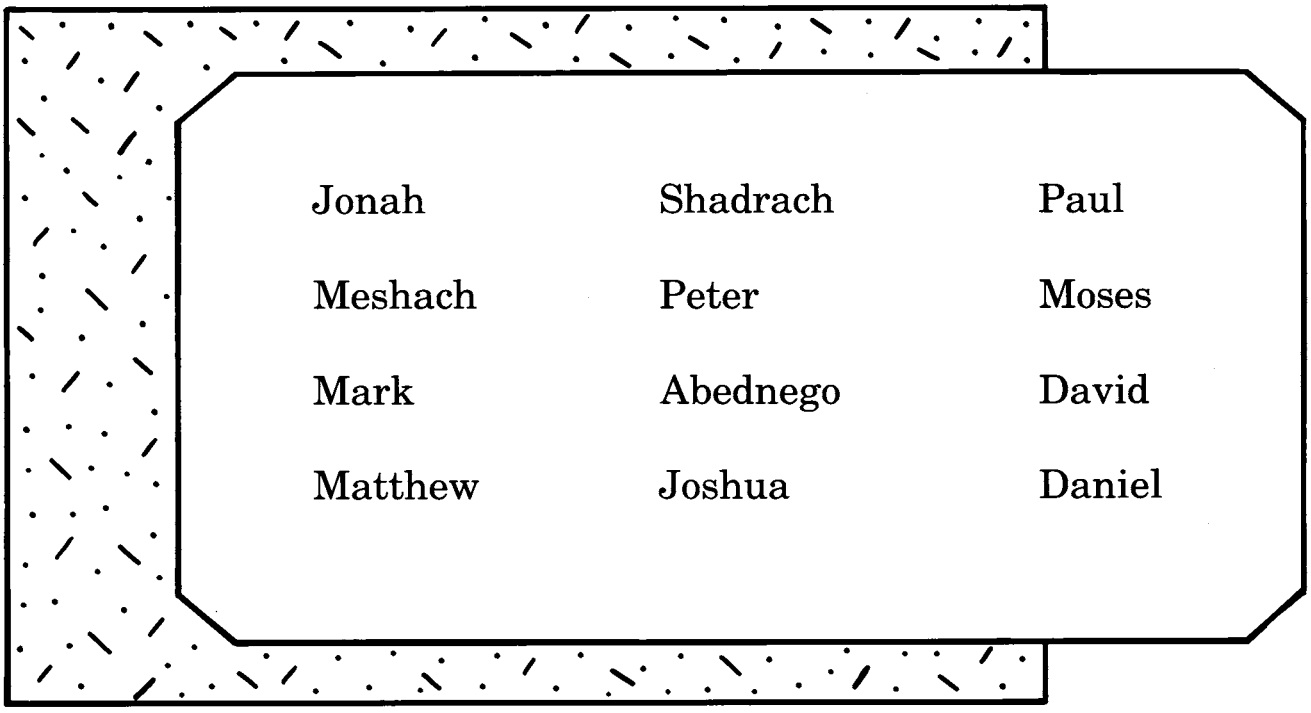
The three years went by and at last the day came when all the students were to stand before the king. What would his decision be? God had helped Daniel and his friends to be more healthy than all the other students. But would they be as wise? The man in charge of the students brought them in. The king talked to all of them and asked them many difficult questions. He listened carefully to their answers.

The king could see that Daniel and his friends were wiser than all of the other students. The Bible tells us that they were ten times smarter than all the wise men of the land.

God blessed Daniel and his three friends for doing right. He has promised to do the same for us today. Let's make sure we always choose to do what pleases Him!

Four Young Men

Circle the names of the four men in this lesson.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

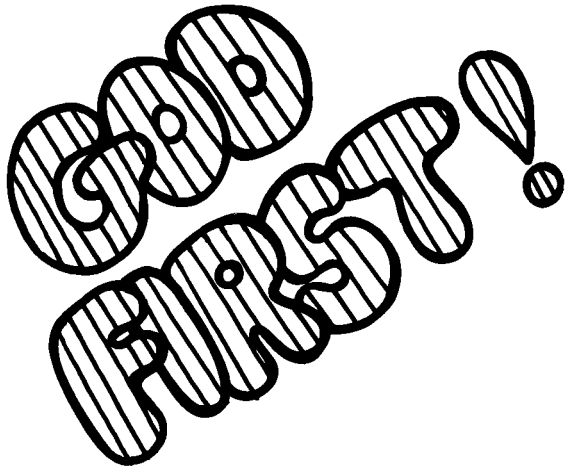
This lesson deals with four boys who took a stand for God. Conversations with your child this week should develop the importance of putting God first in every aspect of his life. Help your child to realize that God blesses when we choose to follow Him. This is an important concept in establishing a good basis for Christian living.

