

Mosaic Teaching Guide [\[teachings\]](#)

Teaching Series: *Sunday School Stories*

Teaching: *Daniel in the Lions' Den*

Text: Daniel 6

Daniel 6.1-5, 10-13

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that the king might suffer no loss. Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. The men said, 'We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.'

Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open towards Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, 'O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?' The king answered, 'The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Then they responded to the king, 'Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.'

The Stories that Shape Us

Everybody has a story.

Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, David and Goliath, Samson and Delilah, the three Hebrews in the fiery furnace are some of the stories that shape the way I understand the world.

Big Fish

“That was my father's final joke, I guess. A man tells his stories so many times that he becomes the stories. They live on after him. And in that way he becomes immortal.”

An Unspoken Invitation

“Obedience to God is difficult when we are bullied into compliance to the God-ignoring culture out of sheer survival. Trust in God is likewise at risk of being abandoned in favor of the glamorous seductions of might and size” (Eugene Peterson).

Daniel's Story

The book of Daniel was written about people in exile and for people in exile. It is a book about how a people live their story faithfully when more powerful and competing stories vie for their allegiance.

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel is placed in the den with the hungry lions. A stone is placed at the entrance. The king's seal is placed on the stone. It will not be moved.

A New Story

I want you to know that God can change your story.

You must not give yourself over to morose despair and despondent *acedia*.

A Whole New Story

Those who live a life of deceit and coercive power will one day find a bitter end.

Not all the stories I hear have happy endings. “They lived happily ever after” is still just line from a Disney film. So I'm not suggesting today that following Jesus is like becoming a part of a fairy tale. I'm just suggesting that perhaps God wants to surprise you, do something unexpected with you; maybe even give you a whole new story.

Next Week: Pentecost Sunday Celebration