

A PUPPET PLAY IN ONE ACT

A Night with the Lions

Based on Daniel 6 · Written by Carrie Elderberry



SUITABLE FOR
Ages 5 and up

CAST SIZE
3 puppets

PERFORMANCE TIME
8–10 minutes

PROPS REQUIRED
None

MAIN THEME

God protects those who are faithful to Him, even when it costs them everything.

Carrie Elderberry's Gospel Puppets · gospelpuppets.org

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To print just the play on its own, print pages 4-7.

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Synopsis

Two children are chatting about the Bible story of Daniel when one of them falls asleep and dreams of meeting an actual lion from the famous pit in Babylon. The lion – friendly, on vacation, and very happy to talk – tells his side of the story firsthand, including the surprising part about tummy rubs.

Spiritual Concept

Daniel's faithfulness to God – even under threat of death – led to a miracle that turned a king's heart. God honored Daniel's trust, and the lion's pit became a place of peace rather than destruction.

Age Suitability

Best for ages 5-12; adaptable for all ages.

Performance Time

8-10 minutes

CAST & TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Characters (in order of appearance)

CHILD 1 – About 8 years old, sleepy at the start of the play – drifts off and dreams the central scene.

CHILD 2 – Perhaps a little older, and a little bit of a know-it-all; tells the story of Daniel.

LION – One of the lions from the pit in Babylon – on vacation and quite friendly. Speaks normally, but when God closes his mouth, can only say mm-mm-mm with lips pressed together.

Prop Options

- Simple backdrop suggesting a pit or cave.

PERFORMANCE NOTES FOR PUPPETEERS

New to puppets? General prep, technique, and voice tips live at gospelpuppets.org/getting-started.

Character Notes

CHILD 1 begins the play yawning heavily and grows increasingly drowsy – play this up for comedy.

LION's key physical moment: when God shuts his mouth, he can only say mm-mm-mm. Practice this effect – it should read as genuinely frustrated effort, not just humming.

When LION rolls over for tummy rubs, the puppeteer should tip the puppet dramatically on its back.

Reading the Script

CAPS = Volume / intensity.

mm-mm-mm = LION speaking with his mouth held shut by God – lips pressed together, not humming smoothly.

ZZXXYYZZ = snoring sound for CHILD 1 falling asleep.

Sound Effects

- Lion's roar: Growl it vocally – no recording needed.
Recorded options: pixabay.com/sound-effects/search/lion-roar

More options and noise-maker tips at gospelpuppets.org/sound-effects.

A NIGHT WITH THE LIONS

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(Enter CHILD 2 and CHILD 1.)

CHILD 2: I heard an amazing story from the Bible!

CHILD 1: *(yawning a lot)* YAWN! That's nice... YAWN...

CHILD 2: You seem very tired.

CHILD 1: Yes, I am... *(yawns)* aaahhh...

CHILD 2: Well, let me tell you this Bible story. You see, there was a holy man of God, named Daniel.

CHILD 1: *(drowsy)* So sleepy... *(yawning)* AAAHHH...

CHILD 2: Daniel was dropped into a pit full of hungry lions!

CHILD 1: *(wakes up a little, surprised)* What? Why? You said he was a holy man of God!

CHILD 2: Yes, but he lived in Babylon. It was a crime there to worship the true God.

CHILD 1: Poor Daniel! That is terrible. Did the lions eat him up?

CHILD 2: Oops! I have to go now. I will tell you the rest of the story when I get back. Good-bye!

(CHILD 2 exits.)

CHILD 1: *(drowsy)* I am so sleepy... *(yawns)* aaahhh... I wonder what happened to Daniel...

(CHILD 1 starts to snore.)

CHILD 1: ZZXXYYZZ...

(Enter LION, roaring – but kind of like a loud yawn also.)

LION: AAhh... ROWRRR... aaahhh...!!!

CHILD 1: *(shakes with fear)* Oh no! A lion!

LION: Rowrrr... I hope I do not scare you. I just woke up from a little nap.

CHILD 1: I have never met a lion before.

LION: Really? I am from Babylon.

CHILD 1: I have heard of Babylon. Do you know the Bible story about Daniel and the lions?

LION: Of course I do. I am one of those lions! Roarwrr!

CHILD 1: *(shakes with fear)* Did you eat him up? Oh, no! Are you going to eat me up?

LION: Thank you, but I am not hungry at the moment.

CHILD 1: That's good! But let me know if your appetite starts to wake up!

LION: Ok. Here, let me tell you what happened to Daniel.

