

Daniel

By

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Theme:

This play conveys the faithfulness Daniel showed when he chose to obey the laws of God rather than bow to the laws of man.

Biblical Reference:

Daniel 6

Approximate Running Time:

15 minutes

Props:

Costumes that reflect Bible times.

## Cast of Characters:

- Daniel: Daniel is a brave man who was not afraid to obey the laws of God even when they contradicted the laws made by man.
- King Darius: King Darius is king who is bold but sensitive to spiritual matters.
- Advisor 1: An advisor of King Darius who is out to get Daniel. He or she believes that they have to get rid of Daniel no matter what it costs them.
- Advisor 2: An advisor of King Darius who is out to get Daniel. He or she agrees with Advisor 1 no matter what he or she has to say.
- Advisor 3: An advisor of King Darius who is out to get Daniel. He or she is reluctant to be so harsh on Daniel but gives in to the others in the end.
- Lion 1 & 2: Lion 1 and Lion 2 provide some of the comedy of the play. They are to be funny and lively. They are dressed as lions and play their part on all fours.
- Guard 1 & 2: The two guards are the ones who throw Daniel and then the three advisors into the Lion's Den.

## Scene I

*[The three advisors meet in secret within King Darius' throne room before King Darius has arrived for the day. They are huddled together trying to keep their conversation from being heard by others.]*

Advisor 3: *[To Advisor 1.]* You called a meeting?

Advisor 1: Yeah, are we all here?

Advisor 2: *[Counting.]* One, two, three, yep, we're all here.

Advisor 3: Wait a minute. Where's Daniel?

Advisor 2: Daniel's not supposed to be here.

Advisor 3: What do you mean? Daniel's not supposed to be here.

Advisor 1: The reason I called this meeting is so that we can talk about Daniel without him knowing that we're talking about him.

Advisor 3: Oh, I get it. *[Pause.]* Wait a minute. Why would we want to talk about Daniel without him knowing that we're talking about him? He's one of us, isn't he?

Advisor 1: Yeah, he's one of us, but my sources tell me that he's been trying to make himself better than we are - and from what I hear, he's about to replace us. That's why I called this meeting and that's why I don't want him here.

Advisor 3: Daniel's trying to replace us? I just don't believe it. He's not that kind of a guy.

Advisor 2: Oh, no. You don't think so, huh? If my sources are correct, pretty soon you'll be out of a job, he'll be buddy-buddy with the king, and you'll be wondering what hit you.

Advisor 1: That's why we have to act fast. We have to do something about Daniel's plans to get rid of us before he's able to convince King Darius that his plan is better than ours.

Advisor 3: Wait a minute. Am I missing something here? King Darius gave 120 leaders the chance to rule over his kingdom and he asked you *[pointing to advisor 2]* and me - and Daniel - to be in charge of the 120 leaders, making sure they were doing their job right. As far as I know, we've been doing our job making sure that everyone else is doing their job. So, what gives you *[pointing to Advisor 1]* the right to say we have to replace Daniel? Are you just jealous of him and looking for his job?

Advisor 1: I'm not jealous of him. I'm just looking out of us. My sources tell me that King Darius is going to put Daniel in charge of the entire kingdom. That means there will no longer be a need for the 120 leaders, there will no longer be a need for the three in charge of the 120, and there will be no job for you or you. There will be just Daniel and King Darius and nobody else. I don't know what will happen to us.

Advisor 2: I don't know about you, but I like being in charge of the 120 leaders that are in charge of the entire kingdom. I like being a celebrity in the kingdom. I like having people bow before me when I walk about. I like knowing that people know I'm important and watching them do what I tell them to do. I don't want to lose this job and I don't want to lose it to a guy like Daniel.

Advisor 3: What's wrong with Daniel?

Advisor 1: He's such a brown nose. He's always doing what the king asks him to do. He's always honest and fair...

Advisor 2: And he isn't any fun. He's always talking about his God and how his God tells him what to do and how we should follow his God and do what he tells us to do...

Advisor 1: And I just don't want to hear it anymore. If there's any chance we are going to keep our jobs then we have to do something about Daniel. Now is the time for us to do something about Daniel before we all regret it.

Advisor 3: Are you sure we'll lose our jobs?

Advisor 2: I'm sure of it.

Advisor 1: And we might even be killed. Why would the king need us anymore if he's got Daniel running the whole kingdom?

Advisor 2: I tell you, it's either us or Daniel. I don't know about you, but I rather it be us than it be Daniel.

Advisor 3: If everything you just said is true...

Advisor 1: Oh, it's true all right.

Advisor 3: Then I guess it's time we do something about it.

Advisor 2: Great. Now, what do we do?

Advisor 1: I've got a plan.

Advisor 2: What is it?

Advisor 1: All we have to do is find a mistake that Daniel has made, or find some evidence that he has planned to something bad to the king.

Advisor 3: Uh, that won't work. I've been working really close with Daniel for a long time and I've never seen him make a mistake.

Advisor 1: Never?

Advisor 3: Not as long as I've been working with the king.

Advisor 2: Has he ever planned to do something that would hurt the king or make him look bad?

