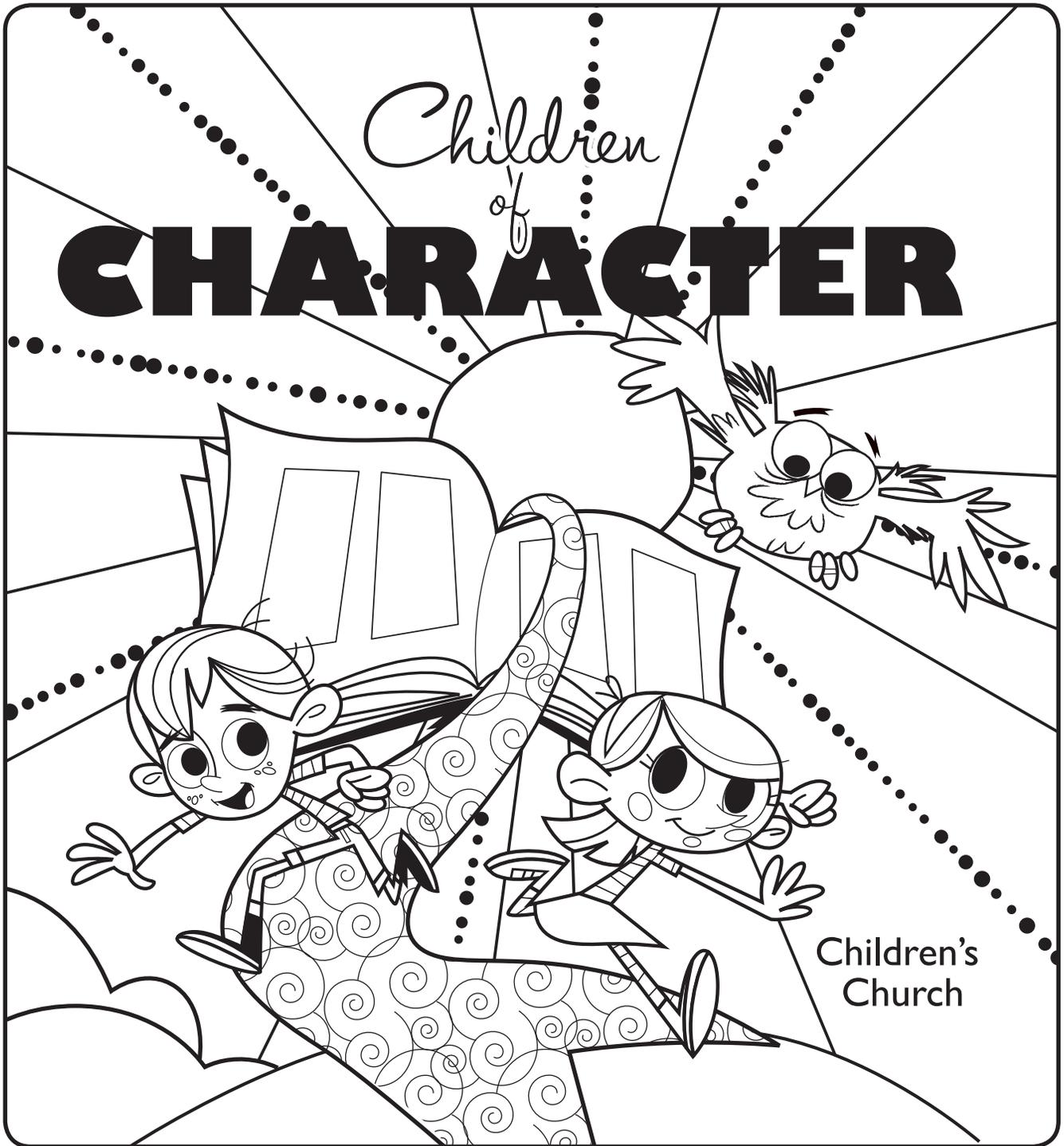


Children  
of  
**CHARACTER**



Children's  
Church

**Year Three**

# ***Children of Character***

***Year Three***

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# TO THE TEACHER

## IMPORTANT ----- PLEASE READ

### LESSONS DO'S AND DON'TS

- Do make the lessons exciting. Be enthusiastic. Keep your energy and personal interest level high.
- Do use props, visuals, vocal and bodily expression as you tell the story.
- Don't get ahead of your lesson. Some of these lessons zero in on just one life lesson. The entire story may take weeks to tell. Therefore, stick to the Life Lesson and portion of the lesson at hand. Otherwise you may overlap and tell too much of the story. Always read ahead to see where you are going in a quarter.
- Do dwell on the Life Lesson. This needs to be at the front of your mind and the focus of each lesson. Keep pointing it out to your students.

### ABOUT THESE LESSONS

#### PRAYER AND INTRODUCTION

- This is your time to set the mood and introduce the day's Life Lesson. Quiet everyone down for prayer. Prepare hearts to listen.
- Use the introduction to direct thoughts.

#### SONG TIME

- The song time should be used to quiet the children's hearts and prepare them for the lesson. Many, well meaning children's workers, think this is the time to have the children scream and yell in order to "get the wiggles out." Having them sing enthusiastically can still be reverent without having them yell at the top of their lungs.

---

- Don't sing meaningless, nonsense songs. You can use both old and new songs. If you can find songs to fit the day's theme, great! You can spend time teaching them hymns and what the words mean. Some of the supporting stories are hymn histories. Teach these songs ahead of time so when you get to the lesson with that song, they will say, "I know that song," and it will mean more to them.

- A great source for children's songs that zero in on specific character traits is Majesty Music. Ask about the "Patch Praises" song books. They are inexpensive and have many songs per book. You can call them toll free at 800-334-1071.

## SUPPORTING STORY

- Sometimes you will be given a story, sometimes an object lesson, hymn history, puppet script etc. These are designed to emphasize the Life Lesson.

## MEMORY VERSE

- Play memory verse games to aid learning. Several games have been included in the back of this manual.

- Aim for repetition while learning the verse. This aids memory.

- Emphasize that knowing the verse could bring team points at the end of Children's Church.

- Vary the games and methods used to teach the verses. Games that are well liked can be done often, but not every week.

- You can go back and review verses from past lessons every month or so, if you have the time.

## BIBLE LESSON

- Read the Study Text for your own knowledge.

- Weave the scripture into each lesson. You can also bring in the memory verse and Life Lesson as appropriate.

- Keep the lesson exciting. Act it out using different voices and postures. Ask questions. Bring in props occasionally.

---

## INVITATION

- Always present the plan of Salvation in a simple manner. Never assume everyone is saved.
- Have appointed counselors ready so the main leader will not have to leave the other children.
- If someone responds, continue with quiz time or quiet songs while the child is being counseled.

## QUIZ

- If you have extra time, you can use the quiz to review the story. You can even go back and use questions from past lessons.
- Divide the students into two teams and keep score. You need not give prizes, just winning is enough. You may occasionally wish to give a small treat.
- Use this time to review the lesson.

## LIFE LESSON

- Emphasize it!
- You can write it on the board or an 11 x 17 poster board.
- Work it in often.

## ACTIVITY SHEETS

- Copy what you need before Children's Church.
- Hand them out as the children leave to avoid distractions during the story.
- You can have the children do the sheet during the time period if you have lots of extra time.



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## LESSON 1

# A CHILD OF WISDOM A WISE REQUEST

### LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



### BIBLE TEXT

I Kings 1:1, 2:1-12, 3:3-15

### CHARACTER TRAIT

My wisdom comes from God.

### MEMORY VERSE

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

People look for contentment and happiness in all sorts of things. They do their best to gain fame, riches, and power. They feel that surely things will make them happy. They feel that if they can have what they want, then they will be satisfied and successful.

A wise person knows that money, fame, or power does not bring the important things in life. Instead, they look to the One who, in His wisdom, gives each of us what He knows is best for us to have. And a wise person is satisfied and happy in what God gives to them. They are not always looking for something more. They know that having the Lord is the best thing they can ever gain in this life.

Today's Life Lesson is: My wisdom comes from God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### TRUBLE AT DANGER MINE - 1

Obtain Flash Card

“Hey, Sam.” Jay called out Sam's name as he rode up on his bike.

Jay was Sam's next door neighbor. They had lived next to each other for thirteen years. That was pretty much all of their lives.

Sam and Jay were friends, but Sam had learned to be careful about some of Jay's ideas. Sometimes Jay came up with some foolish ideas and made some very unwise decisions. Jay had a way of getting Sam in trouble.

Jay's folks were away at work most of the time and he didn't have many rules to worry about. But it was different for Sam. Sam's folks had rules and they kept a close eye on him. Not only that, Sam was a Christian. He knew he had to be careful of what he said and did because of his testimony. He had invited Jay to church and on rare occasions he would come. But Jay had never accepted Christ as his Savior.

Sam prayed that someday Jay would accept Christ. He witnessed when he could and invited Jay to church. But he couldn't force Jay to make a decision. That was a change the Holy Spirit would have to bring about in Jay's heart. But in the meantime, Sam tried to live like a good Christian in front of Jay.

Jay jumped off his bike and let it drop to ground when he reached Sam.

“Hey, what ya doin’?” Jay asked.

“Not much. I’m glad school’s out, but I’m starting to get bored already,” Sam replied.

“Not to worry, my friend. I have the perfect boredom buster” Jay boasted. “Come on. Get your bike and I’ll show you.”

“Where we going?” Sam questioned.

“You’ll see” Jay said cryptically. He jumped on his bike and took off with Sam close behind.

Sam looked around at the yards as they zipped by each house. He thought about how different his neighborhood was from the one where his grandparents lived in back in Michigan. When his family had visited there he had been amazed that every house had green grass and lots of trees. And everything was so flat!

Not here in New Mexico. Here the lawns were mostly made up of dry dust and rocks. They had cactus instead of trees. And the only flowers that grew were the wild prairie flowers that just sprang up and didn’t seem to need any water. In the background you could always see the giant, dusty red and brown mountains against the sky. Some of the mountains were distant and some were just on the outskirts of town. (Show Flash Card)

“No,” Sam thought, “New Mexico’s not green at all, but I think it’s all beautiful just the same!”

The boys swerved to miss a cactus in the path. Early on Sam had learned to respect and keep a safe distance from the cactus. Getting too close could cause real trouble. Real painful trouble!

They didn’t get much rain in New Mexico, and that was just fine with Sam. The rain never interfered with playing outside. He liked the sunshine and hot days.

At night the temperatures would fall into the low 50’s and Sam liked the cool nights for sleeping. People who didn’t live in New Mexico thought it was strange that it could be so hot during the day and then so cold at night. But Sam liked it just fine.

It wasn’t long before the boys had pedaled their bikes outside of the small town limits. The mountain loomed large ahead of them. Sam squinted as he looked ahead and he began to get a sneaking suspicion about where they were heading.

“Jay,” Sam called nervously. “Maybe we should head back home. I just got a great new video game. Wanna play?”

“Video game?” Jay hooted. “We can play that anytime. Maybe later when we get home. Right now we’ve got better things to do.”

Jay just rode his bike even faster and it was all Sam could do to keep up with him. The farther they rode, the more clearly Sam could see the old mine in the distance. They were headed right for it. That's where Jay was headed.

Sam was torn. He wanted to go with Jay, but he knew he shouldn't. His parents had warned him never to go anywhere near the old mine. They said it was filled with danger. Sam got a funny feeling in his stomach when he thought about the old mine. It always seemed to interesting to him and he wondered what it looked like inside, but he knew the old mines could easily collapse and cave in. He knew his folks were right. There was danger in that old mine!

What should he do? We'll find out more next week!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 1:1, 2:1-12, 3:3-15

### LESSON

#### DAVID'S FINAL DAYS

David was the man who God chose to be the second king of Israel. David was not a perfect man, but he loved God with all of his heart. David tried to serve God faithfully all the days of his life. But the day came when David grew old and his time on earth was almost ended.

I Kings 1:1a says, *Now king David was old and stricken in years.*

David knew that he did not have long to live. He had chosen his son, Solomon, to be the next king. He called Solomon to come to him because he wanted to pass on some final words of

instruction. David knew how important it was for the king to love and obey God. He wanted his son to be a king that would please God. So David told Solomon to be a strong man. He also reminded him to walk in God's ways and to keep God's commands which had been given to Israel way back when Moses was their leader. David reminded Solomon that if he obeyed God faithfully, then God would reward him greatly.

I Kings 2:1-3 says, *Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying,*

*I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;*

*And keep the charge of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, and his commandments, and his judgments, and his testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself.*

### **SOLOMON TAKES THE THRONE**

David died after having been the king for forty years. Solomon was grieved that his father was gone but he determined to be the best king that he could be.

The Bible says that the kingdom of Israel grew and prospered when Solomon became king. He must have listened carefully to his father's advice to obey God. Everything Solomon did was of benefit to Israel. He was a good king as David had been. What a wise man Solomon was!

I Kings 2:10-12 says, *So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.*

*And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.*

*Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly.*

### **SOLOMON LOVES GOD**

The most wonderful thing about Solomon was that he loved God. Solomon's brother, Absalom, was not a wise man. He had loved only himself. He had been so full of pride about his handsome face and his long beautiful hair. He had been good looking on the outside, but on the inside he was rotten clear through. Absalom did not love God at all. He only loved himself and he only wanted what was best for himself. In the end he only brought harm to himself.

But Solomon was the exact opposite of Absalom. He truly loved God and he was careful to read the law of God that Moses had written. He carefully obeyed God's commands. And he didn't obey God just because he had to. He didn't obey out of duty or because he was forced to, he obeyed out of love. Like his father, he was a true man of God.

I Kings 3:3-4 says, *And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.*

*And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar.*

## GOD'S QUESTION, SOLOMON'S RESPONSE

One night Solomon had a dream. This wasn't a normal dream. This was God actually speaking to Solomon in his dream. God had an important question to ask Solomon. God asked Solomon what he wanted. God offered to give Solomon anything he wanted.

Wow! Can you imagine the God of the universe offering you anything you wanted? That's what God did for Solomon.

What could Solomon have asked for? Many things. He could have asked God to make him the wealthiest king ever. Or he could have asked to be the most beloved king. He could have asked to always be victorious over his enemies. He could have asked for a long, healthy life.

But that is not what Solomon asked for. Solomon told the Lord that he was humbled to be the king as his father had been. He admitted that at times he didn't know how to be a good king. It was a big job. So he asked the Lord to help him be a good ruler to his people. He asked the Lord to give him the wisdom to rule his people wisely.

What an unselfish request Solomon made. He didn't ask anything that would benefit himself. Instead he asked for something that would help his people. What a great man Solomon was. And I think he was great and had such a good heart because he had given his heart to God.

I Kings 3:7-9 says, *In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee.*

*And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.*

*And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.*

*And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude.*

*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?*

## GOD IS PLEASED

Well, God was pleased when he heard Solomon's request. He knew Solomon could have asked for wealth, long life, victory over enemies, but that was not what he had asked.

So, God granted Solomon's request to have wisdom. In fact, to this day Solomon is known as the wisest man who ever lived. But that is not all God did for Solomon. Because Solomon had not requested anything selfish, God wanted to give him many good things. God gave Solomon wealth beyond his wildest dreams. He also gave Solomon peace in his land. And he gave Solomon a long, prosperous life.

Solomon had asked for none of that, but God had delighted in giving it all to him because he knew Solomon was not a selfish, prideful, greedy man. God could see that Solomon loved God with all of his heart. That pleased God.

I Kings 3:10-14 says, *And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.*

*And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself; nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment;*

*Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.*

*And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.*

*And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.*

#### **WHAT WOULD YOU ASK FOR?**

What would you ask for if God offered you anything in the world you could want? (Take answers.)

There are lots of different things people might ask for. The first thing most people would think of is money. If we could have all the money we ever needed and more, then we think we would be happy.

Some people might ask for someone to love them. Some might ask for great athletic ability. Some might ask for a talent like a wonderful voice or the ability to play an instrument like a concert professional. Some might ask for perfect health.

All of those things can be good. It's not wrong to have money or to be loved by friends and family or to be talented. But all these things are very limited. They will all come to an end some day. You can be the richest person or most talented person on earth, but someday you will reach the end of your life and those things will do you no good in eternity.

Do you realize that God offers you the most valuable gift ever? It is free to you and it will last for all eternity. God offers you salvation from sin and an eternity in Heaven. There is nothing on earth that has a greater value.

Have you ever accepted God's gift of salvation?

Maybe you already have God's gift of salvation. Let me ask you, what do you ask God for when you pray? So many things that we think we want and need to be happy are just temporary. They come and go so quickly. They do not last and they are not important. Yet our hearts and minds are often full of those temporary things. They are what we want.

You have an entire life ahead of you. God wants to use your life if you will let Him. God would be pleased if you were to tell Him that the thing you want most is to have the wisdom to serve Him wisely. He would be pleased if He could see that in your heart, your deepest desire is to love and obey Him. It would please God if, like Solomon, you asked God to give you wisdom!

God will give you the temporary things you need. Just as He cared for Solomon, He will also care for you. He will make sure you have food and a home and other things you need. But those are not the truly important things in life. The important things are the things that will last for eternity. They are the things that you do for God each day.

You can make an eternal difference with your life. God has a plan for your life. Will you give your heart and life to Him? Will you love God so much that your desire is to obey and serve Him in all you say and do? Will you love God so much that you trust your life in His hands? Today you can tell God that you desire the wisdom to be His faithful servant. That will please God.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to seek after God's wisdom. How do you do that? Where can you find true wisdom? The best place to start is in God's Word. The wisdom of God is written there for you to read and study.

Jeremiah 29:11-14a says, *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

*Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.*

*And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.*

*And I will be found of you, saith the LORD.*

If you seek wisdom from God, then He will give you wisdom. That is His promise to you.

God gave Solomon great wisdom and he wrote quite a bit about how to have wisdom. You can find great wisdom in the book of Proverbs that he wrote. In fact, many people read a chapter of Proverbs everyday. Every month they read the book over and over.

There are thirty-one chapters in Proverbs, so you can read one chapter each day and be done with the book in a month. Start reading chapter one on the first day of each month. Read a chapter each day. Think about what you are reading. God will help you to understand what He wants you to understand. He will reward you with wisdom.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have true godly wisdom.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many years did David reign as king over Israel?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What advice did David give to Solomon?
4. How did Solomon feel about God?
5. What did God ask Solomon in a dream?
6. What did Solomon request of God?
7. What did God give Solomon besides great wisdom?
8. Why did God give Solomon riches and honor and wisdom?
9. What book did Solomon write about wisdom?
10. How many chapters are there in the book of Proverbs?

# A Wise Request

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

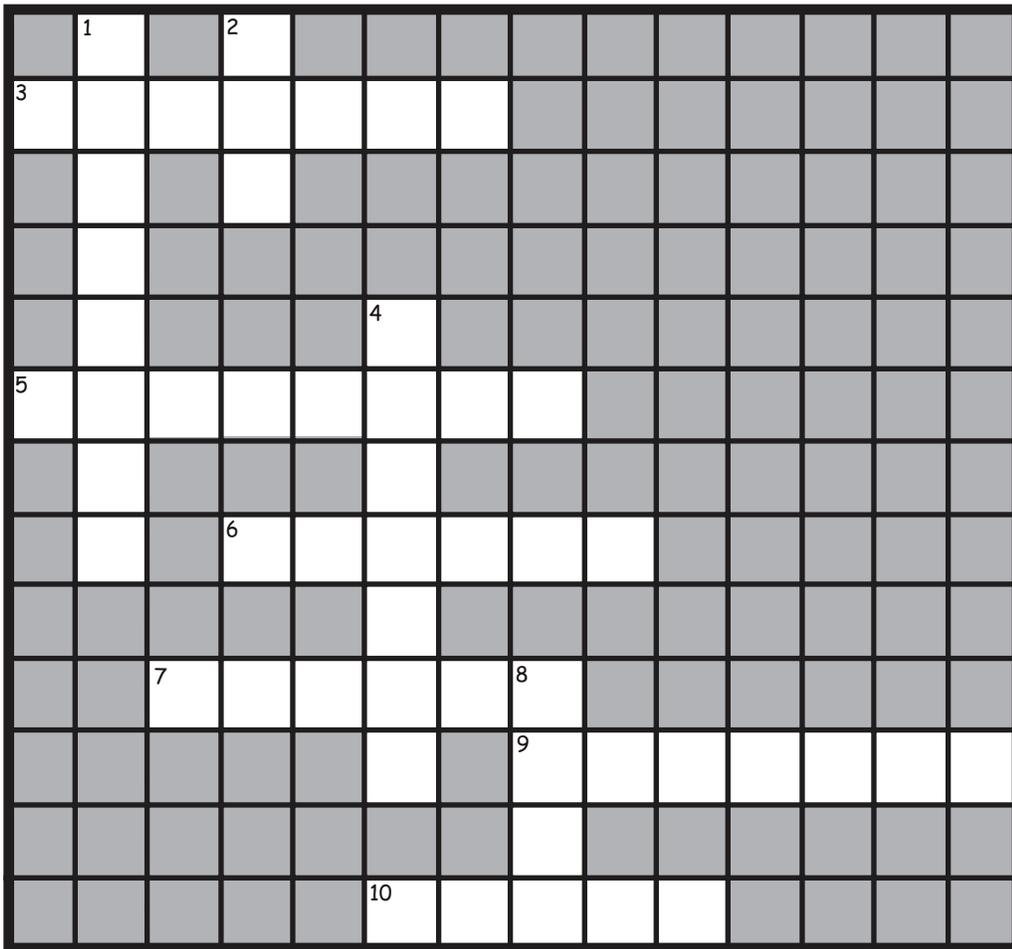
Proverbs 2:6



My wisdom comes from God.

Want to talk to God? Pray. He is listening.

Want God's advice? Read His Word. It's full of wise advice. True wisdom comes from God alone.



## Across

3. The son David chose to be king.
5. What God gave Solomon. (Two words)
6. What Solomon asked God for.
7. Something else God gave Solomon.
9. Solomon's brother.
10. Number of years David was king.

## Down

1. From whom can you find wisdom. (Two words)
2. Who Solomon loved.
4. Who Absalom loved.
8. What Absalom loved.



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LESSON 2

A CHILD OF WISDOM  
WORDS OF WISDOM

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 4:29-34

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

My wisdom comes from God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Everywhere you turn there is someone telling you what to do. Your parents tell you what to do. Your teachers tell you what to do. Your friends come up with all sorts of ideas for you to try. TV tells you what to wear and where to go and what to think.

Some things you are told to do are wise things, but some things are not so wise. So how can you know who you should listen to and who you should avoid.

There is one true source of wisdom. That source is God's Word, the Bible. God gave us the Bible and everything He tells us in it is true. If you want to be a truly wise person, go to God's Word. Spend time reading it. Then obey it. You will be wise.

Today's Life Lesson is: My wisdom comes from God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### TRUBLE AT DANGER MINE - 2

Obtain Flash Card

Recap: Jay and Sam, both 13 years old and neighbors, were trying to fill a long, hot summer day in New Mexico. Jay had a bright idea, but Sam had a sick feeling in his stomach which told him that he shouldn't go along with Jay. They are on their bikes and heading out of town and heading straight for trouble! Let's join them.

Just outside of town a short ways there was an old abandoned mine. Long ago the miners had dug deep into the dry desert hills in search of gold. Some miners got lucky and struck it rich. Most didn't find anything. All they did was waste their time and money. (Show Flash Card)

Finally the old mines had been shut down and boarded up. No one went near them anymore. The old mines were a distant reminder of the old gold rush days.

One of those mines was carved into the mountain just outside the little town where Sam and Jay lived. It wasn't hard to find, but no one had been inside it in years. Now the mine stood vacant. Boards covered the entrance. A little ways from the mine was a sign that read: Warning! No trespassing!

Everyone in town referred to the old mine as Danger Mine. There were stories about an old miner who had gone to his death deep in the mine and everyone in town kept a safe distance. They all knew it wouldn't be very wise to venture into the old mine.

Sam had heard some of the guys at school boast about going inside the mine, but he doubted they were telling the truth. He figured they just wanted to sound tough. All the boards were still in place. He doubted anyone had gone near the mine in many, many years.

Sam was on strict orders not to go anywhere near the mine, that was for sure. His parents had warned him about staying clear of the mine years ago. Now some of the adults in the town were petitioning the county to do something about destroying the mine. They said it was a safety hazard. But so far no one had done anything.

“Jay,” Sam called ahead. “You’re not heading for the old Danger Mine are you?”

“Sure am! You never know how much longer it will be here if the adults in town get their way. Wouldn’t you just hate yourself for not taking the chance to see what’s inside while you still have the chance?” Jay shot back.

Sam had always wondered what it would be like to go inside a mine. He had studied them in school. They were a big part of this area’s past. He always thought it would be so cool to explore a mine shaft. But his parents had always been so dead set against his going near one.

Jay and Sam stopped near the mine entrance. They left their bikes and approached cautiously as if something might jump out of the entrance and grab them. Sam felt a heavy weight in his chest. Something inside him kept saying, “No, no, no!”

“It’s all boarded up. Can’t get in,” Sam said. “Let’s go back.”

“No problem! Those old boards and nails are so loose a good tug will pull them off. See!” Jay demonstrated by grabbing a board and pulling it off. It came off real easy since it was so old and rotted.

“Yeah, but we don’t have a light. We couldn’t see anything past a few feet anyway,” Sam said. Maybe if he gave enough excuses, Jay would change his mind.

“Got it covered,” Jay countered. “I brought a flashlight. It’s right here in my saddle bag.” Jay reached into the bag on his bike and pulled out a heavy duty flash light.

“I don’t know. . .” Sam was hedging.

“Don’t tell me you’re chicken!” Jay teased.

“No. I’d love to go in, but my parents would kill me if they found out!” Sam said.

“So don’t tell them. How would they ever know? I won’t tell them. Come on!”

Jay began pulling down the boards across the entrance. Sam watched and with every board that came down, his desire to go in grew. It would be a big adventure.

Besides, why all the crazy rules? It’s not like he couldn’t take care of himself. He wasn’t a kid anymore. He wasn’t dumb enough to touch anything inside. Nothing would happen. Jay was right. His parents would never even know he had gone inside. Nothing bad would happen.

In the back of his mind Sam knew it didn't matter if he got caught or not. He knew that if he went inside the mine he would be disobeying. Jay didn't care because he wasn't a Christian. He didn't worry about those kind of things. But Sam did care. He had accepted Christ as his Savior when he was very young. Since then Sam had tried to live in a way that would please God. But this was so tempting! He wanted to go see what was inside so badly!

Jay turned on the flash light and shined it in the entrance of the mine. Sam edged forward and carefully peered inside. It looked OK. No big deal. Just a peek wouldn't hurt, would it?

"Ok," Sam said reluctantly. "But we won't go in very far. Just a little ways then we'll come right out."

"Sure," Jay agreed as he headed in.

Just as Jay stepped a foot into the mine a stiff breeze caused a swirl of dust to whip around Sam and sting his eyes. Everything looked a bit hazy as Sam squinted and held up his arm to protect his eyes. A chill of apprehension made the hair on Sam's neck stand straight up.

Why was he doing this? What was he getting himself into? Next week we'll continue our story.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*  
Proverbs 2:6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 4:29-34

### LESSON

#### **BIG BRAIN, BIG HEART**

The Bible tells us two very interesting things about King Solomon. It says that he had tons of wisdom and understanding and it tells us that he had a large heart.

Many people are smart. They have understanding. King Solomon had both understanding and wisdom. And he had an abundant amount of both because God gave him both. So what is the difference between understanding and wisdom? There is a difference!

A person of understanding knows lots of information and facts. They know lots of things. A person of wisdom knows the best and most effective way to use their understanding. You can be smart without being wise and you can be wise and not know too many facts. The best thing is to be both smart and wise. Solomon was both.

The Bible also says that Solomon had a largeness of heart. When the Bible says he had a large heart, it doesn't mean the organ in his chest was bigger than normal. It is talking about having lots of compassion. He cared about his family and the people in his kingdom a great deal. When people came to him with their problems, he did his best to listen carefully and to help in every way possible.

In I Kings 3 we read the story of two women who came to the king with a big problem. Both women had given birth to a child. In the night one mother had laid on top of her child and the baby died. So she quietly got up and switched her dead baby for the other woman's live baby. The next morning when the other woman discovered the child was dead, she looked closely and saw it was not her child. The woman whose child had been stolen went to King Solomon and asked him to help her.

Since the two women both claimed that the child was theirs, it must have been hard for the king to determine who truly was the mother, but Solomon knew just what to do. He ordered that a sword be brought to him. He then declared that he would cut the child in half and give half to each mother. Instantly the true mother begged the king not to harm the child. She said she was willing to give her child to the other woman just so that he could live.

Now Solomon knew who the true mother was. He knew the real mother would never allow any harm to come to her child. King Solomon was wise to be able to discover who the true mother of the child was because of the great wisdom God gave to him. He also cared enough to make sure the child went to the true mother.

I Kings 4:29 says, *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.*

### **SMARTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE**

Solomon was so wise, that the Bible says that he was wiser than everyone else in all of Israel as well as wiser than anyone in any other land. The kings and queens of other lands came to learn from the wisdom of Solomon.

A famous and wealthy queen from the land of Sheba came to visit Solomon. She had hard questions to ask him. I suppose she wanted to test him out. She had heard many things about his wisdom, but she wanted to see for herself just how smart he really was.

The queen of Sheba came with great wealth. She brought lavish gifts to give to Solomon. She gave him spices from exotic lands, precious stones, and gold.

The two of them spoke together and had some interesting conversations. Any hard question she asked, he would easily answer. Then the queen looked around at Solomon's kingdom. She saw his lands and his beautiful palace and the lavish foods that were served at each meal. She could see that he was a very wealthy king. She was very impressed.

The queen told Solomon, "Everything I heard about your great wisdom and wealth is true. I didn't believe it so I wanted to see for myself. Not only that, they didn't even tell me half of what you have. You are richer and wiser than anyone has said. How happy everyone who serves you and is around you must be! You truly serve a great God!"

Then before she left Israel, she gave the king more gifts than she had when she first arrived.

I Kings 4:30-31 says, *And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

*For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.*

I Kings 4:34 says, *And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.*

### **MAKING USE OF WISDOM**

Solomon made good use of the wisdom that God gave to him. He wrote three books that are in the Bible: Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. He wrote 3,000 proverbs which are wise sayings. He wrote 1005 poems.

Solomon wrote all those proverbs and poems for a purpose. He wanted to pass on his wisdom. It was not enough that God had given him wisdom to rule his kingdom, he wisely wrote proverbs that would help anyone who read them. You can read the proverbs of Solomon and you can gain from his wisdom.

Solomon's proverbs are written in simple sentence form. They teach us how to be godly. They teach us what is wise and what is foolish. They teach us how we should and shouldn't live.

I Kings 4:32-33 says, *And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.*

*And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.*

### **WHAT DID SOLOMON TEACH?**

So, what did Solomon have to teach us that is still important for us to know today? Let's look at a few of the words of wisdom we can find in Solomon's book of proverbs.

#### 1. Seek wisdom.

Solomon knew that wisdom is something everyone can obtain. But it is something you must look for. We are not born wise. We become wise if we carefully learn how to live and act in a way that pleases God.

Proverbs 15:14 says, *The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.*

Proverbs 1:5 says, *A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.*

#### 2. Obey God.

Solomon said that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. When he says fear, he means a great respect for God. If we have a respect for God, then we will gain wisdom. You cannot respect God if you do not obey Him. If you disobey God, then you do not respect Him. The two go together.

Proverbs 1:7 tells us, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

When we disobey, God will chasten or correct us. We are to be wise enough to learn the lessons God has to teach us when He chastens us. If we get angry at God for correcting us, then we have acted foolishly, but if we learn from God's corrections, then we are being wise.

Proverbs 3:11-12 says, *My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:*

*For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.*

#### 3. Avoid sin.

Sin causes all types of trouble. We would be very wise to avoid sin. Learn to say "No" to sin. That would be the wise thing to do.

Proverbs 1:10 says, *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

God hates sin. Solomon tells us the sins God hates. That helps us to know what to stay away from so we won't sin against God.

Proverbs 6:16-19 says, *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:*

*A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,*

*An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,*

*A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*

4. Obey your parents.

Yes, even King Solomon says it is wise to obey our parents. Solomon obeyed his father and he was a great joy to David. When you obey your parents, you bring them joy. When you disobey, you bring your parents sorrow and shame.

Not only that, but you bring good things to yourself when you obey. Solomon said that obeying was like having on beautiful chains around your neck and a beautiful crown on your head.

Proverbs 1:8-9 says, *My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*

*For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.*

Solomon says that if you obey your parents, then the things they teach you will guide you each day.

Proverbs 6:20-22 says, *My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:*

*Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.*

*When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awak-est, it shall talk with thee.*

5. God's ways lead to happiness and life and Satan's ways lead to sorrow and death.

Sin looks like fun, but it always, always causes trouble. God's ways always, always lead to joy.

Proverbs 10:29 says, *The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.*

Proverbs 11:5-6 says, *The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.*

*The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.*

Proverbs 11:19 says, *As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.*

There are so many other things we can learn from King Solomon's wisdom. The really wonderful thing is that every day you can pick up the book of proverbs and read a verse or two. You can be storing away wisdom that will guide you each day. You can be wise like Solomon!

### **WANT TO BE WISE?**

The book of Proverbs is not the only place to find wisdom. The Bible is filled with wise things. God gave us the Bible so that we would become wise. He wants us to read it so that we will know what He wants us to do and what he doesn't want us to do. That's why God gave us the Bible.

Do you want to be wise? Sure you do. You have the book of wisdom in your hands today. Everyday you can read God's Word and you will become wise.

Or, let's say that you will become wise if you read God's Word and then put it to work in your life. You can read the Bible but if you don't obey it, then you are not wise. In fact, if you know God's Word and you disobey it, then you are a fool.

Do you know the very first wise thing God wants you to do? He wants you to accept Jesus Christ as your savior. God loves you and He wants to forgive your sin so that you can spend all eternity in heaven with Him. But because you are a sinner, you cannot go to heaven with sin in your life. What you need to do is ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. He will forgive you and you will be sure that you are going to heaven.

You can do that today. We can show you how.

Hopefully you have already asked Jesus into your life. What God wants you to do now is to live your life wisely. Do as Solomon says and seek wisdom. And the best place to find wisdom is in God's Word. Make sure that you have a daily time when you are seeking wisdom in God's Word. It takes time and effort to read the Bible each day, but it is the best time you will ever spend and God will reward your efforts.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to find wisdom in the Bible.

Be wise. Read God's Word, then put it into action in your life. How do you put it into action? Simple, do the things God says to do and don't do the things God says not to do.

Last week we talked about taking time every day to read a chapter from the book of Proverbs. That is a great place to read if you want to gain wisdom. Make a book mark that you can keep in your Bible. When you have finished reading your chapter for the day, place your book mark where you finished. That way you can find your place quickly each day.

You can also read the chapter that goes along with the day of the month. On the first day of the month, read chapter one. And so on. That's an easy way to remember also.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to go to His Word to find wisdom. You will find it!

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who became king after David?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What special gift did God give to King Solomon?
4. Tell of a time when Solomon used his wisdom to help his people.
5. Who came to visit Solomon?
6. At the end of her visit, what did the queen of Sheba say about King Solomon?
7. What gifts did the queen of Sheba bring to Solomon?
8. How many proverbs did Solomon write?
9. How many books of the Bible did Solomon write?
10. Name one wise thing Solomon taught in the book of Proverbs.

# Words of Wisdom

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6



My wisdom comes from God.

Be wise! Read God's Word to learn how you can love and serve God each day.



T  
S G D Q D H R

V H R C N L H M

F N C R V N Q C

Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.

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LESSON 3

A CHILD OF WISDOM  
WISE USE OF GOD'S TEMPLE

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 6:1-38, 7:1-51,  
8:1-66, 9:1-9

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

My wisdom comes from God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

You are God's dwelling place. He lives within you if you are a Christian. What kind of house do you give God to live in?

Everywhere you go, God goes. Everything you do and say, God know and hears. It is easy to forget that God is with us all the time and that He lives in us. Sometimes God seems so far away. But God isn't far, He is near. He is so near that He is within you.

Today we will be talking about the fact that it is wise to be aware that God lives within us. And it is foolish to do things with our lives that are displeasing to God. Every day we need to be aware of God in us and we need to do our best to live in a way what would please Him.

Today's Life Lesson is: My wisdom comes from God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### TRUBLE AT DANGER MINE - 3

Obtain Flash Card

Recap: Sam and Jay have made the decision to enter the old, deserted mine called Danger Mine. They both know that they shouldn't be there. The adults in town have been trying to have the mine permanently sealed off. But the temptation to see what is inside is too great. Let's join Jay and Sam as they step inside.

The first thing Sam noticed when he stepped into the mine was how cool and dark it was. It was a hot day outside, but the sunshine didn't ever make it into these dark, murky halls. He supposed the cold New Mexico nights kept it from ever warming up. It gave Sam a chill, not just because it was so cold, but because it was so dark and musty. It smelt terrible and it just felt wrong to be there.

The tunnel headed into the side of the mountain and angled down a bit. Jay's flashlight illuminated the area ahead of them for a few feet, but wasn't strong enough to light up the whole area. That made everything feel very close and menacing. Big shadows from the flash light reflected off the walls. It looked just plain creepy in there. Sam wasn't at all happy that he'd decided to follow Jay into the mine. This hadn't been a very wise thing to do! (Show Flash Card)

"Come on," Sam called to Jay. "This is far enough. Let's head back."

“We haven’t seen anything yet.” Jay answered as he kept walking.

“I don’t think there is anything to see,” Sam said.

“Just a little bit farther,” Jay said. Jay kept walking.

Sam didn’t want to go on, but he didn’t want to head back alone either. It was so dark behind him. Looking back toward the entrance showed that they had already gone far enough in that the light was gone. So Sam stayed with Jay. It seemed strange to Sam that as he walked along the only thing he could think of was the Bible verse they had learned last week in church. It kept echoing in his mind and it wouldn’t go away.

Proverbs 13:20 “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

“Boy have I made a big mistake,” Sam thought. “How could I let Jay talk me into doing this? If I get out of this alive, I’ll never disobey my folks again!”

Sam stuck close to Jay. He didn’t want to get too far from the light. Everything else was pitch black around him. He knew that it wouldn’t take much to get totally turned around in the dark. Then he’d never find his way out of old Danger Mine.

“Whoa!” Jay exclaimed. “Look at this!”

Sam looked at where Jay was shining the light. At first all he saw was an old pan and a pick ax nearby. They were probably left behind by some old miner down on his luck. Then he looked closer. He could see some bones. Could that be an old miner who lost his way? Could it be the old miner everyone said died in the mine?

Sam shuddered. This whole place gave him the creeps. He had seen enough now.

“Let’s get out of here,” Sam insisted.

“Yeah, maybe you’re right.”

Even Jay agreed with him. They both wanted out now. Sam was relieved that Jay was going to turn around and head out. Then Jay stopped suddenly and held up his free hand.

“Shhh!” Jay whispered. “Did you hear that?”

“What?” Sam whispered back. He didn’t know why they were whispering all of a sudden. He hadn’t heard anything.

“Listen,” Jay insisted.

Then Sam heard it too. It was coming from behind them. The sound was still distant, but it was distinct. He could hear footsteps. Someone else was in the cave coming right toward them!

Now what were they supposed to do? They didn't want to go back and meet some unknown stranger who was following them. And he sure didn't want to go any deeper into the mine than they had already gone. Sam broke out into a sweat even in the cold mine. He was really scared now!

Should they turn off the light? Maybe they could find somewhere in the mine to hide. The sound was getting closer. And it wasn't just footsteps anymore. Now they could hear a strange whining sound.

What on earth was that? What were they going to do? Come back next week to see what happens!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

First start by telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Since this is such a short verse, you could discuss ways to keep your mind and body pure for God.

### VERSE

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*  
Proverbs 2:6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 6:1-38, 7:1-51, 8:1-66, 9:1-9

### LESSON

#### THE PLAN

Shortly after the Children of Israel left Egypt where they had been slaves for hundreds of years, God instructed them to construct a tabernacle. The tabernacle was a place where God dwelt and the Israelites would come to worship. It was built out of animal skins and materials that were beautiful, but it was only temporary. Everything had to be lightweight so that it could easily be dismantled and carried to the next resting place as the Children of Israel journeyed in the wilderness.

God never meant for the tabernacle to be the permanent place of worship for His people. He knew that one day they would build a fine temple where He could come and dwell with them.

King David had wanted to build the temple, but God said, “No. Your son will build the temple for me.”

Finally the day came when it was time to build the permanent temple. Do you know how long it was from the time the Israelites left Egypt to the time when the temple was built? It was 480 years! That’s a long time!

That seems like a very, very long time to us, but to God it wasn’t so long. Time is nothing to God. He existed before the earth was created and He will exist long after the earth has been destroyed. God is eternal and time means nothing to Him. A few hundred years is nothing.

It was in the fourth year of King Solomon’s reign when God finally said it was time to begin building the temple. The time was right.

*I Kings 6:1 says, And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD.*

God told Solomon, “If you obey Me and live in a way that is pleasing to Me, then I will dwell with the people in the temple.” God promised He would not forsake His people. That was a wonderful promise that God made.

*6:11-14 says, And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,*

*Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:*

*And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.*

*So Solomon built the house, and finished it.*

## **THE WORKMEN AND MATERIALS**

So the work began. First Solomon set about gathering the finest materials to use in the temple. He didn’t want to build a junky house for God. Solomon wisely decided to build the best and most beautiful Temple that he could build.

King Solomon sent to far away lands to bring in tall cedar and cypress trees to use in the temple. He used gold and fine linens everywhere. Expensive and exotic materials from around the world were sought.

Solomon also sent for the most skilled workmen to do the work. These workers knew their jobs and did their best. Solomon wisely wanted only the best for God.

I Kings 7:13-14 says, *And king Solomon sent and fetched Hiram out of Tyre.*

*He was a widow's son of the tribe of Naphtali, and his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in brass: and he was filled with wisdom, and understanding, and cunning to work all works in brass. And he came to king Solomon, and wrought all his work.*

Just imagine how beautiful the temple must have been since Solomon commanded that everything be made of gold and other valuable materials. The workmen made the altar and the tables that held the sacrifices and the vessels all in gold. Even the doors and hinges were made of gold.

I Kings 7:48-50 says, *And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the shewbread was,*

*And the candlesticks of pure gold, five on the right side, and five on the left, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold,*

*And the bowls, and the snuffers, and the basons, and the spoons, and the censers of pure gold; and the hinges of gold, both for the doors of the inner house, the most holy place, and for the doors of the house, to wit, of the temple.*

There are many verses in I Kings that tell us exactly what materials were used to build the temple and everything inside. How marvelous it all must have been. Solomon loved God so much that he only wanted the very best for God's House.

## **THE METHOD**

As we read I Kings we also learn another very interesting fact about the way God's temple was made. Usually construction sites are messy, dirty places. There are boards laying around in stacks. Tools are laying around here and there. Workmen are swinging hammers and it can be very noisy and dusty. But that was not the case at this very special construction site. Why? Because this was a sacred construction site. Not just any building was being erected. This was the holy temple. This was God's house. Not only were the very best materials used, but a very special way of building was used also.

You see, all of the work was done outside of the temple. If a board needed nailing, it was nailed outside. If a board needed cutting, it was cut to size outside. Then, with extreme caution and great respect, the materials were silently carried into the temple site and put in place. The Bible says that no noise was heard inside the temple.

I Kings 6:7 tells us, *And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.*

Why would they do that? The workmen were so quiet because this was God's house and everyone wisely wanted to show great respect and honor to God and to God's house.

Let me ask you, how do you treat God's house? Just as the temple was God's house for the Children of Israel, this church is God's house for us. When you are at church, do you show respect to God by acting like ladies and gentlemen? Or do you run around and laugh and shout in the hallways? Do you sit quietly in class and listen to the Bible stories, or do you wiggle around and talk with your neighbor?

Let me ask you another question. How about the way you treat the temple of God where the Holy Spirit dwells? That's your body. If you are a Christian, then the Holy Spirit lives in you. Your body is the temple of God. Do you treat your body with respect because it is the house of God? You should. You should be careful what you watch with your eyes. You should be careful what you listen to with your ears. You should be cautious about what goes through your mind and what comes out of your mouth!

You are the temple of the Holy Spirit and you should treat the temple with the respect it deserves.

I Corinthians 6:19 says, *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

#### **THE DEDICATION**

It took seven years to build the temple but finally the day came when it was complete. The building was done. Now was the time when King Solomon would stand and dedicate the building to God. This was a very special service that was held for all of Israel. Everyone gathered to see the temple. There were outside areas of the temple where the people could worship. There was also a place deep inside the temple called the Holy of Holies. That is where the ark of God would stay and only the priests were allowed to enter that area once a year.

So the priests carefully and reverently carried the ark into the Holy of Holies. Everyone waited eagerly to hear what King Solomon would say.

In a loud voice, so that all could hear, Solomon began to speak. They knew that Solomon was a wise man and they knew that he would tell them what they needed to know about God and about the temple. So Solomon began to speak. He blessed the people. Then he knelt and praised God for all His goodness to them.

I Kings 8:22-24 *And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:*

*And he said, LORD God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart:*

*Who hast kept with thy servant David my father that thou promisedst him: thou spakest also with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thine hand, as it is this day.*

After Solomon had talked to God, a fire came down from Heaven and consumed the burnt sacrifices that the priests offered. The presence of God filled the temple. Everyone bowed down in reverence to God. (II Chronicles 7:1-3)

Then Solomon talked to the people. He reminded the people that God had always kept His promises to them. He pleaded with them to follow God and to walk in His ways so that God would bless them and so that others would see what a mighty God they served.

8:55-62 says, *And he stood, and blessed all the congregation of Israel with a loud voice, saying,*

*Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.*

*The LORD our God be with us, as he was with our fathers: let him not leave us, nor forsake us:*

*That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.*

*And let these my words, wherewith I have made supplication before the LORD, be nigh unto the LORD our God day and night, that he maintain the cause of his servant, and the cause of his people Israel at all times, as the matter shall require:*

*That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else.*

*Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.*

*And the king, and all Israel with him, offered sacrifice before the LORD.*

### **GOD SPEAKS TO SOLOMON**

After all the ceremonies had been completed, God came to speak with Solomon. He told Solomon that He had heard his prayer. He was pleased with Solomon's heart attitude. Then God reminded Solomon that if he and the people of Israel continued to love and serve Him, then He would bless them. But, if they turned away from God, He would have no choice but to turn away from them. What a sad thing that would be!

I Kings 9:1-7 says, *And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished the building of the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he was pleased to do,*

*That the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as he had appeared unto him at Gibeon.*

*And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

*And if thou wilt walk before me, as David thy father walked, in integrity of heart, and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded thee, and wilt keep my statutes and my judgments:*

*Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel.*

*But if ye shall at all turn from following me, ye or your children, and will not keep my commandments and my statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods, and worship them:*

*Then will I cut off Israel out of the land which I have given them; and this house, which I have hallowed for my name, will I cast out of my sight; and Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people.*

## **YOUR TEMPLE**

Did you know that God's great desire is to dwell with us? He loves us so much that He wants to be with us.

In I Kings 1:27 Solomon expressed his amazement that God would want come to earth to live with His people back then. Yet God did just that. God desired to live with the Children of Israel.

I Kings 1:27 says, *But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

Then again, long after Solomon's day, God again came to live with his people. But He didn't come to live in a temple that was kept separate from the people. He did not come to the Holy of Holies where only the priests could enter only once a year. Long ago, Jesus Christ, God the Son, came to earth to live with men. He came as a baby boy. He walked and talked with people. Never before had God come to man in such an open way. Never before had common man been able to come to God in such an easy way. Why did God come as a human? He came to show everyone how much He loves us.

Even today, God loves us and wants to dwell among us and He can, if we let Him. The Bible says that God the Holy Spirit will live in your heart if you invite Him to forgive your sin and come into your life. If you are a Christian, then God lives inside of your heart and life. He is with you every day.

You don't have to go to a temple or even to a church to worship God. Because God lives inside of you, you can walk and talk with God every single day. And someday you will spend all eternity in Heaven with Him. You can't see God. You can't feel Him, but if you are a Christian, He dwells in you.

Does God dwell in you? Have you ever asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart? You can do that today. We can show you how. Then you can have God dwelling inside of your life. It is a wise thing to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and dwell in you!

Most of you have already done that. You have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior. You know that God dwells inside of you. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

How do you treat the guest that lives in your heart and life? Do you know that everything you do, God must do with you? Everything you think, God knows. Everything that comes out of

your mouth is heard by Him. He is not just sitting in Heaven watching you. No, His Holy Spirit is within you. That should make you stop and think about the things you think and say and do. That should make you want to live in a wise way!

The Holy Spirit is not inside of you to keep track of you. He is not there to watch for mistakes that He can report to God the Father. The Holy Spirit is with you to help you live the way you should. He is inside of you to guide the things you think and say and do. If you will let Him, He will help you to live in a wise way that is pleasing to God. Just ask the Holy Spirit to help you each day. He will.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be wise to keep your temple of God holy and pure for Him. Remember that the Holy Spirit dwells inside of you. He is with you every day. He wants to help you to love and obey and serve God.

1. The Holy Spirit helps you to avoid sin.

Romans 8:8-9 says, *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

2. The Holy Spirit guides you to live for God.

John 16:13-14 says, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

*He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

Just as the Children of Israel had to choose whether or not they would love and obey God, you have the same choice. God will not force you to love and obey Him. He waits to see if you will make a wise choice. So think about it. Do you want to do what is right in God's eyes? If you do, then you need to actively work to love and obey God. But you are not alone. God has given you the Holy Spirit. He wants to help you each day.

Galatians 5:25 says, *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to wisely allow His Spirit to work in you each day.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many years was it from the time the Israelites left Egypt to when the temple was built?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Where did the Israelites worship before there was a temple?
4. Who had wanted to build the temple but God said, "No"?
5. Name something unusual about the way the temple was built.
6. Why was the work done outside of the temple?
7. What was used to make many of the objects and doors in the temple?
8. What was the wise thing Solomon did at the dedication service for the temple?
9. What did God do when the temple was dedicated to Him?
10. What temple does God dwell in now?

# Wise Use of God's Temple

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6



My wisdom comes from God.

Your body is the temple of God. The Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Be careful how you treat God's house.



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| L | U | M | Z | E | C | P | L | L | E | W | D | L | O | G |
| Y | F | T | R | R | V | T | S | P | O | I | N | R | D | E |
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| A | T | C | D | Y | B | E | S | T | M | E | D | D | V | H |
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Altar  
Beautiful  
Best  
Build  
Choose

David  
Dwell  
Fire  
God  
Gold

Holy  
Honor  
House  
Israel  
Jobs

Materials  
Prayer  
Respect  
Solomon  
Tabernacle

Temple  
Work  
Workers  
Worship



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LESSON 4

A CHILD OF WISDOM  
TWO WISE KINGS

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Psalms 51:1-13, I Kings 4:29-30,  
11:1-4, Deuteronomy 17:16-17

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

My wisdom comes from God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

James was really good about starting a project, but he never seemed to finish one. He was all excited about it in the beginning, but soon he grew weary of the task. It wouldn't be long before he found something that seemed more interesting and the old project would be forgotten.

James begged his parents to buy him a trombone and pay for lessons, but when he found out how hard practice was, he begged them to let him stop the lessons. Soon the trombone was shoved to the back of his closet.

We can all be like that at times. We get all excited about some new thing that comes along, but as time goes on we lose interest. Other things seem more interesting. Or we learn that there is hard work involved. We soon abandon the project for something new.

In our Christian life, we sometimes start out determined to serve God with all our hearts and minds. But when we find it is hard work and takes time to read the Bible and pray, we begin to put it off. When we find that it isn't easy to avoid sin and say no to the worldly things that tempt us, then we have a hard time saying no. As time goes on we look for the easiest way to serve God. We quit being faithful to God.

Being a Christian is wonderful, but sometimes it is hard work. That's why it takes commitment and determination to be faithful to God. Being faithful takes wisdom that the Holy Spirit can give to us to show us how to be faithful to God. But how glad we will be in the end when we stand before God. He will reward us with His smile and His words of, "Well done!"

Today's Life Lesson is: My wisdom comes from God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### TROUBLE AT DANGER MINE - 4

Obtain Flash Card

Recap: Sam and Jay foolishly disobeyed their parents and went to check out an old abandoned mine. Danger Mine! While inching their way along, with only the thin rays of a flashlight, they heard a sound coming from behind them. It was a sound that scared both of the boys. They could clearly hear footsteps and a high, whining sound that kept getting closer and closer.

Jay grabbed Sam's arm and switched the light off.

"Stand as flat against the wall as you can. Maybe we can hide," Jay whispered.

Sam did as Jay had said. He could hardly breath. Sam vowed to himself that he would never again disobey his parents. Why had he ever listened to Jay in the first place? Boy was he scared!

As the sound got closer, Sam listened carefully. He could make out a voice. Something about it sounded familiar. He was sure he had heard that whine before. Then it dawned on him where he had heard it.

“Turn on the light,” Sam commanded Jay in a loud voice.

“Shhh. Are you crazy?” Jay whispered.

“Turn on the light. Now!” Sam demanded.

Jay flipped the switch and the thin ray of light illuminated the source of the whining. There stood Sam’s little sister, Ann.

“What are you doing here?” Sam demanded. His voice was angry, but he had never before been so happy to see his kid sister.

Tears were running down her face. Sam could see how frightened she was. She looked with relief at her big brother.

“What are you doing here?” Sam demanded again.

“I saw you riding your bikes out of town. You never let me go anywhere with you, so I just decided to follow behind. I followed you into the mine and pretty soon it was so dark I didn’t know what to do. I thought I’d never find you,” Ann wailed. Now she was crying as hard as Sam had ever seen her cry. She was really upset.

“You know you’re not supposed to leave town alone,” Sam admonished her.

“You did,” Ann replied through her tears.

“I guess we’re both in trouble,” Sam conceded. “Come on. Let’s go.”

Sam grabbed Ann’s arm to turn her back around and out toward the cave entrance. But just as Sam took Ann’s arm, she wrapped her other arm around a beam in the old mine shaft.

“No,” Ann cried. “I don’t want to get in trouble.” (Show Flash Card)

“Too late now,” Sam said.

Sam gave Ann a tug but she held tightly with the other arm to the beam. Neither one of them noticed that the old beam was badly decayed. It only took a tug for the beam to pull away from the wall. Before they could react, the beam had fallen, knocking Ann to the dirt floor.

Ann gave a sharp cry of pain. The heavy beam had landed on her left leg. Both boys tried to lift the beam, but it wouldn’t budge. What was left of the old beam was too heavy for them to move.

Just then a clump of dirt fell on Jay's head. He shone the light up and saw that some of the earth behind the beam had broken free and was falling. There was a crack in the wall of the mine. Everything slowly shifted and then stayed in place. Dirt and dust slowly drifted down and the walls of the old mine seemed to groan.

Jay swung the light to Sam's face.

"I'm getting out of here. That wall could cave in at any moment!" Jay exclaimed in fear.

"We can't get out. Ann is trapped!" Sam practically shouted. "We have to get her out first!"

"No, I've got to go," Jay turned and ran toward the entrance.

"Wait!" Pleaded Sam. "You can't leave."

"Sorry, Sam. I'm leaving."

Jay ran toward the entrance of the mine. Sam pleaded with him to stay, but Jay ran faster and the light grew dimmer and dimmer.

"Don't leave me, Sam," Ann groaned.

"Don't worry. I'll be right here holding your hand," Sam comforted his sister as he knelt down in the dark next to her.

"What are we going to do?" cried Ann.

"I don't know. Pray I guess!" Sam replied. He was glad Ann couldn't see the worried look on his face. Boy had he made and foolish decision and now they were both in big trouble!

Come back next week to see what happens to Sam and Ann in Danger Mine!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Psalm 51:1-13, I Kings 4:29-30, 11:1-4, Deuteronomy 17:16-17

### LESSON

#### DAVID'S REIGN

David was the first and greatest king of Israel.

David fought the enemies of God such as Goliath. He was not afraid to face the foe because he had such great faith in God. He knew God was with him. He knew God would fight for him. David truly trusted God. He was a wise man.

King Saul's reign had been marked by trouble and defeat because he did not trust God. Saul wanted to do things his own way. He sinned against God and then he would deny he had sinned. He was a foolish man who came to a terrible end and his kingdom was taken away from him. David's reign was marked by success in battle because he trusted in God and because David wisely did things God's ways.

David was also a great king because he ruled his people well. He truly cared about them and they loved him as a result. From the time he was a young man awaiting God's timing to take the throne, to the time when as an old man and one of his sons tried to steal his throne, David always had a faithful following.

The thing that made David the greatest king was the fact that he was a man after God's own heart. David loved the Lord. He was human. He did things wrong. But when he would commit a sin, David was quick to feel badly about his sin. He was also quick to go to God and ask for forgiveness. That was wise!

David's attitudes pleased God. His actions did not always please God, but his heart attitude did. God knew that when David sinned, he would always be quick to confess his sin and make it right.

Listen to the prayer David offers to God after he had sinned. He is quick to admit his guilt. He does not try to excuse it or cover it up. He is also quick to tell God how sorry he is because of his sin. David wanted nothing more than to be found faithful in God's eyes.

Psalm 51:1-13 says, *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

*Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

*For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.*

*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*

*Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

*Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.*

*Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

*Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

*Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.*

#### **SOLOMON'S REIGN**

David's son, Solomon was known as the wisest man to ever live. He also was a good and kind king. He was loved by his people. They lived in peace and prosperity for as long as he sat on the throne. He used his great wisdom to help him rule wisely.

I Kings 4:29-30 says, *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.*

*And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.*

Solomon accomplished many great things during his reign, but the greatest thing he did was to build the temple of God. God had given the plans for the building of the temple to his father, David, but the privilege of building went to Solomon. According to God's instructions, the temple was located on Mt. Moriah. That is the same mount where Abraham went to offer his son Isaac to God. It was the place where David had bought the land to use when he built an altar to God. Mt. Moriah was a special place to the people of Israel. As God instructed, Solomon built the temple to be laid out exactly as the tabernacle had been, but the temple was twice as big. Expensive and priceless items were used to build the temple and not a sound was made inside the temple in reverence to God.

Then Solomon offered the temple to God. He instructed the people on how to love and worship God. He renewed his promise to serve God.

But for all his wisdom, Solomon did a couple of very unwise things. First, he built up his army and his horses. That seems like a small thing, but God had clearly instructed that Israel

was not to trust in horses and chariots for their strength. God wanted Israel to trust in Him. He wanted them to look to Him for their safety and power. He would give them the victory, not because they had a large army or mighty weapons and horses but because they trusted in God.

It is so easy to begin to trust in ourselves and stop trusting in God when we think we have everything under control. Often when life is running along smoothly, we foolishly think we don't need God. We think we can take care of ourselves. God wants us to trust Him. He never wants us to forget that everything we have and are comes from Him. He is our strength and power. We are foolish if we think we don't need God.

Another foolish thing Solomon did was to marry many wives. In those days it was normal in other nations for men to have many wives. God had forbidden it to the people of Israel, but as time went on the kings of Israel looked around at the countries around them. They saw that others had more than one wife. Many of Solomon's wives came from other countries. They were the daughters of the kings of other lands. Solomon felt he was wise to make friends and allies with other countries by taking their princess as his wife. He knew that a king would not attack his land if his daughter was living there.

So, Solomon took many wives. Then, to make matters worse, he foolishly allowed his wives to build altars to the false gods they had worshiped in the lands they came from. It wasn't long before Solomon was also worshiping those false gods. It probably started as something he did just to keep his wives happy, but sin just grows and grows.

*1 Kings 11:1-4 says, But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;*

*Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.*

*And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.*

*For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.*

The wisest man on earth wasn't so wise in the end. He had a wonderful start to his life and his kingdom, but he did not finish well. What a sad thing to say about Solomon. His heart was not perfect toward God.

God had warned against the sins that Solomon had committed. Hundreds of years before God told Moses that the day would come when the people would insist on having a king. God clearly gave instructions to the future kings. Surely Solomon had read the books that Moses wrote. They were there for the Israelites to read and such a wise man as Solomon would have spent much time reading the books that God had given to them.

Listen to what Moses wrote in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 17:16-17a says, *But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.*

*Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away.*

Solomon knew he should not multiply horses or wives to himself, but he did not obey God. In the end, God wanted to take his kingdom from him, but because He had promised David that the kingdom would never depart from him, God did not completely take away the kingdom.

### **FROM START TO FINISH**

Although David was human and did sin, he was quick to make things right with God. From start to finish he was true to God and God blessed him. Solomon was not true to God from start to finish. He had the best start possible. He started out loving God and determined to please God.

He started out with a wealthy and growing kingdom that steadily grew more prosperous and stronger each day. When God asked him what he wanted, he asked for wisdom and God gave him that and much more.

He lived a long, peaceful life, but he foolishly allowed the outside world to destroy him.

Did you know that the same can be true of your life? You can have everything going for you. You can go to a good church. You can have good Christian parents. You can read your Bible and pray. But if you are foolish enough to allow the world to come into your heart, then it will soon take over your entire life. Satan loves to use the things of this world to destroy Christians and their testimonies. He wants you to be tempted by things that look like fun. He wants you to fall in love with things that will steal your heart away from God. But you don't have to allow that to happen. You can be wise and follow God from start to finish in your life.

We can all learn some important lessons from the lives of David and Solomon. We can learn from what they did right and what they did wrong. By learning from them, it will help us to make wise decisions in our lives!

1. Stand strong against God's enemies.

Satan and the world would love to see you turn away from God. Instead of taking sides with God's enemies, like Solomon did when he turned to false gods, stay true to God. Avoid sin and temptations. When you see something that you know is wrong, run the other way!

2. Show love to others.

Both David and Solomon were loved by their people because they had big hearts. They loved the people of God. God wants you to show love to others also. You should love your brothers and sisters in Christ. Those are people who love God also. You are also to show love to those who don't know God. Why? Because you need to show them that God loves them.

### 3. Desire to love and serve God.

When David and Solomon served God, they experienced the blessings of God. The same is true for you. If you will love God with all of your heart, then God will bless you.

### 4. Confess your sin.

David was quick to confess his sin. Why? Because David's heart was tuned to God's heart. David loved God so much that when he sinned against God, it made him feel bad. He felt badly that he had hurt God. When you love someone with all of your heart, you will want to be close to them. You won't want to do anything that will hurt them. God is hurt by your sin. But when you are quick to confess sin and put it out of your life, then God is pleased with you.

### WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Let me ask you a question. What kind of a finisher will you be? You may start out good like David and Solomon both did, but will you finish your life still being true to God? Will you live wisely? You won't know that answer for many years, but you can do your best to determine to be true to God for your entire life. That is a choice you can make right now. Then every day you can do your best to keep your life right with God.

But you can't be right with God unless you are a child of God. You were born a sinner. You were born separated from God by your sin. But God loves you and wants to forgive your sin. All you need to do is confess your sin to Him and ask Him to forgive you. You can do that today. We can help you.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to wisely follow God from start to finish. You aren't near the finish line of your life yet, but you can decide how things will go at the start. You are young and just starting your Christian life. You have the opportunity to make wise decisions right now that will determine what the rest of your life will be like.

What will you determine? Will you determine to live for yourself, or will you determine to live for God? Will you determine to foolishly do what seems best to you at the time, or will you wisely determine to always do what God wants you to do regardless of what happens in life?

The choice is yours. Think about it and choose wisely.

King Solomon started out wisely living for God, but by the end of his life he had foolishly disobeyed God. Don't be like him. You have the chance to be wiser than the wisest man who ever lived by determining to live each day for God.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to wisely live each day in a way that is pleasing to God.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What two men did we talk about today?
2. Who was known as the greatest king of Israel?
3. Who was known as the wisest man on earth?
4. Why was God pleased with David even though he sometimes sinned?
5. Why did Solomon stray away from God?
6. How many wives did Solomon have?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. Why did Solomon marry wives from other countries?
9. Besides worshiping false gods, what other foolish sin did Solomon commit in his older years?
10. What does Satan try to do to draw you away from God and destroy your testimony?

# Two Wise Kings

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 2:6



My wisdom comes from God.

## Be Faithful - Start to Finish!



Determine today to be faithful to God in your life from this day until your last day. You won't regret it!



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How many new words can you make from BE FAITHFUL - START TO FINISH?

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LESSON 5

A CHILD OF WISDOM  
BE A WISE CHILD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Proverbs 3:13, 4:7, 119:11

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

My wisdom comes from God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

Proverbs 2:6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever known someone who just seems to act foolish all the time? Maybe they are never serious but are always saying and doing silly things, even when it is time to sit quietly or to work. Maybe they are the class clown always trying to make everyone laugh when they shouldn't. And even when they get in trouble, they don't care.

It is okay to be funny sometimes and to have fun, but some people are not very wise about how they act and what they say. Instead of being wise, they are foolish. They may seem like lots of fun to be around, but their foolishness can get them and others into lots of trouble. They can find their foolishness getting them scolded, or sent to the school office, or grounded. Foolishness can bring bad results.

God wants us to be wise. And wisdom always brings good results. But how can we know how to be wise? The Bible tells us that God is wise. He is the source of all wisdom. Today we are going to talk about how to have wisdom that will bring good results in your life.

Today's Life Lesson is: My wisdom comes from God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### TROUBLE AT DANGER MINE - 5

Obtain Flash Card

Recap: Sam was in big trouble. He and his friend Jay had foolishly disobeyed their parents to go check out an old abandoned mine that everyone in town called Danger Mine. Sam's little sister, Ann, had followed them into the mine and she accidentally pulled a beam from the wall of the mine down onto her leg. She was trapped and the boys couldn't lift the heavy beam no matter how hard they tried. Dirt was falling from above and it sounded like the old mine would cave in any minute. Jay panicked and took off leaving Sam and Ann alone and trapped in the dark.

"I'm cold!" Ann cried. "And my leg hurts so bad."

"I know," Sam said. "Just sit real still."

What could he say to comfort his little sister when he was so cold and so frightened himself? He had never been in a place so dark. Even in his bedroom at night it wasn't this dark. Usually his eyes would adjust and soon he could see the outlines of things in his room. But this was different. There was no light at all. He couldn't see anything at all!

“We can pray,” Sam said.

“That’s a good idea,” Ann replied. “Mom says that God will always hear our prayers.”

“That’s what the Bible says,” Sam said with a bit more confidence. He was remembering another verse he had learned at church. It was Proverbs 15:29, “The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.”

“I disobeyed Mom and Dad. And I disobeyed God too. But I know God still loves me. He’ll hear our prayer.”

Sam bowed his head and began to pray.

“Dear Lord, I know I shouldn’t have come into this old mine. I’m sorry I disobeyed. Please forgive me. Please be with me and Ann right now. Help us to get out safely,” Sam prayed.

“Amen,” Ann replied.

Sam held tightly to Ann’s hand. He knew that somehow this would work out. Ann couldn’t move, but at least she didn’t think she had broken any bones. It was cold and dark, but they could huddle close together and take comfort from knowing they had each other and they had a God who can see them even in the dark.

Sam didn’t know how long they sat on the ground of the old mine. He lost all track of time. To pass the time Sam thought of silly word games to play. They quoted the Bible verses they had been learning in Sunday School. They also sang the songs they had learned in church. It gave them both courage to remember God was with them.

Then they heard a sound. It was a strong, clear voice. And it was calling their names.

“That’s Dad!” Ann exclaimed.

Pretty soon Sam saw a flood of lights headed their way. Behind Dad were several other men with emergency equipment. Sam had never been happier to see anyone in his entire life. Sam ran to hug his Dad as the men went to work lifting the beam from Ann’s leg.

One of the rescue squad men carried Ann out just to make sure she hadn’t done any damage to her leg that they couldn’t see. Sam stuck close to his Dad.

Just then the bright sunlight shined in Sam’s eyes. How glad he was to feel the warmth from the sun and see the beautiful world that God had created!

Later at home Sam and Dad sat on a fence in their back yard and had a good long talk.  
(Show Flash Card)

“Dad, I’m sorry I didn’t listen to you. Will you forgive me?” Sam asked.

“Of course, but you sure did give me a scare. I didn’t know what we’d find when I heard Jay shouting that there’d been an accident at Danger Mine. It really scared me when he shouted that you and Ann were trapped inside,” Dad said.

“I should never have gone into that mine,” Sam said sheepishly.

“No, you shouldn’t have. It wasn’t a very wise thing to do. You knew how dangerous it could be. Your mother and I have warned you many times,” Dad said.

“I was foolish. I’m sorry,” Sam hung his head.

“Son, we have rules for your own good. It’s the same way with God. He gives us rules in the Bible. If we listen to and obey God’s rules, then we are wise. We will be happy if we obey. But if we foolishly disobey God’s rules, then we will pay the price. Sometimes it’s a heavy price to pay.”

“From now on, I’m going to be wise! I’m going to obey you and I’m going to obey God!” Sam said.

In his heart Sam asked God to help him be a wise servant of God in every choice he made.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*  
Proverbs 2:6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER’S STUDY TEXT

Proverbs 3:13, 4:7, 119:11

### LESSON

#### **TWO WISE KINGS**

Do you remember the two kings we talked about last week? Who were they? King David and King Solomon.

Although they were not always perfect and they sometimes did foolish things, both David and Solomon loved God and they wisely tried to do what was pleasing to God. In fact, King Solomon requested that God give him wisdom. Because of that request, Solomon is still known as the wisest man who ever lived.

The wisest thing that David and Solomon ever did was to love God with all their hearts and to obey God.

#### **ANOTHER WISE MAN: JOSEPH**

The Bible tells us about many wise people who lived, but one of my favorites is Joseph. Poor Joseph tried to do what was right in his life, but every time he turned around someone seemed to be doing wrong to him.

Joseph was hated by his brothers. They hated him so much that they wanted to kill him and they almost did! But finally they settled on selling him into slavery in Egypt. There Joseph tried to be a faithful servant to Potiphar, but when he obeyed God and resisted the temptation to sin with Potiphar's wife, he ended up being thrown in prison.

For many years Joseph stayed in prison. It would seem like that would cause Joseph to be angry with God. But it didn't. Instead he was wise enough to just keep being faithful to God. There must have been days when Joseph wondered if he would spend the rest of his life in prison, but God had plans for Joseph and he was wise enough to wait on God's perfect time!

By the end of Joseph's story, we see how God blessed him by allowing the Pharaoh to find favor with Joseph and making him a great man in Egypt. In fact, Joseph became the second greatest man in Egypt!

In everything Joseph did, he showed what a wise man he was! Think about the time when God revealed to the king, in a dream, what would soon happen in Egypt. God gave Joseph the wisdom to interpret the king's dream. He gave Joseph the wisdom to suggest what the king ought to do to avoid the trouble that would come about when the land would be in drought.

Now I imagine that in the very beginning, when the word first got out that Joseph had been appointed by Pharaoh to this new job, there had been lots of talk throughout the land of Egypt. Some people may have been jealous of Joseph's new power.

They may have sounded a bit like this.

"Hey! Did you hear what happened? Pharaoh had these two dreams and they pulled this Hebrew slave out of prison to interpret the dreams. He comes up with this thing about seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. He said his God told him about it. Ha! So get this! Pharaoh puts this Hebrew slave in charge. Second in command of the entire country! Can you believe it? I mean, the guy could have said anything! Well, he can fake it and live like a king for seven years, but then he better be ready to get out of Egypt fast when that time is up!"

True to Joseph's word, for seven years the land produced abundantly. Joseph began to put his plan into action. He and the men under his authority went to work. They traveled through-

out Egypt taking a portion of everyone's crops and securing them in guarded granaries for storage.

Genesis 41:49 says, *And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.*

As the crops grew in abundance, some began to respect Joseph and his God. He had been right. But there are always skeptics who don't believe. Even after the land was bringing forth plenty, there may have still been some who still scoffed at Joseph.

"Yeah! Well, Joseph has gotten lucky. The land is doing great and there he is, all high and mighty, taking credit for being right. Saying his God is so wise. But just wait. Seven years will be up soon and then he won't look so smart if his big, scary famine doesn't come along like he said! I'd love to be there to hear his explanation to the Pharaoh!"

### **PREPARED**

It didn't matter to Joseph what others said or did. Joseph knew that God had told him the land would soon be in a terrible famine. I believe Joseph spent plenty of time asking God for wisdom about how to carry out his plan in the wisest way possible. He knew that God had allowed him to interpret the dreams so that he would be given this position of power. He knew that in his own wisdom, he might fail. But he also knew that if he relied on God's wisdom, then there was no way he would fail.

Joseph knew that true wisdom comes from God.

Finally the day came when the farmers went out to their fields to plant their crops and something was very different. They worked up the soil, as they always had. They planted, as they always had. They irrigated, as they always had. And then, with big smiles on their faces they sat back and waited for the plants to sprout and grow and multiply in abundance.

But something was wrong. Nothing came up. Or very little came up. And what little that did come up was scruffy and useless. There was no rain. There was no crop. No food for the animals. No food for the people.

Well, the people could hold out for awhile. They had some grain from the last few years and some food in their cupboards. But it wasn't long before their granaries were empty and their cupboards were bare.

The people went to Pharaoh. They told him of the famine and demanded that he help them.

Genesis 41:55 says, *And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he saith to you, do.*

Joseph had been right. And Joseph was prepared. He sent men to give out the grain to the people. But now, Joseph needed more wisdom. He couldn't just open the granaries and let the people take all they wanted. Joseph had to carefully and wisely plan how to give out what the

people needed and still have enough in reserve for the future. Joseph wisely gave out only what was needed.

### **ARE YOU WISE?**

The Bible tells us that the other lands around Egypt also suffered with no food during that time. It would have been wise for the people in the other lands to set aside a reserve also, wouldn't it? But they didn't know about the trouble that was ahead of them. Only Joseph knew what was ahead because God had told him.

That's true of people today. Foolishly, people often do not think ahead. They only think of today. If things are going well, they are happy. They don't worry about tomorrow. They think, "Let tomorrow take care of itself." They don't know that trouble may be ahead. How foolish!

We can be like that. We are fine today, so why worry about what tomorrow will bring?

Have you ever heard about a movie star who had made millions of dollars making movies? Everyone loved them and they thought that fame and money would never end. They bought mansions to live in and flashy cars to drive.

But then came the day when their movies began to flop. They weren't big stars anymore. No one wanted them. Then their money ran out. Their mansion was repossessed. They couldn't afford the insurance on the fancy cars. Everything was taken away and in the end, they died alone and broke.