Help him illustrate this idea by making a poster emphasizing this point. Sketch a large block numeral one (1) on a sheet of butcher paper. Let your child cut it out. Mount the numeral on a backing sheet and write across the top, "God Is First." Inside the numeral, have him draw or paste pictures representing his activities, his friends, the places he goes, etc.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Daniel 1:17
MONDAY: Matthew 6:33
TUESDAY: Psalm 63:1
WEDNESDAY: Genesis 39:3
THURSDAY: Isaiah 1:19
FRIDAY: Psalm 24:4,5
SATURDAY: Psalm 68:19



Bible Text

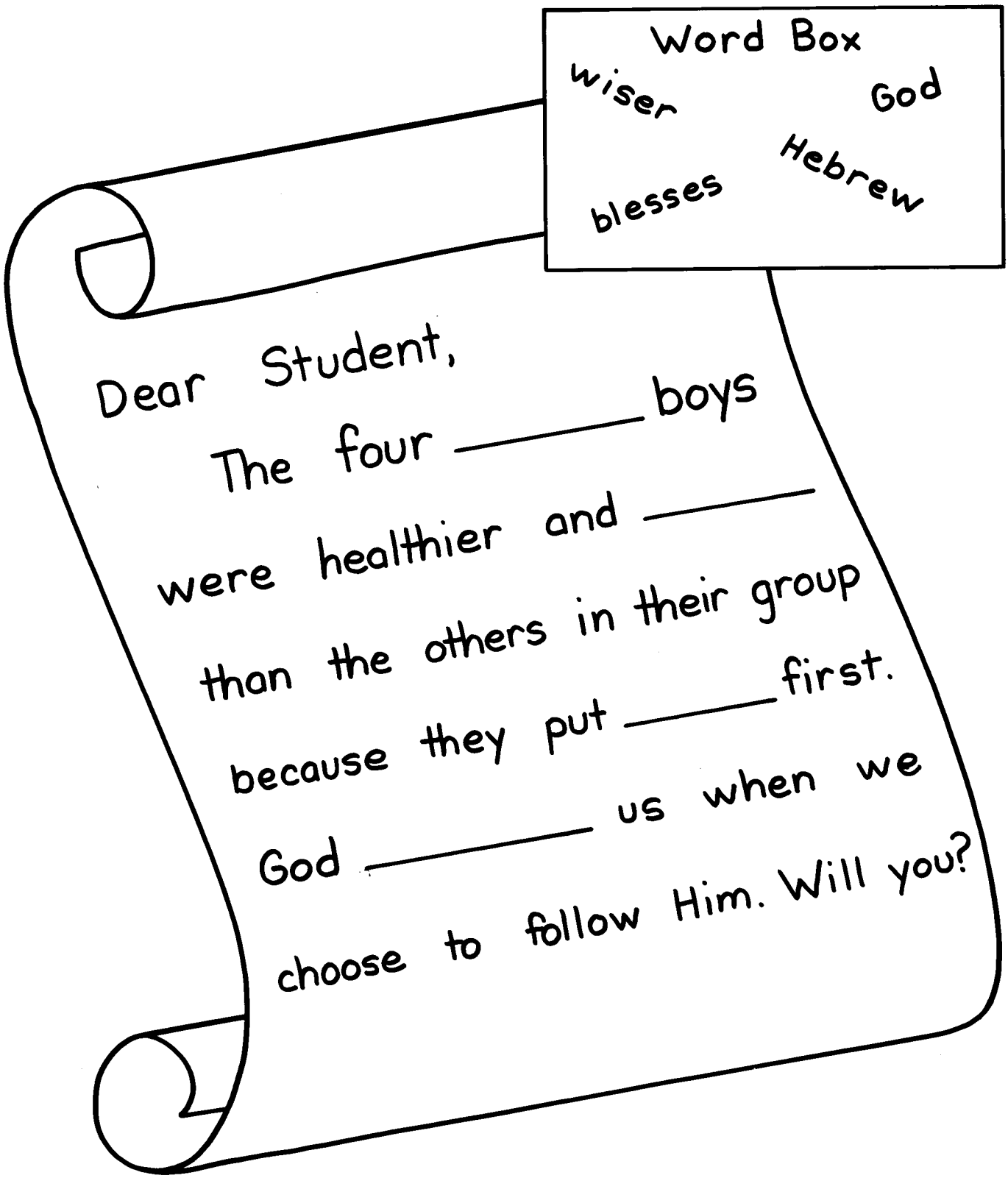
Daniel 1:1-21

Memory Verse

God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom. — Daniel 1:17

A Wise Choice

Use the four words in the Word Box to complete the message.