Advisor 3: Not as far as I know of. And I've been working close to him as long as he's been working for the king.

Advisor 1: Then what can we do?

Advisor 2: Our only chance might be to get him in trouble because of his devotion to his God. He's always talking about God. He's always doing God things. It might just work.

Advisor 1: I've got an idea.

Advisor 2: What's your idea?

Advisor 3: Wait, here comes the king.

*[King Darius enters and sits in his throne.]*

Darius: Ah, my trusted advisors. How is my kingdom this fine morning?

Advisor 3: It is fine on this fine morning, your majesty.

Darius: Where is Daniel this morning?

Advisor 2: We haven't seen him yet this morning.

Advisor 1: King Darius, we have something important for you to think about this morning.

Darius: What is it?

Advisor 1: *[Overdoing it.]* Oh great and mighty King. You are the greatest king that has ever lived. You deserve all honor, glory, respect, and honor. We want to honor you by making a proclamation that no one should pray to any god or man during the next 30 days so that everyone will know how great a king you are.

Darius: No one will pray to anyone but me?

Advisor 2: For 30 days no one will pray to anyone but you.

Darius: I like it. Now what do we do?

Advisor 1: All you have to do is make a proclamation.

Advisor 3: And a punishment for those who don't obey your proclamation.

Darius: Yes, a punishment would be good. I wish Daniel were here to give his opinion on this.

Advisor 1: Uh, he's not here and we don't know when he's going to show up. We'll just have to do this without him.

Darius: Yes, very well. What kind of a punishment would you, my trusted advisors, recommend?

Advisor 2: Any man, woman, or child who does not show you the proper respect you deserve - who prays to any other god or man during this time - shall be thrown into a den of lions.

Darius: That sounds dangerous. Don't you think it might be a bit much?

Advisor 3: This is a serious matter. You alone deserve the attention of the people who live in your land.

Advisor 1: This will make sure that people honor and respect you for being the great king you are.

Darius: All right. It is so.

Advisor 2: Thank you your majesty. You are so wise. We will make sure everyone in your kingdom obeys your commandment.

Advisor 3: Oh, great king, you look tired. Why don't you go rest and let us take care of the details of this new law you've made.

Darius: Thank you. You advisors are so kind to me. Be sure that Daniel hears of the new proclamation, will you.

Advisor 1: We sure will.

*[King Darius exits.]*

Advisor 2: Yes!

*[They give each other high fives and congratulate each other.]*

Advisor 3: I can't wait to see the look on Daniel's face when he hears this new proclamation.

Advisor 1: Let's go tell him ourselves.

Advisor 2: After all, the king asked us to.

*[They laugh as they exit.]*

- CURTAIN -

A decorative flourish consisting of a central horizontal line with a small, symmetrical, ornate scrollwork design in the middle, extending outwards to the left and right.

## Scene II

[King Darius is on the throne and the three advisors approach him.]

Advisor 3: Oh great King Darius, how are you on this fine morning?

Darius: I am fine. How are things with the new law I made yesterday?

Advisor 2: That is why we are here in front of you, oh great king.

Advisor 1: Didn't your new law say that if anyone prays to any god or man, other than yourself, for 30 days that they are to be thrown into the lion's den?

Darius: That was my new law. You should know. You were here helping me write it, weren't you?

Advisor 3: Yes, but we just wanted to be sure of your new law. We wanted to be sure we got it right.

Advisor 1: We have some bad news for you.

Darius: Is it about the new law?

Advisor 2: Yes, your majesty. We've just learned that Daniel has not been obeying your new law.

Darius: Daniel? My chief advisor, Daniel?

Advisor 3: He is the one.

Darius: How has he been disobeying my law? We just made it yesterday.

Advisor 1: He has a tradition in which he prays to his God three times a day and he has continued that tradition even though you have said that you are the only one we can pray to for 30 days.

Darius: I know that Daniel would not disobey me. Are you sure he knows about the new law?

Advisor 3: Yes. In fact, we went and told him of it ourselves when you told us to be sure that everyone in your kingdom heard of the new law.

Advisor 1: And yet Daniel continues to disobey the law and pray to his own god.

Advisor 2: Would you like us to go arrest him so that you can throw him into the lion's den yourself?



Darius: Wait. Don't go yet. There must be some mistake. Are you sure that Daniel has been disobeying my law?

Advisor 3: We saw him ourselves.

Darius: When was it?

Advisor 1: It was right after we gave him the news of the new law. He went right into his home and prayed to his God about it.

Darius: Are you sure he understood what you said?

Advisor 3: Yes, we're sure. We told him all about the new law and he just went right inside and prayed about it. I heard him say that nothing was going to keep him from praying to the God of his fathers. The God that has created Heaven and Earth - and other stuff like that.

Darius: But how can I throw my most trusted advisor into the lion's den?

Advisor 2: [*Overdoing it again.*] Oh great King Darius, the only one worthy of all praise and honor, may I be so bold as to point out that if you don't enforce this law with Daniel then you can't expect anyone to obey any of your other laws. Daniel must be punished if you want others to obey your laws.