It has happened many times. They foolishly didn't think ahead.

Well you say. I'm not rich, so I don't really have to worry about planning for my future that way.

How about spiritually? We are born dead in sin. We are broke spiritually. And some day, we will all stand before God. If we aren't wise enough to prepare, then we will have to spend eternity separated from God in Hell.

But we can be prepared. God offers you a plan. Will you be wise enough, like Joseph, to plan ahead? God wants to offer you salvation from sin and an eternity in Heaven. Today I can have someone show you how to prepare for your spiritual future.

Maybe you have already accepted Jesus as your Savior. You have wisely planned for an eternity in Heaven. But are you wisely planning for your life here on earth?

God has a plan for your life. He has things He wants you to do and say. You need to realize, like Joseph did, that in order to be wise here on earth, you must look to the One who is the source of all wisdom. That is God.

### **GET WISDOM. AVOID FOOLISHNESS.**

Proverbs is a book in the Bible that tells us many things about wisdom. In fact, Proverbs is one of the books that wise King Solomon wrote.

Do you remember Proverbs 2:6? It is the Bible verse we have been memorizing! Say it with me. Proverbs 2:6, *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

If you want wisdom, you should go to the source of true wisdom. That is God.

But what wisdom does God want us to have? There are certain things that a wise person will avoid and certain things a wise person will seek to do.

First, avoid foolish friends.

The wrong friends can cause you big trouble. They can destroy your testimony and your life. Foolish friends often like to make trouble. They think it is fun to do things they shouldn't. Then they tease you into joining them.

Proverbs 1:10 says, *My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.*

In other words, when foolish friends try to get you to do wrong things, don't do it! And the best way to avoid falling into their trap altogether is to stay away from the wrong type of friends in the first place.

Look for friends who love the Lord and want to serve Him.

Second, love wisdom and act wisely.

Proverbs 4:7 says, *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

This isn't just talking about school and book learning. You should do your best in school, but gaining wisdom, instruction, and knowledge is far more than school.

When the Bible tells us to love knowledge and to get instructions, it is talking about our actions and attitudes. We need to make wise choices in life. We need to be teachable. We need to ask the Lord to teach us how to love and serve Him.

Third, obey God's Word.

We need to obey the Lord when He shows us what He wants us to do. Wisdom is much more than just knowing what God wants you to do each day. True wisdom is obeying God when He shows you what He wants you to do.

Where is it that you can find out what God's wants you to do? That's right. In the Bible. The Bible is God's way of talking to you. It is full of God's wisdom. You would be wise to find a time daily to read God's Word and then be wise enough to obey what God tells you to do in His Word. Be wise enough to avoid the sins God warns you about in His Word.

Psalm 119:11 says, *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

## REWARDS OF WISDOM

There are many rewards for being wise and for avoiding foolishness.

Proverbs 3:13 says, *Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.*

When the Bible says, “Happy” it means so much more than just happy the way we mean it. It also means blessed and fortunate.

Here are some of the rewards mentioned in the book of Proverbs for being wise. And there are more than these. (If time allows, read the verses listed below.)

Wisdom brings honor. (Proverbs 4:8, 3:16,35)

Wisdom brings long life. (Proverbs 4:10)

Wisdom shows you a clear path to follow. (Proverbs 4:12)

Wisdom brings life and health. (Proverbs 4:22)

Wisdom brings a peaceful life. (Proverbs 3:17, 24)

So what do you choose? Who would choose to be foolish when they can be wise? Today you can choose to be a wise person.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Proverbs 3:5-6 are very familiar verses. They tell us that a wise person trusts in God for everything. *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

This week I challenge you to remember that true wisdom comes from God. I also challenge you to seek wisdom. If you do, then you will be a wise child!

How do you do that? Beginning today, start reading one chapter of Proverbs each day. (Or at least read a few verses every day.) Commit to doing this every day. Then remember to wisely choose godly friends, wisely love wisdom, and wisely obey God in all you do!

???(Teacher: You will find a Bible reading chart at the end of this lesson for the children to take home. Copy the booklets, front and back, fold, and hand out. You can also make a master chart to keep track of the children who do this reading and check on how the children are doing.)

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to always look to God when you need wisdom.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Joseph tell Pharaoh would happen in the land of Egypt?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did Joseph do to prepare for the seven years of famine?
4. How did Joseph get the wisdom to make such a smart plan?
5. Who was known as the wisest man on earth?
6. What did Solomon ask God to give him?
7. What kind of friends is it wise to avoid?
8. Where can you find true wisdom?
9. What should you do daily in order to gain true wisdom?
10. Name one thing that God gives as a reward for wisdom.

# Be A Wise Child

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out  
of his mouth cometh knowledge and  
understanding.

Proverbs 2:6



My wisdom comes from  
God.

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LESSON 6

A FAITHFUL CHILD  
FAITHFUL TO A FAITHFUL GOD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 17:1-6, 16:29-33

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

What things do you need in life? Can you name a few? (Take answers.) We all need the basics like food, clothes, shelter. We would all also like some extras like tasty food, nice clothes, a nice house. And then some of us think we really, really need things like an ipod, a cell phone, computer games, sports equipment, and so many other extras we enjoy.

There is nothing wrong with having nice things. But have you ever stopped to think about the things in life that you really need more than anything? Have you ever wondered what is really of true importance and true value in life? Maybe not, because you are still young, but it's not too soon, even at a young age, to take the time to think about what is really important in life.

God loves you and He knows what you truly need in life. And more than that, He will make sure you have the really important things in life. It's wonderful to know that if you are faithful to God then God will always be faithful to you.

Today we will begin talking about a man who was faithful to God. Through his life we will find ways that we can be faithful to God also.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### EXACTLY WHAT SHE NEEDED

Cheryl Reid

Obtain Flash Card

Carlie sat at her desk at school, watching Emily and her friends laughing and talking together before the bell rang. Emily had a new outfit—the newest style, of course, and very expensive. She had lots of friends; she was popular because she was very pretty and lived in an expensive home. She had parties, and took trips with her parents, and went shopping as often as she wanted to. Because Carlie felt inferior to Emily, she didn't join the group huddled around her, and no one invited her to, either.

It was easy for Carlie to feel sorry for herself when she compared her clothing with Emily's. She remembered when her sister wore the same outfit two years ago. Although it still looked nice, it was not new. She was sure the other girls knew that she wore her sister's hand-me-downs.

Carlie knew that God provided everything she needed, but she began to be dissatisfied. Why didn't God give her what He gave to Emily? (Show Flash Card)

Carlie had a comfortable, clean home, and parents who loved her. Her mother always took the time to spend with her; they played board games and rode bikes, they spent time in the kitchen where Carlie was learning how to cook. Carlie's dad worked many hours each day, but always had time for her. The family prayed together every night and spent time studying the Bible together each evening. Although they didn't have expensive things, they had everything they needed, and Carlie and her sister were loved and cared for.

Those things didn't really matter to Carlie at the moment, though. She was thinking of all she didn't have, instead of all she did have. She was comparing her simple life with Emily's exciting one. All during school that day, Carlie felt sorry for herself and wished that her life was different. She wished her life was like Emily's.

As she compared herself to others, she became jealous and discontent with the life God had chosen for her. Carlie, who was usually happy and carefree at home, became quiet and moody. Her mother noticed the change, and asked her about it.

"Are you feeling okay, Carlie? You're awfully quiet tonight. I hope you aren't getting a cold."

"I'm okay; just thinking about stuff," Carlie answered.

"If you want to talk about anything, I'd like to help," Mom said, and gave Carlie a quick hug.

"No, thanks."

For several days, Carlie moped around the house. She stayed in her room instead of having fun with her family. She didn't want to help cook, and she didn't want to play games. She spent her time thinking about all the things she wanted and couldn't have. She looked through magazines and catalogs, wishing she could buy the things she wanted. She looked in the mirror and found nothing she liked. She wanted blond, straight hair instead of brown, curly hair. She wished she were taller. She wished she had blue eyes instead of green ones. And, because Carlie's eyes were on herself, she stopped reading her Bible and talking to God.

Carlie's parents were very concerned about the change in her behavior, and since Carlie was unwilling to talk about what was bothering her, they decided to pray extra hard for her. They asked God to be especially close to Carlie and to help her through, whatever the struggle was. They asked God to show her just how much He loves her.

When Carlie went to school on Monday, she noticed that Emily wasn't there. She was also absent on Tuesday and Wednesday. Carlie wondered what was wrong; Emily must be really sick. Later in the day, the teacher walked to Emily's desk and put all of Emily's books and things into a bag. The students all looked at each other, puzzled about what was happening. One of the girls raised her hand and asked, "Why did you take all of Emily's things out of her desk?"

“She won’t be coming back,” the teacher answered. “She is moving to another town and another school.”

No one understood why Emily was leaving school so suddenly. It seemed very strange to them that Emily was there one day, and gone the next. Several of the girls wiped tears from their eyes. They would miss hanging out with Emily, and especially the fun parties she had at her house.

Carlie was puzzled, too. What had happened to Emily? Why wouldn’t she even say good-bye to her friends? Where was she going? On Friday, Carlie decided to ask one of the other girls what had happened to Emily. “Oh, she called me last night. Her mom and dad got a divorce and Emily moved away with her mom. She’s not happy about it, but she’ll get to see her dad once a month. She was crying. I feel really bad for her.”

Carlie didn’t say anything. She went to her desk and thought about what she had just heard. She had believed Emily’s life was perfect. She had the best clothes, the biggest house, the best parties, the most money, of anyone in the class. Carlie just took for granted that Emily was completely happy. Obviously, she was not. She thought that Emily probably didn’t know Jesus as her Savior, either.

It was hard for Carlie to concentrate on what her teacher said the rest of the day. Her mind wandered from Emily’s life to her own life. She had compared her parents to Emily’s parents; her clothing with Emily’s clothing; her house to Emily’s house; her appearance to Emily’s appearance. Suddenly, Carlie realized something. Emily’s life wasn’t as wonderful as Carlie had believed. While she was at school, Emily gave the impression that her life was perfect—so perfect that Carlie had begun to feel sorry for herself and wish that she had been born into a different family. She didn’t appreciate how God had provided for her needs, even though He had given her a wonderful home with loving parents. Carlie’s idea of what she needed was not God’s idea. She knew that she had some explaining and apologizing to do when she got home. She wasn’t jealous of Emily any more; she felt sorry for her.

As Carlie rode the bus home that afternoon, she had a silent conversation with God. She confessed her sin of jealousy, and she thanked God for providing for her with exactly what she needed. She realized that God had been very good to her, and she was thankful.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*  
Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 17:1-6, 16:29-33

### LESSON

#### **ELIJAH - GOD'S FAITHFUL PROPHET**

One of the great prophets that the Bible tells us about is Elijah. He was called of God to teach and preach to the wicked kingdom of Israel. Although Israel had turned away from God to follow false gods and idols, Elijah faithfully proclaimed all that God told him to say. The people did not respect Elijah. They most often did not listen to him. It must have been difficult to be a prophet to those wicked people, yet Elijah did not worry about what the people thought of him or whether or not they listened to him. Instead Elijah remained faithful to proclaim God's Word as he had been instructed.

The Bible doesn't tell us much about Elijah's history. We don't know who his family was or what he did as a young man, but we do know that he must have loved and obeyed God. We know this because God called Elijah to carry out a very difficult task for him. God called him to speak out against one of the most wicked kings that ever ruled over Israel. God called Elijah to stand up against the worship of the false gods that Israel had begun to follow.

The name Elijah means "My God Jehovah is he." The wicked people of Israel followed false gods, but Elijah faithfully followed the one true God.

God honored Elijah as a result of his faithful service. Toward the end of Jesus' ministry on earth, one day when He went to pray, he took three of his disciples with him. As Jesus prayed,

a glow came on Him and his clothing shined white. Next to Christ appeared Moses and Elijah. The three of them talked about the things that would happen when Jesus would go to the cross to die.

Luke 9:28-31 says, *And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray.*

*And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening.*

*And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:*

*Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.*

We are also told that one day in the future Elijah will again return to this earth to witness to the lost sinners about Jesus Christ. The book of Revelation tells us that during the final days on earth, during the great and terrible tribulation, God will send Elijah and one other Old Testament saint, possibly Moses, to preach and proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah. Many will reject their witness, but there will be those who believe and accept Christ before it is eternally too late for them. Of all the great men who loved and served God, only Elijah and the one other saint will be given the honor of being the last ones to share the Gospel with the world.

Malachi 4:5 says, *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

#### **AHAB - GOD'S GREAT ENEMY**

King Ahab, the king of Israel, was the exact opposite of Elijah. He was an extremely wicked king. He ruled over the Northern Kingdom of Israel for twenty-two years. The Bible says that no king before him had been so sinful and wicked.

I Kings 16:29-30 says, *And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.*

*And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.*

Not only was King Ahab wicked, but he was married to a woman named Jezebel who was even more wicked than he was! Can you imagine? Jezebel was a mean-hearted, nasty, terrible person. She is known as one of the worst and most wicked women mentioned in the Bible.

During Ahab's reign, he and wicked Jezebel led the people of Israel into the worship of the false god, Baal. They built altars where the people could go to worship and offer sacrifices to the idol.

God clearly told His people that they were never to bow down to or worship any false god. He is the only true God and they were sinning greatly against God when they rejected Him and worshiped a false god.

I Kings 16:31-33 says, *And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him.*

*And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.*

*And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.*

Ahab was the king. It was his responsibility to teach and lead the people in the way they should go. He should have told them that Baal was just an idol and not a god at all. He should have told them that the God of Heaven was the true God. Ahab should have told his people to only worship and serve the true God. But not only did he fail to lead his people in the right way, he purposely lead them in the wrong way!

Ahab's kingdom was rich and prosperous. He enjoyed great wealth. But instead of being thankful to God for all the good things he had, he completely turned his back on God. In fact, he as much as spit on God and all His blessings.

#### **FAMINE - GOD'S PUNISHMENT**

When God looked down on wicked King Ahab, He could not let him sin and get away with it. God hates sin and sin must be punished. So God sent Elijah to warn Ahab.

God was about to send a great famine to the land of Israel. Elijah prayed to God and asked that there would be no rain for three and a half years.

I Kings 17:1 says, *And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.*

Three and a half years is a very, very long time to not have rain! Can you imagine the damage that would occur to the land in all that time with no rain? Without rain the crops would not grow and there would not be enough food to feed the people. Without rain the lakes and reservoirs would dry up and there might not even be enough water to use for washing up or watering animals. There might not even be enough for the people to have for their own personal use.

Ahab could have prevented his land and his people from facing such a terrible time with no rain and not enough food and water. If Ahab had repented of his sin and commanded that the altars to the false god of Baal be torn down and that the people turn their hearts back to God, then God would have forgiven them. But Ahab was too stubborn and too wicked to listen to Elijah or to God. He didn't care about the troubles of the people in his kingdom. He only wanted his own selfish way.

The kingdom of Israel had enjoyed the blessings of God for a time, but the good times were over now. God stopped the rain, as Elijah prayed He would, and the famine began. Crops failed and people began to suffer.

## FED BY RAVENS - GOD'S PROVISION

As soon as Elijah had informed King Ahab that Israel would face a drought and a famine, God spoke to Elijah and told him to leave the presence of Ahab. God had a special place all picked out for him to go where he could hide from the wicked king. God had a place where Elijah would be safe and well cared for even in the terrible times to come.

Certainly Ahab would become upset and angry with Elijah as the famine got worse and the need for rain grew. If he could have gotten his hands on Elijah, he would probably have tried to kill him. So God sent Elijah to a place where he would be out of Ahab's reach. God sent Elijah to a brook called Cherith.

There at the brook, there was fresh water, but what would Elijah do for food? Just as there was no food in the land for the other people, Elijah was also facing a time where food would be scarce. God had it all planned out. God knew Elijah would need food. God knew all of Elijah's needs. God knows you and He knows all of your needs too!

Elijah drank from the water in the brook Cherith, but that was not all! God performed a miracle for Elijah by sending food directly to him. How did God send food to Elijah? God sent the food with ravens. Twice a day the ravens would arrive with bread and meat for him to eat. Ravens are birds of prey that normally would have stolen the food for themselves, but God made sure those birds took the food and dropped it for Elijah. I imagine Elijah praised God for the bread and meat and water that God daily provided for him. How good God was to so faithfully meet Elijah's every need! Elijah had been faithful to God and God was always faithful to Elijah!

I Kings 17:2-6 says, *And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,*

*Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

*And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.*

*So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan.*

*And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.*

## YOUR GREATEST NEED - GOD'S PROVISION FOR YOU

The God who sent food to Elijah twice a day is the same God who faithfully watches over you and provides for your needs as well. Just as God knew what Elijah would need and was faithful to provide for his needs, God knows your needs. And just as God was able to easily care for Elijah's needs, He can easily care for your needs and He will be faithful to care for your needs.

Do you know what your greatest need in this life is? Often we think we need all sorts of things that money can buy, but money and things are not your greatest needs. Your greatest need is a Savior who can forgive your sin and give you an eternity in Heaven.

You cannot do one single thing to get rid of your own sin. You are a sinner, but you are helpless to get rid of that sin. And God hates sin. Just as God punished Ahab's sin, He must also punish your sin. But God is merciful. God loves you. God was willing to give Ahab a second chance. If Ahab had repented of his sin, God would have forgiven him. The same is true for you. If you tell God you know you are a sinner and ask Him to forgive your sin, He will! Isn't that wonderful? I hope you are wiser than foolish King Ahab!

Jesus Christ came to earth for the very purpose of dying on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. The punishment for sin is death and Christ took your punishment for you. Now all you have to do is ask Him to forgive you and He will. Have you done that? You can today. We can take a Bible and show you how you can have your greatest need met. We would love to do that in just a minute.

After you get saved from your sin, there are other things you will need. God knows about those needs and He has provided for them also.

God knows your physical needs. You may not always have all the things you desire, but God gives you what you need to eat and be clothed.

God also knows your spiritual needs. Physical needs sometimes seem so important to us, but in truth, our spiritual needs are much more important. Things that are physical are for a short time. Sooner than you think you will grow old and die, but your soul will live somewhere for all eternity. The spiritual needs you have are eternal. What are your spiritual needs? Let's talk a bit about the food and drink you need for your soul.

1. You need a guide through life.

The Bible says that when you ask Jesus to forgive your sin that He sends the Holy Spirit to live in your heart. It is the job of the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin. When you are tempted to sin, it is the Holy Spirit who whispers a warning to your heart not to do things that hurt God and harm you. After you have sinned, the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart and urges you to confess and forsake your sin. Another job of the Holy Spirit is to encourage and comfort you. When you need comfort, it is the Holy Spirit who comforts your heart.

God is so good to faithfully provide for our daily need of a guide to help us through this life on earth until the time when we are finally in Heaven with Him.

2. You need wisdom from God.

Another great need you have is for wisdom from God. How do you get wisdom? God gave us two things that give us His wisdom. The Bible is the way God speaks to you. It is the way He tells you what is right and what is wrong. It is the way you grow spiritually so that your life will be pleasing to Him.

God also gave you prayer. When you need wisdom, go to God directly in prayer and ask Him for His wisdom. The Bible tells us that God gladly and freely gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it.

James 1:5 says, *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

Every day God will faithfully give you all that you need. You just need to ask!

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to think about this story from the Old Testament about wicked King Ahab and God's faithful prophet, Elijah. Think about the spiritual needs you have. Have you had your greatest spiritual need of salvation met? Maybe if you didn't speak to someone today about accepting Jesus, then next week you will do that.

If you are a Christian, then spend time this week letting God meet your spiritual needs. Let God guide you and convict you of sin through the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, don't ignore Him and go the opposite direction. Instead, listen to the Holy Spirit. Obey Him when He warns you to stay away from sin.

Then take the time to let God meet your spiritual needs by seeking wisdom from reading your Bible and praying. You will never know what God wants you to do and what you should avoid if you don't read your Bible. You won't ever learn to listen to the voice of God if you don't spend time in prayer. I challenge you to set aside a few minutes each day to faithfully read a Bible verse or two and then to pray.

Remember, if you are faithful to God then He will always be faithful to you!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to faithfully provide for every need you have. I am also going to ask God to help you to stay faithful to Him.

## BIBLE QUIZ

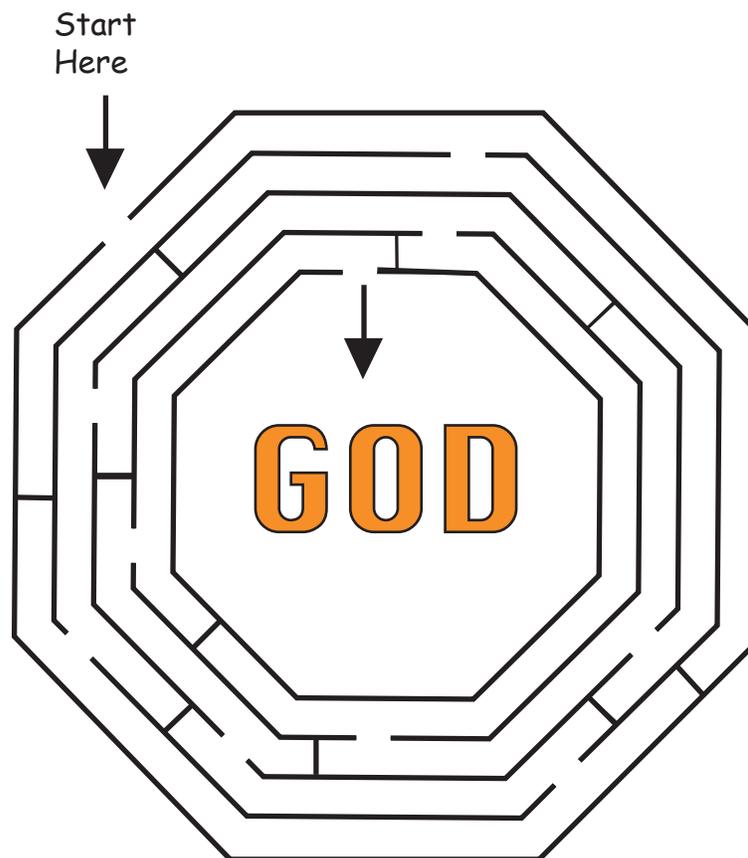
1. Who did God call to be his prophet?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. The New Testament mentions Elijah twice. Tell us about one of those times.
4. Over which kingdom was Ahab the king?
5. What was the name of Ahab's wicked wife?
6. Which false god did the people of Israel worship?
7. Why did God punish Ahab and the kingdom of Israel?
8. Name the number of years Elijah prayed it would not rain?
9. Where did God send Elijah?
10. What miracle did God perform to feed Elijah during the famine?

# Faithful to a Faithful God

A faithful man shall abound with blessings. Proverbs 28:20a



I will be faithful to God.



Are you always searching for something more than what you already have? Don't. Instead take the time to look at all that God has already given to you. You will find you have all that you need!



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LESSON 7

A FAITHFUL CHILD  
FAITHFUL TO GIVE MY ALL TO GOD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 17:7-24

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

There is a Christmas song about a poor shepherd boy who went to the manger to see the Christ child on the night that baby Jesus was born. The story goes that the boy looked and he saw that the others who had come to see Jesus all brought some gift. The Wisemen had brought expensive, beautiful gifts.

Out of a heart of love the poor boy longed to give something to the baby, but he wondered what he could give since he had no money. The song says:

What can I give to Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd boy, I would give a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part.

What can I give to Him? Give Him all my heart!

A heart filled with love for Christ Jesus is of true value to Him. Your heart is the thing Jesus wants the most from you. This little boy only had his heart and his love to give, but he was faithful to give all he had. What about you? Will you be faithful to give all that you have to God?

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

## SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### DON'T HAVE MUCH!

(Get Andy ready to bring out. You can keep him in a bag or small piece of luggage. Just use something where he can be hidden when you are not using him.)

**You:** I brought a friend with me today. Most of you already know Andy. (Bring Andy out) Say "Hi to everyone, Andy."

**Andy:** (Very despondently) Hi.

**You:** Why, Andy. You don't sound too good today. Are you sick?

**Andy:** (Still down) No.

**You:** Your not very talkative either. Are you sure you're not sick?

**Andy:** I'm sure.

**You:** Okay. Then what's the problem?

**Andy:** (Give a loud sigh) Well . . . you can't help me, so there's no use talking about it.

**You:** Sometimes it makes you feel better to talk about things, even when no one can help. We will all listen to your problem. (To children) Won't we? Now go on. Tell us what the problem seems to be.

**Andy:** Okay. The problem is, I don't have much.

**You:** What?

**Andy:** I don't have much.

**You:** What do you mean?

**Andy:** You know. I don't have things like you and all those kids. Look at all those kids. They have clothing. I'm not sure, but they probably have a house to live in and all sorts of fun things to play with. Me? I have nothing!

**You:** You have a warm suitcase (or bag) to live in!

**Andy:** Sure. I have that. But I don't have an ipod. (Or whatever the latest gadget is)

**You:** An ipod? What would you do with that?

**Andy:** Listen to songs!

**You:** But Andy, you can't really hear with your ears! You are just a puppet!

**Andy:** See! You just proved my point. I'm only a puppet!!! I don't even have ears that really hear! Nope. I don't have much!

**You:** Andy, you have everything God intended you to have. In fact, you actually have more than most other puppets I know.

**Andy:** I do?

**You:** Sure! How many puppets do you know that have a room full of friends like you have here?

**Andy:** Hey! You're right! I do have a lot of good friends here at church!

**You:** You know, Andy, sometimes we all start to feel sorry for ourselves. We look around at others and think they have more than we have. We think they are more talented than we are. We start to feel sorry for ourselves and we forget about all the blessings God has given to us.

**Andy:** That's what I was doing.

**You:** Do you know what would please God?

**Andy:** What?

**You:** Just think how pleased God would be if the next time you prayed, instead of asking God to give you something, you asked God what you could do for Him. Tell Him you are happy with all He has given to you. Then ask Him what you can give to Him.

**Andy:** Wow! I've never done that.

**You:** It is easy to go to God and tell Him everything we want Him to give to us and everything we want Him to do for us. But I know God would be so happy if instead we went to Him and asked what we could do for Him.

**Andy:** You're right. Instead of feeling bad because I don't have much, I should be glad for all I do have. And just to show God how glad I am, I think I will ask Him what I can do for Him!

**You:** That's the idea!

**Andy:** I think they should do the same thing.

**You:** What a great idea. (To children) Andy wants to ask God what he can do for Him. How about you? When you pray this week, will you take the time to ask God what you can do for Him? Then when God shows you some way you can serve Him, do it!

**Andy:** I feel tons better. Now I could talk all day long!

**You:** Sorry, Andy. Our time is up. But I'll bring you back sometime soon and you can talk to us again. Bye, Andy.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 17:7-24

### LESSON

#### PLAN B

Do you remember the name of the prophet we talked about last week? His name was Elijah. Elijah was a bold and fearless man of God. He was also a faithful man. God gave him a very difficult job to do and he faithfully did what God commanded. He went to wicked King Ahab and told him that because of his sin of leading the people of Israel into idol worship, he would be punished. Elijah prayed that God would stop the rain from falling for three and a half years.

After Elijah told Ahab what would happen, God told Elijah to hide himself by the brook of Cherith. There God performed a great miracle for Elijah. Twice a day God sent ravens with bread and meat for him to eat.

King Ahab was quite angry with Elijah. But even though King Ahab searched for Elijah and wanted to do him harm, the king could not find him. Elijah was safe in God's keeping. God protected Elijah and He provided for his every need.

As the days went on, just as Elijah had warned King Ahab, there was no rain. The land became dry and parched. The crops could not grow without rain and soon the people of Israel became hungry, thirsty, and very afraid. The false priests called on their false god, Baal, to send them rain, but it did them no good. Baal could not help them because Baal was only a false god. There was no rain. The crops dried up and died. The rivers and brooks dried up. Soon, even the brook Cherith dried up also.

I Kings 17:7 says, *And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.*

Now what would Elijah do? His water was gone. He would die of thirst if he didn't have water! Had God forgotten about him?

No, Elijah did not need to worry. God was not taken by surprise. God was still in control. God was still faithful. God knew Elijah needed water. God had a plan.

#### A WILLING WIDOW

God told Elijah it was time to move to another location. There God had picked out a place and a woman who would faithfully obey Him and help care for Elijah. Apparently God let this woman know that she should expect a visitor and that she was to help care for him.

I Kings 17:8-9 says, *And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.*

So Elijah went where God told him to go. He got right up and headed to where this widow woman lived. The woman lived in a town outside the country of Israel. It was a safe place where King Ahab would never think of looking for Elijah. But even though God spoke to the woman to help care for Elijah, she was not an Israelite woman. In fact, she lived in the city where wicked Queen Jezebel had lived before she was the queen. Almost everyone in that city worshiped the false god, Baal. Yet, even though the widow did not know the God of Elijah personally, she must have been a woman whose heart was open to God. She must have been a woman who was willing to obey God.

In Bible times women did not usually have much money or land of their own. Anything a woman had was owned by her husband. And women back then did not usually have jobs. They worked in their homes and cared for their families. It was the responsibility of the husband to make a living for his family.

But the woman God sent Elijah to meet was a widow woman. Her husband was dead and she had no one to care for her needs. Not only that, this woman had a young son for whom she must provide. I imagine she had a difficult life trying to meet the needs of herself and her young son in a world where women were not accepted. I suppose too that the woman was also affected by the drought and famine just like everyone else. She could not plant tomatoes and beans in a garden in her back yard to grow food. There was no water. She could not grow wheat for bread.

But regardless of the fact that this widow was poor, she was hard at work when Elijah arrived at her house. She was gathering sticks to make a fire. All the food she had left in her house was a handful of grain and a little oil. She was planning on mixing the grain and oil and making a small cake or loaf of bread. It was all she had left to eat, so she thought that after she and her son had eaten that small loaf, they would have no more to eat. They would die.

As she worked, Elijah approached the woman. First he asked her to bring him some water. Then he asked her to give him some bread to eat.

I Kings 17:10-12 says, *So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.*

*And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.*

*And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.*

Can you imagine what the woman was thinking? Water was precious and rare during the drought! And all she had left to eat was just a small loaf of bread! Here was this stranger asking

her to give him the small bit of water and bread that she had left. If she gave it to him, then they would die sooner!

### **A PROMISE FROM GOD**

Elijah knew the woman had almost nothing to give him. He understood she only had a bit of food and water left in her house. But Elijah also knew what a great God he served. He knew God had sent him to that widow. He knew God had provided for all his needs up to that point. And he knew God would continue to faithfully provide for him in the future. Elijah had great faith in God and he passed his faith on to the widow woman.

Elijah told the woman that she had nothing to worry about. He told her, “Fear not.” Often in the Bible people were told to “Fear not.” Men of God said it. Angels said it. Even the Lord Himself said it. They knew there was nothing to fear. When God has a plan, nothing and no one can change God’s plan. God is always in complete control. Since God is in control, we have nothing to fear! But that poor widow woman did not know that. All she could do was trust that Elijah and God would care for her needs.

The poor widow woman did an amazing thing. She went and fixed the bread and brought it and a jar of water for Elijah to eat. She did not refuse to feed Elijah so she could hoard the food for herself. Instead, she trusted the man of God and gave him all she had.

Do you know what? She really didn’t have anything to fear. From that day forward God provided all she needed. She gave all she had to God’s man and in turn God provided all she needed. As long as Elijah stayed with her, and most likely well beyond, she had all the grain and oil and water she needed!

I Kings 17:13-16 says, *And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.*

*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.*

*And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.*

*And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.*

God performed a miracle for that poor widow woman. Every time she went to the barrel for flour, there was enough to make her bread. Every time she lifted the pitcher of oil, some would pour out. Every day she made bread from what God provided. For the rest of the time that Elijah was in hiding, God continued to provide for their needs.

### **GOD PROVIDES AGAIN**

The days of the drought and famine continued on and Elijah stayed at the home of the widow. I am sure she gladly provided him a room to sleep in and food to eat since she knew that as long as Elijah was with her, God would care for her.

One day, something terrible happened. The woman's young son became very ill. No matter what the woman could think to do, it did not help. Soon the child died.

The woman quickly went to Elijah. She knew he was a man of God. If anyone could help her, he could. In her great grief she began to question Elijah. She wanted to know why her son had died. Elijah took the boy and carried him up to the room that had been provided for him. He gently laid the boy on his bed. Then Elijah cried out to God. He asked God why such a terrible thing would happen to the very woman who had been kind enough to give him her last bite of food and had for so long been cooking for him and allowing him to stay in her home.

Elijah stretched himself over the boy's body three times. Three times he cried to God to bring the boy back to life. And God listened to Elijah. God brought the boy back to life. Elijah gathered the boy into his arms again and quickly carried him down to his mother. Can you imagine her great joy when she saw her son was alive?

The woman told Elijah that now she truly believed that he was a man of God and that every word he said was true. I am sure she thanked Elijah, but most of all, she gave the glory to God!

I Kings 17:17-24 says, *And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him.*

*And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?*

*And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed.*

*And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?*

*And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.*

*And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.*

*And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth.*

*And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.*

## **WHY?**

Let me ask you a question and I don't want you to answer it out loud. Just think about it.

Why do you suppose God allowed the brook Cherith to dry up? He could have performed a miracle to keep water at the spot where Elijah needed it, couldn't He? After all, twice a day God

sent birds to Elijah with bread and meat. Surely God could have provided water in some miraculous way! Nothing is too hard for God. So why did the brook dry up? Why did that bad thing happen?

There are probably a couple of reasons, but I want to tell you one very important reason and I want you to remember this. This is something that can be very important in your life when you have bad things happen to you and you wonder why God did something you don't understand. So listen carefully!

The thing that seems bad to you may be the very thing God will use to bring good into your life.

What seemed bad to Elijah was the exact thing that God used to make something very good happen. It must have seemed bad to Elijah when he went to the brook and there was no water for him to drink, but because the water was gone, Elijah was forced to move to a new place. In that new place God not only took care of all his needs, God also took care of the needs of that widow woman and her son. They were on the verge of death, but God used the bad thing that happened to Elijah to make something very good happen for that poor woman. God provided for Elijah and the woman at the same time. It was a change, but it turned out to be a good change.

We don't like change. We like things to stay the same. We like things to go our way. We like things to keep going our way. But sometimes God changes things so that something new will happen that fits into His plan. We may not be able to see how God is working. We may not understand why God is making changes, but we can always trust God to do what is best for our good and for His glory.

When God cared for that widow woman by providing food and by bringing her son to life, she knew for certain that the God of Elijah was the true God. I am sure there were many, many days when the woman thanked God for bringing Elijah and for taking such good care of her and her son. When Elijah told her to "Fear not," she truly had no need to fear. God was in control.

You may face a "Why?" time in your life. You may not understand why God is making changes. You may not understand why God would let something happen that seems bad to you. But, fear not! God is in control. He can take bad and use it to make good. Everything He does is for your good and His glory.

So remember, "The thing that seems bad to you may be the very thing God will use to bring good into your life."

Psalm 37:23a says, *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD.*

## **ALL THAT YOU HAVE**

Since you know that God is always working for your good and for His glory, you don't have to be afraid to do what He asks you to do. You don't have to be afraid to faithfully follow Him. When God speaks to you in the Bible or when the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart, you can trust God to do what is best.

So be like that widow woman. Instead of fearing, give your very best and give your all to God. Be faithful!

Maybe you think, "I'm just a kid! What can I give to God?" You can give God your heart. Have you done that?

First you need to ask Jesus Christ forgive your sin and come into your heart. You can do that today. We can have someone take a Bible and show you verses about how you can accept Jesus as your Savior. They will pray with you and you can leave church today knowing you have given your heart to Jesus.

After you have asked Jesus to come into your life there are other ways to give God your heart. Let me tell you some ways.

1. Love God with all your heart.

One of the things God wants most from you is your love. He loves you so much He created you. He sent Jesus to earth to die on the cross for you. He guides and protects you. How much do you love Him?

2. Obey God with a submissive heart.

God wants you to obey Him because you love Him, not just because you are forced to obey. Are you willing to submit your heart to Him?

3. Serve God with a willing heart.

If you love God with all your heart, you will want to serve Him. It won't be any trouble or a dreaded thing to serve God if you are doing it from a heart of love. Do you love serving God?

God never asks you to do something you can't do. He never asks you to give something you don't have. What He does ask is that you give Him all that you do have. Give Him your time, your talents, and your treasures. He asks you to be faithful.

No matter how much time you give to God and no matter what talents you give to Him, if you give God all you have, then He can use you. Are you willing to give God all you have?

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to find ways to give your all to God. Be faithful to God and you will never regret it.

You can do something for God like read your Bible and pray. You can do something for another person as a way of showing your love for God. You could help an older person clean their yard. You could help your mom or dad with a project without being asked. You could do a chore with a cheerful attitude. You could work together with your brother or sister and have a sweet spirit in your attitude toward them.

Right now can you think of someone you can help or something you can do that would show God that you are willing to give all to Him? If you can't right now, think about it when you get home. Then do it for God.

Remember: Be faithful!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to faithfully give your all to Him.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. How did God feed Elijah while he hid by the brook of Cherith?
2. What happened to Elijah that seemed like a bad thing?
3. Who did God tell to help Elijah?
4. What did the woman tell Elijah when he asked for water and food?
5. What did Elijah tell the woman to reassure her everything would be okay?
6. After the woman fed Elijah, what miracle did God perform?
7. What bad thing happened to the woman while Elijah was staying at her home?
8. Recite today's memory verse.

# Faithful to Give All to God



A faithful man shall abound with blessings. Proverbs 28:20a

I will be faithful to God.

Show God how much you love Him by giving Him the best of everything you have. Give Him your best behavior and your best attitudes. Tell God, "I will give You all that I have!"

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | T | I | R | E | H | C | F | S | T | R | C | H | M | H |
| P | F | H | D | B | L | L | R | O | E | R | H | B | T | R |
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- |         |         |         |         |        |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Ahab    | Drought | Heart   | Move    | Sick   |
| Alive   | Elijah  | Hide    | Obey    | Son    |
| Change  | Famine  | Joy     | Oil     | Sorrow |
| Cherith | Flour   | Love    | Provide | Water  |
| Dead    | Food    | Miracle | Serve   | Widow  |



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LESSON 8

A FAITHFUL CHILD  
FAITHFUL TO FEAR GOD, NOT MAN

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 18:1-16

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.* Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Lots of people in this world worry constantly about what other people think of them. They talk and dress and act the way they do so that others won't think they are strange. They constantly try to impress others. They try to act the way other people want them to act. They talk the way others want them to talk. They go to places others want them to go.

The Bible tells us that as Christians we are not to worry about impressing others. It doesn't matter what others think about how you talk or how you act or how you dress. The only One you are supposed to want to please and be faithful to is God.

Don't fear man. Instead be concerned about what God thinks about you when He looks at the things you say and the things you do. Are you being faithful to Him? That is what really matters in life!

Take your focus off of what others think about you and place your focus on what God thinks of you. That is of true importance. When you are faithful to God, you can be sure that He is with you and He will take care of you. You see, what others think of you is only for a short time, but what God thinks of you will last for eternity.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### WHAT WILL OTHERS THINK?

Obtain Flash Card

Justin listened as his teacher began the Science lesson. For the last few days the teacher had been talking about the history of the earth. Justin suspected that soon the teacher would begin to talk about things that he knew did not agree with the Bible.

"Billions of years ago," the teacher began, "the earth did not exist as we know it today. All life slowly evolved from a single cell."

Justin knew the Bible taught that God had created the earth. He created everything in just six days. Things did not slowly change and evolve until they were like we see them today. God spoke and things appeared. God created the water, land, animals, nature, and humans.

His teacher was wrong. But should he say something? What would the teacher think? What would his classmates think? Then another thought popped into Justin's mind.

"What will God think if I don't stand up for Him? What will He think if I don't speak the truth?"

Justin raised his hand. He wouldn't be a smart aleck. He wouldn't try to sound like he was smarter than the teacher. He didn't want to argue. But he did want to put in a good word for God's truth.

"Sir," Justin said respectfully. "I believe that the earth is only a little more than six thousand years old. The Bible says that God created the earth and all that is in it in just six days."

"Well," the teacher said. "That is one theory. I don't happen to believe it. But it is a good thing to keep an open mind and look at things from different perspectives."

Justin knew he had not changed the teacher's mind, but he was glad he had been brave enough to speak up for God. He knew that even though the teacher did not like what he said, he was more concerned with what God thought about him.

Next period it was gym class. Justin liked gym. He was very good at most sports and he enjoyed this class. It was more fun than work for him. They were playing basketball, and even though he wasn't on the school basketball team, he still was pretty good at it.

The other team had the ball and was attempting to score. Just as Sam, one of the guys from the opposing team, dribbled the ball closer to the hoop, Justin skillfully stole the ball away and turned to head toward his own goal. Sam was not very happy. Justin knew that because he heard him say a bad word. It made Justin feel bad to hear Sam talk that way. But the game rushed on and Justin soon forgot what Sam had said.

As the guys were heading for the showers, Sam brushed past Justin and gave him a slight shove. Then Sam took the name of Jesus in vain. It shocked Justin to hear Sam talk that way.

Justin wondered if he should say something. Sure, Sam wasn't a Christian, but he still didn't need to talk that way. After all, what he had done on the court was all part of the game. And Justin didn't like to hear the name of Jesus being used in such a terrible way. Sam might think he was strange if he said something, but he felt he should.

"Sam," Justin said quietly. "I wish you wouldn't talk that way."

"Oh, that's right!" Sam mocked him. "Jesus Christ is your best friend, huh?"

"As a matter of fact," Justin answered, "He is."

Sam and the other guys standing nearby laughed. They turned and walked away.

As Justin walked down the hallway he could see many of his classmates stop talking to their friends and turn to stare at him. Then, when he got closer they grinned at each other and began to whisper to each other. (Show Flash Card)

Justin knew they were talking about him. It seemed like lately he had been rocking the boat everywhere he went. He had spoken up in Science class. He had asked Sam to watch his language. At lunch he had turned down a chance to go to a concert that most of his friends were attending.

It had been a tough day and Justin was wondering what everyone at school was thinking of him. By the way they were staring at him and whispering as he walked by, he could tell they thought he was very strange.

Sometimes it wasn't easy to be a Christian. But Justin had settled it in his heart long ago that he would speak up for the Lord and let others know where he stood.

Zach caught up with Justin.

"You've had quite a day. No matter where I turn, someone is talking about how you stood up for God."

"Yeah," Justin said. "Everyone thinks I'm weird."

"Not me," Zach replied. "I don't think I'd have the courage to stand up for God like you did. But since you did, it makes me realize that I need to spend more time worrying about what God thinks of me and less time worrying about what others think of me."

Justin knew that he had faithfully done what God wanted him to do. He knew God was pleased. He also knew he had done the right thing!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*  
Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 18:1-16

### LESSON

#### A TERRIBLE FAMINE

We have been talking about the prophet Elijah who faithfully obeyed God when he went to tell wicked King Ahab that God was going to punish his kingdom by not sending rain for three and one half years. God hid Elijah to protect him from the harm the king would do to him if he caught him. God fed Elijah in a couple of miraculous ways.

But finally the day came when it was time for Elijah to go confront King Ahab. God told Elijah to go meet Ahab. Even though Elijah knew the king would probably want to do him harm, Elijah set out on the journey back into Israel. Elijah was not afraid of King Ahab. Instead Elijah wanted to obey God.

I Kings 18:1-2 says, *And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.*

*And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.*

As Elijah was traveling to find King Ahab, the king set out on a journey of his own. The king decided to take a servant and go look for water for his animals.

The lack of rain in Israel had caused a terrible drought. Without rain it wasn't long before the land was parched, the watering holes had dried up, and even the rivers had stopped flowing. There was no water. There were no crops of food either. When there is no rain to water the fields, nothing will grow. After three years all the people of Israel were suffering from hunger and thirst. And not just the people, the animals were suffering also. The people had to search far and wide to find enough food and water for their animals.

The king was no different. I suspect that for a while the king had plenty of food and water. After all, when the king gives the command for something, the people had to give him anything he wanted. If they had to go without to supply the king's needs, the king didn't care. He was only concerned about himself and his own needs.

But the day finally came when King Ahab commanded that food and water be supplied for his horses and other animals, and the people had to tell him that there was nothing left to give him. Even the king and his animals had to go without. Soon some of the king's horses began to die of thirst. So King Ahab decided to go see for himself if he could find some water for his animals. The king's horses were very important to his army, after all.

The king had a faithful servant by the name of Obadiah. Now Obadiah was not at all like the king. King Ahab was a very wicked man who never listened to or obeyed God. But this servant did love God. It was very unusual for this servant to serve such a wicked king and yet still love God, but Obadiah feared God. That means that Obadiah had great respect for God. It means he was always careful to listen to God and to obey God.

Wicked Queen Jezebel, Ahab's wife, did not fear God in the least. In fact, Jezebel hated God and she hated the prophets who did their best to remind the people to love and obey God. One day Jezebel commanded that all the prophets of God be killed. She thought God could do nothing to harm her. She only believed in the false god, Baal.

When the godly servant, Obadiah, heard what Jezebel planned to do, he quickly went and gathered as many of God's prophets together as he could find. He intended to hide them. He hid 100 men of God from the wicked queen. He took them and split them into two groups of fifty. He put each group into a different cave and made sure they had the food and water they needed.

1 Kings 18:3-4 says, *And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly:*

*For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)*

Now, King Ahab came to Obadiah and took him with him to search for water. The men set out and the king went one way and Obadiah went another. They looked high and low for a brook that had not dried up or a pasture of grass that was still green.

1 Kings 18:5-6 says, *And Ahab said unto Obadiah, Go into the land, unto all fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.*

*So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and Obadiah went another way by himself.*

### **A FEARFUL MEETING**

As Obadiah was searching for water and pasture land, he saw something that surprised him. It wasn't water. It wasn't grass. It was Elijah!

Elijah had been gone for over three years. The last person Obadiah expected to see was the prophet of God. When he saw Elijah, Obadiah fell down to the ground and bowed before him. He knew Elijah was a man of God and Obadiah had great respect for God and for the prophets of God.

1 Kings 18:7-8 says, *And as Obadiah was in the way, behold, Elijah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my lord Elijah?*

*And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.*

Immediately Elijah told Obadiah to get up and go tell King Ahab that Elijah was back in Israel and wanted to talk with him.

Obadiah was very frightened! He certainly did not want to be the person who told King Ahab that he knew where Elijah was staying. He was frightened of what the king would do to him. Perhaps he would kill him. The king had been searching diligently for Elijah so he could kill him. Obadiah was afraid to say that now he knew Elijah's location.

Obadiah was so frightened that his imagination ran wild. He began to think of all the terrible things that could happen when he reported to the king. Obadiah began to panic!

What would happen to him if the king got the idea that he had known where Elijah was all along but had not told him? And even worse, what would happen if he told the king he knew where Elijah was at, but then when they went to look for Elijah, suppose he was gone? Suppose he was hiding again! Surely the king would kill him!

Obadiah was very afraid to do as Elijah told him. He did not want to tell the king he knew where Elijah was staying. Can you picture the panic on Obadiah's face and hear the panic in his voice as he pleaded with Elijah?

1 Kings 18:9-14 says, *And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?*

*As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.*

*And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here.*

*And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.*

*Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?*

*And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, Elijah is here: and he shall slay me.*

Even though Obadiah was a man of God, he was more afraid of the king. Obadiah feared God, but at this moment he feared the king more.

### **ONLY FEAR GOD**

Elijah stood calmly in front of Obadiah and listened as he ranted and raved about what King Ahab would do to him when he heard that Elijah was back in Israel. Elijah was not afraid of Ahab. Elijah knew that it was only God he needed to fear. As long as Elijah obeyed and respected God, God would protect him. Nothing Ahab could do would harm him as long as God was on his side.

Elijah also knew that Obadiah did not need to fear the king. He calmly assured Obadiah that he had nothing to fear because he promised him he would show himself to the king that very day. He was not planning on disappearing. He was not planning on getting Obadiah into trouble.

1 Kings 18:15-16 says, *And Elijah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely shew myself unto him to day.*

*So Obadiah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet Elijah.*

Obadiah had enough courage to defy Queen Jezebel and hide 100 prophets of God. He had enough courage to let it be known to the people at the king's court that he did not worship false gods but instead worshiped the one true God. He had been a man of courage in the past.

Remember that it said in 1 Kings 18:3, *And Ahab called Obadiah, which was the governor of his house. (Now Obadiah feared the LORD greatly.)*

Yes, Obadiah did fear God, but on this day, Obadiah's courage failed him. On this day, Obadiah feared a man more than he feared God.

But eventually Obadiah regained his courage and he went to tell the king where Elijah was staying just as he had been told to do. Somehow Obadiah re-found his courage. Somehow he remembered to trust God.

#### **NO NEED TO FEAR MAN**

Sometimes we are like Obadiah. We can love and respect God in our life. We can do our best to obey God and His Word, the Bible. But sometimes things happen that make us so afraid that we stop fearing God the most and we begin to fear man more.

There can be many fearful things happen in life. The unexpected circumstances of life can frighten us and cause us to panic. They can cause us to fear man instead of fearing God.

When we or someone we love is hurt or very sick, we can be afraid. When things seem to go all wrong, we can be afraid. When people we love let us down and turn away from us, we can be afraid. When people make fun of the fact that we live for God, we can worry about what others think of us. We begin to fear man and the things of life more than we fear God.

But God does not want us to fear.

2 Timothy 1:7 says, *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

In Psalm 27:1 David said, *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

The Bible often tells us not to fear. It tells us that we are especially not supposed to fear people. God wants us to know that He is in control and He will provide for us and protect us.

## THE FEAR OF GOD

However, the Bible does tell us we are supposed to fear God.

What does it mean to fear God?

The meaning of the word fear in the Bible is a bit different from what we think of when we use the word fear. To fear God means to have reverent respect for Him, to stand in awe or amazement of how wonderful He is, and to honor Him in the way we think and act.

We fear God by faithfully worshiping Him, by faithfully obeying Him, by faithfully serving Him. We fear God by honoring and respecting Him with hearts of love toward Him.

If you only obey God because someone else makes you obey, you do not fear God, you fear the one who is making you obey. If you only serve God because you want others to think you are a good Christian, then you do not fear God, you fear what others think of you. If you come to church because it's expected of you, then you do not fear God, again, you are only fearful of what others think.

True fear of God comes from your heart and shows in your attitudes and actions.

The same is true of fear of man. When you are concerned about what others will think of you, then you fear man. When you only think of what will make people like you, then you fear man.

It doesn't matter what other people think or whether or not they like you. The important thing in life is what God thinks of you. So make sure you fear God, not other people. And if you do faithfully respect and honor God, He will bless you for it.

Psalm 31:19 says, *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*

Don't fear men. Fear God. When you fear God, you will experience God's goodness and His blessings!

Let me ask you a question. Are you faithful to fear God?

Perhaps you don't even know God as your personal Lord and Master. The Bible tells us that God is your Creator. He is your Master. But unless you have asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart, then you are not a child of God. You do not know Him.

Would you like to get to know God today? Would you like to have your sin forgiven? Today we can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can become a child of God.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to faithfully practice the fear of God. How can you fear God this week?

Fear God by offering praise and thanksgiving to Him when you pray.

Fear God by doing something nice for someone else as a way of serving God.

Fear God by keeping a good attitude when you are asked to help around the house.

Fear God by showing respect for God's House, the church.

Fear God by telling Him how much you love and respect Him.

These are just a few ideas, maybe you can think of others.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life? (Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge. I am going to ask God to help you to faithfully fear Him and not to fear what others think of you.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God tell Elijah he should do?
2. What was the name of King Ahab's servant?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What were Obadiah and Ahab looking for?
5. What was unusual about King Ahab's servant, Obadiah?
6. What brave thing did Obadiah do when Jezebel had the prophets of God killed?
7. Who did Obadiah see while he was out looking for water?
8. What did Elijah tell Obadiah to do?
9. Why was Obadiah so frightened?
10. What did Elijah say to reassure Obadiah he would be safe?

# Faithful to Fear God, Not Man

A faithful man shall abound with  
blessings.

Proverbs 28:20a



I will be faithful  
to God.

Don't try to please people who do not love and fear God.  
If you try to please them, you will only get into trouble.  
When you love, respect, and serve God with all your heart,  
then you do not need to worry about what others think.

ι ω ι λ λ π λ ε α σ ε  
γ ο δ .

A=α B=β C=χ D=δ E=ε F=φ G=γ H=η  
I=ι J=φ K=κ L=λ M=μ N=ν O=ο P=π Q=θ  
R=ρ S=σ T=τ U=υ V=ϖ W=ω X=ξ Y=ψ Z=ζ

Find the letters that match the  
symbols and place them on the line above  
the symbol to spell out a sentence.

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LESSON 9

A FAITHFUL CHILD  
FAITHFUL TO WORSHIP GOD ALONE

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 18:17-46

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Who do you worship in life? We all worship someone or something. We all have people who we idolize or things we desire so much that we put them ahead of everything else. We all have someone or something that is so important to us that we always give it in first place in our hearts and lives.

Some people worship money. Some worship power and fame. Some worship famous people. Some people even worship themselves. They love themselves so much that they become their own god. Some people worship false gods. Even today there are people who do not know and love the one true God.

The Bible tells us there is only one true God. He alone is worthy of our worship. Do you faithfully worship Him?

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

ONLY ONE GOD

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Buddy was a great student. His favorite subjects were history and geography. His teacher, Mr. Randall, made history come alive; he was the best teacher Buddy ever had. He used lots of games and activities to review for tests. The whole class loved learning about cultures and countries on other continents.

"Today we're starting a new chapter. We'll study about the religions of some of the different countries we've learned about so far this year," Mr. Randall announced on Monday. "Beginning today, we'll talk about a different religion each day. Next Monday, we'll have a test over each of the five religions we discuss." (Show Flash Card)

This should be really interesting, Buddy thought to himself. I'd like to know a little bit about what other religions believe.

"Today we'll discuss the religion of Buddhism. There are four to five-hundred-million Buddhists in the world today. Buddhism is the main religion in many Asian countries. It is a religion about suffering and the need to get rid of it. Buddhism is different from many other faiths because it is not centered on the relationship between humanity and God. The sacred book of

Buddhism is called the Tripitaka. Buddhists do not believe in a personal creator God. Buddhists believe that there is a cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth. This goes on and on. They believe that unless someone gains enlightenment, or perfect peace and freedom from suffering, when they die they will be reborn over and over again. They do not believe that Buddha was a god. He was a human being just like them. They believe that he was important because he gained Enlightenment. What is the main difference between Buddhism and Christianity?"

Buddy raised his hand. "Buddhists don't believe there is a Creator God, and they don't believe the one they worship was a god. He was just a man."

"That's right," Mr. Randall said. "They worship the teachings of a man who eventually died."

Wow, Buddy thought. All those people need to know the true God.

On Tuesday, Mr. Randall taught the class about the religion of Islam. Islam is the second most populous religion in the world with over a billion followers. Islam is the main religion of the Middle East, Asia, and Northern Africa. Islam began with a man called Muhammad, who claimed to receive messages from his god, called Allah. Those who follow Islam are called Muslims. They believe that Jesus was only a prophet of the god Allah, and that Muhammad was much more important than Jesus. To them, Jesus is not God; He is a man who died and never rose again.

How sad, Buddy thought. All those people who believe in Islam won't be able to go to heaven when they die. Buddy wondered what religion he would learn about tomorrow. He had no idea that there were so many lost people in the world, and they had talked about only two religions so far!

On Wednesday, Mr. Randall told the class about Hinduism, the world's third most popular religion, with around 750 million followers. "The religion of Hinduism began in India about 4000 years ago. When God sent Jesus to the earth, Hinduism had already been practiced for about 2000 years! For many Hindus, religion is more what you do than what you believe. Hindus believe in a god called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as gods or goddesses. Hindus believe that there is a part of their god in everyone and everything. They believe that the soul is eternal and lives many lifetimes, in one body after another, sometimes born in a human body, sometimes in an animal body and sometimes in a plant! They believe that all living things are part of their god."

Buddy was beginning to feel uncomfortable inside. His heart was sad for all those people who needed to know the Lord.

On Thursday, Mr. Randall started the class by saying, "You probably know a lot about the religion you will hear about today. You've read about this religion in your Bibles. Can anyone tell me what you think it is?" Several students raised their hands. They were all correct. They were learning about Judaism. "Judaism is around 3500 years old. It's the smallest of the religions I've told you about so far, with only about 12 million followers around the world. There are large Jewish populations in Israel and the U.S. Jews believe that there is a single God who not only

created the universe, but with whom every Jew can have an individual and personal relationship. They believe in Jehovah God, but they do not believe in Jesus, His Son. They are still waiting for their Messiah, their King, Who will rule the nation of Israel. Their Scriptures include only the first five books of the Bible. They believe they must obey all the Old Testament laws given by God to Moses. They do not know of the grace of God through salvation, because they do not believe in Jesus.”

Wow! God’s chosen people don’t even believe that Jesus is His Son! That is so sad,” Buddy thought.

“Tomorrow is my favorite day to teach, because I get to tell you about why Christianity is the only true religion. Then we’ll review everything from this week for your test on Monday.”

Buddy told his mom and dad about each day’s lesson. They were glad that Buddy was getting a burden for the lost people of the world. It was wonderful to see God working in Buddy’s heart.

On Friday, Mr. Randall began history class with a smile. “I’ve waited all week for this day!” he said. “Christianity is the only religion in the world that offers grace. And what is grace? Grace is the free gift of forgiveness of sin through the death of Jesus on the cross. It is a historical fact that Jesus was born, that He died, and that He rose again! Only God could do that! Some religions say that their followers must do good works to have their god’s favor. Even though over two billion people claim to be “Christians,” some people who call themselves Christians believe that they must do good works and say a certain number of prayers to be accepted by God, but that is not true. The Bible tells us that the true God loves us just as we are. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more! The reason we do good works is not to get God’s approval, but to thank Him for loving us and taking our punishment for sin. The Bible tells us that there are many false religions, and that we should not be tricked into believing their teachings. Our God is alive; other false gods are dead. All that is left is a statue. A statue cannot hear and answer prayers. A statue cannot forgive sin.”

Mr. Randall continued. “The main reason I have given you all this information is to help you to understand that there are billions of people all over the world who need to know that Jesus is God. Maybe God has been working on your heart this week. Is there anyone who would like to share what you have learned from all this?”

Buddy raised his hand. It was hard to talk about it in front of everyone, but he knew it was important. “Well, I know that God has been working on my heart this week. I think that when I grow up, I want to go to one of those countries and tell those people about Jesus. If we don’t, then they’ll never know that there’s only one true God.”

Others in the class nodded. God had been speaking to their hearts, too.

“It’s my prayer that several of you will do just that,” Mr. Randall said. “But for now, there are many people here in our town who don’t know Jesus. We have a mission field right here. There is only one true God, and people need to know Him. Let’s get busy telling them about the true and living God.”

Buddy nodded. That was just what he intended to do.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 18:17-46

### LESSON

#### THE MEETING

Do you remember last week when Elijah showed himself to King Ahab's servant and told him to tell the king where he could be found? This week we begin our story there.

As soon as King Ahab saw Elijah, he rushed up to Elijah and accused him of being the one who was causing all of Israel's problems. He held Elijah responsible for stopping the rain and causing the great famine.

1 Kings 18:17 says, *And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*

But Elijah was not the one who caused trouble for the people of Israel. It was King Ahab's fault that God was punishing the people. If Ahab had been a godly king who loved and faithfully obeyed God, then the people would not be worshiping the false god, Baal. If Ahab had been a godly king, then he would have torn down the altars to the false gods and turned the people's hearts back to God. But King Ahab and his wicked wife had sinned greatly.

Elijah had not troubled Israel, King Ahab was the real problem!

1 Kings 18:18 says, *And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.*

### **THE CHALLENGE**

The time had finally come for God to confront King Ahab, Queen Jezebel, the false priests of Baal, and the people of Israel about their sin. God sent Elijah to offer a challenge to prove once and for all who was the one true God of Israel.

Elijah boldly commanded Ahab to gather together the people of Israel and the 450 false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. The false prophets came, along with 400 extra false prophets who wanted to watch. The people of Israel came also.

1 Kings 18:19 says, *Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.*

Ahab called for the prophets and people to come and take up Elijah's challenge. So the people crowded onto Mount Carmel. They came because they were curious. They came because word had gotten around that Elijah was there to challenge Baal. What would happen? Who would prove their God was more powerful?

Elijah stood before the people of Israel and asked them a question that each one of you needs to ask yourself. He asked them how long they would take to make up their minds about who was the true God. He told them to follow one or the other. They should follow Baal or they should follow God. They could not love and follow both.

1 Kings 18:21 says, *And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*

### **THE CHALLENGE BEGINS**

Next, Elijah told the false prophets to build an altar to Baal. He told them to take their pick of one of the bulls to offer as a sacrifice. That was all part of a normal animal sacrifice. The next thing he told them to do was the unusual thing. He told them to do everything except start the fire. He told them they should call on Baal to start the fire. If Baal was a true god, then he should be able to set the sacrifice on fire without a problem.

So the false prophets set about doing as Elijah said to do. They prepared the sacrifice and then they began to call on Baal to set it on fire. From morning until noon they called and pleaded with Baal to set the fire. But no fire appeared. They began to leap about and plead all the more. Still no fire.

1 Kings 18:25-26 says, *And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.*

*And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.*

Elijah must have been amused as he watched those foolish men leaping and calling on a god who had no power at all. How could they be so foolish to believe their god could do anything? Baal had never done anything for them before, why did they think he could do anything now. And how foolish it looked for 450 men to be crying and begging to a false god.

Elijah couldn't resist making fun of those foolish men. He shouted to them, "Maybe you should cry louder. Maybe your god is busy doing something else and he can't hear you!"

So the prophets began to shout louder and now they took knives and cut themselves. Perhaps they thought their god would pay attention if they offered their own blood to him. From noon until evening they kept up the leaping and shouting and pleading. But not one thing happened. No fire. No voice. Nothing!

1 Kings 18:27-29 says, *And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.*

*And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.*

*And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.*

## **THE CHALLENGE MET**

At that point, the day was almost done. Elijah would not have hours and hours to call on God to set his sacrifice on fire. Elijah calmly set to work preparing his altar. He went to an old altar that had once been used as an altar to God. It was no longer in use since the people sacrificed to Baal, but Elijah repaired it. He took twelve stones to use in the altar. The twelve stones represented the twelve tribes of Israel. It had been many years since Israel had split into two different kingdoms, but in God's eyes they were all still His chosen people.

Elijah prepared the bullock on the altar just as the prophets of Baal had done. But then he did something very strange. He called for four barrels of water to be brought and poured over the sacrifice. Water was precious and rare because of the drought, but they did as Elijah commanded. Again Elijah called for four more barrels of water to be poured over the sacrifice. And again he called for four more barrels. In all, there were twelve barrels full of water poured over the sacrifice. There was so much water that the entire altar and wood on it were soaked and a trench that surrounded the altar was filled to the brim.

1 Kings 18:30-35 says, *And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.*

*And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:*

*And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.*

*And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.*

*And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.*

*And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.*

Why did Elijah call for so much water to be poured over the sacrifice? He wanted to show clearly that what was about to happen was no trick. He was not secretly setting fire to some dry, parched wood. No. He was calling on the one true God of heaven to send down fire. If that drenched sacrifice could catch fire, then it would prove without a doubt that God was real and powerful. It would prove that nothing was too hard for the God of Israel.

Elijah did not jump and plead for God to send down fire. He did not cut himself. Instead he calmly prayed with just a few words to God. He lifted up his voice loudly enough for all to hear, and he asked God to prove to everyone that He was indeed the God of Israel.

Instantly fire fell from Heaven!

Can you hear the crowd gasp and fall back in amazement as they watched the fire from Heaven burn the sacrifice? The fire continued to burn the water-soaked wood, the stones, the dust on the ground and finally the fire even licked up all the water that flowed in the trench around the altar!

1 Kings 18:36-38 says, *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.*

*Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.*

*Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

## **THE CLEAN UP**

Truly the people had seen a miracle that only a true and powerful God could perform. They fell down and worshiped God.

Elijah commanded the people to put an end to the false prophets of Baal. They needed to be destroyed so they would not continue to spread their wickedness anymore. So the people obeyed Elijah.

1 Kings 18:39-40 says, *And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.*

*And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.*

Then Elijah heard a sound he had not heard in three and a half years. He heard the rumble of thunder in the distance. He knew rain was on its way. Elijah told King Ahab to eat and refresh himself because soon it would rain.

Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel where he could be alone. The Bible says he threw himself down on the ground and put his face between his knees. I imagine that Elijah was taking the time to praise and worship God for what He had just done. Can you imagine seeing the power of God in such an amazing demonstration? Elijah knew without a shadow of a doubt that God was real, but still, it must have even amazed him to see God work! I am sure Elijah was faithfully praising and worshipping God!

Then Elijah sent his servant to look toward the sea for a rain cloud. Six times the servant went to look, but there was no cloud. On the seventh time the servant saw a tiny cloud, the size of a man's hand. Elijah knew rain was on its way.

Ahab set out for his palace in his chariot, but Elijah did not get in to ride. Instead he stood up and tucked his robe into the belt around his waist. He needed to be able to move because Elijah planned to do some running.

Elijah ran as the rain began to pour from the sky. God helped Elijah to run so fast that he outran the horse and made it to the city of Jezreel before King Ahab could reach it in his chariot!

1 Kings 18:41-46 says, *And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.*

*So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,*

*And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.*

*And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.*

*And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.*

*And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.*

## **ONE TRUE GOD**

Once again God had shown Himself to be the one true God. There is nothing too hard for Him. He is in complete control of everything. We are foolish if we decide we want to follow after the false gods of the people in this world around us. But sometimes we do just that. We try to follow God and the World at the same time.

Sometimes we want to love and serve God, yet we also want to love and serve the World. We desire to listen to worldly music and watch worldly TV shows. We want to have friends who don't love and serve God. We want to be liked by others, so we go along with things we know we shouldn't do.

Elijah asked the people, *How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him.*

Let me ask you, "How long will you try to serve two masters? Will you try to serve God and the World?"

The God of Elijah, who rained down fire on the sacrifice, is the same God today. He never changes. He wanted the people of Israel to serve only Him. He wanted them to be faithful to Him. That is what He wants from you. He wants you to faithfully serve Him.

You may think you are too young to choose who you will serve. You aren't. If you understand what I am saying, you are old enough to make up your mind who you will love and serve with all of your heart. Choose to faithfully serve only God. Refuse to let worldly things become a god to you. Refuse to let sinful people keep you from living for God each day. Take a stand for God just as Elijah boldly stood for God. God helped Elijah and proved Himself real back then, He will also help you and prove Himself real to you. He won't rain fire from Heaven, but He will help you and guide you each day.

Let me ask you, are you a child of God? Not everyone is. In order to be a child of God, you must realize a few things. Let me tell you.

1. Realize you are a sinner and you cannot get rid of your own sin.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

2. Realize that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins. Then on the third day He rose alive from the grave. Because He lives again, He can forgive your sin.

Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

3. Ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life.

Romans 10:9 says, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

It's that easy. God did not want to make it hard for you to become His child. He loves you so much and He wants you to love Him in return. Today you can become God's child. Today we can take a Bible and show you how to do just that.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Our lesson today taught us to worship God alone. It can actually mean two things.

It can mean, you will worship only God. That is good. God is the only one who deserves our faithful worship.

It can also mean, you will worship God even if you must do it all alone. It can mean that even if no one else around you loves and worships God, you will faithfully continue to do just that, even if you must do it alone.

Elijah stood alone on Mount Carmel as a worshiper of the true God. There were hundreds, most likely thousands, of other people there, but all the rest rejected God and worshiped Baal. Elijah alone worshiped the true God.

You may find that there are times in life when you alone will worship God. No one will join you. You may come from a home where your parents do not worship God. You may have friends who do not worship God. The world is filled with people who do not worship God.

It will take courage and faithfulness to stand alone as Elijah did, but you are not really alone. If you stand for God, then He stands with you. And when God stands with you, what more could you need? When you love and worship the mighty, powerful true God, then you are never alone. He is with you.

So I challenge you to worship God alone!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to faithfully worship God alone.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who accused Elijah of troubling Israel?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Where did Elijah tell King Ahab to gather the people?
4. How many false prophets of Baal were there to offer a sacrifice?
5. What happened to the offering for Baal?
6. What did Elijah say to the false prophets at noon?
7. How many stones did Elijah use in his alter and what did they stand for?
8. How many barrels of water were poured over Elijah's sacrifice?
9. What happened when Elijah prayed to God?
10. How many times did Elijah's servant go to look for rain?

# Faithful to Worship God Alone

A faithful man shall abound with blessings.  
Proverbs 28:20a



I will be faithful to  
God.

There is only one true God. Worship Him even if you are the only one who worships Him. Even if you must stand alone for God, you can know that God stands with you!

I  
H      V   H   K   K      N   M   K   X

V   N   Q   R   G   H   O      L   X

L   H   F   G   S   X      F   N   C

Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.

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LESSON 10

**A FAITHFUL CHILD**  
**FAITHFUL TO LISTEN FOR GOD'S VOICE**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 19:1-21

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.* Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

When God speaks to us today, does His voice boom out of Heaven for everyone to hear?

No. God no longer speaks out loud to people. But that does not mean that God has stopped speaking to us altogether. Even though God does not speak out loud, He still speaks. And God has quite a lot that He wants to say to each one of us.

Has God ever spoken to you? He can speak to you each day, if you let Him. One way to show your faithfulness to God is to listen carefully for His voice.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### TINY ANTS

Obtain Flash Card

A colony of iddy, biddy ants were swarming on the back deck. They were so tiny that a person walking by could barely see just one of them unless they looked carefully, but in a large group they were certainly visible. And it sure was important for the people walking by to know those ants were there!

The ants were busy running back and forth, to and fro. They were definitely on a mission, but if the ants were engaged in warfare, the enemy would certainly be confused about what the ants were doing and where they were going.

The ants ran around in every direction, with no rhyme or reason. They ran around like they were crazy! And that is precisely what the ants have been named. They are called Crazy Ants. Anyone watching them would think those tiny ants had no idea what they were doing or where they were going. But they would be wrong. (Show Flash Card)

Crazy Ants have infested the Houston, Texas area and people there don't know what to do to get rid of them. Those little ants are only the size of a single grain of rice, but they are just about indestructible. It seems that poisons have very little affect on them.

In fact, some people have observed that when they do poison the ants, the ants that are still living will use the dead ants to build a bridge to walk over the poisonous areas to reach a

safe place. They will pile up the bodies of their fellow ants who have died and walk over them to safety.

The people in the Houston area keep trying to kill the ants, and the poison does slow them down - a little. But within two months the ants are back again in full force. In fields where the ants are not poisoned, they multiply so quickly that one acre of land can contain over a billion ants! So even though the poisons they have used so far don't seem to help, they keep trying to find some way to stop those Crazy Ants!

Fortunately the tiny Crazy Ants don't seem to bite. They can crawl all over people and it tickles but they don't bite. But can you imagine how annoying it would be to have your yard, your house, and your play area filled with millions of ants that zig zag around constantly getting in your way? It would be terrible!

Those tiny ants aren't totally harmless. They are not just a big nuisance. Those ants are on a mission. They love to swarm into a house or building and begin to chew on the wiring that carries electricity. What a mess they can make of any electrical system they invade.

And now, the Crazy Ants are making their way to the NASA headquarters in Houston. Can you imagine the fun those Crazy Ants will have zigging this way and that in all those wires that are housed in the buildings and aircraft that are at NASA? What a mess they could make if someone doesn't find a way to stop them!

One thing is for sure, the people at NASA are taking those teeny, tiny ants very seriously! They are not going to ignore them even though they are as tiny as a grain of rice.

We serve a great big, powerful God. But sometimes God chooses to speak to us in a tiny whisper. God does not boom His commands out of Heaven in a big voice that everyone can hear. He doesn't talk out loud to us like He did sometimes in the Old Testament. Instead, God chooses to talk to us today in a still, small voice. He talks to us in a quiet voice.

Do you know what that quiet voice is that God uses to talk to us? (Take answers.)

That's right. God speaks to us through the Bible. You could spend your entire life ignoring God's quiet voice by never opening your Bible and reading what God wants you to know. The only way you will ever know what God wants you to know is if you open His Word and faithfully read it.

You can also learn about what God is saying by faithfully coming to church, but if you don't listen carefully and think about what you are being taught here, then you will still miss out on God's voice. You will miss out on what God wants to say to you.

It can be easy to ignore a tiny thing like an ant that walks around on the ground. You can walk right by it and never even notice that it is there. You probably walk over ants every day and yet you rarely even think about the fact that they are down there. It would take an entire swarm to get your attention, most likely.

It can also be easy to ignore God's still, small voice to you. But don't do that! Instead, listen carefully as God speaks to you. Everything He has to say is very important! You don't want to miss out!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.* Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 19:1-21

### LESSON

#### **JEZEBEL'S THREAT**

Last week we talked about how Elijah boldly stood alone against all the sinful people of Israel, wicked King Ahab, and the evil false prophets of Baal. Elijah gave them a challenge to prove that Baal was a real god, but no matter how much the false prophets cried out, and jumped around, and cut themselves, Baal did not respond because Baal is no god at all.

But when Elijah prepared his sacrifice and poured twelve barrels of water over it, with a simple prayer He asked God to prove Himself to everyone. Instantly fire fell from Heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the altar, and all the water. God is the one true God. Everyone clearly knew that was true after they had seen such a powerful display of God's power.

Well, it didn't take long for word of what had happened on Mount Carmel to reach the ears of wicked Queen Jezebel. She was furious! She had pushed and prodded for her husband, Ahab, to set up altars all over the kingdom for the false god, Baal. She had brought in hundreds of false

prophets to attend the altars and offer sacrifices to Baal. She had encouraged the people of Israel to take part in her sinful worship of Baal. And most wicked of all, she had ordered that the true prophets of God be killed. She had personally set out to destroy these faithful men who tried to turn the people back to God.

Now you can imagine her anger when she heard that the scruffy old prophet, Elijah, had shown Baal to be a false god and had caused hundreds of her false prophets to be killed. She was furious to think the people of Israel might turn away from Baal and turn back to God.

Elijah had done nothing but trouble Jezebel. Oh, how she hated him! For three and a half years her land had suffered from the lack of rain and food. She and Ahab blamed Elijah for that. Now he had the nerve to insult and degrade her god. She determined to destroy Elijah.

