



Black History School

God's Glory...Our Story

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying the similarities between selected passages from the Book of Daniel with certain aspects of Black History, we will discover the transformative influence we can have in the world today.

Lesson Aim:

To inspire participants to embrace bravery through prayer in the face of challenges and stand firm in their faith.

Being Brave

Daniel 6:3-23

³ Now Daniel so distinguished himself among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent. ⁵ Finally these men said, "We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God." ⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: "May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den. ⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ⁹ So King Darius put the decree in writing. ¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹ Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹² So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?" The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed." ¹³ Then they said to the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."

¹⁴ When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. ¹⁵ Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, "Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed." ¹⁶ So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!" ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸ Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. ¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹ Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²² My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty." ²³ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Discussion:

In the captivating story of Daniel 6:3-23, we witness a remarkable show of courage through prayer in the face of tough challenges. Daniel's unwavering dedication to his faith becomes even more profound when we consider God's promise concerning prayer in Matthew 6:6. In this verse, Jesus emphasizes the importance of praying to God, our Father, in secret and assures us that God, who sees in secret, will reward us openly. This promise echoes throughout Daniel's story as he continues to pray openly every day, despite the decree that opposes his religious practices. Daniel's bravery is grounded not only in his commitment to God but also in the assurance that God sees and rewards the sincerity of his secret prayers.

The story unfolds with Daniel facing a rule concocted by his rivals who exploited King Darius' jealousy. Similar to challenges we may encounter when someone tries to hinder us because of our beliefs, Daniel's response becomes a powerful lesson in holding onto to our beliefs. His bravery reflects the resilience that comes from knowing that our secret conversations with God, even when faced with external opposition, are seen and honored by our Heavenly Father.

The most thrilling part of Daniel's narrative is when he is thrown into a den of lions due to his refusal to follow the king's rule against prayer. The miraculous intervention, where God keeps Daniel safe and the lions do not harm him, reinforces the connection between bravery, faith, and prayer. It serves as a tangible demonstration that when we stay true to our faith and are brave in our commitment to God, God rewards us openly, just as Jesus promised in Matthew 6:6. This captivating adventure of Daniel thus becomes a living example of courage through prayer and the incredible outcomes that unfold when we remain steadfast in our beliefs.

Black History Parallel – 1963 Civil Rights Children's Crusade:

Both Daniel 6:3-23 and the *Children's Crusade* in Birmingham, Alabama during the *Civil Rights Movement* share a powerful theme of **Being Brave**. We see Daniel's unwavering bravery as he defies King Darius's decree and continues to pray, despite the consequence of being thrown into a den of lions. Similarly, during the Children's Crusade, young activists displayed immense courage in the face of adversity by challenging segregation laws. Just as Daniel faced persecution for his beliefs, these young crusaders (many of them teenagers) confronted violence, arrests, and harsh treatment as they bravely marched for racial equality. The parallels lie in the resolute determination of Daniel and the young activists to stand up for what they believed was right.

The *Children's Crusade* of the *Civil Rights Movement* was a special and courageous time in history when many children, tweens and teens, just like you, played an important role in making the world a better place. This happened in 1963, when organizers of the movement determined that adults could not afford to go to jail and African American children decided to stand up for their rights. Just like their parents, they wanted to be treated fairly and to have the same opportunities as their white counterparts. These brave kids, some as young as six years old, wanted to end segregation. They joined peaceful protests and marches, holding signs that said, "I Am a Child" to show that they deserved to be treated with kindness and respect. During the Civil Rights Movement, protests were always preceded by prayer. This spiritual grounding, much like Daniel's reliance on prayer, served as a source of strength and courage. It became a demonstration of faith in action, as these young activists faced adversity with a resolute belief that God was on their side in the fight for justice and equality.

The world watched as these young heroes and heroines faced such challenges as being arrested, attacked by police dogs, and sprayed with fire hoses by people who opposed desegregation. But their bravery and determination helped bring attention to the importance of treating everyone equally. Thanks to the *Children's Crusade*, important laws were eventually passed to make sure everyone could go to the same schools, use the same facilities, and be treated fairly, no matter their skin color. The Birmingham *Children's Crusade* is a story of little kids making a big difference.

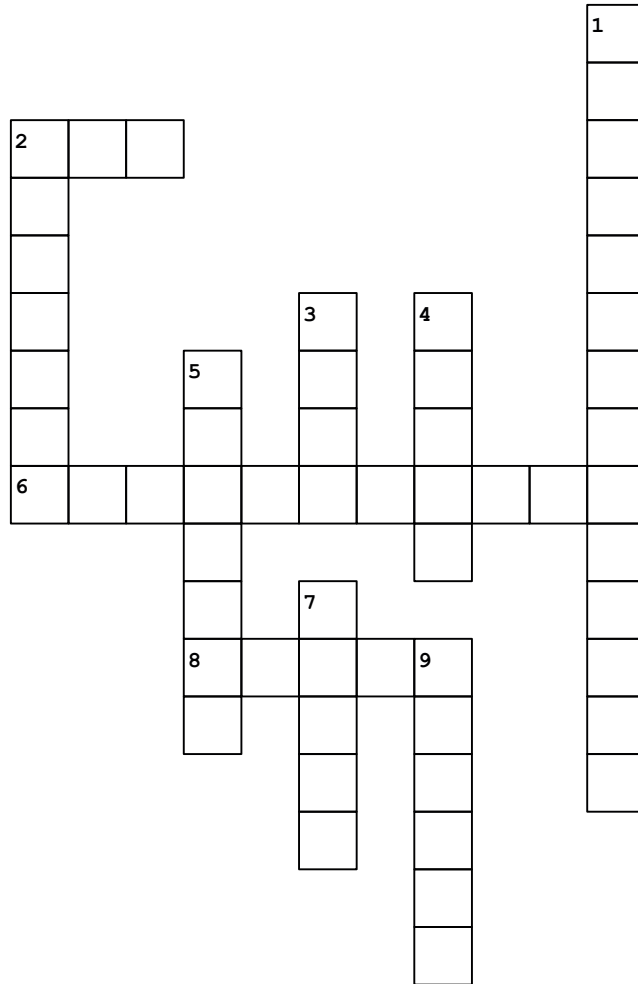


(<https://www.history.com/news/childrens-crusade-birmingham-civil-rights> - photo)

Showcase Your Skills – Crossword Puzzle:

Children's Crusade and The Book of Daniel

1963 Children's Crusade and Daniel 3



Across

2. Month in 1963 when the Children's Crusade occurred
6. The Children's Crusade aimed to end _____ in public places
8. These young activists carried signs that said, "I Am a _____"

Down

1. Babylonian king who commanded the golden statue in Daniel 3
2. Type of peaceful protests the children participated in
3. Who said "Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children."
4. Age group of the young activists in the Children's Crusade
5. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into a fiery _____
7. The Children's Crusade was part of the broader _____ Rights Movement
9. Biblical book where you can find the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego