God’s helping hand

Daniel was a long, long, long way away from home.

He worked for King Darius and the king really, really, really liked him.

But no-one else did.

The king’s other friends wanted to be the king’s favourite.

The king’s other friends wanted the king to stop liking Daniel.

But Daniel was so good and kind and clever; they couldn’t find any reason for the king not to like him.

This made the kings other friends very cross

 So they decided to play a mean and nasty trick.

They knew that Daniel would talk to God 3 times a day, everyday.

Daniel and God were best friends.

That was a good thing, not a bad thing

 But the king’s other friends decided to trick the king into thinking it was a bad thing.

“O great king” they said “O marvellous, wonderful, excellent king. Nobody is as marvellous, wonderful or excellent as you. We think that you are so marvellous, wonderful and excellent that for 30 days no-one should be able to ask anyone for anything unless they are asking you”

“That’s a great idea!” shouted King Darius “Anyone caught asking anyone else for anything at all will be thrown into a pit of hungry lions. That’ll show everyone how marvellous, wonderful and excellent I am.”

Daniel knew this new rule was a trick.

He knew that if he talked to God, even just once,

He would be thrown onto a pit of hungry lions!

 But he also knew that God was more marvellous,

 More wonderful,

 More excellent than anybody else

 Even king Darius.

So Daniel decided to keep talking to God. Three times a day.

The king’s other friends saw Daniel talking to God.

“Ah-ha” they shouted.

They went to tell the king

“O great king” they said “Daniel doesn’t think you’re marvellous, wonderful and excellent at all –

 He thinks his God is even more marvellous,

 Even more wonderful,

 Even more excellent than you.

“Oh no!” cried King Darius “Now I’ll have to throw Daniel into a pit of hungry lions and they’ll eat him.”

“I hope your God can **rescue** you Daniel” said King Darius.

And Daniel was thrown into the pit of hungry lions – Uh oh!

King Darius worried about Daniel all night

 And in the morning he ran to the pit of hungry lions and yelled

 “Daniel! Did the lions eat you?”

“No” Daniel shouted back “God **rescued** me by shutting the lions mouths”

So the king got Daniel out of the pit of hungry lions and put the mean and nasty men in instead.

“Your God **rescued** you Daniel, he really is the most marvellous, most wonderful and most excellent of all!”