Jezebel sent a messenger to tell Elijah that within twenty-four hours he would be dead. She vowed to her false gods that she would personally see that he was killed!

1 Kings 19:1-2 says, *And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.*

*Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.*

#### **ELIJAH'S FEARFUL FLIGHT**

If I hadn't read what comes next in this story, I would guess that when Elijah heard about Queen Jezebel's threat to kill him, he wouldn't be worried at all. In fact, I would suppose he would say something like this: "So what? I'm not afraid of Jezebel. In fact, she is the one who should be worried! Her god is no god at all. Baal is powerless. But my God is the true God. He is all powerful. And I don't need to fear wicked Jezebel at all. I know my God will protect me."

You would think Elijah would feel that way, wouldn't you?

But guess what! That's not how Elijah felt. Elijah felt fear. When he heard what Jezebel said about killing him and he got up and ran in the opposite direction. He dropped his servant off along the way and kept running into the wilderness for a full day. He ran as far away from Jezebel as he could.

Finally he thought he had gone far enough. He was hungry and tired, so he sat under a tree to rest in the shade. While he was sitting under that tree, he decided to pray. What do you suppose he prayed about?

Now if I hadn't already read what the Bible says, I would suppose he prayed something like this: "Lord, You know I am afraid of Queen Jezebel. She is a mean woman who wants to kill me. And she means business! Please protect me and help me to triumph over her."

But that's not what Elijah prayed for. Elijah sat under that tree and he said, "Lord, I've had enough. Jezebel's after me and I'm as good as dead. I can't take it anymore. Just kill me. I'll be better off in Heaven with my fathers."

1 Kings 19:3-4 says, *And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.*

*But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

Now, if I hadn't read the next part of this story, I would think that God would look down at Elijah and see how he had run away in fear from Jezebel instead of trusting that He would protect him. And I would think God might say something like this: "Okay, Elijah. You just saw me do a great miracle, but you have already forgotten how powerful I am. Since you are so foolish and forgetful, I will kill you." And zap, Elijah would be dead.

But, that's not what God did. Instead, the angel of the Lord came down to where Elijah was and brought a cake of bread and some water. He placed them at Elijah's head and quietly touched Elijah and told him to get up and eat. Then again, the angel of the Lord came and brought more food so Elijah would have the strength and energy to travel on his way.

God did not scold Elijah. He did not zap Elijah. Instead, God gently cared for Elijah's needs. What a kind and merciful God we have who loves us even when we forget to trust Him!

1 Kings 19:5-8 says, *And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.*

*And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.*

*And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.*

*And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.*

Elijah finished his meal from Heaven and got up and went on his way to Mt. Horeb. It took him forty days and nights to get there and he didn't eat again until he got to Mt. Horeb. The food God provided must have been very filling!

### **A QUESTION FROM GOD**

Finally after forty days, Elijah came to Mt. Horeb, but instead of going onto the mountain, he found a cave under it to hide himself.

I am sure that Elijah knew that Mt. Horeb was a very special mountain. He would have read in the books that Moses wrote many years before that it was on Mt. Horeb that God personally met with Moses and gave him the all the laws and the ten commandments.

Now here was Elijah, the prophet of God, in this special place. But unlike Moses, Elijah was hiding.

God spoke to Elijah. He asked him a simple question. God asked him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

1 Kings 19:9 says, *And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?*

Even God seemed amazed that Elijah had run away in fear. But we know that nothing surprises God.

Elijah answered God by telling Him that he had faithfully served God, but the people of Israel had deserted Him. Elijah tells God that he feels deserted too. He feels like he is the only one left standing who worships and obeys God. He feels all alone. And what does he get for all his good deeds for God? He just gets trouble. Elijah was very discouraged.

1 Kings 19:10 says, *And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.*

#### **GOD’S VOICE**

Now it was God’s turn to speak to Elijah. God told Elijah to go stand on the mountain. The Lord passed by and a great wind swept over the place where he stood. As the wind blew fiercely by, Elijah listened for God’s voice, but he heard nothing.

Next God sent an earthquake. As the ground shook, Elijah listened for God’s voice. But he heard nothing.

Next God sent a great fire, but Elijah did not hear the voice of God.

Lastly there came a still, small voice. It was in that calm, quiet voice that Elijah heard God. And when God spoke so quietly to him, Elijah hid his face in shame.

1 Kings 19:11-13 says, *And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:*

*And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*

*And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave.*

Elijah had expected God to roar at him in a big, angry voice. But instead, God spoke in a still, small voice. God did not speak in anger. God spoke in love. Again God asked Elijah what he was doing there. This time Elijah told God the same thing, but I imagine he said it in a different manner. Now Elijah knew God cared about his problems. God had not deserted him.

Elijah told God that he was very discouraged because he was the only one who was faithful to God. But God pointed out to him that he was not the only one. God told him that there were 7,000 people in Israel who did not worship Baal but instead worshiped God. Elijah was not alone.

### **ELIJAH'S NEW HELPER**

Finally, God gave Elijah a few jobs to do. He told Elijah to anoint a new king over Israel. Wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were just about finished. Soon God would remove them from Israel.

God also gave Elijah some encouraging news. He told Elijah that He was going to give him a helper. No longer would Elijah have to travel alone and feel as if he were the only person who served and obeyed God. Now he would have a traveling companion. His name was Elisha.

God was preparing for the time when Elijah would be done with his work on earth and would go to Heaven to be with Him. There were many prophets of God who remained faithful and served in their own towns throughout Israel, but when Elijah was gone, God intended for Elisha to carry on Elijah's work to the entire nation.

This time Elijah did not hesitate to do as God said. He went and obeyed God. He anointed the new king who would serve when God removed Ahab. Then he went to find Elisha just where God had told him to go.

Elisha was busy at work in his father's field. He was plowing. Elijah walked by Elisha and threw his cloak, or coat, over Elisha's shoulders. This was a symbol that he was calling him to come and train and study so that one day he could take over in Elijah's place.

Elisha did not argue with Elijah that he had selected the wrong man. Instead he immediately left the field and went to say goodbye to his family. Then he followed Elijah and set to work learning how to serve God. He was a big help and comfort to Elijah.

1 Kings 19:19-21 says, *So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.*

*And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?*

*And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.*

### **GOD'S STILL SMALL VOICE**

Did you know that God often speaks to us in a still, small voice?

We often think we would like God to speak to us in a big way. We think, “If God came down and spoke out loud to me, then I would listen and obey!”

We think a booming voice would get our attention and cause us to be an obedient servant. We think if God gave us some big sign, then we would listen.

Elijah had just seen God do a BIG miracle when he sent fire from Heaven. But did that big miracle cause him to have courage when the wicked queen threatened him? No. Even after the big miracle, Elijah still ran away in fear.

When God sent the wind, and the earthquake, and the fire, did Elijah hear the voice of God? No. Elijah did not hear God until God spoke in a still, small voice.

Today, God most often chooses to speak to us in a still, small voice. You do not hear the voice of God booming out of Heaven. You do not see fire fall from the sky. Instead God speaks to you in small, quiet ways. He speaks in ways that require you to sit still and listen carefully. What ways are those?

One still, small way God speaks is through His Word, the Bible. In order to hear what God has to say in the Bible, you must quietly read and think about what God is saying.

Another still, small way God speaks is through His servants. He uses your teachers in church. He uses our pastor. And in order for you to hear what God is saying, you must quietly listen and think about what is being said.

God also uses the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart. In a still, small voice the Holy Spirit warns you not to sin. In a still, small voice the Holy Spirit encourages you to love and obey God.

Psalm 46:10a says, *Be still, and know that I am God.*

When God whispers to you in a still, small voice, are you listening? Sometimes we don't listen because we are too busy with our own thoughts. We don't let God speak to us. We don't listen.

Sometimes we are too busy doing other things. We are too busy going places. We forget to set aside a time each day to listen for God's voice by reading our Bible and praying.

There are even times when we don't like what the Holy Spirit is telling us, so we ignore Him. We shut out His voice.

Maybe you are not a Christian. You have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive you sin and come into your heart. You cannot hear God's still, small voice because you are not God's child. Today you can become a child of God. Today you can begin to hear what God wants to say to you. He won't talk out loud to you, but He does want to speak to your heart.

If you have never asked Jesus to come into your heart and forgive your sin, but you would like to do that today, we can have someone take a Bible and show you exactly how to do that.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Listen for God's still, small voice. He wants to whisper to your heart.

Where can you hear His whisper?

You can hear God's voice in the Bible, in church, and through the Holy Spirit.

How?

- Take time to read the Bible and pray. Think about what you read, then obey.
- Listen carefully to what you hear in church. Think about what you hear, then obey.
- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's instruction. Think about what He tells your heart, then obey.

This week, take the time to slow down, make the time to listen for God's still, small voice. Listen carefully, think about what you hear, and then faithfully obey God's still, small voice.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to listen carefully for God's whisper to your heart.

## BIBLE QUIZ

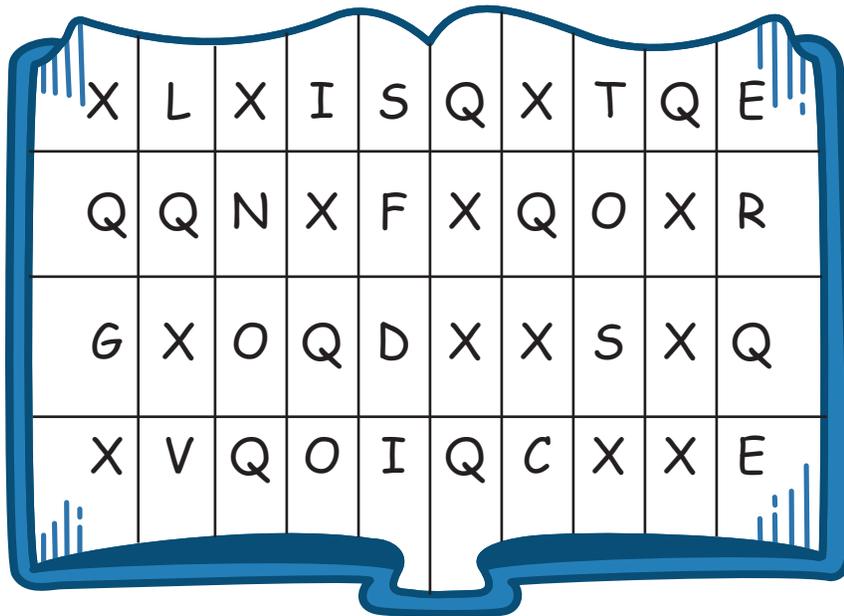
1. Who threatened Elijah?
2. What did Elijah do when he heard Jezebel's threat?
3. What did the Angel of the Lord do for Elijah?
4. How long did it take Elijah to get to Mt. Horeb?
5. What other special thing had happened on Mt. Horeb?
6. What did Elijah say when God asked him why he was hiding there?
7. What three loud things did God send?
8. Recite today's Bible verse.
9. In what form did Elijah finally hear God speak?
10. Name a way that God can speak to you in a still, small voice.

# Faithful to Listen to God's Voice



A faithful man shall abound with blessings. Proverbs 28:20a

I will be faithful to God.



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1. Color all the squares with letters that occur 8 times or more.
2. Then write the letters from the uncolored squares, in order, on the lines provided to solve the puzzle.



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LESSON 11

**A FAITHFUL CHILD**  
FAITHFUL TO BE CONTENT WITH GOD'S PROVISIONS

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

1 Kings 21:1-29; 22:34-38;  
II Kings 9:30-37

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.* Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Wendy's dad picked up an old loaf of bread that sat in the bread basket. It was getting dry and there were even a few green spots of mold here and there. It was time to get rid of that bread!

So Dad took the bread out to the porch. He didn't believe in wasting things. He knew the birds and squirrels would gobble it down. He flung the bread, piece by piece out onto the lawn. Soon the yard was dotted with little squares of white bread.

The animals in the nearby trees watched with interest. As soon as Dad was finished tossing the bread, the squirrels darted down the trees and cautiously eyed the bread. One brave squirrel scampered over and took a big bite. Then he headed back for the safety of a tree limb where he sat chewing on his mouthful of bread. A Robin hopped up to a slice and picked at it. What a treat!

Suddenly several big crows swooped down on the lawn. They must have spotted the bread from the sky and decided to go down to investigate. They were very interested in the bread. The Robin quickly retreated to a safe distance and the squirrels stayed put in the trees. They all watched as one crow took an entire piece of bread in his beak and flew away. Another crow did the same. The bread was disappearing fast!

But one greedy crow was not satisfied with a single slice of bread. He picked up one piece in his beak. Then he hopped to another slice and somehow got both slices into his beak. Away he flew with two slices of bread!

The squirrels and the Robin watched as those greedy crows flew away with all the bread. They had been satisfied with just one bite at a time, but the crows had wanted all they could get. Now there was nothing left for any other creature.

I hope you are never like that crow who grabbed more than his fair share! Instead, be faithfully content with the things God gives to you.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

SUPPORTING STORY  
CONTENTED I WILL BE  
CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card.

On a day late in March of 1820, a child was born to a young couple in a small New York town. The birth was not unusual, and the child was perfectly healthy. She was the joy of her mother and the pride of her father.

When the child was only six weeks old, she became ill with a common cold, which caused an infection in her eyes. Because the family's doctor was away, another doctor from the country was called to treat the baby's eyes. The treatment he prescribed, hot mustard poultices to be applied directly to her eyes, completely destroyed this tiny baby's eyesight, causing her to be blind for the rest of her life!

The family later found out the man who treated their baby was not a doctor at all, but an impostor who ran away from town before he could be caught and punished!

This baby, named Fanny Crosby, would never see again. She would never see the face of her mother, never see a beautiful sunset, never see the glimmer of the sunlight on the ocean.

Darkness took over Fanny's world.

As if the tragedy of blindness was not enough, Fanny's father died when she was only a year old. She never remembered her father at all. Her mother chose to give Fanny the happiest life possible, and taught Fanny as a small child to look for the good things in life. By the time Fanny was only eight years old, her mother taught her to be happy with her life, no matter what.

Fanny's first poem revealed the way she looked at life.

“O what a happy soul am I!  
Although I cannot see,  
I am resolved that in this world,  
Contented I will be.  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't.  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot and I won't!”

Fanny's attitude allowed her to lead a very contented and blessed life. At the age of fifteen, she and her mother moved to Connecticut to live with her grandmother, who introduced Fanny to the Bible, and taught her about the Lord Jesus. Fanny loved the Word of God so much that she began to memorize it. She learned entire books of the Bible, including Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, as well as many New Testament books, and many of the Psalms!

Fanny's love of poetry, along with her love for God's Word, allowed her to write beautiful poems. As a student at the Institution for the Blind in New York City, she was encouraged to continue her writing.

When Fanny's education was complete, she stayed at the school as a teacher, continuing to write poetry, and published several poetry books.

She was married to another blind teacher at the school, and worked as a teacher for many more years. But it was not until 1851, when Fanny was thirty-one years old, that she gave her life to Jesus Christ. Soon after her salvation, she met a music composer named William Bradbury, who encouraged her to write words to be put to music for hymns. This was the beginning of the thousands and thousands of poems Fanny would write as hymns! (Show Flash Card)

Some of Fanny Crosby's most-loved hymns are *The Old Rugged Cross*, *To God Be The Glory*, *Blessed Assurance*, and *I Shall Know Him*. Fanny never remembered seeing the face of anyone on earth, but she knew that in Heaven, she would know the face of Jesus, the first face she would ever see since she had become blind as a tiny baby!

Many times in her life, Fanny Crosby said, "Don't waste any sympathy on me. I am the happiest person living." She could have chosen to become bitter and angry because of her blindness. Instead, she chose to be happy and content.

What a testimony she leaves behind! As Fanny chose to be content with whatever God allowed into her life and she faithfully served God each day. So should we. It will make a difference that the whole world can see!

Don't always desire things you don't have. Don't envy the things others have. Instead, be faithful to God and be content with the things He gives to you.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.* Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

1 Kings 21:1-29; 22:34-38; II Kings 9:30-37

### LESSON

#### A COVETOUS KING

One day, wicked King Ahab looked out the window of his palace and he noticed that right next door to his property was a beautiful vineyard full of grapevines. On each vine hung beautiful grapes. The king thought that the vineyard must have been on rich, fertile land where all sorts of vegetables and herbs could grow. It was right near his house and it would be in the perfect spot.

The more Ahab thought about that vineyard, the more he wanted it for his very own. So he determined to buy the land.

Ahab went to Naboth, the owner of the vineyard, and he said, "Give me your vineyard. If you do, I'll find another piece of land in another place where you can have a vineyard. Or, if you don't want to do that, I will give you what the land is worth in money."

That sounds like a fair enough deal, but there was one problem. Naboth did not want to trade the land for another piece and he did not want to sell it to the king. Naboth may have worried about turning down the king's offer, but he did turn him down. You see, the land had been an inheritance to him from his father and his father's father. The land had been in the family since the time when the Israelites had gone into Canaan long ago with Joshua.

The land was very important to an Israelite. The land was part of what God had given to them. Naboth would pass this land on to his children when he died. It would stay in the family.

No, Naboth had no intention of parting with the land just so the king could have a nice herb garden.

1 Kings 21:1-3 says, *And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.*

*And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money.*

*And Naboth said to Ahab, The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee.*

### THE KING POUTS

King Ahab was not used to anyone saying “no” to him. After all, he was the king. Everyone did what he commanded. Whatever he wanted, he got. So Ahab became very upset and angry when Naboth told him he would not to give him the vineyard.

King Ahab was a grown man, but he did a very childish thing. He was so upset that he went into his bedroom and laid on his bed and refused to get up. He stayed in bed and pouted. When someone came to ask what was wrong, he said, “Go away!” When his servants brought him trays of food, he pushed them away and refused to eat.

King Ahab was having a great big pity party!

1 Kings 21:4 *And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread.*

When Queen Jezebel came and found King Ahab pouting in bed, she wondered what was wrong. She asked Ahab why he was so sad and why he refused to eat. Ahab explained that he really, really, really wanted Naboth’s vineyard, but he refused to give it to him.

Jezebel listened to Ahab’s problem. Instead of saying to him, “Oh, grow up and get over it!” She said, “What’s the problem? Aren’t you the king around here? Can’t you have anything your heart desires? Get up and quit pouting. I’ll get your vineyard for you.”

King Ahab sat up and smiled at his wife. Somehow she would get what he wanted. He was happy.

1 Kings 21:5-8 says, *But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?*

*And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.*

*And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.*

*So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth.*

King Ahab was very wicked. He constantly disobeyed God. He was constantly unfaithful to God. But Ahab was nowhere near as wicked as his wife, Jezebel. She was, perhaps, one of the most wicked women to ever live. Jezebel had no problem thinking up a terrible plan to get the vineyard away from Naboth.

Jezebel wrote a letter to the city leaders where Naboth lived. She told the leaders to proclaim a time of fasting and to accuse Naboth of sinning against God and the king. They did as she told them to do. When the witnesses lied about Naboth, there was nothing he could do to defend himself. They accused Naboth and condemned him to death. The men took Naboth out of the city and stoned him to death.

As soon as Jezebel heard that her terrible plan had been carried out, she rushed to tell Ahab that he could go claim his vineyard because Naboth was dead.

1 Kings 21:12-15 says, *They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people.*

*And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died.*

*Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.*

*And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead.*

## **ELIJAH CONFRONTS AHAB**

What a horrible thing to do to an innocent man, but who was there to stop such a wicked woman? There was no man to stop her, but there was One who could stop her. That was God.

The Lord spoke to Elijah and told him to meet King Ahab. He told him to confront him and accuse him of the murder of Naboth. Then God told Elijah to tell Ahab that in the exact place where Naboth's blood had been shed, there he would lose his life. His blood would flow and the dogs would lick it up. God also told Elijah that at the wall of Jezreel the dogs would one day eat Jezebel.

The wicked king and queen had finally gone too far. Now they would pay for their life of wickedness.

1 Kings 21:17-19 *And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,*

*Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.*

*And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.*

1 Kings 21:23 says, *And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.*

Elijah did not have to look far for Ahab. He was in the vineyard enjoying the grapes that his wife had gotten for him by murdering a man. When Ahab heard Elijah's message from God, Ahab was very sorry. He wasn't so sorry he had sinned, but he was sorry he had gotten caught. His greed has cost him his kingdom and his life. Ahab repented before God.

1 Kings 21:27 says, *And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.*

#### **GOD'S WORD WAS TRUE**

Shortly after Elijah went to warn King Ahab of his fate, the very things God had told Elijah to say came about. One day when the king was in battle, he was struck by an arrow. The king died and when his blood was washed out of the chariot he rode in, the dogs came and licked it, just as God had said they would.

1 Kings 22:34-35, 37-38 says, *And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.*

*And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.*

*So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.*

*And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armour; according unto the word of the LORD which he spake.*

Later Jezebel was also killed. She was thrown out of a window and the dogs came and ate her. It happened just as God said it would.

II Kings 9:36-37 says, *Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel:*

*And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.*

## BE CONTENT

You would think that a king and a queen would not need to be greedy and always wanting more. After all, they already had just about everything anyone could ever want. They had a palace, beautiful clothes, the best food, and much more. In fact, there was almost nothing they did not have. And yet, they were not happy. They were not satisfied.

They were greedy. They always wanted more. Ahab was greedy for things. He saw a vineyard he wanted and he fussed and pouted until he got it. Jezebel was greedy for power. She wanted everyone to obey her. She wanted control of everything. And they were both willing to do whatever it took to get what they wanted, even murder an innocent man. Sadly, greedy people are often willing to do just about anything to get what they want.

You see, you can be greedy for more than just money or things. You can be greedy for anything else someone has such as power, fame, attention, glory. But the thing about greed is that it is never enough. No matter how much you have, you always want more. A greedy person is never satisfied with what they have.

Are you greedy? Sometimes we are all greedy for things we think we want. Hopefully you try not to be a greedy person. The Bible says that we are supposed to be content with the things that we have.

1 Timothy 6:6 says, *But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

If you can learn to be content with the things God provides for you in life, you will be a much happier person. Greedy people are never happy. People who are content with what they have are happy.

In fact, the Bible says that people who give instead of take are happy and blessed.

Proverbs 22:9 says, *He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.*

Acts 20:35b says, *Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

When you learn to be content with what God has given to you, you are being faithful to become the type of person that is pleasing to God. A content person is faithfully becoming a more godly person.

God is not greedy. He is a giver. Every good thing you have, you have because God gave it to you. If you have health, it is given to you by God. If you have a home and food, God gives your parents the ability to earn a living. If you have a good mind, God has given that to you.

The greatest gift God has given the World is His own Son, Jesus Christ. God gave Jesus so that He could die on the cross for your sins.

John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Have you ever accepted God's gift of Salvation? God wants to give that to you today if you will let Him. Today I can have someone take their Bible and show you how you can receive the free gift of Salvation.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be faithful to be content with what God has given to you. When you feel the urge to pout because you do not have something you see someone else has, remember to be content. When you feel envy popping up in your heart or mind, put a stop to it. Instead, be content.

How do you become a contented person? Here are some ways to be content.

1. Ask God to help you be content.

We live in a world full of people who always want more. More money, more things, more of everything. But that is not how God wants you to be. Ask Him to help you to be content. Since God wants you to be content, He will be happy to help you to become content.

2. Count your blessings.

Take the time to think about all the good things in your life. What are you thankful for? Family, friends, health. Those are just a few. You might want to start a Blessings Book. When God gives you something special, write it down. When God does something special for you, write it down. Then take the time to read what is in your book now and then. It will make you thankful.

3. Praise God for all your blessings.

When you take the time to remember your blessings, you should also take the time to thank God for all He has done for you and all He has given you. God loves it when you have a thankful heart. A thankful heart is a contented heart.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be content with all the blessing He has given to you.

## BIBLE QUIZ

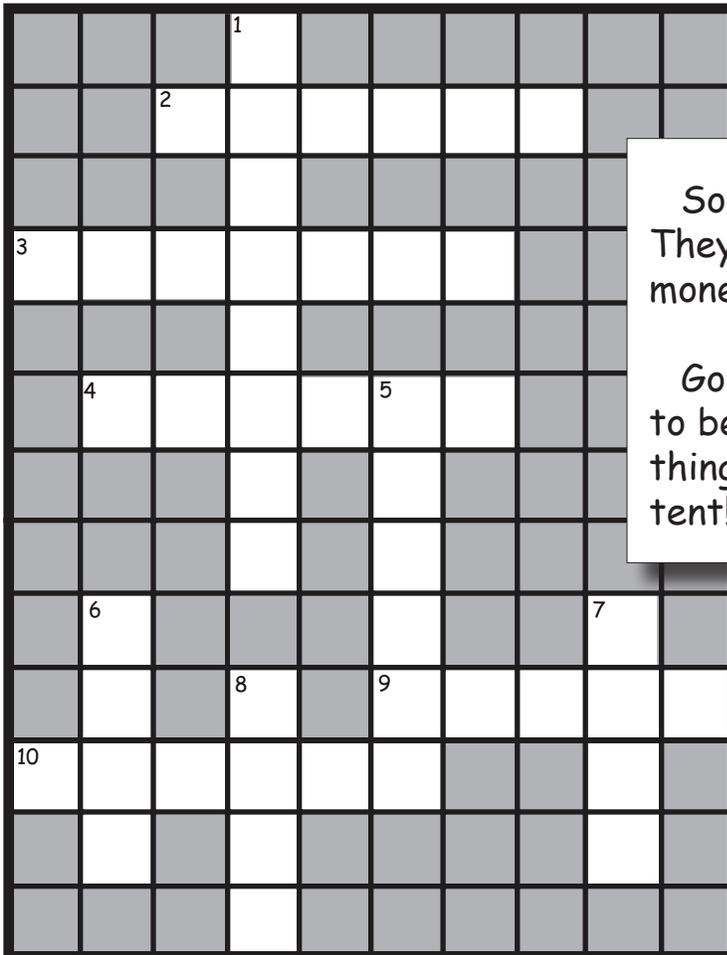
1. What did King Ahab see that he wanted?
2. Why didn't Naboth want to give his vineyard to the king?
3. What did Ahab do when Naboth refused to give him the vineyard?
4. Who promised Ahab that he would get what he wanted?
5. Recite today's memory verse.
6. How did Jezebel get the vineyard?
7. Who did God send to confront King Ahab?
8. What did Elijah tell Ahab would happen?
9. How did Ahab react to Elijah's news?
10. What happened to Jezebel?

# Faithful to be Content with God's Provisions



I will be faithful to God.

A faithful man shall abound with blessings. Proverbs 28:20a



Some people can never get enough. They can't get enough fame, or fun, or money. They always want more!

God gives you everything you need to be truly happy. He gives you everything you need to serve Him. Be content!

### Across

- 2. Jezebel had this done to Naboth.
- 3. She was a wicked Queen.
- 4. They grow in a vineyard.
- 9. This struck King Ahab.
- 10. He wouldn't give the vineyard to Ahab.

### Down

- 1. Ahab wanted this.
- 5. He confronted Ahab.
- 6. He was a wicked king.
- 7. Ahab was so upset he did this.
- 8. These ate Jezebel.



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LESSON 12

A FAITHFUL CHILD  
FAITHFUL TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

II Kings 2:1-22

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

What do you want most in this world?

We all want things that we enjoy like nice clothing, electronic gadgets, or lots of other fun things. That's okay to enjoy those things, but those things only last for such a short time and then they wear out and are gone.

There is something we should want more than any of those things. We should want a spirit of godliness. That means we want to faithfully live and act and speak the way God would want us to. It means we have a godly attitude toward others. It means that God is more important to us than anything or anyone else.

Ask God to help you to faithfully have a godly spirit and attitude. He will.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### CROSSING JORDAN

Obtain Flash Card

In our lesson today, we will be talking a little bit about a river. It is the Jordan River.

The Jordan River is a very important river in the Holy Land. The Bible often talks about it. The Jordan starts in the north of the Holy Land at the foot of Mt. Hermon. From there the Jordan flows south to a small lake called Lake Huleh. Then it flows down about ten miles to the Sea of Galilee. The final stretch of the river takes it about 65 miles south and ends its journey in the Dead Sea.

The Jordan is about 200 miles long and it is a very important source of water for the surrounding desert areas. It is the land of Israel's largest fresh water source. The land surrounding the Jordan River is all desert land and the water provides life and refreshment to everything in that area. (Show Flash Card)

I think that God considers the Jordan River a very important river because there are many times in the Bible that important things happened at the Jordan. It was at the Jordan River that Lot selfishly chose the land that was watered by it. He desired to go to that green, grassy area.

It was by the Jordan River that Jacob's name was changed by God to Israel. God's special people, the Israelites, were called the Children of Israel after that.

It was by the Jordan River that the nation of Israel crossed over on dry land to the Promised Land. Our Bible story today takes place by the Jordan River.

And it was in the Jordan River that John baptized Jesus Christ.

Do you wonder why the Jordan River is so important in the Bible?

The Jordan River is a symbol or a picture of something that God wants us to learn about. The Jordan is a picture of something that stands between us and the things God has promised to give us.

When the people of Israel came to the Promised Land that God had picked out for them, the Jordan River flowed between them and their new homeland. In order for them to claim the land they first had to cross over the Jordan River. But that would not be an easy task for two million people to get from one shore to the other. Yet God told them to cross and He told the priests to lead the way while they carried the holy Ark of the Covenant.

The people must have held their breath as the priests stepped into the mighty river. Would the Ark, which was so holy to them, get wet? Would the priests be swept away in the current? It must have been a frightening thing.

But Joshua and the priests were obedient to God. They trusted that when God told them it was time to cross the Jordan, God would take care of them and the Ark. And God did!

The instant the feet of the priests touched the Jordan River, the Lord caused the river to stop its flowing. The water stood as walls on both sides and the bed of the river dried up. The people were able to cross safely on dry land. God had shown His power, His love, and His faithfulness toward His people. (Joshua 3:1-17)

For you and me, the Jordan is a picture of something that divides us from the land God has promised to us. That land is Heaven. While we are here on earth, we live in human bodies. In order to get to Heaven, these bodies must die. No one wants to die. No one wants to have a loved one die. Death can seem like a frightening thing. But when the time comes for us to cross over from this life into our life in Heaven, God will protect us, just as He did for the Children of Israel. He will be there with us as we cross over. We will not be alone. God will faithfully guide us across.

How can you know that God will be there to cross over with you? If you have asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart and forgive your sin, then you are His child. The Bible tells us that He will be with you always, even in death.

Psalm 23:4a says, *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me.*

In 1934, two men by the names of Thomas Ramsey and Charles E. Durham wrote a song about crossing the Jordan to get to Heaven. You may have heard it. Listen to the words.

When I come to the river at ending of day,  
When the last winds of sorrow have blown;  
There'll be somebody waiting to show me the way,  
For I won't have to cross Jordan alone.

I won't have to cross Jordan alone.  
Jesus died for my sins to atone.  
When the darkness I see He'll be waiting for me.  
I won't have to cross Jordan alone.

When you or someone you love comes to the time when they are ready to cross from life into death, remember that it is not a frightening or fearful thing. You don't have to be afraid. God will faithfully be with you each step of the way on your trip across Jordan.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.* Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

II Kings 2:1-22

### LESSON

#### TIME TO GO

Elijah served God faithfully for many years. By his side was Elisha, the young man God told Elijah to train to take his place. The two traveled and served together. But the day came when God was ready to take Elijah to Heaven. Elisha would stay and carry on God's work.

Elijah told Elisha to stay behind as he went on to ready himself for Heaven. But Elisha would not leave Elijah. He was determined to stay by his teacher's side until God took him to Heaven. He was sorry to have him leave and wanted to stay with him as long as possible. Three times Elijah told him to stay behind, but all three times Elisha said, "No, I will not leave you."

Very shortly an amazing thing would happen. Instead of dying, like we humans do when our lives are over, God was going to take Elijah to Heaven in a whirlwind. Elijah was one of only two men on this earth who did not die. And one of three who God personally cared for at the end of their lives.

The Bible says in Genesis 5:24 that Enoch "was not, for God took him." In Deuteronomy 34 the Bible tells us that Moses died but no one knew where his body was because the Lord Himself buried him. So Elijah was one of three specially honored men.

Elijah died in honor. In contrast, wicked King Ahab died in disgrace. The end days of the wicked on earth are not good and their eternity will be more terrible since they will spend eternity being punished in Hell. But the children of God can face death with confidence. God will be with them in death just as He is with them in life. And their eternity will be spent in Heaven.

II Kings 2:1-2 says, *And it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.*

*And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Bethel. And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel.*

So, on the two men traveled. Elijah had a few things he wanted to do before going to Heaven. There was a school of the prophets of God. I am sure Elijah spent time there teaching and encouraging these men of God to remain faithful to God even though the people of Israel rarely listened to them.

The fifty prophets followed Elijah and Elisha at a distance. They wanted to see God take Elijah to Heaven also.

Finally they reached the Jordan River. The time was near. Elijah took his cloak off of his back and bound it up. Then he took it and hit the river waters with it. Instantly the waters of the river parted and Elijah and Elisha were able to walk across the river bed on completely dry land. That reminds me of when God parted the Jordan River another time so that the Israelites could walk across into the promised land. This was the last miracle that Elijah would perform during his life.

II Kings 2:7-8 says, *And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.*

*And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.*

### **THE REQUEST**

Elijah turned to Elisha when he reached the other side and asked Elisha what final thing he could do for him. He was giving Elisha one last request. Now this wasn't an idle question. Remember that Elijah could do many marvelous things because he had the power of God with him.

What would you have asked for if you had been Elisha? Perhaps Elisha could have asked for an easy ministry where he could have an easier time with people being nice to him instead of threatening him and where everyone would listen to him and obey what he said.

He could have asked for enough wealth to live comfortably as he traveled. With money he would never have to worry that he would go hungry or not have a place to spend the night as he traveled for God.

He could have asked to be known as a great prophet whom others would admire and respect when they met him.

But Elisha did not ask for money or fame or ease. Elisha requested that Elijah give him a double portion of his spirit. Elisha was asking that God allow him to do double of what he might have otherwise have done for God. Elisha was not selfish in his desires. Instead he desired to obey and serve God to the very best of his ability. He wanted to serve God more faithfully than he had before.

We should all ask for a double portion of the Spirit to be on our lives so that we will faithfully love, obey, and serve God to the very best of our ability.

Elijah told Elisha that he asked for a hard thing. But he promised him that if he was there to see him taken up into heaven then his request would be granted.

II Kings 2:9-10 says, *And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.*

*And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.*

## THE MIRACLE

As the two men walked and talked, suddenly a bright, fiery Chariot, pulled by horses, appeared in the heavens. The chariot came between the two men and Elisha must have stepped back as he gazed at the spectacular sight. Elijah stepped into the chariot and up to heaven it swept!

Elisha was completely amazed! He looked up as his teacher climbed higher and higher toward Heaven in that fiery chariot and he called after Elijah, “My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof.”

Then Elijah was gone. Elisha stood looking at an empty blue sky. Elijah was in Heaven with God. Elisha was filled with sorrow. He tore his clothing to show his grief.

When someone we love dies, we grieve and we miss them. There is nothing wrong with that. Even when we know our loved one is in Heaven, we feel sorrow because we know we will miss them. We do not sorrow for them. They are better off in Heaven, but our sorrow is for our own loss.

As Elisha sorrowed, he noticed a cloth floating down from the sky. What could it be? It was Elijah’s mantle, Elijah’s heavy coat. That coat represented Elijah’s responsibility to serve God as he traveled on the earth. Elisha reached down and picked up the mantle. Now it was his coat. It would remind him of his dear teacher, but much more than that, it was a visible sign to everyone else that now Elisha was to take the place of Elijah.

There were many other prophets of God who did the work of God, yet Elijah had been the main prophet that taught the others and led the others. He was the one who God used greatly to represent His will on earth. Now Elisha had the mantle and it was God’s way of showing the other prophets and the people of Israel that God had chosen Elisha to take Elijah’s place.

Elisha took the mantle and bound it up, just as Elijah had done earlier, and he walked to the River Jordan. It was only a short distance away. He hit the waters and called out, “Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” Instantly the water parted and Elisha walked back over to the other side on dry land.

II Kings 2:11-14 says, *And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

*And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.*

*He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;*

*And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.*

### **WHERE DID HE GO?**

The fifty prophets who had been standing at a distance watching saw that Elisha had Elijah's mantle. They saw that Elisha had performed a miracle as he parted the Jordan River. They knew God had appointed Elisha to be in the place of Elijah. They bowed down to Elisha to show their respect.

Right away the men wanted to go search for the body of Elijah. They thought maybe the wind had taken him up and tossed him somewhere in the mountains that surrounded them. They wanted to bury Elijah. Apparently they did not realize that God had spared Elijah from death. There was no body to bury. Elijah was already in Heaven.

Elisha understood what had happened. He told the men not to go search for Elijah. But the men kept badgering him to send out a search party. So Elisha gave in to satisfy the other prophets. He knew they wouldn't find anything. They were wasting their time. The prophets did not find Elijah and finally admitted after three days that he was not anywhere they could see.

Elisha said, basically, "See, I told you so!"

*II Kings 2:15-18 says, And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.*

*And they said unto him, Behold now, there be with thy servants fifty strong men; let them go, we pray thee, and seek thy master: lest peradventure the Spirit of the LORD hath taken him up, and cast him upon some mountain, or into some valley. And he said, Ye shall not send.*

*And when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, Send. They sent therefore fifty men; and they sought three days, but found him not.*

*And when they came again to him, (for he tarried at Jericho,) he said unto them, Did I not say unto you, Go not?*

### **ELISHA'S SECOND MIRACLE**

The next thing the Bible tells us about was a big test for Elisha. He was the main prophet in Israel now, but could he do the miracles that Elijah had done? Everyone waited to find out.

Elisha was near the city of Jericho and the city leaders came to Elisha to see if he could help them out with a big problem they had. Jericho was a large city but it did not have good water. They had nothing to drink, no water for their animals, and no water so their crops would grow. Elisha agreed to help.

Elisha asked the men to bring him a container of salt. He went to the spring of water that supplied the city and he threw the salt into the spring. Then Elisha spoke. He said that the Lord had healed the waters. He was clear that neither he nor the salt had healed the waters. The Lord had done the job.

And, indeed, the waters were sweet and pure to use for the entire city. From that day forward, all the prophets and all the people of Israel knew that Elisha had the hand of God upon him just as Elijah had.

II Kings 2:19-22 says, *And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren.*

*And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him.*

*And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land.*

*So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.*

#### **WHAT IS YOUR REQUEST?**

If you had been Elisha and the great prophet Elijah asked you what request you had, what would be your request? Think about it quietly for a moment.

Some people would ask for money. People often think money will make them happy. They think that if they have lots of money they would never have anymore problems.

Some people would ask for power. They want others to admire and respect them. They want to be able to control everything around them.

Some people would ask for honor and fame. They think that it would be wonderful to have others recognize them and know of all their accomplishments.

Elisha asked for a double spirit of what Elijah had. He was asking to be able to work twice as hard, obey twice as much, and serve twice as much as Elijah. He wanted to be twice as faithful to God. That was a hard request to make. Elijah had been a hard working, obedient, faithful servant of God. He had stood boldly for God when everyone around him hated him. He had bravely spoken out against the false god, Baal. Elisha wanted to do as much for God as Elijah had done and then do twice as much more.

Do you know, God granted Elisha's request. Not only did God place Elisha in Elijah's place, but the Bible tells us of all the miracles Elisha did in his life and it comes to roughly twice as many miracles as Elijah.

Elisha did not ask for money, power, honor, or an easy life. He only asked that he could be able to faithfully serve God as best he could. And he did that.

If you had one request of God, instead of requesting money or power, or fame, God would be pleased if you requested to faithfully serve Him with all your heart and soul and mind. He would be pleased if you asked Him to give you a godly spirit. That is a request God will gladly fulfill! He will gladly give you a spirit of godliness. He will gladly help you to be faithful each day! Will you ask God to help you to be faithful to Him each day you live?

Maybe you say to yourself, but I'm not a Christian. I have never even asked God to forgive my sin and come into my life. That is the first request that God wants to hear from each person. Most of us here have done that. Have you?

Jesus Christ came to earth to die on the cross in your place. He died to take your sin on His own body. He died so that you could be forgiven of your sin. Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? You can do that today. We can have someone take a Bible and show you how to do that now.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to ask God to give you a spirit of godliness in your life. What does a person with a godly spirit act like?

1. A person with a godly spirit hates sin.

The Bible tells us to flee from sin. That means to run in the opposite direction as fast as you can. Don't sit around and watch and admire sin. Don't think what it would be like to do a sinful action. The closer you get to sin, the more likely you are to let that sin into your life. Instead, turn away from sin and run!

2. A person with a godly spirit loves God.

One day someone asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was. This was Jesus' reply in Matthew 22:37, Jesus said unto him, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

The thing that God wants most from you is that you love Him.

3. A person with a godly spirit obeys God.

If you truly love God with all your heart and soul and mind, then you will be thrilled to faithfully obey Him. You will want to do everything you can to make God happy. When you love someone, you obey them.

Read God's Word. See what He wants you to do. Then do it. See what He doesn't want you to do. Then don't do it.

4. A person with a godly spirit serves God.

God has a job for each Christian to do. He has something for you to do for Him. When you love God and you obey God, then you will just naturally want to serve Him. God never asks you to do something that He would not give you the ability to do. If God gives you a job, He will help you to do your job. You just need to be willing.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have a godly spirit that hates sin and faithfully loves, obeys, and serves God.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many times did Elijah tell Elisha to stay behind?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. How many of the other prophets followed at a distance?
4. What was the last miracle that Elijah performed?
5. What was Elisha's request from Elijah?
6. How did Elijah go to Heaven?
7. What did Elijah leave behind for Elisha?
8. What was the first miracle that Elisha performed?
9. What did the prophets who were watching demand to do?
10. What miracle did Elisha perform for the people of Jericho?

# Faithful to Live a Godly Life



A faithful man shall abound with blessings.  
Proverbs 28:20a

I will be faithful to God.

You cannot be godly on your own. Ask God to give you a godly spirit so that your life will be pleasing to Him.

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Start with the letter I. Write every other letter in order on the blanks in the box. Find out the secret message.



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LESSON 13

A FAITHFUL CHILD  
FAITHFUL TO SERVE

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

2 Kings 4:8-37

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be faithful to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

The last several lessons we have been looking at the life of Elijah. Elijah was a bold man of God who served the Lord faithfully no matter what trouble he faced.

It can be hard to be faithful to God when times get scary or difficult. So many times it would have been easier for Elijah to quit and return to his home. It would have been much more enjoyable to do the easy thing. But Elijah was faithful to God regardless of the circumstances he faced.

God wants you to be faithful too. Today we will talk about ways you can be a faithful servant just like Elijah.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be faithful to God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### PIE - BY AND BY

Obtain Flash Card

Wendy watched as her dad reached on the shelf in his bedroom for a jar. It was an old jar used for canning and the old silver lid was dull and rusty. The jar was dusty. And the jar was full of fruit.

It is a kind of strange thing to keep an old rusty-lidded jar of fruit in your bedroom, but there is a reason that particular jar is there. You see, Wendy's dad is almost 95 years old now and that jar is pretty old too. It had been filled with fruit and sealed back in 1938. That Ball canning jar is over 70 years old, almost as old as Wendy's dad.

There is a story behind that jar and the fruit inside. Wendy's dad loves to take the jar down and tell the story to visitors who come by. He always chuckles when he pulls down the jar and visitors are amazed when they looked at the date written on old, dried out masking tape that is somehow still stuck to the side of the glass jar. Plain as day is written: 1938.

1938 was the year Wendy's mom and dad, Roy and Christine, got married. Times back then were hard and money was short. The young couple had gone to live with an old bachelor-farmer who lived near Roy's boyhood home. The old man was lonely and he welcomed the young couple into his home. They needed a place to live and he needed someone to tend his farm and keep his house clean. So Roy helped out around the farm and Christine cleaned and cooked meals.

One day Roy found a big elderberry bush that was chocked full of berries. Not many people today have heard of elderberries, but they are a tiny, bluish-black, berry that is sweeter than any blueberry. Roy loved the elderberry pies his mother baked when he was a boy and he asked his young bride if she would bake him a pie.

Christine told Roy she would definitely bake him the pie he loved so much if he would just pick the berries for her. So he did. He brought her a bucket full of berries. His mouth was watering. He could just taste that wonderfully sweet and juicy pie! (Show Flash Card)

I don't know why Christine did not bake that pie the day she got those berries, but maybe she was busy with other work. Maybe she just didn't know how to bake an elderberry pie. She was a very good cook, but maybe elderberry pie was something she didn't know how to make. Maybe she just decided to put it off till the next day.

Instead of baking the pie, Christine canned the berries in a shiny, glass quart jar. She sealed the berries and put them on the shelf. She put a piece of masking tape on the side of the jar and marked it with the year: 1938. She would bake the pie . . . tomorrow.

Whenever Roy asked about when he was going to get to eat that wonderful elderberry pie, she would promise that one day she would get around to baking it. She'd glance at the jar and make a mental note to find out how to bake an elderberry pie. One day she planned to bake that pie. She'd bake the pie tomorrow!

As the years went on, Christine baked many pies. She baked apple pies and cherry pies. She baked the best pumpkin pies in the whole state of Michigan! But she did not bake an elderberry pie. Regardless, Roy did not give up hope. He was certain that one day he would get his pie.

Every time Roy and Christine moved to a new home, Roy would carefully pack that quart jar of elderberries and take it to the next house. It would be placed on the pantry shelf of the new home and there it would sit. I suppose that Christine thought there was really no hurry. The berries were safe in the glass jar and would not spoil anytime soon. In the back of her mind she promised herself to take down that jar and bake that pie . . . someday! Maybe tomorrow!

Well, the pie never got baked. Christine finally got to the time when her baking days were over. She went home to be with the Lord in 2001 and in 2013 the glass jar still sits on the shelf.

Somehow, Roy just can't part with that jar. It has too many memories and it is always good for a laugh when friends come to visit.

"I'm still waiting for my elderberry pie!" Roy always says with a chuckle as he carefully hands the old jar to the amazed young person who can't believe they are holding a jar full of elderberries that is about four times older than they are.

Christine had good intentions and Roy was forgiving. In fact, he has probably gotten more enjoyment from those elderberries over the past 70 years while they have remained in the jar than if Christine had baked a pie and he had eaten it the day he picked them. They would have been long gone and a very distant memory, but now they still remain to bring a smile and a chuckle.

But you know, sometimes we let our good intentions cause us to let important things go by the wayside. We tell God that we will obey Him . . . tomorrow. We intend to read our Bibles and pray. We just don't have the time right now. We'll do it tomorrow! We tell God we will faithfully serve Him, but not today. We'll do it tomorrow!

Don't put off the sweet service that you can do for your Lord till tomorrow. You need to purpose in your heart to serve God faithfully and do it today!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A faithful man shall abound with blessings.*

Proverbs 28:20a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 17 - II Kings 2

### LESSON

#### **ELIJAH STOOD AGAINST EVIL**

Elijah was a great man of God. The Bible doesn't tell us too many things about where Elijah came from or how long he lived, but it does tell us about the bold way he stood against the evil things that were going on during his time. There were many prophets of God who faithfully served God, but Elijah was a special servant of God. He was greatly used of God to stand up against the wickedness of his day.

One of the most evil and wicked kings of Israel lived during the time of Elijah. King Ahab and Queen Jezebel set up altars to the false God, Baal. Jezebel ordered that many of the prophets of God should be killed. She even tried to kill Elijah. So it wasn't an easy job for Elijah to serve God.

Elijah was a normal man. He became frightened when the queen threatened him. Yet, he still knew he had to stand against evil, because God hates evil.

God wants you to hate evil and to take a bold stand against it just as Elijah did. We live in a world filled with evil. Satan surrounds you with the temptations to do evil every day. When you are tempted to do wrong, you need to stand boldly against evil and ask God to help you to do what is right.

### **ELIJAH TRUSTED GOD**

Elijah learned that he could trust God regardless of the circumstances. He trusted God during the famine when there was no water and no food. Did he go hungry or thirsty? No. God took care of Elijah. God sent food for him by using ravens. And later God sent Elijah to the home of a widow woman and her son so they would benefit from God's care.

Elijah knew God would provide for them. He had no fear, instead he trusted.

I Kings 17:13-14 says, *And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.*

*For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.*

When the day came for Elijah to show himself to King Ahab and set up the showdown with the false prophets of Baal, it had to have taken trust for Elijah to come out of hiding and do as God instructed, but Elijah trusted God to protect him from the king.

I Kings 18:1-2 says, *And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.*

*And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.*

Just as Elijah knew he could trust God to provide for him and to protect him, you can trust God in your life also. God knows your needs. He will provide for you. You may not always have all the "things" you think you need, but you will always have what God knows you need. God knows the trials and troubles you face. He will protect you also. I am not saying that you will never be hurt physically or never go through hard times, but I am saying that nothing can happen to you that God does not allow. He will never allow anything to happen to you that is not for your good and His glory. You can be sure God will protect you.

### **ELIJAH SHOWED OTHERS GOD'S POWER**

The eyes of everyone in Israel were on Elijah. They knew about all the times he had challenged the king. They knew how he challenged the false prophets of Baal to prove their god was real. They knew the miracles he performed in God's name. The power of God was clearly seen in the life of Elijah.

Elijah was always quick to let others know that whatever he did, he did it for God and with God's power. When he stood to prove to everyone that God was the one true God, He prayed out loud so all could hear him call on God. God's power was on display. Elijah never claimed any power or glory for himself.

1 Kings 18:36 says, *And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.*

You may think that since you are just a child that you can't show the power of God. But you can. It may not be through something as spectacular as fire falling from Heaven, but you can demonstrate God's power through your testimony for Him. If you are careful about the way you act and the way you speak and the attitudes you have, then you can have a life that is a good testimony for God. Others can see your life and know that you are a faithful child of God. They can know God has made a difference in your life.

### **ELIJAH LISTENED FOR GOD'S VOICE**

When God spoke to Elijah, did He speak in a big way? Did God speak through the mighty wind? No. Did He speak to Elijah through the earthquake? No. Did God speak to him through the fire? No.

God spoke to Elijah with a still, small voice.

Often that is the way God speaks to you. He may whisper to your heart. He may speak through one of His servants like your teacher in Children's Church or through your pastor's sermon. He may speak to you through His Word, the Bible.

Sometimes you might wish God would speak to you with a big, loud voice that you could clearly hear and you could never mistake, but that is not the way God chooses to speak to you.

You must be careful not to miss God's soft voice when He speaks to you. It is very easy to let the busyness of life get in the way of listening to God. You can get so busy rushing to school and to sports and to lessons after school that you don't have time to listen.

That's why it is important to make a special time each day when you stop and concentrate on listening only to God. Find a quiet place where you can spend some time alone with God. Quiet your heart and mind and get ready to listen. Then open your Bible and read a few verses. Think about what God might be trying to say to you in those verses. Think about how you can put those verses to work in your daily life.

Then pray and ask God to help you to understand what you have read. Ask God to speak to your heart and help you to listen. Ask Him to help you to obey His Word and put the things you have learned to work in your life.

Be like Elijah who listened for God's still, small voice.

### **ELIJAH WAS HONORED BY GOD**

God gave Elijah a very special honor. He sent a bright chariot down to earth to personally pick him up and take him to Heaven. Most people die when their life is finished, but Elijah did not die. God took him to Heaven in a spectacular way!

What an honor God showed to his humble and faithful servant.

II Kings 2:11 says, *And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

Only two men were taken to Heaven without having to face death, but if you are faithful to God in the way you think and act, then God will certainly honor you. God always rewards His faithful servants when they please Him. How will He reward you? I don't know. It may not be in a way that involves money. It may not be in a way that you expect, but if you are faithful to God before men, then He will honor you.

1 Samuel 2:30b says, *For them that honour me I will honour.*

The greatest honor you can be given from God will be when He welcomes you into Heaven. It will be a great blessing and honor to be able to spend all eternity with God!

### **DO YOU KNOW ELIJAH'S GOD?**

The God that Elijah served is the very same God who loves you and watches over you. But did you know, not everyone is a child of God? Not everyone will be able to spend all eternity in Heaven with God.

Only people who have asked Jesus Christ to forgive their sin and come into their heart will be able to spend eternity in Heaven. You see, we are all born sinners. I am a sinner and you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Because of your sin, you are separated from God. You cannot be close to God because God cannot be close to your sin. In fact, all sin must be punished.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The payment of sin is death. But God loves you so much that He sent Jesus Christ to earth to die in your place. Jesus paid the payment of your sin. He died for your sin.

Romans 5: 8 says, *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Jesus died in your place. He took your punishment for sin so you would not have to take your own punishment.

Now all you have to do is believe that Jesus died to take your punishment. Then ask Him to forgive your sin and ask Him to become a part of your life.

1 John 1:9 says, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

God loves you and He wants to forgive your sin and come into your life. Would you like to ask Jesus Christ to become a part of your life right now? You can. We can have someone take a Bible and show you exactly how to do it.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Today I want to challenge you to be like Elijah.

1. Stand against evil.

Be bold enough to say no to sin and to stay as far from sin as you can. Don't let the evil in the world seep into the way you think and act.

2. Trust God.

Don't trust people. Don't trust your own self. Put your complete trust in God to do what is best in your life.

3. Show others the power of God.

Let your testimony of the way you think and speak and act show others that you love and serve a powerful God.

4. Listen for God's voice.

Remember, God most often speaks in a still, small voice. Make time to listen to His whisper to your heart. Also remember to serve God faithfully each day. Don't put off doing everything you can to serve Him faithfully.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to serve God faithfully each day of your life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What evil rulers did Elijah stand against?
2. What miracle did God perform for Elijah after he went to hide by the brook Cherith?
3. What miracle did God perform for Elijah and the widow woman?
4. What did Elijah build for God on Mount Carmel?
5. What did God do when Elijah prayed to God?
6. Recite today's memory verse.
7. Name some BIG thing that God sent when Elijah was hiding in fear on Mt. Horeb.
8. Name something else God sent that also did not have His voice at Mt. Horeb.
9. How did God speak to Elijah at Mt. Horeb?
10. What great honor did God pay to Elijah at the end of his life?

# Faithful to Serve



A faithful man shall abound with blessings.  
Proverbs 28:20a

I will be faithful to God.

Elijah was a faithful servant of God. He loved the things that God loved and he hated the things that God hated. He was quick to obey God. Are you a faithful servant too?

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Elijah  
Brook  
Obey  
Miracle  
Widow  
Altar

Baal  
Bold  
Prophet  
Water  
Fire  
Mt. Horeb

Ahab  
Jezebel  
Hide  
Trust  
Ravens  
Faithful

Power  
Listen  
Chariot  
Heaven



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LESSON 14

A SUBMISSIVE CHILD  
SUBMITTING TO A GOD WHO CAN SAVE ME

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

II Kings 4:1-7

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will submit to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*  
James 4:7



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

How much would you pay to spend eternity in Heaven? How much is eternal life worth?

I suppose it would be worth everything we could ever hope to have in order to get it.

But do you know, there is nothing you can do to buy eternal life. All the money in the world will not pay for it. Even if you were a billionaire, you would not have enough money to pay for an eternity in Heaven.

Perhaps you could try to do lots of good things to buy your way into Heaven. Nope. If you were the best person in the world and you spent from morning until midnight doing good works for God and for others, it would not buy your way into Heaven.

You don't deserve an eternity in Heaven because you are a sinner. You can't pay for it. You don't have what it takes to pay the price. You have a sin debt that you can't get rid of by yourself. You are a sinner and sin must be paid for.

The good news is that you don't have to do one good work to earn Heaven. You don't have to give one single penny to pay for your sin debt. The price has been paid in full. You can spend eternity in Heaven even though you can't pay for it and you don't deserve it. Why? Because Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sin. He took your place. Now, Heaven is yours if you accept Him. Since Jesus did so much for you, isn't it only right that you submit your life to God?

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will submit to God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### JESUS PAID IT ALL

The young lady in a tattered coat rubbed her hands quickly up and down her arms. She was trying to give herself some warmth on a cold New Year's Eve. She stood on the outskirts of what looked like some sort of gathering of people. She didn't know why they were gathered, but she knew she had nowhere else to go so she decided to stay for a short while.

The group of people began to sing a sweet sounding song. The young lady could tell that the man who was leading the singing knew the song well. His voice boomed out loudly and clearly above all the others. (Teacher: It is nice if you can sing the song as you tell the story.)

I hear the Savior say,  
“Thy strength indeed is small;  
Child of weakness, watch and pray,  
Find in me thine all in all.”

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

The young lady thought about the words. It seemed they spoke about her. Her strength was small. She was a child of weakness. That morning she had a job as a servant girl, but she had quarreled with the lady she worked for. That had been a foolish mistake, because the lady told her to pack her few worldly belongings and leave. She had been fired.

Now she wondered what she would do and where she would live. She had no pay check to buy food and no place to spend the cold nights. What would she do? She was truly weak. Her strength was small, especially since she had hardly had a bite to eat all day.

The man had been singing but she had been thinking about her sad condition. Now he seemed to be on the second verse of the song.

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and Thine alone,  
Can change the leper's spots  
And melt the heart of stone.

For nothing good have I  
Whereby Thy grace to claim,  
I'll wash my garments white  
In the blood of Calvary's Lamb.

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

The young lady had heard the name Jesus before but she hadn't given much thought to Him. She had been too busy working to make her living to think much about her soul. But now as she heard the man sing, she decided to stay and listen to what he had to say.

The man clearly told how Jesus had died on the cross to pay the price for the sins of mankind. How wonderful that sounded to the young lady. She knew she needed her sins washed white as snow, but she also knew she as a great sinner. Not once in all the years she had lived had she ever given a single thought to God. Oh, and how many bad things she had done! How could God love her? How could he forgive her? She had nothing to offer to Him.

The man invited anyone who was interested to come speak to him. The young lady hung back. After the man spoke for a short while, he closed the meeting and headed back to the mission. The young lady did not want to let him go. She wanted so badly to ask Him about Jesus. In a moment of bravery, the young lady quickly ran after the man and called out to him.

"Sir," the young lady called.

The man turned to look at her. He had a kind face which encouraged her to go on talking to him.

"Do you think Jesus could save a sinner like me?"

The man smiled and replied, "Yes, indeed. Jesus paid the price for all your sins."

Then the man invited the girl to come into the warmth of the mission building so he could take a Bible and show her from God's Word how Jesus had paid for her sins. That night the girl accepted Jesus as her Savior. That night Jesus paid her sin debt in full.

Soon afterwards a local pastor's family offered the girl a job. She worked as hard as she could, but her health was not good. After a particularly bad spell of health, she was taken to the hospital. The doctors told her she would never get better. She didn't have long to live on this earth.

One day the man from the mission came to her hospital room to visit. The two talked about how Jesus Christ had forgiven her sin and paid the price for her salvation. Then the man sang to her in a clear, strong voice. He sang the song she had first heard him singing on the night she accepted Jesus as her personal Savior. When he came to the final verse, a smile lit the young woman's face. Soon she would be in Heaven with her Lord who has paid the price for all her sin.

And when before the throne  
I stand in Him complete,  
Jesus died my soul to save,  
My lips shall still repeat.

Jesus paid it all,  
All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain,  
He washed it white as snow.

Jesus paid the price for your sins also. No matter who you are or what you've done in life, Jesus loves you and He wants to forgive your sin.

(Teacher: This is a good song to teach to your children.)

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* James 4:7

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

II Kings 4:1-7

Obtain Flash Card

## LESSON

### A WIDOW SEEKS HELP

In today's Bible story we find a woman who had a big problem. This woman was the wife of one of the prophets of God. You will remember that there were many prophets of God in both kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Most often we read about the main prophets that God used, but there were other, lesser men of God who did the work of the Lord also.

Apparently this prophet had been a faithful servant of God. But something happened to him and he had died. He may have died a natural death. It is possible he was one of the prophets who was killed by wicked Queen Jezebel. We don't know for sure.

One thing we do know is that the men of God were not rich men. The Lord took care of their needs through the people to whom they ministered. They would be fed and housed as they traveled. Perhaps the people in their area gave them vegetables, meat, and other goods which helped them and their families to survive. God always provided for them. But they were not rich.

Now that the prophet was dead, his widow and his two sons faced a very difficult existence. The prophet had owed money when he died and the poor widow had to find a way to pay the bills they owed. So the woman and her two sons set out to find ways to raise money.

The three of them worked hard to put food on the table as well as pay their bills. I am sure the family of this dead prophet did all they could to make a living. The main asset this widow had was her two sons. They were able to help their mother work and make money, but no matter how hard they worked, there never seemed to be enough money to go around. If they made enough money to pay toward their debts, then they didn't have enough to buy food. If they used their money to buy food, then they didn't have enough to pay their debts.

The day came when the woman's creditor began to lose patience. She owed this man money and he wanted his money. He was no longer willing to wait as she paid off her debt a little at a time. So the creditor told the woman that if she did not give him his money right then, he would take her two sons and make them work for him. The sons would become his slaves until the debt was paid.

This was a very distressing thing for the widow. She would not have her sons with her anymore, perhaps for many years. Also the widow would have no one to help her make a living. The sons would not be able to get on with their lives either. Instead they would be in servitude to a master and have no say about their own lives.

With this distressing situation facing her, the poor widow did the only thing she could think to do. She took her problem to the Elisha, the man of God. It turned out to be the wisest thing she could do.

Elisha most likely had known the woman's husband. They had served in the same kingdom and would have crossed paths now and then. The woman went with the hopes that somehow Elisha would know how to help her.

Elisha was a bit baffled when he heard the woman's dilemma. He had no money to give her. He most likely was as poor as she was. What little he had, he used to help him travel and work for God.

So Elisha began to think. What could he do for the woman? Hmm. . . Elisha came up with an idea. Instead of looking to others for help, he thought the answer to the woman's problems might be inside the woman's own house. He asked, "What do you have in your house?"

The woman thought. Hmm . . . She didn't think she had anything of value. After all, if she had valuable goods or jewels, she would have sold them and paid her debt long ago.

"The only thing I have is a pot of oil." the woman replied.

Elisha smiled. God had given him an idea.

*II Kings 4:1-2 says, Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.*

*And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.*

#### **A BUSINESS PLAN**

All the woman had a was single pot of oil. Not much really. But Elisha knew that God could take "not much" and make it into all that they needed. Elisha had a plan to make that one pot of oil into the means to pay off the woman's debts.

Elisha told the woman and her two sons to go to all her friends, and family, and neighbors and borrow as many empty vessels as she could find. He warned them to borrow lots and lots of vessels, the more the better!

Elisha told the woman that when she had finished gathering the pots she should go into the house and shut the door. Maybe that was because the neighbors would be peeking in the door to see what she was going to do with all those pots!

Elisha told the woman to take her one pot of oil and begin to pour it out into the other pots. It may have seemed like a crazy plan, but the woman did not argue. Instead she trusted God and Elisha to help meet her needs.

*II Kings 4:3-4 says, Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.*

*And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.*

## THE WIDOW SUBMITS

So the woman and her sons set to work. She did not question Elisha and ask him why he thought such an impossible thing could happen. She did not doubt him at all, she simply submitted to Elisha and set to work. She showed her submission to Elisha by obeying him.

All day or maybe more, the three knocked on doors. They didn't want to borrow a cup of sugar, they asked to borrow as many pots as their friends could spare. The two boys scurried from house to house as quickly as they could. They would fill their arms with pots and then rush home to unload. Then out they would go to get more.

Finally they had borrowed all they could find. There didn't seem to be another empty pot in the entire neighborhood. They had every empty pot available. (Show Flash Card)

So, the woman pulled her door closed and she set to work in the house. She took her one pot of oil and began to pour oil into the first empty pot. Soon it was filled and she set it aside and began to fill the second pot. Hmm . . . Sure enough, the second pot was soon full also and her original pot still had oil to spare. So she called for another pot. Pot after pot was filled and set aside. How amazing! The oil just never stopped flowing. No matter how big the pot, it was always filled to the brim and there would be oil remaining in the original pot.

Finally the time came when the mother called for her sons to bring her another pot. But there were no more pots. Every pot that had been borrowed was filled. There were no more empty pots.

Can you imagine! God had allowed Elisha to perform a miracle! In just a short time the widow had filled a house full of pots with valuable oil. When the other pots were filled, the one single pot that she originally had in her home stopped producing extra oil. God had given her exactly the amount she needed.

Quickly the woman ran to tell Elisha that she had obeyed and all the pots were filled. Elisha told the woman to go and sell the oil. Oil was valuable and the money she got from selling all that oil would not only pay her debts in full, it would also provide money for her future needs. She could rejoice and relax. God had cared for her every need! She paid the money she owed to her creditor. All her debts were paid in full!

*II Kings 4:5-7 says, So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.*

*And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.*

*Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.*

## GOD PROVIDES YOUR GREAT NEED

Did you know that you have a lot in common with that poor widow woman? You do. Hmm . . . How?

You have a debt you cannot pay.

The Bible says in Romans 3:23, *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

You have a sin debt. You can't pay for your own sin. It is impossible for you to do enough good works to pay that debt.

The Bible says in Romans 6:23, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The wages or payment of sin is death. You cannot pay your own debt for your sins just as the widow couldn't do enough to pay her debt. You can't do a single thing to get rid of your sin on your own. And if your sin debt is not paid, then you will pay for your sin with death. That means you will pay for your sin by being eternally separated from God.

But you don't have to worry and fret about that. Even though you can't pay your debt, just as the widow turned to the man of God to help her pay her debt, there is someone who can pay the debt for you also. That is Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ has already paid for your debt in full. Jesus died in your place. He took your punishment on Himself on the cross. All you need to do is submit to God and accept the free gift of Salvation that He offers to you.

That was what the widow woman did. When Elisha told her what to do, she did it. She submissively obeyed. And all her needs were met. Her debt was paid in full.

In order for your sin debt to be paid in full, all you need to do is ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sin. Tell Him you are sorry for your sin. Then ask Him to come into your life and become the Lord of your life.

Once you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, you will find that in life you will have times when you have other needs that you just can't meet on your own. You may have fears you can't conquer. You may have troubles you can't overcome. You may need guidance if you have a question about what to do when something puzzles you. There are many times in life when we don't know what to do. There are many times in life when we can't help ourselves.

In those times, God wants to help you, just as He helped that widow. She was smart to go to the man of God with her need. It is only God who can truly meet our needs. Things that are impossible for us or those around us are not impossible for God.

We may not know how God will meet our needs. He sometimes works in surprising and unexpected ways, but we can always trust God. His ways are always best!

Isn't it wonderful to know that because you are a child of God if you submissively go to Him, you can know that He cares for you and for all of your needs. And if you have not had your sin debt paid in full, you can do that today. We can show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

The most wonderful thing you can understand is that even though you cannot pay the debt for your sin, Jesus Christ has already paid your debt in full. Jesus paid the price for your sin. How amazing!

Now I challenge you to submissively live each day like a child of God who has had their sins washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ when He died on the cross.

How do you live each day for Christ? Here are some suggestions on how to submit to God.

1. Show God you love Him.

Show your love by worshiping God with your heart and mind. Show Him you love Him by spending time with Him in Bible study and prayer. Show Him you love Him by obeying Him.

2. Show others you love God.

Show others you love God by the way you live and act. Have a sweet attitude when you speak to everyone around you. Live honestly and purely. Do what good you can for others. Good works will not save you, but your good works show how much you love God.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to show your appreciation to Jesus Christ for paying your sin debt in full on the cross of Calvary.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What job did the widow's husband have before he died?
2. What big problem did the widow have?
3. What did the woman's creditor want to do?
4. Who did the woman turn to in her time of need?
5. What question did Elisha ask the woman?
6. What did Elisha tell the woman to do?
7. When did the pot of oil run out of oil?
8. What did the woman do with all the oil?
9. Recite today's Bible memory verse.
10. Who paid your debt in full?

# Submitting to a God who can Save me

Submit yourselves therefore to God.  
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.  
James 4:7



I will submit to God.

How much do you think it would cost to pay for your own sins  
and buy your way into Heaven?

No person on earth could pay that price, but Jesus Christ paid  
the price for you when He died on Calvary.  
How thankful you should be that Jesus paid the price for your sin!

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all the number 2 letters in order. Then the number 3 letters and so on.



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LESSON 15

**A SUBMISSIVE CHILD**  
SUBMITTING TO A GOD WHO KNOWS MY NEEDS

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

II Kings 4:8-37

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will submit to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*  
James 4:7



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had a problem that you just couldn't figure out? No matter how you tried to come up with an answer, you couldn't. The problem was bigger than you were.

At times like those, you may have thought that if the problem was too big for you, then it might be too big for God. You may have wondered if even God could do anything to help.

Never fear. You do not have a single problem that God does not know about or that He cannot solve. He may not solve it in the way you would have expected, but He will always care for your needs in the way He knows is best. If you are willing to submit to God and obey Him, He can meet every need you have.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will submit to God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### A MIGHTY GOD. A MIGHTY NEED

Obtain Flash Card

Wendy was worried. How would she ever get the money she needed to buy groceries for the week? Sure, God had never let them down before. They had never gone hungry, but the situation this time looked bad.

Wendy's husband, Gary Collins, was an evangelist. The Collins and their daughter, Rynda, lived in a travel trailer. They traveled all over the United States and held evangelistic meetings. They loved traveling and meeting new people. They loved standing on the platform and telling others about God's love. They all took part in the programs. Even when Rynda was just a little girl she helped out by playing "Jesus Loves Me" on the Swiss Cow Bells.

The one part about traveling that could be hard was the fact that the Collins never knew from year to year how many weeks of meetings they would have. Some years they were very busy and had over forty weeks of meetings. Some years were slower and they might only have twenty weeks. But almost always, from the week before Thanksgiving until the middle of January, there were no meetings at all. Most churches were busy with special Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. And in January the churches wanted a few weeks of peace and quiet after the busy holidays. They didn't want special meetings.

So, Gary, Wendy, and Rynda would find a campground to stay in or sometimes they even parked by a church for a few extra weeks while they waited for their next week of meetings.

On the weeks when the Collins were busy with meetings, the churches gave them money to buy groceries. Wendy would try to stock up her shelves with canned goods and she also tried to tuck away a little money so she could buy fresh food to eat when they had no income. The first few weeks of the holiday time were usually fine. They had food they could take off the shelves. But soon the groceries would run low and then the grocery money would be gone also.

If the Collins headed back to Michigan for the holidays, where their families lived, then they didn't have to worry about groceries at all. They could eat with their parents and both their moms would always send them home with an arm load of food and other goodies for the future.

But this year things were different. It was the week before Thanksgiving. They hadn't had any meeting in a couple of weeks and both money and groceries were running low. Not only that, they were far from home. They were all the way out west in California and it was too far to travel back east for only a few weeks. This year they would not be going home for Thanksgiving or Christmas. There would be no family goodies to tide them over.

Wendy looked in her envelope where she stashed the grocery money. There was just about enough to buy food for a nice Thanksgiving meal, but that was all. With no meetings coming up, not much food on the shelves, and almost no money, things looked very bleak to her.

Wendy began to fret and worry. What would they do? How would they make it through the long winter months? She knew God had always provided for them before, but this time it looked like He might not come through. After all, the Lord had always provided when they had meetings, but there were no meetings. There were no churches to give them an offering. There would be no church people to hand them some food after services. How would God provide when they were all alone?

"We have one last service this Sunday before Thanksgiving," Gary said. "Hopefully the pastor will let us park our trailer there for a week or two afterwards."

Wendy certainly hoped so, but when they had single services, the people in the church barely got to know them. The Collins usually went to the church, Gary would preach, then they would be on their way. No one seemed to notice them very much. They certainly wouldn't let them park by their church for a couple of months or provide them with any groceries.

The Sunday meeting at the church in California went well. The people seemed especially warm and friendly. After the evening service one of the families even invited the Collins out for a meal. And best of all, the pastor told them they could stay parked beside the church for as long as they needed to stay.

"What an answer to prayer!" Gary said when they got back to their trailer Sunday evening.

"Yes," Wendy agreed. It did make her feel better to know they had a safe place to park their little home.

“But what about food?” she wondered out loud.

“God always provides,” Gary reminded her.

Wendy certainly hoped so!

The week flew by quickly. Rynda was in Kindergarten and she was being home-schooled so she could travel with her parents. The day times were taken up with school work. On Wednesday night the Collins went to services at the church which served as their new home for the time being. They visited with the people and one family invited them to their home for the next Sunday dinner.

Early the next morning, there was a knock at the trailer door. When Wendy answered there was a young man standing there.

“Mrs. Collins,” the young man said. “Our Youth Sunday School class always gives some food to one family each Thanksgiving. This year we picked you. There are some bags of food in the church kitchen for you. You can pick them up any time it’s convenient for you.”

Wendy thanked the young man. How kind and thoughtful of them to do that for them! Gary and Wendy rushed right to the kitchen. They were very curious to see what had been left there for them. (Show Flash Card)

When they walked into the church kitchen, they couldn’t believe their eyes! They had been expecting a bag or two of groceries. But instead of just a couple of bags, there were bags and more bags, and more bags! There must have been over twenty bags and they were all filled to the top! There were cans of tuna and canned vegetables. There were boxes of cake mixes and Hamburger Helper. There were even special goodies like cookies and snack cakes.

Wendy’s eyes filled with tears. She was so happy and thankful to the Lord. She was also a bit ashamed of herself. Here she had been fretting and worrying about how they were going to eat, yet God had it all planned out. He provided all they would need for many weeks to come!

So many times when Wendy would worry about how she was going to pay a bill or feed her family, the Lord would provide for each need. Often she would remind herself that God had always provided in the past. She just needed to remember that what God had done in the past, He could do again in the future. She just needed to trust Him.

“What a mighty God I serve!” Wendy thought. “He always takes care of each and every need!”

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

II Kings 5:1-14

### LESSON

#### A MIGHTY MAN

One of the countries that lay near Israel was the county of Syria. The Syrians were not Hebrews. They were Gentile people who did not believe in the one true God. Most likely they worshiped false gods.

Syria was a prosperous land with a mighty army. Often the army of Syria would go invade the neighboring lands and carry away anything they desired to take. Sometimes they stole the crops that were growing in the fields. Sometimes they took people captive to use them as slaves.

In the army of Syria was a man named Naaman. He was a big strong man who made his living by fighting for Syria. He was a captain in the army and he was a very important man. He was greatly admired because he was so successful in leading his men in battle. The king of Syria took special notice of him and that made him very important.

Naaman was a brave soldier and leader. His men followed him willingly into battle. He must have been a wise commander because he most often won his battles. The Bible also tells us that God helped Naaman in battle. Now why would God help a Gentile commander who was the enemy of the Israelites?

