

June 8, 1997

4's, 5's & K

The Most High God Has the Best Plan!

Daniel 6

3DAN39PK

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Daniel*

The Principle - *The Most High God has the best plan for all people.*

The People - *Israelites living in exile around Babylon*

God's Attribute - *God is the Most High Ruler.*

Aim Questions:


1. What are the names of our prophet and his three friends? (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)
2. What job did King Darius want to give Daniel because Daniel was so trustworthy in all he did? (He became the third highest ruler of the whole Babylonian kingdom.)
3. What did Daniel's jealous co-workers do to hurt him? (They got King Darius to make a law that required everyone to pray only to him for thirty days.)
4. Did Daniel pray to King Darius? (No) What did Daniel do? (He prayed to the Most High God three times a day as usual.)
5. What scary thing happened to Daniel because he obeyed God and prayed? (The king had to have him thrown into the lions' den.)
6. Did God save Daniel from the lions? (Yes) What did King Darius say about Daniel's God? (He is the living God whose kingdom lives forever. He made a law for everyone in his kingdom to honor and show reverence to Daniel's God.)
7. Do you show your trust in the living God by praying? Are you being diligent like Daniel in your work at home?


 Hook:

Lions! Lions! Lions!: Have several National Geographic magazines or other nature magazines that have pictures of lions. If possible, take the pages with pictures of lions out of the magazine and tape them around the room on the walls. Show the lions eating, playing, hunting, with their cubs, and doing as many different activities as possible. Together with the class, take a jungle safari. You can pretend that you have to hide behind chairs to look at the lions. Discuss what the lions are doing in each picture. Ask the children if they know what a lion eats. How much? Where does it live? Would they be afraid of one? Look through an encyclopedia before class so that you will know some interesting facts about lions.

Lion Sounds: Listen to a CD of sound effects. Try to identify the sounds of animals together. Make sure there is a roar of a lion on it. Imitate some of the sounds together. Then, ask the children what animal they think is going to be in the Bible Adventure today.

Daniel Review: Again, bring out the objects that you have used to symbolize each week's lesson (vegetable, pillow, match, pen or pencil). See which child can remember the most lessons using the objects as cues. This week, show them a stuffed animal lion and tell them that this "king of the jungle" is going to be an important part of the lesson today.




 **Law of the Medes and Persians:** At the beginning of class, read an official sounding "law" from an official looking scroll. This is the "Law of the Medes and Persians." The law can be anything you want it to be. It could be a reminder of a class rule that the children have been violating, such as talking during the Bible Adventure. The teacher could stand straight and tall, reading from the "Law," saying, "Hear ye! Hear ye! The Law of the Medes and Persians says that for one hour no one can talk while the teacher is talking. Anyone who talks will go to the lions' den." The den can be a designated spot where a teacher is sitting. All those who stay out of the den all morning will receive a surprise.

 **Signet Rings Center: (3DAN39ECGF11)** Make signet rings by weaving a pipe cleaner through a GF11 circle and twisting both ends of the pipe cleaner together to make a ring. Throughout the morning, the children can hold up their rings whenever King Darius of the Mede and Persian kingdom is mentioned. The Medes and Persians were the most powerful people on the earth because God had it planned that way. He told King Nebuchadnezzar in the dream that it would happen like that.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

-  Show pictures 3DAN39ECGF1, 3DAN39ECGF2 and 3DAN39ECGF3 as you tell the Bible Adventure.
-  Two teachers can have a discussion about a job they need to have done at home and who might do a good job for them. They could talk about yard work, painting or cleaning the garage, etc., and mention what kind of work they would like to have done.
-  Have the children hold up their Medes and Persians signet rings when you talk about the Law of the Medes and Persians. They can pretend to place a wax seal on the stone over the lions' den.

Bible Adventure -

Review: (*Sing a song about the Most High God and show a picture of Daniel and his friends.*) Who remembers the names of Daniel's friends? Why did Daniel and his friends grow strong and wise? They obeyed God's Word even when no one was watching. (*Show the picture of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream.*) Who is the only one who knows what you are thinking and knows what will happen tomorrow? (*Show the picture of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace.*) Why did these men get thrown into the fire? They obeyed God and would not worship a statue. (*Show King Belshazzar looking at the hand writing on the wall.*) Did King Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar, believe in Daniel's God? He had heard his father talk about God's power, like you are hearing about God's power, but he didn't want to love and obey the one true God. Belshazzar liked idols and beautiful things. He loved parties and he liked his own way. God took the Babylonian kingdom away from King Belshazzar. (*Show King Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the gold head and the silver chest and arms.*) Darius of the Medo-Persian kingdom smashed the Babylonian kingdom like the golden head was smashed in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Darius took over as king of the Babylonians.

(Two teachers can have a discussion about a job they need to have done at home and who might do a good job for them. They could talk about yard work, painting or cleaning the garage, etc., and mention what kind of work they would like to have done.)

King Darius needed men he could trust to help him rule the Babylonian people. He wanted the best workers. He sat at his desk and thought for a long time about who would be the best people to do the hard job of ruling the people. Finally he chose three men. He called them "administrators." One of the administrators he chose was Daniel. Remember, Daniel had worked for King Belshazzar as the third highest ruler and had done a great job. Now Daniel was eighty years old and he could do a good job for King Darius as top leader over the Babylonians.

Have you every heard of the word "diligent"? Do you know what it means? The Bible says Daniel was diligent. Have your parents ever told you that you were diligent? Diligence means that you do what is

right without being told. (*Show the GF1 picture.*) Daniel didn't wait for someone to tell him what to do. He didn't wait for someone to make him do something. Daniel did his best job no matter who was watching. He was never selfish or lazy. He never tried to figure out a way of getting someone else to do his work. You never heard him complaining about a job to be done. Daniel was trustworthy, faithfully doing his best for the Most High God. Daniel prayed to God for wisdom and then gave all his energy to caring for the people under his authority. Daniel did the best job he knew how to do. He was diligent.