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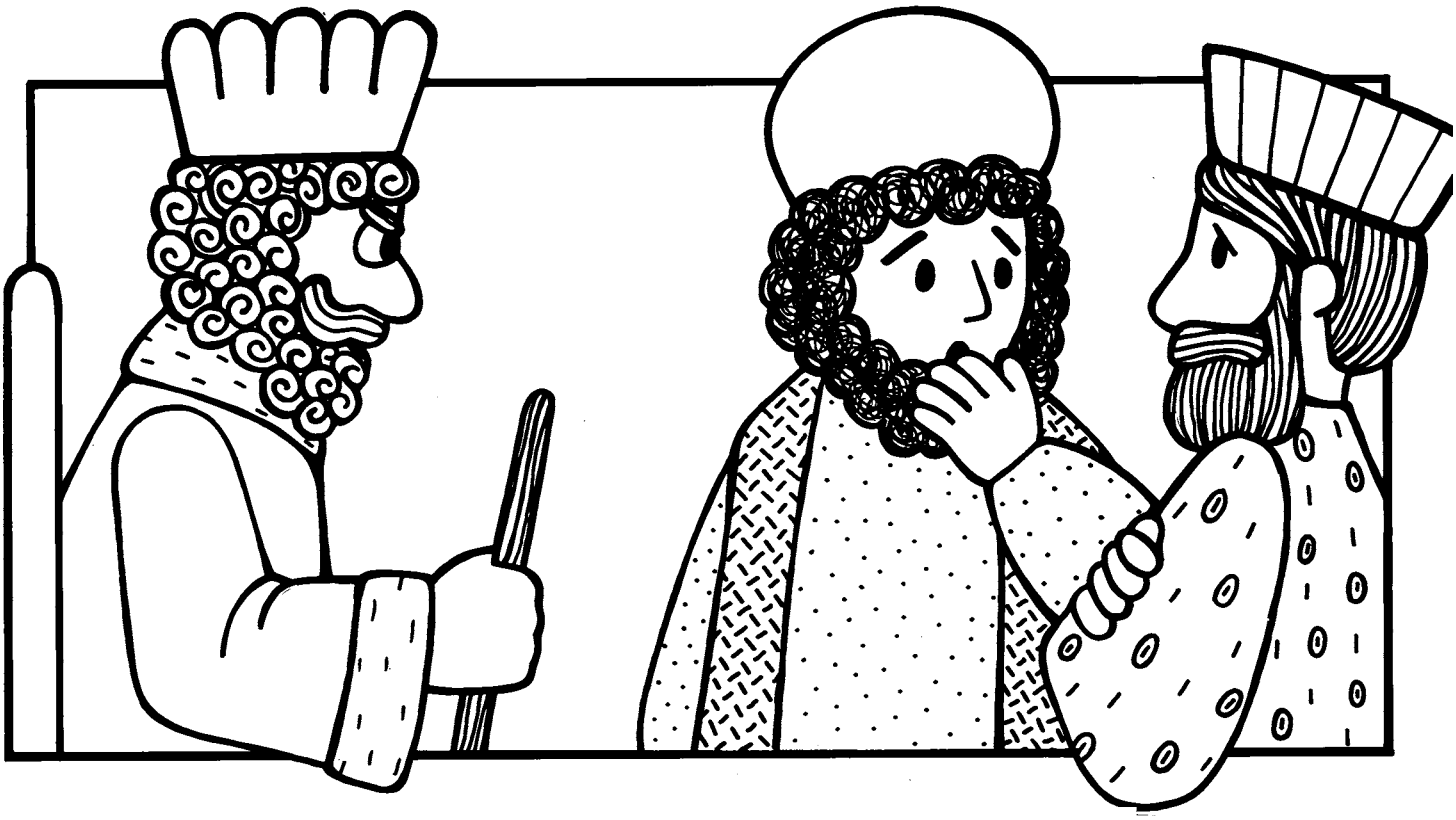
PRIMARY PALS



Who Knows the King's Dream?

It was a bad day in the kingdom of Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed a dream and then forgotten what it was about. That wasn't so strange. But now he wanted his wise men to tell him what he had dreamed, and what it meant. They couldn't do it. This made King Nebuchadnezzar very angry.

In a rage he cried, "Wise men? Bah! You are full of lies! I shall have you cut into pieces."

The magicians and sorcerers huddled closely together, trembling with fear. "O King," they cried, "if you would just tell us your dream, then we would give you the meaning."

"I told you that I have forgotten my dream!" the king shouted. He leaned forward, his eyes blazing. "If you had the power you claim to have, you could easily tell me my dream and why it troubles me."

With that, King Nebuchadnezzar clapped his hands. A servant hurried in. Furiously, the king ordered a decree to be written saying that all wise men in Babylon were to be destroyed immediately!

Daniel and his three friends lived in Babylon. But they served the true God, and they knew He could help them. When Daniel heard the decree, he went to see King Nebuchadnezzar and said,

"O King, why must all the wise men in your kingdom be punished? I serve the true and living God who holds the secrets of all things in His hands. He is able to give the meanings even to forgotten dreams. Only give me time, and God will show me what your dream was and its meaning."

Then Daniel called his friends together. "We must pray for God to reveal this dream. If He does not, we will be killed with all the other wise men of the land." That night as Daniel slept, God showed him what the king's dream was and what it meant. God had heard their prayers!

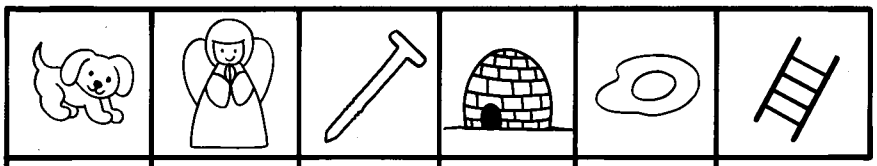
When Daniel awoke, he was happy because he knew their lives would be spared. Once again God had answered. He hurried to the king's guard and asked to be taken to the king. The guard did as he asked.

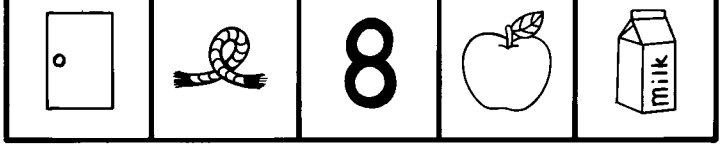
When Daniel told the king what the God of Heaven had shown him about the dream, the king remembered. Yes! Every word that Daniel had said was true! Daniel had told him his dream exactly right!