The people of Israel had strayed so far away from obeying God, so God allowed other countries to trouble Israel. God was hoping that when the Israelites had troubles from other countries,

they might turn back to Him for help. God hoped that His people would go back to obeying and submitting to Him. But Israel was wicked and had turned to idol worship. So God allowed Naaman to lead his men against Israel and God gave victory to Naaman.

II Kings 5:1a says, *Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour.*

### **A MIGHTY PROBLEM**

Naaman was a mighty man of valor, but he also had a mighty big problem! Naaman was a leper.

II Kings 5:1b says, *But he was a leper.*

Leprosy is a terrible disease. It looks like white splotches on the skin. It slowly spreads over a person's body and keeps getting worse and worse. There was no way to stop leprosy in Bible times and slowly the person with leprosy would get sicker and sicker. Eventually they would die. Leprosy was incurable.

Naaman had leprosy. He must have still been in the early stages of the disease because he was still commanding his army and living at home with his family. But everyone knew it wouldn't be long before the leprosy would spread and Naaman would be forced to leave his home so he couldn't spread it to his loved ones. And then the day would come when Naaman would die.

If something didn't happen soon, Naaman's career as a mighty commander would soon be over. That was a mighty big problem, wouldn't you say?

### **A MIGHTY LITTLE MAID**

During one of Naaman's raids on the country of Israel, he took a young Israelite girl captive. He brought her back to Syria and gave her as a gift to his wife. The girl became a handmaid to the great man's wife. She most likely took care of the needs of Naaman's wife by combing her hair and helping her dress. She may have made the bed and cared for her mistress' clothing also.

This little maid must have been an obedient servant who cheerfully submitted and served because she was greatly liked and valued in her master's home. She became a close companion to her mistress. When she saw that her mistress was upset and saddened by the fact that her husband had leprosy, she spoke kindly to her.

She said, "I wish we were in Israel so that my master, Naaman, could go visit the prophet there. I just know he would heal him!"

Of course, the maid was talking about Elisha. Even if she had never met Elisha, she would have heard the stories of all the miracles he performed. She knew that Elisha was a man of God and that God gave him the power to do wonderful things.

Many of the people of Israel had turned away from God and worshiped false idols, but this little girl still believed that there was one true God in Israel. She had the faith to believe that God could heal her master. She was just a little girl, but she was mighty in faith.

II Kings 5:2-3 says, *And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.*

*And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.*

## **A MIGHTY MISSION**

Word got around the household of Naaman that the handmaid was saying that someone in Israel could heal their master. Another servant went right to Naaman and told him what the girl had said. I'm sure there was real excitement in Naaman's house that day. Finally there was hope that the mighty man of war could be healed!

When the king of Syria heard there was someone who could heal his favorite commander, he wrote a letter to the king of Israel requesting that Naaman be healed. The king gave the letter to his speediest messenger. He also gave the messenger gifts to take to the king of Israel. He must have hoped that the gifts would make the king want to help his captain.

When the king of Israel opened the letter and read the contents, he was very upset. The king of Syria had said something like this: "I have sent my trusted servant, Naaman, to you to be healed. He has leprosy. I am sure you will see that he is healed as quickly as possible. Please accept these gifts as a thanks for helping Naaman. Yours Truly, The King of Syria."

The king of Israel was confused and frightened by the letter. He couldn't imagine why the king of Syria thought he could heal anyone of leprosy. He became convinced that this was a plot to start trouble with Israel. The king tore his clothing and began to fret and stew.

"Who does he think I am? Does he think I am God who can heal people? I know, he's just trying to start a war!"

II Kings 5:4-7 says, *And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.*

*And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.*

*And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.*

*And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.*

## A MIGHTY FAITH

But the king of Syria was not trying to start a war, he just knew more about the man of God in Israel than the king of Israel knew. He knew about Elisha.

It wasn't long before word traveled to Elisha that Israel's king was in a stew. So he sent word to the king to settle down. Elisha told the king not to worry, but to send the man to see him. Elisha was going to use this opportunity to show everyone in both Syria and Israel that God is a mighty God.

Soon Naaman was on his way to the house of Elisha. He was in a grand chariot surrounded by other soldiers who served under him and by his servants. He was a great and mighty man going to the house of a humble prophet. But Elisha was so much more than just a prophet. He was a servant of the mighty God. Naaman was certainly heading to the right place.

Naaman was so excited and nervous. When he got to the door, a servant answered. But instead of taking Naaman to see Elisha, the servant had a message for Naaman.

"My master, Elisha, says to go wash yourself seven times in the River Jordan. When you do, you will be clean." Then the servant closed the door.

Naaman stared in disbelief as the door shut in his face. Well! That was not the reception the mighty commander was expecting. He was an important man and he was not accustomed to taking his instructions from a servant. He had expected to meet the great prophet in person. Naaman felt like he had been insulted. Boy was he angry!

As Naaman headed back to his chariot, he was grumbling to himself.

"I can't believe it! I had expected the prophet to come meet me in person. After all, I am an important man. I expected him to make a big show of calling on his God to heal me. Maybe he could have waved his hands around a bit too. But, no! He did not even come to the door! How rude. And why on earth would he tell me to go wash in the Jordan River? Such a dirty river! Our rivers in Syria are better than all the rivers in Israel combined!"

II Kings 5:8-12 says, *And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.*

*So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.*

*And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.*

*But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.*

*Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.*

Naaman's servant was upset also. He could tell that his master was so angry that he had no intention of doing what the prophet had told him to do. He was going to storm off in a rage and return home with his leprosy. He would not be healed.

Very cautiously the servant approached his master. He knew he could not command his master to obey him, but he hoped he would listen long enough to cool down and reconsider.

“Master, if the prophet had asked you to do some very important thing, you would have done it, wouldn't you? It is a simple thing to wash and be clean. Shouldn't you at least try?”

So, Naaman cooled down and put his pride aside. He made up his mind to go and humbly submit to do as Elisha had told him. He went to the River Jordan and dipped himself seven times. When he stood up the seventh time, he looked at his skin. It was as soft and smooth and clean as a baby's skin! The leprosy was gone! He had been healed!

II Kings 5:13-14 says, *And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?*

*Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.*

What great joy Naaman must have felt! He was healed. He could go back to his life and not worry that he would soon die. I'm sure Naaman was very happy that he had put his pride aside and had submitted to Elisha's command.

When we submit to someone, that means we humbly do as we are told. We don't question them. We don't argue with them. We don't come up with our own ideas of how something should be done. If you want to be a submissive child, then you need to be willing to obey God and the people God places over you. You should not argue or fuss. When you submit, you need to do it with a sweet spirit. Obedience is a sign of true submission.

God wants you to submit to Him. He wants you to submit to your parents and to those who teach you. And most importantly, He wants you to submit with a sweet attitude.

## **YOUR MIGHTY NEED**

You have two very mighty needs in your life. What are they?

1. You have a mighty need to be washed in order to be healed.

What? Why do you need to be washed? You don't have leprosy. No. But you were born with a sin condition that you cannot heal. You are a sinner and nothing you do can get rid of your own sin. Only Jesus Christ can wash you and save you from your sin.

Psalm 51:2 says, *Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*

Psalm 51:7 say, *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Jesus can wash you and make you clean from sin. In just a few minutes I will give you a chance to find out exactly how you can be washed from your sin. Someone can show you from the Bible how you can be clean.

2. Your second mighty need is to be submissive to God.

There are people all around you who need to be washed from their sin. You can be like that little girl who eagerly told her mistress how her master could be cleaned from his disease. God can do the job, but it takes someone to point the way. If the handmaid had not opened her mouth to tell what she knew, her master would have died with no hope of becoming clean.

If you do not tell others about Jesus, then they may never know how they can be washed from their sin.

The only way you will be willing to tell others about Jesus is to let God control your life. The only way you can be controlled by God is by daily submitting your life to Him. Each day you need to tell God that you want Him to use you. Each day you need to tell God you are willing to do whatever He wants you to do.

Are you willing to submit to God?

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Because we are human, we all have needs. Some things we can do for ourselves. Some things others can do for us. But there are many things that only God can do for us.

Only God can control your life so that your life will be pleasing to Him. But God will not force you to submit your life to Him. You must be the one to turn control over to Him.

What a great blessing Naaman would have missed if he had not done what Elisha told him to do. But when he submitted and obeyed, he was healed. How glad he was that he had submitted.

Remember, you should completely trust your life to your mighty God's care. God knows what is best for you. He always wants to do what is best for you. Are you willing to submit to God? Are you willing to obey?

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask you to be willing to submit to our mighty God.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What country did Naaman live in?
2. What made Naaman an important man?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What was Naaman's problem?
5. What did the handmaid tell her mistress?
6. Who wrote a letter to the king of Israel?
7. How did the king of Israel react when he read the letter?
8. What happened when Naaman got to Elisha's house?
9. How did Naaman react when he heard what Elisha's servant told him?
10. Who talked Naaman into obeying Elisha's instructions?

# Submitting to a God who Knows my Needs

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.  
James 4:7



I will submit to God.

God knows what you need the most and He always gives you what is best!

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Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.



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LESSON 16

A SUBMISSIVE CHILD  
SUBMITTING TO GOD, NOT IDOLS

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

II Kings 2:1-22

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will submit to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Jason looked around at his friends on the playground. Everyone else seemed to have all the things he wanted but his parents could not afford them. Chad had a new ipod that he carried everywhere except in the classroom where the teacher insisted he put it away. His friend, Derek, had the coolest clothes. He always had the latest running shoes and the coolest sportswear. Cody's parents owned a home on the lake and he went there every weekend and all summer long to swim and ski and fish.

Just thinking about all the things all his friends had made Jason feel deprived. Sure, he had a nice home, and good enough clothes, and a few other cool things he had gotten for his birthday and Christmas, but somehow it didn't seem like enough when he compared it to what everyone else had.

Jason had a bad case of envy. Instead of being thankful for the good things he had, he wanted the things everyone else had. He wasted his time wishing he had more money so he could buy things and go places. He wasted his time making money his idol. I think Jason needed to hear our Bible story for today. Maybe it would have helped him to stop making money his idol and learn to submit to God who could meet his every need.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will submit to God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### MAD FOR MONEY

Obtain Flash Card

You have probably never heard the name John D. Rockefeller. But if you had been alive in the early 1900's, you would have heard of him. Why? Because John D. Rockefeller was one of the richest men on the earth at that time.

At an early age John put his heart and soul into making money. By the time he was thirty-three years old he had made his first million dollars. But that was not enough money for him. He worked every day. He refused to take a vacation. He refused to waste any of his time relaxing or doing anything that did not involve making money. (Show Flash Card)

By the time John was forty-three years old, he was the owner of the Standard Oil Company. It was the largest oil company in the world. He did whatever he had to in order to make his

company a success. He would beg, borrow, or steal to get ahead. In fact, he was not above doing unkind and occasionally illegal things to shove aside anyone who got in his way.

Soon John wasn't just a millionaire, he was a multi-millionaire. On the average, he was making about two million dollars a day! I can't even imagine how much money that was!

You would think a man like John D. Rockefeller would have enjoyed his great wealth. But he didn't. He never took time to enjoy a single penny he made. He refused to waste a dime. He refused to take the time to relax in any way. Instead he just worked harder to make more money.

With all that money, you would think John was set for life, but there was not a single day that went by when John did not worry about losing his money. He was consumed with the desire to constantly make more money. Money was his idol and it was the only thing that mattered to him. His greatest fear was that he would lose his money.

Ten years later, by the time John was fifty-three years old, he was a wreck. His body was worn out from long hours at work and from the constant stress and worry that something might happen to his money. His hair had turned white and he walked with a stoop. He couldn't tolerate regular food. Instead he could only eat milk and crackers.

John became so ill that his doctor worried that he did not have much longer to live. The doctor told him that either he had to retire, quit working, and quit worrying, or he would die.

For the first time in his life, John D. Rockefeller realized that all the money in the world could not make him happy. It could not buy back his health. It was totally useless! He found that the thing he had devoted his entire life and heart to was now destroying him.

John took his doctor's advise. He quit working and he began to take care of his body. He began to take time to spend time with his family and he began to relax. But at night John could not sleep. He would sit for hours in the dark and he began to think. He thought about his money and how selfish he had been. He thought about all the poor people who had nothing. Then he began to think of how he could help others with his money.

John began to give his money to education, to charities, and to the sick. He gave money to organizations in the United States and in other countries. As John helped others to have a better life, his life began to improve also. Soon he could sleep at night and he could eat normal food. Soon he found that his life was happy and fulfilling. John did not die at the age of fifty-three. Instead he lived to be ninety-eight years old!

The Bible says that the love of money is the root of all evil. If you love money more than you love others and more than you love God, then that root of evil will spring up in your life. It will grow and strangle out all the good things God wants you to enjoy in life.

Don't be a foolish, greedy person who is so consumed with money and the things money can buy. Don't let money or things become your idol. Instead, submit your time, your money, and your life to God. You will never regret it.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

II Kings 2:1-22

### LESSON

#### **GOD IS PRAISED**

Who remembers what happened in our Bible story last week? That's right. The mighty commander of Syria, Naaman, had leprosy. He heard that there was a prophet in Israel who could heal him. So Naaman and his servants set out to find Elisha.

At first Naaman was offended that Elisha did not even come out to speak to him, but instead sent a servant to tell him to go wash in the River Jordan seven times. But finally Naaman obeyed Elisha. He washed seven times in the Jordan and when he looked at his skin the final time, he was healed. The leprosy was gone.

How thankful Naaman was. He and his company of men and servants rushed right back to the home of Elisha. This time Elisha came to greet Naaman. He went out and as soon as the chariot stopped, Naaman ran up to Elisha. He was so excited and so grateful.

Naaman had learned a very important truth. He had learned that the God of Israel was the one true God. None of the false gods of his country could heal him. But God had healed him. He said, "Now I know that there is only one true God on earth. He is your God!"

II Kings 5:15a says, *And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel.*

Naaman was right to give the honor and praise to God. Only God deserved the credit for healing Naaman. No man could have helped Naaman at all.

When God does wonderful things in your life, it is wise of you to remember to give God the credit He deserves. You should be quick to praise and honor Him.

### **A REWARD OFFERED**

Naaman had brought rich gifts with him to offer as a reward if he should be healed. He had ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold and ten changes of clothing. This would have seemed like a fortune to the poor man of God. He depended on the people of God to provide for his physical needs. Elisha was poor and could have used the money. Just imagine how much food all that gold and silver would have bought. And he could have dressed like a king in those rich robes!

But Elisha refused to take a single thing for healing Naaman. He told Naaman that he owed him nothing. He wanted Naaman to know that God healed as a gift of love and not because He wanted anything in return.

I am sure that Naaman was willing to give those gifts with deep gratitude to Elisha. He pushed the gifts toward him and urged him to take them. But still Elisha refused.

II Kings 5:15b says, *Now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.*

*But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.*

Naaman must have been surprised that Elisha would not take a single thing that was offered to him. It must have made a good impression on him that Elisha was not interested in his money.

Naaman was impressed by Elisha's refusal to take any money. He vowed to Elisha that from then on he would never worship a false god again, but that he would only worship the true God.

### **A GREEDY SERVANT**

While Elisha was refusing the money and other gifts offered by Naaman, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was looking on in amazement at all the gold and silver and beautiful clothing. He had never seen so much money in his entire life. How tempting it all looked!

Gehazi's heart became filled with desire. All he could think of was what he would do if those gifts belonged to him. He was amazed and dismayed that Elisha turned down the gifts. He certainly would not have turned anything down. After all, this man from Syria was not even one of God's people. He was a Gentile. He was an enemy of Israel. He had lead the army of Syria against Israel many times. Gehazi must have thought that it was foolish of Elisha to refuse the money and gifts.

Then a plan popped into Gehazi's mind. He determined to let Naaman go a little ways back toward his home. Then he would run after him and tell him that Elisha had changed his mind.

He wouldn't take all that Naaman had offered, he would just take a little. That would be okay, he reasoned.

When Naaman saw Gehazi running after him, he stopped the chariot and greeted him. Gehazi began to tell a lie to Naaman. He said that Elisha had sent him because two young prophets of God had come and they needed one talent of the silver and two of the robes.

Naaman forced Gehazi to take two talents of silver and the two robes. Gehazi must have been excited to have gained even more money than he had asked for. He took the loot and headed home to hide his stolen goods. Boy did he feel rich!

*II Kings 5:20-24 says, But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.*

*So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?*

*And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.*

*And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him.*

*And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.*

I am sure that Naaman was still glad to give a reward to Elisha, but Gehazi's lie undid the good that Elisha had meant to do. Elisha wanted the man from Syria to know that God had not healed him for any type of gain.

#### **A LYING SERVANT**

Foolish Gehazi! You would think he would know, after years of serving the man of God, that Elisha knew many things he had not been told. I don't know if God told Elisha what Gehazi had done or if he just guessed, but it is very likely God did tell him. Somehow Elisha knew.

Elisha met his greedy servant at the door. "Where have you been, Gehazi?" he asked.

I am sure Elisha was hoping his servant would tell the truth.

Gehazi had to think of another lie very quickly. One lie always leads to another lie, you know. A liar has to keep making up new lies to cover for his other lies. And often a liar becomes trapped by his own lies.

Gehazi looked at Elisha with a straight face and said, "I didn't go anywhere."

Then Elisha revealed to Gehazi that he knew exactly what he had done. Somehow God had allowed Elisha to see the entire event in his heart. Elisha said, "Gehazi, didn't my heart go with you as I watched the man stop his chariot and give you gifts?" Elisha was greatly grieved by what his servant had done. Elisha must have been sorry to tell his servant that God would punish his greed, but he told Gehazi that now he would become a leper.

Elisha turned away and when Gehazi looked down at the skin on his hands, he was horrified. His hands were white with leprosy. The very disease that Naaman had been healed of was now the disease which would cause Gehazi's suffering and death.

II Kings 5:25-27 says, *But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.*

*And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?*

*The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.*

Oh, how Gehazi must have regretted the day that greed got a grip on his heart and caused him to do such a foolish and selfish thing. Greed had caused him to sin and his sin would cause his death. If only Gehazi had submitted to Elisha's decision, then none of this would have happened!

### **GREED: THE DREADED DISEASE**

Greed is a very dreaded disease that can cause all of us to do foolish, selfish things. When we see something we want, we often forget to do what is good and pleasing in God's eyes. We often quit submitting to God. Instead, we do anything possible to get the thing that our heart desires. And often greed will cause us to do some very terrible things.

Greed can cause you to disobey God. When it takes hold of your heart and mind, you no longer care about God's desires for you life. You no longer want to submit to God. Instead, you grasp for the object you desire.

What a terrible price you may have to pay for your greed. Gehazi paid the price of becoming a leper. In the New Testament we see Jesus' own disciple, Judas, became greedy for money and was willing to betray the Lord for thirty pieces of silver. But it didn't do him any good. He never enjoyed the money. Instead, when he thought about what he had done to Jesus, he went out and hanged himself.

Your greed most likely won't give you leprosy or make you do as Judas did, but it is a terrible disease that can rot your heart and soul.

Money itself is not wrong. Having nice things is not harmful. It is the love of such things. It is wanting them more than you want God. The Bible does not say that money is the root of all evil. It says it is the LOVE of money that is the root of all evil.

The Bible tells us what we are supposed to love. We are to love God with all our heart and mind and soul. When we put God in first place and submit to Him, then money is not a sin. But when we shove God off of the throne of our heart and give our love and devotion to money and the things money can buy, then we are infected with the dreaded disease of greed. And that greed will cause us many troubles and sorrows.

God never says we are not to have nice things that we all like to have, but He does not want us to love those things and desire those things more than we love and desire Him. If we do, then those things become an idol to us. They take the place of God in our heart. And that is a sin.

Anytime we sin by loving money or things more than we love God, we can be sure we will cause ourselves lots of trouble.

Let me ask you, What does your heart love the most? Money and things, or God? Does your heart submit to God or to greed?

If you are a Christian, but you know that you often push God out of first place in your heart and put the love of money in His place, you need to do something about it. What?

1. Admit that you have let greed cause you to sin. Don't lie like Gehazi did. God can see your heart more clearly than Elisha's heart could see what Gehazi had done. God knows if your heart is filled with greed. Be truthful with yourself and with God.

2. Confess your greed. Ask God to forgive your sin.

3. Put things in their rightful place. Ask God to help you to put everything back in its rightful place. Place God back in first place in your heart. Submit to God. Then money and things will be in their rightful place.

Maybe you are not even a Christian yet. If you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life, then you are not a Christian. Jesus does not control your life. The first thing you need to do is to become a Christian. Would you like to do that? You can. We can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can become a child of God.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Today I want to challenge you to examine your heart. Do you find greed there for money and for things? We are surrounded by people who have so much. It is hard not to envy them. It is hard not to allow our hearts to be filled with greed. But if you are a Christian, you know that you must love God more than you love anything else in this world. So remember:

1. Admit that you have let greed into your heart.

Don't lie to God and think He can't see your heart. He knows if your heart is filled with greed. Be truthful with yourself and with God.

2. Confess your greed to God.

Ask God to forgive your sin. Ask Him to take away your greed.

3. Put things in their rightful place.

Ask God to help you to put everything back in its rightful place. Place God in first place in your heart. Submit to Him. Then money and things will be in their rightful place.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to not allow money or things to become an idol in your heart.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What important truth did Naaman learn when he was healed?
2. What did Naaman offer as a reward to Elisha?
3. What did Elisha take as a reward?
4. What vow did Naaman make?
5. What happened in Gehazi's heart?
6. What lie did Gehazi tell Naaman?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What did Gehazi take from Naaman?
9. What lie did Gehazi tell Elisha?
10. What happened to Gehazi in the end?

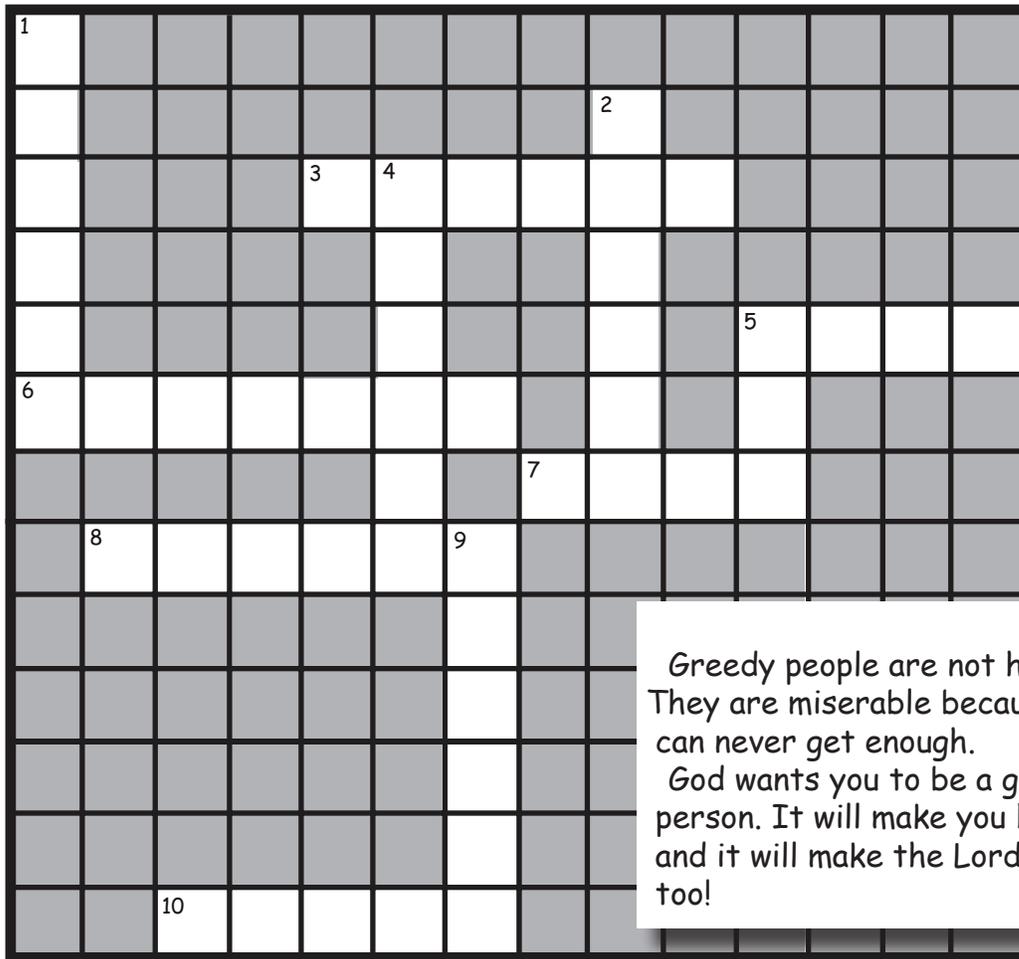
# Submitting to God, Not Idols

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil,  
and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7



I will submit to God.



Greedy people are not happy. They are miserable because they can never get enough. God wants you to be a giving person. It will make you happy and it will make the Lord happy too!

## Across

3. This happened to Naaman after he washed.
5. This is one of the riches Naaman offered.
6. Naaman had this disease.
7. Gehazi did this.
8. This is where Naaman washed.
10. Naaman had to wash this many times.

## Down

1. Naaman went to this country.
2. This servant was greedy.
4. This man was God's prophet.
5. He healed Naaman.
9. He was sick.

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LESSON 17

A SUBMISSIVE CHILD  
SUBMITTING TO MY MIGHTY GOD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

II Kings 6:8-23

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will submit to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Are you blind?

Most of you would say, “No. I am not blind. I can see perfectly well with my eyes.”

A few of you might need glasses. Maybe even one of you is blind and cannot see at all. But I am not talking about being blind with your physical eyes. I am talking about being spiritually blind. I am talking about being blind to God and His protection.

Most of us only think about the things we can see. We don't give much thought to things that aren't visible to our eyes. But just because you can't see something does not mean it does not exist. You can't see the wind, but it certainly does blow at times. You can't see electricity or the waves that carry through the air bringing TV and radio reception. But they are real, aren't they?

We can't see God either. But God is real and sometimes we need to open our Spiritual eyes to see Him. Sometimes when life gets frightening and difficult, we need to just trust that He is there and that He is powerful enough to protect us when we cannot protect ourselves.

You can't see God, but if you have trusted in Him as your Savior, then every moment He is with you to guide and protect you. You don't have to be afraid. You can live bravely knowing that God goes before you. You can submit to Him knowing that He is doing what is best for you. Isn't that a wonderful thing to know?

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will submit to God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### CROSSING THE ROAD

Obtain Flash Card

It was a bright Spring day in South Carolina. The sun was shining and a warm breeze gently blew. The dogwood trees were in full blossom with beautiful white and pink flowers. The Bradford Pear Trees were full. They were not full of pears, they were full of tiny white flowers that would soon drop and be replaced by bright green leaves. Everywhere you looked, there were spring flowers. Spring is lovely in South Carolina.

Two beautiful Canadian Geese, who normally lived in the northern parts of the North American Continent, were enjoying their last few warm days in the south before heading back north for the summer months.

But it was not time to leave yet. In fact, they couldn't leave yet. Why? Because three tiny goslings had been born to the mother and father geese that Spring and they were not yet ready for the long trip north. Until the goslings were older and stronger, the small family would remain in the south.

The mother goose led the way as they headed for a field across the way where they could find food to eat and water to drink. But before they could reach the field, they needed to cross a road.

Geese do not know too much about roads or cars, so without even a glance to the right or left, the mother goose stepped out onto the asphalt road and began to cross to the other side. Behind her waddled the three little goslings. Then followed the father goose. The mother goose was not worried. She did not look both ways before crossing the road. The baby geese were not worried. They did not look both ways either. I don't think the father goose was worried about crossing the road either. They were all taking their time getting to the other side.

The Collins' big Ford F-250 truck came around the corner. There in the road in front of them, just a few feet away, they were met with the sight of the five geese. The mother and her three babies were already in the middle of the road and they were in no hurry to get across. Not one of them even looked at the big truck that was bearing down on them.

As the father goose stepped onto the road he did look at the big truck. He began to honk at his wife and babies to pick up the pace and hurry across. Bravely he stepped onto the road and followed behind his little family. Whatever happened to his family would happen to him, but he was trying his best to hurry them along as quickly as possible.

Mr. Collins quickly stepped on the brakes and the big truck came to a complete standstill just feet from the family of geese. The Collins waited and watched until the family had safely crossed. Just as the father goose stepped onto the shoulder of the road, Mr. Collins thought he could gently begin to let up on the brakes. But what happened next surprised him.

As soon as the father goose's family was safe on the other side and continued waddling on their way, the father goose turned toward the truck and spread his wings wide. He looked quite mean and impressive. If the truck had been another goose or even a man, it would have been frightened, I'm sure! (Show Flash Card)

That father goose rushed, squawking and scolding, toward the truck. He did not seem to worry that the truck was a giant, metal monster as compared to his small body. He was only concerned that he defend his family. What bravery that father goose showed as he confronted the enemy who endangered his family!

There are times in your life when you will face the enemy of your soul, Satan. He wants to do great harm to you. But you are safe. If you are submitting your life to your Heavenly Father, He is right there with you, defending and protecting you. He goes before you to clear the way. He goes behind you to guard the rear. He completely surrounds you with His love and care. In the presence of your Heavenly Father, you need not fear.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* James 4:7

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

II Kings 6:8-23

### LESSON

#### **ENEMIES OF ISRAEL**

The kingdom of Israel had many enemies that would come to do battle with them. One country that often troubled Israel was Syria. The king of Syria had decided to wage war with Israel. He gathered his chief advisors about him and informed them of his intentions.

He told them where he would pitch his tents for his men to camp. He discussed war strategy. They had their plans all made and were ready for the perfect time to attack.

II Kings 6:8 says, *Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp.*

#### **ISRAEL IS FOREWARNED**

What the king of Syria did not know was that someone was listening in on everything he said. That Someone knew where he would camp and what his intentions were. That Someone was God. And God promptly told his prophet, Elisha, all about the plans.

Elisha went to the king of Israel. He told him all that God had revealed to him. He told the king exactly where the enemy would camp and what moves they planned to make. By God's power Elisha was able to foretell all of the Syrians' secret strategies!

Not just once was the king able to protect Israel from Syria, but twice this happened.

*II Kings 6:9-10 And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.*

*And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice.*

After the Israelites were able to predict the king of Syria's every move, that king became very troubled. He knew it wasn't just by luck that the Israelites seemed to know what he was going to do before he even did it. In fact, the king of Syria called his men together and accused one of them of being a spy for Israel. He demanded to know who was a traitor. Of course, none of his men were traitors. None of his men had told Israel what they were planning.

Finally one of the men had an idea. He remembered that there was a famous prophet in Israel who knows everything that is done in secret. He said, "King, that prophet, Elisha, knows things others don't know. He even knows what you do in the privacy of your own bedroom!"

*II Kings 6:11-12 says, Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?*

*And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.*

There was no traitor. Instead the man of God knew what would happen in the future because God told him what the king of Syria was planning.

## **HUNTING DOWN GOD'S MAN**

The king of Syria was not pleased to think that whatever he said or did was known to this prophet. He was not pleased that the prophet ran to tell the king of Israel what he knew. He was determined to put a stop to Elisha. He thought that if he could stop Elisha, then he could stop the king of Israel from knowing his secrets. What he didn't know was that God was with Elisha. God not only told Elisha the king's secrets, He also protected Elisha.

One of the Syrian servants knew that Elisha was in the city of Dothan, so the king sent a great army of Syrians out to capture Elisha. He sent many men and horses and chariots. Can you imagine all those men and all that fuss just to try to silence one undefended man?

The Syrians crept into position in the dark of the night. They surrounded the city, making sure that there was no place where Elisha could sneak past them.

II Kings 6:13-14 says, *And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan.*

*Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.*

Early the next morning when Elisha's servant got up and went outside to begin his day's tasks, he noticed there were soldiers and horses and chariots everywhere he looked. They surrounded the entire city. This was not a good thing!

He rushed back into the house and began to call for Elisha. He was terrified and he wanted to warn his master. Frantically he wailed, "Master! There are soldiers everywhere I look. Lots of them! What are we going to do?"

Elisha calmly looked at his servant. He was not in a panic. In fact, I suspect he went and looked out his window. Yes, there they were. A host of enemy soldiers stood ready to come capture him. But Elisha trusted God. Instead of looking for something to use to board up the door or rushing to find a back exit from which to escape, he began to comfort his servant.

"Fear not. Calm down. Those that are with us are greater than those with the enemy."

The servant was puzzled. Who was his master talking about? He ran to the window to see if the army of Israel had marched up to save them. But no, there was no one in sight except the great host of enemy soldiers. He couldn't imagine what Elisha was talking about.

Elisha didn't say another word to his servant. Instead he began to talk to God. Elisha prayed, "Lord, please open the eyes of my servant so that he can see."

The Lord immediately opened the servant's eyes and what do you suppose he saw? He saw that the mountains surrounding the city were full of horses and chariots of fire. God had sent down the Heavenly hosts to protect them and to fight for them.

The servant had been blind to the fact that God was right there with them all along. The enemy was strong and there were many of them, but God is stronger and no amount of soldiers can harm Him in any way! God's Heavenly hosts were undefeatable.

II Kings 6:15-17 says, *And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?*

*And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*

*And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.*

## THE SYRIANS ADVANCE

If Elisha's servant was blinded to the mighty army of God, then certainly the enemy army was blinded also. They had no idea that Elisha was being protected by such an unbeatable force.

As the enemy advanced, Elisha began to pray. He prayed a very strange thing. He did not ask God to kill the Syrian army. Instead he asked God to blind them. They were already blind to the fact that God was protecting Elisha with such a great army, but now they became physically blind. Every single man in the army lost his eyesight.

Can you imagine what confusion and chaos went on within that army? Not one man could see where he was going. They couldn't lead their horses or steer their chariots in a straight line. They were running into each other. They couldn't see their enemy anymore. What a mess that must have been!

Elisha must have been a bit amused to see the trouble of his enemy. They had come to capture him, but now they were all blind and couldn't even see him as he stood before them. So Elisha offered to help them. He called to them, "You have gone the wrong way. You can follow me and I'll bring you to the man you are looking to capture."

What choice did they have? The former army of mighty men had turned into a mass of helpless men. Elisha called out and caused the entire host of men and horses and chariots to follow along behind him. What a sight that must have been as they marched along. There was a huge army following like puppies after one dusty old prophet of God.

Where did Elisha take the army? He took them to Samaria.

II Kings 6:18-19 says, *And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.*

*And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.*

When they reached Samaria, Elisha asked God to open their eyes. Now they would get a chance to see the man they had been seeking to capture. God opened the eyes of the army of Syria, and before them stood Elisha. But Elisha was not the only one who stood there. The king of Israel stood beside Elisha and behind him stood the army of Israel.

The Syrians could see again and what they saw must have frightened them. They were now deep into enemy territory and they were surrounded by an army that was ready to fight.

The king asked Elisha if they should kill the Syrians. But Elisha said, "No. It wouldn't be fair. Instead, feed them and send them back to their king."

I am sure that when those men got back to their own country and told the king what had happened, the king decided that he did not want to mess around with the God of Israel any-

more. He knew he had been beaten and it would be foolish to try to fight with such a mighty God. He knew Israel was protected by the one true God. So Syria did not return to bother Israel.

II Kings 6:20-23 says, *And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.*

*And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?*

*And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.*

*And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.*

### **YOU MAY BE BLIND**

Are you blind? You may think that because you can see with your physical eyes that you are not blind. But did you know that you may be blind spiritually?

We are all born blind. We are all born in sin. We are blind to the truth about our sin and about the truth that Jesus Christ is the only one who can take our sin away.

God wants to open your eyes. He wants to show you your sin. He wants to show you that you can have your sin taken away by asking Jesus to forgive you and come into your life. In just a few minutes I will give you an opportunity to do that. We can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can be saved from your sin.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you are blind to the spiritual things God wants you to see.

You may be blind to Satan's lies.

Just as the servant was in a panic because he could not see that God was protecting them, you may be blinded to the fact that God is with you and protecting you. Satan loves to trouble Christians. He knows that when Christians are filled with fear, they cannot be effective for God.

But God says to you, "Fear not." He wants you to open your spiritual eyes and see that He never leaves you. He never fails you. And He is greater than the enemy will ever be. You serve a mighty God who goes before you to protect you.

Romans 8:31b says, *If God be for us, who can be against us?*

1 John 4:4b says, *Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*

Ask God to open your eyes. Ask Him to show you that because He is on your side, you have nothing to fear. And since you have nothing to fear, you can live boldly for God. You can

trust Him to care for you each day. You can submit to His leading knowing He always does what is best for you.

Fear not! Open your eyes and see your mighty God who goes before you!

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to ask God to open your spiritual eyes.

1. Ask Him to help you see life in the way He sees it.

We can only know the things of earth. We only see what our physical eyes show us. But God can open your spiritual eyes. You are not too young to begin looking at the world and at your life through spiritual eyes.

2. Ask God to help you to fear not.

We do not need to fear Satan. The Bible tells us to resist him. That means we should refuse to let Satan tempt us and cause us to sin. Instead we should bravely stand strong against Satan. The Bible tells us that we should submit to God. We should obey God. Then it tells us to resist Satan. And what will Satan do? He will run away in fear!

James 4:7 says, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

3. Constantly remind yourself that God goes before you.

You never fight the battles of life alone. In fact, God is always the one who fights for you, if you let Him.

Deuteronomy 20:4 says, *For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.*

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to open your spiritual eyes so you can see that He will guide and protect you.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who decided to wage war on Israel?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What happened to make the king of Syria think one of his men was a traitor?
4. What did the king of Syria do when he heard that Elisha was in Dothan?
5. What did Elisha say to calm his servant?
6. What did Elisha pray would happen to the Syrian army?
7. What did Elisha tell the blinded army to do?
8. Where did Elisha take the Syrian army?
9. What did the Syrians see when they got their sight back?
10. What did the king of Israel do with the Syrians?

# Submitting to my Mighty God

Submit yourselves therefore to God.  
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.  
James 4:7



I will submit to God.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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1. Color all the squares with letters that occur 7 times or more.
2. Then write the letters from the uncolored squares, in order, on the lines provided to solve the puzzle.

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LESSON 18

A SUBMISSIVE CHILD  
SUBMITTING WITH A SERVANT'S HEART

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Kings 19 - II Kings 6

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will submit to God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*  
James 4:7



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

McKenzie concentrated hard as she sorted out the little pieces of foam that lay on the table in front of her. She piled the ones shaped like a little man to one side and the ones shaped like a robe to the other side. After she had a big pile, someone would take them away and give her another pile to sort out. In a few weeks the children in Vacation Bible School would use these to make a craft about their Bible story.

McKenzie was only five years old, but she had come with her mother to the Vacation Bible School work day. All around her sat adults and teenagers who were doing the same kind of work she was doing. Even though she was just a young girl, she worked as hard and as faithfully as all the older people around her.

On the way home, McKenzie asked her mom, “Mom, I helped Jesus today, didn’t I?”

“Yes, McKenzie,” her mom agreed. “You did help Jesus today.”

McKenzie had a servant’s heart. Some of the people at the work day came because the work had to be done. Some came to visit with their friends. McKenzie came to help Jesus. And she did!

You can have a servant’s heart at any age. You don’t have to be an adult to love and obey and submit to the Lord. Do you have a servant’s heart?

**Today’s Life Lesson is:** I will submit to God.

## SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

A SERVANT’S HEART

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Mandy hopped off the school bus and ran to the front door. As she walked inside, the unmistakable aroma of chocolate welcomed her home.

“I’m in the kitchen.” Mom called. “Come and get some warm cookies, just out of the oven.”

“Thanks, Mom. These are great,” Mandy said with half a cookie in her mouth. “I’m gonna go watch TV till supper.”

Mom finished taking the cookies off the cookie sheet and put a chicken casserole into the warm oven. She quickly placed the dirty dishes into the dishwasher and set the table for dinner.

Mandy’s favorite animal show had just begun. “Mom, I’m having a hard time hearing. Could you please make a little less noise with the dishes?”

Mandy’s mother appeared in the doorway. “Mandy, I am setting the table for our dinner. I would hope that you appreciate that instead of considering it a bother. Don’t you have some homework that you should be working on?”

“I’m just so tired from school! I have to relax just a little bit first. I can’t just come right from school and start homework!”

“Well, I understand,” Mom nodded. “Just don’t spend too much time in front of the television. It’s a beautiful day, and the flower garden needs to be weeded if you don’t have homework to do.”

Mandy kept watching television. An entire hour passed before she decided to get off the couch and check her assignment pad. She remembered that Mom had asked her to weed the flower garden, but it was almost time for dinner, so she didn’t go outside at all. Mandy then walked into her bedroom and knew she should probably at least make her bed. But then she thought, “I’m just gonna go to bed in a couple more hours; why should I make it now?”

“I’m home,” Dad yelled as he came through the garage door. “Where are my girls?”

“In the kitchen,” Mom answered. “Dinner will be ready in fifteen minutes.”

“Smells fantastic!” Dad said. “Where’s Mandy?”

“I think she’s outside weeding the flowers. At least, that’s what I suggested she should do.”

“Good,” Dad said. “Mandy needs to help around the house more.” But when Dad stepped outside into the back yard, Mandy was nowhere to be seen. He knew that Mom wanted someone to weed the flower bed, so he quickly got it done by the time dinner was ready.

“Hi, Dad,” Mandy said as she sat down to eat. “Why are you so sweaty and hot? Didn’t you just get home from work?”

“I’ve been home for fifteen minutes; long enough to weed the flower bed for your mom.”

“Oh,” Mandy quietly answered.

“What have you been doing since you got home from school?” Dad asked.

“I was really tired today, and I just wanted to relax. Besides, my favorite animal show was on TV. Mom said it was okay.”

“Mom is very kind. But when she told you about the flower bed, you should have gotten busy on that right away. Do you think your mom sits around all day doing things she wants to do, or doing the things she needs to do for our family?” Dad asked his daughter.

“I don’t know,” Mandy said. “I guess she does what she’s supposed to do. She’s a Mom. That’s her job.”

Mom looked at Mandy and shook her head. “No, Mandy. I consider it a privilege to do the things I do for my family. I don’t do it because it’s my job; I do it out of love for you and Dad, and out of love for God.”

“What does God have to do with cooking supper and doing laundry?” Mandy asked.

Dad answered this time. “Mandy, God places us where he wants us to serve Him. He has placed Mom here in our home as my wife and your mother. Her love for God is the reason she does her best to take care of us and our home. By serving us, she is serving God. She is submitting to God. She has a true servant’s heart.”

“Oh; I guess I never thought of that,” Mandy admitted.

“Now tell me, Mandy,” Dad said. “What have you done at home today with the heart of a servant?”

Mandy thought of how her day began. Mom woke her, cooked her breakfast, packed her lunch, and helped her braid her hair. When Mandy got home, she ate cookies that Mom had just baked. She had lain on the sofa and watched TV, then messed around until dinner. “Nothing,” Mandy whispered.

Mandy was quiet all through the meal. She had a lot to think about. Not only had she not done the weeding Mom asked her to do, but Dad had to do it after he got home from working all day. Mandy was beginning to realize that she had a problem. (Show Flash Card)

“May I be excused?” Mandy asked after she had eaten about half of her meal.

“Okay,” Mom said.

Mandy walked out of the dining room, but then quickly came back and picked up her plate and glass and took them to the kitchen. “Thanks for dinner, Mom,” Mandy quietly said.

After closing the door to her room, Mandy slowly walked to her window. She looked at the flower bed, now neat and clean. Something inside her was beginning to hurt. She knew it was her heart. Mandy was a Christian; she had trusted Jesus to forgive her sins. Mandy knew that the Holy Spirit, Who lived in her heart, was convicting her of sin. And Mandy knew what the sin was. Mandy was guilty of laziness and pride. She didn’t want to work around the house because she wanted her own way. She hadn’t appreciated all the loving things her mother and father had done for her. Her parents were wonderful examples of what a servant should be, and Mandy hadn’t even noticed.

Mandy knew that it was time to take care of some important business. First, Mandy knelt beside her bed and confessed her sin to God. She asked Him to help her to focus on being a servant at home to her parents. Next, Mandy got up and went straight to her parents. “I know I’ve been selfish and lazy. I’ve told God I’m sorry, and now I want to tell you. Please forgive me. I really want to try to change my attitude. Dad, you helped me understand what it means to be a servant. I know that’s what I want to be. Mom, can I start by doing the dishes for you tonight?”

Mom hugged Megan and smiled. “No, but we can do them together. How does that sound?”

Megan hugged back. “It sounds good to me.”

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verses to the children. Then have them say them with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 4:7

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER’S STUDY TEXT

I Kings 19 - II Kings 6

### LESSON

#### **ELISHA: THE SERVANT OF ELIJAH**

Most people don’t like to think of themselves as a servant. If we had our choice, we would all be the masters, wouldn’t we? But do you know, God wants each one of us to submit to be a faithful servant. You see, God really is the master of the entire universe. He created everything. He plans everything. He controls everything. We are merely His creations.

Yet, even though God is the master of all, He does not force us to serve Him. He gives us a choice. If we make the decision to become a child of God, we should want to serve God from a heart of love. We should not obey God or serve Him because someone makes us, we should do it because we love God so much we want to obey and submit to Him. When we are willing to submit to God, then we learn to have a servant's heart.

Elisha was a man who loved God so much that he was a faithful servant to God. He willingly submitted to God. Let's look at some of the ways Elisha was a submissive servant to God.

1. He was obedient.

From the very beginning when Elijah called Elisha to follow him, Elisha dropped the work he was doing in the fields and he followed. He wanted to help Elijah in every way he could. He did whatever job Elijah gave him to do. Elisha was obedient. He was submissive.

1 Kings 19:19-21 says, *So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.*

*And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?*

*And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.*

2. He was teachable.

Elisha was also a teachable student. He was an eager student. Elisha had not been brought up to be a prophet or a priest. He didn't know how to be a prophet, but he wanted to learn all he could about serving God. So he listened carefully and learned from the example of Elijah. He was teachable.

Proverbs 9:9 says, *Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.*

Proverbs 15:33 says, *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.*

3. He was faithful.

Elisha was faithful to Elijah and to God. He did not get discouraged when he found out that Elijah led a difficult life. He did not become frightened when he saw that not many people liked Elijah and often gave him a hard time. He did not say, "This is no fun being a prophet. I think I'll go home to where I have a nice house to sleep in each night and plenty of food from

my fields. I'll go home where my friends and family love me." No, even when he learned that being a prophet of God was hard work and could be dangerous, he faithfully continued to stay with Elijah.

1 Corinthians 4:2 says, *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

### **ELISHA: THE SERVANT OF GOD**

All during the time Elisha was training to help Elijah, he was actually training to serve God. The same is true of you. Right now, as a child you are training in school and at home and in church. You are learning skills and storing away knowledge. Everything you learn now will help you in your life, but more importantly, the things you learn now can help you become a useful, submissive servant of God. You can use your skills and abilities and knowledge to serve God.

1. Elisha asked God for a spiritual gift.

When Elijah was ready to be taken to Heaven, he asked Elisha what he could do for him. Remember, Elisha did not ask for an easy life or for fame or for money. He was not selfish in his desires. He did not ask for an earthly gift. He asked for a spiritual gift that he could use for God. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. He wanted to be the same kind of faithful servant of God that Elijah had been.

Even though Elisha would become the master when Elijah was gone, he still had a servant's heart. He wanted to serve God as faithfully as Elijah had served. And do you know what? The Bible records for us all the miracles that Elisha did, and they turned out to be about twice as many as Elijah had done. God granted Elisha his desire.

2. Elisha submitted to and obeyed God's commands.

Whatever God told Elisha to do, he did it. He was submissive to God. When God sent him to tell the people a message, he went. He did good deeds for the poor he met. He helped the sick. He did God's work. He did not use his gifts selfishly.

Elisha did not have an easy life. Wicked kings tried to kill him. He did not become a rich man. He often traveled and was without a place to eat or sleep. He was often disliked when he delivered bad news. But he always did what God commanded him to do. Elisha was obedient.

3. Elisha warned the people of God.

Elisha was a faithful prophet who warned the people to obey God. But the people rarely listened to him. It must have been discouraging to warn people that they would face the judgment of God if they did not change, and then watch as the people refused to listen to him.

Wouldn't you get discouraged if you warned people of a coming disaster and they ignored you? Wouldn't you be frustrated if they didn't listen to you and all you could do was watch as they headed straight for the problem?

A few years ago a bridge collapsed. A man driving toward the bridge was able to slam on the brakes and pull his car to a stop just before the car fell over the side and plunged to the depths below. He jumped out of his car and tried to wave down other cars to warn them that there was a broken bridge with a big drop off beyond it, but no one paid any attention to him. No one would stop. He could only watch helplessly as they whizzed past him and plunged over the side of the broken bridge to their deaths.

That was what Elisha often faced in his ministry. Most often when he warned of God's judgment, no one paid the least bit of attention. But that didn't stop Elisha. He didn't throw up his hands in defeat and quit. He just kept warning the people to avoid sin. He kept telling them about the consequences of sin.

### **BE AN ELISHA: A SUBMISSIVE SERVANT OF GOD**

Elisha is a good example for us to follow. God tells us in the Bible about men like Elisha so we can learn how to love and obey and serve God just as they did.

#### 1. Be teachable.

God wants you to be teachable. Some people think they know everything. They don't want anyone to tell them what to do or what to say. They think they know what is best for their lives. They don't want to learn. They won't listen to people and they won't listen to God. They refuse to submit to God. Don't be like them.

Instead, be like Elisha. Let God teach you. Let the people in your life teach you. At home, at school, and at church you can learn so many good things that will help you to serve God during your life. You can take just about any talent and ability you have obtained to use for God. Learn to be a servant. Learn to use your abilities and talents for God. Be teachable.

Psalm 27:11 says, *Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.*

Psalm 86:11a says, *Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth.*

#### 2. Be submissive and obedient.

Another thing most people don't like to do is obey. They don't want anyone telling them what to do and what not to do. They want to do what THEY want to do.

A person who does not know how to obey and submit is a miserable person. They only selfishly think of what they want. They don't think of others. And do you know what? Disobedience leads to misery. Disobedient people are always angry because things aren't going their way. They are selfish. They are constantly upset when they don't get their way. And when they do get their way, that doesn't really make them happy either.

Disobedience also leads to trouble. Most people in your life want you to obey for your own good. When a mother tells a toddler not to touch the stove, it is because the mother knows what the toddler does not know. She knows the stove is hot and will burn them. When God tells you

not to do something, it is because He knows what you do not. He knows sin is dangerous and it will hurt you. He tells you, “No!” because He loves you and wants what is best for you. He doesn’t want you to be burned by sin.

Obedience and submission to God is really a wonderful thing. It can make you happy. It can make your life peaceful. It can make you a useful person. It can make you a faithful servant of God.

In order to be a faithful servant of God, you must know how to obey. Do you know how you learn to obey? Obedience starts when you are young. It starts at home. You must learn to submit to your parents. Do what they ask without fussing and pouting. Do it right away. And obey with cheerfulness. It’s not enough to just do what you are told, to be truly submissive, you must do it with a happy spirit.

If you won’t obey the authority God has placed over you in your childhood, then you most likely won’t obey God when you are grown. However, if you learn to obey your parents, your teachers, and those in authority over you, then you will have a much easier time learning to obey God. And just as you should obey others with a submissive spirit, God wants you to obey Him with a submissive spirit also.

So be like Elisha, determine to obey cheerfully out of a heart of love. First obey the authority over you right now, then you will know how to obey God.

Deuteronomy 27:10 says, *Thou shalt therefore obey the voice of the LORD thy God, and do his commandments and his statutes, which I command thee this day.*

Hebrews 13:17a says, *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief.*

### 3. Be faithful.

Just as Elisha was faithful to do the job God had called him to do, God wants you to faithfully do the job He has given to you. Are you willing to be a faithful servant of God?

Maybe you don’t know what job God wants you to do yet. God does have a plan for your life, but you are young. It may take a few years before you know how God wants you to serve Him with your life. But you can be faithful to God right now too. You don’t have to be doing a big job in order to be faithful to God. He wants you to be faithful in the little things.

How? Be faithful to love your family, even your bossy older sister or your cranky little brother. Be faithful to work hard in school to learn all you can so that you can use the things you learn to serve God. Be faithful to go to church and to read your Bible and pray. Be faithful to show kindness toward others. Be faithful to avoid sin and to do what is right. Be faithful to keep a good attitude in the way you talk and act.

Those sound like little things, but when you are faithful in the little things God will help you to be faithful in the big things that come into your life.

It is a privilege to faithfully serve God. As a Christian, it is the most important thing you will ever do on this earth. The Apostle Paul served God faithfully. It wasn't always easy to serve God, but he did. And he was glad he did.

In 1 Timothy 1:12 Paul says, *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.*

God watches to see whether or not you are faithful to Him. And God values faithfulness. He is pleased with faithfulness. Determine in your heart today that you will be faithful to God to love Him, to obey Him, to submit to Him, and to serve Him in all you say and do. You are not perfect. You may fail now and then. But God knows your heart and if you determine to be faithful, then He will help you. Will you determine to be faithful today?

Psalm 101:6 says, *Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.*

Let me ask you a question. Are you anything like Elisha? I hope you are. But even if you are not, you can be. You may look at your heart and your life and you say, "I'm not too teachable. I'm not very submissive. I'm not faithful." You can be. You can change. God would love to help you change. Just ask Him!

Maybe you say, "I'm not even a Christian. I have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive my sin and come into my life."

Today you can do that. Jesus loves you so much that He came to earth to die on the cross to take your punishment for sin. Have you ever told Him you are sorry for your sins? You can today. We have someone who can show you verses from the Bible that will tell you exactly how you can have your sin forgiven and accept Jesus as your personal Savior.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

1. Be teachable.

God has so many things He wants you to learn in life that will enable you to become a useful servant for Him. Learn to be teachable.

Learn to love to learn. Learn about God. Learn useful talents and abilities you can use for God. Have a teachable spirit and God will always be able to use you.

## 2. Be Submissive and obedient.

Submission and obedience is not a hard thing. It is not something to be dreaded. When you learn to obey, you will see how happy and peaceful your life can become. Disobedience makes you miserable. You will most likely be punished for your disobedience, but when you obey, you only reap benefits.

And remember, when you learn to submit to the authority God has placed over you right now, then you will be learning how to submit to Him when He speaks to you when you get older. So learn to obey. You will never be sorry you did.

## 3. Be faithful.

Being faithful means you continually do what is right over and over again. It means you do what is right even when it is a hard thing. It means you do what is right even when you don't feel like doing it. But God rewards faithfulness. When you get to Heaven, how thankful you will be that you learned how to be faithful.

A true servant of God must have a servant's heart. Instead of wanting others to serve you, do you want to serve them? Do you have a servant's heart?

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have a submissive servant's heart.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who was Elisha's master?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did Elisha do when Elijah called him to follow?
4. How did Elisha learn to be a prophet of God?
5. What did Elisha ask of Elijah before he was taken to Heaven?
6. How did God grant Elisha's request for a double portion of Elijah's spirit?
7. Name something Elisha did to help serve others.
8. What did Elisha warn the people about?
9. Name something that made Elisha's life difficult.
10. What does it mean to be submissive?



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LESSON 19

A HUMBLE CHILD  
HUMBLE ENOUGH TO OBEY

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther 1:1-22

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Do you like to obey?

Today, most people don't like to obey. They don't want anyone else telling them what to do. They want to do as they please.

But a Christian should have a totally different attitude toward obedience. If you love God, then you should want to obey. You should want to obey your parents, those in authority over you, and most of all, you should want to obey God.

Do you know, it takes humility to obey. A proud person thinks they can do things their own way because their way is right. A humble person realizes that they may not always be right. They also realize that God is always, 100% of the time, right! Today we are going to talk about learning to be humble enough to obey God.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will display a humble spirit.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

A REASON TO OBEY

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

"I'm so tired of rules!" Jake complained to his friend Matt as he ran out of the school. "I have rules at home, rules at school, rules everywhere! Who cares if I finish all my math homework or if I'm late to class? And who really cares if I don't run all my laps in P.E.? What does it matter if I run down the hallway at the end of the day? All these rules make me tired!"

Matt laughed. "You sure do complain a lot. What's your problem?"

"My problem is that I'm tired of being told what to do. At school and at home, I just wish people would leave me alone and let me do what I want to do."

"I don't think that's gonna happen any time soon. You're twelve years old. You're still a kid! And besides; you already knew what would happen if you didn't obey the rules."

"Whatever," Jake said. "What do you know about it? You never get in trouble. I'm going home."

Jake's attitude didn't improve any at all by the time he got home. He walked in to the house and was met by his dad. "How was your day at school?" Dad asked.

“Oh, did you already get a call from Mr. Brown?” Jake blurted out.

Dad answered slowly. “Nooo. Should I expect one?”

“Me and my big mouth!” Jake muttered.

“Jake, suppose you tell me the entire story. Start at the beginning. I have lots of time to listen. I’m your dad, and I love you. So tell me about this problem at school.”

Jake knew his dad loved him. And even though he didn’t enjoy it, he told his dad what had happened today at school.

“Is that everything? Have you left anything out?” Dad asked when Jake was finished.

“That’s it. Isn’t that enough?” Jake laughed sarcastically.

“Oh, yes; that’s enough,” Dad agreed. “The question now is—what are we going to do about it? Mr. Brown was pretty firm about your attitude needing to change. And I agree with him. There’s no excuse for that kind of disobedience. You don’t get away with that kind of attitude at home, and you have no excuse to try to get away with things at school, either. What makes you act this way at school?”

“I don’t know. I guess it makes the guys laugh. They think it’s funny when I get in trouble,” Jake answered.

“Do any of ‘the guys’ do those things, too?” Dad asked.

Jake looked at Dad and thought for a minute. “No, not really. I guess they’re afraid they’ll get in trouble.”

“Kind of like you’re in right now?” Dad asked.

Yeah, I guess, Jake said.

“Jake, I’ve been wanting to talk to you about something serious.” Dad began. “And I think now is a good time. I’ve been concerned about you lately. You seem to be going in a wrong direction. I wonder if this is a deeper problem than just trying to make the guys laugh at school. You see, I don’t see any desire in your life to be obedient. You seem to want your own way. The Bible calls that sin, and sin is very serious.”

Jake listened as Dad talked about sin, and how it separates us from God. He explained that Jesus took the punishment for sin on the cross, then was buried for three days, and miraculously rose from the dead to prove that he was the Son of God. Dad went on to explain that when a person accepts that free gift, the forgiveness of sin, and believes that Jesus is God’s Son, he will have a new desire to be obedient.

Jake knew that he had never truly accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He knew that he didn’t have a changed life at all. He was living for himself. He didn’t want to please or obey anyone else at all.

“Jake, you think about what we’ve talked about.” Dad said. “If you have any questions, come and ask me.”

Jake did think long and hard about asking Jesus to forgive his sins. He was a little embarrassed to admit to Dad that he was not saved. He wondered if other people knew it, too. Even though he went to church every Sunday with his parents, he had never thought seriously about the condition of his heart. Later that evening, Jake found his dad on the front porch.

“Dad, I guess I do have a question.”

“What’s that, son?” Dad asked.

“Will you tell me what I need to do to get saved?”

“Of course I will,” Dad nodded. “Let me get my Bible and I’ll show you what God’s Word says about it.”

After Dad had read several verses to Jake, and then explained what they meant, Jake spoke.

“I want to ask Jesus to save me, Dad. I’ve been really bad, and I don’t want to act that way any more. I want to get this settled.”

Dad nodded. He put his arm around Jake’s shoulder and told him to tell God what he had just told him. (Show Flash Card)

After Jake had prayed, he looked up at his dad. “Dad, I’m so sorry that I’ve been such a pain around the house and at school. But now that Jesus has saved me, there are so many things I want to do differently. And I want to start with obeying. I know the most important person I should obey is God.”

“That’s right, Jake. And when you’re obeying your Heavenly Father, you can be sure that your earthly father will be pleased. And your teacher and principal as well.”

“I have some apologizing to do at school, too.”

“That’s right,” Dad agreed. “Do you want to do that? Apologize to Mr. Brown and your teacher?”

“Wow! I just realized that I really do! I guess that’s one way that I can know for sure I’m forgiven. I finally want to do what’s right!” Jake said.

“There’ll be times when you’re tempted to fall back into those old habits, but your heavenly Father can help you through those times if you’ll ask him to.”

Jake knew that his dad was right. But he also knew that now he had a reason to obey. It felt good.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Esther 1:1-22

### LESSON

#### THE KING'S FEAST

We are going to be hearing the story of Esther for the next few weeks. This book of the Bible was written about eighty years after Daniel was a prophet in Babylon. The land was now controlled by the kingdom of Persia and although many of the Jews moved back to Jerusalem, there were still many Jews living in Persia.

King Ahasuerus, who many also believe was named King Xerxes, was the ruler over a vast and wealthy kingdom. There were one hundred twenty-seven provinces under his rule.

One day the king got to thinking about all the things he owned. He was extremely proud of himself and he decided he wanted to show off his great wealth. He would throw a huge feast to honor himself. He wanted to show others all that he possessed.

He called for all the princes and nobles from all his provinces to come to his party. For one hundred and eighty days they feasted and drank. Everyone was impressed that the king could afford such a lavish feast. Then, just as it seemed that the party was over, the king threw another party for all the common people in his kingdom. This party lasted seven days.

My, how the people admired the wealth of the king's palace. There was entertainment for all to enjoy. There were banquets three times a day. The palace was decorated with beautiful, expen-

sive hangings of white and green and blue cloth that were tied with fine linen and silver rings. The pillars were made of marble. The beds the guests slept on were made of gold and the floors were beautifully colored. The vessels they drank from were made of gold!

Wine flowed in abundance and everyone had a merry heart! What a feast! The king was so proud to have everyone admire all that he owned.

Esther 1: 2-7 says, *That in those days, when the king Ahasuerus sat on the throne of his kingdom, which was in Shushan the palace,*

*In the third year of his reign, he made a feast unto all his princes and his servants; the power of Persia and Media, the nobles and princes of the provinces, being before him:*

*When he shewed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honour of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and fourscore days.*

*And when these days were expired, the king made a feast unto all the people that were present in Shushan the palace, both unto great and small, seven days, in the court of the garden of the king's palace;*

*Where were white, green, and blue, hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple to silver rings and pillars of marble: the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red, and blue, and white, and black, marble.*

*And they gave them drink in vessels of gold, (the vessels being diverse one from another,) and royal wine in abundance, according to the state of the king.*

At the same time the king was holding his feast for all the men, the queen, Queen Vashti, was also giving a feast for the women. This feast was held in the women's portion of the palace. It was probably improper for the women to mix freely with the men, so they had their own party.

Esther 1:9 says, *Also Vashti the queen made a feast for the women in the royal house which belonged to king Ahasuerus.*

## **THE REQUEST**

On the seventh day of the feast for the common people of his kingdom, the king had been filled with wine for quite some time now. He was also drunk with pride. It made him feel good to know that others could see all he owned and that they envied him. It made him puffed up in his spirit that he could show off to everyone.

So the king began to think of what else he could show off. Then he remembered that he also had a wife who was a great beauty. Loudly he called for seven of his servants to go to the women's quarters.

“Go tell the queen that I command her to put on her royal crown and exquisite robes. Tell her to come here so that I can show off her great beauty to all the princes and nobles. We wish to gaze on her beauty!”

The king couldn't wait for everyone to see something else of beauty and value which he possessed.

Esther 1:10-11 says, *On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehuman, Biztha, Harbona, Bigtha, and Abagtha, Zethar, and Carcas, the seven chamberlains that served in the presence of Ahasuerus the king,*

*To bring Vashti the queen before the king with the crown royal, to shew the people and the princes her beauty: for she was fair to look on.*

### **THE REFUSAL**

The queen listened in stony silence as the seven servants told her what the king had commanded her to do. I imagine she glared at them as she pulled herself up to her full height. In a clear voice that reflected her anger, she answered.

“I will not go. You can tell the king I refuse to go!”

She flatly refused to do as she was commanded. She dismissed the servants and went back to the other women. Vashti must have been insulted that the king would try to show her off to other men as if she were one of his possessions. It may have even been improper for a woman to appear before men even though the king had requested she come dressed in her full royal attire.

Whatever her reason, Queen Vashti would not obey the king.

Esther 1:12a says, *But the queen Vashti refused to come at the king's commandment by his chamberlains.*

### **THE KING'S ANGER**

When the seven servants returned and told the king that the queen refused to show herself at the king's feast, he was furious! How dare she refuse him? How dare she defy him in front of all his subjects?

The king's temper exploded. How sad that a man who ruled a vast kingdom could not rule his own emotions!

The king consulted with his wise men. He wanted to know what they thought he should do about the queen's refusal. He wanted to know what the laws were about her refusal to obey him.

Esther 1:12b-15 says, *Therefore was the king very wroth, and his anger burned in him.*

*Then the king said to the wise men, which knew the times, (for so was the king's manner toward all that knew law and judgment:*

*And the next unto him was Carshena, Shethar, Admatha, Tarshish, Meres, Marsena, and Memucan, the seven princes of Persia and Media, which saw the king's face, and which sat the first in the kingdom;)*

*What shall we do unto the queen Vashti according to law, because she hath not performed the commandment of the king Ahasuerus by the chamberlains?*

One of the king's wise men spoke right up.

"You know, O king, Vashti has not only wronged you, but she has wronged all the people in your kingdom. When the women of our land hear what the queen did, they will think they can defy their husbands as well! If it please the king, you should command, by the law of the Medes and Persians, that Vashti be put away from you. Instead, give her position as queen to a woman who deserves such an honor!"

*Esther 1:16-20 says, And Memucan answered before the king and the princes, Vashti the queen hath not done wrong to the king only, but also to all the princes, and to all the people that are in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus.*

*For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, but she came not.*

*Likewise shall the ladies of Persia and Media say this day unto all the king's princes, which have heard of the deed of the queen. Thus shall there arise too much contempt and wrath.*

*If it please the king, let there go a royal commandment from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes, that it be not altered, That Vashti come no more before king Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal estate unto another that is better than she.*

*And when the king's decree which he shall make shall be published throughout all his empire, (for it is great,) all the wives shall give to their husbands honour, both to great and small.*

The king thought his wise man's idea was good, so he made a law that banished the queen and stated that each man should rule his own house. The law was published throughout the kingdom.

A law of the Medes and Persians was a binding law. It could not be taken back and it could not be broken. And so, once the king had signed the law, that was the end of Vashti's reign as queen. She would have to go!

*Esther 1:21-22 says, And the saying pleased the king and the princes; and the king did according to the word of Memucan:*

*For he sent letters into all the king's provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.*

## **BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE**

King Ahasuerus and Queen Vashti were heathen people. The way they ran their lives and their marriage is not an example for us. But, the Bible has a lot to say about husbands and wives and families. Let's look at what God says should happen in a godly family.

The Bible says that a wife is to be humble enough to submit to her husband. God planned for the husband to be the head of the home. He is the one who should lead his family to do what is best in God's eyes. He is the one to take responsibility for the physical and spiritual welfare of his wife and his family. The wife should let her husband lead her.

A godly wife is supposed to love and help her husband. She is supposed to be willing to let her husband lead her and her family. She is supposed to humbly submit to her husband.

Ephesians 5:22-24 says, *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*

*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*

*Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.*

The Bible says that a husband is supposed to love his wife. In fact, the Bible says the husband is supposed to love his wife in the same way that Christ loved the church. Jesus Christ loved the church so much that He gave His life for it. That's a lot of love!

The husband is supposed to love his wife and lead her in a way that will protect her and never bring her harm. He is to show great love toward her. A husband who loves in that manner would never ask his wife to do something that is wrong.

Ephesians 5:25-28 says, *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*

*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

*That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

*So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.*

The Bible says that children are to be in humble obedience to their parents. Parents are supposed to teach and protect and provide for their children. In return the children are supposed to obey.

When you obey your parents, it shows that you love them and that you love God. Obedience shows that you are willing to be teachable while you are young. When you obey your parents, it is pleasing to them. But more importantly, it is pleasing to God. Do you want God to be pleased with you? Then humbly obey your parents with a cheerful attitude.

Colossians 3:20 says, *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.*

As Christians, we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord. The Bible says that we are to be kindly affectionate toward each other. We are to show brotherly love and honor to each other.

Romans 12:10 says, *Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.*

When a family functions in the way God intended, there will be peace, joy, and love in that family.

This is true for a church family, as well as an individual family unit. You are a part of an individual family. You are also a part of a church family. Determine in your heart that you will do your best to make your family a godly family by the way you act and talk.

You may not have a Christian home and your family may not love the Lord, but you are part of our church family. You can enjoy the love that God wants all Christian brothers and sisters to experience toward each other. It is wonderful to be a part of God's family.

Let me ask you a question. Are you a part of God's family? Have you been born into God's family? By that I mean, have you asked Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for your sins, to forgive your sin and come into your heart?

Today you can be born into God's family. You can have your sin forgiven and know that you are on your way to Heaven. We can take a Bible and show you how to do that.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

As a part of God's family, I challenge you to be humble enough to obey Him each day. Maybe you are a Christian, but you find yourself rebelling against your earthly parents. That does not please God. God is well-pleased when you are an obedient child.

It would be wise for you to begin learning right now how to obey your earthly parents with a godly attitude so that when you grow older you will know how to obey your Heavenly Father with a godly attitude.

Each time this week, when you are tempted to disobey or you are tempted to obey with a bad attitude, stop yourself, humble yourself, and change your attitude. Obey with a cheerful heart and a smile on your face. God will be pleased.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to humbly obey Him in all you do.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. In what land did King Ahasuerus rule?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did the king do to honor himself?
4. Describe some of the beautiful things in the palace.
5. How many days did the feast for the princes and nobles last?
6. How many days did the feast for the common people in the kingdom last?
7. What did the king want Queen Vashti to do?
8. What did the queen do?
9. What was the king's reaction to the queen's refusal?
10. What did the king's wise man suggest he do?

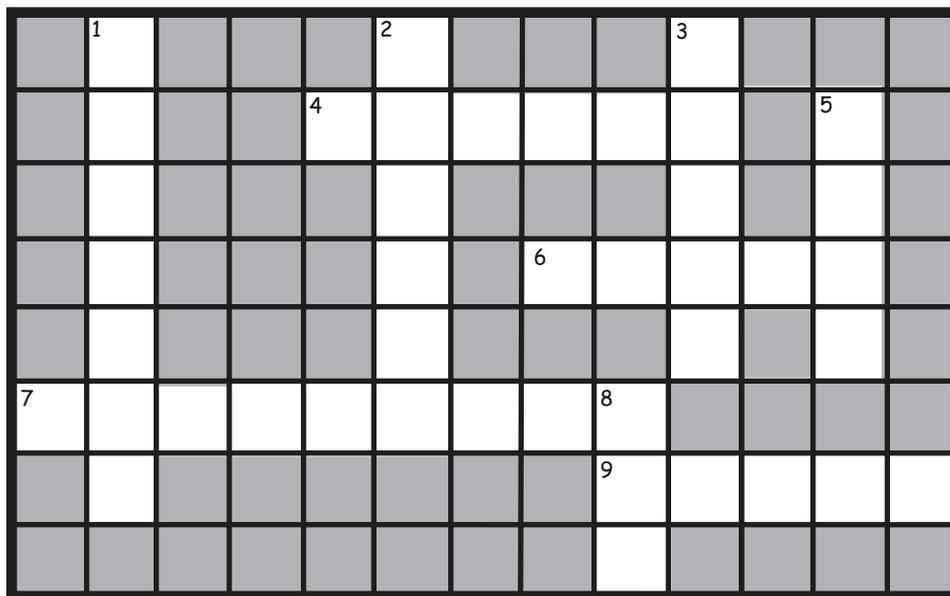
# Humble Enough to Obey

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.  
Proverbs 29:23



I will display a humble spirit.

When you humbly obey, you are showing God that you love Him. Obey with a cheerful attitude. It will please God!



## Across

4. The king wanted to show off the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Vashti was no longer \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Everything in the palace was \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The king was very \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. Vashti \_\_\_\_\_ to obey.
2. She was the queen.
3. The feast for common people lasted \_\_\_\_\_ days.
5. Vashti would not obey him.
8. The king passed a \_\_\_\_\_ against Vashti.



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LESSON 20

A HUMBLE CHILD  
A HUMBLE SPIRIT

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther 2:1-23

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

There is something appealing about a person who thinks more about others than they do about themselves. A person who takes the time to notice what others do and sincerely compliment them is always liked. A person who lets others go first instead of pushing ahead to be first, a person who doesn't brag to others when they have done something important, a person who treats everyone else with kindness and respect, this type of person is the kind of person others like to be around.

What type of person are you? Are you humble in the way you act and speak? Or do you brag so much that others get tired of hearing you?

Others like to be around humble people, but more importantly, God likes it when you are humble too.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will display a humble spirit.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

SHOW OFF!

JUSTIN - PART I

Obtain Flash Card

School was over for the day, but Justin wanted to get in some extra practice time in the pool. He had just joined the swim team that year and even though he was doing a good job, he felt like he was behind the other guys who had been on the team since their junior high years.

Justin had been playing baseball for more years than he could remember. Now he wanted a change. He wouldn't drop baseball, but he wanted a new challenge and the swimming would help build his endurance for playing ball also.

Justin had taken to competition swimming like a natural. He had learned the strokes easily and he built up his speed and endurance. It wasn't long before he was even beating most of the other guys on the team in their trial heats. (Show Flash Card)

All of the guys on the team had welcomed Justin and were quick to give him tips and pointers that helped him swim better. They seemed glad to have him on the team. All the guys except Derick. Derick never said anything directly to Justin to make him feel unwanted, but there were little things he did that made Justin wonder why Derick was so cold to him.

Derick was the captain of the swim team. He was also the best swimmer on the team. He worked the other guys hard and the coach could count on Derick to set an example for the entire team. Derick was always the first one at practice. He was always ready with pointers and he pushed the guys to do their best. Coach could leave the team to work on strokes and do laps and Derick would make sure everyone kept working and didn't goof off.

But Derick hadn't taken to Justin. Justin wasn't sure why.

Derick was a bit of a show-off. He loved to brag about the races he had won during past swim meets. Often in the locker room he would launch into a full description of one of the races he had won and how he had out-last-ed and out-smarted all the other swimmers with his skill and endurance.

"He's not exactly humble, is he?" one of the other swimmers said to Justin one day as they hung back and listened to Derick bragging.