If you were diligent, what would you act like at home? What would you be doing with a smile on your face rather than being crabby and complaining? Have you ever said, "Why do I have to do that? Do I have to do that now? I don't want to clean my room!" What would diligent Daniel do if he lived in your home? Have you ever cleaned your room before you were asked to do it? Do you wash your hands before a meal without being asked? Do you buckle up in the car without being asked? Do you put your helmet on before you ride your bike? Do you tell your friend you are sorry you hit him before your parents tell you to do that? What would you be like if you were diligent like Daniel?

The word got out that Daniel was going to be the new administrator, the top job in the kingdom. Some of the other guys were jealous of Daniel. They didn't like a foreigner, an Israelite, ruling over them. They wanted to find a way to make Daniel look bad so King Darius would not give him the top job in Babylon. Those guys started watching Daniel every minute to see if he was lazy and sitting around when he should have been working. They watched to see if he took extra breaks or left work early. They watched to see if he partied at night and got drunk. They tried to give him money to make him change his mind about a decision. Daniel wouldn't take a bribe or do anything wrong. Daniel was trustworthy every day. He was diligent all day long. Three times a day, Daniel got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God. He thanked God for being trustworthy and for helping him take care of the people. He asked God for wisdom to know how to do a good job and be a good ruler for the people.

The jealous co-workers couldn't find Daniel doing anything wrong at any time. They met together and decided to try to catch him doing a good thing! They went to the king with their new plan. They said, "We have all agreed that you should issue a law that requires everyone to pray only to you for thirty days. Anyone who prays to any god or man except you for thirty days will be thrown into the lions' den." King Darius thought it was a good idea so he wrote it down on paper so it couldn't be changed. Even the king could not change the law of the Medes and Persians once it was written down.

(*Show the GF2 picture.*) Some of the administrators began watching Daniel's home. They saw Daniel on his knees in his room praying three times a day just like he had always done. That was what they wanted to see! They ran to the king as fast as their legs would take them to the king. "Daniel broke the law of the Medes and Persians," they shouted, breathlessly. "We saw him bow down to his God. You have to throw him in the lions' den!" King Darius listened but he was upset. He like Daniel a lot. He knew what a diligent and trustworthy leader he was. He knew the Babylonian administrators had trapped him. The king hung his head and agreed because he knew he had to keep his own law. He said to his guards, "Lower Daniel into the lions' den." Then he turned to Daniel and said, "I hope your God rescues you!"

King Darius couldn't sleep a wink that night. He didn't eat or drink anything all night. He was very upset about Daniel going to the lions' den. As soon as the sun began shining, King Darius jumped out of bed and hurried to the lions' den. He called to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God been able to rescue you from the lions?" Do you think the Most High God could rescue Daniel from hungry lions? Daniel's voice came back to the king loud and clear. He said, "My God sent his angel and shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me." The king got a big grin on his face. He was so happy. He gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. There were no teeth marks on him anywhere because Daniel had trusted and obeyed the Most High God.

God is powerful and we can trust Him to be with us wherever we are. God was with Daniel's friends in the furnace. God was with Daniel in the lions' den. God is with you when you sleep at night, when you play with your friends, when you work at home cleaning your room, and when you get lost at the store. God cares about you and is always with you to help you.

King Darius ordered his men to throw those jealous administrators and workers in the lions' den, along with their families. The lions were hungry and ate them right up. Then King Darius wrote down a law that could not be changed. What do you think he wrote on paper this time? He said, "Everyone in my

kingdom must honor, fear and revere the God of Daniel. He is a living God and his kingdom lives forever. He is the powerful God who rescues and saves.”

Isn't that a wonderful story? We can trust the living God who has power over all kings in all kingdoms. God is the Most High King and His kingdom lasts forever. He has the best plan for us. I trust Him to watch over me. Daniel prayed to the Most High God and I can pray to the same Most High God.

Prayer: Most High God, You are the only living God. You are wise and powerful and Your plan is the best plan for me. You promise to be with me every day. Help me to be diligent and trustworthy to do my best job. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:



Numbered Spoons Review: Put numbers on plastic spoons and place them on the floor in the center of the circle of children. Play music and have the children walk slowly around the circle. When the music stops have each child pick up a spoon. Then pull a number from a box or hat and have the child with that number of spoon answer an Aim Question. Continue until all questions have been answered.



Doing our Best at School: (3DAN39ECGF5) Together look at an enlarged GF5 picture. Point to each student and ask what they are doing and if they are being good and doing their best. “Would God be pleased with their behavior?” On the children who are misbehaving, have one child come to the picture and draw an “X” over the child, showing that we would want to get rid of that behavior.



Lion Match: (3DAN39ECGF9 & 3DAN39ECGF10) On these two pages there are different sized lions. Cut out the boxes with the lions of different sizes. Then, cut each lion into two pieces--a head and a body. Randomly distribute pictures of the heads and bodies to the children, making sure when you are giving them out that each head will have a matching body. Tell the children that they have to make a complete lion by finding the missing part of the body. Another child should have the missing part of the body, but remind them that all the lions are different sizes so that there is only one piece that will fit with theirs. Also, tell them that they have to find their match while making absolutely no sound! As soon as they have found their match, they can make a lion roar. The children tape the pieces together and attach it to a butcher paper on the wall. The butcher paper will be full of lions. Keep it on the wall throughout the week.



Lions' Den Coloring Picture: (3DAN39ECGF3) As the children are coloring their picture, encourage them to retell the Bible Adventure. “Why was Daniel put in the lions' den? Who kept him safe,” etc. Make sure the children know that Daniel was being punished for doing everything right. The Most High God can do anything and shut the lions' mouths. The children can glue their own small GF9 lion to the den of lions.



