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We are currently scheduling speaking engagements. If you are interested in inviting one of our chaplains to come and share with your church, class, or community group, let us know!

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The Lion's Den

By Logan Stark

When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously (Daniel 6:10).

Would you like to spend a night in a lion's den?

This was the question I asked a chapel full of girls last month. Of course, a few of them raised their hands, even after just watching a short National Geographic clip of a pride of lions taking down a water buffalo. Personally, I wouldn't want to spend a night with the lions; however, the protagonist in our chapel talk didn't have that choice—Daniel.

Daniel is a Sunday school favorite, a man who spent a night in a lion's den and was saved by God. Yet there is more to him than that. At a young age, Daniel was ripped away from his country. When the Babylonians invaded Judah, they took Daniel away as part of their loot. He was removed from his family, his friends, his country; they even took away his name—renaming him Belshazzar. I brought up the story of Daniel to these girls, hoping he would be relatable for them. These girls are living away from their friends, their families, and their homes. Yes, they have been separated for their own safety, but separation is still painful.

Nevertheless, even though Daniel lost almost everything, two things could not be stolen from him—his character, and his God.

Years later, when Daniel is an old man, his political adversaries devise a plan to get Daniel in trouble using the worship of his God. They trick King Darius to pass a law stating that anyone who does not worship the king for thirty days will be thrown into a den of lions. Yet Daniel, knowing this law, continued to pray like he always did. Knowing what it could cost him he had the courage to continue to live out his faith. Not out of spite or rebelliousness but because he had a genuine relationship with his God.

Of course, Daniel was caught and thrown into the lion's den. Even though he was doing the right thing and worshipping the Almighty, God still allowed him to spend a night with the lions. God also closed the mouths of those lions and rescued Daniel from being eaten, but He didn't prevent Daniel from spending a night with them. God allowed Daniel to still face the lions and endure his trial, just as He allows us today to face our lions and our trials, but never alone. Even though He allowed Daniel to face the lions, God was also in that den with him.

We ended the chapel talk with a clip from *The Lion King*, and a few of the girls rocked out to "Hakuna Matata" before Pastor Jon closed us out in prayer. Then, something pretty amazing happened.

As the girls were lining up to return to their cottage, one of them approached Pastor Jon and asked him, "Can I have a Bible?" I couldn't believe it.

Just a few months ago, when I made a visit to their cottage and first met this girl, she freaked out when she found out that I was a chaplain and made it pretty clear that she would never go to church. Yet, this talk on Daniel was the second chapel which she had voluntarily attended, and she was now asking for a Bible.

God works in mysterious ways, from closing the mouths of lions to working on the hearts of girls. Who knows what will happen next in this girl's journey, but I'm excited to watch and to see what God has in store for her.