"He is good," Justin had replied.

"Yeah, but sometimes I just get tired of Derick telling everyone how good he is!"

Justin had begun going to the pool after everyone had left to get in some extra practice time. When he was alone in the pool he could try out new techniques he saw the other guys using without anyone seeing him if he got it wrong. It wasn't that he was afraid to get things wrong, it was just easier if he didn't have anything else to concentrate on except his swimming.

When Justin finished his final lap and looked up, he saw Derick standing by the edge of the pool. He had his school clothes on, so he wasn't planning on swimming. He was just watching Justin swim.

"Hi," Justin said as he grabbed the edge of the pool.

"Hi," Derick said in a very unfriendly tone. "You sure work hard to try to show us up, don't you?"

"What do you mean? I'm not trying to show anyone up," Justin replied.

"It looks to me like you are. You only began on our swim team in your Junior year. You haven't put in your time, yet you start beating some of our best swimmers. You think you can take over."

"That's not true," Justin defended himself. "I practice hard because know how far behind I am. I need all the practice I can get," Justin replied. He was puzzled. Why was Derick so angry?

"Let's get one thing straight," Derick warned. "No matter how good you get, I'm still the team captain. I still lead the team. You're still low man on the totem pole."

Justin was shocked. What had he done to make Derick so angry with him? Before he could reply Derick turned and walked out of the pool room.

Justin pulled himself out the pool and dried off his face before heading for the showers. He was really puzzled.

Zach was waiting for Justin outside the school.

“Hey, what was that all about?” Zach asked. “Derick just came storming out the door by the pool and jumped in his car. He looked really steamed. He tore out of the parking lot like the place was on fire.”

“I’m not sure,” Justin replied as he and Zach began to walk home. “For some reason Derick is really angry at me. I can’t figure it out.”

“Maybe it has something to do with the fact that you’ve become such a great swimmer in such a short time. Derick is probably worried that you’ll steal his thunder. Everyone knows he thinks he’s the best swimmer ever. At least that’s what he tells everyone every chance he gets. You’ve been doing so good he’s probably worried that before long you’ll show him up!”

“But that’s not why I’m swimming! I don’t want to show Derick up. I just want to do my best!” Justin said.

“Well,” said Zach. “That’s the difference between you and Derick. Derick wants to win so he can brag about it. You just want to do your best. Derick is such a show off that he can’t imagine anyone being as humble as you.”

“I don’t consider myself humble,” Justin said.

“No. You don’t,” Zach replied. “That’s what makes you humble, my friend.”

Justin just shook his head. He still didn’t understand it. He didn’t want to show up Derick. He’d have to try to find some way to make Derick his friend.

Next week we’ll hear more about what is happening with Justin and Derick.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Esther 2:1-23

### LESSON

#### A LONELY KING

After King Ahasuerus threw Queen Vashti out of the palace and no longer claimed her as his wife, he calmed down. Now he was alone without a queen to share his kingdom. He was a heathen king and had many secondary wives who lived in the women's quarters, but he did not have a woman he loved who would sit beside him as he ruled.

When the king's servants saw that the king was sad and lonely, they made the suggestion that he search his entire kingdom for a wife. The king loved the idea. Soon his servants were looking high and low for the most beautiful woman in the land. The eligible women would be brought to the palace and prepared to meet the king.

The king eagerly awaited the results. Would there be a woman who was worthy to be his queen?

Esther 2:1-4 says, *After these things, when the wrath of king Ahasuerus was appeased, he remembered Vashti, and what she had done, and what was decreed against her.*

*Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair young virgins sought for the king:*

*And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair young virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given them:*

*And let the maiden which pleaseth the king be queen instead of Vashti. And the thing pleased the king; and he did so.*

#### A HUMBLE MAID

In the city of Shushan there lived an orphan girl by the name of Hadassah. Both of Hadassah's parents had died, so her Uncle Mordecai had taken responsibility for her. He reared her and loved her as if she were his own daughter.

Esther 2:5-7 says, *Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite;*

*Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away.*

*And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*

When the news came that the king was searching for a beautiful woman to become his queen, Mordecai immediately knew that Hadassah should go to the palace. She was a beautiful young lady by this time and I am sure she was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside. She was a godly woman who was humble and obedient. She had a sweet spirit about her. Mordecai was sure the king would pick her.

The servant in charge of caring for the young ladies took a special liking to Hadassah. Her name was changed to Esther. He made sure she was the first in line to be prepared to see the king. He assigned seven girls to be her maids and care for all her needs. The servant saw to it that Esther was given the best of everything.

Now, Esther was a Jewish woman. Her uncle had been one of the men carried into captivity to Babylon long ago by King Nebuchadnezzar. But Mordecai knew it might not be a good idea for the king, or anyone else in the palace, to know that Esther was Jewish. She was not a Persian woman who worshiped the false gods of that land. She worshiped the one true God. Not everyone in the kingdom was happy about having the Jews in their land. So Mordecai warned Esther not to tell anyone she was a Jew. So, Esther did as her uncle told her. She kept her secret.

Every day Mordecai would walk in front of the entrance to the women's house. He would inquire how Esther was doing. He was concerned for her well being because he loved his niece very much.

*Esther 2:8-11 says, So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.*

*And the maiden pleased him, and she obtained kindness of him; and he speedily gave her her things for purification, with such things as belonged to her, and seven maidens, which were meet to be given her, out of the king's house: and he preferred her and her maids unto the best place of the house of the women.*

*Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it.*

*And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her.*

## AUDIENCE WITH THE KING

Just as all the young ladies who were preparing to meet the king, Esther was required to spend twelve months in the women's quarters. There she was trained how to act like a princess. She was bathed in beautiful smelling oils and she was adorned in beautiful clothing. She was treated like a princess.

When the time came to meet the king, it must have been a frightening thing. All the women knew that simply going to meet the king meant they would automatically become his wife. However, if the king did not like the woman, or she did not appeal to him, then she would go back to the women's quarters. There she would stay until the king requested to see her again. If he never requested to see her again, then she would live with the other wives for the rest of her life.

That must have been a disturbing thought for Esther. Every young lady would certainly want to marry a man who would love her and spend his time with her. She would want to have her own home and rear children. No woman would want to be stuck in the women's quarters of the palace for the rest of her life. But Esther had to trust God to do what was best for her.

When the day came that Esther was finally ready to meet the king, the servant made sure she had the most beautiful gown and the most sweet smelling oils. Her hair was fixed just right. Everyone checked to make sure she was ready. They all agreed that she looked beautiful.

*Esther 2:15-16 says, Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

*So Esther was taken unto king Ahasuerus into his house royal in the tenth month, which is the month Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign.*

## A GOOD IMPRESSION

To say that Esther made a good impression on the king is an understatement. He was bowled over by her! The Bible says she found grace and favor in the king's sight. The king loved Esther above all the other women. The most beautiful and appealing women in the entire kingdom had been paraded in front of the king, yet it was Esther who captured his heart.

The king called for the royal crown to be placed on her head and he made Esther his queen. The king ordered that a great feast be made in honor of the new queen. He wanted to introduce her to all his subjects. The king was feeling so happy and generous that he also sent gifts to the people in his kingdom in Esther's honor.

*Esther 2: 17-18 says, And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti.*

*Then the king made a great feast unto all his princes and his servants, even Esther's feast; and he made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts, according to the state of the king.*

### **A PLOT UNCOVERED**

During the time when Esther had been preparing to meet the king, her Uncle Mordecai had been spending most of his time sitting at the king's gate. He was there to keep an eye out for his niece. After Esther became the queen, her uncle was most likely given the position of gatekeeper. That way he could be near Esther.

One day Mordecai heard two men talking together. They were angry with the king and they began to plot a way to kill the king. They must have been so angry that they didn't even notice that Mordecai was close enough to hear every word they said.

Quickly Mordecai went to the palace and reported the incident to Esther. Esther told the king what her uncle had heard, and the king checked into the matter. Sure enough, the men were caught red-handed. The king had the two men hanged for treason.

Most kings kept record books of all the things they did during their reign as king. They would list battles and important events. They listed anything they wanted to remember and pass down to those who came after them. King Ahasuerus had such a book of chronicles from his reign. Mordecai's name was recorded in that book. It was noted that Mordecai's warning had saved the king's life.

*Esther 2:21-23 says, In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*

*And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name.*

*And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king.*

### **HUMILITY IS HONORED**

Esther was just a simple, Jewish orphan girl. She had not been raised to be a queen. Yet this humble maid was given the great honor of becoming the queen of a mighty nation.

In our world, there aren't many humble people. Most people are filled with pride. But humility is a wonderful virtue to possess. The Bible says that God honors those who are humble. The Bible also says that a proud person will be put in their place by God.

*Matthew 23:12 says, And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.*

So what is humility and how can you be humble?

1. Humble people do not think more highly of themselves than they ought.

That means they are not so stuck up and proud of themselves that they think they are better than other people. Humble people know they have worth in God's eyes, but they also know that other people have worth in God's eyes also.

2. Humble people think of others first.

Proud people say, "I am number one! Me first!" A humble person says, "Can I help you? Here, you go first."

3. Humble people give honor to the One who deserves it.

Proud people honor themselves. They are the most important person in their universe. A humble person knows that God is the only one who is truly worthy of honor and praise. A humble person gives honor to God first of all.

So remember, humble yourself before God. Don't lift yourself up, let God lift you up.

The first way that God wants us to humble ourselves before Him is to admit we are sinners and that we need Him to help us get rid of our sin. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die on the cross in our place. Jesus took your sin on Himself. He took your place. Now He wants you to humble yourself enough to admit you need Him.

Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? We can show you how to do that today.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to have a humble spirit. It is a rare thing in our world, but it is a pleasing thing in God's eyes. Remember the steps to having a humble spirit.

1. Humble people do not think more highly of themselves than they ought.

Be humble and think rightly of yourself. You have value to God, but so does everyone else.

2. A humble person thinks of others first.

Don't always demand to be first. Think of others first.

3. A humble person gives honor to the One who deserves it.

Remember that God is the One who is worthy of our honor. Put God in first place in your heart.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be a humble person who puts God and others first.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did the king's servants suggest when they saw the king was lonely?
2. What was Esther's Jewish name before she went to the palace?
3. How was Esther treated when she was being prepared to meet the king?
4. How long did the women have to prepare before they could meet the king?
5. What was the king's impression of Esther?
6. What did the king do in honor of Esther becoming the queen?
7. What did Mordecai hear while he was sitting at the king's gate?
8. What happened to the two men who were plotting to kill the king?
9. Where was it noted that Mordecai had helped the king?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

# A Humble Spirit



I will display a humble spirit.

A man's pride shall bring him low: but  
honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.  
Proverbs 29:23

## I WILL HUMBLE MYSELF

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How many new words can you make from "I will humble myself"?

Ask God to give you a humble spirit. Give Him the credit for the good things in your life. He is the one who made you what you are. When you display a humble spirit, God is pleased.

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LESSON 21

A HUMBLE CHILD  
HUMBLE, NOT HATEFUL

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther 3:1-15; 4:1-3

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*  
Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

It is easy to love the people who love you and treat you nicely. But how easy is it love those who hate you or treat you badly?

Not so easy, huh? It can be extremely hard to love those who hate you or do bad things to you.

In fact, is very easy to hate those who don't treat you the way you want to be treated or just rub you the wrong way. But the Bible says that we should love our enemies. It says we should do good to them. It takes true humility to obey the Bible in that way! The Bible doesn't say it will be easy to love them, but it will be the right thing to do.

Hatred is a cancer that spreads and grows. It infects all those it touches. Don't let hatred cause you to be infected with wicked feelings, words, and actions. You'll live to regret it if you do. Instead, be humble enough to not hate hateful people.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will display a humble spirit.

## SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### BAD NEWS JUSTIN - PART II

Obtain Flash Card

Derick was filled with emotions and none of them were good. No, he was filled with anger, jealousy, and hatred.

"What a show-off," Derick thought. "Justin's not satisfied being a star ball player at our school. No. He had to join my swim team and now he's doing his best to show me up!"

Derick watched Justin as he swam laps in the pool after practice and he could barely stand to listen to all the other guys comment on how good Justin had become since he joined the swim team. (Show Flash Card)

"Wow!" one of the other guys commented. "Justin sure can swim. Why hasn't he been on the team long before this?"

“Yeah,” another of the guys replied. “Thanks to him we have a really good shot at going to state finals this year.”

Derick was steaming. If they went to state finals, it would be because of his own hard work, not Justin’s. Sure, he had come in and made a good showing in the beginning, but who knew how long it would last or if he could hold up under the pressure of a big competition?

There was no way Derick was going to sit back and let Justin get all the credit when he had worked so hard and so long to make this swim team a success. No, he would put a stop to this one way or another!

“Makes you wonder why he’s so good, doesn’t it?” Derick said to the guys standing beside him.

“What do you mean?” one of them asked.

“Oh, it’s not that I could say anything for certain, but you know some guys use steroids to get the edge,” Derick replied casually.

Derick could feel all eyes turn toward him. Everyone looked shocked. Coach was adamant that no one on his team use any sort of performance enhancing drugs. He said if they won a race, it would be fair and square.

“I’m not saying he does!” Derick added quickly. “Just makes me wonder.”

Derick turned and headed for the showers before anyone could say anything more. He knew that Justin called himself a Christian. He knew he went to church and even told others about God. Derick thought it was kind of strange. Why would a guy as popular and as athletic as Justin chance having everyone thinking he was odd because of that “God” thing. But Derick didn’t buy it. He figured it was just part of Justin’s way of standing out and showing off so everyone would notice him.

Derick figured that Justin was too goody-goody to ever do steroids, but what harm would it do to drop a hint here and there that he did? It would bring him down a few notches in everyone else’s eyes.

Derick arrived early at the pool the next afternoon. The team had a important swim meet coming up and he wanted to get in some extra practice time. He always liked to get to practice early and set the example for the rest of the team. They all looked up to him because he was such a good swimmer. But today he especially wanted to stay ahead of Justin. With the way Justin had been swimming lately, he might even pass him up. That would be the last straw. There was no way he was going to let Justin win a race against him.

Soon the other guys were in the pool practicing too.

When Coach came in he called for everyone to get out of the pool. All the guys gathered around and Derick noticed that the coach didn’t look too happy. In fact, he looked awfully upset.

“I’ve got some bad news,” Coach started. “Our team has been disqualified from the upcoming swim meet.”

All the guys began to talk a once. Everyone was really upset. What on earth could have disqualified them?

The Coach held up his hand for silence.

“Somehow the word is going around that one of our swimmers is using a performance enhancing drug. I certainly hope that isn’t true. You all know how I feel about that and I won’t tolerate it on my team! You will all have to undergo drug tests and until the results come back, we won’t be allowed to compete. All our meets have been canceled for now.”

Coach turned and walked back to his office. All the guys just looked at one another in shock. A few of the guys were looking at Justin and a few others were looking at Derick. He could tell they were remembering what he had said.

Wow! He had wanted to get back at Justin and bring him down a few notches, but he hadn’t thought anything like this would happen. Some big mouth must have spread his rumor and now the entire team was being punished!

A voice in the back of Derick’s mind told him this was all his fault. His anger at Justin and his untrue words had caused all of this. He’d started the rumor about the steroids to hurt Justin, but now his lie had hurt him too.

But Derick wasn’t ready to take responsibility for this mess. There was no way he was going to admit he was wrong.

“It’s all Justin’s fault!” Derick fumed as he headed for the showers. “I’ll just get through this test and then things will be back to normal.”

But somehow, Derick knew things would never be quite the same.

Next week we will finish our story about Derick and Justin.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Esther 3:1-15; 4:1-3

### LESSON

#### **HAMAN'S PROMOTION**

After King Ahasuerus found his new queen and had given a great feast for Esther, he could once again get his mind back to the business of running the kingdom. The king appointed a man by the name of Haman to be his chief helper. Haman was placed in a powerful position above all the princes who ruled in the one hundred and twenty-seven provinces of the kingdom.

What an important job Haman was given and what an important man he became. Others listened to what he said. Others had to obey all he commanded. He could determine what each prince should do. What great responsibility Haman was given. And what great pride swelled in Haman's heart.

When Haman would ride through the streets of the city in his chariot, everyone would bow low in honor to him. After all, the king had ordered that everyone reverence and honor Haman. He was the second most important man in the land!

But the king's servants who worked at the palace gates noticed that when Haman rode by, Mordecai did not bow down. He simply stood straight upright. The other servants were shocked that Mordecai would dare to defy the king's orders and refuse to bow to Haman.

The servants went to speak to Mordecai.

"Why don't you bow when Haman passes by? Why do you disobey the king's commands?"

Mordecai ignored the men. He did not want to tell them why he would not bow to Haman. But Mordecai had a very good reason. You see, Mordecai was a Jew. The faithful Jews would not bow to any man. Why? Because they had been commanded by God not to bow to or worship any image or any man. God alone was to be worshiped. It would have been a sin for Mordecai to bow to Haman.

After the servants asked Mordecai day after day why he would not bow, finally he told the men he was a Jew. I am sure he told them that he would only bow and do reverence to the one true God.

Some of the servants who took note of the fact that Mordecai would not bow decided to take matters into their own hands. They went to Haman and told him that Mordecai refused to

bow because he was a Jew. Perhaps they thought they would be favored by Haman if they tattled on Mordecai.

Esther 3:1-4 says, *After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him.*

*And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence.*

*Then the king's servants, which were in the king's gate, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment?*

*Now it came to pass, when they spake daily unto him, and he hearkened not unto them, that they told Haman, to see whether Mordecai's matters would stand: for he had told them that he was a Jew.*

### **HAMAN'S ANGER**

You would think that Haman would have so many more important things to keep him busy, since he was tending to the affairs of the entire kingdom, that he would not be worried about the fact that one lowly man would not bow down to him when he rode by in his chariot. But Haman was a man filled with pride. He certainly thought very highly of himself. He thought he deserved the honor and reverence of all the people.

Haman was also a man quick to anger. Haman could have been a big enough man to ignore the situation since Mordecai's religious values did not allow him to bow, but instead, Haman was furious. He wanted to get Mordecai alone and strangle him.

And Haman's anger did not stop there. It was not enough for him to hate Mordecai, he also hated all the Jewish people. Mordecai was a Jew so Haman also wanted to destroy all the other Jews that lived in the kingdom.

Esther 3:5-6 says, *And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath.*

*And he thought scorn to lay hands on Mordecai alone; for they had shewed him the people of Mordecai: wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews that were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus, even the people of Mordecai.*

### **HAMAN'S REQUEST**

Haman decided that the best way to get revenge on Mordecai was to go to the king. Haman had a plan.

Haman informed the king that there were people who lived all over the kingdom who did not keep the king's laws. They were not law abiding citizens and it would be good for the king to destroy them.

“King, I can pay the law enforcers 10,000 talents of silver to take care of this grievous problem for you. You won’t have to worry about these traitors anymore.”

It certainly did sound like a good thing to the king to rid his land of such enemies who were not law abiding. So he told Haman to take the money he needed and do what seemed right to him.

Whenever a king wrote a law he would melt a few drops of hot wax onto the paper and press his ring into the wax. The impression of the ring would harden. No one dared to oppose any law that was sealed with the king’s signet ring. The king handed his signet ring to Haman in complete trust that he would do the right thing.

*Esther 3: 8-11 says, And Haman said unto king Ahasuerus, There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in all the provinces of thy kingdom; and their laws are diverse from all people; neither keep they the king’s laws: therefore it is not for the king’s profit to suffer them.*

*If it please the king, let it be written that they may be destroyed: and I will pay ten thousand talents of silver to the hands of those that have the charge of the business, to bring it into the king’s treasuries.*

*And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy.*

*And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.*

#### **HAMAN’S ACTIONS**

Haman did not lose any time. Quickly he called for the king’s scribes who recorded the laws. He told the men exactly what he wanted them to write. Then he commanded that the king’s lieutenants and governors and other rulers should spread the news about the new law. He let it be known that the king had written a new law and sealed it with his own ring.

Messengers sent the news to the far corners of the kingdom. It didn’t take long for everyone to know that the king had ordered that all the Jews in their country would be put to death on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month of that year. The guards and soldiers doing the killing would be allowed to ransack the homes and businesses of the Jews and keep whatever they wanted to take.

*Esther 3:12-13 says, Then were the king’s scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king’s lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king’s ring.*

*And the letters were sent by posts into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.*

## MORDECAI'S ACTIONS

It wasn't long until news of the new law reached the attention of Mordecai. He was so grieved about what the king intended to do that he tore his clothing and put on sackcloth and sat in ashes to show his great distress. He cried long and loud and bitterly. How helpless he must have felt to realize that not only did Haman want to destroy him, but all his people would also be destroyed in a short while.

Mordecai went and sat in the king's gate and he continued to mourn. And Mordecai was not alone. When the other Jewish people of the land heard the news, they were also deeply troubled. What would they do? The Jews began to weep and wail. They fasted. They lay in sackcloth and ashes.

What a great tragedy was about to occur!

Esther 4:1-3 says, *When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;*

*And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.*

*And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.*

## HATRED HURTS EVERYONE

Haman's hatred of one man caused a nation full of Jewish people to suffer! What terrible harm he did to everyone around him.

Hatred is like that. It is like a terrible, contagious disease that spreads to everyone within its reach. It is never just one person who is hurt by hatred. Everyone is hurt by hatred. It affects and destroys everyone in its path.

Let me ask you a question. Do you hate anyone?

You might hate someone who has hurt you in some way. You might hate someone you are jealous of. You might hate someone who is in authority over you. And sadly, you might even hate your brother, or sister, or parents.

Your hatred will hurt that person, and it will also hurt you. You do harm to your own heart and life when you hate someone else. Your hatred will backfire on you.

The Bible warns us against allowing hatred into our hearts.

Leviticus 19:17a says, *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart.*

Proverbs 10:12 says, *Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.*

Instead of hating others, God wants you to love others. Instead of hating, God wants you to be humble enough to love your enemies. It is really quite easy to hate others and, truthfully, it can be hard to love your enemies. It may take some hard effort to love others, especially someone who has hurt you or done you wrong. But Jesus taught that we should love our enemies. He said we should pray for those who hurt us and do bad things to us. That sure is hard to do, but it is the humble thing to do. It is what God wants you to do.

Matthew 5:43-44 says, *Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.*

*But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.*

You may find it impossible to love your enemies in your own power, but you can ask God to help you. It will be God who can help you to love someone who has wronged you. It is God's love you can show to those you consider to be enemies.

When you reject hate but instead love others, then you are being humble and God will bless you. Just as hate harms you, even so, love does good for you. Just as hate hurts everyone, love helps everyone. When you have love in your life, you do good for others and for yourself. Isn't it better to love?

The Bible says that we ought to be kind and forgiving to others. Why? Because Jesus Christ forgave you of your sins. God could have held your sins against you, but because of what Jesus Christ did for you when He died on the cross in your place, then God has forgiven you.

If God can forgive all your terrible sins, then you should be willing to forgive others also.

Ephesians 4:32 says, *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*

Let me ask you, have you experienced the great love of God? Have you had your sin forgiven? Have you acknowledged that you are a sinner? Have you asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your heart? You can do that today. We can show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to determine to put hatred totally out of your life. Refuse to hate anyone!

Instead be humble enough to love. When someone hurts you, forgive them. When you are tempted to be jealous of someone, be happy for them instead. When someone makes you angry, put away your anger and cool down.

Love and forgiveness should be a big part of your life, if you are a Christian. People will always do hurtful things to you. That's the way life is. There will always be people who are hard to get along with. But if you can learn to be humble enough to love and forgive, then everyone will benefit. You won't have hateful, harmful feelings in your heart and mind. Not only that, the other person will experience the love of God through your actions.

Do you have a hard time forgiving and loving others? Ask God to help you. On your own it is almost impossible to love someone who has hurt you, but with God's help you can do it!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to refuse to hate anyone. Instead I'll ask God to help you to be humble enough to forgive and love others.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who would not bow to Haman?
2. Why wouldn't Mordecai bow to Haman?
3. Who did Haman want to harm?
4. How did Haman plan to harm Mordecai and the Jews?
5. What did the king give to Haman?
6. Recite today's memory verse.
7. What did Haman's new law say?
8. What did Mordecai do when he heard about the law?
9. How did the Jews feel when they heard about the law?
10. What should a Christian do instead of hate?

# Humble, Not Hateful

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Proverbs 29:23



I will display a humble spirit.

Don't let hatred harm you and those around you. Instead, love others as God loves you.

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Haman  
Mordecai  
Esther  
King

Humble  
Hate  
Love  
Bow

Servants  
Revenge  
Chariot  
Jews

Law  
Worship  
God  
Forgive

Christian  
Harm  
Hurt  
Heal

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LESSON 22

**A HUMBLE CHILD  
HUMBLE TO FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther 4:4-17; 5:1-14

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*  
Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

God has a good and perfect plan for your life. You may think that since you are just a child, God doesn't even think about you. You would be wrong.

God created you to be exactly the way you are because He has something special He wants you to do for Him. No one else can do what God wants you to do. Only you can fulfill God's plan for your life.

Some people don't want to follow God's plan for them. Instead they want to plan their own life. It takes a humble spirit to say to God, "Lord, I know that you know what is best for me. I will follow your plan for my life!"

Today, I want you to think about the fact that God has a plan for you. You may not know what that plan is yet, but if you are open to God and humble enough to obey Him, He will show you someday. Don't reject God or His plan for your life. You will be sorry if you do. But if you humbly seek God's plan for your life, you will never be sorry!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will display a humble spirit.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

**MY PERSONAL BEST**

**JUSTIN - PART III**

Obtain Flash Card

The last time we heard our story about Justin and Derick, Derick had started a terrible lie implying that Justin was using performance enhancing drugs. The rumor spread and the entire team had been put on suspension until they all could be tested.

The guys on the swim team continued to practice, but no one knew when they would be allowed to participate in a another meet. Who knew how the drug tests would turn out? Maybe the whole team would be disqualified for the rest of the year because of the one swimmer. It seemed useless to work very hard. Team spirit was very low.

Everyone on the team had been tested for performance enhancing drugs and they were waiting for the results. Some of the guys mumbled that it should only be Justin who got tested, but they didn't dare say that to the coach. They knew they would get in trouble.

The rumors continued to circulate about Justin. Some of the guys thought he should be kicked off the team but most of them doubted that he would ever do such a thing. He wasn't the kind to take steroids. They knew Justin from the ball team and from classes in school. They knew he was a Christian who had always lived what he believed. He wasn't perfect, but he always did his best. He was the kind of guy whose word was reliable.

Derick was strangely quiet every time the team practiced. Most of the guys on the team knew he didn't like Justin and they were surprised he hadn't been adding to the gossip. Instead he just refused to talk about any of it. A few of them suspected that it was actually Derick who had started the rumor since he had been so mean to Justin in the past.

After practice the next day, the coach called everyone around him before they headed for the showers.

"I have good news, fellas. The tests have come back and everyone tested clean. We are being allowed to compete again."

A cheer went up from everyone. Spirits were definitely climbing higher.

"It was unfortunate this had to happen and that we had to miss the last swim meet, but we still have a chance at state finals if we can win all the rest of our races. You'll all have to work hard and put in extra time to make sure you're 100% ready for each meet. You all know that I will never tolerate any of my swimmers using any type of performance enhancing drugs. I don't ever want to hear another rumor about such a thing again!"

The Coach was definitely relieved, but he was also upset that such an accusation was brought against his team. The guys knew he was serious. They all headed for the showers. The guys began to talk excitedly about the swim meet coming up.

On the way out of the locker room, one of the guys ran to catch up with Justin.

"You know, I never really thought you were using," he said.

"Me?" Justin said in astonishment. "Why would you think I was using?"

"Derick said you might be since you were getting so good, so fast."

Justin was stunned. He just stared in silence.

"It was right after Derick told a group of us that you might be using steroids that Coach found out about the rumors. I think it was Derick who ratted on you."

"Wait. Are you sure it was Derick who said that about me?" Justin questioned.

"Sure. I was standing right there with a bunch of the guys from the team. Ask anyone. We all heard him."

Justin didn't know what to say. He watched the guy walk away.

Justin could feel his anger building up in his heart. How could Derick have done this to him and to the whole team? Had Derick hated him so much that he would spread a terrible lie about him? He had only done his best, and look at the thanks he got for it!

As Justin walked toward home he was glad he had some time alone to think. He had to decide what he should do. Should he confront Derick? Should he go to Coach and tell him what had happened? Maybe he could clear his good name. And maybe he could get Derick in trouble. He deserved it!

But as Justin thought about getting Derick in trouble, he began to have a nagging feeling that he really shouldn't do that. For a long time he had tried to be a good Christian testimony to everyone at school. How would it look if he used this information to hurt Derick? What kind of testimony would he be to others? And what good would it do Derick?

Justin had been trying to find a way to make friends with Derick. That would never happen if he decided to get revenge on him. It occurred to Justin that the most Christ-like thing he could do would be to forgive Derick and just let it go. He didn't need to get revenge. Instead, he would show forgiveness.

So, Justin finished his walk home with a new feeling in his heart. His anger was gone and in its place was a peace that he was doing what God wanted him to do.

Justin was nervous at the swim meet that weekend. In fact, everyone on the team seemed nervous and Derick was still strangely quiet. Instead of bragging about how he was sure he would win, he kept to himself and seemed to be concentrating on preparing himself mentally for the first heat.

Justin was positioned right next to Derick on the starting blocks. He tried to make eye contact with Derick to give him a thumbs up, but Derick wouldn't look at him so he decided to concentrate on the race. When the whistle sounded, they were all off as quickly as their legs would push them forward. For the next few seconds, Justin didn't think of anything but doing his very best.

When the race ended, Justin thought he had done pretty good. All the swimmers in the race looked up to see who had won and what their times had been.

Derick had taken first place and Justin had taken second! And not only that, Justin's time was his personal best. Derick looked over at Justin for the first time that day. He had a sheepish look on his face.

Justin didn't give him a chance to say anything. Instead he stuck out his hand to Derick.

"Thanks," Justin said.

"Thanks? For what?" Derick asked. He looked totally baffled.

"For helping me to swim my best," Justin replied.

“Me? I didn’t do anything to help you,” Derick said in surprise.

“Sure you did. You’ve been an inspiration to me. You’ve helped me to want to swim harder and do better. Your standard of excellence as team captain has helped me.”

Derick looked down. He seemed to be struggling to know what to say.

“I really haven’t done anything to help you. In fact, I’ve done quite a bit to hurt you. I’m sorry,” Derick said. (Show Flash Card)

Justin stuck his hand out again. This time Derick grasped it and shook hard. They both were smiling. Derick looked relieved and Justin was thinking that soon he would invite Derick to go to church with him. Somehow he thought Derick would say, “Yes.”

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man’s pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*  
Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER’S STUDY TEXT

Esther 4:4-17; 5:1-14

### LESSON

#### ESTHER’S CONCERN

Do you remember that in our Bible story last week we talked about Haman, the king’s right hand man, and Mordecai, the queen’s uncle? Haman was so puffed up with pride that when he rode around the city in his carriage, he expected everyone to bow down in honor to him. Mordecai would not bow because he was a Jew and the Jewish people would not bow to or worship any man. They would only bow to God.

When Haman heard that Mordecai would not bow, he was enraged. He was so angry at Mordecai that he came up with a plan to destroy Mordecai and all the Jewish people in the kingdom. He went to the king and told him that the Jewish people caused trouble and should be put to death. The king trusted Haman to do what was right and he gave Haman permission to do as he thought best.

When Mordecai heard the news, he mourned. He tore his clothing and put on sackcloth. He went to the king's gate and sat in ashes as he continued to cry and grieve. Not only would he be put to death for not bowing to Haman, but all of his people would also die.

Queen Esther's maids soon carried the news to the queen that her uncle was sitting in the gate, mourning in sackcloth. Esther could not imagine what the problem was. She sent clean clothing to Mordecai but he refused it. Esther sent a messenger to speak with her uncle. The messenger was given specific instructions to find out what was troubling her uncle. Soon, messages were flying back and forth between Esther and her uncle.

Mordecai told the messenger what Haman had done and how he plotted to kill the Jews. He gave the messenger a copy of the decree Haman had sent out declaring the exact date for the murders to be carried out. Esther could read for herself about Haman's terrible mischief. Mordecai told the messenger to tell the queen that she must take action. She had to go before the king and beg for mercy for him and for all of her people.

*Esther 4:4-9 says, So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not.*

*Then called Esther for Hatach, one of the king's chamberlains, whom he had appointed to attend upon her, and gave him a commandment to Mordecai, to know what it was, and why it was.*

*So Hatach went forth to Mordecai unto the street of the city, which was before the king's gate.*

*And Mordecai told him of all that had happened unto him, and of the sum of the money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the Jews, to destroy them.*

*Also he gave him the copy of the writing of the decree that was given at Shushan to destroy them, to shew it unto Esther, and to declare it unto her, and to charge her that she should go in unto the king, to make supplication unto him, and to make request before him for her people.*

*And Hatach came and told Esther the words of Mordecai.*

## **ESTHER'S DILEMMA**

Esther was grieved when she read the decree. She knew something had to be done to stop Haman, but what could she do?

You see, Esther had a big problem. She could not just go visit the king any time she wished. The only time the queen could go speak to the king was when the king called to see her. If she

went to see the king without being summoned, he could order that she be put to death. Only if the king held out his golden scepter could she enter and be welcomed without fear.

Esther had not been called into the king's presence for thirty days! For an entire month she had not seen the king. Perhaps he was very busy or had forgotten about her. Esther did not know, but she was frightened to go to the king.

Esther sent word to her uncle that she could not go to the king to plead for his life. The reply she got back from Mordecai must have shocked her. Her uncle spoke sternly to her.

"Esther, do you think that just because you are the queen that you will be safe?" her uncle scolded. "You are a Jew also. If you keep quiet and say nothing to the king, you and all your people will be destroyed!"

Then Mordecai asked Esther a piercing question. It was a question that made her stop and think. He said, "Who knows whether you are come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

God had placed Esther in the kingdom to be the queen for the purpose of saving her people. She wasn't in that beautiful palace with beautiful clothing and servants who waited on her hand and foot just so she could have a wonderful life. God had something He wanted Esther to do for Him. God had a job for Esther. God had a plan for Esther's life.

Esther 4:10-14 says, *Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;*

*All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

*And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.*

*Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*

*For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

### **ESTHER'S PREPARATION**

Esther knew her uncle was right. There was a serious problem and some serious action had to be taken. So Esther told her uncle to gather all the Jews from the city and begin a fast. That means they would not eat any food or drink anything. Instead they would spend their time praying to God. Esther also determined that she and her maids would do the same.

For three days, Esther, her maids, Mordecai, and all the Jews in the city refrained from eating or drinking. That may sound like a long time, but they were desperate. They wanted to let God know they were serious. They pleaded for God's help.

Esther 4:15-17 says, *Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,*

*Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.*

*So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.*

What a wise woman Queen Esther was. She knew God cared for her and for her people. She knew God could see their hearts. She knew He would listen.

When you have a need, it is always wise to go to God in prayer. Go with a sincere heart and God will listen to you also.

James 5:16b says, *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

### **ESTHER'S COURAGE**

I suppose that Esther's heart was beating extra fast as she prepared to go see the king. She was going unannounced, but she was not going unprepared. She dressed herself in her most beautiful royal robes. She also bathed herself in prayer. She was ready to see the king. If he rejected her, then she was prepared to die.

Esther went into the inner court to the king's throne room. There he sat on his throne. Esther held her breath. When the king looked up and saw Esther, he was pleased to see her. I am sure that God had prepared his heart.

The Lord is in complete control of everything. He is even in control of the rulers of this world. God can cause even a wicked man to do his will.

Proverbs 21:1 says, *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

When the king saw Esther, he was pleased. Quickly he held out his golden sceptre to her and with a sigh of relief she approached the throne and touched the top of the king's sceptre. How thankful she must have been to God. I am sure she was silently thanking God!

Esther 5:1-2 says, *Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.*

*And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

### **ESTHER'S REQUEST**

The king knew it was brave of Esther to come when she hadn't been called. He was eager to hear why she had come to see him. He was so pleased with her that he told Esther that she could

request anything she wanted up to half of his kingdom. If she had said she wanted to go on an extravagant shopping trip and then take a tour of the world, he would have gladly granted it to her.

But Esther had not come to the king with such foolish requests. She had something very serious to request, but God gave her the wisdom to not ask for a single thing at that time. Instead she requested that the king and Haman, his right hand man, come to a banquet that she would prepare for them.

She didn't want to take anything from the king, she wanted to give him something.

The king was pleased with Esther's request. A banquet with his beautiful wife sounded like a wonderful way to spend his afternoon. He told his messenger to quickly tell Haman to prepare for lunch with the queen.

Can you imagine how lovely the table was that had been set for the king and Haman by Esther? And I am sure that all the king's favorite foods were there. The fragrant smell of food must have made their mouths water as they prepared to eat.

Again the king asked Esther a question.

"What do you want? I will give you anything up to half of my kingdom."

Esther smiled. Again she invited the king and Haman to another banquet that she would prepare for them the next day. The food had been delicious and the company enjoyable. The king quickly agreed.

Esther 5:3-8 says, *Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.*

*And Esther answered, If it seem good unto the king, let the king and Haman come this day unto the banquet that I have prepared for him.*

*Then the king said, Cause Haman to make haste, that he may do as Esther hath said. So the king and Haman came to the banquet that Esther had prepared.*

*And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*

*Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;*

*If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.*

## **HAMAN'S JOY SOURS**

The king went away from the banquet full and happy. Haman went away floating on cloud nine! He couldn't believe his good fortune. He must have been thinking something like this:

“Wow! I can hardly believe how much both the king and queen like me! The king made me his right hand man, and now the queen includes me in her special banquets for just the three of us. No one else in the entire kingdom is as honored and as favored as I am. I must be so special! I’m such a great man!”

As Haman was gleefully making his way home to tell his wife and friends about the honor that had been bestowed on him, he happened to see Mordecai. Instantly his wonderful, gleeful mood turned sour. Just the sight of Mordecai made Haman angry. It spoiled his entire day!

Haman went home and called together his friends and family. He began to brag. He told them about how rich he was. He told them how much the king depended on him. Then he began to brag about how even the queen appreciated him so much that she prepared a special banquet for him!

“And,” Haman concluded, “Tomorrow I will be dining with the king and queen again!”

But then the bitter, angry feelings that Haman felt for Mordecai began to pour out also.

“But what good is all this favor when every time I turn around I see that horrible man, Mordecai? He sits at the king’s gate and defies me every time I pass by! He makes me so angry!”

Haman’s wife and friends joined him in his anger. They thought a bit and then came up with an evil suggestion.

“I know,” they said. “You should have a gallows built. Tomorrow ask the king to hang Mordecai from the gallows. Then you will be happy again and you can really enjoy the banquet with the king and queen!”

Haman thought that was a splendid plan. He ordered that a gallows be constructed right away. Soon Mordecai would be a dead man and he would be a happy man.

*Esther 5:9-14 says, Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king’s gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai.*

*Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife.*

*And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king.*

*Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.*

*Yet all this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king’s gate.*

*Then said Zeresh his wife and all his friends unto him, Let a gallows be made of fifty cubits high, and to morrow speak thou unto the king that Mordecai may be hanged thereon: then go thou in merrily with the king unto the banquet. And the thing pleased Haman; and he caused the gallows to be made.*

## TWO PLANS

Haman had a plan to destroy Mordecai and Esther. Mordecai had a plan to save the lives of many people. How different the two plans were! One plan was wicked and one plan was righteous. One plan was intended to kill and destroy while the other plan was intended to save lives.

Did you know that Satan plans to destroy you and your testimony in any way he can? But God has a plan for you also. God's plan is to protect and preserve your soul. Satan's plan is for death. God's plan is for life.

Are you following God's plan? When hard times come into your life, you can know that God is there, working out His plan, if you let Him. You may find yourself facing some problem that you can't solve on your own. You may fear the outcome. God will not take away all the hard times, but He has a plan to use those hard times for your good and His glory.

God may be saying to you in the hard times, as was said to Queen Esther, "Don't worry. Trust me. I have put you in the place you are right now 'for such a time as this.'"

Psalm 86:17 says, *Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.*

Isn't it wonderful to know that God is with you to help and comfort you? The next time you have a problem, don't panic. Instead, ask for God's help. He has a plan and He will work that plan out in your life.

Let me ask you, have you ever asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life? That is the first part of God's plan for your life. God wants you to be His child and spend eternity with Him in Heaven. But if you have not had your sin forgiven, that will not happen. Today we can show you from the Bible how you can ask Jesus to come into your life. God has a good plan for you. Are you ready for Him to begin working out His plan in your life?

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Maybe you wonder how you can know God's plan for your life. God has something different for everyone. How can you know what God plans for you? Here are some ways.

### 1. Yield yourself to God.

Be humble enough to allow God to lead and guide your life. If you let God know you have a heart that is willing to follow His plan, then God will lead you.

### 2. Ask God to show you His plan.

Prayer is your way of asking God what He wants in your life. Ask God to show you His plan. The answer may not flash into your mind or even come quickly, but someday God will show you.

### 3. Look for God's will.

The Bible tells us some basics about God's plan for us. If a plan ever goes against God's Word, then you can know for certain that the plan is not God's plan for you. God never goes against His own Word. The Bible is a wonderful place to seek answers about God's plan.

### 4. Wait for God's time.

God has His own time when things should be done. When God has something He wants you to do, if you have a humble heart and are seeking His will, then God will show you His plan. But everything happens on God's time schedule. So be patient and wait for God's time.

### 5. Check the doorknob.

Sometimes God opens doors for you to go through in life. Sometimes God closes doors. Check the doorknob to see if the door is open or closed. If God wants you to do something, then He will make a way for you to go through that door. But if God has closed the door and does not want you to do something, then you should realize that God is saying, "No. I don't want you to go through that door." Instead of trying to break down the door, accept God's answer and go check for another open door.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be humble enough to follow God's plan for your life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who told Esther that her uncle was in sackcloth by the king's gate?
2. Why was Mordecai mourning by the gate?
3. What did Esther send to her uncle?
4. What did Mordecai send to Esther?
5. Why was Esther afraid to go to the king?
6. What did Esther tell Mordecai to do?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What was Esther's request to the king?
9. What upset Haman so much?
10. What did Haman's friends and family suggest he do?

# Humble to Follow God's Plan



I will display a humble spirit.

A man's pride shall bring him low: but  
honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.  
Proverbs 29:23

God has a plan for your life and He is working it  
out day by day.

Make sure you let God have control of everything  
you do.

                    '                                      
K   N   Q   C        R   G   N   V        L   D

                                               '              
X   N   T   Q        O   K   Z   M        H

                                               .  
V   H   K   K        N   A   D   X

Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the  
alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.



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LESSON 23

A HUMBLE CHILD  
HUMBLE, NOT PROUD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther 6:1-13

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

The Bible warns us to put pride out of our life.

Why? Because you and I have nothing in ourselves to be proud about. Everything you can do, God gave you the ability to do. Everything you are, God made you to be. If you are athletic, God made you that way. The same is true about being good looking, smart, or anything that fills you with pride.

God doesn't say you can't do your best and be happy that you have done your best. But God warns us all about taking credit for things that we don't deserve the credit for in the first place.

Instead of being full of pride, you should humbly give God the credit He deserves for all He does in your life.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will display a humble spirit.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### A CRY IN THE NIGHT

##### ADONIRAM JUDSON - PART I

Obtain Flash Card

Today's story is about the early days in the life of missionary Adoniram Judson. Mr. Judson became a missionary to the country of Burma and served the Lord faithfully for many years, but before he was saved, he came very close to completely rejecting God.

Adoniram was reared in a godly home. Adoniram's parents were godly people. In fact, his father pastored a sound, Bible believing church in Massachusetts. Adoniram was brought up to read and respect God's Word and his parents dearest wish was for Adoniram to spend his life serving God.

Adoniram was a very bright boy with a quick mind. From an early age he loved reading and studying. Most children don't enjoy hitting the books, but he always did. Adoniram's parents wanted him to use his knowledge to serve God.

By the age of seventeen Adoniram entered college. There he met a young man, named Jacob Eames. They quickly became friends and spent much time together. Jacob was not a Christian

and he questioned everything Adoniram had been taught about God and life. He presented Adoniram with ideas he had never heard before. Adoniram listened and soon he began to think that Jacob was correct to reject God. Soon Adoniram abandoned all his beliefs about God also.

Adoniram followed his friend to become a Deist. Basically he believed there was a god, or greater being of some sort, but he no longer believed in an after life. He didn't believe in Salvation through Jesus Christ. He didn't believe in a Heaven or Hell. He no longer believed God had any real place in his life. He believed the important thing was living a good, moral life.

At first Adoniram was too ashamed to tell his parents about his new beliefs. When he went home, he tried to hide the things he had learned from his new friend. But as time went by, his father wanted him to become a preacher and Adoniram rebelled. He had no intention of wasting his talents in some small church like his father had. Instead he decided to move to New York City and become a famous playwright.

Adoniram's father tried to reason with him from the Bible. He tried to show Adoniram the truth. But his arguing did no good. His mother cried and prayed for Adoniram constantly. But he shut his heart and his ears. He was determined to reject Jesus Christ regardless of what his parents thought and regardless of what he had been taught as a child.

Things did not turn out as Adoniram had hoped when he got to New York.

No one would read his plays or even give him a chance. He was a nobody and no one cared how smart he was. How discouraged he was! He hated to go home and admit defeat, but there was nothing else for him to do. He didn't have any money to support himself and he had no job either. Adoniram's plan for his life had failed, but God's plan was just beginning.

As Adoniram traveled by horseback through the countryside, he stopped for the night in a small inn. The innkeeper put him in the last available room and explained that in the room next to his was an extremely sick man. He sure was! In the night Adoniram heard the man moaning and crying out. There were whispers as people came and went trying to help the man. As the man in the next room suffered, Adoniram didn't get any sleep at all that night. Instead he lay in his bed and listened to the noises next door. Thoughts of death kept running through his mind. He remembered his father's teachings about Heaven and Hell. He couldn't help but wonder if that poor man was ready for death. Toward morning, finally everything was quiet.

When Adoniram went to leave the inn, he asked the inn keeper what had happened to the man. He told Adoniram that the man had died. Then he told Adoniram the name of the man. It was Jacob Eames, his friend from college who had convinced him to reject God and become a Deist.

It was no coincidence that Adoniram was in that exact room on that exact night! Even in his lost state, Adoniram knew God had placed him in that room. God was trying to speak to his heart. The word "lost" kept echoing through his mind. If Adoniram's friend, Jacob the Deist, was wrong, and the Bible was right, then Jacob had died lost. He was on his way to Hell.

(Show Flash Card)

Adoniram was very upset. He just couldn't stop thinking about the fact that his friend had not been ready to die. Adoniram went home and gave some serious thought to what had happened. He knew that if the Bible was true, then he was also lost. If he died, he would not be ready for death either.

Adoniram decided to attend a Bible seminary to study the Bible for himself. Finally, at the age of 20 years, he realized there was a real God and there was a real Heaven and Hell. He also realized that becoming rich and famous was not important, but having his sin forgiven and asking God to save his soul was extremely important! So that is what he did. He humbled himself and asked God to forgive his sin.

Adoniram had disrespected his parents and he had disrespected God. But his parents were more than happy to forgive him and so was God!

Adoniram had thought he had all the answers. He thought he could be a good person and that was all he needed. He thought if he lived a good life then he would be fine. He was wrong. No one should depend on their good works to get them to Heaven. God is real. Heaven and Hell are real. The only way anyone can get to Heaven is to put their trust in Jesus Christ. He is the only way to Heaven!

Adoniram had rejected the good training of his parents and instead he had listened to the wrong person. As a result, he almost destroyed his entire life. But God finally got a hold of his heart. When that happened, Adoniram finally surrendered to God and went on to serve God faithfully.

Friends can have a big impact on your life. And the impact they have might not be good. That is why it is so important to have friends who love, respect, and humbly obey God.

God deserves your love and your respect. Many people in this world scorn God. They reject Him. They make fun of godly things. They sin openly and think that God does not see or care. Sadly, they also want you to join them. They want you to go along with the sin they are involved in.

Be wise. Stay away from people who try to turn you away from God. Instead, surround yourself with those who humble themselves and obey God. They will help you to do the same.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Esther 6:1-13

### LESSON

#### **SLEEPLESS IN THE PALACE**

When we left our Bible story last week, you will remember that Mordecai, Queen Esther's uncle, was in deep mourning because Haman had sent out a decree that all the Jews in the land were to be killed. Haman had done this out of anger because Mordecai refused to bow to him. The Jewish people would not bow to anyone except God.

Mordecai, Esther, and the Jews of the city fasted for three days as Esther prepared to go see the king. No one could visit the king unless he called for them. It was very dangerous for Esther to go to the throne room without an invitation, but she trusted God to do what was right.

When the king saw Esther he was so thrilled to see her that he told her she could have anything she wanted up to half his kingdom. Esther told the king she just wanted for him and Haman to come to a banquet that afternoon. Again at the banquet the king repeated his generous offer and Esther again said she just wanted the two men to come to a banquet the following day.

Haman was so excited. He felt so important. He rushed home to tell his friends and family about the great honor that was being paid to him, but on the way home he saw Mordecai and his joy turned to anger. He couldn't be happy when Mordecai was still alive. His family suggested he build a gallows to hang Mordecai. So he did.

That same night the king could not get to sleep. He tossed and turned, but he just couldn't get any rest. So he decided to have someone read to him. Perhaps that would relax him. He ordered that the book of the chronicles be read to him. That was the book that recorded everything that had happened during his reign as king.

The servant read to the king and when he got to the part where it was recorded how Mordecai had saved the king's life by uncovering and reporting a plot against him, the king told the servant to stop reading.

"What did we do to honor Mordecai for this great service of saving my life?" the king asked.

The servant looked through the book pages. He couldn't find anything that had been done as a reward for Mordecai.

"Nothing has been done for him, O king," the servant replied.

Esther 6:1-3 says, *On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.*

*And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus.*

*And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him.*

### **A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING**

Early the next morning the king was still thinking about the fact that nothing had been done to reward Mordecai. He decided he would ask one of his advisors what he should do. The king sent a servant out to see who was available to speak with him. Haman had come early to ask the king if he could hang Mordecai, so he was standing in the hallway.

Haman was taken in to see the king and before he could mention anything about putting Mordecai to death, the king had a question for him.

"Haman, what do you think should be done for a man who I want to honor?" the king asked.

Haman was so full of pride that he immediately thought the king was talking about him.

"Who else could the king be talking about except me? Even the king can see how wonderful I am!" Haman thought.

What a big head he had! He was so full of foolish pride! His mind must have been running a thousand miles a minute as he tried to think up the greatest honor he could think of. What could he tell the king to do that he would just love?

"Well, your Majesty, I think you should bring out one of your own royal robes and put it on him. Then put the royal crown on his head and set him on the royal horse. Then, one of the

king's noblest princes should lead the man through the streets of the city and proclaim that you delight in him!"

Haman was already thinking about how great it would be to wear the king's own robes and crown as he rode the king's horse through the streets with a prince calling out to everyone to see that he was favored in such a great way by the king. He must have been grinning from ear to ear.

Esther 6:4-9 says, *And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.*

*And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in.*

*So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour more than to myself?*

*And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour,*

*Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head:*

*And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour.*

The king was very pleased with the suggestions Haman made. It would be the perfect reward for the man who had saved his life. So the king ordered Haman, "Great idea. Make haste and go as quickly as you can and do everything you just said for Mordecai! He sits in my gate, I'm sure you'll be able to find him."

Can you just see Haman's jaw drop? He had been waiting to ask the king to hang Mordecai but instead the king wanted to honor the man! And worse than that, the king wanted Haman to walk the horse around the city proclaiming to everyone that the king was so pleased with Mordecai.

Haman had to obey the king. He had to do exactly as the king ordered. My, how Haman's pride must have been crushed as he was forced to dress his enemy, Mordecai, in the king's beautiful robes and crown. Then imagine him leading the horse through the streets where everyone, including his friends and family, could see him proclaiming that this was the king's way of honoring Mordecai.

Can you imagine what others were whispering?

“Hey, isn’t that Haman leading that horse around? Ha! He always goes around making everyone bow to him. Look at him now! He’s like a servant boy! And wait a minute! Isn’t that Mordecai on the horse? Haman hates Mordecai!”

I think Haman’s face was bright red with shame and also with bitter anger!

Esther 6: 10-11 says, *Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king’s gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken.*

*Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour.*

### **A WOUNDED PRIDE**

When Haman had finished taking Mordecai around, he fled home. He covered his head so no one would see him. He didn’t want to run into someone he knew who would ask, “Hey, Haman. What happened? Why on earth were you honoring Mordecai? I thought you wanted to kill him?”

When Haman got home he found his wife and friends had already gathered. They all sat around and complained together. What a great humiliation for Haman. They all warned Haman that there was nothing but bad news ahead for him. Even they knew that if Mordecai was a Jew, then Haman would not ever get his revenge. In fact, they predicted that Haman would fall instead. They must have realized that the Jews were God’s people and God takes care of His own.

Esther 6:12-13 says, *And Mordecai came again to the king’s gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered.*

*And Haman told Zeresh his wife and all his friends every thing that had befallen him. Then said his wise men and Zeresh his wife unto him, If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews, before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him.*

### **PRIDE CAUSES DESTRUCTION**

Haman’s pride only hurt him. It caused him to be humiliated. It caused him to have to humble himself before an entire city. And as we will see next week, it will cause his own destruction.

Mordecai, on the other hand, was a humble man. He had not expected a reward for saving the king’s life. He was content to sit in the king’s gate and serve the king. If the king had asked Mordecai what he could do for him, I am sure he would never have asked for the king’s robes and crown and horse. He would never have asked to be honored in the streets. I know what he would have asked for. He would have asked for his life to be spared. He would have asked that the lives of the other Jews be spared. Those are humble and reasonable requests.

Proverbs 16:18 says, *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

Sometimes we let our pride make us all puffed up. We begin to think more highly of ourselves than we should. But let me ask you, what do you have to be proud about?

Who created you? If you are handsome or beautiful, who made you look the way you do? If you have a talent, who gave you that talent? If you are smart, who gave you those brains?

God created you. He gave you the talents and abilities you have. He is the one who deserves the honor and glory. Not you.

Don't ever let pride creep into your heart and life. It is a destructive thing and it will eventually bring you down low. It will destroy your relationship with God. It may even destroy you.

Haman had a selfish, pride-filled heart. It brought him shame. Mordecai had a humble heart and it brought him honor.

Proverbs 11:2 says, *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

Proverbs 29:23 says, *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

#### **GOD REWARDS HUMILITY**

God does not want your heart to be filled with pride. He wants you to have a humble heart.

James 4:10 says, *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

We really don't have anything in ourselves to be proud about. But we do have a great God who deserves our honor and praise.

God is the great Creator. He is the great King of kings. He is the wonderful Savior. All of this should remind us to lift up Jesus Christ, God's beloved Son, instead of lifting up ourselves.

But even Jesus was not full of pride. He certainly deserved to be, but He wasn't. He was humble. He was so humble that He was willing to come to earth to be a servant. He came to earth to take our sins on Himself as He died on the cross.

Be humble enough to know that Jesus is your Lord and Master. Be like Him.

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus said, *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

The Lord also wants you to be humble enough to know that you are a sinner. You need to be humble enough to admit that fact and ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart. Would you like to do that today?

#### **INVITATION**

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to resist a proud spirit. Instead, have a humble spirit. How do you do that?

1. Admit that God is the One worthy of praise, not you.

Don't walk around saying, "Look at me. Look at how great I am and at all I can do!" Instead, say, "Look at my great Savior. He is so wonderful. I want my life to praise and honor Him." Who does your life honor?

2. Submit to God in your life.

A proud spirit does not like to submit to anyone. A humble spirit willingly submits to God. What kind of spirit do you have?

3. Show God's love to others by being willing to be a servant.

A servant is not filled with pride. Instead a servant does the will of his master. God is your Master. Are you willing to be His faithful servant?

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to put pride out of your life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did the king do when he couldn't sleep?
2. What did the king find had been overlooked?
3. What did the king ask Haman?
4. What did Haman think when the king said he wanted to honor someone?
5. What did Haman recommend the king do?
6. What did Haman intend to ask of the king?
7. What warning did Haman's wife and friends give to him?
8. Why did Haman hate Mordecai?
9. What did Haman have built for Mordecai?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

# Humble, Not Proud



A man's pride shall bring him low: but  
honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.  
Proverbs 29:23

I will display a humble spirit.

Jesus Christ is our example. We should learn to be humble like  
He was.

In Matthew 11:29 Jesus said, "Take my yoke upon you, and  
learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart."

Unscramble the words at the end of the line and fill in the blank.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ had a sleepless night. GKIN
2. The king called for his \_\_\_\_\_ to be read. KOBO
3. The king wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Mordecai. NOHOR
4. Haman thought the king wanted to honor \_\_\_\_\_. MIH
5. Haman was full of \_\_\_\_\_. RIPDE
6. Haman wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ Mordecai. GHAN
7. Haman \_\_\_\_\_ his head in shame. VocreDE
8. Haman was \_\_\_\_\_. BUMHLDE



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LESSON 24

**A HUMBLE CHILD**  
**HUMBLE TO FIND COURAGE FROM GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther 6:14; 7:1-10; 8:1-3

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*  
Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had to do something that really, really scared you? Most of us have had to do some scary things a few times in our lives. And do you know what? There will be more times in your life when you will be frightened and in need of courage.

Often we try to gain our own courage. We try to work it up by ourselves. But a Christian's true source of courage is God.

God says that He will give you the courage you need each day. If you love God and serve Him, then He is right beside you to give you courage. You can count on Him for your courage. But to get that courage, you must humbly obey God and humbly ask God to give you courage.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will display a humble spirit.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

ADONIRAM JUDSON - PART II

CHERYL REID

Show Flash Card

On May 2, 2008 tropical storm Nargis hit the coast of Myanmar, the country which was formerly known as Burma. Large parts of the coastal areas were destroyed. Winds ripped through Myanmar's biggest city Yangon for more than ten hours. Homes were torn apart, trees were ripped from the ground, and power lines were downed. In some parts of the country, up to 95 per cent of homes were wiped off the face of the earth. Thousands upon thousands of people lost their lives, and came face to face with eternity. Because of their corrupt government, Myanmar did not allow the United States or many other countries to help the survivors by providing food, water, or other supplies. Thousands of cyclone survivors later died of starvation and disease. Were they ready to meet God? Had they ever heard of Jesus Christ and His death on the cross? It is likely that many of them had, because of a man named Adoniram Judson who went to Burma as a missionary almost two hundred years ago and followed God's plan for his life. (Show Flash Card)

Judson was born in 1788 in Massachusetts. His father was a preacher, and his mother was a godly woman. Even though Adoniram was reared in a Christian home, he did not accept Christ until he was an adult. He knew all about God, but he did not know Him as Savior. While he was a college student, a classmate of his influenced him to turn away Christian teachings and reject

the Bible. A few years later when Adoniram was spending the night at an inn, he heard a dying man moaning in the next room. As Adoniram lay there, he thought about his Christian teaching, and wondered if the dying man was ready to meet God. The next morning, Adoniram asked about the man, only to find out that the very man who died was the classmate who caused him to turn away from Christ. That day, Judson decided to become a preacher, even though he was still unsaved. Soon after that, he trusted Christ as his Savior, and his life changed forever. God placed in his heart a desire to be a missionary to a foreign country.

Adoniram's first trip as a missionary was to England. Sometimes, when we try to serve God and give Him our best, Satan tries to discourage us any way he can, and Satan did just that with Adoniram Judson. While he was sailing to England, the ship was captured and everyone was taken prisoner to France for several months. When he was finally released, he returned to America and met a young lady whom he married a short time later. Ann, his wife, traveled with him to Calcutta, India, two weeks after they were married. Satan worked to discourage them again, because they were forced to leave that country. They had a choice to make; they could either go back to America or go to the country of Burma. Because they had been called by God to the mission field, they chose to go to Burma.

There was not even one native in Burma, a country of six to eight million people, who knew the true God. It was a Buddhist country—a place of religious darkness.

Although the language was hard to learn, Adoniram and Ann worked daily to master the Burmese language. They soon were able to communicate with the people. Day after day, they gave the message of salvation, but they worked for many years before the first Burmese man trusted in Christ. During those six years, the Judsons had a baby boy who lived for only eight months. God gave them the strength to keep serving Him even through their sadness.

Adoniram worked diligently to translate the New Testament into the Burmese language. He wrote several tracts with the message of salvation. He sat in a simple church hut, reading aloud a tract over and over, hoping someone would come by and listen. God rewarded his faithfulness, and after long years of faithful work, a few people trusted in Christ. Slowly but surely, the Gospel was being spread in Burma.

Sometime later, the Judsons felt God leading them to another area of Burma. New missionaries from America took their place, and the Judsons made the move to the town of Ava in 1824. It wasn't long until war broke out between England and Burma, and because Adoniram Judson was white, the Burmese government, believing that he was an Englishman, arrested him and put him in jail.

Do you remember what Paul said in the New Testament about being in prison? *Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.* 2 Corinthians 12:10. That was the same attitude that Mr. Judson had, although he suffered horribly in the Burmese prison. It was extremely dirty, smelly, and full of diseases. Almost one hundred prisoners were kept in the same room. Many, including Adoniram, were shackled in chains and unable to move. During that time, Ann tried to see him as often as she could, bringing him a little food to keep him alive. While he was imprisoned,

Ann gave birth to a little baby girl. Later, Mr. Judson was moved from one prison to another in a nearby city, and Ann lived nearby the prison in a dirty shack. Within a year of Adoniram's release, his wife and baby daughter both died. He was lonely and alone, except for God's presence in His life. But God was not finished with Adoniram Judson, not by any means! He finished translating the New Testament into the Burmese language after seventeen years, and in one city, passed out ten thousand tracts to spiritually hungry Burmese people. Many of them had heard of Judson and came in search for the paper that could tell them of Jesus Christ. They wanted to know the true God before they died.

Mr. Judson later married again, but after a few years, the second wife also died. He married a third time, and had several children. In Mr. Judson's later years, his health became frail. Feeling the need to return home, he boarded a ship for America. After three days of the voyage, he died, and was buried at sea.

You might say that Adoniram Judson lived a hard life. You would be right. But he lived each day of his Christian life doing exactly what he wanted to do. God called him to missions and he fulfilled his calling until the day he died. His reward in heaven will be the souls he meets there from Burma and Myanmar who, through Adoniram's faithfulness to God, trusted in Jesus as their Savior.

Adoniram Judson never imagined that a cyclone would kill thousands of people in 2008. But his faithfulness in ministering in that country assures us that many people are in heaven today. As you grow older, God will call you to do something for Him. Whether it is a hard task or an easy one, will He be able to trust you to carry out His perfect plan for your life?

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Esther 6:14; 7:1-10; 8:1-3

### LESSON

#### ESTHER'S PLEA

Remember our story from last week? Esther had requested that Haman and the king join her for a banquet for a second day. Esther was working up to asking the king a big favor. Haman had made a law decreeing that all the Jews be killed. Esther was a Jew and so was her Uncle Mordecai. They had fasted and prayed that God would spare the Jewish people.

The king had remembered that Mordecai had done him a great service and had asked Haman how he would recommend that he reward a man who had pleased the king. Haman thought he was talking about himself and he told the king to put his own robe and crown on him. Then he suggested that a noble prince lead him on the royal horse as the prince proclaimed that the king was honoring the man.

Haman was shamed and humiliated when he had to do all the things he had recommended to Mordecai. He was the one who had to lead the horse for Mordecai and proclaim that the king was honoring his worst enemy.

Haman went home to tell his family what had happened. Instead of hanging Mordecai that morning, he ended up honoring him. When his family realized that Mordecai was a Jewish man, they knew that no good would come to Haman. God would protect Mordecai and Haman would fail.

As Haman was talking with his family, a messenger sent word that it was time to go to the queen's banquet. That may have picked up Haman's spirits a bit. Even if his enemy had humiliated him, he still was being honored by the king and queen. So off Haman went.

Esther 6:14 says, *And while they were yet talking with him, came the king's chamberlains, and hastened to bring Haman unto the banquet that Esther had prepared.*

Esther 7:1 says, *So the king and Haman came to banquet with Esther the queen.*

After a wonderful meal, the king pushed back from the table and looked at Esther. He thought that she must want something more than just to invite him to a banquet. He may have thought, "Whatever the queen wants, it must be something big. She's really been buttering me up. But that's OK. I will give her anything she wants. Well, almost anything."

So the king asked Esther a second time. “What do you want, Queen Esther? I will give you anything up to half of my kingdom.”

Finally the time had come for Esther to tell the king what was on her mind. She probably breathed a prayer before she spoke. The lives of so many people depended on what would happen in the next few minutes. But Esther knew she would have to be courageous and tell the king about the wicked plot.

“O king, if I find favor in your sight, the only thing I ask is that you spare my life and the lives of my people. We have been sold to be destroyed. If you had intended to sell us for slaves, I would not have said anything. Our enemy means to harm us, but he will also do you great harm.”

The king was flabbergasted. What could the queen be talking about? Who would dare to harm his beloved queen?

“Who is he?” the king demanded. “Where is the man who would even dare to think to do you harm?”

*Esther 7:2-5 says, And the king said again unto Esther on the second day at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition, queen Esther? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? and it shall be performed, even to the half of the kingdom.*

*Then Esther the queen answered and said, If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request:*

*For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish. But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue, although the enemy could not countervail the king's damage.*

*Then the king Ahasuerus answered and said unto Esther the queen, Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?*

## **HAMAN'S FEAR**

It must have taken all the courage Esther had to speak next. As the king stared at the queen, waiting for her to tell him who wished her harm, the queen looked over at Haman. Then she spoke out bravely.

“Our enemy is this wicked Haman,” Esther exclaimed as she pointed at the man who had caused so much trouble.

Haman realized that he was in big, big trouble. He was terrified. I imagine all of Haman's pride flew out the window at that moment!

*Esther 7: 6 says, And Esther said, The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman. Then Haman was afraid before the king and the queen.*

The king was so angry that he got up and left the room. He must have wanted a minute to calm down and think about what Esther had told him. But the more he thought about it, the more upset he got. He did not calm down at all.

Haman realized that he was in more trouble than he had ever been. Foolishly he rushed at Esther to try to plead for his life. He knew the king would punish him severely and possibly take his life.

Just as Haman fell onto the couch where Esther was sitting, the king returned. He saw Haman sitting so close to the queen and he thought he was trying to attack the queen. That made the king more furious than he had been before.

At the king's command, the servants covered Haman's head with a cloth and they dragged him away. One of the servants pointed out to the king the gallows Haman had built to hang Mordecai on, and the king ordered that Haman be hanged instead. So, Haman was hanged from the very gallows he had built himself.

*Esther 7: 7-10 says, And the king arising from the banquet of wine in his wrath went into the palace garden: and Haman stood up to make request for his life to Esther the queen; for he saw that there was evil determined against him by the king.*

*Then the king returned out of the palace garden into the place of the banquet of wine; and Haman was fallen upon the bed whereon Esther was. Then said the king, Will he force the queen also before me in the house? As the word went out of the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.*

*And Harbonah, one of the chamberlains, said before the king, Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon.*

*So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then was the king's wrath pacified.*

#### **SAFE AT LAST**

It was now time for Esther to reveal the secret she had been keeping since the day she came to the palace. Esther told the king that she was a Jew. She told the king that Mordecai was her uncle.

When the king heard what Esther had to say, he called for Mordecai to be brought to his courtyard. The king took off his ring with the seal on it and he gave it to Mordecai. He made Mordecai an important man in his kingdom.

When Esther reminded the king that a law had been sent to all of his kingdom ordering the deaths of all Jews, the king took back the law. Because of Esther's humble prayers to God and her great courage to do what God wanted her to do, all the Jewish people were safe. They no longer had to fear for their lives.

Esther 8:1-3 says, *On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her.*

*And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.*

*And Esther spake yet again before the king, and fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears to put away the mischief of Haman the Agagite, and his device that he had devised against the Jews.*

## **ROYAL COURAGE**

It took courage for Queen Esther to save her people. First she had to have the courage to enter the king's presence without being called by him. The king could have been angry that Esther came when he hadn't asked to see her. He could have thought she was being over-confident and pushy.

It also took courage for Esther to tell the king what his favored advisor had done. Perhaps he would agree with Haman and want the Jews to be killed. Perhaps he would be angry to find that his queen was a Jew.

But Esther got her courage from the King of kings. She knew that the Jews were God's chosen people. God had always protected and provided for them. God loved them so much. When Esther humbly fasted and prayed, God gave her the wisdom to do the right thing. He gave her the wisdom to approach the subject slowly and not just barge in and demand that the king undo the damage Haman had done.

You can have the courage that Esther had also. And just like Esther, you need to get your courage from God, the King of kings.

God will give you the courage to stand up and do the right thing, even when it is the hard thing, if you humble yourself before Him. Maybe there are people around you who are tempting you to do something you ought not do. You may find it hard to say, "No." You may want others to like you. You may not want others to think you are strange. God wants you to have the courage to do the right thing. He wants you to love Him so much that you are more concerned with what He wants than with what others think.

God will give you the courage to face an enemy. There may be some hard things in your life that frighten you. You may not know what to do or what to say. God can give you the courage to face your enemy and face your fear. He can give you the courage to say, "I don't need to be filled with fear. My God is with me. He will help me."

God wants to give you the courage to tell others that you are a Christian. You may fear that others will laugh at you. You may fear that others just won't understand. Humbly ask God for courage to be a good witness and testimony to the unsaved people in your life. He will be happy to help you.

Maybe you are not a Christian. You do not have God's courage because you do not have God. God loves you so much that He wanted to make a way to spend all eternity with you in Heaven. But the Bible says that we are all born sinners and God hates sin. There is no way for you to get rid of your own sin. The Bible says that the wages, or payment, of sin is death. What can you do?

The Bible says that God loved you so much that He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to die on the cross in your place. Jesus paid your payment for sin when he died on the cross.

All you need to do is tell Jesus that you know you are a sinner. Tell Him how sorry you are for your sin. Then ask Him to take away your sin and come into your life. If you mean it, God knows your heart. God knows if you are serious. If you truly ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life, then He will!

When you ask Jesus to be your Savior, you will be a Christian. And you can know that every day you can look to God to give you the courage you need to face the problems in your life. God won't take away all your problems, but He will be there with you to help you and guide you through your problems.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Do you need courage to face something in your life? Get your courage from God. Here's how.

### 1. Find courage in God's Word.

God gave us His Word, the Bible, so that we can read it and see how others got courage from God. The story of how Esther got the courage to face the king and plead for the lives of her people is in the Bible to show us how to have the courage to face problems in our lives.

The Bible is so important. Read it every day and learn more and more about God!

### 2. Find courage in communicating with God.

How fortunate you are to be able to go to God in prayer any time you need to ask for some courage. God wants you to humbly speak with Him and He wants to speak to your heart. Make sure you take the time to keep in touch with Him.

3. Find courage in God's presence.

God is with you all the time. It is encouraging to know that you do not face life and its trials and troubles all alone. Just knowing that you are not alone is encouraging. Even better is knowing that the One who is with you is the Creator of the universe and the great and mighty King of kings.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to humbly look to Him for your courage.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What terrible thing did Haman do because he hated Mordecai?
2. Why did Haman hate Mordecai?
3. What courageous thing did Esther do when she found out about the plot to kill the Jews?
4. Recite today's memory verse.
5. What did Esther first request of the king?
6. What spoiled Haman's joy over being asked to dinner with the king and queen?
7. At the second banquet, what did Esther tell the king was her request?
8. What did the king do when he heard what Haman planned to do?
9. Why had Haman built the gallows?
10. What did the king do for Mordecai?



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LESSON 25

A HUMBLE CHILD  
A HUMBLE CHILD OF THE KING

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Esther - Review

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will display a humble spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

Proverbs 29:23



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

“I’m nobody!” you may think sometimes. But that is not true. You are somebody very important in God’s eyes. In fact, God loves you so much that He has wanted to adopt you into His family.

It is true, you were born a lost sinner. You could not save yourself. You weren’t worth much in that condition. But it is also true that if you have asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart, then God is now your Father. You are His child. While you should not be proud, but humble, you should also know that because you are God’s child, you can know that you have true worth and value in God’s eyes.

God is the King of the entire Universe. He is the great Creator. And now, He is your Father. He loves you very much. How special you are in His eyes!

Isaiah 43:4 says, *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee.*

**Today’s Life Lesson is:** I will display a humble spirit.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### ROYAL WATCHERS

Obtain Flash Card

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a prince or princess? It seems like it would be really wonderful, doesn’t it? It think it might be harder than you think.

We don’t have kings and queens, princes and princesses, here in the United States. But in many other countries there are still royals who rule.

I would imagine that all of you have heard of Prince Charles of England. His sister, Princess Anne, is not reported about as much here in our country, but she is still someone who people watch with great interest.

Not too long ago there was a news story reported about an outfit that Princess Anne wore. The outfit included a white hat with a white and orange dress. Nothing out of the ordinary about that, is there? But that outfit made the headlines in England and across the world. There

were pictures of the princess in the outfit and there were stories about it in both the newspapers and on the Internet.

Why? Because Princess Anne had worn that very same outfit 27 years before! The fact that she would wear the same outfit twice in public was totally unheard of! It was considered a scandal that the princess would wear the same outfit twice, even if it was 27 years apart!

The article showed photos of the Princess in the same dress and hat both times she wore it. In one photo, you could tell it was the princess at the present time. In the other, it was the princess at a much younger age. (Show Flash Card)

“So what?” you might think. “I wear the same clothing all the time. I wore the same thing I have on now just two weeks ago. What’s the big deal?”

To you and me, it isn’t a big deal. We re-wear the same clothing all the time. But apparently a princess should never be caught wearing the same outfit more than one time. It is just unheard of! A princess should have more pride in herself than to wear the same outfit twice!

The article said that Princess Anne claimed she was wearing the outfit again because she was trying to be frugal. In order to use her money wisely, she didn’t think it was terrible to wear the same outfit again every twenty or thirty years. I wonder how many dresses she has in her closet? Apparently thousands if she can’t re-wear anything more than once in such a long time!

It may seem silly to worry about what Princess Anne wears, but lots of people do care. She represents her kingdom to the world. Everything she wears, everywhere she goes, and everything she does is under close scrutiny. What others think of her, they often think the same thing about her mother, the queen. What others think of her, they often think the same thing about her country.

