

# All of Creation Rejoices: Welcome to the Zoo!

Lesson 3

PreK-5th



## Lion Legacy

Lesson—25 min

Hand out the costumes—Key roles are Daniel, King Darius, government official, a lion, and an angel. Additional characters could be administrators/governors or lions. Older kids can follow along in their Bibles and read line for line their parts. Younger kids will require you to read their lines and then have them do a simpler summary of them, such as the administrator's speech below would become "King Darius, live forever! We say that no one pray to any god or man except to you. If they do, they will be thrown into the lions' den."

Have King Darius sit on his throne. Read Daniel 6:1-6. Bring forth Daniel on one side of the King and the administrators/governors on the other. Have one the administrators declare: "King Darius, live forever! All the commanders, governors, the highest officials, and the regional officers have consulted together to establish a royal statute and a firm decree that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except for you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions." (Daniel 6:7-8).

Have King Darius order to carry this out. Then read Daniel 6:11, and have Daniel act out praying in view of the governors. Read Daniel 6:12-16 while the King and governors speak the dialog as it is listed and act out their lines. For the younger kids, provide them with smaller lines as demonstrated above.

Have King Darius command that Daniel is thrown into the lion's den, and then read Daniel 6:17-19, acting out Daniel being thrown into the den, the lions shutting their mouths, and King Darius tossing and turning. Talk about how God protected Daniel and how the lions obeyed God.

Read Daniel 6:20-24 and have King Darius rejoice. Have King Darius read his new decree: Daniel 6:27. Finally, let the students watch the video connection.

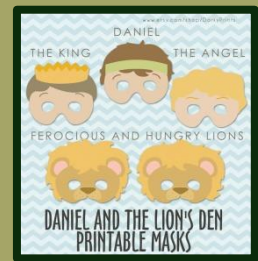
## Video Connection

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEM\\_X25DWpk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEM_X25DWpk)

## Costumes Needed

Printable Daniel and the lion's den masks.

<https://www.etsy.com/listing/118066212/daniel-and-the-lions-den-printable-masks>



King Darius: mask and a cape and/or crown

Administrators/governors: Robes or tunics.

Lions: mask and a tail

Daniel: mask and a prayer rope

Angel: mask and wings or a halo or white robe

## Sets Needed

Pillows or chairs can act as a barrier for the lion's den.

Set up a chair as King Darius's throne.

A throw rug and icon could be set up as a prayer spot for Daniel.

## Games

### Feed the Lion Toss—15 min

Supplies needed: corn hole, bean bags, printed lion face taped to the corn hole with mouth cut out

Depending on the size of your group, you may want to have multiple corn hole games set up. It could even be organized as a tournament style for the older students.

Students split into teams and are placed across from their opponents at opposite corn hole boards. Each team has bean bags that must be tossed to try to feed the lion. You can either play that whoever gets the most in during a specific time frame wins, or whoever gets a certain number in first wins. Change it up based on your group number, their age, and the amount of time they have.



### Freeze the Lions Tag—10 min

Supplies needed: pieces of rope to be lion tails

One student is designated as Daniel. All the rest of the students are lions and receive a rope to tuck into their back pocket like a tail. Daniel must chase the lions and tag them. Once he has tagged someone, they fall asleep by sitting down on the ground. Play until Daniel is tired or all lions are sleeping. Then, switch your Daniel to another student.

If Daniel is unable to catch the lions, then decrease the boundaries the lions may run in. Remind students that Daniel was in the lions' den with set boundaries.



## Kontakion for Venerable Gerasimos —Tone 4

Commemorated on March 4

Aflame with heavenly love,  
You preferred the severity of the Jordanian desert to all worldly pleasures,  
Thus, a lion served you obediently and devotedly until your death, O Father;  
And then, grief-stricken, it died on your grave.  
Therefore, God has glorified you.  
Pray to Him for us, and remember us, O Father Gerasimos.

## Craft & Snack

### Lion Pillow—25 min

Supplies needed: orange and yellow felt cut into squares and the edges pre-fringed (one of each per student), orange felt nose pieces, black felt eyes and triangle nose pieces, eight black yarn pieces pre-cut for whiskers and mouth, polyester fiber fill stuffing, glue

Have students lay the orange and yellow felt square pieces on top of each other linking up the fringed edges. Tie a knot in each set of fringe to create the mane. Stop once only five are left untied and stuff their pillow with polyester filling. Then finish tying the pillow closed. Glue on the felt pieces to create the lion face, then glue on the whiskers.

\*Depending on the age of your students, you may want an extra staff member or two to help with the tying portion of the craft.



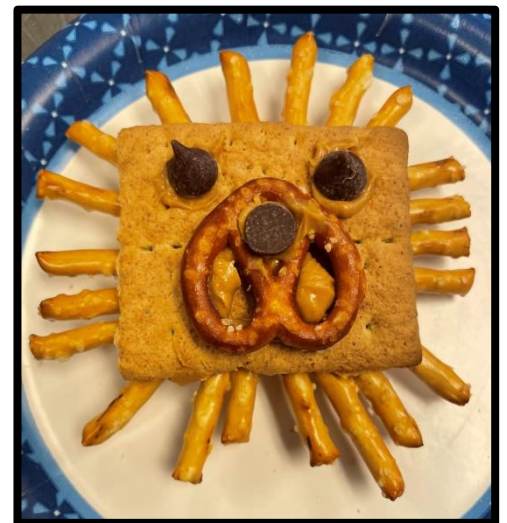
### Graham Cracker Lion—25 min

Supplies needed: two square graham cracker pieces, peanut butter, Nutella, or cheese sauce, one pretzel twist, ten pretzel sticks, three chocolate chips

Students spread their peanut butter, cheese, or Nutella on one of the graham crackers and then place the other graham cracker on top of it like a sandwich. They break their pretzel sticks in half and fringe them around, inserting them like a mane between the graham crackers. Another dab of peanut butter holds the pretzel nose and three chocolate chips in place to create the lion's face.

While students enjoy their snack, they watch a video about St. Gerasimos of the Jordan and his lion.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b\\_HRKZNNN8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8b_HRKZNNN8)



### Closing—5min

Ask students to roar their loudest like Saint Gerasimos's lion Jordanes. Then ask the students to sit quietly and shut their mouths like the lions in the den. Ask them to name a way they learned that a lion served God. (By being still and not eating, by guarding a donkey, by serving St. Gerasimos) Remind them of the faith and trust both Daniel and St. Gerasimos had in God.