Lion's Den: Have the children stand in a circle. Choose one child to be “Daniel” who will stand in the center of the circle with his eyes closed. Have Daniel, eyes still closed, turn around several times, stop, and point to someone in the circle. Encourage that child to roar and snarl like a lion. Then give Daniel two chances to guess who the “ferocious” lion is. For the next round, have the child who roared become the new Daniel. Play until each child has been Daniel.





Daniel, the Lions are Coming!: Choose one child to be “Daniel.” Have Daniel stand on the far side of the room with his back turned to the rest of the class. Have the other children pretend to be lions. They will quietly creep up and try to touch Daniel before Daniel hears them. If Daniel hears a noise, he will turn around and point to the lion who made the noise. If Daniel guesses correctly, that lion must go back to the starting place. The first lion to touch Daniel gets a big hug from him and becomes the next Daniel. Continue this game until several children have been Daniel.




Pin the Teeth on the Lion!: (3DAN39ECGF7) Tape an enlarged GF7 picture on the wall at a height the children can reach. Have each child tear out a “tooth” from a white piece of paper (no bigger than an inch) and put a piece of tape on the back of each tooth. Have each child take turns being blindfolded and trying to tape his tooth closest to the lion's mouth.

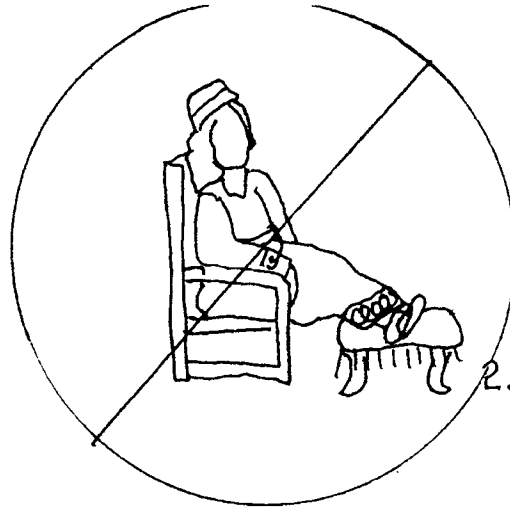
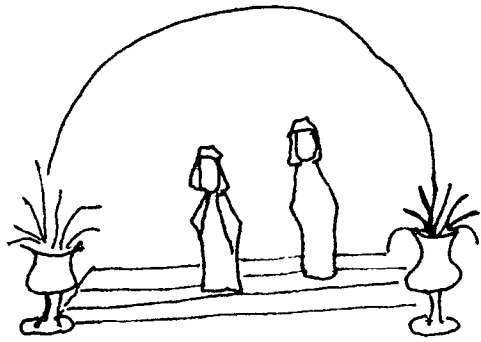
the children a “Most High God” GF6 sticker, reminding them that it was God who saved Daniel from the lions. (The GF6 sticker page is spaced so that it can be copied on 1” x 2 5/8” Laser Labels.)

 Read **Daniel in the Dangerous Den** by Carol Greene (Concordia Publishing House) or **I’ll Pray Anyway** by Marilyn Lashbrook (Roper Press). These small books have good pictures that tell the story of Daniel. In the Carol Greene book, show only the picture pages so the children don’t get distracted by the green lizard. Request the books from the Children’s Department. Read the same book during Hook time next week as a review.

 **The Most High God:** First discuss that Daniel always tried to do the best job he could, and he had been rewarded for it. Ask the children what had happened to Daniel. “He was given a lot of power and gifts. However, when the king said that he could no longer pray to his God, Daniel could not follow this law. He had to pray to God! If your teacher told you to take your best friend’s toy and break it, would you? No, God would not want you to!” In this game, the teacher will read several action statements and if it is an action that would be pleasing to God, have the children stand up quickly and wave their hands in the air. Say, “I would do it for the Most High God!” If it is an action that would not please God, tell the children they should sit down and bow their heads.

- 1) Pray every morning and night.
 - 2) Stop my little brother or sister from playing with my toys.
 - 3) Listen to Bible stories.
 - 4) Hit one of my friends when I get mad.
 - 5) Give my mom and dad a hug.
 - 6) Go to church.
 - 7) Throw a snowball at someone.
- (You can make up as many more as you like.)

 **Potato Signet Ring Seals:** The Persian king, Darius, had a ring with which he placed a wax seal on important papers to make sure no one disobeyed or changed the rule. The children can make stamps from small potato halves, pretending that they are the king’s seal that was put on the stone over the lions’ den. The children can cut out any simple design such as a heart or cross. (A simple alternative would be to have several pre-made heart and cross stamps.) The children can use ink pads and paper to place their stamp of approval. The Most High God places His stamp of approval on our hearts when the Lord Jesus comes to live there. Nothing can ever change God’s love for us. No one can take it away if we have the seal of God’s Spirit.