You see, even though it looks like it would be really fun to be royalty, a prince or a princess faces things we would never even think about. You would never think twice about the clothing you put on in the morning. You most likely have never asked yourself, “I wonder if anyone will notice if I wear this outfit again? Will newspapers around the world run photos of me wearing this twice and imply that I have done something wrong?”

Wherever there are royals, there are royal watchers. There are people who take note of everything they do, say, and wear. When royalty go to an event, there are people there taking photos of them. When they make a statement, everyone reads or hears what they said. The news people analyze their words. Someone writes it all down, and it is never forgotten.

A child of royalty does more than just sit around all day, wearing new clothing, eating great food, and watching sports events. You see, the royals have a full-time job of attending those events, making statements, and meeting people. That’s their job.

What? Their job? Yes. They represent their father, the king, and they represent their country by going about their father’s business. They raise money for charities by attending events. They show good will to others by visiting other countries. Everything they say and do reflects on their

father. If they behave wisely, then their father is looked on favorably. But if they behave foolishly, then their father has cause to be embarrassed. The entire country is shamed.

When the princesses of Monaco were younger, they often acted wild and partied. There were photos of them behaving badly in newspapers all across the world. I imagine their father, the king of Monaco, was embarrassed. They did not do a good job of representing him. They brought him shame.

You are a child of the King of kings. Whether you know it or not, you are royalty. If you are a Christian, you are a child of the King of the Universe. Everything you say and do is noted by others. They are watching the way you live.

Everything you say and do either reflects favorably on your Father, or it is a dishonor to Him. When you behave yourself wisely in front of the World, then you represent your Father well. If you behave yourself foolishly, then you shame your Father.

The Bible says that we should not be proud of ourselves, but instead be humble. But we can be proud of our God. And we should do everything we can to represent Him in a good way. We should be humble representatives of our Great God.

What kind of representative are you for your Father the King? It's not always easy to be a good representative for your Father, the King, but you should be! You should love God so much that you want others to look at your life and think well of God. You should want others to want to be a child of the King also because they see how much you love your King.

So, Princes and Princesses, be aware that others are watching you. They are forming opinions about your Father, the King, according to what they see you do and say. Determine to be the kind of humble representative of the King that will bring glory and honor to Him!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach one or two of the verses. First start with reviewing the verses. Then have them say them with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*  
Proverbs 29:23

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Esther - Review

### LESSON

#### ESTHER WAS HUMBLE

There are so many lessons we can learn from the life of Queen Esther. One important lesson is that Esther was humble. She didn't start life as an important princess who lived in a palace and had great wealth and power. No. Instead, Esther started life in quite the opposite way. First, she was a Jewish girl. Her people were foreigners in the Persian empire. Many years before, when the Babylonians had come to Judah, her people had been carried away as captives. Many of the people of Persia may have looked down on the Jewish people for that reason.

Esther also lost her parents when she was a little girl. She was reared by her uncle. Although her uncle loved her and took good care of her, I am sure she missed her parents very much.

Esther was not rich. She was a simple girl. She had a humble heart.

Esther 2:7-8 says, *And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter.*

*So it came to pass, when the king's commandment and his decree was heard, and when many maidens were gathered together unto Shushan the palace, to the custody of Hegai, that Esther was brought also unto the king's house, to the custody of Hegai, keeper of the women.*

When Esther was taken to be presented to the king, she was humble enough to do what the king's servant recommended. She didn't demand to be given expensive jewels or any special treatment. When she went before the king, I am sure that her humble spirit was part of what made her so attractive to the king.

Esther 2:15 says, *15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

It is a sin to be filled with pride, but God honors and helps those who have a humble spirit.

Proverbs 29:23 says, *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.*

## ESTHER WAS OBEDIENT

Esther was an obedient person.

Esther could have been an angry person. She could have been angry with God for taking her parents away from her. She could have been angry with her uncle for trying to take the place of her parents. But Esther did not resent her uncle or God because her parents had been taken away from her. She did not pout and make life miserable for those around her. Instead, she seemed to be a grateful girl who was obedient to her uncle. And later in her story we learn that she was also obedient to God.

God certainly knew that Esther had an obedient heart. He knew that when Haman tried to kill the Jewish people in that land, He could use Esther to stop that wicked man. God planned for Esther to be the queen for that very purpose.

Esther's uncle told her in Esther 4:14b *Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

God had a plan for Esther and she was an obedient servant who carried out God's plan.

## ESTHER HAD COURAGE

I don't think it was easy for Esther to have courage. It didn't come naturally to her. When her uncle told her to go to the king, her heart must have skipped a beat. She knew the king had not called for her in a month and she knew that no one could approach the king without him calling for that person. What should she do? To go to the king uncalled could mean her death.

Esther 4:11 says, *All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

Esther asked her uncle and her maids and all the Jewish people to fast and pray with her. Even though courage was not easy for Esther, she knew where to go for her source of courage. She knew God would give her the courage she needed.

Esther 4:16-17 says, *Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.*

*So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.*

When the time came to go to the king, she got herself ready, she stood up tall and straight, and she depended on God to help her.

Esther 5:1-2 says, *Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.*

*And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

Courage is not the lack of fear. Courage is humbly depending on God to help you do a hard thing that frightens you and trusting Him to help you.

### **ESTHER HAD WISDOM**

Esther was a wise woman. When she first went to the palace, she listened to the wise advice of her uncle and she learned from the servants who worked in the palace.

*Esther 2:15 Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her.*

Esther was also wise because she sought God's help. She was smart enough and humble enough to know that God would show her what to do if she took the time to ask.

*Esther 4:15-16 says, Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,*

*Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.*

Esther wisely waited on God's time. She didn't rush ahead and do things the wrong way. Instead she waited for God to tell her the perfect time to carry out His plan. At the right time she told the king her request to save her people.

*Esther 5:6-8 says, And the king said unto Esther at the banquet of wine, What is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: and what is thy request? even to the half of the kingdom it shall be performed.*

*Then answered Esther, and said, My petition and my request is;*

*If I have found favour in the sight of the king, and if it please the king to grant my petition, and to perform my request, let the king and Haman come to the banquet that I shall prepare for them, and I will do to morrow as the king hath said.*

### **YOU CAN BE LIKE QUEEN ESTHER**

#### **1. Be Humble.**

God wants you to have a humble heart just as Esther did.

You were born a lost sinner. You were not a child of God. But God made you His dear child. Don't be proud of yourself. Instead, be thankful to be God's child.

It is easy to be full of pride. It is easy to get all puffed up about how talented you are, or how pretty and popular you are, or how athletic you are. It is easy to brag about your money, or your friends, or all the gadgets you own.

Pride is such a deceptive thing. You see, pride says, “Wow! Aren’t you great. Haven’t you done so many great things? Don’t you look so handsome or beautiful? Don’t you have such cool friends? Aren’t you so full of talent?”

Pride takes all the credit. But that is a lie. The credit should all go to God. He created you. If He would choose, you could stop breathing or thinking at any time. You do not make yourself look the way you look. You do not give yourself the talents you have. You may work hard to develop your talents, but God even gives you the ability to do that. Without God, you would be nothing, you could do nothing.

You really don’t have anything to be proud about. That is why God wants you to be humble. A humble spirit shows God and others that you don’t think you are great, instead you think your God is great! He is the one who deserves your honor and praise. He deserves the credit for all the good you do.

James 4:10 says, *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

## 2. Be Obedient.

God wants you to be obedient like Esther was. At some point in Esther’s life, she must have decided to love and serve God. She must have decided to be an obedient servant of God.

You must make a decision in life about who you will to serve. You can either serve your own self or you can serve God. When you decide to serve self, you are deciding to serve sin. It is selfish, prideful, and sinful to serve yourself. And serving self never brings peace or joy. But when you decide to serve God and obey Him, then you are making a choice you will never regret.

Romans 6:16 says, *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

I know that Esther was happy that she decided to serve God and be obedient to him. She was so happy she could save her people by being obedient to God.

Just as God placed Esther in the palace so she could carry out God’s plan to save her people, God has a plan for your life. He has a specific purpose for putting you in the exact place where you are. It is not a mistake that you were born into your family. It is not a mistake you live where you live or that you have the life you have. God planned it all for you.

What is God’s plan for your life? I can’t tell you. I don’t know and you may not know for years to come either. But someday God will show you His plan. Will you be willing to obey God when He shows you His plan for you?

God has a different plan for each person. God may want you to go to a mission field. God may want some of you to be preachers or Sunday School teachers. He may want you to sing in the choir or be a godly mother or father who rears their children to love and serve God. Whatever God plans for your life, it will be the best plan for you because God always does everything for your good and His glory.

### 3. Be Courageous.

God wants you to have the courage of Esther.

There are things in life that will frighten you. There are problems that will seem too big for you to solve. When problems come along, you may be tempted to run away from your problems. You may be tempted to shake in fear.

God wants you to have courage. If you do, then God promises that He will be with you. He promises to help you. God is a great God. No problem is too big for Him. So have the courage to trust God to help you in your time of need.

Deuteronomy 31:6 says, *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*

### 4. Be Wise.

Just as Esther got her wisdom from God, you can too.

A wise person humbly asks God what to do. A wise person waits on God's perfect time. So be wise. Don't leave God out of your decisions. Don't rush ahead of God.

Proverbs 1:5 says, *A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.*

Proverbs 2:6 says, *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

I hope you are like Esther in many ways in your life. The first way you need to be like Esther is that you need to love and trust God as she did.

Are you a child of God? Is He your Father and your Guide in life? If you have never asked Jesus Christ to forgive your sin and come into your life, then God is not your Father. But He wants to be.

God loved you so much that He sent Jesus Christ to earth to die on the cross for your sins. Jesus took your place and because of that, you can have your sin forgiven.

Today we can have someone take a Bible and show you some verses that will show you how you can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. Would you like to do that?

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to spend some time this week thinking about our stories from Esther's life. Do you have the character qualities that she had? If not, you can ask God to help you develop those qualities. As a child of the King of kings, you should reflect these traits.

1. Be humble. Don't be proud of yourself, instead, boast about your great God.
2. Be obedient. Be willing to obey so that when God shows you His plan for your life, you will be ready to serve Him.
3. Have courage. Even if you don't have much courage of your own, ask God to give you courage when problems come up in life. Then trust God to help and guide you.
4. Have wisdom. The Bible says that we are not supposed to lean on our own wisdom or understanding. Instead it is wise to trust in God and to acknowledge that He is the true source of wisdom.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to humble yourself so you can develop godly character traits. You may not be a king or a queen, but you are the child of the King of kings.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who was Mordecai?
2. How do we know that Esther was a humble person?
3. What did God have planned for Esther when He placed her in the palace?
4. What secret did Mordecai ask Esther to keep?
5. What did Esther do when she found out she had to go to the king without being called?
6. Why did Haman want to kill the Jewish people?
7. What wise request did Esther make of the king?
8. Recite today's memory verse.
9. Where can we find wisdom?
10. Who is the King of kings?

# A Humble Child of the King



A man's pride shall bring him low:  
but honour shall uphold the humble in  
spirit. Proverbs 29:23

I will display a  
humble spirit.

When others look at you, they should see someone  
who is a good representative for your Father, the King.

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Write all the number 1 letters in order on the lines below. Then write all  
the number 2 letters in order. Then the number 3 letters and so on.



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LESSON 26

**A DARING CHILD  
DARE TO HAVE A CHANGED HEART**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 4:1-16

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Wendy had a pet rabbit named Frisky. Frisky was a sweet little bunny. She was a miniature rabbit that would never grow larger than the size of a small kitten. She had soft white fur and little pink eyes.

In the morning Wendy would often let Frisky out of her cage. Frisky would hop around and if Wendy sat on the couch, Frisky would jump up and sit on her lap. Whenever Wendy brought something to eat into the living room, Frisky had to jump up to inspect the food. If it smelled tasty, then she insisted Wendy break off a nibble or two and let her eat it. Frisky especially loved grapes, raisins, and candy bars. Wendy always kept a Snickers bar in the refrigerator that belonged just to Frisky.

Frisky was a sweet bunny, but she could also be very disobedient. Frisky loved to chew on things. She especially loved to chew on electrical cords. Wendy knew it could be very dangerous for Frisky to chew on a cord that was plugged into the wall, but since Frisky was just a rabbit, it was hard to explain to her why she shouldn't chew on cords.

But Frisky did understand a few simple commands. She knew the word "No!" Most of the time Frisky was obedient when she heard Wendy say, "No!" but not always.

Frisky loved to go into the bathroom to see if Wendy's hot curler cord was hanging down from the counter. Many times Wendy forgot to put the curler away. In the evening, Wendy could see Frisky sitting in the hallway in front of the bathroom door. Wendy knew that Frisky was itching to go into the bathroom to look for the cord. So Wendy would say a stern, "No!" and Frisky would hunker down in front of the door and watch Wendy.

Every once in a while, when Frisky thought Wendy was not watching, she would dart into the bathroom. The minute she heard Wendy say, "No!" Frisky would dart back into the hallway and take up her position by the door again.

That would go on all evening, again and again. Frisky wanted so badly to chew on the cord, but she also knew she had to obey Wendy. She didn't really want to obey.

You can sometimes be caught in a cycle of sin. You can know not to do something, but the desire to do it is much stronger than your desire to do the right thing. Sometimes it takes real daring and courage to obey God. But if you dare to obey, then you will please God!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

### SONG TIME

## SUPPORTING STORY

### TYLER'S TEMPTATION

Cheryl Reid

#### Obtain Flash Card

Tyler walked slowly through the aisles of the sports section in the local department store. There were so many things he wanted! Everywhere he looked he saw something else he just couldn't do without. He really wanted a new tent for camping in the back yard, and his ball glove was getting old and too small for his growing hand. He needed shin guards for soccer, and a new seat for his bike, and a decent football would be nice, and on, and on, and on. I can't believe all this stuff! Stacks and stacks of sports gear that I need, Tyler thought to himself. And all of a sudden, another thought entered his mind. They wouldn't miss just one little ball glove; I could hide it under my coat and walk right out of the store! (Show Flash Card)

Tyler's eyes widened as he realized what he had considered doing. Where did that idea come from? he asked himself. Never before had Tyler ever considered stealing anything! The thought made him nervous, so he quickly headed to the food section to find his mom.

Tyler tried to act normally when he spotted his mom finishing up her shopping in the frozen foods section. He smiled as he joined her and began pushing the heavy cart.

"Would you like to pick out some ice cream?" Mom asked.

Tyler didn't answer; he was still thinking about what almost happened in the sports section and never even heard his mom ask the question.

"Tyler, are you even listening to me?" Mom asked. "It's not like you to pass up the opportunity to pick out some ice cream!"

"I'm sorry, Mom. I guess I was thinking about something else. I don't really want any ice cream this week." Tyler tried to forget about the temptation to steal, but his mind wasn't cooperating very well. He wasn't even listening to his mom! He shook his head from side to side, trying to clear his brain of the troubling thoughts.

"Do you feel sick?" Mom asked. "I've never known you to refuse ice cream! Maybe we should take your temperature when we get home." Mom felt Tyler's forehead to see if he had a fever. "You are a little sweaty, but no fever. Maybe you're just tired from school."

"Yes, that's probably it," Tyler agreed. "But I'm okay, Mom. Don't worry."

Tyler knew why he was sweaty; he was jumpy and nervous about what he had been tempted to do. He knew how wrong it would be to take something from the store.

Later that evening, Tyler and his dad were in the garage emptying the trash. "Dad," Tyler said, "when you were my age, were you ever tempted to do something really wrong?"

Dad sat on the stool at his workbench and crossed his arms. “Oh, I can remember a few times that I could have gotten myself into really big trouble if I hadn’t prayed and asked the Lord for strength to do right. Have you found yourself in one of those situations?”

“I sure have,” Tyler admitted. “Dad, today at the department store, I thought about stealing a baseball glove. I found one I really liked, and I tried it on. It felt so good on my hand. Just like it was made for me. I liked the smell of the leather and the feel of the grip. And for a few seconds, I thought about taking it! It really scared me!”

“Well, that’s a good sign,” Dad smiled. “If you hadn’t felt afraid, you might have gone ahead with what you were thinking. What made you stop?”

“I just thought about how wrong it would be. Do you think that it was the Lord Who was warning me to get away? I started getting all sweaty and nervous, so I found Mom, and I felt so strange that I didn’t even hear her ask me if I wanted ice cream!”

Dad smiled. “I know it was the Lord, Tyler. You are a Christian, and the Holy Spirit lives inside you. He helps us know when we are about to do something wrong. He gives us the strength to run away from sin, just as you did today.”

“I’m so glad!” Tyler said. “I could have really gotten into trouble!”

Several days later, Tyler and his dad were at the department store to get the oil changed in the car. “Let’s look around while they finish up,” Dad suggested. As they were walking through the sports section, Dad wanted Tyler to show him the glove he had picked out. Tyler led Dad to the baseball section and picked up the glove.

“It’s a nice one, for sure,” Dad agreed. “And the price isn’t too bad, either. Tell you what; why don’t we get this one? Your hand really has grown a lot in the past year, and you need a bigger glove for next baseball season.”

Tyler grinned. “For real, Dad?”

“Why not?” Dad said. “You need it, and I want to buy it for you.”

“Wow! Thanks, Dad!”

Just then, an orange blur ran by them with a store security guard close behind.

“What was that?” Tyler asked.

“Well, I think it was a thief about to be caught! It looks like not everyone who is tempted is able to overcome the urge to steal.”

As Dad and Tyler walked toward the front of the store to pay for the ball glove, they saw a boy in an orange sweatshirt sitting in a chair by the store office. His head hung very low, and a security guard stood beside him. Tyler swallowed hard, wondering what it would be like to be

sitting in that chair himself. He knew it would be the worst day of his life. He remembered how he had felt after just being tempted to steal; it would be so much worse if he had actually committed a crime!

Just then the boy looked up and noticed Tyler watching him. Although he tried to hide it, he had been crying. Tyler could tell the boy was afraid of what was going to happen to him.

Dad finished paying for the glove and walked with Tyler out to the car. As they drove home, Tyler was very quiet. Dad knew he was thinking about the fact that he could have been the boy sitting there beside the security guard and waiting for the police.

“God is good to us, isn’t he?” Dad said, as he turned the car into the driveway.

Tyler agreed. “Dad, what would I have done if I didn’t have the Lord to help me run away from sin?”

“I’m glad you don’t even have to think about it,” Dad said.

“AMEN!” Tyler agreed.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 4:1-16

### LESSON

#### THE CYCLE OF SIN

These were troubled times for the nation of Israel. They were in the land which God had given to them, but after Joshua died, along with all those who had seen for themselves what God had done for Israel in the past, Israel began to sin against God.

The troubled times for Israel were brought on by themselves. They continually fell back into worshipping false gods. This would anger God because He told them very plainly they were never to worship false gods.

But Israel did not listen to God. They were stubborn and determined to do as they pleased. To bring the people back to Him, God would allow a heathen country to come make war with them. Sometimes parts of Israel would be taken prisoner and they would be forced to be slaves to those who conquered them.

Then they would cry to God. God would have mercy and send a judge to deliver them from the enemy. As long as the judge lived, they obeyed God. But the minute the judge died, they would go back to the sin of idol worship.

Would they never learn?

The Israelites were caught in a cycle of sin. The short version of the book of Judges reads like this:

1. Israel sins against God.
2. God sends a heathen country to defeat and oppress Israel as punishment.
3. Israel cries for mercy to God.
4. God has mercy and sends a judge to deliver Israel.
5. Israel obeys God until the judge dies.
6. Israel sins against God again.

On and on the cycle goes. Israel never seemed to learn that if they would just dare to obey God and stay away from idol worship, God would continually bless them.

A cycle is when something happens over and over in the same manner. That was happening to Israel. Over and over they would disobey God and over and over God would do what was necessary to bring Israel back to Him.

God was patient with Israel because He loved them. He allowed punishment to come into their lives because He wanted them to repent and come back to Him. He did not enjoy punishing Israel. God's greatest desire was for Israel to live in peace and joy. But the only way they could do that was to be obedient to God. When they disobeyed, God was forced to punish them.

#### **CLEAR COMMANDS**

God would send a judge to deliver Israel and to bring them back into close fellowship with Him. There were many different judges that God sent. They would faithfully go rescue Israel. Then the judge would teach the people about God and tell them what they had to do to be obedient to God.

God was very clear in His commandments. The very first of the ten commandments says in Exodus 20:3, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

The second commandment in Exodus 20:4 says, *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

Both commandments are very clear. God was telling His people that He was the only one true God. He will not share His glory with a false god.

God would also not tolerate His people worshiping a false god.

The people would listen. For a few years they would obey. But Israel had very short memories. As soon as the current judge died, then there wasn't anyone there to warn them to obey God. So they would again look around at the people they lived near. They saw the heathen people worshiping idols. For some reason, they liked the idea of worshiping idols. So they would set up altars to false gods and they would begin to worship idols once again.

They would promptly break the first two commandments.

#### **A FEMALE JUDGE**

So the beginning of today's story finds Israel once again defeated and oppressed by Jabin the king of Canaan. They had turned their backs on God and fallen into sin again.

God allowed King Jabin to defeat Israel. Jabin was a mighty king with 900 chariots made of iron. That means he had a big enough and rich enough country to afford a large, strong army. Israel was no match for them when God was not on their side. So Israel became enslaved by them.

In the past, under Joshua, Jabin's country had been defeated and were slaves of Israel. But now the tables had turned. Because of Israel's sin, God allowed this country to conquer Israel. It

must have seemed like a great victory to Jabin to defeat Israel. He must have enjoyed troubling Israel in revenge for what they had done to his country in the past.

For twenty years the Israelites were the captives of King Jabin.

God made Deborah a judge over Israel. We don't often see women being leaders in the Bible, but God does hold women in high esteem. He chose to honor them often in the Bible by telling their stories. But in the book of Judges it tells us God appointed a woman to be a judge over Israel.

Judges 4:4 says, *And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.*

Deborah was a woman that was close to God. She was a woman who dared to obey even when others only disobeyed. If she had not been a godly woman, then God would not have selected her to represent Him to the people of Israel. But because Deborah stayed close to God and was obedient to God, she was honored by God. He selected her to be a prophetess or a judge of Israel.

Deborah would sit under a palm tree and the people would come to her. She would decide in matters of business between the people.

The day came when Deborah knew that God intended to deliver His children from the oppression of King Jabin. So Deborah called to Barak, who was a man of war, to come help her. Barak was a commander in the army of Israel.

Barak came to Deborah. She had a conference with him and told him the battle plan they should follow. Deborah knew what to do because God told her.

First she told Barak to gather an army of 10,000 men of Israel. She named two tribes to call on for men to come fight. Then she told Barak she would cause the army of King Jabin to come to fight on Mount Tabor. King Jabin's army was under the command of his general, Sisera.

Deborah said she would draw out the enemy. Then she would give Israel the victory. Now, Deborah was very sure of herself and very daring, but not because she had any special powers to do the things she promised. Instead she was confident of what she said because she knew this was what God wanted her to say. God told her to take this action, so she knew that if she obeyed she could completely trust God to give the victory.

Barak liked the idea of fighting the enemy so Israel could be freed from their oppression, but he did not like the idea of going into battle. He was surely a brave man, but it had been a long time since God had gone to battle for Israel. He wanted Deborah to go with him so he could be sure God's presence would be with him. He knew God was with Deborah.

So Deborah agreed to go to the battlefield with him, but she warned him that everyone would give her the credit, not him. She told him that others would say the Lord gave the enemy into the hands of a woman.

Barak agreed. He did not want to go alone.

Judges 4:8-9 says, *And Barak said unto her, If thou wilt go with me, then I will go: but if thou wilt not go with me, then I will not go.*

*And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honour; for the LORD shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kadesh.*

Word soon got to General Siscera that the Israelites had formed an army. So he went to meet them and he was prepared to fight. I doubt that General Siscera expected much of a battle to occur. His army greatly out-weighted the Israelites in every possible way. He had his men get the chariots ready and away he went to meet the Israelites. Can you imagine what it must have looked like to see 900 chariots come rolling up? And behind the chariots were huge battalions of soldiers. That must have been a sight to put fear in the heart of any ordinary man!

But it did not put fear in Deborah's heart. Instead she took one look at those chariots and men of war and she bravely encouraged Barak to go get them.

Judges 4:14a says, *And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the LORD hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the LORD gone out before thee?*

Deborah had no doubt that God was with Israel and would give them the victory. She encouraged Barak to go to battle because God would be with them. So Barak went and fought. And God did give victory. Even with all of General Sisera's strong iron chariots and horses and mighty men with swords, the Israelites soon had the upper hand. God was fighting for them.

The battle become so fierce that General Sisera jumped off his chariot and ran away like a coward. The men who were left behind without a commander were killed by the men of Israel.

Judges 4:14b-16 says, *So Barak went down from mount Tabor, and ten thousand men after him.*

*And the LORD discomfited Sisera, and all his chariots, and all his host, with the edge of the sword before Barak; so that Sisera lighted down off his chariot, and fled away on his feet.*

*But Barak pursued after the chariots, and after the host, unto Harosheth of the Gentiles: and all the host of Sisera fell upon the edge of the sword; and there was not a man left.*

No matter the odds, God can give victory.

## **A CHANGE OF HEART**

Again Israel was about to enter a time when they would serve and obey God. At least for as long as Deborah was the judge. Sadly, years later they would once more turn away and forget all about God. The cycle of sin would begin all over.

God wanted to be their leader. He wanted the people to follow and obey Him, not just because they wanted to get rid of their enemies, but because they truly loved Him. But Israel would not stay true to God. They didn't truly love God.

What the Israelites really needed was a change of heart. If they had learned to love God with all of their heart, then they would have found it easy to obey God's commands not to worship false gods.

This is not one of the ten commandments, but it is something that God commanded Moses at a different time, so it is something the Israelites were supposed to obey. And if they had obeyed it, they would have had no problem with the cycle of sin that enslaved them.

Deuteronomy 6:5 says, *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

When you truly love someone, you want to make them happy. You want to do everything you can to be pleasing in their sight. You want to be close to them. If Israel had tried with all their heart to love God, then they would never have thought about worshiping false gods.

But Israel did not love God the way they should. Instead they saw God more as a magic genie who would appear to help them when they were in trouble. When they weren't in trouble, they wanted God to go back into His bottle and leave them alone. As soon as things were going well again, it seemed to them that God wasn't watching and they could do what they wanted to do.

Israel is not the only one who obeys God only when He is looking. They are not the only ones who are quick to disobey when He seems to be looking the other way. Sometimes we do the same thing.

Have you ever had your mom tell you to do something that you weren't too happy to do? Suppose it was cleaning your room. While Mom is standing in the doorway to your room watching, you go about cleaning the room. You may not feel like it, but you know you have no choice. But the minute Mom steps away, you slow your pace or stop completely. You find something else that occupies your attention. You forget all about obeying your mom until she comes back and looks in your room and exclaims, "What are you doing? I told you to clean your room. Now get back to work!"

We can easily fall into a cycle of sin also. It may be a sin against your parents or against another person. It may be a sin of a bad attitude or of a sinful action. You probably can think in your mind right now and know what cycle of sin you battle in your life.

First you commit the sin.

Then you are defeated by the sin.

If you get caught, you cry for help.

God forgives and restores you.

Then you forget what God did for you and you sin again.

You see, it is a sin whenever you disobey your parents. It is a sin when you do something that displeases God. It is a sin when you have a wrong attitude. A sin can be so much more than lying, cheating, and stealing. A sin can be putting something else before your love for God. That is what Israel did. They worshiped idols instead of worshiping the true God.

But just as Israel could have broken the cycle of sin and gained the victory, you can learn a lesson from their mistakes and break the cycle of sin in your life. You can dare to have a changed heart that is obedient to God.

How? The same way Israel could have broken their cycle of sin. The Bible verse that told Israel to love God is the same verse that is in your Bible. If you can learn to love God with all of your heart, then you can have victory over sin also. You can have a changed heart.

Remember, Deuteronomy 6:5 says, *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

If you truly love God, then you will want to live for Him. You will want to serve Him. You will want to obey His Word.

By loving God, I don't just mean some mushy, gooey feeling. True love shows itself in your attitudes and your actions. It is yielding to God in obedience from the inside first with your attitudes and then from the outside with your actions. When you truly love God you yield to Him with a heart that desires to please Him. You yield to Him in all you say and do.

### **HOW ABOUT YOU?**

How about you? Do you need to dare to have a change of heart? God will change your heart if you ask Him and if you are willing to yield your heart and life to Him. It's not always an easy thing to do, but dare to do what is right and God will help you!

Maybe you have never given your heart to God. You can do that today. Jesus Christ died for your sins because He loves you. All you have to do is tell God you are sorry for your sins, ask Jesus to forgive you, and He will. Today we can show you how to do that.

Maybe you have given your heart to God, but you know there are other things that tend to crowd God out. There are other things that tempt you to love them and to forget God. You love your sin more than you love God.

Why don't you decide today to break the cycle of sin in your life? Give your complete love to God. And show your love by yielding to Him and obeying Him every day.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to dare to break the cycle of sin in your life. Maybe you need to spend a some quiet time examining your heart. What kind of attitudes do you display to others? Are they godly attitudes?

What kind of actions control your life? Are they godly actions?

What kind of words come out of your mouth? Are they godly words?

Who do you really worship? Do you worship idols? Do you put anything before your love of God?

If you find some area where God is showing you that you need to change, then you need to talk with God. Ask Him to help you to change your heart. And ask Him to help it be a permanent change, not just another part of the cycle.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to have a change of heart.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What was the name of the king who took Israel captive in our story?
2. What was the name of the King's general?
3. How many chariots were in King Jabin's army?
4. What were the chariots made of?
5. What was the name of the Judge in today's story?
6. Who did Deborah call on to lead the army of Israel?
7. How many soldiers did Barak gather to fight King Jabin's army?
8. Recite today's memory verse.
9. What did Barak ask Deborah to do?
10. What happened during the battle?

# Dare to have a Changed Heart



I can do all things through Christ  
which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13

I will dare to obey  
God.

- Army
- Barak
- Battle
- Captive
- Chariots
- Cycle
- Deborah
- Disobey
- Enemy
- False gods
- Heart
- Idol
- Israel
- Judge
- Love
- Mercy
- Obey
- Punish
- Sin
- Slaves
- Trouble
- Victory
- Worship
- Yield

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LESSON 27

**A DARING CHILD  
DARE TO BE MIGHTY FOR GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 6:1-12

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard this song? “Twinkle, twinkle little star. How I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high, like a diamond in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle, little star. How I wonder what you are.”

A long time ago someone wrote that simple song. They didn’t know much about stars. They wondered what a star was.

Today we know a lot more about stars, planets, and everything in our universe. We have sent space ships into space and have put a man on the moon.

But even with all we know about space, it is still amazing to look up into the night sky. We still love to go star gazing. We love to admire the beauty of space. Isn’t it amazing to think that God only had to speak a single word and the stars, the planets, and the entire universe appeared?

God is mighty and powerful. He is more amazing than our minds can imagine. Yet this mighty God is our Father. He loves us. He wants to work through our lives. And all He asks is that we have the faith to trust Him and obey Him. When we dare to trust and obey God, then we can do mighty things for Him. Do you have a daring faith in our mighty, awesome God?

**Today’s Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### Thunderstruck

Obtain Flash Card

It was summer and Justin and his family decided to take a vacation at one of the small lakes in Southern Michigan. Justin’s best friend, Zach, came along too. They spent the week in a couple of tents that they pitched at a site in a State Park. The park had a big lake as well as a large wooded area that was full of trails. You could wander around for hours on the trails.

It was a warm sunny week and they had been having a wonderful time. Early every morning Dad took Justin and Zach out for a swim while Mom stayed at the campsite and fixed a big breakfast. Mom said it was too early to swim and she’d rather get breakfast ready. So Justin, Zach, and Dad would head out for what Dad called a Polar Bear swim. The water felt icy to Justin, but he didn’t want to admit it. If Dad and Zach could plunge into the cold water and take a vigorous swim, then so could he. And the thought of pancakes, bacon, orange juice, stewed apples, and hot cocoa warmed his soul, if not his body.

After breakfast, Mom and Dad relaxed on the beach. Dad worked hard all year and said this was one week he wanted to take it easy. The boys spent most of their days swimming or hiking the trails in the woods that lay just beyond the beach area. There were all sorts of fun places to explore.

One afternoon, right after they had gobbled down grilled hot dogs and chips, the boys decided to take a hike. Mom was a stickler about the “no swimming for a half hour after eating” rule, so Justin and Zach decided to explore a trail they had discovered the day before but hadn’t had the time to walk it.

Time got away from them as they climbed the trail. They also didn’t notice that the sky was filling with dark, heavy clouds. It was always shady and dark in the woods but all of a sudden the boys noticed it was darker than usual. Then they felt the wind begin to blow.

“Listen,” said Zach.

“What?” Justin asked. “I don’t hear anything.”

“Exactly,” said Zach. “Listen to how silent it is. No birds singing, nothing. It’s like we are all alone in the woods.”

Zach was right. The silence was a bit eerie. Just a few minutes before, they could hear the chatter of squirrels, and the chirping of birds. Now the only sound was the rustle of leaves as the wind blew through them. And the wind was getting stronger all the time.

“I think we better head back to the camp.” Justin said.

Just then the first drop of rain began to fall. And it wasn’t a gentle rain. It seem to come down heavier than any rain Justin had ever seen. The two boys began to run down the path toward the opening of the woods. They had been wandering for about half an hour, so it would be awhile before they got back.

As they ran, Justin led the way. The rain was coming down so hard that they could barely see the path ahead of them. They were constantly wiping rain from their eyes. In just seconds they were drenched and everything looked so different from what it had just minutes before.

Then the thunder began to rumble and they could hear lightning strike in the distance. It sounded like it was coming from over where the lake was located. As they ran, the lightning kept getting closer. Justin had heard somewhere that you could tell how close the lightning was by counting between the time you heard the thunder rumble and when you actually saw or heard the lightning strike. For every second you could count, it was a mile away. Justin realized that the last thunder rumble hadn’t even been one second from the last lightning strike. They were awfully close to the lightning!

“Do you think we should try to find someplace to wait this out?” Zach shouted to Justin.

“No. Mom and Dad would be worried. Plus, I don’t think it’s too safe out here.” Justin replied as he turned to look at Zach who was close behind him.

Just then the thunder sounded and Justin turned in time to see a great bolt of lightning strike the top of a tall tree just a few feet ahead of them. (Show Flash Card) The bolt of lightning ripped down the trunk of the tree and Justin felt like he was fixed to the spot where he stood. The sound was deafening.

Zach grabbed Justin's arm and dragged him backwards as quickly as he could. In a second the lightning was gone and right in front of them the huge tree split directly down the center. Half stood upright and the other half crashed to the ground breaking other smaller trees as it fell.

The two boys stared at each other without saying a word for a second. They could smell burning wood. Wisps of smoke were rising from the fallen part of the tree even as the rain continued.

Then the boys began to run again. They ran around the upright part of the tree and back toward camp. Just before they got to the clearing, Justin's dad came running down the trail in their direction. Justin was never so glad to see his father as he was just then.

When they were all safely in the tent and the worst of the storm had passed, Justin found that he still was shaking on the inside as well as the outside. And it wasn't because he was cold. That had been too close for him!

Dad handed Justin a towel and he began to rub his hair dry. Dad settled on the ground in front of Justin.

"Are you okay, son?" Dad asked.

"I don't know," Justin answered. "That was pretty scary."

"Anyone would be frightened if they were where you two boys were when lightning struck. The Lord truly protected you! The ground could have conducted electricity around the tree as the lightning struck."

"Zach grabbed me. He must have pulled us far enough away," Justin said with a weak smile in Zach's direction.

"Boy," said Zach, "That sure was some storm. I hope I never see another storm like that!"

"Oh, you will," said Dad. "You'll experience many more storms in your life time. You both will. Some worse than that, I suppose. It kind of reminds me of the storms of life. You never know when a problem will come up. They can pop into your life as quickly as today's storm popped up. Without warning, one of life's storms can knock you off your feet. They can shake you up and cause you to shake with fear."

"I don't look forward to that," said Justin. "I guess I'm not very brave."

"No one likes a storm that shakes up their life. No one likes trials and troubles. And none of us are very brave about facing the problems of life. At least not on our own."

“You’re pretty brave, Dad,” Justin said.

“Only because over the years I have learned that during the storms of life I have someone who will be with me to guide me and protect me.”

“You mean God, don’t you?” Zach said.

“Yes. God is the one who helps me to be brave during all the storms of life. I don’t like problems any more than any other person, but I’ve learned that in the storms of life, I can trust God to do what is best for me.”

“God sure took good care of us today!” Zach said.

“He sure did,” Dad said. “You see, God doesn’t always take away the storms that rage around us. But He is there to go through them with you. You can trust Him. You can get your bravery from Him.”

Justin stopped shaking. Dad was right. He didn’t have much bravery of his own, but he could trust God to help him through each storm in life.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER’S STUDY TEXT

Judges 6:1-12

## LESSON

### **TROUBLED BY MIDIAN**

After Deborah led Israel to victory, Israel was at peace for forty years. Then guess what happened! Yes, sadly the Israelites sinned again. They did evil in the sight of God. They forgot to love and obey God. They turned away.

So God allowed another heathen nation to come and punish Israel. This time it was the country of Midian. For seven years the Midianites oppressed Israel. When the Israelites tried to raise crops for food or to feed their cattle, the Midianites would come steal the crops or destroy them. They would not allow Israel to enjoy what they had grown.

So the people made concealed dens or they found caves in the mountain sides. They would try to find any place they could to gather and hide the food they had raised so that they could keep just a little of it. They also used these dens to hide themselves and their families from the enemy.

But no matter how hard the people of Israel tried to hide their crops, the enemy would always come to destroy them. The Bible says the enemy were as grasshoppers who swarmed on Israel and took all they had. This left Israel with no food. They were in great poverty. They didn't know what to do.

So the day came when Israel cried to God for help. And once again, God heard their cry and had mercy on them. Oh, how much God loved His children. He was always quick to forgive and to restore them to a close relationship with Him.

First God sent a prophet to tell Israel that the land was theirs, not their enemies. The land had been theirs since God had given it to them when Joshua was their leader. But because of their sin, they had lost their land.

God wanted the people to realize their sin and repent.

### **MIGHTY MAN OF VALOR**

Then the Bible tells us God decided to call a new champion who would come deliver the people of God. His name was Gideon.

God came in person to call Gideon. The verse says the angel of the LORD came and sat near where Gideon was. Now, Gideon was hard at work. But it was a strange thing he was doing. He was threshing or beating wheat. That was not strange. You see, the wheat had to be beaten after it was harvested to get the kernel of seed out so that it could be used.

The strange part was where he was beating the wheat. Gideon was standing inside the wine press. That was a large, walled container where grapes were put so the people could walk on them and squish out the juice. It was not designed to be used as a place to thresh wheat.

The reason Gideon was beating the wheat in the winepress was because he was trying to hide from the enemy. Gideon knew if the enemy saw him threshing wheat, they would come and destroy the wheat.

Judges 6:11 says, *And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.*

Gideon was hiding in fear down in the winepress, trying to get some grain to eat when all of a sudden he saw a man sitting under a nearby tree. That must have startled him, but what the man said startled him even more.

Now the man sitting under the tree was not a mere mortal man. It was an angel. And it was no ordinary angel. It was the Angel of the LORD. That means this was actually God who came down to talk to Gideon.

It is startling to think God would come down to talk to Gideon, but what He had to say was more startling. He greeted Gideon by calling him a mighty man of valor.

Judges 6:12 says, *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour.*

What? Surely God was mistaken! Gideon was not a mighty man of valor. Instead he was a simple man who had no money. His whole family was poor. Besides that, he was the youngest in his family which meant he wasn't considered to be of very good standing. It was always the oldest son who was given the inheritance and was considered the leader.

And valor? That meant bravery. God really had that one wrong! Gideon was not brave. He was not daring. He was hiding in the winepress because he was scared stiff of the enemy. But God called him a mighty man of valor. Was He kidding? Could God be wrong?

No. God was not kidding and He was not wrong. God does not kid around. He always says what is true.

But how could that be? Gideon was not a mighty man of valor. He was a chicken! Wasn't he? Was God mistaken?

You see, God could see inside of Gideon. He could see the potential Gideon possessed. No one else would ever have seen his potential, but God could see it. God knew that one day Gideon would be exactly what He had called Gideon.

Now, Gideon was not going to become a mighty man of valor because he was rich or brave or strong or extra smart. It wasn't because of his family. It wasn't because of the great deeds he would do.

The reason Gideon would become a mighty man of valor was because God could see into Gideon's heart. God saw that Gideon was man who loved God and was willing to be faithful and obedient to God.

With God's help, Gideon would become exactly what God called him. It wasn't because Gideon was such a great guy, it was because Gideon was willing to let God shape and mold his life. It was because Gideon was willing to do what God asked him to do.

But on that particular day, Gideon was not yet a mighty man of valor. He was full of fear, but God knew that one day he would be exactly what He had called him.

## **YOUR POTENTIAL**

God sees your potential also. God can look beyond all the things on the outside and look deep into your heart. He sees what you feel. He knows what you think. He sees your potential to be a mighty Christian who dares to love and serve God.

God knows if you will love Him. He knows if you will obey Him. He knows if you will serve Him.

You may think you don't have much potential. You are young and may think you don't have any talents. But it is not you that will do the job God calls you to do. It is God who will do the job through you.

Philippians 4:13 says, *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

By yourself, you would not have the power to go and do a mighty work for God. You are just a human. No matter how talented or smart you might be, it could never be enough to do a spiritual work for God. But God can do the job through your life. God simply wants you to be daring enough to allow Him to use you.

God can see the potential in your life. You are young and God wants to give you talents that you can use for Him. Right now you may not know what those talents are, but you can tell God that you are willing to use whatever talents He gives you for Him.

You may already have some talents that you enjoy using, but you have never thought about giving your talents to God so He can use them. You can do that. It would please God if you did.

Then you can be mighty for God. Not in your own power, but in God's power.

Maybe you are not a Christian. You have never given your heart to God. Today, God wants you to give Him your heart. God loves you very much. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die on the cross for your sins. He wants to forgive you but you must ask Him to do that.

You can do that today. We can take a Bible and show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be daring for God. God wants to use you, but He will not force you to love and serve Him.

Look into your own heart. Do you have a daring heart? Would you tell God that whatever He asks you to do in life, you are willing to do with His help?

God will never ask you to do something that He will not give you the ability or desire to do. Who knows what you might do for God someday? Whatever it is, it starts with your daring heart.

Talk to God today. Tell Him you love Him. Tell Him you want to obey Him and serve Him with your life. Tell Him that whatever He has for you to do in life, you are willing to do. Then ask God to help you to do all He asks you to do.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be willing to be used of God. I am going to ask Him to make you mighty for Him.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What country was oppressing Israel?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did they do to Israel?
4. Who did God call to lead His people?
5. Where was Gideon when God came to talk to him?
6. What did God call Gideon?
7. Why was Gideon so surprised when God called him a mighty man of valor?
8. What does it mean to have valor?
9. How did God know Gideon would be a mighty man of valor?
10. Why had God allowed Midian to trouble Israel?

# Dare to be Mighty for God



I can do all things through  
Christ which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13

I will dare to obey  
God.



Strengthen your mental muscles. Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks?

1. The heathen nation of \_\_\_\_\_ came to trouble Israel. IAMDIN
2. Midian opposed Israel for \_\_\_\_\_ years. NEVSE
3. God sent \_\_\_\_\_ to deliver Israel. NGIEDO
4. The Angel of the Lord found Gideon in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
SPWNEISRE
5. The Lord called Gideon a mighty man of \_\_\_\_\_. RVAOL
6. Gideon was the youngest \_\_\_\_\_ in his family. NSO
7. God could see Gideon's \_\_\_\_\_. TERAH
8. God wants you to be a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian. YMGITH

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LESSON 28

A DARING CHILD  
DARE TO LET GOD USE YOU

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 6:13-16

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

In the 1950's and 1960's there was a Saturday morning cartoon called "Underdog." The cartoon hero was a dog who was a mild mannered, nerdy dog most of the time. But when trouble was brewing, he would change into a cape and become a hero. As he flew off to take care of the problem, he would boldly exclaim, "This is a job for Underdog!"

No problem was too hard for Underdog.

The Saturday morning cartoons and movies are full of superheroes who are able to solve any problem and right any wrong. They keep the world safe from evil.

But they are not real, are they? There are no real superheroes who can change into a cape or some special suit and go out to fearlessly fight crime and evil. No human can do that.

But we have a God who is supernatural. He is greater than any problem. He is stronger than any enemy. He is more powerful than any evil. And He is very real. Isn't that wonderful to know?

While we humans are very limited in our strength and our knowledge, God is not limited in any way. He is all-knowing, all-present, and all-powerful. There is nothing He cannot do. And with God on our side, we also can do daring things through His power.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYER

Cheryl Reid

Obtain Flash Card

Stephanie looked at the empty desk beside her. "Please, God, let a nice girl fill the empty seat next to me," she silently prayed. It had been only two weeks since her best friend Natalie had moved away. Stephanie had been lost without Natalie; they had done everything together. They had gone to the same church, liked the same foods, wore the same clothing styles, and read the same books. Natalie was a Christian who loved God as Stephanie did. She was more like a twin than just a friend, and it was hard to tell her good-bye, knowing they would see each other only a few weeks each summer. (Show Flash Card)

During the weeks that Natalie had been gone, the days crawled by for Stephanie. School just wasn't the same without her best friend to share everything with. Stephanie especially missed Natalie during lunch. She sat with other girls and talked to them, but they weren't anything like Natalie, and they had their own friends. Life was pretty miserable for Stephanie.

Stephanie waited outside after school for her dad to pick her up. At 3:30 sharp he pulled up by the sidewalk and gave Stephanie a big smile. Stephanie weakly smiled back and opened the door.

"You look like you could use some cheering up," Dad said.

"Actually, what I could use is to have Natalie move back to Waterton," Stephanie replied.

Dad wasn't in a hurry to get home, so he stopped the car and turned toward his daughter. "That isn't going to happen, Stephanie," he told her. "I know it's hard to have your best friend move away. But you need to realize that this was God's plan for Natalie's family. And God's way is always best. Your life doesn't stop because your friend moved away. I imagine that Natalie is making new friends by now, and you need to do that, too."

"But the girls at school already have other friends, Dad. It's not the same."

"Then pray for a new friend, Stephanie," Dad suggested.

"I kinda did that today," Stephanie remembered. "Natalie's desk is still empty. So I asked God to send a nice girl to fill the empty seat."

"Maybe she could also fill the empty spot in your heart," Dad smiled. "Mind if I pray about that with you?"

Stephanie smiled. "Of course not," she said.

Dad took a few minutes to pray that God would give Stephanie a new friend very soon, and that Stephanie would trust God to meet every need in her life.

The next few days at school, Stephanie tried to remember to trust God for a new friend. The other girls were nice to her, but no one made a special effort to spend time with her. But when she arrived at school on Thursday, Mr. Stone asked to see her at his desk. "Good morning, Stephanie," he said. "I have a favor to ask of you."

"Okay," she said, wondering what she would be doing for her teacher.

"We have a new student arriving today," he explained. "She will be sitting beside you in Natalie's former desk. I'd like you to help her out today and tomorrow with getting used to the way we do things at our school. If she has questions, try to fill her in on the routines and locations of things."

Stephanie agreed to help the new girl out. "What is her name?" she asked.

"Her name is Nadya," Mr. Stone replied.

Stephanie looked puzzled. “Where is she from?” she asked.

Her family has recently moved from Germany. Her father was transferred to the United States from the manufacturing company he works for. Nadya will be arriving here in a few minutes.”

“Does she speak English?” Stephanie asked.

“Well, yes and no,” Mr. Stone replied. “Nadya has been studying English at her school in Germany, but she only knows a little English. She is concerned that she won’t be able to understand her teacher or her classmates. So she is not feeling very good about her move to the United States or her new school. I am hoping that you will be able to help her feel welcome and comfortable in her new surroundings.”

“I’ll do my best,” Stephanie said, and she began thinking of ways she could let Nadya know that she had nothing to fear. But before she had time to come up with many creative ideas, Nadya appeared at the classroom door with her parents.

“Good morning!” Mr. Stone said. He introduced himself to Nadya and her parents, and then he introduced Stephanie, who smiled and quietly said hello. As soon as Mr. Stone had given instructions to Nadya’s parents about lunch and dismissal, Stephanie led Nadya to her desk.

“This is where you sit.” Nadya nodded that she understood. “These are your books and supplies.”

Nadya repeated the word supplies, with a puzzled look on her face. She repeated the word as a question. “Supplies?”

Stephanie realized that Nadya needed more explanation. “Supplies are” she said, and she held up each item as she said its’ name. “Pencil, pen, paper, glue, colored pencils, scissors.”

Nadya smiled for the first time. “Oh!” she said. “Supplies!”

The other students began entering the classroom. As they noticed the new girl, several of the other girls came by to say hello. Nadya was very shy, and Stephanie explained that she was from Germany and spoke only a little English. When the other girls had gone to their desks, Nadya smiled at Stephanie.

“Thank you. I not speak good English. But you are nice girl. I like you!”

Stephanie was so glad she had been chosen to help Nadya adjust to her new school. It was going to be fun to see how Nadya learned the language and became a part of the class.

As Mr. Stone took attendance, Stephanie glanced over at Nadya. To her surprise, Nadya’s eyes were closed and she appeared to be praying. “I wonder if she is a Christian,” Stephanie thought to herself. She quickly turned away so as not to embarrass Nadya when she opened her eyes again.

The day went well. Stephanie explained all the words that Nadya did not understand, and Nadya especially enjoyed the history lesson, since the class was studying the continent of Europe.

After school was over, Nadya turned to Stephanie and smiled. "God is good. He gave me new friend. Thank you, Stephanie." And then she gave Stephanie a hug.

"I saw you pray," Stephanie said. "Are you a Christian?"

Nadya's eye lit up. "Christian! Yes! Are you Christian?"

Stephanie laughed. "Yes, I am! I thought it was impossible, but I think you are the answer to my prayer!"

Stephanie found that if she allowed God to use her, then He would do just that. God can use you too, if you allow Him to use you!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 6:13-16

### LESSON

#### WHO ME?

Last week we learned that the Angel of the Lord had come to speak to Gideon. Who can tell me where Gideon was when the angel appeared? That's right, he was hiding in a winepress. Who can tell me why Gideon was hiding in the wine press? Yes, because the enemies of Israel, the Midianites, were oppressing them by either stealing or destroying their crops.

It had become so bad that Israel finally called on God to help them.

Now you would think it was normal for the Israelites to call on God, but that was not the case. The Israelites had wandered far away from God. They no longer worshiped God as the only true God. Instead, they had begun to worship idols. In fact, the Israelites had even begun to build alters to the false god Baal. Gideon's family had an altar to Baal where they worshiped that false god. What a sad thing that the Children of Israel had gotten so far away from God.

But apparently, even though his family worshiped Baal, Gideon did not. He must have held to the old ways. There are always those few who will remember God and cling to Him even when everyone around them is doing wrong.

So the Angel of the LORD, Jesus Christ himself, came down to speak with Gideon. Now Gideon did not realize the angel was the Lord. He just accepted the fact that God had sent an angel to speak to him.

The angel had a very special task for Gideon.

The angel called to Gideon and who remembers what the angel said? Yes, He said, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valor."

Well, that surprised Gideon. Here he was, hiding from the enemy. He felt like a coward. He must have hated having to hide in order to try to get some grain from his own land. He didn't feel like a mighty man of valor. But that was only the beginning of the surprising things the angel would say to him.

Before the angel had a chance to tell Gideon the reason he had come, Gideon had a question. He asked the angel why on earth all these terrible things had happened to Israel if the Lord was really with Israel.

Judges 6:13 says, *And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.*

Actually, Gideon knew why all the problems had come on Israel. After Israel had cried to God for help, God sent a prophet to boldly tell the people that God was judging them for their disobedience. The enemy was oppressing the Israelites because they had sinned against God.

So the angel did not waste time answering Gideon's question. Gideon already knew the answer. Instead, the angel gave him a few words of encouragement. He knew Gideon would need all the help and courage he could get because the job ahead would take lots of faith and lots of daring.

Judges 6:14 says, *And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?*

He told Gideon he could go do the job with might and power because God had sent him to do the job. When God sends you to do a job, you don't have to worry. What God asks you to do, He will give you the ability to do. That was what He was telling Gideon.

### **YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN!**

Gideon was flabbergasted at what the angel said to him. He couldn't believe God would want him to save Israel. That was a big job! How could he do it? He was nobody important. Certainly the angel must be mistaken!

So right away Gideon began to point out to the angel all the reasons he could never go save Israel.

First, Gideon told the angel he couldn't possibly save Israel because he was from a poor family. And not only that, he was the least important in his household. That probably meant he was the youngest son.

Basically Gideon said, "You've made a mistake here. You can't mean me. You must be looking for someone else because my family is poor and I'm the youngest and least important son."

But the Lord was not at all worried about those things. He didn't need to pick a man who was rich or was the oldest son. That didn't matter to God. God didn't need Gideon's money to do the job. He didn't need the oldest son to do the job. What He needed was a man who recognized that God was going to do the job through him and was daring enough to be obedient to God. And that's basically what the angel said.

In Judges 6:15-16 it says, *And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*

*And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man.*

The angel did not say, "Oops, I must have the wrong guy. It sure is a good thing you pointed all this out to me. If I had known you were from a poor family or that you were the youngest in the family, I would have looked in another winepress for someone to deliver Israel!"

But the angel did not even address any of Gideon's worries. Instead the angel answered him with words that should have brought Gideon true assurance and comfort.

The angel said, "Gideon, I have sent you and I will be with you. With my help you will be able to defeat the enemy as if they were just one single man. That is all you need to know. If I am with you, you have nothing to fear!"

### **WHO DOES GOD USE?**

The words the angel said to Gideon can help you and me through life also. What would happen if God could only use people who were rich, or important, or super smart, or super talented? That would leave a bunch of us out. If God could only use people who were totally prepared to work for God, then He would be very limited.

But God is not worried about what you can and cannot do. The reason God is not concerned about how prepared and talented you are is because it is not about what you can do. It is about what God can do.

In the first place, you couldn't do anything if God didn't give you the talents in the first place. He is the one who gives you all you have and makes you all you are. He is the one who is strong and wise. He is the one who does the jobs He wants done. It is God who is able to do all things.

God isn't worried about what you can and can't do. Not once does God say in the Bible that He only wants to use people who are super talented or super smart. In fact, the Bible says God uses the weak and foolish things to do his work.

Why? For a very good reason. If God could only use someone who was super smart to work for Him, then those people would be able to say, "God sure is lucky He has me. I am so smart. I am able to do the job using my intellect. I was able to figure out everything by my own brain power. Lucky for God!" They could take the credit because they were so smart.

If God could only use super talented people, then they would say, "I did such a wonderful job because I am so talented. What would God have done without me? God sure is lucky to have me!"

God does not need our money, our brains, our talents, or anything else we have to offer. He can do the job all on His own because He is so much more talented, rich, smart, and powerful than we could ever be.

However, God will use whatever we offer to Him if we are willing to serve Him for His honor and glory. God gives us all that we have so we can use it for Him.

When God wants a spiritual work done, He does all the work, we just need to be willing to let Him use us. We may not be "super" anything, but that does not limit God because when He does the job, then what gets done is done by Him.

And all the credit goes to Him, not to us.

### **LET GOD USE YOU**

Maybe you are a bit like Gideon. When someone says that God has a job for you in life, you may think, "Who me? How could God ever use me? I'm nothing special."

God doesn't need you to be special. What God needs is for you to be daring enough to love, obey, and serve Him. He needs for you to say "Yes, God. I will do what You ask." Then He wants you to faithfully do what He gives you to do.

Maybe you do have talents you can use for God. God gave you those talents and God doesn't ever want you to think, "Boy, God sure is lucky to have me. I am such a talented person. I can do so much for God." That would mean that you are bringing glory to yourself instead of to God.

Instead God wants you to say, “God, I know you gave me this talent. Help me to use it faithfully for your honor and glory.” That is pleasing to God.

When God calls you to do a job for Him, remember that you can do whatever He asks you to do because God promises He will do the job through you. He is able to do all things. Nothing is too hard for God.

### **HOW ABOUT YOU?**

The only way God can use you is if you are His child. In order to be God’s child, you must have asked Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your life. Have you done that? You can do it today. We can have someone take the Bible and show you how you can become a child of God.

Maybe you are a child of God, but you have never told God you are willing to use your talents for Him. Maybe you don’t think you have any talents to use at all. Would you be willing to tell God that if He gives you talents, then you will use them for Him?

Remember, when God gives you a job, He will do the job through you. Nothing is too hard for God. He is able to do all things.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to give all that you have and all that you are to God. Dare to let God use you. If He has given you a talent, then tell Him you will use it for Him. If you don’t think you have any talents, then tell Him you are willing to serve and obey Him with whatever He gives you in life.

Spend some time in prayer talking to God about how He wants to use your life. Ask Him to show you. Then keep your eyes and heart open for His answer.

Remember there is nothing too hard for God. He is able to do all things.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be willing to give your life to Him to use as He wishes.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Recite today's memory verse.
2. Who appeared to Gideon?
3. What was Gideon doing?
4. Name one excuse Gideon gave for thinking he was not fit to serve God.
5. Name another excuse Gideon gave for thinking he was not fit to serve God.
6. What did the angel say to Gideon?
7. What had Gideon's family done that was sinful?
8. Why didn't Gideon have to worry about what the angel told him to do?
9. What had Israel done to sin against God?
10. What idol did they worship?



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LESSON 29

**A DARING CHILD  
DARE TO HAVE FAITH IN GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

I Samuel 25:1-13

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*  
Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

“You don’t trust me! Just have a little faith in me.” Have you ever said those words to your mom or dad? It upsets us to think someone we love doesn’t trust us to do the right thing. Even if our track record isn’t squeaky clean, we still want others to have faith that we will do the right thing.

Sometimes in life we find it hard to have faith in other people. Don’t we? We know from experience that not everyone will do what they say they will do. And that is true. We shouldn’t trust just anyone. But often, because we think we can’t trust people, then we also think we can’t trust God. We don’t have faith in God.

There is a big difference between being able to trust another person and being able to trust God. People lie, they make mistakes, they fail. But God never does. But the only way we can trust God is by exercising our faith in Him. Over and over we need to step out in complete trust. Then, as we find that God never fails, we will find our faith growing stronger and stronger.

In today’s story we are going to see someone who had a hard time putting his trust and faith in God, yet finally he decided to exercise his faith in God. And his faith grew stronger.

**Today’s Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

## SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### EXERCISING FAITH

Cheryl Reid

Obtain Flash Card

“How can this be happening to me?” Angela said to her mother as she lay in the hospital bed. She looked down at her swollen leg which would be put in a cast tomorrow. As she tried to move herself to a more comfortable place in the bed, every muscle in her entire body ached. (Show Flash Card)

Early that morning, Angela had been riding in the car with her best friend Casey and her family when they were hit from behind by a large van. Angela and Casey were both injured and taken by ambulance to Valley Memorial Hospital, where they had been x-rayed and tested for internal injuries. Angela had a broken leg and many cuts and bruises; however, her friend Casey was still in surgery for her internal injuries.

Angela let two tears escape down her cheeks, and then many more followed. “Oh, Mom, Casey is going to be okay, isn’t she? I mean, she’s pretty bad. The doctors will be able to make her well, won’t they?”

Mom put her hand on Angela’s arm. There were tears in her eyes, too. “Angela, we are so thankful you are going to be all right. We have to trust God to care for Casey. She has fine doctors, and excellent surgeons. They are doing their best to ensure Casey will get better, but it is in God’s hands. Even though it is hard, we are going to need to exercise our faith in this situation. When difficult things come into our lives, we allow our faith to grow by trusting completely in God.”

Angela continued to cry softly as Mom prayed for Casey, and for her. “Dear Lord, we have so much to thank You for. You have allowed Angela and Casey to survive this accident. Angela will be fine in a couple of months. Casey is under the care of good doctors and surgeons. We ask you right now to be with the surgeons as they repair the damage in Casey’s body. Please give them special wisdom and skill as they operate. Be with Casey during the surgery, and allow her to have a full recovery. We ask all these things in your will and your name, Amen.”

As Mom finished her prayer, Angela wiped her eyes. “I’ve never had to trust God like this before,” she said. “But that’s all I can do. There isn’t anything I can do for Casey right now except to pray for her.”

“That’s right,” Mom agreed. “But that’s the very best thing you can do.”

Several hours went by, and still there was no word on Casey’s condition. Finally, after being in surgery for six hours, Casey was taken to the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

Mom found out the doctors had removed Casey’s spleen, which had been punctured by several broken ribs. They had also repaired a collapsed lung and set many broken bones. Casey had not awakened from the accident, and was in a coma. She was connected to a machine that helped her breathe. She was a very sick girl, and it would take a very long time for her to get well.

The next morning Angela had just finished her breakfast when Casey’s dad walked through the door. He looked very tired and worried, but smiled when he saw how well Angela was doing. “Hi, Angela. You look like you’re doing pretty good. I’m so glad you weren’t hurt any worse.”

“Yeah, I’m doing okay. I’m so sorry that Casey was hurt so badly. How is she today?”

“She still hasn’t awakened. We’re very concerned about that. As far as her injuries, the surgery went well and she will heal. But until she wakes from the coma, she is still in danger,” Casey’s dad explained.

Angela began to cry again. “I’m praying for her. Mom says that’s the best thing I can do. But I feel so helpless. I wish I could make her well.”

Casey’s dad held out his hand to Angela. As Angela held onto his hand, he spoke softly to her. “Your mom is exactly right. When we can’t do anything else, we can pray. God is in control of this situation. He is with Casey, watching her every breath, knowing her every heartbeat.

God has a plan for Casey. We pray that His plan involves making her totally well again. But if it doesn't, He knows best. Praying for Angela and trusting God for the results really is the best thing we can do. As a matter of fact, it is the only thing we can do. We hear all our lives that we need to trust God, but until something like this happens many people do not realize how important it is to put that trust into practice."

Angela nodded. It was hard for an eleven-year-old to think of her best friend not ever getting well, but it was even harder to think of her not surviving the accident. Angela's mom, who had been sitting by the window, joined the two at Angela's bedside. "May I pray?" she asked. The three joined their hearts in prayer for Casey.

Many times during the next several weeks, Angela and her parents would pray for Casey to be well. After Angela left the hospital and started physical therapy on her leg, she continued to pray daily for her best friend. Finally, one afternoon after her therapy session at the hospital, Casey's parents met her by the exit door.

"We hoped we would see you today, because we have some good news! Casey is awake! Even though she doesn't remember anything about the accident, she is talking and it looks like she will be able to go home in another week or so! She is being moved from intensive care tomorrow, and you will be able to visit her after that!"

Angela's eyes filled with happy tears as she hugged Casey's mom. "Oh, I'm so glad!" she said. "I can't wait to see her. We have so much to talk about. I think the main thing I want to tell her is that I learned to really trust in God while she was so sick. My mom told me that when bad things happen and we can't do anything about them, we need to exercise our faith in God. I didn't know what that meant before, but I do now!"

Casey's dad smiled and looked at his wife. "You aren't the only one who learned that lesson. Even as adults we must learn to exercise our faith. When our lives are going well and nothing is wrong, we might feel that we don't need to trust the Lord for everything. But when trouble comes, we are suddenly forced to do what we should have been doing all along—trust God in every situation."

"I'm so glad Casey is going to be okay. And I can't wait to see her. May I visit tomorrow?" Angela asked.

"Absolutely!" Casey's mom and dad answered together.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 6:17-21, 36-40

### LESSON

#### SHOW ME A SIGN

Today we find Gideon, up from the winepress after hiding from the enemy. He was scared stiff he would be caught. And what happened? An angel showed up. And not just any angel. The Bible calls this the angel of the LORD. The word Lord that is used is the name Jehovah. That means that this angel was no run of the mill, ordinary, every day angel. This was actually Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth in the form of an angel to speak with Gideon.

Now, Gideon did not realize this was actually the Lord. He thought it was just a regular angel. But still, that would be pretty impressive, don't you think? What if you were playing in your backyard and an angel came to talk to you? That would be very amazing!

Everything the angel said to him was so strange. The angel had just called him a mighty man of valor, then he said Gideon was going to save his people from the Midianites.

Gideon wanted proof. He wasn't about to make any rash moves without some solid proof. Gideon didn't have much faith in the angel or what the angel was saying. Gideon's faith muscles were pretty weak. He hadn't given his faith a workout in a very long time.

So Gideon asked the angel for some sign that He really was who He said He was. He said, "You are calling me a mighty man of valor, and you want me to lead an army against Midian. If this is of God, prove it!"

Judges 6:17 says, *And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.*

And Gideon knew exactly what sign he wanted the angel to show him. He said, “Wait right here. I’ll be right back. Then you can prove to me who you are. I’ll bring a sacrifice to you.”

So the angel agreed to wait.

Judges 6:18 says, *Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again.*

Gideon went to prepare a meal that would be offered as a sacrifice to God. He got a goat and prepared it. He took flour and made small cakes. Then he took the food and laid it in front of the angel. He offered it in respect as a meal for his visitor.

The angel told Gideon to lay the meat and cakes on a rock. Then He told Gideon to pour a pot of broth over the entire sacrifice. It must have been extremely wet. Then the angel stretched out his staff and simply touched the food. Immediately the food burst into flames. It burned up and the scent went to heaven as a sweet smelling sacrifice to God.

Gideon probably jumped back and stared in amazement as the broth soaked food burned and disappeared. Wow! Gideon turned to tell the angel that now he was sure He was an angel, but the angel had disappeared.

Judges 6:21 says, *Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.*

In that very instant Gideon’s eyes were opened and he realized that the angel was real and also that the angel was actually the Lord. Gideon was humbled and awed. Listen to what Gideon had to say.

Judges 6:22 says, *And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.*

Gideon was humbled. He was a bit afraid. It isn’t everyday you can speak face to face with the Lord! But the Lord was quick to assure Gideon that he should not fear but be at peace.

Gideon built an altar to God.

## **IN THE NIGHT**

That night God came to speak to Gideon. He told Gideon to go pull down the altar of Baal that his father had built.

So Gideon took ten of the servants in his household and went to work. In the dark of night, so he wouldn’t get caught, he began to do as God instructed. He tore down the altar to the false god, Baal. He cut down the grove of trees beside the altar. Then on a rock, where all could see, he carefully built an altar to God. He took the wood from the altar of Baal to use as fire wood.

Then Gideon took a young bull and one that was seven years old, just as God had instructed, and offered both of them as a sacrifice to God.

The next morning the men of the city woke up. They came to worship Baal at the grove next to the altar. They were shocked to see the altar had been torn down and destroyed. In its place was an altar to God.

The men were furious. They stormed over to Joash's house, that was Gideon's father. They demanded that he bring out Gideon so they could kill him!

Now remember, these men were Israelites. They should have never worshiped Baal in the first place. They should never have been angry that someone would build an altar to God. It shows how far away from God these people had wandered.

Even though Joash also worshiped the false god, he stood up and defended his son. He did a smart thing. He said, "If Baal is a true god, then you don't have to defend him. If he is real, then let him defend himself. If Baal is real, let him take revenge on Gideon."

Judges 6:30-31 says, *Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.*

*And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar.*

So the men held their peace.

At the same time, the enemies, the Midianites and the Amalekites, were gathering to come fight against Israel. The Spirit of the Lord came on Gideon and he began to prepare to fight for the Lord. The word went out to the men of Israel to come fight the enemy. Even the men who had earlier wanted to kill Gideon realized their sin and they were ready to join Gideon in battle.

### **HOW ABOUT ANOTHER SIGN?**

Again Gideon asked for another sign. He wanted to be certain this was the correct time to go fight the enemy. He wanted to be certain God's blessing would be with him. And he wanted the men of Israel to see that God was with them. They all needed quite a bit of boosting of their faith. After all, it had been a long time since any of them had served or obeyed God.

So Gideon set up a sign. First he said to God, "Tonight I am going to put out a fleece of wool on the ground. In the morning, if the fleece is wet with dew, but the ground is completely dry, then I will know you will save Israel."

The next morning, sure enough, the wool was so wet that he could squeeze water out of it. In fact, he squeezed an entire bowl. But the ground around it was dry as a bone.

"OK, God, just to be sure, let's try this the other way around. Tonight, if the fleece is dry but the ground around it is wet, then I will know you will save Israel."

The next morning Gideon probably ran to pick up the fleece. He could feel right away that there wasn't a drop of water in the wool. It was completely dry. But everywhere else on the ground it was sopping wet. The sign was clear.

### **FAITH GROWS WITH EXERCISE**

Gideon's faith was growing stronger each day. He could clearly see what God could do, and he had the word of God that he should go against the enemy. Now he believed and trusted that God had truly selected him to lead his people to freedom.

There are times in our lives when we wish God would just speak out loud to us and tell us what to do. We wish we could have a sign from Heaven.

But God does not have to give signs. Why? Because God has given us all He wants us to know in the Bible.

Remember that in Gideon's day there was very little scripture. God often spoke directly to the people or to a judge or a prophet so the people would know what God wanted them to do.

But you can know what God says by picking up your Bible and reading it. In the Bible God tells you so many things. He tells you about Himself. He tells you the way to be saved from your sins and have eternal life. He tells you how to avoid sin. He tells you how to live a life that is pleasing to Him. And so much more.

We are so privileged to have the Word of God that we can keep in our own homes and read whenever we want.

But still, we would like to see a sign. That would be amazing wouldn't it? But do you know, God wants you to have faith. It doesn't take much faith to believe in something you can see and know for certain. But it does take faith to read the Bible and just believe that what God says is true.

God values your faith. He is pleased when you exercise your faith by trusting that His Word is true. He is pleased when you exercise your faith by obeying His Word.

If you read God's Word and dare to believe it and obey it, then your faith in God will grow! You can't always trust what people say, but you can always trust what God has to say in His Word. If you do trust, then you are stretching and building up your faith muscles.

### **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

What about you? Are you building your faith muscles? The very first thing God wants you to do is to become a Christian. You do that by telling God you are sorry you are a sinner. Ask Jesus to forgive your sin and become a part of your life. If you would like to learn more about how to do that, we can show you how.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you don't have much faith. You need to begin to stretch and exercise your faith muscles. How do you do that?

1. Read the Bible. Every day you should take a few minutes to read the Bible. Before you read, ask God to help you to understand what you are reading. As you read, think about what the words mean.

2. Have faith. By that I mean you should trust God enough to obey His Word. It is good to read the Bible, but that is not enough. After you read it, you must obey it.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to exercise your faith.

1. Read the Bible. You can't even know what God wants you to do if you don't read His Word. Daily take a few minutes to read the Bible. Before you read, ask God to help you to understand what you are reading. Think about what the words mean.

2. Have faith. Trust God enough to obey His Word. Obeying God's Word shows that you have faith to do what God asks you to do.

For example, the Bible says in Proverbs 15:1, *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

Think about what it means. It means that when someone is angry with you, they will probably want to argue and fight. But if you speak to them with calmness and kindness, then it will turn their hearts around. They will calm down also. But if you answer back with angry words, then the fight will just get worse.

So that means, the next time someone tries to pick a fight with you or is angry with you, you should speak softly and kindly to them. That would be a way to obey the Bible. Every time you obey you are daring to exercise your faith.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to dare to exercise your faith this week.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Gideon bring to lay before the angel?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did the angel tell Gideon to do with the food he laid before him? (2 things.)
4. How did the angel show that he was truly the angel of the Lord?
5. When the angel vanished, what did Gideon realize?
6. What did God ask Gideon to do in the night?
7. What did the men of the town want to do?
8. How did Gideon's father defend him?
9. What was the next sign Gideon asked God to give him?
10. What was the second sign Gideon asked God to give him?

# Dare to Have Faith in God

I can do all things through  
Christ which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13



I will dare to obey God..

- Altar
- Angel
- Angry
- Baal
- Dry
- Enemy
- Exercise
- Faith
- Fight
- Fire
- Fleece
- Gideon
- Hide
- Idols
- Midian
- Mighty
- Prove
- Sacrifice
- Signs
- Strong
- Trust
- Valor
- Weak
- Wet
- Winepress
- Wool

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LESSON 30

**A DARING CHILD  
DARE TO KNOW OUR ALL-POWERFUL GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 7:1-8

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

What did the big fire cracker say to the small fire cracker? (Take answers.)

My Pop is bigger than your pop.

Sometimes we like to brag about our parents. We may say, "My dad is a brain surgeon." Someone else may say, "Well, my dad is the president of his own company." If we can't out do everyone else, we may feel like we have failed.

Did you know that if you are a child of God, then you have a Heavenly Father who is bigger and more powerful than anyone or anything? There is no other person or power in the universe more powerful than God. In fact, He created everything else. So how could anyone or anything be more powerful?

We have such a mighty God. It is almost more than we can imagine when we think about all that God created. It is more than we can understand when we realize God has always existed and always will exist.

We must just take it by faith. But how wonderful it is to know that the all-powerful God loves us and is with us everyday. It is wonderful to know He is our God. He is our Father.

Today we will be talking about daring to get to know our all-powerful God.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### POWER PLAY

If you could choose to be anyone in the entire world, who would you choose to be? Take just a second to think about your answer. Now decide why you would like to be that person.

Raise your hand to tell me who you would like to be and why. (Take a few answers.)

Some of you wanted to be people who were famous and rich. You wanted to be people who are famous movie stars or sports stars. Often we all think it would be fun to be famous and have people recognize us wherever we go. It would be fun to have people want to take our picture and get our autograph. To be famous would mean that we were important people.

Many would also like to be someone who is rich. We often think it would be wonderful to have all the money we could ever want. We think if we were rich we would never have any more

worries about how to pay for things. We think money would allow us to buy everything our heart desires.

But did you know, that is not always the case. If you only desired to have things like bikes, boats, sports cars, big house, fancy vacations, beautiful clothes, and the like, then lots of money can buy those things.

But the things money can buy are not the only things your heart could desire. Money can't buy the things in life that are the most important. The things money can buy will eventually wear out or be stolen. The truly important things in life can't be bought with money. Friends who like you and not just your money can't be bought. Peace and quiet can't be bought. Peace with God isn't for sale.

Being famous isn't always fun either. Most famous people once dreamed of the day when their face would be recognized by everyone in the world and when their name would become a household word that everyone has heard. But when the day finally came that they were famous, those same people are often quite upset by the results. You see, when they become so famous that they can't go anywhere or do anything without people stopping them to ask for autographs or chasing them to get a photo, then it can become annoying and sometimes frightening. They no longer have any privacy.

