



date

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THROUGH THE EVERYDAY
THINGS IN LIFE ...

Inspire (for parents)

Driving south down the Pacific Coast Highway in Southern California, I took in a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean. As I did, I said to my two-year-old granddaughter, "Oh, Grayson, look, isn't it beautiful?" She replied, "God did it!" Surprised and delighted, I smiled and agreed with her, "Yes, honey, you are right. God did it!"

Earlier in the week, we had been admiring the full moon. As we did, I had explained to her that God made the moon, the stars, the sun, and everything in the world. She did not respond and even acted like she didn't hear me; I chalked it up to the fact that she had only recently turned two and just didn't understand. But my granddaughter had understood. She understood that God was real and that He created everything beautiful in this world.

I often recognize that God is real through the "big" things of life—when He heals someone I love or when He gives me the perfect job I had been praying for. But it is also wonderful to be delighted when God reveals Himself through the everyday things in life: through the beauty

of the roses or the gentleness of the butterflies that float above them; through the power of the thunder in a rainstorm and the grandeur of the rainbows that follow.

I love all the ways God shows He is real to me—in the big things and the everyday things. But I'm the most delighted when He reveals Himself when my granddaughter responds to Him in ways I don't expect. In those times, she reminds me that "God did it"

by Debbie Guinn

Getting Started

Scripture: Daniel 6 (Daniel in the Lions' Den)

Main Point: God Is Real

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

Daniel knew that God is real, and as a servant of the Lord, He may have asked the question: "What needs to be done?" The answer to that question was to stand in the gap for God's people and intercede for them. In Daniel 9, we read that in the first year of the reign of Darius—the king who unwittingly sentenced Daniel to death in the lion's den—Daniel "turned to the LORD God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3).

Throughout chapter 9, we read how Daniel interceded for God's people. We read how Daniel confessed that God's people had sinned, turned away from His commands, and not listened to prophets He had sent. Daniel admitted that their captivity in Babylon was the result of God's wrath toward their sin and rebellion, as well as the fulfillment of God's own Words through His law (Daniel 9:11–12). Then we read how Daniel prayed on behalf of his people—that God would turn away from His anger and forgive them.

When we read Daniel 9, we understand better why he turned his posture toward Jerusalem, got on his knees three times a day, and prayed to God. We know Daniel was acting boldly on behalf of God's people by interceding for them. We know that, alone in his room, Daniel boldly prayed.

"[Daniel] got on his knees three times a day, and prayed to God for help."



Support

(for parents & kids)

JUST FOR FUN, this week as a family, look up information about lions. Look at their images and read facts about them. See how long they live in the wild vs. in captivity, and find out what they like to eat.

After discovering as much as you can about lions, read **Daniel 6** together, and how God saved Daniel in the lion's den. When you are finished reading this part of The Big God Story, ask your children why they think the lions did not attack Daniel. Ask them how the king responded when he realized Daniel was safe. As an act of worship, take turns rereading the decree from the king in verses 26 and 27.

Tell your children that they will learn more about God's faithfulness to Daniel in church this week. Remind them that this passage is a part of The Big God Story, and then pray together thanking God that He is real and for the many ways He shows this in our lives.