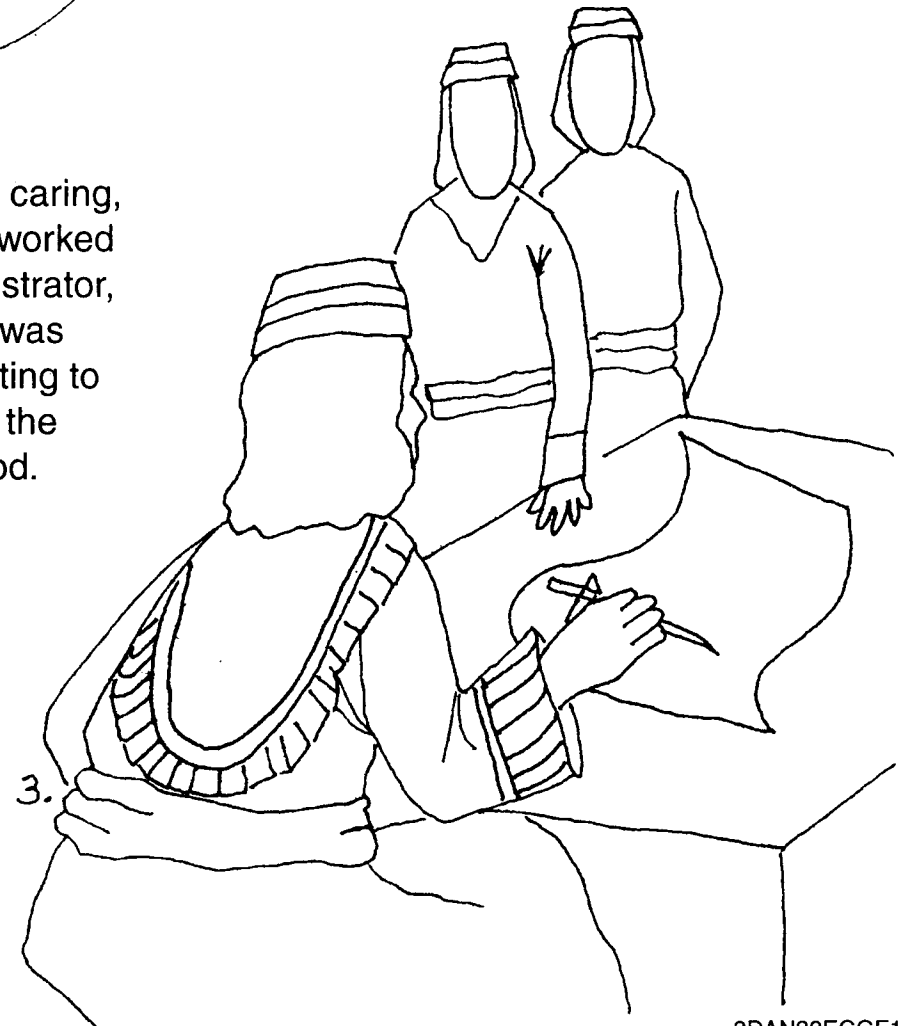


Daniel was not lazy or selfish. He cared more about what he gave to others than what he received for himself.

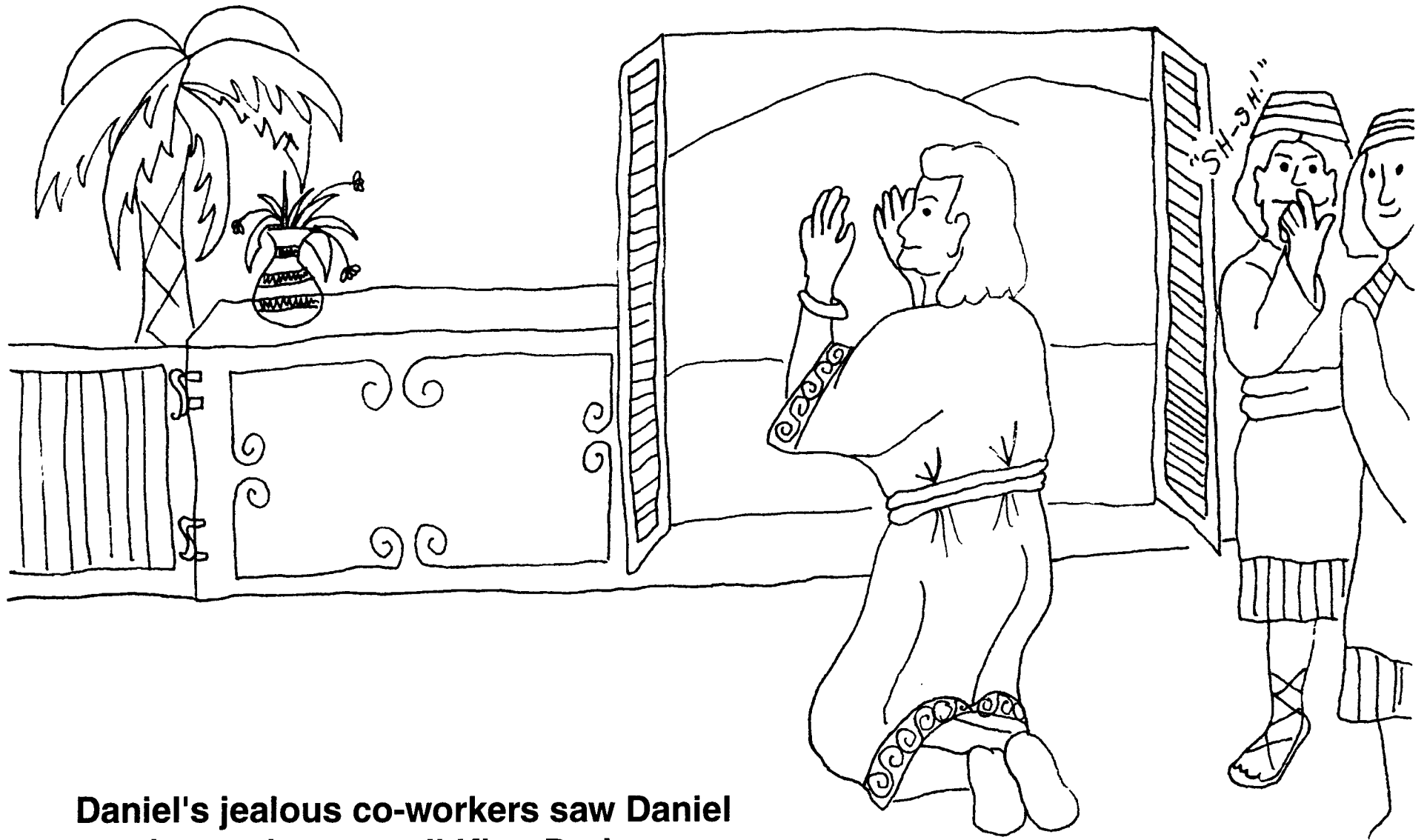
Jealous co-workers thought of a plan to harm Daniel. They talked King Darius into signing a law that said everyone must pray to the king only for thirty days.



