

Reflection Time Leader



OVERVIEW

Voyagers will...

- ⊕ ...discuss what it means to live out their faith.
- ⊕ ...connect the story of Daniel trusting God in the lions' den with stories and events in their own lives.
- ⊕ ...be challenged to live out and practice their faith daily like Daniel.

Materials

- 🌀 age-specific **Student Books** and/or **Reproducible Fun Pages**
- 🌀 **Bible Story Activity Stickers** (for younger elementary only)
- 🌀 markers, crayons, and/or colored pencils

Timeline

for 20-minute centers

- ⊕ 4 minutes: Ice-Breaker
- ⊕ 3 minutes: Discussion
- ⊕ 7 minutes: Journaling
- ⊕ 4 minutes: Reflection
- ⊕ 2 minutes: Prayer and Worship

for 15-minute centers

- ⊕ 3 minutes: Ice-Breaker
- ⊕ 2 minutes: Discussion
- ⊕ 5 minutes: Journaling
- ⊕ 3 minutes: Reflection
- ⊕ 2 minutes: Prayer and Worship



Bible Story

Daniel Trusts God in the
Lions' Den

Daniel 6

Power

Launcher

Go Beyond with Faith!

Vector Verse

Glory to God, who is able
to do far beyond all that we
could ask or imagine by his
power at work within us!

-Ephesians 3:20 (CEB)

Ice-Breaker

Trusty Travelers

Voyagers, we will be together a lot here at To Mars and Beyond, so I want to make sure that we get to know each other well! Every Reflection Time, we'll start with a short getting-to-know-you activity or Ice-Breaker.

For our first Ice-Breaker, let's go around the group and share:

1. Your name
2. Something or someone you would trust/have faith in if you were traveling through space
3. Why you have faith/trust in this person or thing

DISCUSSION

In our Bible story, Daniel lived out his faith by praying to God three times a day, even when the law said he could not.

- 🗨️ What do you think it means to live out your faith?
- 🗨️ How do you think living out your faith could be similar to traveling through space?

Those are some great ideas! Here are some others:

1. They both take practice. Daniel prayed three times a day every day.
2. Its easier to do both with the help of others.
3. To do both, we must trust in things we cannot completely understand.

One way to explore where God's power can take us is by hearing stories about people who had great faith in God, like Daniel.

- 🗨️ Can you think of anyone who has great faith in God (either from the Bible or your own circle of friends/family/community)?
- 🗨️ How can you tell they have faith? (What do they do? How do they act?)

Speaking of faith, let's say our Power Launcher for this session. Do you remember it? Go Beyond with Faith! (Repeat 2-3 times or as needed for memorization purposes.)

In our VBS song, "Even When the Lions Roar," we sing:

"I will not be shaken. I will not be moved. All my hope is in you...Even when the lions roar!"

Sometimes, as in Daniel's story, we might need to live out our faith even when it seems impossible!

Journaling

Younger Voyagers

First and second graders complete the activities on pages 2-4 of the **Younger Elementary Student Book** and/or pages 2-7 of the **Younger Elementary Reproducible Fun Pages**.

As Voyagers are journaling, discuss:

Now let's take another look at the Bible story.

- 🗣️ **What was the name of the King for whom Daniel worked?** (*Darius*)
- 🗣️ **How did the other officers of King Darius try to get Daniel in trouble?** (*They tricked him into passing a law that made praying to anyone but the king a crime.*)
- 🗣️ **When Daniel learned about the law, what did he do?** (*He prayed to God anyway.*) **What do you think he prayed for?**

Daniel lived out his faith in God by praying to God and giving glory to God in the way he lived and did his job. God was faithful to Daniel by keeping him safe in the pit of lions.

Speaking of having faith and giving glory to God, who can say our Vector Verse with me? *Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!*
-Ephesians 3:20

If you wonder how you can have faith, remember it's not something you have to do alone. As the Vector Verse says, God is able to help us by God's power at work within us!

Older Voyagers

Third through sixth graders complete the activities on pages 2-4 of the **Older Elementary Student Book** and/or pages 2-7 of the **Older Voyager Reproducible Fun Pages**.

As Voyagers are journaling, discuss:

Now let's take another look at the Bible story.

- 🗣️ **What was the name of the King for whom Daniel worked?** (*Darius*)
- 🗣️ **Daniel was one of the king's main officers. How many main officers were there?** (*three*)
- 🗣️ **How did the other officers of King Darius try to get Daniel in trouble?** (*They tricked him into passing a law that made praying to anyone but the king a crime.*)
- 🗣️ **Why did they try to get Daniel into trouble?** (*because King Darius was going to put Daniel in charge of the whole kingdom*)
- 🗣️ **When Daniel learned about the law, what did he do?** (*He prayed to God anyway.*) **If you were Daniel, what would you have prayed for?**

Daniel lived out his faith in God by praying to God and giving glory to God in the way he lived and did his job. God was faithful to Daniel by keeping him safe in the pit of lions.

Speaking of having faith and giving glory to God, who can say our Vector Verse with me? *Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!*
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If you wonder how you can have faith, remember it's not something you have to do alone. As the Vector Verse says, God is able to help us by God's power at work within us!

Reflection

Where God's Power Can Take You

We can't just walk outside and fly to Mars on our own power, can we? We need a spacecraft and lots of special fuel to get there. Living out our faith in God also takes more than our own power; it takes God's power in us.

- ⊕ What are some times when you feel like you need God's power?
- ⊕ What are some times when you feel like God's power is with you?

Whether we feel like God's power is with us or are wondering where God even is, God is always near. Sometimes, as Daniel did three times a day, we may just need to stop and take time specifically to be with God in prayer.

- ⊕ If you were to stop right now and be with God, what would you pray about?
- ⊕ How can we make time to pray and be with God every day?

Wow, when I hear you talk about praying and being with God, it's easy to tell that God's power is at work in each of you!

Prayer and Worship

We will close each of our Reflection Times with worship and prayer.

Daniel prayed to God three times a day, every day, and God was with him and protected him. We are only going to pray once right now, but we will ask God to be in front of us, behind us, and beside us. I will pray a sentence and we will all respond with "in front of me, behind me, beside me."

Leader: God, who was with Daniel every day and in the lions' den, please surround me and be...
All: ...in front of me, behind me, beside me.

Leader: God, who invites us to live our faith like Daniel, please guide me as I walk and be.
All: ...in front of me, behind me, beside me.

Leader: God, to whom we give glory, please be...
All: ...in front of me, behind me, beside me.

Leader: God, who can do more than we could ask or imagine by your power at work in us, please be...
All: ...in front of me, behind me, beside me and everyone here. Amen.