

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE INTRODUCTION

SKIT

Characters: Narrator, Daniel, Angel (with an Australian accent), Conspirator 1, Conspirator 2, King

Scene 1: The conspirators are talking with the king. Daniel is in the background praying.

Scene 2: It takes place in an upper room. Daniel is praying, and the conspirators are watching and plotting.

Scene 3: In the lions' den.

Narrator: "Darius reorganized his kingdom. He appointed one hundred twenty governors to administer all the parts of his realm. Over them were three vice-regents, one of whom was Daniel. The governors reported to the vice-regents, who made sure that everything was in order for the king. But Daniel, brimming with spirit and intelligence, so completely outclassed the other vice-regents and governors that the king decided to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. The vice-regents and governors got together to find some old scandal or skeleton in Daniel's life that they could use against him, but they couldn't dig up anything. He was totally exemplary and trustworthy. They could find no evidence of negligence or misconduct" (Daniel 6:1–4 The Message).

Conspirator 1: "We're never going to find anything against this Daniel unless we can cook up something religious" (Daniel 6:5 The Message).

Conspirator 2: Yeah, something really religious.

Narrator: "The vice-regents and governors conspired together and then went to the king and said, 'King Darius, live forever!'" (Daniel 6:6 The Message)

Conspirator 1: King Darius, live forever!

Conspirator 2: Yeah, you the king!

Conspirator 1: "We've convened your vice-regents, governors, and all your leading officials, and have agreed that the king should issue the following decree: For the next thirty days no one is to pray to any god or mortal except you, O king. Anyone who disobeys will be thrown into the lions' den" (Daniel 6:7 The Message).

Conspirator 2: Yeah! The lions' den! Raahhh! Roooaarrrr!

Conspirator 1: "Issue this decree, O king, and make it unconditional, as if written in stone like all the

laws of the Medes and the Persians" (Daniel 6:8 The Message).

Narrator: "King Darius signed the decree. When Daniel learned that the decree had been signed and posted, he continued to pray just as he had always done. His house had windows in the upstairs that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he knelt there in prayer, thanking and praising his God" (Daniel 6:9–10 The Message). They told the king that Daniel was breaking the law.

Conspirator 2: Danny is praying! Danny is praying!

Conspirator 1: Three times a day he prays!

Daniel: (*Praying*) Almighty God, You alone are holy and worthy of praise. Deliver me this day from any harm that I may continue to come to You again in prayer.

Conspirator 1: That's it, king! You have to throw him in with the big cats. You signed the law.

Conspirator 2: Raahhhh!

King: Oh, man!

Narrator: "The king caved in and ordered Daniel brought and thrown into the lions' den" (Daniel 6:16 The Message).

King: "Your God, to whom you are so loyal, is going to get you out of this" (Daniel 6:16 The Message).

Narrator: "The king then went back to his palace. He refused supper. He couldn't sleep. He spent the night fasting" (Daniel 6:18 The Message).

Narrator: Daniel is in the lions' den. (*Looking a little nervous, Daniel gets on his knees and prays.*)

Daniel: Almighty God, You alone are holy and worthy of praise. Deliver me from any harm that I may continue to come to You.

Narrator: Enter the Outback Angel!

Angel: Crikey! Look at the size of these lions. Oh, she's a beauty.

Daniel: Who are you?

Angel: I'm your guardian angel, mate. The Lord God Almighty has heard your prayers, and He sent me. Oh, I love these big cats! Did you know lions like these roam a single range from sub-Saharan Africa through western and northern Africa to southwestern Asia and India?

Daniel: Uh, no.

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(SKIT, CONTINUED)

Angel: That's right, mate! Of course, these are Asiatic lions. Real beauties. Danny boy, did you know the average male lion weighs 416 pounds and stands 48 inches high? The average female lion weighs 271 pounds and measures 41 inches tall! Look at that Sheila. She's a real beauty! And those 400-pound male cats sure look hungry.

Daniel: Are they going to eat us . . . I mean, me?

Angel: Oh, Danny boy, these lions have sharp retractable claws on each paw and hinge-like jaws containing 2-inch canines. Eat you? Naw. I do wish I could show you their gorgeous teeth though.

Daniel: No, that's alright! I trust you.

Angel: I know you do, Daniel. And what's more, you trust almighty God. Remember what you always pray?

Daniel: That He would keep me safe from harm that I might continue each day praising Him and praying to Him.

Angel: Right-o! And here you are in big cat country. Our great God always hears you, Danny. And if it were your time to go, I would carry you safely home to heaven. But not yet. Here comes King Darius. It's time for me to go. I'll round up these beauties over here while you're getting out, and then I gotta run. G'day, mate! *(Off to corner to round up lions)* Here kitty, kitty, kitty.

Daniel: Thank You, God. *(Daniel walks out.)*

DISCUSSION

What can we learn about prayer from the account of Daniel in the den of lions? God answers prayer even as He asks us to remain faithful. God is the great deliverer.

Daniel prayed to God in public view. When do Christians pray in public view, and what value can this witness have? Christians often pray when eating in restaurants. This act tells those witnessing the act that Christians thank and trust in God to provide for the needs of their life. Some Christians ask the server if they might pray for him or her and for God's grace in his or her life, which may open the conversation for sharing the Good News of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.