Darius: But that means that he is to be thrown into the lion's den.

Advisor 1: That is the punishment you decreed.

Darius: There must be another way around this. I can't throw Daniel into the lion's den.

Advisor 3: I'm sorry king, but according to the law of the Medes and Persians no law issued by the King can be changed.

Advisor 2: I see how you are struggling over this decision, but you have no choice in this matter, but to throw Daniel into the lion's den.

Darius: If there is no other choice then bring Daniel to me.

[*The Advisors exit and immediately enter with Daniel. Daniel's hands are tied behind his back and he is led in like a prisoner by the two guards.*]

Darius: [*Moves to embrace him.*] Daniel, my beloved Daniel.

Daniel: My beloved King. Why am I being led to see you as a criminal?

Darius: Daniel, I have made a decree that no man, woman, or child in my kingdom will pray to a god or man other than me for 30 days or they are to be thrown into the lion's den.


These men have told me that you have prayed to your God.  
Is that true?

Daniel: But I always pray to my God 3 times a day. How could I NOT pray to him for 30 days?

Darius: I'm sorry Daniel. I'm really sorry, but I've looked into other options and I have no choice but to throw you into the den of lions. May your God, whom you continually serve, rescue you.

*[King Darius exits sad and dejected. The advisors exit with Daniel. They have smiles on their faces.]*

- CURTAIN -



## Scene III

*[The lion's den. The entrance to the den is to one side of the stage so there is enough room for action to take place within the den and without. The two lions are talking.]*

Lion 1: Man, am I hungry.

Lion 2: Me too.

Lion 1: It seems like I haven't eaten in days.

Lion 2: Well, it seems like I haven't eaten in weeks.

Lion 1: Yeah, well it seems like I haven't eaten in months.

Lion 2: Oh yeah, well it seems like I haven't eaten in years.

Lion 1: Yeah, but it seems like I haven't eaten in, uh, well, uh, hey, where were we?

Lion 2: Years.

Lion 1: Oh, yeah, well it seems like I haven't eaten in two years.

Lion 2: I'm so hungry I could eat a rabbit.

Lion 1: I'm so hungry I could eat a ton of cookies.

Lion 2: I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.

Lion 1: I'm so hungry I could eat a ton of pizza.

Lion 2: I'm so hungry I could eat a human.

Lion 1: I'm so hungry I could eat a ton of hamburgers.

Lion 2: I'm so hungry I could eat...

Lion 1: Wait a minute.

Lion 2: What?

Lion 1: If we're so hungry, why are we sitting here talking about food?

Lion 2: I dunno.

Lion 1: Maybe we should talk about something like baseball.

Lion 2: Okay. Who do you think is going to win the World Series this year?

Lion 1: The Yankees.

Lion 2: No way. You don't know anything about baseball.

Lion 1: Yeah I do.

Lion 2: No you don't.

Lion 1: Look. I'm too hungry to argue with you anymore. Let's just rest until lunch gets here. *[Pause.]* By the way, when does lunch get here?

Lion 2: Didn't you read the menu?

Lion 1: You got a menu? I didn't get a menu. Where did you get your menu?

Lion 2: My mom posts it on our refrigerator.

Lion 1: Oh.

Lion 2: We're supposed to be fed right around sun up this morning. I guess there's this guy who broke the king's law and we get to eat him.

Lion 1: Just one man?

Lion 2: That's what it said.

Lion 1: I'm hungry enough to eat 2 men.

Lion 2: I'm hungry enough to eat 3 men.

Lion 1: Not this again. Look, the door's opening.

Lion 2: Dinner is served!

*[Daniel is thrown into the den and the door is closed. The lions go to pounce on him but there is a bright light and they suddenly stop. They yawn and go to sleep. Daniel yawns and goes to sleep on them, using one as a pillow. There is a pause. Then the door is opened.]*

Darius: *[With fear in his voice.]* Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?

Daniel: Yes. Oh, King, live forever. My God has sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They didn't hurt me because I was found innocent in his sight.

*[Daniel stands and walks to the door. The door is closed. The lions continue sleeping.]*

Darius: *[Looking him over.]* There isn't a scratch on you. Your God has protected you. You are a hero. Guards. *[They come over to him.]* Bring me my three advisors. *[They exit.]*

Daniel: King Darius. I didn't mean to break your law about praying to no one but you, but I had to be faithful to the commands of my Lord God, the creator of Heaven and Earth. I'm no one special. I was only being faithful.

*[The guards enter with the three advisors.]*

Darius: You have tried to kill Daniel because of his God. His God has rescued him from the lion's den. Let's see what will become of you. *[To the guards.]* Throw them into the lion's den.

*[They are thrown into the lion's den.]*


Lion 1: Dinner is served!

*[The lions eat them up.]*

Darius: Now I understand that your God is the one true God. I am making a new law that in every part of my kingdom people must trust and worship the God of Daniel. For he is the living God and he will be God forever. His kingdom will never end. He rescues us from evil, just as he has rescued Daniel from the lion's den.

And as for you Daniel, well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things, now you will be in charge of many things. I never liked those advisors anyway!

- CURTAIN -



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