

## SENDING

*Song:* SJ 73 *The Lord lift you up*

***Benediction:***

Go with the assurance of God's strength as you stand firm on the foundation of Jesus Christ in all you experience this week.

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Session Twelve

# Daniel



*Text:* Daniel 6

*Focus statement:* Trust that God is with us.

*Visuals:* A lit lantern or candle almost hidden by rocks

## GATHERING

*Welcome*

*Call to worship:* Psalm 56: 3-4, 9-11

*Prayer:*

This morning, Lord, as we worship you, we release our fears. We want to focus our eyes on you, not all the things that are pulling at us. Help us to experience you in a fresh and powerful way as we take another step in trusting you. We praise your name.

## PRAISING

*Song suggestions:*

*Praise song:* *Forever* by Chris Tomlin ([www.frequencyworship.com](http://www.frequencyworship.com))

HWB 59 *Sing praise to God who reigns*

SJ 97 *The Lord is my light*

HWB 576 *If you but trust in God*

## OFFERING

## LISTENING TO GOD

*Children's time:*

Invite the children to tell you the story of Daniel in the lion's den, or read it from a children's Bible story book. Talk about Daniel's need to trust that God was with him when he was really afraid. Read the story,

“Embraced by God” in *Plant a Seed for Peace* by Rebecca Seiling (Herald Press) about the actions of Hedy Sawadsky, a member of Christian Peacemaker Teams.

**Song:** Gather 'Round CD *Didn't my God deliver Daniel* or SJ 105 *Don't be afraid*

**Scripture reading:** Daniel 6 “Fun Bible Skits 1,” or the reader’s theater found in *Connect* p. 124

**Sermon seeds:** (See *Connect* and *Youth* for additional inspiration.)

The setting has shifted since chapter 3 of Daniel. Daniel is now in the Persian court after the capture of Babylon. He remains faithful to God and trusts that God is with him. How do we know when God is with us? What are some everyday activities that require trust? Arrange with someone ahead of time to do a trust fall with you. (One of you falls and is caught by the other.) Refer to powerful images in Isaiah 43:1-3a.

Daniel knew from previous experiences that God was with him in scary times. What are the “lions” that may devour us and therefore challenge us to trust God? Lions represented power and authority. Has the desire for power and money ever overtaken us? When we lack power and money, can we still trust God?

## RESPONDING TO GOD

**Song of response:** SJ 103 *Why should I feel discouraged*

*Prayers of the people*

## SENDING

**Song:** HWB 585 *In your sickness*

**Benediction:** *Words for Worship*, 285 or Isaiah 26:3-4

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Session Thirteen

# Queen Esther



**Text:** Esther 2-7, 9:24-32

**Focus statement:** Speak up for others.

**Visuals:** Balance scales, tiara

## GATHERING

*Welcome*

**Call to worship:** *Words for Worship* 2, 31

**Prayer:** SJ 123