Daniel and the Lion's Den

Daniel was a man who loved God. He always tried to make choices that pleased God. Daniel lived in a place called Babylon and the Kings of Babylon didn't love God. They didn't care about doing the right thing, but they liked Daniel. Because Daniel was always trying to please God, he was always doing his very best. Daniel was a great help to the kings of Babylon, and they always gave him very important jobs. Even when Babylon would get a new king, the new king would see that Daniel was a good man and give him the most important jobs.

Once there was a king named Darius. Darius liked Daniel and made him one of his three most important helpers. The other men were jealous of Daniel. They didn't understand what was so special about him. They got together and came up with a plan to get Daniel in trouble. If Daniel got in trouble the king would have to remove him from his job. They watched Daniel very carefully hoping to catch him breaking the law, but he never did. So, they came up with a secret plan. They knew how important it was to Daniel to please God so they decided to trick the king into making a law that would be against God. They told the king he should make a rule that everyone had to pray to only him for 30 days. If someone broke that rule, they would be thrown into the lion's den. The king didn't think about Daniel and how much Daniel loved God. He liked this new rule because it made him feel more important, so he agreed and signed all the papers for the new law.

Daniel heard about the new law, but it wasn't going to make him do anything against God and praying to anyone other than God is wrong. So, three times every day, just as he had always done, Daniel went into his house to pray and give thanks to God. The bad men were always watching Daniel, and they saw him through the open windows of his house. They saw him praying to God and they knew their plan had worked. They went straight to the king and told him what Daniel had done. This made the king very upset. He loved Daniel. Daniel was important to him. He didn't want to throw Daniel in the lion's den but there was nothing he could do. It was too late for him to change the rule and Daniel had to be punished. He was going to have to be thrown in with the lions. Just before they threw Daniel into the lion's den, the king told Daniel, "Thy God, whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." That meant the king believed Daniel's God would save him from the lions. Then the king went back to his palace. He was so worried about Daniel that he fasted all night. He didn't eat. He didn't listen to music. He didn't even sleep.

The next morning the king ran to the lion's den to check on Daniel. Daniel was ok!! Daniel told King Darius that God had sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions. King Darius had Daniel pulled out of the den and he told everyone that Daniel's God was the one true God. Then King Darius had all the bad men and their families thrown into the lion's den for the bad things they had done. The lions had a big supper that night.