Can you imagine having people constantly waiting outside your front door to snap photos of you and your family whenever you go outside. Imagine a group of photographers constantly calling out questions about everything in your life. No matter what you do, everyone wants to know all the facts. You would have no privacy. You could never just hang out with your family and friends unless you remained inside your house.

Being rich and famous isn't all it's cracked up to be.

There are some tremendously rich and famous people in our world. People like Donald Trump and Bill Gates. One young man by the name of Bobby Driscoll became very rich and famous when he became a child star for Disney. He was just six years old when he left his home in Iowa to go to Hollywood to star in some very famous Disney movies like "Song of the South" and "Treasure Island."

When he was eight years old he even won an academy award. Over the years he became not only famous, but also very rich. When he was nineteen years old he was arrested for using drugs. Soon he was out of the movies and living on the streets.

Listen to what Bobby Driscoll had to say about what fame and money had done for him.

"I had everything. I was earning more than fifty thousand dollars a year, working steadily with good parts. Then I started putting all my spare time in my arm. I was seventeen when I first experimented with the stuff . . . mostly heroin, because I had the money to pay for it. Now, because of my arrests, no one will hire me."

But that wasn't the end of the bad news for Bobby. About ten years later he was found dead in an alley in New York City. He had killed himself from years of drug abuse. He was penniless and no one was even able to identify him at the time. They thought he was just a homeless beggar. All his fame and money had done nothing but destroy his life.

How quickly his fame and his money went away. We often look at famous and rich people and think they must be so powerful. People like Donald Trump appear to be in control of everything. But in truth, they are really very limited in their power.

But there is One who is truly all-powerful and He always uses His power for good. God never has to worry about not having enough money. He doesn't get His power from money. Everything already belongs to Him. Money is useless to God. He doesn't get His power from any other source than from Himself. He is the King of kings. He is in control of everything. He will never lose His power.

And do you know the best part? If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, then God is your father. You may not have riches and fame here on earth that a movie star or famous athlete may have, but your Heavenly Father promises you an eternity in Heaven where you will never go without anything that is of true value. The riches of God will be yours in Heaven. And here on earth, you can know your life is in the control of our mighty God.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

This whole verse is a great one to read to the children and discuss, but you may choose to just have them memorize the first half since it is such a long verse. The choice is yours.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 7:1-8

### LESSON

#### AN ARMY FORMS

Gideon could not believe God thought he was the best person to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Midianites. But finally Gideon was convinced God wanted Israel to fight the enemy and he was also convinced he was the one God had selected to lead the army.

It must have seemed like an awfully big responsibility to Gideon. He wasn't a soldier by profession. He hadn't even been a very daring man. He had been just as afraid of the enemy as the rest of Israel. Then, when God told Gideon to tear down the altar to the false god, Baal, Gideon had gone in the night to obey God. He had obeyed, but he was afraid to let anyone in town see what he was doing. He knew they would be furious.

But as God had shown Gideon signs that only God could perform, Gideon's faith had grown. He had become convinced that God was powerful and able to help him do anything He asked him to do.

Gideon sent out the word that the men of Israel should come to fight the enemy. 32,000 men came to fight. That sounds like a pretty good number. Even though there were more Midianites, Gideon probably thought this was a respectable turn out. But God looked over the group and told Gideon that too many men had come.

Why did God say that 32,000 were too many men? God tells us why He said that. The Bible says that God said, "If all those Israelites go to fight against the Midianites and the Amalekites, then the men of Israel will take the credit for the victory."

The men would get back to camp and say, "Boy, did we ever do a great job! We whooped them good!" God said, "I am the one who gives the victory. You will win by My power, not your own power."

So God told Gideon to send home all the men who didn't want to fight. If they would just as soon go home because they were afraid, then they should do that. God didn't want a bunch of chickens in His army.

Judges 7:2-3 says, *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.*

*Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.*

22,000 men turned and went home. Oh, my! That left Gideon with only 10,000 men. I am sure Gideon was thinking something like this, “Okay, well, 10,000 isn’t too bad. There are more Midianites than I can count, but I suppose with God’s help we can do the job with 10,000 men. I hope.”

### **STILL TOO MANY**

But God wasn’t done cutting down the group yet. He still thought there were too many men. So God told Gideon to make another cut.

Judges 7:4 says, *And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.*

Gideon probably took another big gulp and did what God told him to do. God had a test to help Gideon know which men he should eliminate. He told Gideon to take the men to the waterside and have them take a drink of water. The ones who bent down to take water in their hands and then stood upright to lap it up like a dog, Gideon was to keep. But the ones who knelt or laid down close to the water and drank that way were to be cut and sent home.

You see, when the men laid down to drink water they could not see the enemy coming. They were unaware of what was going on around them because they were only interested in getting a drink. But the men who scooped water up in their hands and stayed upright were able to get a drink and keep an eye on their surroundings at the same time.

Judges 7:5-7 says, *So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.*

*And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.*

*And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place.*

Only 300 men drank in the way that pleased God. The rest were sent home.

Only 300? Wow! Gideon must have been sweating by then. How could he go to face a huge army with only 300 men? But God didn’t worry about that. He wanted to show Gideon and all of Israel that the battle would be won by the power of God alone.

## GOD CAN DO ANYTHING

Numbers did not matter to God. Gideon could have gone out all alone and won the battle. God was the one who would be doing the fighting, not the men. It was God who was all powerful.

And the same God who would fight for Gideon is the very same God who will be with us everyday. He will help us to fight our battles against our enemy the devil.

We have an amazing God. The Bible tells us that our God is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and Omnipresent. Now those are some very big words. Let me explain them.

The first part of the word, Omni, means “all.” So Omnipotent means “All powerful. There is only one who has all the power in the universe and beyond. We can feel very strong on most days, but we don’t have all the power in the universe. But God does. He is Omnipotent.

Omniscient means God is “All knowing.” All that happens anywhere at anytime is known by God. He is total wisdom. He knows everything. He has perfect wisdom. There is nothing that God doesn’t know. He is Omniscient.

Omnipresent means that God is “All present.” God is everywhere at all times. There is no place in the entire universe that God is not present. There is nowhere you can hide because God is already there. There is nowhere that you have to worry about God not being able to see you. He is Omnipresent.

For a person who is not a Christian, it can be scary to know there is a God who knows everything, is everywhere, and has all power. There would be no way to avoid or get away from that God. And that is correct. That is why so many people say they don’t believe there is a God. If there were no God, then they would not have to obey Him.

But you and I know that there is a God. The Bible is God’s Word and the Bible tells us all about God. He created the worlds. He created you. And because of that, you are His creation. You belong to Him.

If you know God as your personal Savior, then it is comforting to know your Heavenly Father is always with you, He knows all about you and all about your life, and He has all power to do what is best. It is wonderful to know that your all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present God is with you.

Maybe you don’t belong to God. You have been living your life for yourself. Did you know that the mighty God who created the universe also created you? He did. But all people are born in sin. And God hates sin. Sin separates us from God. But God loves you and He made a way for your sin to be forgiven.

Jesus Christ came to earth to die on the cross. He took your sins on Himself. If you ask Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your life, then He will. Then you will belong to God. Would you like to do that today?

Maybe you are a Christian, but you are facing some enemy in your life. It may not be an army of Midianites, but maybe some sin is tempting you day after day. You have tried to avoid sin, but you find it hard.

God wants to give you victory. It is a good thing to learn how to overcome sin while you are young because sin will trouble you all of your life on earth. That is a fact. You are saved, but you still have a sin-nature. You will still be tempted to sin. Every day things come up that tempt you to do wrong. God wants you to dare to obey Him in all things.

God is all-powerful. Just as He was about to help Israel defeat their enemy, He wants to help you defeat your biggest enemy, sin.

Maybe you are facing another type of enemy. You are having a hard time with a friend or maybe there are troubles in your family. God knows all about that too. And He is the one who has the power to help. How?

1. Remember your power comes from God. You can't defeat the enemy by your own power. God's power will bring victory.

2. Know God. You can't expect to know what God wants you to do to defeat your enemy if you don't know your God. You get to know God by reading the Book He gave to us that tells us all about Him and what He wants us to do. That's the Bible.

3. Talk to God. Prayer is our way to let God know what temptations or problems we are facing. God wants us to come to Him. He already knows what our problems are, but He waits for us to call on Him. God could see that Israel was in trouble, but until they repented of their sin and cried out to God, they did not have God's help.

4. Hate sin. We aren't supposed to hate things, but God does want us to hate sin. Sin causes us so much trouble. It causes us to stray away from God. It causes us to do things that displease God. But if we decide to hate sin and turn to God for help against it, then through God's power we can defeat sin.

5. Trust God to do what is right. Because God knows all, He also knows what is best to do about everything. Just dare to trust Him to do what is best.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to give your all-powerful God a chance to defeat the sin in your life.

1. Remember that your power comes from God.
2. Know your God by reading His Word. If you are close to God, then you will be quick to follow His commands.
3. Talk to God. Prayer is a mighty weapon against sin.
4. Hate sin. Hate what God hates and love what God loves. Then you will be able to tap into the power of God.
5. Trust God. Make the choice to totally trust God with your life. Tell Him you trust Him.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to rely on His power as you face your enemies this week.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many men showed up to be in Gideon's army?
2. Why did God send some of them home the first time?
3. How many men were left after Gideon told all to go who wanted to go?
4. What did God tell Gideon to do to test which men he should keep?
5. Why was it better when the men drank water from their hands?
6. How many men were left after the water test?
7. What does it mean when I say God is Omnipresent?
8. What does it mean when I say God is Omnipotent?
9. What does it mean when I say God is Omniscient?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

# Dare to Know our All-powerful God

I can do all things through  
Christ which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13

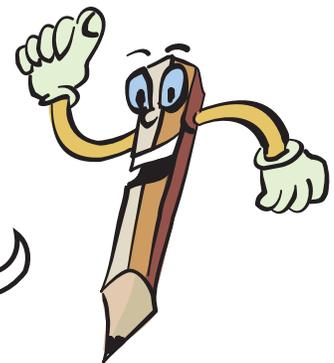


I will dare to obey God.

## My God is all-powerful.

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How many new words can you make from My God is all-powerful?





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LESSON 31

**A DARING CHILD**  
**DARE TO THANK GOD FOR VICTORY**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 7:9-15

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

The Bible tells us the story of ten men who had a terrible disease called leprosy. Because of this terrible disease, these men could not live with their families. They had to live outside their village. When anyone came near them they had to shout, “Unclean, unclean.” Then the healthy person would quickly turn and walk the other way.

What a lonely and painful life they led.

The Bible says one day Jesus came their way. When they called out, “Unclean, unclean,” instead of walking the other way, Jesus walked right up to them. Then Jesus healed them so that they were free of their disease and completely clean again.

How excited the men were. All ten of the men jumped up and ran to find their families and friends so they could all rejoice together. Only one man took the time to turn back and bow before Jesus and say, “Thank you.”

I suppose the other men were also thankful. But they were so happy with their new found health that they didn’t take the time to do what was right. They didn’t say “Thank you.”

It is easy to be so excited when something good happens that we also forget to say, “Thank you,” to God. We need to remember to be grateful. When we do something nice for others, we like it when they remember to thank us. God also wants us to dare to remember to thank Him for all the things He does for us.

**Today’s Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

## SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Cheryl Reid

Obtain Flash Card

Attention! The poster said. Baseball tryouts April 1. 4th through 6th grades. Smithfield Elementary Playground. 9:00 till 12 noon.

“Yes!” David Carter yelled out loud. He and his best friend Ryan had been waiting a solid month for this news! “But it doesn’t say who the coach will be this year,” David mused.

“Oh, don’t worry,” Ryan replied. “It’ll probably be Coach Bell. He’s been the coach for years. We’re sure to get on the team. No problem!” (Show Flash Card)

“I guess you’re right,” David agreed. The two boys continued walking toward Ryan’s house for an after school snack. His mom had just baked cookies last night, and the boys planned to make a lot of them disappear.

After the boys had consumed an entire plate of peanut butter cookies, they headed to the back yard to practice pitching. “Who do you think will be the pitcher this year; you or me?” Ryan asked.

“I don’t know,” David said. “What makes you think it will be one of us? There are some other guys with a pretty strong arm.”

“Like I told you; don’t worry!” Ryan repeated. “Coach Bell told my dad at the end of the season last year that I was one of the best future pitchers he had on the team. So I know he’ll pick me. I don’t think I even need to practice. That’s how sure I am.”

As David walked the short block to his house, he thought about Ryan’s confidence in his becoming the pitcher. “I wish I felt that sure about the team. I don’t know if I’m good enough to even be on the team, much less be a pitcher,” he thought to himself.

Mr. Carter, who was just getting home from work, was carrying his tools into the garage. “Hey there, slugger!” Dad grinned. “I heard baseball tryouts are just a couple of weeks away! Need some extra practice in the back yard?”

“You know it,” David nodded. “I’m a little rusty from not playing all winter.”

“Well, get me a glove and we’ll see what kind of player you are!”

David found a glove for Dad in the garage and the two guys headed out back. “Want to pitch or hit first?” Dad asked.

“Hit,” David decided. Dad walked halfway across the back yard and waited for David to warm up with the bat. After several swings, Dad called, “Batter up!”

Dad had no mercy with his pitches. He threw hard and fast. David hit a few fouls, then a good grounder right past Dad’s feet.

“Way to hit!” Dad yelled. “Do it again!”

David and his dad kept practicing until Mom called them both in for dinner.

“Tomorrow night, same time,” Dad stated as he pulled David’s baseball cap off his head. “No caps at the table, remember?”

David grinned and said, “I remember.” The family prayed together and then began to eat.

“Dad,” David asked after swallowing a mouthful of mashed potatoes, “I wish I knew who the coach will be this year.” Dad smiled. “I guess they like to keep it a secret until the first day of tryouts. Keep the kids guessing!”

“You’re right about that,” David agreed. “I hope it’s gonna be Coach Bell. I already know him. And maybe he’ll remember those two balls I caught in the last game. One of them was the last out of the game!”

Dad laughed. “I remember, for sure! Got it on tape! But you can’t be too confident about making the team because of something you did last year. The coach will be looking for what you can do this year! Perseverance will be the thing to get you on the baseball team!”

David wrinkled up his face. “What’s perseverance?”

“It’s doing your best every day, all day, and never giving up. It’s practicing when you don’t feel like it; it’s messing up and getting right back in there to fix the problem and make it better. It’s being tough when you want to quit. That’s perseverance, son, and it’s a character trait that God rewards.”

Later that night David thought about what his dad had said. Perseverance was not an easy thing to have, he decided. But it was worth trying, and he wanted to do things that God would reward. He would practice his heart out before baseball tryouts began. And that is exactly what David did. Each day rain or shine, when Dad came home from work, David was waiting for him. They practiced hitting, pitching, and fielding. David was improving in every area of the game.

Every night at the end of practice, Dad reminded David to persevere and never give up.

Down the street, however, Ryan sat in front of the television watching baseball games instead of practicing the skills that would improve his game. He wasn’t worried; Coach Bell knew what kind of player he was.

The day finally came for tryouts. Thirty-five boys showed up for the fifteen spots available on the team. That meant more boys would go home than stay on the team. As the parents sat on the bleachers and the boys milled around the field, a blue truck pulled into the parking lot. The truck looked a lot like a truck that David knew well. When his dad stepped out of the truck with a coach’s shirt on, David’s mouth dropped open.

Ryan ran over to David. “You mean you didn’t know?” he asked. “You actually didn’t know your dad would be the coach?”

“No way,” David answered. “I can’t believe this! But I’m glad, I think. I mean, Dad is tough, but he’s always fair.”

“You don’t have to worry about getting on the team,” Ryan laughed. “Me either, cause I’m your friend. This is great!”

David's dad walked to the pitcher's mound, and the boys gathered around him. "Hi, guys," he said. "Most of you know who I am; but for those who don't, I'm not Coach Bell. He decided to be a spectator instead of a coach this year. My name is Mr. Carter, but you can just call me Coach.

My son David is trying out, too, but if he can't keep up with the drills and show me he means business, he won't make the team. I'm fair, but I'm hard. Are you ready to play baseball?"

"Yeah!!" Everyone cheered.

"Well let's pray, and then do some laps around the field to warm up."

The boys took off running when Coach said Amen. Many of them ran too fast at the beginning, and by the second lap were out of steam. David passed Ryan on his third lap. "Hey," Ryan moaned, "where did you get all your energy? You're making me look bad!"

"I've practiced every night for the past two weeks. What have you been doing?" He asked as he ran ahead.

After laps were run, Coach assigned the first round of players. Ryan was at second base. David was on the opposite team, and was up to bat.

The pitcher threw a strike right over the plate, and David hit it hard. It flew on the ground past the pitcher, past Ryan on second base, and all the way to the center fielder, who threw it in and stopped David on third base.

When Ryan was up to bat he made a weak hit after two strikes and was out on first. When the first baseman tagged him, Ryan yelled, "I know I'm out; leave me alone!" Coach Carter had to speak to him on the sidelines, and Ryan was not happy.

At the end of the three hours, Coach read the first list of cuts. Several younger boys were cut, and the last name on the list was Ryan's.

Ryan sat on the bleachers long after the other boys had gone home. David decided to tell him he was sorry that he didn't make the team.

Ryan shook his head. "It's okay, David. I didn't practice. I had a bad attitude. I didn't do anything to get ready. I thought I didn't need to. I should have done what you did. You were smart."

"No, Ryan," David said. "I just wanted to persevere."

"What?" Ryan asked.

"Come on, I'll tell you all about it," David said, as the two boys headed for home.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 7:9-15

### LESSON

#### **GOD GIVES A SIGN**

Our story begins the night before the Israelites are going to face the Midianites in battle. The army of the Midianites was vast, but the Israelites army consisted of only 300 men. It was a time of true faith for the men of Israel and especially for Gideon.

God wanted Gideon to be certain in his heart that when he went to fight the Midianites, the battle would be won. He wanted Gideon to focus on the power of God instead of the power of the enemy.

Now, it was not a mystery to God what would happen in the battle. God knew exactly what would happen because God had complete control of everything. He just wanted Gideon to know also. He wanted Gideon to know he would walk away victorious because God had given the victory into his hand.

So God told Gideon to go to the enemy camp as a spy and listen to what the enemy soldiers were saying. God was going to give Gideon a sign that would assure Gideon's heart that he was doing the right thing.

Judges 7:9-11 says, *And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Arise, get thee down unto the host; for I have delivered it into thine hand.*

*But if thou fear to go down, go thou with Phurah thy servant down to the host:*

*And thou shalt hear what they say; and afterward shall thine hands be strengthened to go down unto the host. Then went he down with Phurah his servant unto the outside of the armed men that were in the host.*

Isn't it wonderful to know God is always in control of everything that happens to you? No matter what battle you face ahead in your life, God is in control. He knows the outcome. He controls the outcome. You can be daring because your trust is in God, not in yourself.

Can you imagine what it must have been like? It was late and all was quiet like it is when it is black outside in the middle of the night. I am sure Gideon did not just go walking into the enemy camp. Instead Gideon and his servant, Phurah, went sneaking, as quietly as mice, over to where the Midianites were camped. They made sure they stayed out of sight as they inched close enough to listen to the conversation going on between two men by one of the campfires.

Now there were not just a handful of Midianites prepared to go into battle. There were not just hundreds or thousands of enemy soldiers. The Bible says the Midianites were like a swarm of locust or grasshoppers. They were everywhere and they had so many camels that they couldn't be numbered. That must have been a huge army!

Judges 7:12 says, *And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.*

It was late at night and most of the enemy soldiers were probably sound asleep, but here and there a campfire was burning with a few men huddled around the fire for warmth and a feeling of protection. There are always a few men who stay awake to watch for any surprise attacks from the enemy.

The soldiers were talking quietly amongst themselves. Around one campfire an enemy soldier began to tell his friend of a strange dream he had during the night. Apparently he had been sleeping and the disturbing dream awakened him. He was quite upset. Gideon and Phurah listened carefully. They wanted to know what the enemy soldiers were thinking.

So the man began to describe his dream. He told his friend how he dreamed that a cake of barley came tumbling into the camp of the Midianite army. It rolled into camp and hit a tent so hard it knocked the tent down. The tent lay flat.

Back then the men would have known that a roll of bread made of barley was just a cheap type of bread. Most breads were made of a finer flour, but very poor people could only afford to use barley flour to make their bread.

Right away the other soldier recognized what the dream meant. He declared it meant that the small, poor army of Gideon would come and destroy them. And the two men were greatly distressed. They were very afraid.

Judges 7:13-14 says, *And when Gideon was come, behold, there was a man that told a dream unto his fellow, and said, Behold, I dreamed a dream, and, lo, a cake of barley bread tumbled into*

*the host of Midian, and came unto a tent, and smote it that it fell, and overturned it, that the tent lay along.*

*And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel: for into his hand hath God delivered Midian, and all the host.*

God let that enemy soldier have that dream and God placed a fear in the hearts of those who listened to the dream. God took away the enemies daring courage. Think about it. Here were soldiers and chariots and camels, beyond number, all outfitted for battle. As they came to camp across from where Gideon and his men were camped, they could easily count and see there was not a great army on the side of Israel. There were only 300 men ready to fight them.

Normally a vast army would have looked at that small amount of men and laughed, but God placed fear in their hearts by means of that dream. These once daring soldiers were now filled with fear!

At the same time, when Gideon heard the dream and heard what the enemy soldiers said, God placed confidence and daring in his heart. He knew now God truly had given him the victory.

#### **GIDEON WORSHIPS GOD**

As Gideon listened to the men speak, he knew God had given him the victory. And Gideon's first reaction was one that truly pleased God. Gideon worshiped God. Even before the battle began, he had the daring to thank God.

He gave thanks to God for allowing him to hear what had been said. He gave thanks that the enemy were afraid of them. But mostly he gave thanks that he was sure they would win the battle.

Gideon and his army were just poor, weak men, but God was the one with the strength. With God on his side, Gideon knew the battle was his.

Judges 7:15 says, *And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshiped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.*

#### **DARE TO BE THANKFUL**

When God gives us victory, we need to remember to thank God. We usually remember to ask God to help us when we have a problem. We take the time to pray then, but when God answers our prayer, we often are so excited that things are going our way, we forget to take a few minutes to thank God and to give Him the credit for giving us the victory.

It pleases God when we do remember Him. He loves to hear our words of thanks and praise for all He has done for us. We don't often think about it, but God does so much for us every day. Daily He loads us with blessings. We should take time to thank Him for those blessings.

Psalm 68:19 says, *Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.*

Psalm 103:2 says, *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

The victories in our life come from God. We need to be careful to remember and not forget to thank God for all the victories He brings into our life.

How can we offer true worship and thanks to God just as Gideon did?

1. Thank God with your words. We need to pray and tell God how thankful we are. Our words should be words of praise.

2. Thank God with your heart. Sometimes we can say thank you with words, but our hearts don't really mean it. If you got a pair of socks for Christmas, you might say, "Thank you," but in your heart you are thinking, "Yeah, thanks for the crummy old socks. Big deal!" You said thanks with your words, but you didn't mean it with your heart.

Our thanks to God needs to come from our heart. We need to be truly thankful for His blessings.

3. Thank God with your actions. It is easy to say thanks to God with words, but it is harder to thank God with your actions. But if you really are thankful, then the way you act will show it. You need to act in such a manner that not only God, but others will also know that you love God and are thankful to Him for all His blessings. It can take courage and daring to act out your thankfulness in front of others, but it is pleasing to God.

### **HOW ABOUT YOU?**

So, how about you? Do you experience God's blessings in your life? The biggest blessing God gives to us is the blessing of forgiveness of sin and eternal life. Have you had that blessing? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sins and come into your heart? You can do that today and then you will have something really wonderful to thank God for.

Maybe you have been saved, but you forget to thank God for all His blessings and for the victories in your life. We all forget sometimes. It is easy to do. But today you can ask God to help you be a more thankful person.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to dare to thank God for each victory that comes into your life.

1. Thank God with your words. Remember to say thank you.
2. Thank God with your heart. Feel thankful to God in your heart.
3. Thank God with your actions. Show your thankfulness by the way you act.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

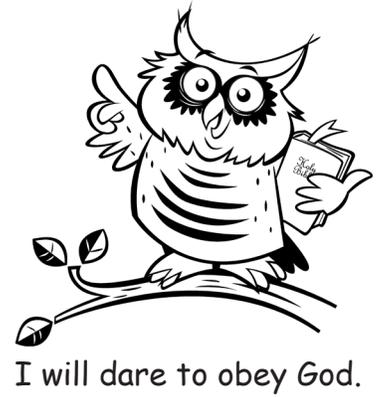
Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember to thank Him for all the victories He brings into your life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God tell Gideon he should do?
2. What was the name of the servant who went with Gideon?
3. What were the two enemy soldiers talking about?
4. Why did the men think the roll of barley represented Israel's army?
5. What was the number of camels the Midianites had?
6. What did the Midianite soldiers think the dream meant?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What did Gideon do when he heard the dream?
9. How many men were in Gideon's army?
10. What do we need to do when God gives us a victory in life?

# Dare to Thank God for Victory

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.  
Philippians 4:13



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| Y | K | O | C | M | U | X | C | W | C |
| X | I | M | L | L | X | E | N | K | X |
| C | C | J | O | K | Y | M | H | I | M |
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1. Color the squares with letters that occur 7 times or more.
2. Then write the letters from the uncolored squares, in order, on the lines provided to solve the puzzle.

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LESSON 32

A DARING CHILD  
DARE TO BE EMPOWERED BY GOD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 7:15b-22

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will dare to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

Philippians 4:13



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

You have power at your fingertips. Did you know that? Every morning when you get out of bed and flick on a light, you have tapped into an enormous source of power. What is it called? That's right, it's electricity.

You may not understand how electricity works. What causes a light to go on or a TV to run or a hair dryer to blow when you simply flip a switch or push a button? You don't have to understand how it works in order to make it work, do you? No. All you have to do is flip the switch or push the button and, viola, you have power.

There is another power that all Christians can tap into also. That is the power of God. You don't have to understand everything about God in order to tap into His power. You just have to be His child and you need to have the faith to dare to ask for it.

It is a bit like flipping the switch. If you don't flip the switch on a light, it won't work. You can stand all day and stare at the light switch, but until you reach out and flip it, you won't have any power.

The same is true with God. His power is available to you. He wants to give you the power to live a life that is pleasing to Him. He wants you to experience His power in all you do, but you will never experience His power until you dare to ask Him for it.

On your own, you are powerless. We humans are very limited. Without God's help you wouldn't be able to inhale the oxygen you need to breathe. Without God's help, you wouldn't be able to think. You wouldn't be able to do anything. It is also true for your spiritual life. Without God's help, you cannot have the power to live and act in a way that is pleasing to God.

But God freely offers His power to you. All you have to do is dare to ask for it. God wants to give you the power to live for Him. Just ask. It's like flipping the switch.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will dare to obey God.

### SONG TIME

## SUPPORTING STORY

### WAS ALEXANDER GREAT?

Long ago there was a mighty king and warrior. He was known to the world as Alexander the Great. If you haven't studied him in school yet, you will someday.

Alexander was born in the year 356 B.C. That would be 356 years before Christ was born. At the age of twenty, when someone murdered Alexander's father, he became the king of Macedonia. He was an extremely young man to be the ruler of such a great country, but he was confident in his ability. He was a fearless leader.

Alexander was not satisfied with the land he already possessed in his kingdom. He wanted more land, more servants, more money. So Alexander set out to conquer the entire world.

Alexander gathered his troops. He had 35,000 men who were in his army. He gave them his battle plan. It was fairly simple. He planned to conquer one country after another until everyone and everything belonged to him.

Alexander and his men would march into the surrounding countries and take over. Then they would keep on into countries that lay farther away. They would battle for control of each country they passed through. Then, when a country had been conquered, he would go on to attack the next country. Often the small countries would simply surrender to Alexander and his army.

Alexander was greatly loved by the men who followed him into battle. He was not only their king, he was a mighty soldier and they looked up to and admired him. He set the example for his troops by caring for his body in the way a true warrior should. He ate only foods that strengthened his body and he avoided strong drink that would impair his judgment and weaken his body.

Alexander was also not afraid to join his men in the heat of the battle to fight an enemy. He was brave and courageous. Everyone knew that. As the men fought, they knew their leader was sure to be right with them, fighting along side of them.

For eleven long years Alexander marched with his troops conquering country after country. He never lost a battle and soon much of the world was under Alexander's control.

But something began to happen to Alexander. He began to believe that because he had never lost a battle, it was impossible to beat him. In fact, he began to believe and declare to anyone who would listen that he was a god. He claimed to be the son of the Greek god Zeus.

What a foolish man. We all know the Greek gods were just myths. They were imaginary characters from stories told by the Greek citizens. But Alexander insisted it was true. And he began to believe his own lies. He began to think he was a great god whom no one could harm or defeat.

Finally the day came when Alexander was defeated. He met his match. But he was not defeated by an enemy that fought with a sword. He was not defeated by a mighty army. Alexander was defeated by the enemy which lived within his own heart and mind. Alexander was defeated by his own pride.

You see, when Alexander began believing he was an invincible god, then he also began to believe he no longer had to follow the rules of living which he had always strictly followed before in the past. Alexander had been careful to protect and nourish himself so that he would keep his body strong. But when Alexander fooled himself into thinking he was a god, then he broke away from his own rules. He began to drink heavily. He began to destroy his own body.

One day, as Alexander was preparing for yet another battle, Alexander joined in a drinking contest with some of his men. It is said that he drank six entire quarts of wine. He became very drunk.

Then he staggered away to his tent. He was too drunk to put himself to sleep properly. Even though it was winter outside and very cold, instead of covering up as he slept, he lay across his cot uncovered.

That night he took a chill. The next morning he woke sick from the large amounts of alcohol and from the chill he had gotten in the night. He became very ill with a fever. He did not get better but instead continued to worsen. Ten days later, like all mere human beings, he died.

In all the years since he had taken the throne of Macedonia, he had never lost a battle in war. He was always successful in battle, but in the end he was a failure to his family and friends. In the eleven years he reigned, he never once returned home to enjoy the company of his friends and family. For all that he had accomplished in his 33 years on earth, he had also missed out on so much. And his success in battle had caused him to believe a lie about himself. He thought he was invincible. He thought he was all-powerful. He thought he was a god.

But Alexander was wrong. He was not a god. He was defeatable. He was only a foolish human who deceived himself. He was daring, but his daring was based on himself, not on God. Had he been a truly wise king, he would have known there is only one true God and all power comes from God alone.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*      Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 7:15b-22

### LESSON

#### **ARISE**

Last week we learned that God allowed Gideon to sneak into the enemy camp and listen to two enemy soldiers as they discussed a dream one of them had. The dream was that a cake of barley had rolled into the camp and bowled over a tent.

The men knew the dream meant that the puny army of Gideon would come and destroy their vast army of men, chariots, and camels. They quaked with fear!

But Gideon was encouraged. He was so thankful to God for giving him this sign of victory that he worshiped God and thanked Him for what He would do the next day in battle. He knew that even though he was weak, God was powerful.

So, while it was still in the darkness of night, Gideon hurried back to his own camp. He was energized and ready to go. He shouted to his men to wake up, get up, and prepare to fight. He assured the men God would give them victory. The battle was already won!

Judges 7:15 says, *And it was so, when Gideon heard the telling of the dream, and the interpretation thereof, that he worshiped, and returned into the host of Israel, and said, Arise; for the LORD hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian.*

I can just hear Gideon shouting in happiness and confidence to his men. And I am sure his confidence was contagious. The men jumped up and were ready to follow Gideon into battle.

But do you notice Gideon did not say to his men, "Arise, for you will go win that battle because you are such mighty soldiers. You are so good you can't lose!"

No. Gideon tells the men they will win the battle because God will deliver the enemy into their hand. Gideon does not take the credit, he gives the credit to God. And that was wise of him, because it was God who would fight this battle. The men would not win in their own power. No. Their power to win would come from God.

#### **NO SWORDS?**

Now that the men were up and ready to move, Gideon divided the men into three groups. He placed one hundred in each company of men. Then he passed out the weapons. Gideon gave to each man a trumpet and an empty pitcher. Inside of each pitcher was a torch that was lit.

Wait a minute! Gideon only gave the men trumpets and pitchers and torches? No swords? No shields? No machine guns? No jet air planes? No smart bombs?

No. Gideon gave the men the weapons that I am sure God told Gideon to use. It seems strange to go into battle with what amounts to basically no weapons at all, but these men dared to trust in God, not their weapons.

Gideon knew God would fight the battle. He knew God's ways are not the same ways as men's ways. Most men would think it was crazy to go into battle without weapons, but that would be because they were trusting in their own strength. They would be trusting their weapons to protect them. But Gideon and his men were trusting in God's power to protect them. That took daring! But they were wise to dare to trust God!

In Psalm 20:7 it tells us, *Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.*

Then Gideon told the men what the battle plan was. They were to watch him and follow his example. They were to do as he did.

Judges 7:16-17 says, *And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.*

*And he said unto them, Look on me, and do likewise: and, behold, when I come to the outside of the camp, it shall be that, as I do, so shall ye do.*

So into the dark night Gideon and his army went. In the cover of darkness the men quietly positioned themselves. They would surround the enemy. Then they would look to Gideon for directions on what to do next. Whatever Gideon did, they would do.

Gideon waited for all of his men to get into position. When everyone was ready, Gideon smashed his pitcher, blew his trumpet, and shouted with a loud, strong voice, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!" The 100 men that were with him took action also. And as soon as the other men saw what Gideon was doing, they did the same.

Can you imagine what it sounded like to hear 300 trumpets blowing and 300 pitchers smashing. When they looked, the enemy saw lights of fire all around them and they heard the great roar of what sounded like a huge army.

Judges 7:20-21 says, *And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.*

*And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled.*

In the dark, the men of Midian were extremely startled and frightened. They awoke from a sound sleep. It was still dark, but they heard the noise of battle surrounding them. All around

they saw torches burning and it must have looked like they were completely surrounded by the Israelites.

Total chaos broke out in the camp of the Midianites. They jumped up and began to run. The men drew their swords and began to fight. They swung their swords at anyone who was nearby. They didn't even take the time to look at who they were fighting. It was such confusion.

Judges 7:19 and 22 says, *So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.*

*And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.*

Can you picture it in your mind? Use your imagination. Thousands of men are awakened out of a sound sleep and they see the lights of the enemy all around. The men draw swords and begin to kill any man who approaches. Swords are flying through the air. Men are shouting and screaming. And every man who can, turns and runs back towards their homeland in fear.

All the while the men of Gideon are standing with their torches held high. They are watching in amazement and awe as they see that the enemy are destroying each other. How they must have been praising God!

The men of Gideon didn't need swords, God had caused such confusion in the enemy camp that the enemy were killing each other for them. All the men of Israel had to do was stand and watch.

What a powerful God they served! He was able to take 300 men with no weapons and allow them to scare an enormous army of men into destroying themselves.

## **POWER FROM GOD**

The God who guided Gideon and gave the victory against the mighty enemy is the same God whom you serve. God is the same today. Just because God does not come and talk to you in person, face to face, does not mean God is any less powerful today than He was on that day.

God is the same and the power of God is the same. Just as God knew what Israel and Gideon needed in their life, God also knows what you need. He can see your life. He can see the enemies you face everyday. He knows how to defeat your enemies. He knows how to give you the power to defeat each enemy. No enemy is bigger or stronger than God.

The Bible tells us that our power comes from God.

Zechariah 4:6b says, *Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.*

I Chronicles 29:12 says, *Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.*

God does not need machine guns or smart bombs or even swords and shields to show His power. He can do anything He wants to do because He is God. His power is more than you can ever imagine. And this all-powerful God is your Father. If you are daring enough to allow God to empower you, He will!

Or at least He is your Father if you have asked Him to forgive your sin and come into your life. Have you done that?

You see, each person is born a sinner. You sin because you are born a sinner. And your sin separates you from God. God hates sin. He is holy and He cannot look on sin.

But God loves you. He wants to be close to you. So God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ to earth to take your punishment for sin.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages (or payment) of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jesus took your punishment for sin. He paid the price of sin. He died on the cross in your place. Now you only need to accept the free gift God wants to give to you. That gift is eternal life in Heaven. Because Jesus died on the cross in your place, you can have eternal life.

Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life? We can take a Bible and show you how to do that today.

Maybe you are a Christian. You know Jesus as your personal Savior, but you did not realize you have the power of God to help you defeat the enemies in your life.

Every one of you has enemies that want to defeat you. There is Satan who wants to trip you up and destroy your testimony for God. There is your own sin nature that desires to sin. It comes naturally. There is the World who wants to tempt you to do things you should not do and tempt you to want things that you shouldn't want.

But God is more powerful than your sin nature, He is more powerful than the World, and He is more powerful than Satan. God can empower you to say no to Satan, to sin, and to the temptations of the World. Just ask Him to help you.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to remember your power comes from God. When Satan, or the World, or your own sin nature comes to tempt you to sin, turn to the One who can give you the power to resist temptation and say no to sin.

You are pretty powerless on your own. Don't trust your own power. You don't have the needed power, but God does. Talk to God and ask Him to help you. Ask Him to give you His power to resist sin. Then do like Gideon did. Dare to obey what God tells you to do. If you obey God, then He will give you the power to defeat your enemies.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to daily help you to turn to Him for your power in life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. How many groups did Gideon divide his men into?
2. What weapons did Gideon give to his men?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What did Gideon tell the men to do with the trumpets and pitchers?
5. What did Gideon and his men shout?
6. What happened in the Midianite camp when the Israelites shouted?
7. How many Israelite men had to fight the Midianites?
8. What time of day did the Israelites attack?
9. Why would it be smart to attack at night?
10. What problem or enemy is too strong for God?

# Dare to be Empowered by God

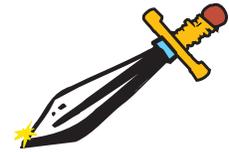
Oh how great is thy goodness, which  
thou hast laid up for them that fear thee.  
Psalm 31:19a



I will dare to obey God.



Unscramble the letters  
to fill in the blanks?



1. Gideon overheard two enemy soldiers talking about a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
REMDA
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ was very afraid. YEMEN
3. Gideon thanked God for that sign of \_\_\_\_\_ . YVITCRO
4. Gideon went to his camp to \_\_\_\_\_ his men. KAWE
5. Gideon knew they would win the \_\_\_\_\_ because God was with them.  
TABTEL
6. The men carried a \_\_\_\_\_ and a pitcher. PUTRTMU
7. God would \_\_\_\_\_ for them. THIGF
8. Gideon shouted, "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord and of Gideon." DROWS



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LESSON 33

A CHILD OF PURITY  
PURE FROM THE WORLD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 13:1-24

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will keep myself pure.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*  
Matthew 5:8



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

“How come you can’t do anything that’s fun?” Stacy asked.

“I do lots of fun things!” Carrie said.

“You know what I mean. You can’t listen to rock music. You can’t go to the school dances. You can’t date ’til you’ll be an old lady!” Stacy challenged.

Carrie smiled. She had heard all of this before. For a while she had struggled with it too. She came from a Christian home and none of those things were allowed. Carrie had felt like she couldn’t do anything fun that the other kids at school could do.

But one day things had changed. Carrie realized the reason she didn’t do all those “fun” things was not because her parents said she couldn’t or because her church didn’t allow her to. No, she didn’t do those things because she didn’t want to. She didn’t want to do anything that would hurt or offend her God. God had loved her enough to save her and in return she wanted to love God enough to only do things that would please Him.

After Carrie settled that decision her feelings and desires completely changed. She found that she no longer envied her friends at school for all the things they did but she didn’t do. She just simply didn’t want to do those things anymore.

“You have it all wrong,” Carrie told Stacy. “It’s not that I can’t do those things. It is that I don’t want to do those things.”

Carrie knew Stacy would never understand what she meant. But she knew that God knew. She knew she wanted to keep herself separate and special and pure for God. She knew God was pleased with her decision.

**Today’s Life Lesson is:** I will keep myself pure.

### SONG TIME

## SUPPORTING STORY

### Marabella - Part 1

Cookie Altizer

Obtain Flash Card

Once upon a time in a far away country, there lived a good King. This King was the most loving, wise, and powerful king that had ever lived. This King, in fact, was the greatest King of all the kings that had ever lived on the earth. (Show Flash Card)

One of the ways that the Good King showed His love for His people was by giving them good things. He encouraged His people to come to Him and ask for things that they needed or wanted. It delighted the Good King when His people asked for good things and He was even more delighted to grant their requests. Because He was so wise, He always knew which gifts were best for each one. Because He was so powerful, He could give them exactly what was best. No matter which gifts the Good King sent, they were always exactly what was best for each person in His kingdom. This loving, wise and powerful King loved His people with all His heart.

One day in the Beautiful City of the King, something horrible happened. One of the King's most handsome and most powerful servants decided that he was tired of being a servant. He did not want to serve the Good King any more but he wanted to be greater than the Good King. He wanted his own kingdom with his own servants.

The wicked servant broke the Good King's heart that day. The Good King's heart was broken, because, in His wisdom, He knew that His only true Son would have to suffer and die because of the wicked servant. He also knew that all of His other people, whom He loved so much, would also have to suffer because of the rebellion of this one wicked servant.

That day, the heartbroken King told the wicked servant that he was forever banished from the Beautiful City. The wicked servant was very angry and shouted at the Good King.

"You are not fair! I will get even for what you did to me today! I will get your people to hate you and they will serve me in my kingdom forever! You will see, I will have more people in my kingdom than you will ever have in yours!"

From that day until this, that wicked servant has been called the Wicked Prince and he has been trying to win the war that he declared against the Good King.

After that horrible day, life went on in the Beautiful City but things were never exactly the same because the Good King knew that terrible things were yet to come.

In a faraway part of the kingdom, a kind woodcutter and his good wife lived at the edge of a huge forest. They lived in a small white cottage with their five children. There were two boys, two girls, and a little baby sister named Marabella. The woodcutter and his family loved the Good King and they all loved each other. Because of their love and happiness, the little white cottage was often filled with laughter.

The wicked Prince watched the woodcutter's happy family from afar and was not pleased. He thought to himself, "They would not love and serve the King if something bad happened to their happy little family. They would turn away from the King and serve me."

One day, when Marabella was seven years old, the kind woodcutter was deep in the dark forest cutting wood. Suddenly, something awful happened. The woodcutter had a horrible pain in his head and became very sick. His helpers carried him to the best doctors in the land but before the sun had set, the woodcutter was dead. His wife and five children were heartbroken.

Time passed and the woodcutter's sad family had to go on without him. One by one, the woodcutter's children grew up, married, and made homes of their own. Soon, all that was left of the woodcutter's family was his wife and his youngest daughter, Marabella. Marabella loved her mother very much and tried to make her as happy as she was when their whole family was together. But their life was very lonely and laughter no longer filled the little white cottage.

The wicked Prince was very happy that there were only two people left in the woodcutter's home. One dark night, he peeked in the cottage window. He saw something that made him very angry. The woodcutter's wife was sitting in her favorite chair by the fireplace smiling as she read a letter from the Good King. The wicked prince said in a rage,

"She still loves the King! How can she, after all the bad things that have happened to her? I must find a way to make her hate the King and serve me!"

Soon Marabella grew into a young woman. She often thought about her father and missed him very much. She started dreaming of a charming prince who would be just as kind and generous as her father. Her prince would love her and take her to live with him in his castle.

The wicked prince saw Marabella sitting on the front porch one moonlit night dreaming of her charming prince. He said wickedly to himself, "That's it! That's how I can destroy the woodcutter's wife and Marabella! I will pretend to be her charming prince and trick her into serving me."

It looks like Marabella has an enemy she doesn't even know about. Next week we will find out more of what happens to Marabella.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*      Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 13:1-24

### LESSON

#### A SPECIAL CHILD

After Gideon led Israel to victory, he became their judge. They asked him and his sons to be their ruler, but Gideon flat out told the people he would not be their ruler. He told them God was their ruler.

But sadly, as soon as Gideon died, the people began to do evil again. The cycle of sin began again. The judge that God sent would deliver the people. They would live for God for as long as the judge lived. Then when the judge died, they would begin to sin again. So God would send a wicked country to punish the people. And on it went.

A few more judges had come and gone since Gideon died. The people were once more living sinful lives. They were ignoring God and doing exactly as they pleased. So God allowed the Philistines to come defeat Israel.

Judges 13:1 says, *And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.*

There was a man who must have continued to love and worship God. I know that because God came to this man and his wife. He had a special message for them. The man's name was Manoah.

You see, Manoah and his wife had not been able to have children. They longed for a child, but none had been born to them.

In Bible days it was an important thing for a woman to have children and to care for her home. Every woman longed to be a mother. In fact, it was considered a shame for a woman not to have children. So Manoah's wife longed for a child. It was her greatest desire.

One day the woman received a special visitor. Again, as to Gideon, the Lord appeared in the form of an angel. The angel of the Lord came to the woman. He told her some amazing news. He said she was going to have a child. He also told her what she needed to do. She was to be careful not to drink any wine or strong drink or to eat any unclean thing.

You see, the people of God had been instructed way back in Moses' day what they should eat and drink. God was very specific about not eating certain foods He called unclean.

The Israelites were normally very careful not to sin against God by eating any forbidden food, but remember the people had strayed far from God. They had sinned by worshipping false gods. I imagine they had sinned against God in many other ways. Most likely, they no longer worried about keeping the laws of God while they were living in sin. They probably broke many of God's laws. Many of them most likely ate things that were considered unclean.

The angel told the woman she would have a child and this child was not just any child. He would be special. He was to be a Nazarite. Nazarites were holy men who were especially careful what they ate and drank. They never allowed certain foods or drinks into their bodies. They never cut their hair. They lived lives that were holy and set apart for God. So the angel of the Lord was specific about what the woman was to do as she carried the child before he was born.

Judges 13:3-5 says, *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.*

*Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:*

*For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*

The angel told the woman that the child would be a special man, a Nazarite, set apart by God. And more than that, he would have the job of delivering his people from the oppression of the Philistines.

When Manoah got home, his wife told him the exciting news. She told him all about the angel who came to give her a message of the child she would bear.

The woman did not know she had been visited by an angel. She did realize that the man who had spoken to her was a man of God. She did not doubt the news he told her. She believed what he said.

Manoah didn't question the news either. He believed his wife, but he wanted to hear the news for himself. What if his wife had missed something important? He wanted to hear all the instructions for himself. He wanted to make sure they had it all right so they would raise the child exactly as God instructed.

Manoah asked God to let the man of God come to Him. So God granted Manoah's wish. Again the angel of God came to the woman. As soon as she saw the angel she rushed to get her husband. She wanted him there so he wouldn't miss the visit this time.

Judges 13:8-10 says, *Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.*

*And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her.*

*And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day.*

Again the angel repeated all the things he had told the woman. Now both Manoah and his wife knew exactly what they should do.

Manoah offered to feed the man of God, but instead the angel asked Manoah to offer a sacrifice. So he did. And when Manoah offered the sacrifice, the angel caused fire to consume the sacrifice and the angel went up in the flame. This showed that God had accepted their sacrifice and was pleased with them.

It was then that Manoah and his wife realized they weren't merely speaking with a man of God, but instead they were speaking directly to God. They instantly fell on their faces and worshiped God. They showed respect to God.

Judges 13:19-20 says, *So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Manoah and his wife looked on.*

*For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.*

God was pleased with the faith Manoah and his wife showed. They did not doubt the message they received and they worshiped God when they realized they were in the presence of God.

Today we are in the presence of God. We are here in God's house. We need to be careful that we show respect and honor to God. Our worship to Him should be a pleasing sacrifice to Him.

### **“WE’LL DIE!”**

It frightened Manoah when he realized they had spoken face to face with God. He began to feel panicky. He was afraid they would die because they had looked on God. He told his wife he feared that since they had seen God, they would be killed. But Manoah's wife was calmer. His wife reasoned with him that God would not kill them since he had selected them to be the parents of the child He was sending them.

The Bible says no man can look on God. When Moses asked to see God, God had told Moses he could not look on God and live. Yet God wants to be close to us. So God sent Jesus in His place. Manoah and his wife had spoken with the God the Son.

In Old Testament times God often sent Jesus in the form of an angel. In New Testament times God sent Jesus in the form of a man. How amazing that God would love us enough to come to earth to be with us. Through Jesus Christ we can know God.

John 1:18 says, *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

In John 12:45 Jesus said, *And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*

How much God loves us. He did not have to reveal Himself to man. We are all so sinful, but God wanted to make a way that we could be forgiven of our sin. So God sent Jesus to die in our place.

Jesus is our way to get near to God. We can't be near God any other way except asking Jesus to forgive our sin and come into our life. In just a few minutes I will give you a chance to do just that if you haven't asked Jesus into your life already.

### **PURE AND SEPARATE FOR GOD**

So, Manoah and his wife anxiously waited for the child God would give them to love and to raise. They knew this would be a very special child who would be used of God to free their people. They understood that this child was to be kept pure and holy for the Lord. His life was to be a life that would be pleasing to God.

And so the day came when the boy was born. They named the boy Samson. His parents had been careful to avoid all the unclean things. After Samson was born, they made sure he grew up keeping himself separate for God and keeping his body pure. The Lord blessed Samson as he grew into a young man.

Judges 13:24 *And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.*

### **KEEP YOURSELF PURE**

Did you know God wants you to keep your body and your mind pure and holy for Him? He does. God wants you to be careful of the things you feed your mind. What thoughts are in your mind? What TV shows do you feed to your mind? What music do you feed to your ears? What jokes do you listen to at school and with your friends?

If you keep yourself pure for God, you will never regret it. But you will regret it if you don't. Samson found that out in his life.

So what does it mean to be separate and pure for God? Here are several things you can do to be pure for God.

1. Be a Christian. You need to have your sin forgiven and be a child of God. Hopefully you have done that. If not, you can do it today.
2. Be close to God. You can only be close to someone whom you know personally. To be close to God means you must know God. You get to know God by talking to Him and by letting Him talk to you. You need to spend time every day praying and reading the Bible.
3. Determine to avoid the World. Samson kept his body pure by avoiding foods that God said were unclean. He also avoided all things that were not pleasing to God. The same is true for

you if you want to be pure for God. You need to avoid things that would cause you to sin. You need to stay away from worldly things that would cause you to have a mind or body that is not pure.

There are so many impure things in the world and you only need to turn on the TV or listen to worldly music to see and hear things that are not pleasing to God. Others often tempt us to be impure with our bodies.

You need to decide in your heart and mind that you will avoid anything that would make you impure.

### **HOW ABOUT YOU?**

Maybe you are saved, but you have not kept yourself pure for God. The World is full of temptations that can draw us away from God and tempt us to sin.

You will never regret keeping your heart and mind pure and clean for God, but you will regret it if you don't. Sin dirties up your life. It causes pain and sorrow to you, to those who love you, and to God.

Sin may seem like fun at the beginning, but the ending is never fun. The ending of sinful ways always leads to destruction.

James 1:15 tells us, *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

You are still young. You can determine right now to keep your life pure and holy for God. You can determine to avoid the sorrow and suffering sin will bring. Today you can tell God you are willing to give your life to Him and keep yourself separate from the World.

If you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior, as we talked about earlier, but you would like to, you can do that today. We can show you how right now.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to keep yourself pure for God. How do you do that?

1. Be close to God.

Ask for God's help. Determine in your heart to keep yourself pure for God. Every decision to follow God begins in the heart. If your heart is right with God, then you will stay close to Him. You become close to God by reading His Word and praying.

2. Avoid sin.

We often think sin looks like fun. It can be hard to resist temptations. We are weak. We can easily be deceived. But with God's help we can avoid sin.

If you stay as far away from sin as you can, it will be much easier to avoid than if you get up close, look it over, think about it, and test it out a bit. Instead, reject it. Stay clear of it. Find better things to occupy your mind and body. Find things that are pleasing to God.

Right now you can make the decision to only do and look at things that are pleasing to God. Make it a heart decision.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to stay away from Worldly things and keep yourself pure for Him.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What problem did the couple have in today's story?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What was the husband's name?
4. Who appeared to Manoah's wife?
5. What did the angel tell the woman?
6. What request did Manoah have?
7. What did the angel tell Manoah to do when he wanted to fix him a meal?
8. What did the angel tell Manoah's wife she was not to do before the child was born?
9. What did the couple name the child?
10. What special job did God have for Samson?

# Pure from the World

Blessed are the pure in heart:  
for they shall see God.  
Matthew 5:8



Find the words below. Look forward, backwards, up, down and diagonally.

- Angel
- Avoid
- Child
- Cycle
- Deliver
- Evil
- Gideon
- Heart
- Holy
- Judge
- Keep
- Manoah
- Nazarite
- Philistine
- Pure
- Samson
- Separate
- Sin
- Sinful
- Special
- Unclean
- Visit
- Wife
- World

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| D | H | Z | R | P | U | O | V | H | D | O | Q | S | F | P |
| D | V | N | A | Z | A | R | I | T | E | G | D | U | J | E |
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| T | G | P | G | S | I | D | I | S | I | N | F | U | L | K |
| A | N | E | D | S | M | G | T | H | V | D | K | C | Q | G |
| R | L | C | T | M | T | A | C | X | E | G | Y | N | Y | J |
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| P | N | A | E | L | C | N | U | Z | U | L | O | R | D | R |
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| K | D | J | Y | T | E | K | W | X | V | E | U | J | G | E |



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LESSON 34

A CHILD OF PURITY  
PURE WHEN TEMPTED

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 15:20, 16:4-21

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will keep myself pure.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*  
Matthew 5:8



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

There are many things in life that can cause blindness. A harsh chemical can destroy your eyesight. Some diseases can cause blindness. Some are born blind.

It would be difficult to be blind, wouldn't it? Can you imagine not being able to see the world around you or the people you love? It would be challenging to learn to live without sight. There are many blind people in our world.

While there are people that are blind physically, there are also people who are blind spiritually. Oh, they can see with their eyes, but they are blinded by the temptations that come into their life. They are blind because they cannot see that if they give in to the temptations Satan puts before them, then they will live to regret it.

We humans are all born blind spiritually. We are all born in sin. But Jesus came to cure our spiritual blindness. How about you? How are your spiritual eyes? Have you ever allowed God to restore your spiritual eyesight? When temptations comes your way, do you look away, or do you become blinded? God wants you to resist temptations and keep yourself pure for Him.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will keep myself pure.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### MARABELLA - PART 2

Cookie Altizer

Obtain Flash Card

(Note: This is a sensitive subject, but it is an important one on purity. This story tastefully addresses the problem and you can tell it or read it simply without added detail.)

#### SYNOPSIS:

Last week we began a story called *Marabella*. The Good King loved the people of his kingdom very much and they loved Him.

But one day a servant decided he did not want to serve the Good King anymore. He was thrown out of the kingdom for trying to start trouble. He became known as the wicked prince.

The wicked prince hated the Good King and did everything he could to destroy Him and all those who loved Him.

One day the wicked prince saw a woodcutter and his family who loved the Good King. He determined to destroy the family of the woodcutter. First the woodcutter died. But the wicked prince saw that the woodcutter's wife and daughter still loved and served the Good King. So he determined to find a way to destroy them.

One day as the woodcutter's daughter, Marabella, was dreaming about the handsome prince who would one day come to marry her, the wicked prince had a wicked idea. He would pretend to be her charming prince and trick her into serving him.

Our Story:

Later that day, the handsome, wicked prince followed Marabella into the dark forest when she went for a walk. He walked along beside her and spoke kindly and lovingly to her, "Good evening, lovely Marabella. May I walk along with you on my way to visit my dear old mother?" (Show Flash Card)

Even though Marabella had been warned many times not to talk to strangers, Marabella smiled and looked directly into his strangely beautiful blue eyes. "Do you pass this way often, beautiful Marabella?" the handsome stranger asked.

"Yes, I usually walk along this path in the evening while my mother is resting," said Marabella shyly.

"Could I walk along with you again another evening?" asked the stranger.

Marabella liked the way the handsome stranger made her feel beautiful and all grown-up. She admired him because he seemed kind and gentle. In fact, Marabella liked him so much she made a decision that evening that changed the rest of her life. Foolishly, she decided to walk again with the stranger and to keep it a secret from her mother. Walking with the stranger was an exciting adventure. Marabella was so happy the stranger wanted to be with her that she soon forgot all about trying to please her mother.

Marabella continued her secret walks for many months. Over time Marabella became disobedient, sassy, and rebellious. Marabella's mother grew worried about her daughter because she seemed different from the sweet little girl that she had known. Marabella's mother tried to talk to her daughter about the change, but Marabella would not confide in her.

Because of the bad choices Marabella made, she soon discovered that she had a terrible problem: even though Marabella was not married to the handsome stranger, she was going to have a baby. The next evening, as they were walking along, Marabella told the stranger her problem. She knew as loving and as kind as he was, he would surely marry her and they would live happily ever after. Marabella looked into his blue eyes and told him about her problem, expecting a look of loving understanding. She was not prepared for what happened next. The handsome stranger said with a wicked laugh,

“Marabella, you are a fool. I tricked you from the first day we walked into the forest. You fell right into the trap that I set for you. Now you will be in my power. Now your mother will hate the King because He didn’t protect her precious little daughter.” Then the stranger turned and calmly walked back down the path that led deeper into the forest.

Marabella could not believe what was happening to her. Angrily she ran home. She slammed her bedroom door. Later, alone in her room, Marabella paced back and forth trying to decide what to do. “I am afraid to tell my mother what I have done. She will be so hurt and disappointed that she will die. What shall I do? Who can help me?”

But instead of turning to her mother or to the Good King for help, Marabella made her own plan. The plan was this: she would keep yet another secret from her mother. Marabella would visit her brothers who lived on the other side of the forest and she would stay there until her baby was born. She would search for a married couple who longed for a child. Then she would give her baby to them to raise. Marabella didn’t want her baby to grow up without a father as she had done. Marabella had no money and no home of her own, so how could she keep her baby? The plan seemed good to Marabella. So she traveled to the other side of the forest and waited for her baby to be born.

But something happened to Marabella that she did not plan. As time passed, Marabella began to love the child more each day. She tried to imagine how it would be to hold her very own child. Even though she had promised a kind couple that they could have her baby, Marabella could not bear to think of parting with her child.

She would often sit at her window at night dreaming of a different charming prince. She dreamed that he would come and marry her. He would take her and her baby to his castle where they would all live happily. Later, at night, Marabella wept bitterly because of the bad choices she had made.

Marabella waited and waited for her charming prince, truly believing that he would come before her baby was born. Suddenly one night, Marabella woke knowing that her prince’s time was running out. The baby would soon arrive.

At the darkest hour of the night, Marabella’s baby was born. Marabella was alone. Her child had no father. Her child had no home. What would Marabella do? It seemed she had only two choices and both seemed too painful to bear. Marabella knew that the kind couple could give her baby the things that Marabella could not: a home, a family, and a daddy. With a broken heart, Marabella decided to give her precious child, a little girl, to another family to love, to cherish, and to hold.

With empty arms and a broken heart, Marabella trudged along the path that led back into the forest.

Next week we’ll find out what happens next to Marabella.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 15:20, 16:4-21

### LESSON

#### THE LAST JUDGE

When Samson was born, the Philistines were oppressing Israel. They caused them great trouble and sorrow. Most of the other countries that oppressed Israel had come to steal whatever they could find like food and other goods. But the Philistines were different. They wanted to steal the land from Israel. For forty years they troubled Israel.

When Samson became a man God sent him to be Israel's judge. Samson was the last judge God gave to Israel to lead and guide them. God gave Samson a very special gift. He allowed Samson to be an extremely strong man. He was stronger than several men put together. God gave Samson this gift to allow him to do the job God called him to do as the judge of Israel.

Samson was a Nazarite. That means from his birth he had taken a vow to keep himself pure. He never tasted strong drink or wine. He never cut his hair. He never ate foods that were considered unclean.

Samson was different from the other judges God sent. Always before the judge would lead the Israelites to fight the oppressor and God would give them the victory. But this time Samson did not lead in battle. Instead he used the physical power God gave him to go by himself and cause great trouble for the Philistines. He would often go kill large numbers of the enemy by his own strength. The Philistines grew to hate both Samson and the God of the Israelites. They knew God gave Samson his power.

## TEMPTATIONS

Samson knew the Lord. He was blessed by the Lord with great power. But Samson was also very human. He did not seem to be able to resist temptation when it came his way.

When he was a young man he married a woman who was a Philistine. This was not a good thing. He should have kept himself separate from the enemies of God, but the temptation was too great for him.

The marriage caused nothing but trouble and in the end Samson's wife and father-in-law were burned to death by the Philistines. Samson took his revenge by killing over 1000 Philistines.

Then Samson settled down to judge Israel. For twenty years he was their judge. But one day Samson gave in to another terrible temptation. Samson met a woman named Delilah.

Judges 16:4 says, *And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.*

Now I am sure Delilah was a very beautiful woman. Samson took one look at her and he was smitten with love. He was bit by the love-bug. Delilah must have batted her long eye lashes at Samson and smiled slyly at him. When he paid attention to her, she must have said, "Why, Samson! How strong you are! Let me feel those big, strong muscles. You're so handsome too!"

Like a fool, Samson fell for her beauty and sweet words. She seemed so wonderful to him.

The Bible says others will often use sweet words to tempt and tease you to do things that are wrong. But if you give in to the temptation, then you will pay a terrible price.

Proverbs 5:3-5 says, *For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:*

*But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.*

*Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.*

Sin can be so tempting. Even when you know something is wrong, it is easy to forget how destructive sin can be. Samson did. He could not see the trouble that lay ahead by not resisting temptation and staying true to God. And Samson would pay dearly for his weakness.

It is so easy to be enticed by temptation, especially when it comes to the matter of love. They say love is blind. That is true. Being in love can cause you to overlook things you shouldn't overlook. For instance, it is wrong to overlook the fact that a person is not a Christian when you are in love.

You are still young, but you are not so young that you don't know that some day you will become interested in a young man or a young woman. You will look around and there he (or she) will be. The person of your dreams. So cute. So smart. So perfect. So wonderful. And it

won't seem to matter to you at the time whether or not they are a Christian. It won't matter if they love the Lord. All that will matter is being with that person.

Many young people have made very foolish decisions in life because they thought they were in love. They forgot all about their commitment to love and serve God. They forgot it's almost impossible to love and serve God when they are with someone who does not also love and serve God. In the end, they paid dearly for their foolishness of yielding to temptation.

Love can make wise people into fools. It did with Samson. And unfortunately for Samson he fell in love with a very wicked woman.

### **TELL ME !**

So Samson loved Delilah, but she didn't love Samson at all. Delilah loved money. When the Philistines came to her with a business proposition, she was eager to hear what they had to offer.

They said, "Delilah, you can help us out so much. We hate Samson and yet we cannot defeat him because his God has given him such extraordinary power. If only we could find the source of his power, then we could defeat him and rid the Philistines of this nuisance."

Delilah narrowed her eyes and demanded, "What's in it for me? Why should I help you?"

"We will pay you handsomely if you help us. You will be a rich woman. Each one of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver." I don't know exactly how many men were offering money, but apparently it was quite a lot of money.

Judges 16:5 says, *And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver.*

Delilah loved money and she did not love Samson, so she quickly agreed. She was sure Samson was such a fool that he would quickly tell her all she wanted to know. She would pretend to love Samson and she would soon know his secret.

So Delilah set the trap.

That evening when Samson came to visit Delilah, she had the lights down low, candles were glowing, and romantic music was playing. She had on her prettiest dress. Her gleaming hair was long and flowing. She smiled her most enticing smile. The mood was set.

Samson was blinded by love. All he could see was Delilah.

After a wonderful dinner and some small talk, Delilah popped the question.

"Tell me, Samson, what causes you to be such a big, strong man? I'm just dying to know! What's your secret?"

Samson thought she was playing a game with him. He jokingly told her that if he was bound with seven fresh, green ropes, then he would be as weak as any other man.

Delilah smiled. She must have been thinking, “What a fool!”

So Delilah secretly instructed the Philistine men bring her seven green ropes. She bound Samson in the ropes, making sure they were tight. Just outside the house men were anxiously waiting for word from her.

So when she called out and said, “Samson! The Philistines are upon you!” She was shocked to see Samson just flex his arms and the seven green ropes broke and fell off as if they were thin pieces of string. They did not diminish his power one little bit.

Delilah pouted. “Samson, you have not been honest with me. I asked you what would make you weak, and you mocked me by telling me a lie. Now come on, tell me what will take away your strength?”

This time Samson told her if she bound him with new ropes that had never been used before, then he would be as weak as other men.

Delilah had the Philistines bring her a new rope. She tied Samson up tightly. Again she shouted that the Philistines were come to capture him. And again, Samson simply flexed his muscles and the new rope broke as if it were an old, worn out rope.

Delilah could see she was not getting very far with Samson. “Samson, you lied to me again! Now why would you do that? Please, please, tell me what I could do to take away your strength. Now don’t lie this time.”

This time Samson said if she weaved his hair into seven braids he would be weak. So Delilah smiled and spoke of other things to distract him as she began to weave his hair into seven braids. But when she called out that the Philistines were upon him, he jumped up and flexed his mighty arms and Delilah could see that all his strength was still intact.

Delilah was extremely upset. She could tell Samson was playing games with her. If she did not get him to tell her the truth, then she would lose all the money she had been promised. This wicked woman did not care at all about the fact that when she did get the truth the Philistines intended to harm Samson.

But that is typical of wicked people. They do not care at all about others. They only care that they get what they want. They only care about themselves.

So Delilah decided to change tactics a bit. “Samson, why do you mock me?” she pouted. “Three times I have asked the secret of your strength, and three times you have lied to me. Don’t you love me? If you really loved me you would tell me the truth!”

Samson should have known Delilah meant to do evil to him. But he was blinded by love as I said earlier. He knew he shouldn’t tell her the truth, but she kept pestering him to tell her. She kept saying he didn’t love her. She probably said if he didn’t love her enough to tell her the truth, then she might have to leave him.

Whatever she said, she finally wore him down after several days. Samson told Delilah the truth that his strength was in his hair.

Judges 16:15-17 says, *And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.*

*And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death;*

*That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.*

This time, when Samson told Delilah that if she cut his hair he would be as weak as other men, she could tell he was actually telling her the truth. She was very pleased. The first thing she did was call the Philistine men and demand they pay her the money they had promised. She wanted the money up front.

Then Delilah invited Samson over for another romantic evening. After dinner she suggested Samson lay his head in her lap and take a little nap. As Samson lay sleeping, Delilah called in a man to shave Samson bald.

She was a wicked woman to use Samson to get money for herself, but Samson was just as much to blame for giving in to the temptation to love a woman who did not love his God. And he was a fool for telling her his true source of strength.

As the barber cut Samson's hair, his strength seeped away. This time, when Delilah shouted, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" the Philistines really did rush in. Samson jumped up like before and he expected to be able to fight the men off with ease. He did not realize the Lord had left him. Samson was powerless to help himself.

The enemy easily took Samson as their captive.

Judges 16:18-20 says, *And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.*

*And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.*

*And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.*

## BLINDED

The Philistines took Samson, they gouged out his eyes and he was blind. Then they held Samson captive in a prison house.

Judges 16:21 says, *But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.*

The Philistines blinded Samson physically, but temptation had blinded Samson spiritually long before then. Delilah had deceived Samson and he had been willingly blinded by what he mistakenly thought was love.

But there was no love there at all. There never had been. There was only lust. Samson's lust for a woman he should never have been with and Delilah's lust for money.

Lust is not love. It is the desire to have something God never intends you to have. Lust will only cause you sorrow and trouble.

The World offers many things that can make a Christian turn his eyes away from God and become blinded by temptation. You can be blinded by what you think is love. That is lust of the flesh. You can be blinded by something you want badly, even if it is not what a Christian should have. That is lust of the eyes. Or you can be blinded by your own pride that keeps you from doing what you should for God because you worry about what other people will think of you. That is called the pride of life.

I John 2:16 *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

Satan and the World specialize in making things look fun, exciting, and desirable. They show you other people enjoying themselves doing what is wrong. They promise you happiness, possessions, and fame. But it is all false. It is all a fake.

The things the World offers you to lust after will only cause you grief in the end. You may have fun at first, but it will not end up well. It certainly won't please God. It will destroy your Christian life and it may even destroy your physical life.

The World will show you all the fun and excitement, but it won't show you the pain of having a disease that destroys your body like AIDS. It won't show you the devastation drugs bring to your life. It won't show you the shame to you and your family when you face an unwanted pregnancy. It won't show you the pain of lung cancer from smoking.

James 1:14-15 tells us, *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

*Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

You will face many temptations in your life. Refuse to be blinded by temptations. Be smart enough to see the World and all it has to offer as something that will only bring you trouble. It should not be played with. See that all the fun and excitement is just a smoke screen that looks good on the outside but is rotten and harmful on the inside.

Be smart enough to see that what God offers is good and pure. It is real and will not disappear. Living a holy, pure life will bring you true joy, lasting peace, and eternal life with God.

James 1:12 says, *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to come into your life and forgive your sin. You do things the World tempts you to do because you are still in the World. Would you like to know that your life will come to a wonderful end where your sin is forgiven and you are going to spend eternity in Heaven with God? Today we can show you how to accept Jesus.

Maybe you are a Christian, but the World looks so tempting. You want to do the things your friends do. You want to have some fun. You may wonder what harm there is in having a little fun. You need to realize the fun of the World is so short lived and so false. It doesn't last for long. But the joy of God is forever.

If you have been having problems with temptations, that is normal. You will be tempted all your life. But you can get help with your temptations. God will provide a way for you to avoid temptations. You just need to stay close to God. Keep your eyes on Him. Don't let yourself be blinded by sin.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to let God help you resist temptations. On your own, you will be weak, but with God's help, you can resist.

Here are some simple things that can help you resist sin.

1. Avoid temptation.

When something comes up that tempts you, run! Don't stay in the room when bad things come on TV. Don't listen to music that is not pleasing to God. Don't look at things that tempt you. Don't have close friends that tempt you to do wrong.

2. Substitute good things.

When you take away something, you must replace it with something else, or you will be tempted to return to the bad. If you walk away from a bad TV show, read a good book. You

could read your Bible or find a book that is pleasing to God. Instead of rock music, listen to godly music. Listen to things that are pure and beautiful. Make good friends that love the Lord and will encourage you to do what is godly.

3. Stay close to God.

Your main source of power against temptation is God. He is the one who can give you the strength to say, “no” to sin and “yes” to righteousness.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today’s challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to resist the temptations that daily come into your life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

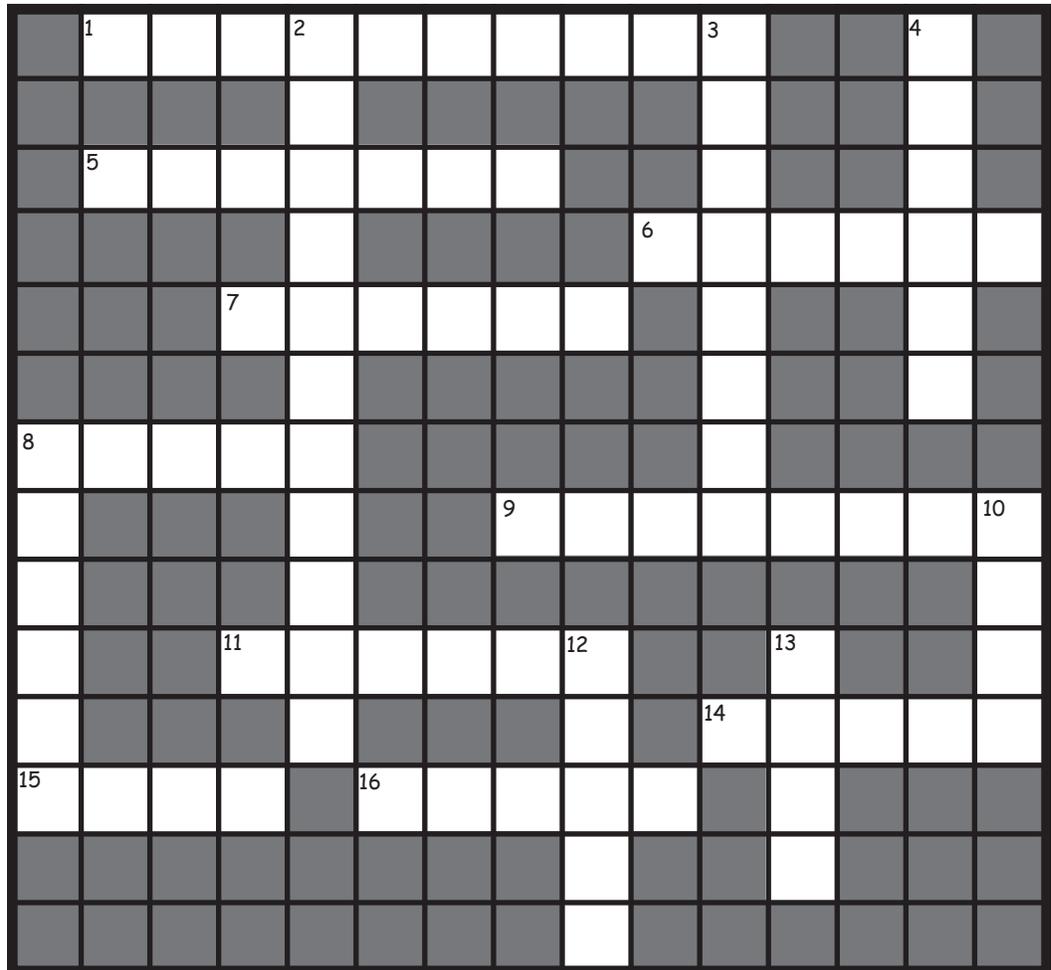
1. How many years was Samson a judge for Israel?
2. What tempted Samson to sin against God?
3. Why did Delilah agree to help the Philistines?
4. What was the first thing Samson told Delilah would make him weak?
5. What was the second thing Samson told Delilah would make him weak?
6. What was the third thing Samson told Delilah would make him weak?
7. What did Delilah finally do to get the truth from Samson?
8. Recite today’s memory verse.
9. What actually took away Samson’s strength?
10. Name one way to resist temptation.

# Pure When Tempted

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
Matthew 5:8



I will keep myself pure.