King Nebuchadnezzar knew that only the true God could have shown Daniel the dream. He wanted to thank Daniel in some special way. So he gave him many gifts, and made him an important ruler in his kingdom. In fact, he became a ruler over all the other rulers and wise men. Daniel had trusted God and God had blessed him for it!

God Answers

Use the first letter of each picture below to discover what God did. Fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

1. 

2. 

God showed ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

the king's ___ ___ ___ ___ ___.

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

The worries and perplexities that face the primary child are very real and troublesome to him, though they may seem insignificant to the adult mind. Your child's memory verse is a promise that can be a real source of strength. Make it the focus of your time together this week.

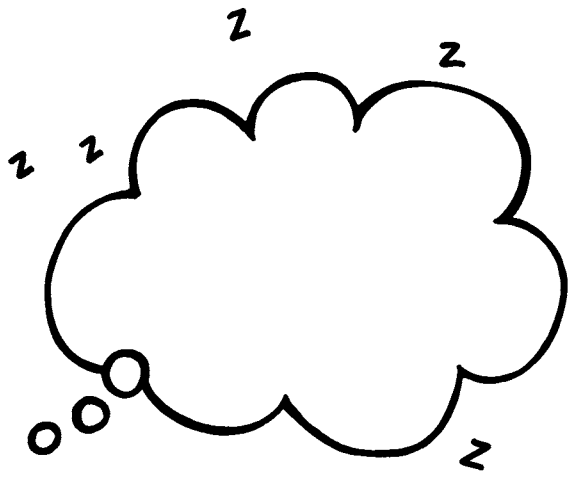
Let your child cut a long strip of paper into six pieces that connect with each other like pieces of a puzzle. On each piece, help your child letter a portion of the verse, ending with the Bible reference.

Learn the verse together by assembling the puzzle, a phrase at a time. After this has been done several times, the verse can be mounted to a backing sheet and posted in his room or where he can read it often.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 91:15
MONDAY: Matthew 7:7
TUESDAY: Isaiah 58:9
WEDNESDAY: John 15:7
THURSDAY: I John 3:22
FRIDAY: Isaiah 41:10
SATURDAY: Jeremiah 33:3



Bible Text

Daniel 2:1-19,47,48

Memory Verse

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. — Psalm 91:15

Talking to God

Prayer is a way of talking to God. When Daniel needed anything he went to God in prayer. You can go to the Lord about your fears, hopes, and happy times. Complete the following prayer with your own words, or just circle the words that say what you feel.

Dear God, I _____.
love You *need Your help* *thank You*

You are _____.
wonderful *good* *wise*

You are _____.
kind *gentle* *my Friend*

I'm happy You _____.
love me *help me* *care for me*

Help me to _____.
obey *be kind* *help others*

Thank You for _____.
my family *my friends* *my church*

Amen.

Make a list of other things you can talk to the Lord about.

PRAYER LIST

_____

_____

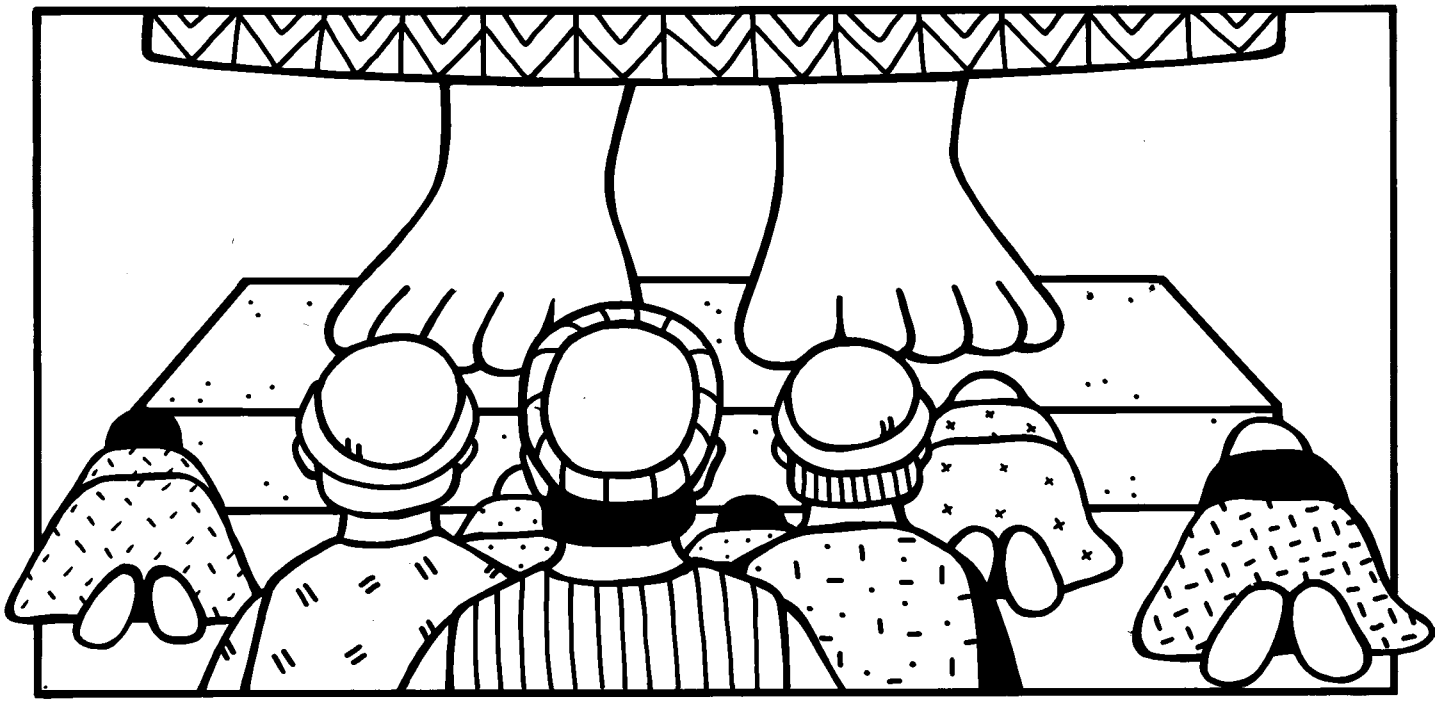
_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

