

You Are Not Alone

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Lions' Den	5	1-6		 A	brown material, brown tissue paper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON You Are Not Alone	10	1-6		 A-B	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6		 C	
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Lion Mask	5	1-6			paper plates, yarn, felt
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Lion's Meal	5	1-6			juice, beef jerky
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Pray Like Daniel	10	1-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Daniel's Daring Dots	5	1-2			
Powerful Prayer	5	3-4			
Laws	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME
 This lesson will help junior soldiers understand that God is always with them. Junior soldiers will develop confidence in God's power and presence in times of triumph and trouble.

YOU ARE HERE!
 Place the timeline marker on **541 B.C.** on the **Old Testament** timeline.



*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

Daniel 6

UNIT AIM:

This unit will help junior soldiers develop a sense of empowerment through the Holy Spirit to stand firm in their beliefs, regardless of others' opinions. They'll develop stronger identities as Christians.

BY THE 6TH CHAPTER of Daniel many years had passed. Daniel had advanced politically and had been a high officer of the Babylonian Empire for 60 years. Darius, the Mede, was now king of Babylon.

Daniel was the first of the three rulers who supervised 120 princes in carrying out government policies. The other two rulers and 120 princes looked for ways to disgrace Daniel, but were unable to do so because he was trustworthy. They were jealous of his high position, and because he was Judean. When King Darius planned to promote Daniel to be in charge of the entire kingdom, Daniel's foes developed a plot to destroy him.

It was difficult for Daniel to keep his Jewish heritage while he lived in Babylon. He was unable to offer sacrifices to God at the Temple, or worship God as He commanded. But Daniel didn't let this get in the way of his relationship with God. Three times a day Daniel faced the Promised Land and prayed to God in heaven.

The other leaders of Babylon knew the only way they could destroy Daniel was to involve the law of his God. They approached King Darius with a decree in recognition of the king's power. They told the king that, because he was so important, he should make a decree that for 30 days the people of Babylon should only pray to him for their needs. If anyone was caught praying to anyone else, they'd be placed in the lions' den. King Darius was flattered by the decree, and signed the decree that, according to the Law of the Medes and the Persians, couldn't be changed.

Daniel knew about the decree, but he still prayed to God. Three times a day he went into his room, opened the window and prayed to God while facing the Promised Land. The Babylonian leaders went as a group to Daniel's window and witnessed him praying to his God. Immediately they went to the king.

King Darius was distressed by the news. He didn't want to place Daniel in the lions' den. The leaders reminded the king that any decree he signed couldn't be altered. King Darius gave the order to throw Daniel in the lions' den. King Darius said to Daniel, "You always serve your God faithfully. So may he save you!" (Daniel 6;16b NIV).

God protected Daniel while he was in the lions' den. When King Darius saw that Daniel was safe, he ordered the men who accused Daniel be thrown in the lions' den along with their wives and children. The king wrote a decree to all people proclaiming the power of God: "I order people in every part of my kingdom to respect and honor Daniel's God. He is the living God. He will



LESSON 3

live forever. His kingdom will not be destroyed. His rule will never end. He sets people free and saves them. He does miraculous signs and wonders. He does them in the heavens and on the earth. He has saved Daniel from the power of the lions" (Daniel 6:26-27 NIV).

Use this lesson to help your junior soldiers understand that they aren't alone. The world junior soldiers live in today can be a scary place and following Jesus isn't the popular choice. Help your junior soldiers understand that with the Holy Spirit's help they can stand up to opposition and remain faithful to God.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Lions' Den

Before class, copy  A on cardstock for each junior soldier. In the center of the classroom place a table covered in black or brown felt or flannel material. Crumble pieces of brown tissue paper and place them on the table.

Allow junior soldier to color and cut out their lions while you lead the following discussion.

Say: **Raise your hand if you've been to the zoo.** (*Allow response.*) **Today we'll be talking about lions. Have you seen a real lion?** (*Allow response.*) **Are you afraid of lions?** (*Allow response.*) **What are you afraid of?** (*Allow response.*) **Some people are afraid of lions, the dark, spiders, making bad grades in school, or being alone.**

Instruct junior soldier to write something they're afraid of on one of the lions. Ask junior soldiers to place one of their lions on the table you prepared before class.