Daniel was a kind, caring, good worker. He worked hard as an administrator, doing what he was asked to do, wanting to do his best for the Most High God.



Daniel bowed and prayed to the Most High God three times a day, as usual.



Daniel's jealous co-workers saw Daniel praying and ran to tell King Darius.



3DAN39ECGF3

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions."

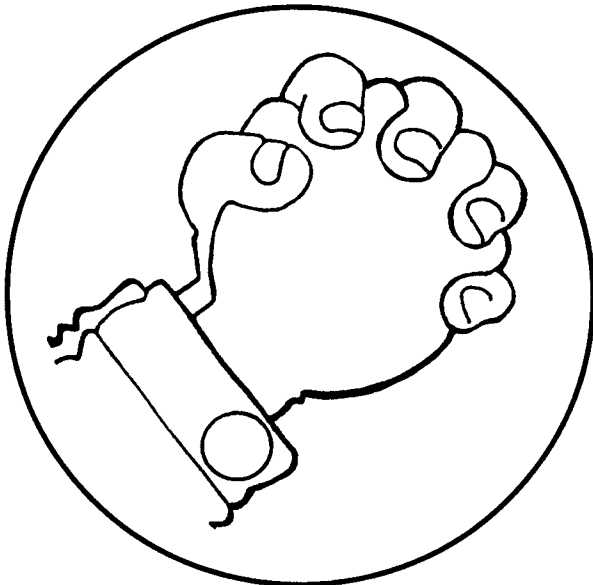
Trusting God Door Hanger

Cut around the black line of the door hanger.

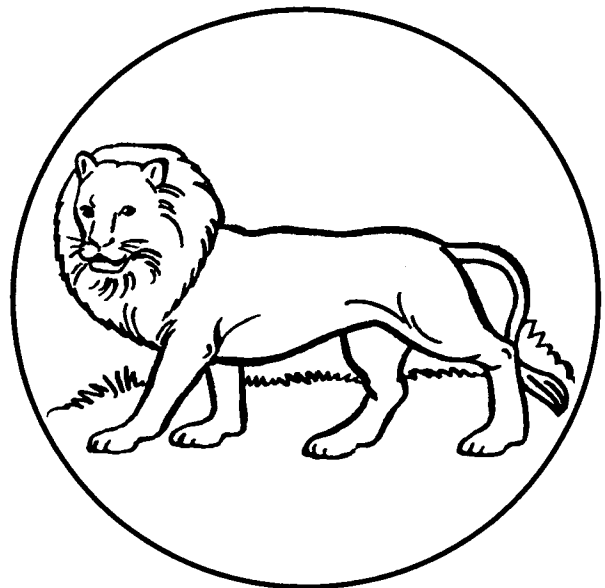
Carefully cut the small dotted line and around the circle to which it is attached. Show the children how they can hang the door hanger on the door.

Cut out the extra circle and attach it to the back of the hanger, now there is a picture on both sides!