PRIMARY PALS



God Was With Them!

At last the golden image was completed. King Nebuchadnezzar sent messengers throughout all his kingdom of Babylon. All those in authority must come to the plain of Dura to see the great image.

When the people arrived, a command was given. They were told that when the music began, everyone there had to bow down and worship the big golden statue. Anyone who would not bow down would be thrown into a burning, fiery furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were there on that day. They had to be. But they already had a purpose down deep in their hearts. They were not going to bow down to any idol!

At last the important moment arrived! The people who were holding instruments began playing them. All across the whole plain of Dura, people fell to their knees in front of the image. But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood straight and tall. They would not disobey God!

Some people who were there saw that the three young men did not bow. They went straight to the king to let him know. King Nebuchadnezzar was very angry when he heard that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had not obeyed his orders. He commanded that they be brought before him.

"Is it true that you have disobeyed

me?" he asked. "You will be thrown into a fiery furnace if you will not bow!" he shouted at them.

"Our God is able to deliver us from a fiery furnace," they told him. "But even if He does not deliver us, we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."

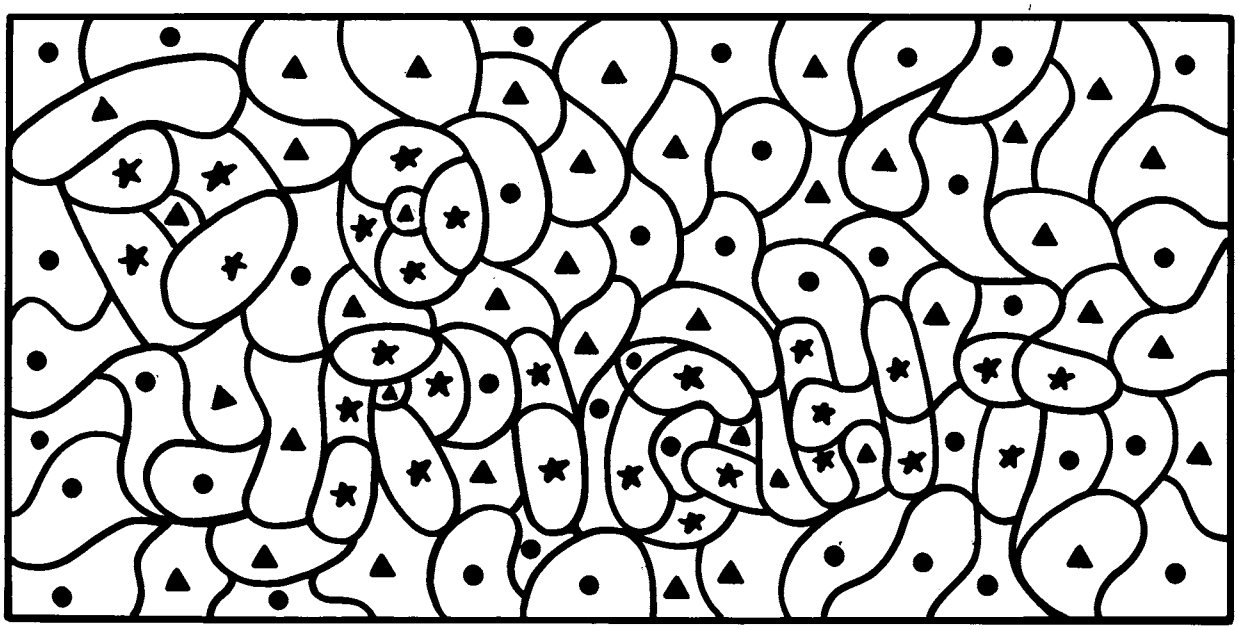
This made the king even more angry. "Heat the furnace seven times hotter!" he commanded. Then he ordered soldiers to grab the three young men and bind them with ropes. The flames leaped out as the soldiers tossed them into the fire. The fire was so hot that the soldiers who threw them in were killed.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were not hurt at all! The ropes fell off their hands and feet, and they walked around in the flames. Praises rang in their hearts. They knew God was with them!