TIME SAVING TIP:

If you usually run short on time, cut out the items from  A before class.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A for each junior soldier
- scissors
- crayons or markers
- brown material
- brown tissue
- paper





MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A-B

LESSON

You Are Not Alone

Throughout the lesson today, encourage junior soldiers to use the cutouts from A-B to recreate the story.

Say: **Daniel lived in Babylon for many years, and served under many kings. After King Nebuchadnezzar was ruler of Babylon, King Darius came to power. King Darius chose 120 people to rule over his kingdom. He chose Daniel as one of the three leaders to oversee the other rulers.**

The other leaders were jealous of Daniel. They wanted to get him in trouble with the king. Every day they watched him as he worked, trying to find something wrong with him. But they couldn't find anything. Daniel obeyed the king and completed his work. The Bible says the rulers found no fault in Daniel.

The rulers knew the only way they could get Daniel in trouble with the king was to create a law that would go against God's law.

Was it easy for Daniel to follow God's laws while he lived in Babylon? (Allow response.) Daniel wasn't able to offer sacrifices to God in the Temple, or worship God the way other Jewish people did because he was living in Babylon. But, three times a day, every day, Daniel went into his room and prayed to God.

Hold up the cut out of Daniel praying.

Say: **The other leaders knew that Daniel prayed to his God three times a day, so they devised a plan to destroy Daniel. The rulers went to King Darius and said, "King Darius, during the next 30 days don't let any of your people pray to any god or man except to you. If they do, throw them into the lions' den" (Daniel 6:7b NIV).**

King Darius thought, "I'm a great king. If everyone has to pray to me for 30 days, they'll know how great I am." He signed the law.

The rulers quickly ran to tell Daniel about the new law. Do you think the new law stopped Daniel from praying? (Allow response.)

Say: **Daniel continued to pray to God three times a day. Some of the rulers went to Daniel's house, saw him praying, and heard him ask God for help.**

What do you think they did next? (Allow response.) They ran to King Darius and told him that Daniel was praying to his God. The king was



upset. He didn't want to put Daniel in the lions' den. The leaders reminded the king that his law couldn't be changed. Daniel had to be thrown in the lions' den.

King Darius gave the order for Daniel to be thrown in the lions' den. As Daniel was taken to the lions' den, King Darius said, "You always serve your God faithfully. So may He save you!" (Daniel 6:16b).

Surround the cut out of Daniel with the lion cut outs.

Say: A large stone was placed over the lions' den so Daniel couldn't escape. The king was so upset that Daniel was in the lions' den—he couldn't eat or sleep all night.

The next morning King Darius ran to the lions' den. His servants moved the stone, and the king said, "Daniel! You serve the living God. You always serve him faithfully. So has he been able to save you from the lions?" (Daniel 6:19b NIV).

Daniel answered, "My king, may you live forever! My God sent his angel. And his angel shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't hurt me at all. That's because I haven't done anything wrong in God's sight. I've never done anything wrong to you either, my king" (Daniel 6:21 NIV).

Place the angel cut out in the lions' den.

Say: King Darius was happy that Daniel was okay. He ordered his servants to help Daniel out of the lions' den. There wasn't even a scratch on Daniel, because he trusted in God.

Remove the cut out of Daniel from the lions' den.

Say: What do you think happened next? (Allow response.) The king ordered that all the men who tried to kill Daniel be punished. He put them in the lions' den. The king wrote a new law telling everyone that Daniel's God is the living God.

Why was Daniel safe in the lions' den? (Allow response.) Daniel was safe because he had faith in God, and God protected him. When we're scared about something or are in a difficult situation, God will help us. We're never alone because the Holy Spirit lives in us when we ask Jesus to come into our hearts.





MATERIALS NEEDED:

- C



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- paper plates
- yarn
- scissors
- tape
- glue
- crayons or markers
- felt
- construction paper

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. He appointed them to be saved in keeping with his purpose."