I am

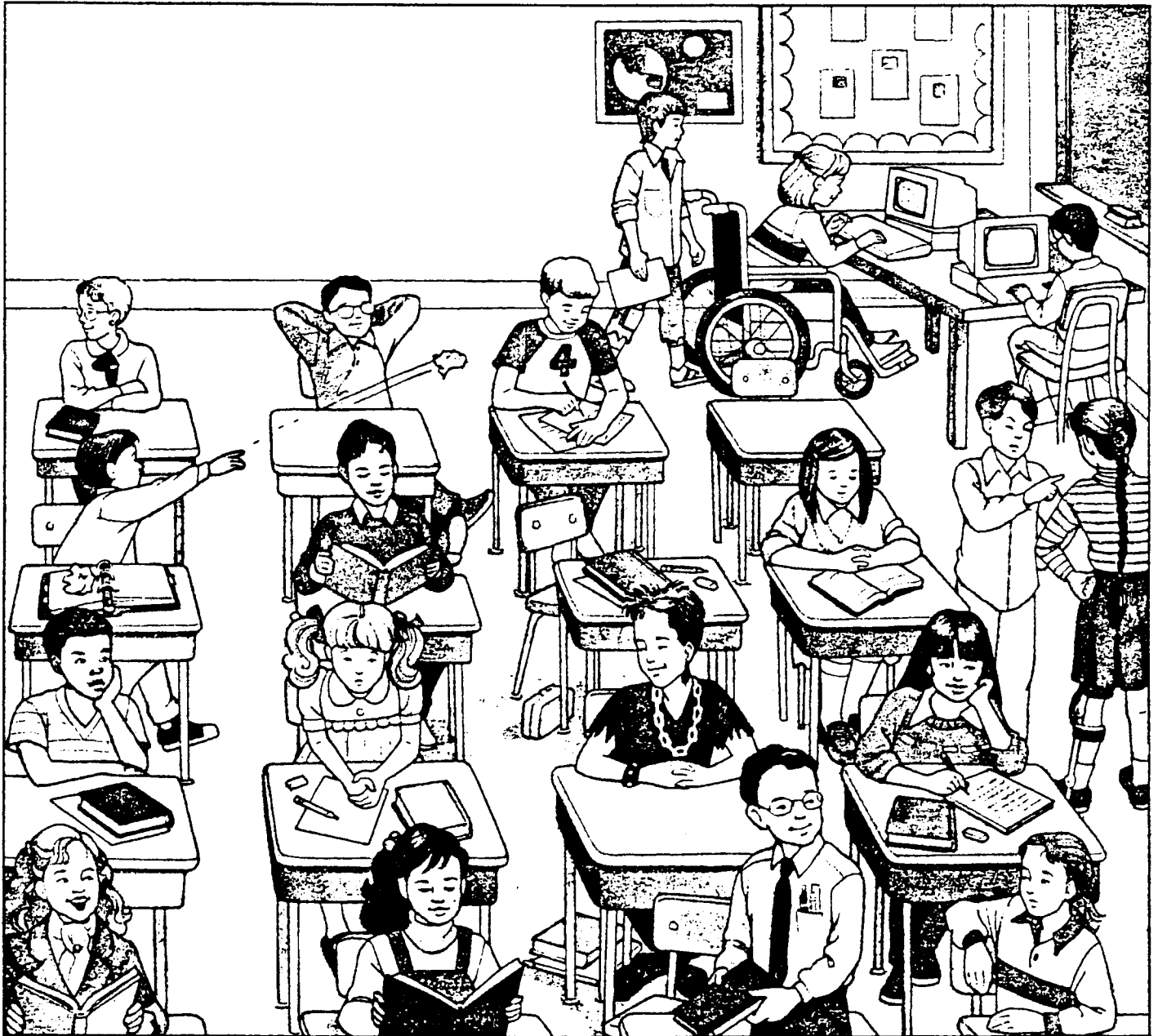


***Trusting
God***



Daniel was a good worker for King Darius.

***Circle the children who are being good workers in school.
Put an "x" across the children who
are not doing their best work.***



Most High God

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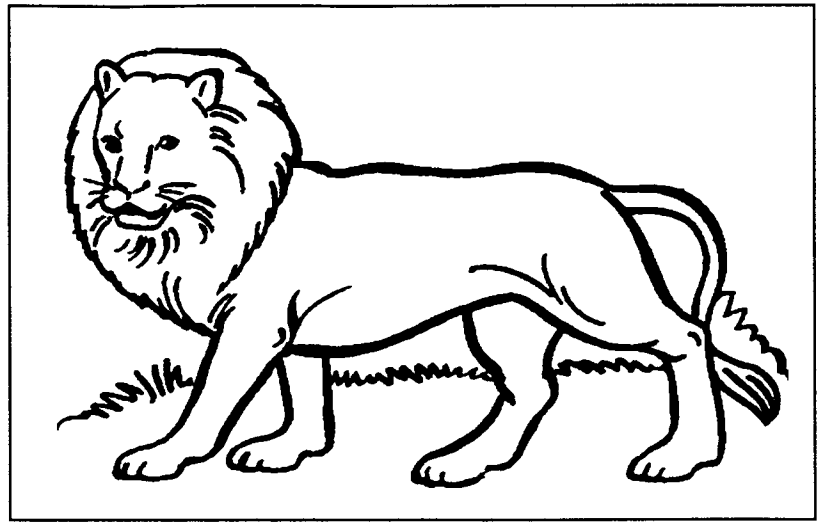
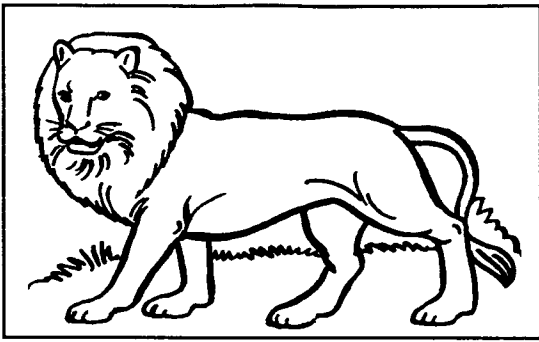
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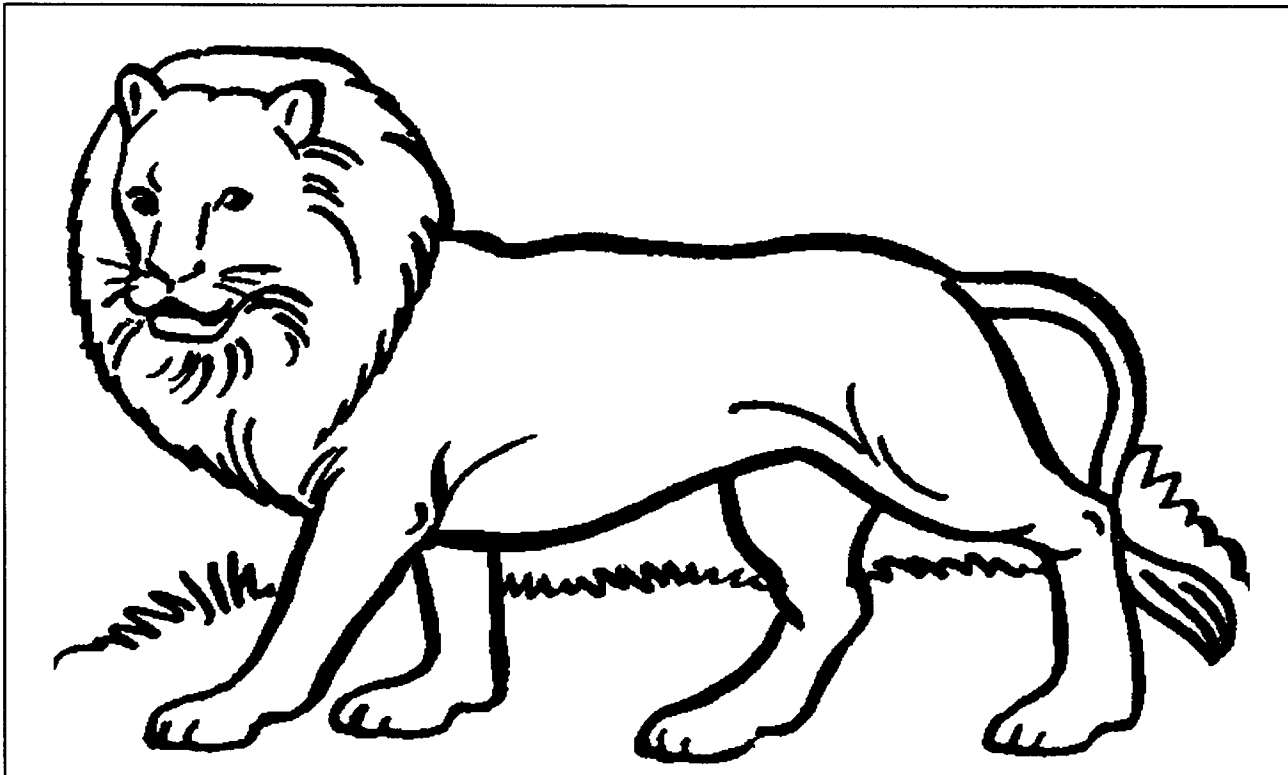
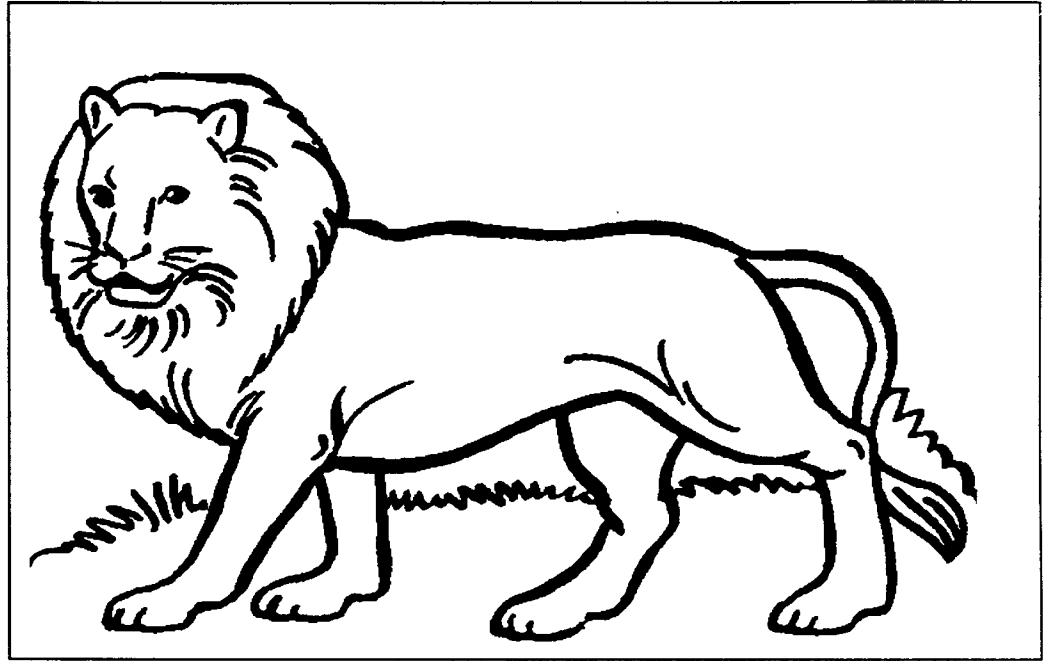


