My Bible stories – Daniel in the lions' den

This story involves a friend of God (thumbs up), some bad men (boo…), a king (crown on head), a den that was dark and damp and deep (make yourself small with hands in front of eyes) and some hungry lions that growled, roared and leaped (roar/leap)

1. A long time ago, there lived a wise king named Darius. The king had lots of helpers. One of them was called Daniel. Daniel worked so hard for the king that he got to do all of the King's important jobs.
2. But this made some of the other helpers very jealous. Three men who also worked at the palace were so jealous of Daniel that they made a plan to get rid of him.
3. Daniel's work was always perfect. He never did anything wrong. So they couldn't use that to turn king Darius against him.
4. But the men knew that Daniel prayed to his God three times a day. So they decided to make it a crime to pray to anyone other than King Darius.

If Daniel was caught praying to his God, they would be able to punish him by throwing him into the lions' den!

A den that was dark and damp and deep
With lions that growled and roared and leaped

5. The men went to King Darius and said, "Your Majesty, "You are so amazing that we want everyone to recognize that too. So why don't you pass a law that no-one should pray to anyone but you. And if anyone is caught praying to someone other than you they shall be thrown to the lions.

A den that was dark and damp and deep
With lions that growled and roared and leaped

6. And King Darius signed the papers, not realising what it would mean. But Daniel's enemies laughed "We've got him now!".
7. That night, Daniel prayed to his God, as he always did. The enemies were watching… but Daniel had no idea he was being spied on.
8. The men went straight to the King and told him what they had seen. The king was sad, very sad. He liked Daniel. But he could not break his own law. King Darius realised that Daniel must be punished for praying to someone else other than him. What else could he do?
9. Daniel was still deep in prayer when three guards crashed into his room, shouting, "By praying to your God you have broken the King's law. Your punishment is to be thrown to the lions."

   A den that was dark and damp and deep
   With lions that growled and roared and leaped
10. The guards tied Daniel's hands and marched him straight to the palace.

11. As he stood before Darius, Daniel realised that his King was in despair. The King had tried everything he could think of to get the law changed, but it was no good. Daniel was doomed. “I hope your God will protect you,” whispered the King.
12. Daniel could hear the distant roar of hungry lions!

    A den that was dark and damp and deep

    With lions that growled and roared and leaped
13. King Darius sighed. “Throw him into the lions’ den!”
    a. So the guards led Daniel to the edge of the den. Daniel looked into the darkness below, and took a deep breath. Then the guards lowered him down
14. Into the lions’ den.

    A den that was dark and damp and deep

    With lions that growled and roared and leaped

    Daniel landed with a thud and looked up at the small circle of light far above him.

    A growl came out of the shadows. A huge stone was rolled over the roof of the pit. And everything went black.
15. That night, King Darius couldn’t sleep. He was tossing and turning in bed and couldn’t stop thinking of poor Daniel in the lions’ den.

    A den that was dark and damp and deep

    With lions that growled and roared and leaped

    The next morning, the king rushed back to the lions’ den. Using all of his strength, the King rolled back the heavy stone that covered the pit, and cried, “Daniel, has your God saved you from the lions?”

    There was silence.
16. Then suddenly, he heard Daniel’s voice beneath him! “God sent an angel to close the mouths of the lions! They did not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong!” shouted Daniel.

    The King cheered and shouted “Pull Daniel out because God has kept him safe” And while you’re at it, take the three men that talked me into that silly law and dump them into the pit instead.

    So they threw the bad men in the den that was dark and damp and deep.

    With lions that growled and roared and leaped.
17. King Darius made a new law, telling his people, “Daniel’s God is great, and everyone in my kingdom must pray to this God alone, who rescued Daniel from the lions’ den.”

And the lions enjoyed their breakfast…..