Before class, copy C. Divide the classroom into three areas. Place one memory verse section at each area. Divide junior soldiers into three groups. Assign each group to one area.

Explain to junior soldiers that, like Daniel, they're in the lions' den. To exit the lions' den the junior soldier brigade must learn the memory verse. Each group starts at their assigned area, once they learn that portion of the verse, they can move to the next area.

Review the verse together.

BE AWARE!

If your junior soldiers have difficulty memorizing, advance groups to the next area at a certain time, instead of waiting for individuals to finish memorizing the verse portion.



REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Lion Mask (option 1)

Before class, gather supplies such as paper plates, felt, construction paper, and yarn for each junior soldier to make a lion mask. Pass out craft supplies to junior soldiers. Allow junior soldiers to use the supplies provided to create a lion mask. If time allows, have junior soldiers act out today's lesson of Daniel in the lions' den.



Lion's Meal (option 2)

Before class, purchase beef jerky and juice to share with junior soldiers while you discuss God's faithfulness.

Say: **The lions were very hungry when Daniel was thrown in their den. Because God was faithful and protected Daniel, the lions missed out on a meal.**

What type of food do you think a lion likes to eat? *(Allow response.)*
Lions like to eat meat!

Pass out juice and beef jerky.

Say: **Let's thank God for protecting Daniel, and for protecting us. Let's have a lion's meal and remember that the lions missed a meal because God saved Daniel.**

BE AWARE!

Before serving food in class, check for food allergies. Provide an alternate snack for junior soldiers who are allergic to something you plan to serve.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- juice
- beef jerky



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song # 46: "If You Believe"
(Track #46, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: Romans 8:28 (NirV)

CHORUS: Song #45: "Trust In The Lord"
(Track #45, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

DEVOTIONAL

Pray Like Daniel ?

Say: **Daniel liked to talk with God. Even in a country where most people didn't believe in God or pray to Him, Daniel still prayed to God each day. Because Daniel loved God, trusted God, and prayed to God, God took care of Daniel while he was in Babylon.**

Was life always easy for Daniel? (Allow response.) No, there were many difficult and scary times for Daniel, but he still trusted God, and talked to Him in prayer.

When we become Christians, we're still going to have difficult times. There will be times when it's hard for us to stand up for our faith. When is it hard for you to stand up for your faith? (Allow response.) But, with the help of the Holy Spirit we can have strength like Daniel.

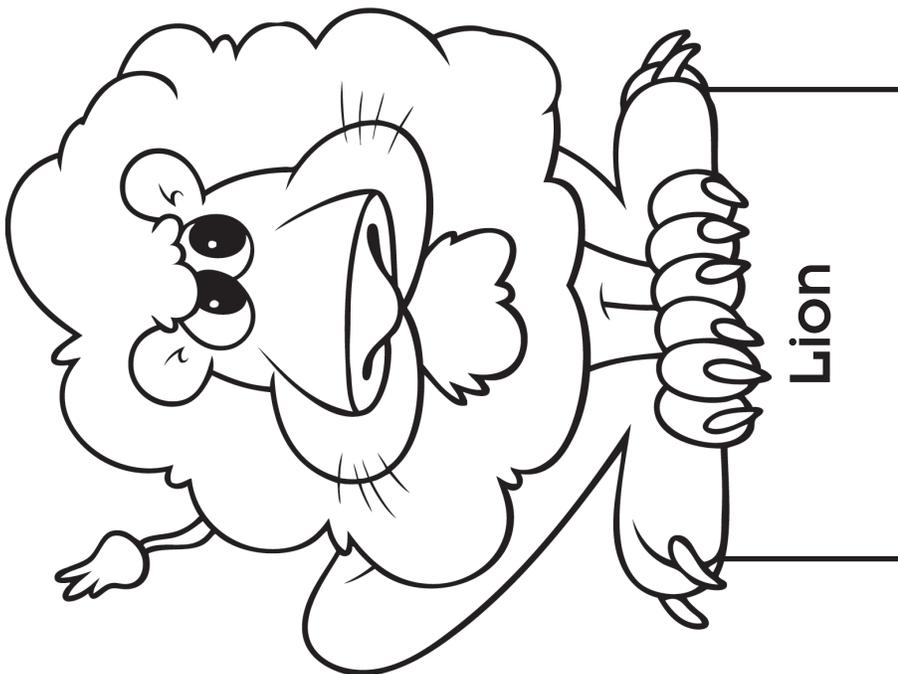
Let's pray to God and ask Him to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit. With the help of the Holy Spirit we'll be able to stand up for our faith!