Outside the hot furnace, the king stared in amazement. "Didn't we throw three men, all tied up, into the furnace?" he asked those nearby. "Now I see four men walking around, and the fourth is like the Son of God!" He called for the three young men to come out. Everyone could see that they were not hurt one bit. They didn't even smell like smoke! Then King Nebuchadnezzar knew that truly these young men served a living and powerful God.

Find the Words

Color each space that has a ★ in it



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson is about how God spared the lives of three Hebrew boys when they refused to pray to an idol. Discuss with your child how vital it is not to give in to things that are wrong.

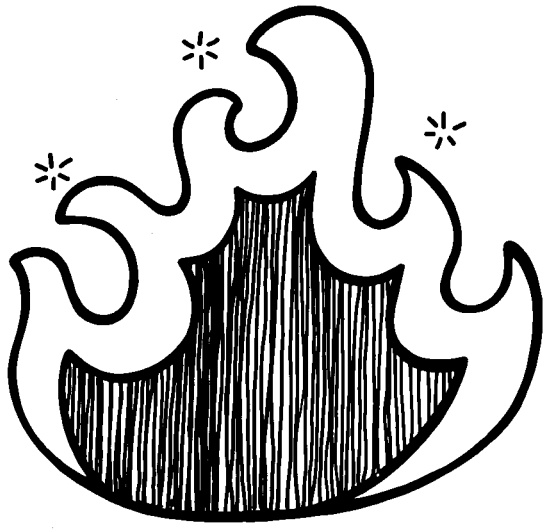
It is important to help him see that God will defend and deliver him if he does what is right. To visualize this thought, let him make a small shield. Cut the shape from cardboard and let him cover it with foil. Across the front have him glue letters spelling the words, "Do Right!"

Talk about situations in which he might be tempted to do wrong. (Some examples: temptation to cheat on a test, to tell a lie to protect himself, to disobey.) Ask him to hold up his shield and tell you what he feels would be the right thing to do in each situation.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Daniel 3:17
MONDAY: Job 5:19
TUESDAY: Jeremiah 1:8
WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 43:2
THURSDAY: Psalm 18:17
FRIDAY: Psalm 34:4
SATURDAY: Romans 8:28



Bible Text

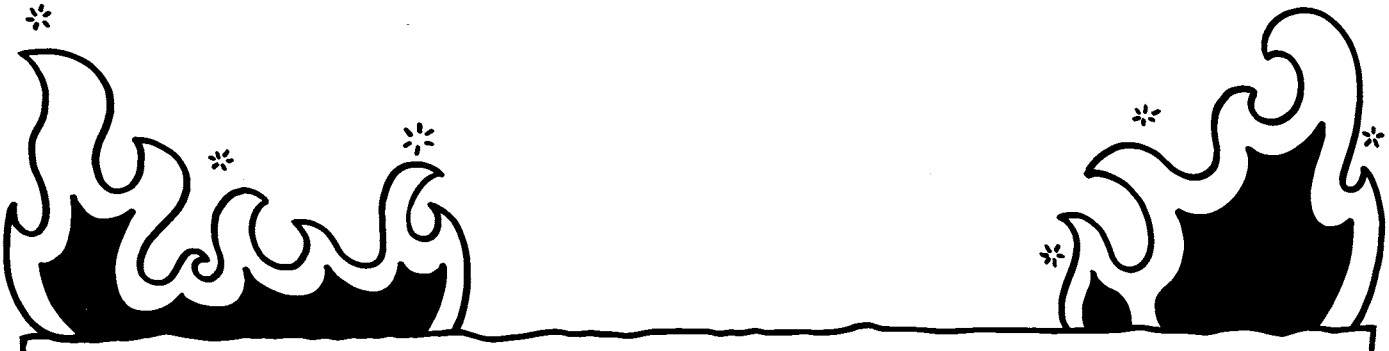
Daniel 3:1-30

Memory Verse

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace. — Daniel 3:17

God Is Able

Below each sentence are three words. Choose and circle the correct word to finish each sentence.



1. The three Hebrew boys were thrown into a _____.
   river furnace wagon

2. The king saw _____ men in the furnace.
   three six four

3. We must only pray to _____.
   God idols trees

4. God helps us to do _____.
   wrong dishes right

Who was in the furnace with the three Hebrew boys?
Unscramble the letters and write them
in the correct order.

S U J E S

_____

Name: _____

PRIMARY PALS

Daniel Kept Praying

Daniel watched the soldier post the law for all to read. Then he walked away thoughtfully. His faithful servant ran up behind him. He grabbed Daniel's arm and whispered, "O my master, what will you do? You always pray three times a day. But the new law now forbids it." Tears streaked down the old servant's cheeks. "You must stop praying for thirty days. Surely your God will understand."

"I cannot stop praying," Daniel replied. "The God I love and serve means more to me than any law written by man. I will do as I have always done. God is able to protect me."

Daniel went to his room and opened his window. Looking out toward the city of Jerusalem, he began to pray. He did this every morning, every noon, and every evening.

There were some men in the kingdom who didn't like Daniel. They were jealous because he was an important helper to the king. And these enemies were watching to see if Daniel would pray. They knew that he prayed at that window every day. They were the ones who had asked the king to write that new law. It was the only way they could catch Daniel doing something against the king's rules.