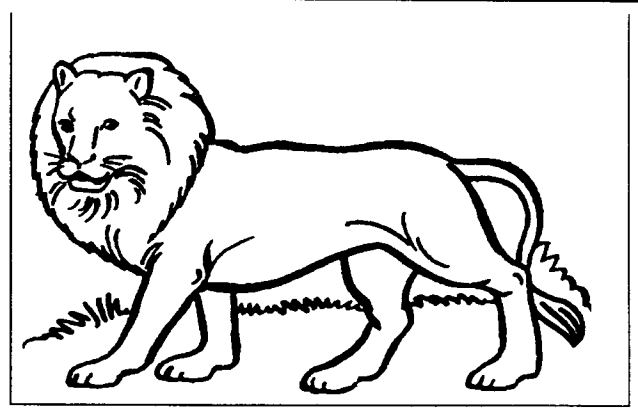
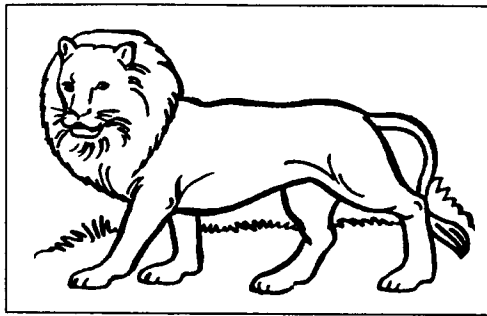
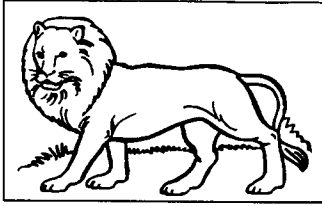


Lion Match

Page 1

Copy the lions on cardstock. Cut each lion in half and give a half to each child. Let them find a match by comparing sizes. When the children find a match, they can sit on the floor, growling like a lion.