PRAYER



Remember to fill out
the *What Do You Think*
Evaluation on page 306.





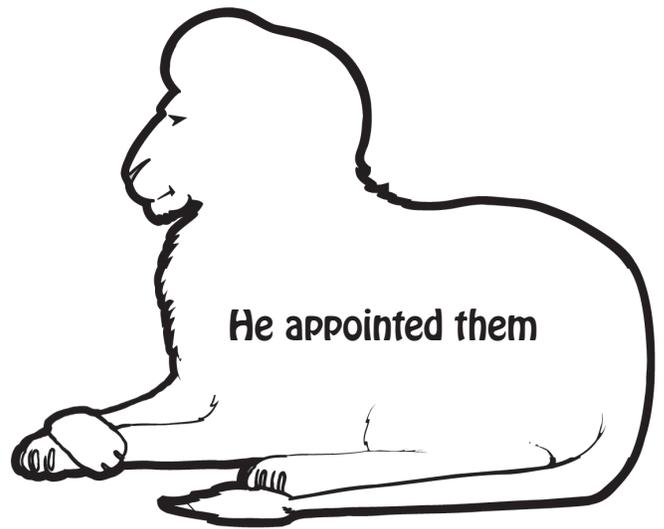
Fold tab under the lions to help them to stand.

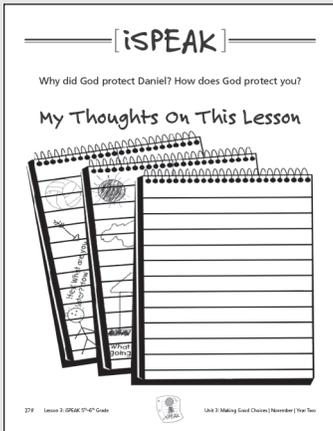
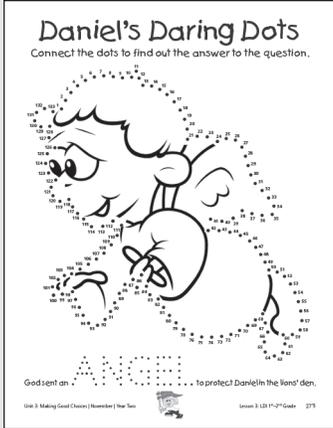




Fold tab under Daniel, angel, and lion to help them to stand.







LDI

- Grades 1 & 2 Daniel's Daring Dots
- Grades 3 & 4 Powerful Prayer
- Grades 5 & 6 Laws