As soon as they saw that Daniel had broken the king's law, they hurried to the king. They told him, "Daniel has broken your law. We saw him praying to his God. He must be punished."

The king felt terrible. He loved Daniel and didn't want to hurt him. But the law could not be changed. He had to have Daniel punished exactly as the law said. So the king's guards threw Daniel into the lions' den, for that was the punishment the king had ordered.

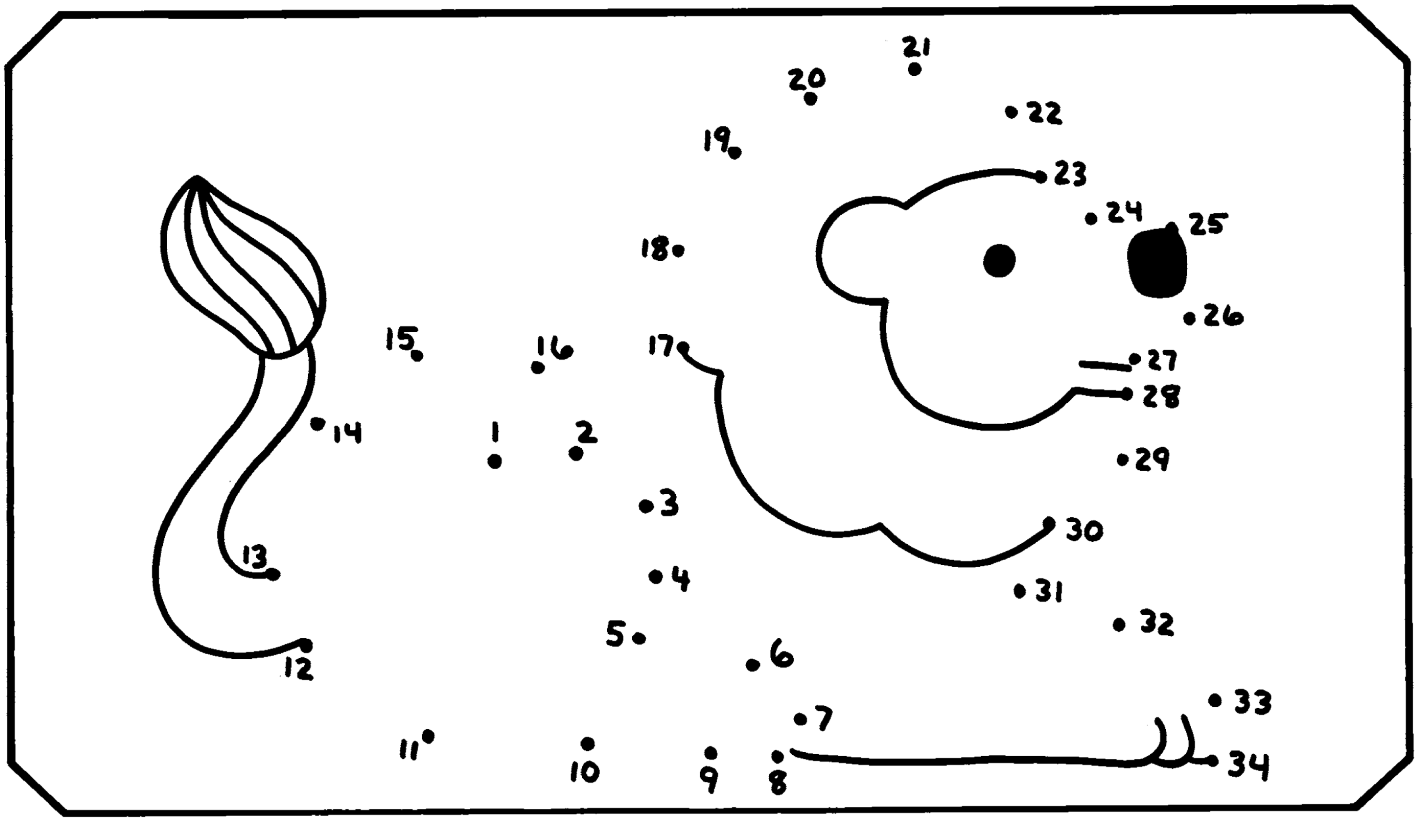
All the lions looked at Daniel. They walked around him. But none of the lions tried to eat Daniel! God had performed a miracle! God's angel had shut the lions' mouths! Praises flowed from Daniel's heart. "O God, You have saved me once again. How I thank You!"

In the morning, the king got up very early and hurried to the lions' den. "Daniel," he called, his voice trembling, "was your God able to deliver you?" How happy he was when he heard Daniel's voice coming from the den. "O King, live forever. God shut the lions' mouths and they have not hurt me."

With joy the king commanded his men to take Daniel from the den. Then he made a new law saying that all the people of his kingdom should fear and honor the God of Daniel. He knew that the God who delivered Daniel from the power of the lions was the true and living God.

What Is This?

Connect the dots to complete the picture.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Read the story of Daniel with your family, and discuss how Daniel was obedient to God and did what he knew was right. Then tell your child the following stories and ask the following questions.

Jessica liked to play on the sidewalk in front of her home. Her mother told her she should never cross the street. One day Jessica's friend yelled, "Come on across, Jessica. Your mom won't care."

