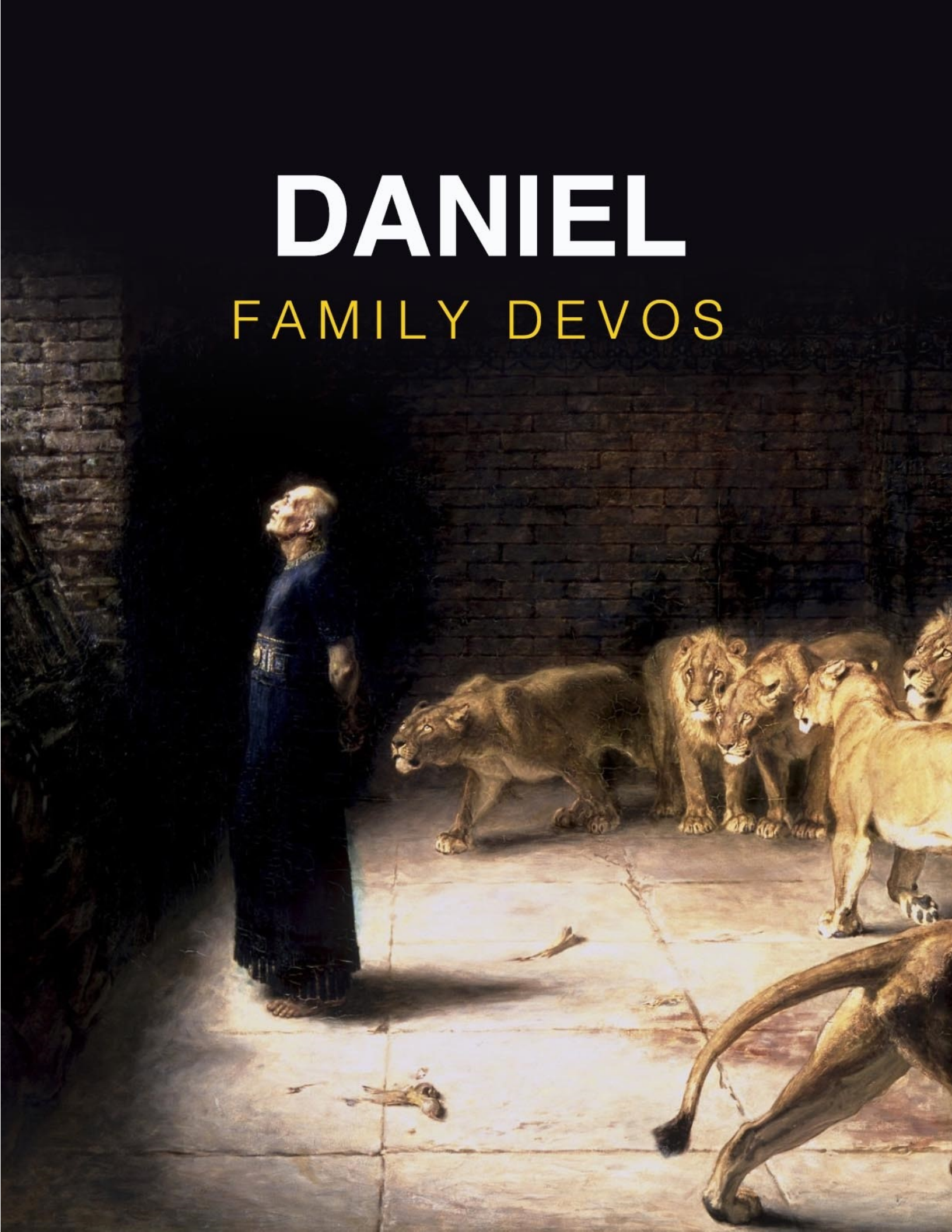


DANIEL

FAMILY DEVOS



Daniel and the Lions' Den

Scripture: Daniel 6

Memory Verse: Matthew 4:16

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

For My Family:

Throughout their whole lives, Daniel and his friends demonstrated faithfulness and integrity. As young men, they wouldn't eat the king's meats because it went against God's law. When they were older, the friends refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue, even though that meant being thrown into the fiery furnace. They all were faithful in their service to the kings, but when they were asked to do something that went against God's commands, they trusted the Lord, regardless of the consequences. Now in his old age, Daniel continued to live in faithfulness and integrity, and the new king noticed.

King Darius was impressed with Daniel's character, and so he made Daniel a governor, one of the three most powerful men in the kingdom under the king. In fact, Daniel did his job so well that the king wanted to put him in charge of the entire kingdom, even the other two governors. This made the other governors jealous. They wanted to get rid of Daniel, so they tricked the king into making a new law that said that no one in the kingdom could pray to anyone except the king for thirty days. Anyone who broke this law would be thrown into the lions' den. The governors knew that Daniel would not obey this law, and they caught him praying and brought him to the king.

When the king realized that he had been tricked, he was very upset, but there was nothing he could do. Daniel had to be thrown to the lions. Darius could only pray that Daniel's God would protect him. That night, the king couldn't sleep, and as soon as it was morning, he ran to the den to see if Daniel was still alive—and he was! God sent His angels to shut the mouths of the lions. When Darius heard this, he removed Daniel from the lions' den and made a new law that everyone in this kingdom must worship Daniel's God.

Clearly the way Daniel lived his life caught Darius' attention. He noticed Daniel's integrity, so he made him governor. He observed how Daniel trusted in the Lord and saw God deliver him from the lions' den, and that let him to praise the Lord and decree that the whole kingdom should only worship Daniel's God. Like Daniel, Jesus wants us to live in a way that points people to Him. Non-believers should see our integrity (doing the right thing in every situation) and faith in God through difficulties. When they notice that we live differently from them and ask us why, it's a great chance to talk to them about Jesus and share the Gospel. Let's live in faith and integrity so we can bring glory to our God.

Questions for Young Children:

Why were the other governors jealous of Daniel? What did they do?

How did Daniel respond when he heard the new law? What happened to him?

How did God rescue Daniel? What did the king do when he learned Daniel was saved?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

As Christians, what makes us and the way we live our lives different from the people around us?

What is integrity? What are some areas of life where it might be challenging for you to show integrity?

Has anyone ever asked you why you live differently from others? How did you respond? (Parents, feel free to share your own story if you have one.) If not, how do you think you should respond?