CHILD 1: Oh, right.

LION: So. The king of Babylon keeps all of us lions in a deep pit. He feeds us with humans.

CHILD 1: Do you ever eat good people?

LION: Maybe! We don't ask questions.

CHILD 1: Oh...

LION: One day, as we were waiting for our "dinner", the holy man – Daniel – was dropped in among us.

CHILD 1: Were you very hungry?

LION: Yes! We roared! RROOWRRR! But then – suddenly –

CHILD 1: Suddenly what?

(LION tries to talk, but his mouth is clenched shut. He can only say mm-mm-mm.)

LION: mm-mm-mm-mm-mm-mm

CHILD 1: Are you trying to say that God sent an angel to shut your mouths?

LION: *(nods his head)* mm-mm-mm-mm-mm

CHILD 1: And that you were not hungry any more?

LION: *(shakes his head)* mm-mm-mm-mm-m

CHILD 1: And you say that you did not want to hurt Daniel?

LION: *(shakes his head)* mm-mmm

CHILD 1: So then what?

(LION rolls over so his tummy is up.)

LION: mm-mm-m!

CHILD 1: Daniel gave you all tummy rubs?

LION: *(nods his head)* mm-mm-mm-mm!

CHILD 1: And after the night was over, the king looked in?

(LION nods his head yes.)

LION: Mm-mm-mmm-mmmm

CHILD 1: And the king said, "Daniel! Servant of the living God!"

LION: Hmm-Hmm.

CHILD 1: So the king must have been hoping that Daniel was still alive.

LION: Hmm-Hmm! Mmm-mmm

CHILD 1: He said, "Has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

LION: *(Nods head yes)* Mmm-hmm!

CHILD 1: Did Daniel tell him that God had sent an angel to shut the mouths of the lions?

(LION nods head yes, and starts to speak again normally.)

LION: The king brought Daniel out. And then guess what?

CHILD 1: I bet the king threw in all of Daniel's enemies!

LION: Yes! ROWR! *(make crunching sounds)*

CHILD 1: It sounds as though there were no more tummy rubs...

LION: No! But we had a lovely breakfast! RROOWWRR! Now, I have to go. Good-bye!

(Exit LION. CHILD 1 yawns and stretches. Enter CHILD 2.)

CHILD 2: I'm back! Now as I was telling you –

CHILD 1: I know! Daniel was just fine.

CHILD 2: Wait – how do you know?

CHILD 1: An angel of the Lord shut the mouths of the lions.

CHILD 2: I thought you did not know the story!

CHILD 1: In fact, Daniel gave all of the lions tummy rubs!

CHILD 2: Oh don't be silly!

CHILD 1: Let's go to the zoo soon. We might see a friend of mine there!

(Enter LION. ALL line up and speak together.)

CHILD 2, CHILD 1, AND LION: You can find the whole story about Daniel, and the lions, in the Bible! Look in the book of Daniel, chapter 6.

(ALL bow to the audience.)

THE END

SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

Discussion Questions

1. Did the lions eat Daniel? Why not?
2. Why was Daniel thrown into the pit in the first place?
3. Who shut the lions' mouths?
4. What happened to Daniel's enemies at the end?
5. Can you think of a time when you had to do the right thing even when it was scary?

Related Bible Passages

Primary Text: Daniel 6 – The full story of Daniel and the lions' den.

Additional Scripture:

- Psalm 34:7 – "The angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him." (NLT)
- Hebrews 11:33 – Mentions those "whose weakness was turned to strength" and who "shut the mouths of lions." (NLT)
- Romans 8:31 – "If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" (NLT)
- Daniel 6:26-27 – King Darius's decree after Daniel's deliverance: "He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth." (NLT)

Song Suggestions

- "My God Is So Big" – Listener Kids –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/1fCSen4IN1MXSWYWI7eKw5>
- "Shadrach" – Louis Armstrong –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/3FceAAUVLW70aKetiUrg9e>
- "Dare to Be a Daniel" – Cedarmon Kids –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/628JyohUaQrYrAAEvTnHt8>
- "Seek Ye First" – Karen Lafferty –
<https://open.spotify.com/track/2srlAT10zoa8nDLmMYMmkc>

Ministry Context

This play works well for Sunday School, midweek children's programs, and Vacation Bible School. The dream-frame device makes it especially fun. Consider reading Daniel 6 aloud to the group before or after the performance.

Carolyn's Recommended Picture Books

Daniel in the Lion's Den by Jean Marzollo

Jesus and the Lion's Den by Alison Mitchell