Will Jessica's mom care? What should Jessica do? What would you do?

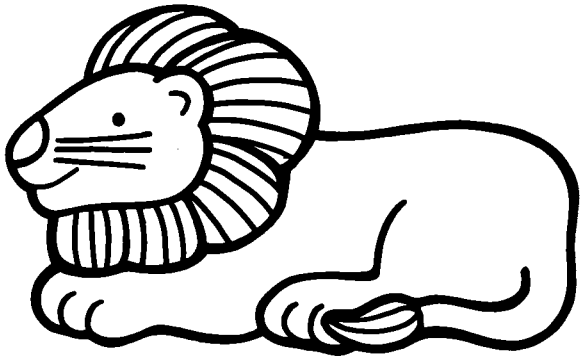
All the boys and girls in the Sunday school class were making noise. The teacher asked them to be quiet, but only Shawn obeyed.

Was it OK for the boys and girls to make noise? Should Shawn have disobeyed the teacher? What would you do?

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Daniel 6:22
MONDAY: Psalm 140:6
TUESDAY: Psalm 55:17
WEDNEDSAY: Psalm 18:6
THURSDAY: Psalm 34:15
FRIDAY: Proverbs 15:29
SATURDAY: Micah 7:7



Bible Text

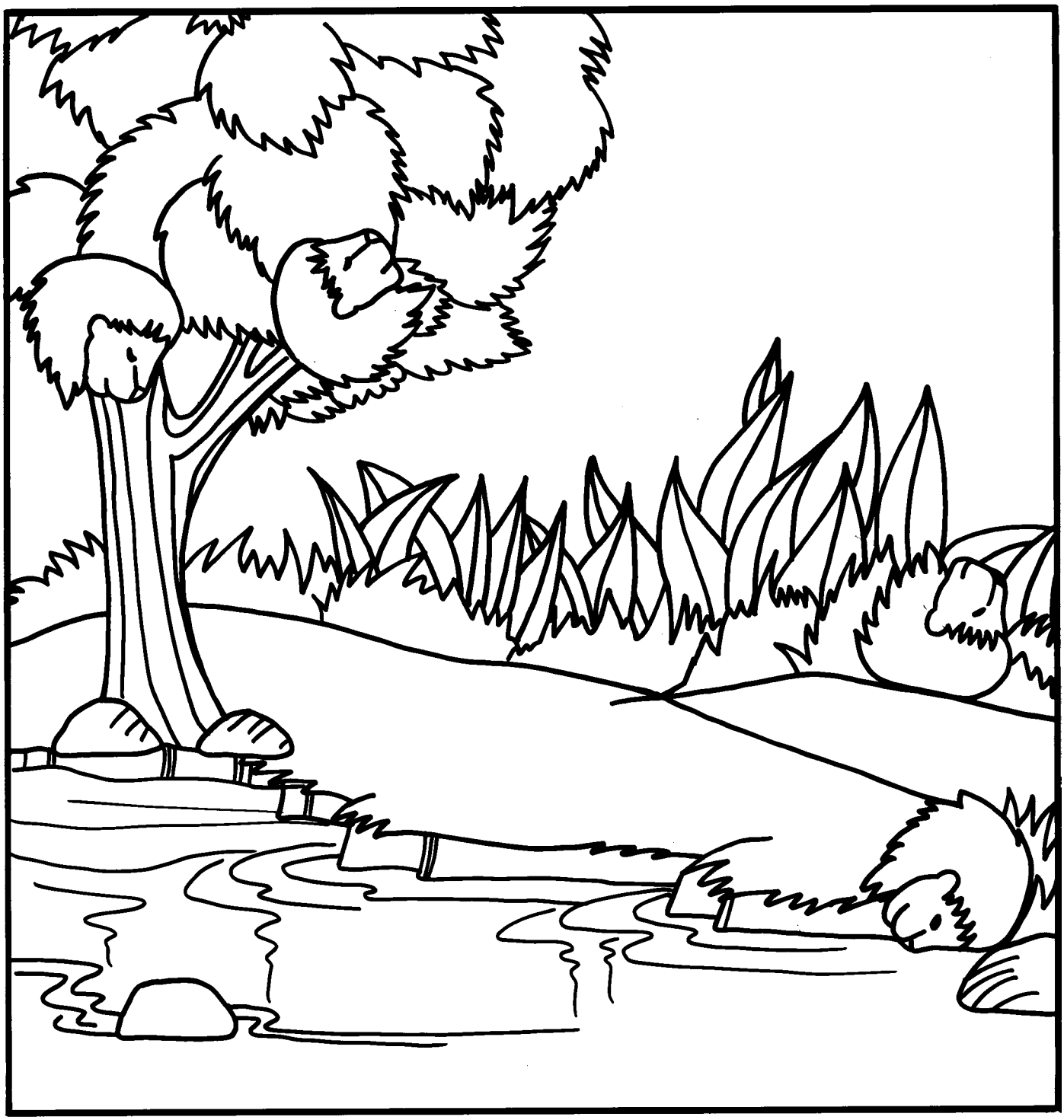
Daniel 6:1-23

Memory Verse

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths. — Daniel 6:22

Where Are the Lions?

Find the four lions hidden in the picture below.



Name: _____