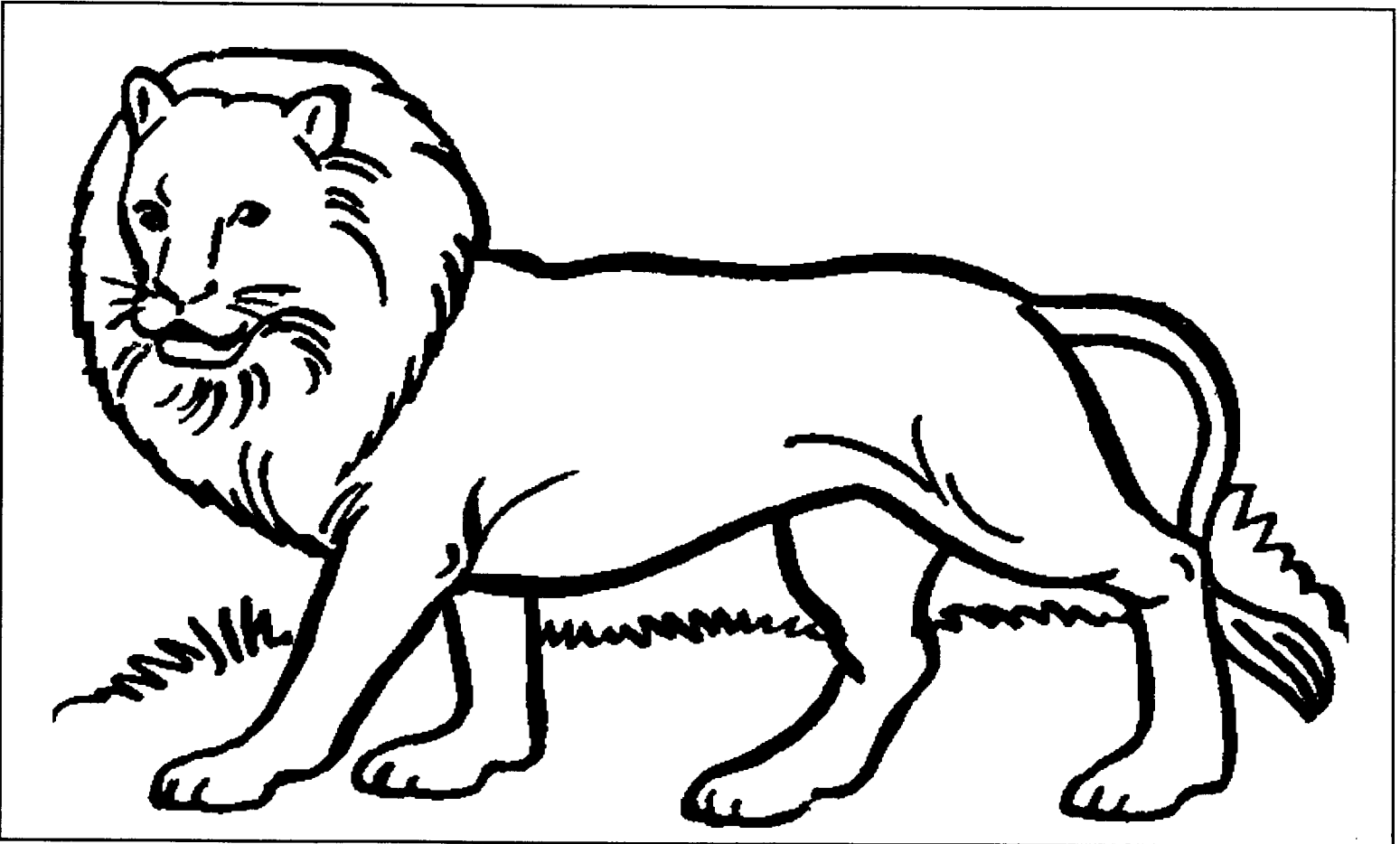
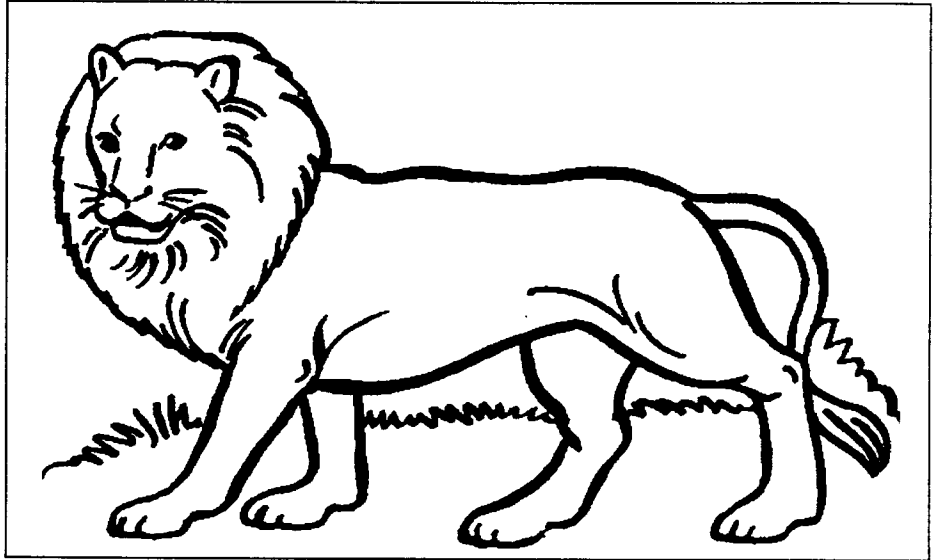




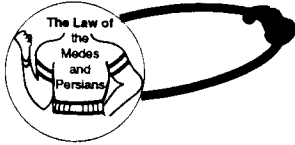
Lion Match

Page 2

Copy the lions on cardstock. Cut each lion in half and give a half to each child. Let them find a match by comparing sizes. When the children find a match, they can sit on the floor growling like a lion.



Medes & Persian Signet Rings



Copy the circles on this page on gray or beige cardstock and cut one per child.
Punch holes in both sides of the waist. Reinforce the holes on the back.
Hook a 4" pipe cleaner through the waist. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner
to make a ring that is large enough to be taken on and off the finger.