DIALOGUE FOLDER

- Grades 1 & 2 iSpeak
- Grades 3 & 4 iSpeak
- Grades 5 & 6 iSpeak

TLC

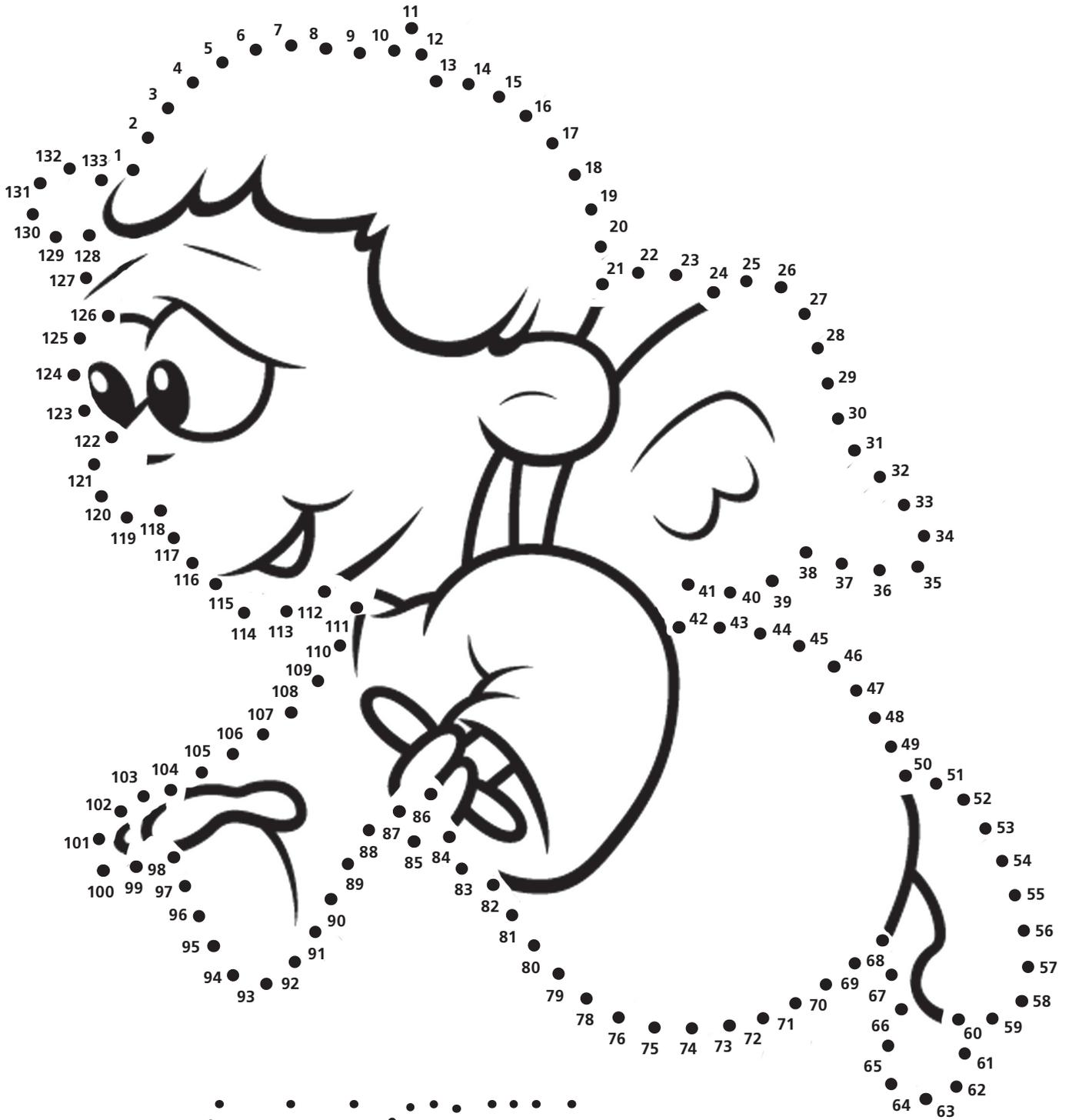
As a result of this lesson, junior soldiers will:

- know they can depend on God,
- trust God in every situation, and
- understand that God has a plan for their lives.



Daniel's Daring Dots

Connect the dots to find out the answer to the question.



God sent an  to protect Daniel in the lions' den.



