

Homeschool Bible – Series 1

Week 1

Name:

Date:

This Week's Bible Story

Daniel and the Lions' Den – Daniel 6:1-24a
(from Episode 1, *Long Journey*)

Hi friend,

Macky here... Join me in the **Long Journey Bible** adventure, where we'll learn together about God's truth and his love for us!

Together we are going to learn from the story of Daniel in the lions' den and much more.

Are you ready?

Meet Macky and the Gang

Macky and his family are Friends of Jesus, growing in their faith. Macky's parents are Samuel and Diana. Samuel is a silversmith (a person who makes things from silver). Young sisters, Leah and Rebecca, are sent to Macky's family in Alexandria. Their father, Daniel, sent them there to escape danger in Galilee, where the Friends of Jesus were being more harshly persecuted. Daniel knew he could trust his old friend Samuel to take care of his daughters.

Macky and the gang often tell Bible stories to each other, recalling heroes of the faith to help them face their own tough times or frightening situations.

You can learn more about Macky and the gang at www.friendsandheroes.tv > Characters > Adventure Characters.

As We Begin

In the story, Macky is a boy living in Alexandria, Egypt two thousand years ago. For first century believers, not many years had passed since Jesus had died, risen, and returned to heaven. The Friends of Jesus told the good news about him in countries near Israel; one of these countries was Egypt. The Friends of Jesus in Macky's city have one BIG problem – the Romans! Through the adventures of rescuing other Friends of Jesus, Macky learns about trusting God and not giving in to fear.



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Memory Verse

For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. (Psalm 34:7 NLT)

Activity 1: Bible Study

The story of Daniel and the Lions' Den (Daniel 6:1-24a)

In this episode, Macky's family has a very hard decision to make. Do they look after Leah and Rebecca, and risk the Romans punishing them? Or do they just look after their own family?

- Watch all of Episode 1, *Long Journey*.

Leah and Rebecca's father, Daniel, is a follower of Jesus fighting the Romans in Galilee and he sent his daughters to stay hidden with Macky's family in Alexandria so that they would be safe. Diana, Macky's mom, was fearful of the Romans and this fear was preventing her from being kind to the girls. To help Diana overcome her fear, her husband, Samuel, reminded Diana of the story of Daniel in the lions' den.

- Read the story below aloud to your teacher:

Daniel was a hard worker and very wise. King Darius made him a governor in the Empire of the Medes and Persians. He put two other governors in charge with him. These sly governors became jealous of Daniel because he held such a high position even though he was only a captive from Judah. Now King Darius wanted to put Daniel in charge of the whole empire. The governors began trying to make Daniel look bad to Darius. Because Daniel was a man of such good character, it was hard to make him look bad. The jealous governors admitted this to one another; they knew that their only chance was to trap him.

Like most people in those days, King Darius worshiped idols. Because he had beaten the Babylonian army, he thought his gods were the most powerful. Since he was the king, he was thought of as a son of the gods. So, when his governors came to worship him above everything else, he was not suspicious. Slyly, they asked the king to sign a law saying no one could pray to any other man or god except the king for thirty days. The trap was set.

When he heard about the new law, Daniel



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immediately got on his knees and disobeyed it! He loved God before anyone else, and there was nothing he would let get in the way of spending time with his wonderful Lord. He didn't complain, he just gave thanks, and asked God for help. The sly governors told the king of Daniel's prayers and the king had no choice but to throw Daniel into the pit of snarling lions. Darius stayed awake all night worrying about Daniel in the pit of savage beasts. No doubt Daniel's enemies laughed to themselves, pleased to have finally done away with Daniel.

What a surprise was waiting for them the next morning! King Darius leaned over the pit, fearful of what he might see. A cheerful Daniel called out to the king, telling him that his God had sent an angel and shut the lions' mouths. Daniel was lifted out of the pit and the sly governors were thrown in. Convinced that Daniel's God was the only true God, King Darius issued an order to all the people in every part of his kingdom to worship the one true God:

"I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel.

*For he is the living God
and he will endure forever.
His kingdom will never be destroyed,
and his rule will never end.
He rescues and saves his people;
He performs miraculous signs and wonders
in the heavens and on earth,
He has rescued Daniel
from the power of the lions." (Daniel 6:26-27 NLT)*

Discussion Questions

- Talk with your teacher about these questions:
1. How would this story encourage Diana, who was feeling fearful of the Romans?
 2. How did the sly governors know that Daniel would not stop praying to God?
 3. How did Daniel show he trusted God after he heard the king's order?
 4. Did King Darius actually want to throw Daniel in the den of lions?
 5. Why did he throw Daniel into the den of lions?
 6. Daniel said he was saved because he was found innocent in God's sight. What was Daniel innocent of?
 7. How was Daniel's life like the life of Joseph?
 8. Daniel had an "extraordinary spirit." He was different and God's presence in his life was clear for all to see. Do you know anyone whose love for God is so strong, it is clear for all to see?
 9. Daniel was humble, even though he was the only one doing the right thing. How did he show that he was humble?

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Activity 2: Applying What We've Learned

Courage and Trusting God

Daniel, Rebecca and Leah's dad, was in Galilee, fighting the Romans. He knew Galilee wasn't safe for his daughters but what was he to do? He remembered his old friend Samuel, Macky's dad, who lived in Alexandria. Daniel knew that the Friends of Jesus in Alexandria were not being attacked as much as they were in Galilee. So, he sent his daughters to Alexandria and trusted Samuel with them.

Macky's family had to trust God when they took in Leah and Rebecca. Sometimes, doing the right thing can cause us to be afraid. But we can trust God for his protection. Talk with your teacher about what you would do if you were a member of Macky's family. Would you want to take in Leah and Rebecca? Would you be afraid to do it? How could God help you with those fears?

Talk with your teacher about the things that make you afraid in your life. Are there things that make you worry or afraid? Pray with your teacher and give those worries and fears to God. Your prayer might sound something like the prayer below.

*Dear Jesus,
Help me to be brave for you. Help me to do what is pleasing to you.
Thank you for being with me.
Amen*

Extra, Extra! (Optional)

For more fun this week, try this fun online wordsearch: Go to www.friendsandheroes.tv, then click Games > Puzzles by Episode > Series 1 Puzzles > Episode 1 > Wordsearch Game