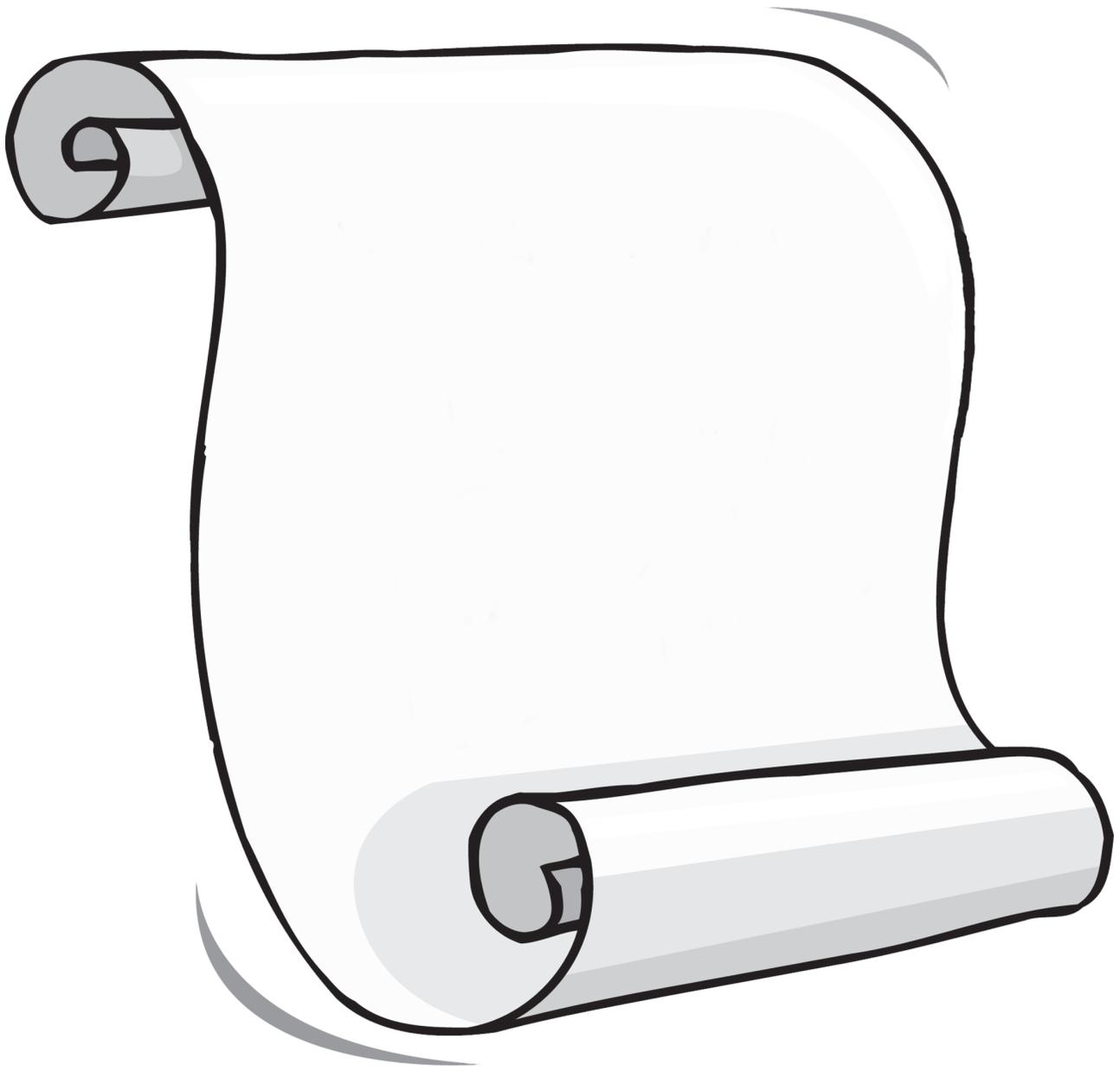
POWERFUL PRAYER

Daniel prayed to God _____ times a day. How many times can you find the word PRAY in the word search? _____



LAWS

WHAT WAS THE LAW KING DARIUS SIGNED? WRITE IT ON THE SCROLL.



DANIEL WAS A GOOD SERVANT OF GOD. LIST SOME WAYS YOU CAN SERVE GOD.



[iSPEAK]

Draw a picture or write about what you learned today.

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[iSPEAK]

Why was Daniel safe in the lions' den? How does it make you feel to know that God protects you too?

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[iSPEAK]

Why did God protect Daniel? How does God protect you?

My Thoughts On This Lesson



[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

You Are Not Alone

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. He appointed them to be saved in keeping with his purpose."

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Talk to your child about the importance of remaining faithful to God.



TODAY IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS the children learned about God's faithfulness to Daniel. By the 6th chapter of Daniel many years had passed. Daniel had advanced politically and had been a high officer of the Babylonian Empire for 60 years. Darius, the Mede, was now king of Babylon.

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