**Across**

- 1. Samson did not resist \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ was a beautiful woman.
- 6. God sent \_\_\_\_\_ to be their judge.
- 7. The Philistines paid 1,100 pieces of \_\_\_\_\_ to Delilah.
- 8. Delilah tempted Samson with her \_\_\_\_\_ words.
- 9. Samson yielded to temptation and lost his \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 11. Delilah was willing to \_\_\_\_\_ Samson.

- 14. Samson's \_\_\_\_\_ came from God.

- 15. Delilah set a \_\_\_\_\_ for Samson.

- 16. Delilah loved \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Down**

- 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ came to oppress Israel.
- 3. Samson was a \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 4. Samson was an extra \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- 8. Delilah asked Samson the \_\_\_\_\_ to his strength.
- 10. Samson never cut his \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 12. Do not be foolish enough to \_\_\_\_\_ temptation.
- 13. Delilah did not really \_\_\_\_\_ Samson.

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LESSON 35

**A CHILD OF PURITY  
PURE EVERY DAY**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 16:21-31

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will keep myself pure.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*  
Matthew 5:8



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Sam hung his head in shame. He had gone against what his dad had told him to do, and boy how much trouble it had caused! When Sam got caught, he had been punished, but the worse part was not when his dad had taken away his privileges for an entire month, or even when he had to go make things right with the person he had wronged. The worse part had been when he had looked into his dad's face and saw such disappointment in his expression. He had let his dad down. That really made Sam feel badly.

It would take a long time for Sam to earn back his dad's trust, but he was so thankful his dad was willing to forgive him and give him a second chance.

God forgives us when we sin. But how much better it would be if we determined to never let sin come into our lives in the first place!

We are talking about being pure, and that is more than just being pure in body. We also need to keep ourselves pure in mind and heart and action. Every day we need to do our best to keep ourselves pure. God can help us do just that!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will keep myself pure.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### MARABELLA - PART III

Cookie Altizer

Obtain Flash Card

#### SYNOPSIS:

We have been hearing a story called, *The Good King and The Woodcutter's Daughter*. The Good King loved the people of his kingdom very much and they loved Him.

One person did not love the Good King, that was the wicked prince. He hated the King and he hated His people. He was determined to destroy them all.

One day the wicked prince decided to destroy the family of a kind woodcutter. He did this by tricking Marabella into thinking he was her prince charming. She began to sneak away to see him. Finally she found that she was going to have a baby. Marabella was brokenhearted to have to give the baby to another family who could raise her. Then she headed back into the forest.

## OUR STORY:

With empty arms and a broken heart, Marabella trudged along the path that lead back into the forest. Blinded by her tears, Marabella fell on the rocky path. “My punishment is greater than I can bear,” she sobbed.

Marabella sobbed until she fell asleep exhausted. Later, she awoke when she heard her name softly spoken, “Marabella, Marabella.” Immediately, she recognized who was calling her name. It was the Good King! He was just as wonderful as Marabella’s mother had described Him. He was truly loving, wise, and powerful.

At once Marabella was ashamed. She realized that the Good King knew everything about her. She begged His forgiveness for her rebellion and disobedience. The Good King looked at Marabella with eyes of love that she had never known. He tenderly said, “I forgive you, Marabella. Now I want you to go back to your mother. Stay there until I send a messenger for you to bring you to the Beautiful City. I must go back there now to make a place for you.”

“But I want to go with you now!” Marabella begged the Good King. As soon as she spoke the words, Marabella was sorry she had spoken without thinking.

“No, my child. I have work for you to do before you come to live with me. By serving others, you will learn to serve me and to trust me,” said the Good King softly. He then smiled at Marabella lovingly and walked away quickly going toward the Beautiful City.

Marabella sweetly obeyed the Good King. She immediately returned to the little white cottage at the edge of the forest. There she found her mother sitting in her favorite chair by the fireplace reading another letter from the Good King.

Marabella quickly ran to her and fell at her mother’s knees. Marabella told her mother about her shameful secret and about meeting the Good King in the forest. “Mother, the Good King forgave me for all the wicked things that I have done. Will you forgive me, too? I am so sorry that I was deceitful and disobedient. How could I have been so foolish?”

With tears in her eyes and a smile on her lips, the grateful mother said, “Of course, I forgive you. I love you very much. I begged the Good King to send you home and He has. He is the most loving, wise, and powerful King that has ever lived.”

After a few months passed, the Good King sent one of His most faithful servants to the little white cottage at the edge of the forest. (Show Flash Card) The Good King sent him to be Marabella’s husband, to love her and to care for her and her mother. The Good King had chosen a husband for Marabella that was more wonderful than any prince she had imagined. Their happiness was even greater when they had three precious little boys in their family. Marabella loved her boys with all her heart. They filled the little cottage with laughter once more. As Marabella tucked them into their little beds at night, she prayed they would always love and serve the Good King.

After they were sound asleep, Marabella knelt by her bed and prayed for her little girl because she never stopped loving her. She prayed that her little girl would be safe and happy. She

prayed that her daughter would know that her mother loved her with all her heart and missed her so much that her heart ached. Marabella also prayed for her little girl to love and serve the Good King always.

The three boys soon grew to be taller than their mother. One night, when the whole family was safely sleeping in their beds, someone knocked loudly at the cottage door. Immediately, Marabella jumped up to answer it. When she opened the door, there stood one of the Good King's messengers. "May I help you?" Marabella asked quickly.

The messenger spoke rapidly and said, "I am here for your youngest son. The Good King needs him at once in the Beautiful City."

"But, why?" Marabella asked with tears in her eyes.

"The Good King said to give you this message, 'Marabella: Trust me and obey.'"

Then the messenger and her son were suddenly gone without even time to say "Good-bye." Then out of the shadows a dark form appeared wearing a black cloak with a hood pulled over his head almost hiding his face. The shadow spoke with a sneer, "Will you still love and serve the King now, Marabella? Is this the way He shows His love for you - by taking your youngest son to serve Him?"

Marabella slammed the door and ran to her strong husband for comfort and protection. "I saw the wicked prince in the shadows and he said awful things about the Good King," Marabella cried with her whole body trembling. She told her husband all the wicked prince had said.

"Marabella, we must choose to believe what we know to be true about the Good King. He is the most loving, wise, and powerful King on earth. He wants only what is best for us and for our son. Therefore, it must be best for him and for us that he serve the Good King there in the Beautiful City," said Marabella's husband wisely.

Marabella and her family missed the youngest son very much and the little white cottage seemed empty without him. Marabella knew in her heart that the Good King's plan for her son was best, but she was sure she would never feel like laughing again.

Several years passed and Marabella's two sons got married. Marabella's family now included two beautiful daughters-in-law whom she loved dearly. Before long, Marabella had five precious little grandchildren who often came to visit. Much to Marabella's delight, laughter once again filled the little white cottage.

It was on Christmas Eve, a few years later, when the Good King sent Marabella the most wonderful gift of all. The house was decorated with a beautiful evergreen tree, lit with hundreds of glowing candles. Its fragrance mixed with the sweet aroma of a Christmas feast. The oldest granddaughter was softly playing a happy Christmas carol on the piano. The other four grandchildren were sprawled on the floor contentedly playing with their new toys.

Marabella, her husband, and her mother were seated in their favorite chairs chatting with the two sons and their wives. Marabella was overcome with thankfulness for all the precious gifts

that the Good King had given to her over the years. She was so blessed to have her wonderful husband and family. But yet, there was still a part of Marabella's heart that had never healed. Marabella closed her eyes and silently, but boldly, prayed for one more precious Christmas gift.

Marabella's youngest grandson stood quietly near his grandmother's chair. He gently shook her arm because he thought she was sleeping. "Grandma, someone is knocking on the door," he whispered excitedly in her ear.

Marabella rose quickly and as she walked closer to the door she did hear a soft knock. When Marabella opened the door she saw a young woman standing on the front porch. Marabella thought she was seeing her own reflection in a mirror. Marabella was speechless!

The young woman said in a sweet voice, "Hello, my name is Grace Ella. I am your daughter. I have always loved you and I have always known that you loved me!" As the two women hugged and kissed each other their tears mingled together. They laughed and cried as they shared their lives. They laughed because they were finally together at last. They cried because of all the time they lost while they had been apart.

As time passed their hearts healed and they cried no more. Marabella's joy was full when she learned that her daughter had a good husband to love her and that she also had three children. Now eight grandchildren filled the little white cottage with laughter.

Many, many years passed. One by one the Good King called the woodcutter's family to serve Him in the Beautiful City. The woodcutter was overjoyed because all his family had chosen to love and serve the Good King. At last they were together, seated at the Good King's own table. Next to the Good King, sat the woodcutter and his good wife. All around the table, were the woodcutter's five children, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

Sitting on one side of Marabella was her husband and on the other side was her only daughter, Grace Ella and her husband. Sitting near their sister were the three brothers and the two daughters-in-law. Each one in their own turn gave thanks to the Good King for bringing them safely to the Beautiful City. They also praised Him for being the most loving, wise and powerful of all the kings that had ever lived.

Their happiness and joy would last throughout eternity because the Good King's own Son had finally destroyed the wicked prince. The woodcutter and his family lived happily ever after in the Beautiful City of the King of kings.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*    Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 16:21-31

### LESSON

#### CAPTURED

In the twenty years that Samson had been a judge in Israel, the Philistines had hated Samson. Often Samson would use his God-given power to go trouble the Philistines and they determined to destroy Samson.

Finally the Philistines found their chance to destroy Samson. They saw a weak point in Samson's life. Samson foolishly loved a wicked, godless woman. And the Philistines went to that wicked woman, Delilah, and offered her money to discover the secret of Samson's strength.

When Samson told Delilah his strength was in his hair, she had it all cut off and Samson was powerless to fight off the Philistines who rushed in to capture Samson. Delilah stood back and counted her money as they bound Samson and hustled him away.

Once the Philistines had Samson in their possession they gouged out his eyes. They must have thought if he couldn't see, then he wouldn't be a threat to them. They also did it to be mean to Samson.

It was Samson's eyes that had gotten him into so much trouble. He had looked at Delilah and been tempted to sin against God. But now the Philistines took away Samson's eyes. He could no longer be tempted. He was blind.

It is with our eyes that we are tempted. We see something we should not have. Then we think about it. We desire it in our hearts. Soon we yield to the temptation. If we had just turned our eyes away, we would have resisted the temptation. We would not have been blinded by sin.

The Philistines took Samson to a prison in Gaza. That was where Samson had shown off his great power to the Philistines. They took him back to show the people that the very man who had been so powerful in the past was now weak and powerless.

Then they put Samson in prison. While Samson was in prison they put him in fetters of brass. They wanted to make sure that if his power came back he would not be able to get loose. Fetters are like handcuffs or shackles that would bind Samson so he could not move freely. Samson's sin had bound him just as strongly as those fetters bound him.

Judges 16:21 says, *But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.*

Sin bound Samson and sin will bind you. There is no getting around it.

The Bible says in Numbers 32:23b, *Behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.*

You cannot sin and not pay for your sin. Sin must be paid for. But you can rejoice because God is a God of mercy. He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for your sin.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages (or payment) of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Jesus paid the payment of sin. He died on the cross in your place. Now all you have to do is ask Jesus to forgive you and He will. Then you can be freed from sin's bondage. Later I will show you how you can do that if you want to.

Samson did not just sit in a jail cell. Instead they put him to work. The Philistines hooked him up to a grindstone and made him walk around and around in a circle like an ox or horse would do. The grindstone would roll around and around and the grain that was placed below it would be ground or smashed into powder. Samson was treated as if he were an animal.

During that time, Samson had a lot of time to think. I suppose Samson truly regretted his sin. He could see that a few moments of pleasure was not worth the terrible end he had come to. I suppose Samson had a few talks with God telling Him how sorry he was that he had not obeyed God, but had gone his own way.

### **SAMSON'S SHAME**

Everyday as Samson trudged around in a circle, pulling the grindstone with him, something began to happen. His hair began to grow. The Philistines did not think anything of it, but we know that Samson's power was in his hair. At least it was his source of power when God allowed it.

Judges 16:22 says, *Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again after he was shaven.*

The Philistines were ecstatic about the fact that they had captured Samson. He was their arch enemy and they were thrilled to have defeated him. To celebrate their victory, the Philistines decided to gather their people and offer a sacrifice to their false god, Dagon.

The Philistines were giving the credit for Samson's capture to their god, Dagon. They felt their god had won over Samson and his God. But that was not the case. Samson's sin had caused his downfall but Samson's God was not defeated. Yet what a terrible testimony Samson's actions were. His actions brought shame, not honor to God.

Our desire should be to bring honor to God. But when we sin, we bring shame on ourselves and on our God. That is a very sad thing. It is so important that every day we live a pure life so that we can be a good testimony for God. People should look at our life and say, "Wow! They must have a great God. Look how much they love Him. They always try to serve and obey their God." But when we sin, people often say, "I guess their God isn't so great after all. They didn't love Him enough to not do that."

So the great gathering was planned. The Philistines gathered and paid honor to their god, Dagon, for allowing them to capture Samson. All the important people came. The place was packed both inside the temple and on top of the temple roof with men and women and the rulers who had plotted for Samson's capture. The Bible says there were about 3000 people there. The people began to party. They were so happy.

Judges 16:27 says, *Now the house was full of men and women; and all the lords of the Philistines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that beheld while Samson made sport.*

The main part of the fun that day was going to be when they brought Samson out to let all the people ridicule and mock him. All would see that the once mighty Samson, judge and champion of Israel, was now blind and helpless. Not so mighty anymore.

The people called for Samson to be brought out so they could make fun of him. I imagine a roar went up from the crowd when he was brought out. They laughed and made fun of Samson. They treated him shamefully.

Judges 16:24-25 says, *And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, Our god hath delivered into our hands our enemy, and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.*

*And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, Call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him between the pillars.*

After the crowd had settled down a bit and had become bored with making fun of Samson, he called to a young boy who stood nearby. The boy may have been the one who led him out of the prison. Samson asked the boy to lead him to the pillars that held up the house. He wanted to lean against them.

Samson took a firm hold of the pillars on each side of him. They were the pillars that held the roof in place. Then Samson called out to God. He begged God for one last favor. He asked God to give him strength and allow him to die with the group of Philistines that had gathered to shame him.

Judges 16:26 & 28 says, *And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.*

*And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes.*

I can hear the Philistines laughing and taunting Samson as they heard his prayer. They probably said, “Hey, listen. That fool Samson is calling to his God. What a joke! Even his God can’t help him now!”

But God did hear Samson and He answered Samson’s prayer. When Samson leaned against the pillars with all of his might, God restored his strength. The pillars began to move and the roof over the heads of the Philistines began to crumble. It was only a matter of seconds before the roof caved in on top of all the people.

The laughs and taunts turned to cries as the people saw what was happening, but it was too late to escape. They screamed and ran around in chaos, but no one escaped. They all died that day with Samson and the statue of their god, Dagon, was crushed as well.

Judges 16:29-30 says, *And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it was borne up, of the one with his right hand, and of the other with his left.*

*And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with all his might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that were therein. So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life.*

## **BE CONSISTENT**

I am positive Samson wished he had lived consistently for God from the start of his life to the very end. To be consistent means to do something again and again. It means to be dependable. To be faithful every day.

Samson knew what God wanted him to do. He had been set apart to belong to God from before his birth. He was raised by parents who taught him to live a pure life for God. He had judged Israel. God had guided him in the things he said and did.

But somewhere along the way Samson decided he wanted to do what he wanted instead of what God wanted. He knew better. He knew what God wanted. But instead Samson decided to do things his own way.

Samson started out well but in the middle he quit being faithful. He quit being consistent. He quit living day by day for God. What a terrible price he paid for his inconsistency.

I am sure that as Samson trudged around that grindstone, blind and helpless, he wished over and over that he had stayed consistent and faithful to God. He must have regretted those few days of pleasure with Delilah that led to his terrible end.

But Samson found out that God is merciful and willing to forgive, even when he failed. In the end, God helped Samson put an end to his dreaded enemies.

We often fail God also. We sin instead of staying true to God every day. But if we repent and turn back to God, then God will be willing to forgive and restore us into fellowship with Him. Aren't you glad God is so willing to forgive you? But how much better it would be if you could consistently live a pure life for God each day. Think of all the pain and heartache it would save you.

You make the decision every day about whether or not you will live a pure, faithful life for God. Hopefully you have made a good start by asking Jesus to come into your life and be your Savior. Hopefully you daily ask God what He wants you to do with your life. Hopefully you live in such a way that God is honored.

But don't just start well. Keep on being consistent. Remember, being consistent is a daily decision. Every morning you should say, "Lord, help me to be pure for You today in each thing I say and each thing I do."

Maybe you have never accepted Jesus as your Savior. A bit earlier in this story I talked about the fact that sin binds us. Your sin binds you and keeps you from God. But Jesus died on the cross as a payment for your sin. Jesus can take away your sin.

All you need to do is ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life. Have you done that? Would you like to? We can show you how today.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be pure and obey God every day. How?

1. Every morning decide to obey God.

2. Every morning ask God to help you.

3. Every day get closer to God. You do that by reading God's Word, the Bible, and by praying. If you let God speak to you and you speak to God each day, then it is so much easier to stay consistent in your Christian life.

Psalm 1:1 says, *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*

4. Every day reject sin. Stay away from sin. Day by day, make the decision to faithfully follow God and to stay away from anything or anyone who would lead you away from God.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you consistently live for Him every day of your life.

## BIBLE QUIZ

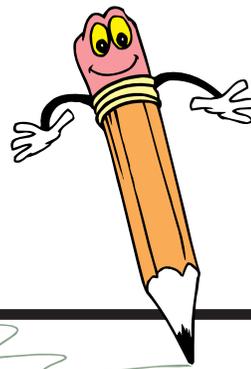
1. What is one thing they did to Samson when they captured him?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Name another thing they did to Samson when they captured him.
4. What began to happen as Samson walked around with the grindstone?
5. What is the name of the false god the Philistines worshiped?
6. Why did the people want Samson brought out of the prison?
7. How many people were gathered together?
8. What did the Philistines do when Samson was brought into the temple of Dagon?
9. What did Samson ask the boy to do?
10. What last request did Samson make of God?

# Pure Every Day

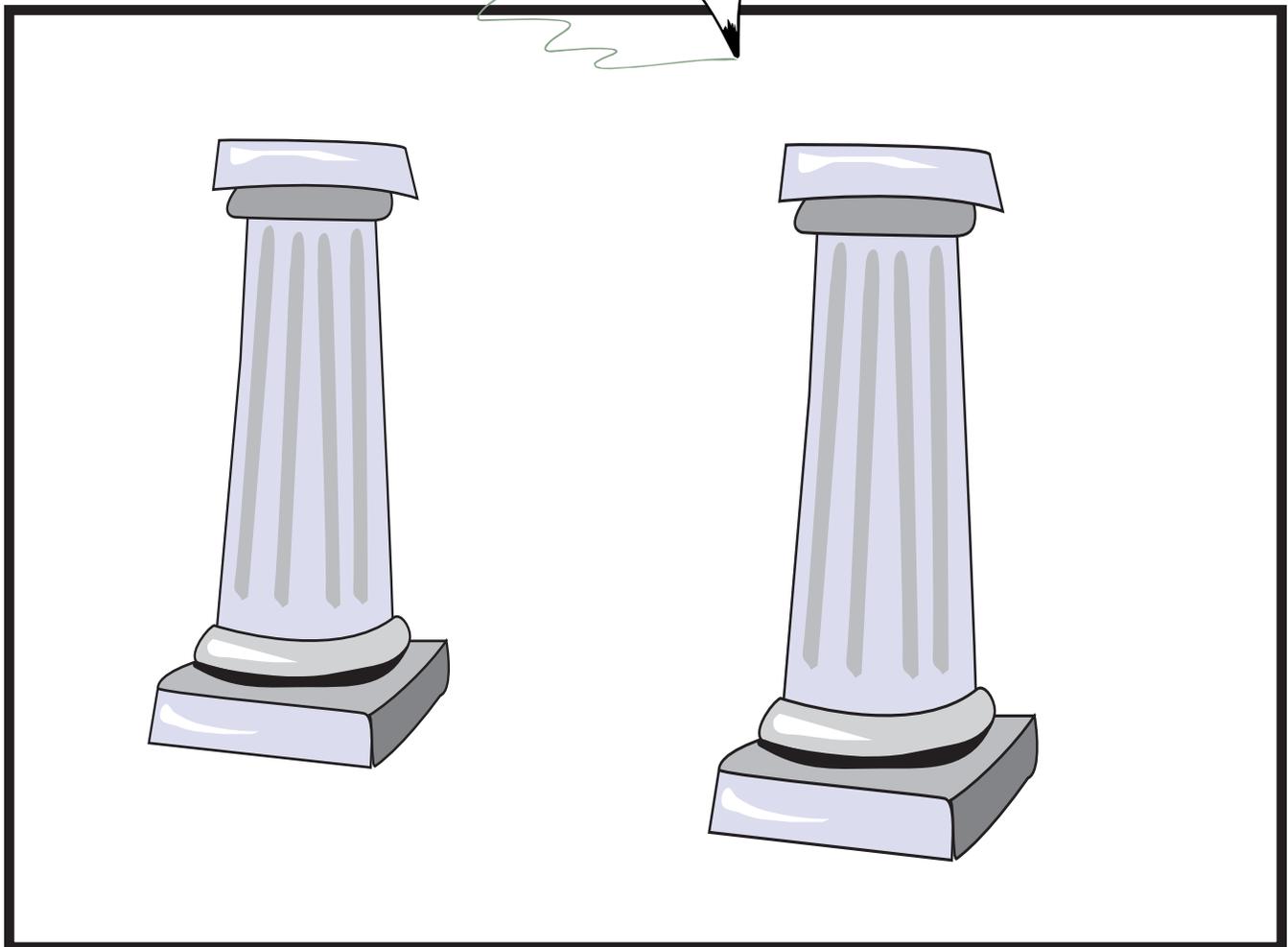
Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
Matthew 5:8



I will keep myself pure.



Draw Samson as he gets ready to pull the pillars down.





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LESSON 36

A CHILD OF PURITY  
PURE IN GOD'S EYES

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Judges 17:6, 21:25

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will keep myself pure.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*  
Matthew 5:8



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

The blackboard looked fuzzy from the forth row back in class, so Jackie's teacher moved her up to the first row. She was disappointed because she couldn't sit next to Jessica anymore. But worse than that, the teacher sent a note home to her mom. It was in a sealed envelope, but she was pretty sure of what it said.

It probably said something like: "Jackie is having trouble seeing the blackboard in school. Perhaps you will want to take her to an optometrist to have her eyes checked."

The last thing Jackie wanted was to get glasses. The only other person in her class to have glasses was Brian the Brain. She just knew if she showed up with glasses everyone would make fun of her like they made fun of Brian.

She was right about the note and Mom hurried Jackie to the optometrist. She picked out the frames she liked the best, but she was sure everyone else would hate them.

Jackie was really surprised when Jessica said she loved the glasses. And Anne said they looked cool. The biggest surprise was how well she could see now. She knew the blackboard had been blurry, but until she wore the glasses in class, she didn't realize just how blurry everything had been. She decided the glasses weren't quite so bad after all.

We can't always tell how poorly we see things with our own eyes. The same is true of our spiritual eyes. We get so used to looking at life through our own perspective that we don't always realize we aren't seeing things straight.

But there is One who never gets blurry spiritual vision. That is God. He sees everything exactly how it is. He sees sin as being terrible. He sees righteousness as being pure and holy. We can get it all wrong sometimes, but God never does.

Maybe we need to let God give us a spiritual eyesight test. Instead of living life our own spiritually nearsighted way, we need to let God correct our vision.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will keep myself pure.

### SONG TIME

## SUPPORTING STORY

### APPLICATION TO MARABELLA

#### COOKIE ALTIZER

#### Obtain Flash Card

The last three weeks we have heard the story about *Marabella*. This story is not mainly about the woodcutter's daughter. It is really about the struggle between good and evil.

There is a battle that is still being fought today. This battle is between God and Satan but we are also involved in it. Sometimes when bad things happen, we call them accidents and we don't understand why they happen to us. When bad things happen, we can choose to trust God or we can believe the lies that Satan tells us about God's character.

Let's see who was listening for the symbols in this allegory. Remember, an allegory is a fictional story that teaches a real truth. This story teaches us some real Bible truths.

If you know the answer to my question, raise your hand and if you listened carefully, I may call on you to answer.

1. Who is the Good King in this allegory? (Show Flash Card from Lesson 33 of Castle.)

Yes, that's right. He is God. God is the King of kings and He is truly the most loving, wise and powerful King who has ever lived. He really did send us letters and we find them in the Bible. That is one of the ways that He talks to us. He tells us in one of His love letters, Jeremiah 31:3, *I have loved you with an everlasting love*. He not only tells us He loves us, He proved His love for us when He sent His own true Son to die for us so that we could live with Him forever in Heaven. Other letters tell us about His wisdom and power.

2. Who is the Wicked Prince? (Show Flash Card from Lesson 34 of Wicked Prince.)

Yes, that's right. He is Satan. He really did declare war on God when he rebelled in Heaven. We can read about that true story in Isaiah 14:12-14. To this very day, he tries to keep people from loving and serving the Lord. He is a very dangerous enemy.

The Lord warns us in I Peter 5:8, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*.

Satan doesn't always appear to us as a roaring lion because if he did, we would be scared and run away. He can appear to us as someone very beautiful and trick us into believing that we are not in danger.

The Lord warns us in II Corinthians 11:14b, *For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*.

At other times, he uses ordinary people to trick us into falling into his trap. Just as Satan used Judas in Jesus' day, Satan uses people in our day to tempt us. In this story, the handsome stranger was not really Satan but an ordinary man who tempted Marabella. She did have a

choice. She could have chosen to stay under the authority and protection of her mother. But instead, she chose the pleasures of doing exactly what she wanted. The Bible admits that sin is fun for a little while.

Hebrews 11:25 tells us about, *the pleasures of sin for a season*.

Marabella really thought that having her own way was best. This attitude is also described in God's Word.

Proverbs 14:12 says, *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*.

We all have the freedom to choose our own way but we also have to accept the responsibility for our choices. Marabella's punishment almost destroyed her. Unfortunately, when we make bad choices, other people suffer as well. Marabella's mother was also hurt because of her daughter's bad choices.

3. Who does the Woodcutter and his family symbolize? (Show Flash Card from Lesson 35 of Marabella and Faithful Servant.)

They are symbols of any ordinary family that you might know. They are just like your family.

4. What does Marabella symbolize?

Marabella symbolizes or pictures anyone who chooses his own way instead of God's way.

5. Where is the Beautiful City?

Yes. It is Heaven. Heaven is a real place. It is just as real as the city we live in. It is a place where there is no sin, no sickness, no pain, no tears, no death, no separation from loved ones. It is the place where Jesus sits at the right hand of His Father.

6. Why did everyone in the woodcutter's family get to live in Heaven?

The reason they got to go to Heaven is because they made a choice to turn from their own way and turn to the Lord's way. That choice must be made before a person dies. After death, it is too late.

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*.

If you are not certain where you would go if you should die, make sure of it today. We can have someone show you later how you can know for sure that you are ready for Heaven.

The Lord gave each of us the freedom to choose to love and serve Him or to reject Him. I strongly urge you to make sure of your relationship to the Lord before this day is finished. Where will you and your family be a hundred years from now? Although Marabella's story is just a simple allegory, it is a symbol of the truth that each of us will live somewhere for eternity.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

You can select one or two verses you want to review. You can choose a memory verse Game. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.* Philippians 4:13

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Judges 17:6, 21:25

### LESSON

#### THEIR OWN EYES

A long time ago there was a song that was made famous by a singer named Frank Sinatra. The song was titled, "I Did It My Way." That could have been the theme song for the people of Israel during the time of the judges.

The Children of Israel were God's special people. They lived in the land God had given especially to them. They were blessed of God in many special ways that no one else on earth enjoyed. God loved them and protected them and guided them. Yet time and time again Israel turned away from God and did things their own way. Over and over they rejected God and said, "Forget you, God. I'm doing things my way!"

Judges 21:25 says, *In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*

Israel rejected God. They even went so far as to turn to idol worship. They set up altars to false gods and bowed down to them. It seems crazy that they would bow to a piece of stone or wood that was not real at all, while at the same time they turned their backs on the true and living God who loved them so. How foolish and sinful they were.

When the enemies came to fight with them, and steal from them, and oppress them, then they would turn back to God and plead with Him to rescue them. In His mercy, God would send judges to deliver them. Judges like Deborah, Gideon, and Samson.

God wanted to bless Israel, but they were so sure they knew what was best for themselves. They continually strayed from God and did what was right in their own eyes.

It was a foolish thing for Israel to think they knew what was better for them than what God wanted. Why? Because man knows so little. The only thing man knows about good and evil is from what the Bible teaches us. The Israelites knew what was good and evil from the laws God had given.

But man, on his own, does not know what is right. We think we know what is right. We think we could do a pretty good job of running our own lives. But we do not have the wisdom of God. We cannot look and see the future as God can. We cannot control the circumstances and people around us as God can.

We have so little control over what happens in our life. We cannot be certain we will always have healthy bodies. We can't know we will always be smart enough to solve the problems that come to us in life. We can't control other people and what they do. We will not always be talented enough or athletic enough to make ourselves successful.

And the truth is, what strengths we do have in life are all given to us by God. He created our bodies and our minds. He gives us breath each day. He gives us the talents we possess. Without God, we would not even exist.

We know so little and we are so limited. But God knows all and has all power. So why would Israel be so foolish to reject God and do what they wanted to do? Why would we be so foolish to reject God and do our own thing?

Simple. It is human nature. We all want to do it our own way. We all want to do what seems good in our own eyes.

When your mom asks you to wash dishes, your first reaction is probably to groan and not want to do them. When Dad asks you to mow the lawn, you try to think of a reason you can't do it. Instead you have a list of other things you think you should be doing. You might not want to help because you are lazy, but it is also true that you would rather decide what you do with your own time. You want to do what is best in your own eyes.

That is human nature. None of us likes to be told by anyone else what to do. We like to think we know what is best, even when we don't.

### **CYCLE OF SIN**

Israel got caught in a cycle of sin. They did what they wanted to do and forgot all about God. Their sin led to pain and sorrow. Then they would need help so they would cry to God for help. God would help them. Then when things were fine, they would forget all about God again.

This happened over and over. God was patient and merciful to them. He kept forgiving them and helping them. But just think how much more blessed and happy they would have been if they had only stayed true to God day by day, in a consistent manner. They would have saved themselves so much suffering.

The same is true in your life. If you forget God, you will suffer the consequences of sin. God is merciful to forgive when you cry to Him, but if you were wise enough to stay true to God, consistently, day by day, then you would never have to experience the problems of wandering away and getting into trouble.

You are still young. Some of the most important decisions in life lie ahead of you in the next few years. You will decide who you will marry, what you will do with your life for a living. You will decide if you will live a pure life for God. Some of those decisions are still in the future, but you can decide right now to daily live a pure life for God and to stay close to Him daily. Then you will save yourself so much heartache in the years to come.

### **GOD'S EYES**

Again and again Israel did that which was evil in God's eyes. They did that which was good in their own eyes. Do you know what Israel was doing? They were looking through the wrong set of eyes.

God's eyes could see ahead. He could see that the evil Israel did would bring them pain and sorrow. He could see that if they would only love and obey Him, then they would be blessed in their families, their lands, and in every other way.

But Israel did not take the time to look at themselves in the way God looked at them. If they had, they would have done what was right.

God wants you to look at your life in the way He does. He wants you to look at your life with His eyes. God knows you are a sinful human. He knows you can't do anything to take away your own sin. That is why God made a way for your sins to be forgiven.

God sent Jesus Christ to this earth to die on the cross in your place. The payment for your sin is death and Jesus paid that payment. He died on the cross. All you have to do is ask Him to forgive you and come into your life.

But in order for you to even want to accept what Jesus did for you, you have to see yourself as God sees you. You have to see that you are sinful. You have to see that you cannot save yourself. You have to see that Jesus is the only way to salvation.

If you look at your life with the eyes of God, then you will see clearly what you need to do. Today you can get saved. Today you can see with God's eyes. Would you like to have someone show you from the Bible how you can accept forgiveness for sin? We can show you how.

Maybe you are a Christian, but you still are not looking at things in your life with God's eyes. You may tend to be a bit like the Israelites because you see life through your own eyes. You want to do what is right in your own eyes.

It is important that you look at your life through God's eyes. How?

Ask God to help you. See things His way, not your way. Israel's downfall was that they were so stubborn they refused to do things God's way. Don't be as foolish and stubborn as they were.

Instead, learn a lesson from looking at the mistakes they made. That is why God gave us the Bible. He wants us to see what His people did right and what they did wrong so we will follow their example when they did right but make wiser choices in the areas where they were wrong.

The Bible tells you clearly how you are supposed to live. It tells you how to treat your parents, how to have a right heart attitude, how to avoid sin, how to be pure, and so many other things. The Bible is God's letter to you. Read it so you will know what God wants you to know. But you have to do more than just read the Bible, you also have to obey it. If you obey the Bible, you can be sure you are doing that which is right in God's eyes.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to look at your life through God's eyes. See your sin as being a thing that hurts both you and God. See that the blessings of God would be on your life if you just obeyed God day by day.

This afternoon, take some time to think about yourself. Look at your life through God's eyes. How is your attitude in life? Is the way you think and act and speak pleasing to God? Are your thoughts and actions pure?

How do you treat the people in your life? Do you obey your parents with a good attitude? Do you treat your brother and sisters kindly? Do you show respect to the adults who are over you at church and school?

How do you do the jobs you have in life? Are you happy to do chores? Do you willingly help out and lend a hand? Do you work hard at school?

How do you view things that are Worldly? Do you avoid sin and turn away from things that you shouldn't look at or listen to? Do you fill your heart and mind with books and music that are pure and pleasing to God?

If the answer to any of those questions would be that you are doing what is right in your eyes, but not in God's eyes, then pray and ask God to help you to change your ways. Do things God's way.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be pure in God's eyes.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is the name of the first judge we studied?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What did Deborah do for Israel?
4. Name the second judge we learned about.
5. What did the angel call Gideon?
6. How many men did Gideon lead into battle?
7. What weapons did Gideon's army carry?
8. What happened in the battle?
9. Who was the third judge we studied?
10. Why did Samson end up blinded?

# Pure in God's Eyes

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.  
Matthew 5:8



I will keep myself pure.

Start with the letter D. Write every other letter, in order, on the blanks in the box. Find out the secret message.

START HERE ➡ D B O F T S H G A X T Y W D H K I J C L H F I K S

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Deuteronomy 6:18a

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LESSON 37

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO SEEK GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Jeremiah & Ezekiel

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Today we will begin to talk about being a child of determination. Determination means that you have set your heart and mind to do something or to be some way and they you do everything you can with God's help to achieve your goal. A determined person doesn't let anything stop them. Today we will be talking about being determined to seek God.

Do you know what God wants most from you? He wants your heart. He wants you to seek Him with your whole heart. When you love and seek God, then your greatest desire will be to obey Him.

That is not always an easy thing for us to do. You see, we are born in sin and we are sinners. Most often, we want sin and our own selfish ways more than we want God. It can be hard to obey God. It can be hard to seek after God and give your heart to Him. But if you do, you will never be sorry!

I hope that today's lesson will help you to determine to have a tender heart that seeks only God!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### DUTCH ELM DISEASE

Obtain Flash Card

There is a city in Ohio named New Haven. It was once well known for the tall, mighty elm trees that grew everywhere in the city. In fact, New Haven carried the nickname of "Elm City" because of all the beautiful elms that grew there. But that is no longer the case.

Why is New Haven, Ohio, no longer known as Elm City? Quite simply because there are no elm trees left in the entire city. Not one.

Where did all the elms go? Did someone come in and cut down the mighty elms? No! Certainly the people of New Haven would have banded together and forbidden anyone to harm the precious trees that they loved so much. Those elms were their claim to fame.

Perhaps a great storm blew in and knocked all the trees down? No! That did not happen either. No wind would have been strong or mighty enough to knock down those magnificent trees. Oh, maybe a few of the older and weaker trees might have fallen in a mighty storm. But not the

young, healthy, solid elms that rose high into the sky, sometimes reaching heights of up to 147 feet tall. No storm could have destroyed every elm in Elm City.

So what did destroy the beautiful and mighty elms of Elm City? What was stronger and mightier than those magnificent trees?

I'll tell you. It was a group of tiny, insignificant insects called Bark Beetles. The beetles carried a fungus that slowly infested and destroyed each elm tree. (Show Flash Card)

The Bark Beetles began destroying elm trees in Europe in 1910. No one noticed at first that the little beetles were spreading the fungus to the beautiful English Elm trees, but before long the entire continent of Europe was infested with Bark Beetles. The fungus was deposited on the trees and the trees began to die. Soon, the English Elms were beyond saving.

Bark Beetles were first brought to the United States in 1928. Perhaps they came in a shipment of lumber or even stowed away in the folds of someone's clothing as they sailed on a great ship from Europe to the United States. No one knows for sure. However when they came, it didn't take them long to make themselves at home. Soon they began to spread the fungus to an entirely new crop of elm trees. They spread like wildfire, destroying every elm in their path.

Dutch Elm Disease had come to the United States. In the 1930's it worked its way through Ohio. By the 1940's and 1950's the elms in Michigan were falling to the same terrible fate.

Those simple beetles and the fungus they carried destroyed the trees of Elm City and there was nothing anyone could do to stop them.

It wasn't hard to spot a sick and dying elm. First the upper limbs and leaves of a healthy tree would begin to turn yellow. The leaves would be dying in the middle of summer when they should have been healthy and strong. The fungus would spread to the roots of the tree and the tree would begin to die from lack of nutrients. Soon the tree was completely dead.

Tree after tree died. Not only did all the elms in Elm City die, millions of elms in Europe and North America died also. A big mighty enemy had not destroyed the mighty elm. All this destruction was due to a tiny beetle and a little bit of fungus.

Sin is the same way. It starts out seeming like such a small and harmless thing. Satan loves to lie to you about sin. He says, "What's a little sin? Who will ever find out? Who's it going to hurt?"

But sin spreads like a fungus. One lie leads to another lie. Stealing one candy bar leads to stealing something of greater value. A little bit of gossip leads to all sorts of rumors. On and on it goes. Sin grows and spreads until it has infected everyone it touches. Sin destroys everything in its path.

There is no such thing as a little sin. There is no such thing as a sin that won't hurt anyone else. Sin may seem to start out small and harmless, but it has a way of growing and spreading. Sin will hurt you and it will hurt everyone around you.

The Bark Beetles could not be stopped as they spread Dutch Elm Disease, but sin can be stopped! Isn't that great news? You see, there is one who is stronger than any sin Satan can tempt you to commit. There is one who can help you put a stop to Satan and his lies. God is stronger than sin. He is stronger than Satan.

If you seek God with all of your heart and ask Him to help you put a stop to sin in your life, then you can destroy sin instead of letting sin destroy you. So, seek God with all of your heart!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Jeremiah & Ezekiel

### LESSON

#### **TWO PROPHETS**

We are going to be talking about two prophets today. Their names are Jeremiah and Ezekiel. Both of these men were prophets at the same time that Daniel was a prophet. In the next few weeks, we'll talk about Daniel too.

Jeremiah and Ezekiel were called of God to foretell the end of the kingdom of Judah. These two prophets did not have an easy job. No one wanted to hear what God told them to say.

God told these two men to proclaim to the people of Judah and to their kings that soon they would be taken captive and their nation would be destroyed. God was giving them one last chance to repent of their sin and turn back to him, but no one would listen.

## **JEREMIAH**

When God called Jeremiah to be a prophet, Jeremiah was sure God had made a mistake. He felt he did not know how to be a prophet for God. He must have been a quiet, shy man. He was afraid he would not know what to say. He was afraid of what the people would do to him. Jeremiah said to God, "I cannot speak. I am just a child."

But God assured Jeremiah that he could speak boldly since his message was from God. God promised to be with him and speak through him.

At the beginning of Jeremiah's time as a prophet in Judah, King Josiah ruled. Josiah was a good king who loved the Lord. He stopped idol worship and turned the people's hearts back to God. But that didn't last long. After Josiah's reign there were bad kings who lived wickedly before God. They led God's people back into sinful idol worship. Jeremiah faithfully proclaimed God's words of warning, but these kings would not listen to Jeremiah when he told them the things God wanted them to know. They rejected Jeremiah and they rejected God. They would not turn away from their sin.

What these kings didn't know was that soon God was going to allow the kingdom of Judah to be carried away into captivity by the Babylonians. Just as the kingdom of Israel had been destroyed by the Assyrians because of their sinfulness, so the kingdom of Judah was about to end also.

Jeremiah told the people that he could foresee the day when their beloved Jerusalem and their beautiful temple would be in ruins. Jeremiah did his best to remind the people that they had strayed far from God. He told them that God was still willing to show mercy if they turned back to Him. But they rejected God's warnings. God had no choice. He had to punish their sin, but God still loved them and wanted to show them mercy.

How sad it made Jeremiah when the kings and the people would not listen and would not turn back to God. Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet because he was broken-hearted over the sins of Judah.

In Jeremiah 9:1 he said, *Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!*

## **JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE**

God gave Jeremiah a specific message to deliver. Let's look at his message.

1. Jeremiah gave a rebuke for sin.

God told Jeremiah that Judah had committed two great evils in His eyes. They had turned away from Him and they had turned to idols instead. God said that he was like a fountain of

living water where anyone who came could be satisfied. But His people had rejected the living waters of God. Instead they looked to idols that only offered dirty, muddy waters. Only God could offer them the pure spiritual waters that would satisfy their souls, but they rejected God and looked for satisfaction in a place where the filthy waters could never give any satisfaction for their souls.

Jeremiah 2:13 says, *For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.*

Jeremiah 2:19 says, *Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.*

2. Jeremiah gave a warning of God's judgment.

God wanted Jeremiah to let the people know that their sin for turning away from God and to idols would bring them nothing but trouble. He warned them that they would fall to their enemies. God told Jeremiah to foretell that they would be taken captive by Babylon.

That should have frightened the people, but it seems it did not. They were still determined to go their own way. They did not want to listen to God.

Jeremiah 20:4 says, *For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself; and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword.*

3. Jeremiah gave an invitation to God's mercy.

In spite of the fact that the people and kings of Judah lived wickedly and turned from God, God still loved them and was willing to show them mercy. If they would turn away from their sin, God would forgive them.

Jeremiah 3:12 says, *Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.*

4. Jeremiah gave the comfort of future hope.

God told Jeremiah that not all was sad and bleak. Not all the news was bad. God renewed His promise to continue the reign of King David's line. God promised to raise up someone who would sit on the throne of David and would rule the earth with justice. That kingdom would be pleasing to God. That King would reign forever. What king was God talking about? He was talking about the day when Jesus Christ would sit on the throne of David and rule for all eternity.

Jeremiah 23:5 says, *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*

God gave Jeremiah the message that even though His people had sinned, He loved them and His love for them would never end. For a time, they would suffer loss. They would be taken captive and their kingdom would be lost, but one day both would be rebuilt.

Jeremiah 31:3-4a says, *The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.*

*Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built.*

## **EZEKIEL**

The prophet Ezekiel was born about fifteen years after Jeremiah was born. The two men were prophets during overlapping years. Most likely Ezekiel heard Jeremiah speak. He knew the message God had sent to Judah through Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was a timid and quiet man but Ezekiel was a bold man who was not afraid to speak out for God. He loved the people of Judah and he wanted them to listen to God.

The first time the Babylonians came to Judah and took captives, Daniel was one of those taken. The second time the Babylonians went back for more captives, Ezekiel was taken as a captive then. He was only about 25 years old at the time. So for most of Ezekiel's ministry for God, he was a captive in Babylon just like the rest of the people of Judah.

It sounds like a bad thing for these two men of God, Daniel and Ezekiel, to be taken captive, but God had a purpose for them in the place He put them. Daniel served in Babylon as God's messenger to King Nebuchadnezzar, and Ezekiel served as God's messenger to the Israelites who were in captivity in Babylon. God wanted to speak to the ruler of Babylon and He also wanted to speak to His people. God was interested in them all. Even when His people were in captivity, God still wanted to talk to them.

Sometimes we think that when things go wrong in our lives that God has forgotten all about us. That is not true. God never forgets about you. He never leaves you alone. He is interested in all that is happening to you. In fact, He is in control of all that happens to you.

Even when the people of Judah were captives, God was in control. He allowed them to be taken captive so that they would turn their hearts back to seek Him.

## **EZEKIEL'S MESSAGE**

God told Ezekiel to speak to the people of Judah while they were in Babylon. Here are some of the things God told Ezekiel to tell them.

1. Ezekiel said, "Turn from your sin."

God's main message to Judah and to all His people, past, present, and future, is, "Turn away from your sin." God cannot have a close, loving relationship with a person who has sin in his life. A person who loves his sin more than he loves God does not want to be close to God. In order

to be close to God, a person must turn away from his sin. That is what Ezekiel told the people. They had to turn away from the false idols that had turned their hearts away from God.

2. Ezekiel said, "There will be 70 years of exile."

God gave the people hope. He told them that when they returned to Him, then they would return to their land. Ezekiel told the people that God said it would be 70 years before that happened.

3. Ezekiel said, "There will be future restoration for the faithful."

God assured the people that even though they would not turn back and seek God, the future generation would. One day the children of those in captivity would recognize that God was the mighty king and He would return His people to Jerusalem. When that happened, everyone would know the glory of God. What a joyful day that would be!

God told the people that they had stony hearts. They were hard-hearted. They rejected God's love. But one day they would have soft hearts again. When that day came, then God and the people of Judah would rejoice.

Ezekiel 11:17-20 says, *Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.*

*And they shall come thither, and they shall take away all the detestable things thereof and all the abominations thereof from thence.*

*And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:*

*That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

### **GOD'S MESSAGE TO YOU**

Oh, how important it is to have a soft heart that seeks God. Just as God wanted the people of Judah to turn away from sin and seek Him with a soft heart, God wants the same of you. He wants you to hate sin because sin keeps you far away from Him. He wants you to keep your heart soft toward Him. He wants you to seek Him with all your heart.

What kind of heart do you have toward God? Do you have a stony heart that rejects God and loves sin? Or do you have a soft heart that rejects sin and loves God?

Your heart attitude is very important. You need to daily seek God with a heart that longs to please Him.

How can you have a godly heart attitude?

### 1. Turn from sin.

God hated the sin of His people back in Jeremiah and Ezekiel's day. God hates sin just as much today. The people of Judah struggled with sin, and so do you. Every day you are confronted with the choice of whether or not you will reject sin or reject God.

The sins you face may seem like such small things. You wonder how they could hurt you. But it doesn't take long for Satan to take the small sins in your life and turn them into bigger and bigger ones. And if you let sin continue, sin will eventually destroy you.

I hope you make the choice to reject sin.

### 2. Seek the Lord.

The Bible says the Lord is near to people who seek Him. He is not hiding. If you look for God, you will find Him. How do you seek God? Seek Him by getting to know Him through reading your Bible. Seek Him by talking to Him in prayer. He always desires to be close to you.

Deuteronomy 4:29 says, *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*

### 3. Be soft-hearted toward God.

God wants you to love Him. He won't force you to love Him, but that is His greatest desire. When you love God and want to obey Him, then you are being soft-hearted toward Him.

Job 27:6 says, *My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go: my heart shall not reproach me so long as I live.*

Let me ask you, can you point to a day in your life when you asked Jesus to forgive your sin? Did you ever turn away from your sin? God wanted Judah to turn from their sin. He wants you to do the same.

How do you do that? It is very simple. You need to admit you are a sinner. You need to believe that you cannot take away your own sin. You need to believe that Jesus died on the cross to take away your sin. Then you need to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and become a part of your life.

You can do that today. We can have someone show you Bible verses that tell you exactly how to do that.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have a godly heart attitude. Every day ask God to help you to seek Him.

1. Turn away from sin.

God hates sin because He knows what terrible damage it will do to your life. He knows that sin will keep you far away from Him. He knows that sin will keep you from doing what is right. He knows that sin will destroy your life. That is why God wants you to turn away from sin.

2. Seek the Lord.

God knows what is best for your life. He knows that if you seek Him and obey Him, then you will be a happy, productive Christian whose life is good and pleasing to Him. Seek God through prayer and through the Bible. If you seek Him, you will find Him.

3. Be soft-hearted toward God.

The most wonderful thing in life is to love God. He loves you so much. He has done so much for you. He deserves your love.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to seek Him with all your heart.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Name the first prophet we talked about today.
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Name the second prophet we talked about today.
4. What did Jeremiah say when God called him to be a prophet?
5. Who was king when Jeremiah was first a prophet?
6. What were the kings after King Josiah like?
7. Where was Ezekiel while he was a prophet to Judah?
8. How many years did Ezekiel say that Judah would be in captivity?
9. What kind of hearts did God say the people of Judah had?
10. What kind of hearts did God want the people of Judah to have?





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LESSON 38

A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO DO RIGHT

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 1:1-20, II Kings 25:1-16,  
II Chronicles 36:14-19

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own  
understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

We live in a world full of sin. It surrounds us on every side. The TV makes sin seem like fun. Worldly musicians make sin seem like the normal thing to do. Perhaps your friends at school or in your neighborhood take part in sinful activities. They may invite you to join them. They make fun of you and think you are strange if you refuse to join them.

It can be hard to live a life that is pure and pleasing to God when you are surrounded by so much sin, but it is also rewarding. If you stand up for what is right and determine to obey God, you will have the peace of knowing you have done what will please God. Obeying God is the most important thing you can do in your life. It outweighs all the teasing and jeers you may have to endure. And it brings eternal rewards.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

PUT TO THE TEST

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Connor always looked forward to springtime. Not because the weather got warmer or because the flowers started blooming or because Daylight Savings time gave him longer afternoons. He looked forward to springtime because baseball season started! Who wouldn't? It was the best time of the entire year!

In the past, Connor had been on Little League teams. But this year, he was old enough to try out for Junior League baseball. The pitching was fast, and the games were more like professional baseball. Connor really wanted to make the team, and he prayed about it every night for a few weeks before tryouts. Even though most of the boys were older than Connor, he was chosen by the Mustang team coach. Connor knew that God had answered his prayer.

The first practice went well. Connor made only one out, and did well as an outfielder. Coach Bowman was pleased with all the boys so far. "Great job today, guys. Looks like the Mustangs will be a solid team. If you work hard, eat right, get your sleep, and keep your grades up, you'll do fine. But I'll expect a lot out of each of you. And that includes teamwork. No one player is more valuable than the next one. Remember that. I'll see you on Friday at the next practice. I'll give you the game schedule then."

On the way home, Connor couldn't stop smiling. Not only had he been chosen for the Mustangs, but he had also done well in practice. He knew that he was the youngest on the team, and he had to try harder than some of the other guys. But he was willing to do whatever it took.

"Mom! Dad!" Connor yelled as he went thorough the back door. "I'm home!"

"How was practice?" Dad asked.

"Great!" Connor told his parents all about what Coach Bowman had said. "He's an awesome coach; he's tough, but he's also fair. I think it'll be a great season. Maybe we could even win the championship game!"

"Well, nothing like planning ahead," Dad said, happy for Connor.

Practice after practice, the team continued to play well and play as a team. Coach Bowman worked them hard and saw improvement in each player. Coach Bowman moved Connor to the shortstop position; and that is where he would play all season. "Okay, guys; come on in to the dugout and let's talk about Saturday's game," he said. "The Hornets are a good team. Several of the guys played in the all-star game last year. You're going to have to give one-hundred-ten percent. Can I count on you?"

"Yes sir!" everyone yelled. The excitement was almost too much to stand! How would they wait till Saturday?

The sun shone brightly as the players and their families gathered at the city park for the first game of the season. Parents brought their lawn chairs and coolers and found their spot on the sidelines behind the fence. The players, including Connor, headed onto the field to warm up. You could feel the excitement in the air. Everyone was ready for the game to begin!

The players all lined up on the base lines for the pledge of allegiance and prayer. It was almost time! "Batter up!" called the umpire after the prayer. "Let's get this game going!"

Connor and his teammates played outfield first. "Good—we have the last bat," Connor thought to himself. He concentrated on every play, and caught a couple of fly balls to right field. At bat, Connor hit a double in the third inning, and a triple in the seventh inning. Both times the next batter got out, so he never scored a run; but Coach knew that it wasn't Connor's fault. When the game was over, the Mustangs had beaten the Hornets by two runs.

Connor's parents waited behind the fence for him to get his gear. Dad gave him a big pat on the back. "Great game, son! You really did your part out there! And I saw some great sportsmanship. You're being a good testimony to the other guys on the team."

"Thanks, Dad. Can you believe we won? I mean—those guys were tough!"

"They played well, but they made a few more errors than your team. That's what made the difference. Hey—let's stop for pizza on the way home. Mom wants to celebrate."

The rest of the season went about the same way. The Mustangs were unstoppable! Some of the games were close, but Connor's team won game after game. It was hard to believe that the

season was coming to a close. Out of fourteen games, they had won them all. Looking back on the games, Connor could tell that he had improved his skill by hard work and by obeying Coach Bowman. He also knew that God had helped him in many different ways. Jason, one of his teammates, had even asked Connor why he was different from most of the other guys. Connor had asked him to go to church with him, and Jason had been several times.

At Saturday's practice, Coach Bowman had a special announcement. "Guys, this is what we've been waiting for." You could just feel the excitement in the air as the team waited for the announcement. "The regular season is over, and the top two teams have been announced. As you know, the Mustangs haven't lost a single game. You will be one of the teams in the championship game. And the other team has lost only one game. You've played them before—the Hornets."

Moans and groans came from some of the players. "But they're so good!" one teammate said. Another guy agreed. "Yeah, they have a good chance of beating us!"

"That's why they are the other team in the championship game. This will have to be the best game you've ever played. Now, I'm sure you want to know when the game is. We'll be playing the championship game next Sunday morning at ten o'clock."

Connor's heart just about skipped a beat. "But we've never played on Sunday before," he said.

"No, but the championship game is different," Coach Bowman explained. "Do you have a problem with that?"

Connor's face turned red. "No, sir."

"Good. Now we'll have several extra practices before the big game. Get lots of rest in-between, eat right, and be back here tomorrow afternoon at 5:00."

Connor waited at the entrance of the park for Dad to pick him up. As soon as he got into the truck, he burst into tears. Dad knew that something was terribly wrong. He gave Connor a few minutes to compose himself; then he said, "Can you tell me why you're so upset?"

Connor told him everything. "Dad, I couldn't tell him that I can't play! I know it's Sunday, and we go to church. What am I going to do?" (Show Flash Card)

Dad sighed. "Connor, when the season started, I was so thankful that the games were on Saturdays. I knew they wouldn't interfere with church. But this is different."

"I know," Connor said. "How am I gonna tell Coach Bowman that I can't play in the championship game?"

Dad smiled. "Son, I'm proud of you. You could have begged me to let you play. You could have tried to justify missing church to help out your team. But you didn't. You just don't want to disappoint your coach. That shows real character. We'll go see Coach Bowman together. I'll let you do the talking, and I'll be there if the coach has any questions."

“Well, we’d better do it now,” Connor said. “He’ll need to replace me before practice tomorrow.”

Dad turned the truck around and headed back to the park. As they pulled into the parking lot, Coach Bowman was just getting ready to leave. Connor and his dad got out of the truck and walked over to the coach.

“Forget something?” The coach asked.

“No-sir,” Connor replied. “I just needed to tell you something. I can’t play in the championship game. I should have told you before I left. I’m sorry.”

“What do you mean? Are you going to be out of town or something?”

“No-sir. I’m going to be at church. My family goes to church on Sundays, and that’s more important than anything else we do. Sunday is the Lord’s Day. We honor God by worshiping on Sundays at church. I love baseball; but I love God more. I’m sorry I can’t play.”

Coach Bowman was silent for a minute. He looked at Connor and his dad. He took his cap off and scratched his head. “Well, I can truthfully say I’ve never had a problem like this before. I’ve had kids who couldn’t play because they got sick or they were out of town, but this is a new one. I have to say, I admire your dedication. Most kids would kick and scream if their parents told them they couldn’t play.”

“My parents didn’t tell me I couldn’t play. I decided that for myself,” Connor explained. “They have taught me to honor God, and that’s what I’m determined to do. I hope the Mustangs win. I wish the game was on Saturday, but I understand about the special day and time.”

Coach Bowman shook Connor’s hand, and then Dad’s. “I hope that someday I’ll have a boy with as much backbone as yours,” he told Connor. “You’re a great kid.”

“Well, maybe some Sunday you can come to church with me and see what it’s all about,” Connor smiled.

As Connor and Dad drove home, they were both quiet. They were both thinking of what Coach Bowman had said. It felt good to do what was right. Connor had learned something important that day that he would never forget. He could please God and do the right thing, or he could please himself. When put to the test, pleasing God was a much better choice!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 1:1-20, II Kings 25:1-16, II Chronicles 36:14-19

### LESSON

#### THE END OF JUDAH

God warned the kingdom of Israel that they would be punished for their sins if they did not repent, but they refused to listen to God. So God allowed the Assyrians to sweep into their country and take them captive.

Years later, God tried to warn the kingdom of Judah that if they did not turn from their sin of idol worship and turn back to God, they also would be punished. They refused to listen or obey just as Israel had refused. In fact, when God sent prophets to warn the people, they mocked them and abused them. Finally God could ignore their sin no longer.

II Chronicles 36:14-16 says, *Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.*

*And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:*

*But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*

For two years the country of Babylon made war with the people of Judah. Finally the king of Judah, his family, and his advisors realized they would not win this war. Many of them fled. Some of them were captured and taken to Babylon.

Only a small amount of people remained in Jerusalem. Soon the Babylonians would launch a second campaign against Judah and those left in Jerusalem would also be taken captive and the city of Jerusalem would fall. The temple would be destroyed. What a sad time in the history of Judah that was!

Before the temple was burned down, the captors stole anything of value. They took the gold and silver vessels and added them to their own temple. The holy objects that had been used in the house of the Lord were now set side by side with objects used to worship false gods. What a terrible thing that was!

Daniel 1:1 says, *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.*

II Chronicles 36:17-19 says, *Therefore he (God) brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.*

*And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.*

*And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.*

#### **CARRIED AWAY**

The king of Babylon did not kill all the Hebrews he took captive. Instead King Nebuchadnezzar took them to his land and put them in school. He wanted to train them to hold important positions in his kingdom. The king took young men who were of the royal line and were handsome, intelligent, and healthy.

Daniel 1:3-4 says, *And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;*

*Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.*

#### **DANIEL**

Among the young men taken captive, we are very familiar with four young men by the names of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The last three we know by their Babylonian names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel was also given a Babylonian name, but the Bible does not use that name when it refers to him. He is always called Daniel.

Daniel 1:6-7 says, *Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:*

*Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.*

### **TRAINING TIME**

These four men were of the royal lineage and they were put into training. They were taught the language of the Chaldeans. They learned the literature of the land. They learned all the things they would need to be put into jobs in Babylon.

These men were just four out of many men taken captive, but they were different from all the rest. They were in a new country, but that didn't change who they were or how they acted. They were God's children and they determined to live in a way that pleased God regardless of their circumstances. These four men determined in their hearts that they would obey God and do the right thing in God's eyes even if no one else did. They did not care if they were captives in a foreign land, they would still obey God. They did not care if the other captives caved in and did the easy thing, they would still obey God.

It wasn't long before they were put to the test.

A servant carried trays of rich food and wine to the chambers of these four men. It was the finest foods that were served to the king and his family. The food must have smelled wonderful to them, but Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to eat.

Why? Because they knew the food had first been offered as a sacrifice to a false god. The people of the land would bring rich food and drink to offer to their idols. The false priests would gather the food and drink and the best would be sent to the king's palace. There it was eaten and enjoyed, but Daniel and his friends did not want to eat food or drink wine that had been offered to a false god.

The name Daniel means, "God is my judge." Daniel knew that it didn't matter what his captors thought of him. He knew it didn't matter what they did to him. What did matter was what God thought of him. Daniel purposed in his heart to obey his judge, the holy God. Daniel purposed to do what was right, not what was easy.

It had to be a hard choice to stand up to their captors and possibly cause trouble for themselves, but they asked the eunuch who cared for them to put them to a test. They asked to be fed peas and beans and water for ten days. After ten days they agreed that if they lost weight and could not think clearly, then they would eat the food offered to an idol.

It can't have been easy to pass up that food that smelled so good and eat such bland food and water instead, but God blessed those men. God was pleased to see that they had determined in their hearts not to defile and dirty themselves in any way. They wanted to keep their hearts and bodies clean and pure for God.

God made sure the men did not lose weight. In fact, at the end of ten days they had gained weight and they could think more clearly than the other men who had not stood up for what was right!

Daniel 1:5, 8-15 says, *And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.*

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.*

*Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.*

*And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.*

*Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,*

*Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.*

*Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.*

*So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.*

*And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.*

God's special blessing was on Daniel and his friends. God gave them the ability to learn and remember. They could quickly understand anything they were taught. God also allowed Daniel to be able to understand dreams and visions.

When they stood before the king to show what they had learned during their training time, the king found them to be ten times smarter than all the other men! In fact, they were ten times smarter than all the men in the kingdom who advised the king. King Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed with these four Hebrew men that he appointed them jobs that would keep them in the palace as his close advisors.

Daniel 1:17-20 says, *As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.*

*Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.*

*And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.*

*And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.*

### **CONSCIENCE & CHARACTER**

These four men had a godly conscience and godly character. They stood out in the crowd because of the way they thought and the way they acted. In each situation they faced, they determined to do what was right in God's eyes.

God wants you to develop a godly conscience that keeps you away from evil and causes you to do what is right, even when it is not the easy thing to do.

God wants you to develop a godly character that helps you have the courage to stand up for what is right and reject what is wrong.

You may find yourself in situations where it is hard to do what is right in God's eyes. You may want to be popular and find that doing godly things is not popular. You may find that others won't like it when you take a stand to love and obey God. You may find it hard to avoid things that tempt you to do wrong.

God honors those who purpose in their hearts to do the right thing instead of doing the easy thing. It was not an easy thing for Daniel to stand up to his captors and refuse to eat the food offered to false gods, but when he did God honored him. He gave Daniel favor in the guard's eyes and he helped Daniel to gain weight and think smart.

When you determine to do the right thing, instead of the easy thing, God will honor you also.

Proverbs 16:7 says, *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

### **HOW ABOUT YOU?**

How about you? If you are a Christian, have you made a point of determining in your heart to do what is right, not what is easy? If you have never done that, today you can pray and ask God to help you to be like Daniel. Ask Him to help you to do right regardless of your circumstances.

Maybe you have never asked Jesus Christ to come into your life. You are not a Christian. You can be today. Today you can know that the God who stood beside Daniel to help him in his hard times is the same God who stands beside you. Today we can show you from the Bible how you can have your sin forgiven and how you can be on your way to Heaven.

## **INVITATION**

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to determine to develop a godly conscience and character. How? Here are some ways you can work on your conscience and character.

### 1. Listen when God speaks to your heart.

Your conscience is given to you by God to warn you when you should avoid sin. It whispers, “No! That is the wrong thing to do,” to your heart. Your conscience also tells you when you should do something. It whispers, “That is the right thing to do!”

Listen to what your conscience is telling you. The more you ignore your conscience, the less it will speak to you. Soon you will be so cold and hard-hearted that you will not listen anymore.

### 2. Listen to godly counselors.

God places people in your life who want what is best for you. He gives you parents and pastors and teachers here at church to help teach and guide you into right living. God also gave you the Bible to guide you and teach you what is right. When you listen to what you are taught and you learn from God’s Word, God will honor you.

### 3. Determine in your heart to do right.

It is not always easy to do the right thing. Sometimes it is easier to lie or to cheat or to go along with what everyone else is doing. But it is not the right thing to do. And some day you will regret that you did not determine to do right.

It takes determination in your heart to do what is right. Daily you need to ask God to help you. Daily you need to give your life into God’s control. If you do that, God will honor and bless you.

Psalm 119:133 says, *Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.*

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today’s challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to daily determine to do what is right, not what is easy.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did the people of Judah do when God warned them to repent of sin?
2. Who came to capture Judah?
3. What did the Babylonians do to Jerusalem and the temple?
4. What four men does our story center around today?
5. What did Daniel ask to eat instead of the king's meat?
6. Why didn't Daniel and his friends want to eat the meat?
7. How many days did the test take place?
8. Recite today's memory verse.
9. What happened when the king questioned the four Hebrew men?
10. What did Daniel purpose in his heart?

# Determined to Do Right



I will determine to obey God.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

Stand up and do what is right!  
God will honor you for it!

|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
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| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| H     | V     | H     | K     | K     | O     | T     | Q     | O     | N     | R     | D     |
|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | A     | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| H     | M     | L     | X     | G     | D     | Z     | Q     | S     |       |       |       |
|       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| S     | N     | C     | N     | Q     | H     | F     | G     | S     |       |       |       |

Look at the letter under the line, then write the letter that comes after it, in the alphabet, on the line above it. Find out the secret message.

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LESSON 39

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO GIVE GOD CONTROL**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 1:1-49

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

When things happen that confuse and upset you, you may be tempted to think that God is not in control of your life. You may think that if God were truly in control, then nothing would ever go wrong. The more you know God, the more you will know that God is always in control, He just doesn't do things the way you would do things. You don't know everything, but He does. When He allows a hard time into your life, you need to trust that He is working for your good and His glory. He does all things well.

So don't worry or fret when things don't go your way. Instead, obey God and trust Him to be working for your good and His glory. He is in control and does all things well!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

ALWAYS FOR THE BEST

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

Jeffrey had waited several months for summer vacation to finally begin. Now that school was out, it was time for the big family vacation out West! Jeffrey had wanted to go to Yellowstone National Park ever since he had learned about it in school, and they were finally going! His mom had planned carefully each detail of the trip so that they would visit all the famous places. There was so much to see there—geysers, mudpots, and lots of animals. He especially wanted to see moose, bison, and bighorn sheep. Since it was such a long way to Yellowstone from Indiana, the Greene family had decided to fly to Wyoming and rent a car for the rest of the trip.

“Get the rest of your things packed,” Mom reminded Jeffrey and his sister Anna. “We leave bright and early tomorrow morning.”

Jeffrey made sure all his clothes were in his duffel bag. He double-checked for his camera, spending money, and his hand-held games for the time in the car. The hard thing would be just waiting for morning to come!

After a restless night, the sun finally rose on the morning of the trip. Jeffrey woke too excited to even eat breakfast.

“Better have something so you won’t feel sick on the plane,” Dad warned. Jeffrey and Anna managed to eat a waffle; then they got dressed. By seven o’clock they were on the way to the airport.

Traffic was heavy for a Saturday morning. Speeding cars whizzed by them on the freeway. Jeffrey watched the exit signs, looking for the airport exit. Just as the sign came into view, Jeffrey heard a loud CRUNCH! “Oh, no!” Dad yelled. “Hold on!”

Those were the last words Jeffrey remembered hearing before he woke up in the hospital. He looked around his room.

“Mom?” he whispered hoarsely.

“Here,” she said as she walked over to the bedside. Mom’s face was scratched and her arm was in a sling.

“What happened?” Jeffrey asked, as a tear slid down his cheek.

“We had a blowout. Dad tried to keep the car from going off the road, but we were going too fast. The car rolled down the bank and landed on its side. You hit your head as we wrecked, and you have a concussion. Amy is okay; she’s with Grandma and Grandpa, and Dad is in another hospital room. He has a broken leg, but he will be fine. I’m so very thankful. We could have been killed. It is obvious that God graciously protected us.”

Jeffrey was quiet as he tried to take it all in. They had been on the way to the airport, but they never made it. “Our vacation!” Jeffrey remembered.

“We won’t be able to go this summer,” Mom explained. “I’ve canceled the reservations, and the airline will probably refund our money because of the accident. Don’t worry; we’ll go next summer, or maybe even this fall.”

“Can I see Dad?” Jeffrey wanted to know.

Well, he’s having surgery in about an hour. The bone was broken so badly that they’re going to have to use screws and a metal plate to hold it together. The surgery will take about two hours, and both you and Dad may go home tomorrow.”

“What happened to your arm?” Jeffrey asked Mom.

“It’s sprained, so I have to keep it still for a few weeks. I’ll be okay. I’m just concerned about you and Dad.”

Jeffrey lay in bed, not wanting to move because of his terrible headache. He thought about what Mom had said. He thought about how his family had planned this trip for an entire year, and how disappointed he was that they couldn’t go.

They were so close to the airport! Why didn’t God let them make it? It just didn’t seem fair. Instead of being in Yellowstone National Park, here he was stuck in a hospital bed! He didn’t find much to be thankful about.

Later that day, Jeffrey's headache got much better. The physical therapist came in to have Jeffrey sit up for a little bit on the side of the bed, and then took him on a short walk in the hospital hallway. "You're a pretty lucky guy. I hear it was a bad accident," the therapist said.

"I guess," Jeffrey said. "It kinda stinks that we can't take our trip."

The therapist nodded. "I'm sorry about that. But maybe you can look on the bright side. You're alive to take another trip."

Both Jeffrey and Dad were able to go home the next day. The week that followed was not easy. Dad couldn't put any weight on his foot, Mom could use only one arm, and Jeffrey continued to have some bad headaches from the accident.

Grandma and Grandpa helped out with the chores and cooking, but Jeffrey couldn't seem to get past his disappointment about missing vacation. His dad noticed that he was quieter than usual, but thought that it was just because he didn't feel well. Jeffrey's mom also noticed a difference. She decided to ask him about it.

"Do you need to see the doctor about your headaches?" she asked.

"No, they're better now."

"Don't you want to start getting outside and getting some exercise and fresh air?" she suggested.

"No," Jeffrey answered. "I don't want to see any of my friends. I told them I wasn't going to be home for two weeks. I don't want them feeling sorry for me."

Mom looked concerned. "Jeffrey, are you angry with God about the accident?"

"I don't know," he said. "Why did He let it happen? Why didn't He let us have our vacation? We've planned for it so long. It just isn't fair!"

"Jeffrey, don't you realize how thankful we should be just to be alive? Many people don't survive automobile accidents. Don't let this experience make you angry with God. God loves you more than anyone could. He never allows anything in our lives to harm us. God allowed this accident for a very specific reason. We don't know the reason yet; and we may never know it. But we know that we need to trust Him. What He allows is always for our best. I hope you'll think about that and decide to believe it."

Jeffrey knew in his heart that his mother was right. But he wasn't ready to stop being angry. This is the day they would have flown home from their trip.

That evening, Dad was resting in his recliner. He turned on the television to watch the news. Jeffrey walked by the family room in time to hear a special report. "And now for the latest on the crash of AireSouth flight 2456. Weather was certainly a factor. Wind shear appears to have caused the plane to dip shortly after takeoff and crash into an open field one-half mile from

the airport. It is reported that there are seven casualties from the crash, all from the front coach section of the plane, where the crack in the fuselage occurred. As details come in, we will update you throughout the night.” (Show Flash Card)

Dad turned the TV off. He and Mom hugged each other for a long time.

“What’s wrong?” Jeffrey asked.

“Oh, Jeffrey,” Mom said. “That was the airplane we would have been on today. Our seats were at the front of the coach section. Don’t you see? God allowed us to have the accident to save our lives.”

Jeffrey just stood there and stared at the black screen. His heart seemed to stop. Mom was right. God never does anything to harm us. He loves us and wants us to trust Him. Why didn’t I believe that before? Jeffrey asked himself. Jeffrey knew that he would never forget this day. It was the day he knew for sure that God always does what is best.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 1:1-49

### LESSON

#### NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Remember that the kingdom of Judah was in ruins. The temple had been burned and the people were carried away as captives to Babylon. The young men of the royal household were put in school and trained to hold positions in King Nebuchadnezzar's palace.

Daniel and his three friends stood out from the rest because they determined in their hearts that they would love and serve God regardless of their circumstances. God honored them and when the king tested the men at the end of their schooling, he found them to be ten times smarter than anyone else. They were given very good positions in the kingdom. They became part of the king's advisors called wise-men.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. It was a vivid dream and it troubled him so greatly that it woke him up from a sound sleep. He tried to remember what the dream was about because he was certain the dream had an important message for him, but he could not remember it. He racked his brains trying to think of it, but it was no good. He simply could not remember it.

The king decided to call his wise-men. Surely they would be able to tell him the dream. They were always claiming they knew what his dreams meant. Now he would put them to a test. He would see if they could tell him what the dream meant, but first they would have to tell him what the dream had been.

"Men," the king began. "I had a troubling dream last night. It was so vivid that it startled me from sleep, but when I woke, I could not remember a thing about it. I am sure the dream had some important meaning."

Daniel 2:2:1-3 says, *And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.*

*Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

*And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.*

The wise-men looked at each other in alarm. They had no idea what the king had dreamed. There were occasions they had interpreted a dream for the king, but they had merely made up a meaning. They really didn't know what the dreams meant. But now the king wanted them to first tell him what he had dreamed! That was impossible. They had no idea what he had dreamed.

So the wise-men tried to convince the king that first he would need to tell them the dream. Then they could interpret it for him.

The king was not happy when his wise-men hemmed and hawed around. He insisted that he could not remember the dream and he demanded that they tell him. To show them he was serious, he declared that if they could not tell him the dream he would have their homes turned into a pile of rubbish and he would cut them into pieces. On the other hand, the man who could tell him the dream and its interpretation would be given great riches and honor.

Daniel 2:4-6 says, *Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.*

*The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.*

*But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.*

#### **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DECREE**

The wise-men were very upset. They assured the king they could interpret the dream if he only told them what it was about first. They insisted that no king had ever asked such a hard task of a wise-man before.

The words of the wise-men made the king angry. He sent out a decree that all the wise-men in the country of Babylon should be destroyed.

Daniel 2:10-12 says, *The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.*

*And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.*

*For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wisemen of Babylon.*

When the king issues a decree, it is carried out. I am sure the wise-men in his presence pleaded with him to reconsider, but the king was too angry to listen. I imagine that all the wise-men present in the room rushed to hide in fear. The guards began to round up the wise-men so they could carry out the king's decree. Heads were about to roll!

Daniel and his three friends were wise-men, so the guards came to get them also. When Daniel heard what had happened, he requested to speak with the king. He assured the king he could interpret his dream in a short time. Then Daniel went to his room, he gathered his friends around him, and the four of them knelt down and spoke to the King of kings. They prayed and asked God to reveal the dream to Daniel so that their lives would be spared.

Daniel 2:13, 16-18 says, *And the decree went forth that the wisemen should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.*

*Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.*

*Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:*

*That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wisemen of Babylon.*

God honored Daniel by revealing to him the dream and what it meant. Daniel praised God for His wisdom. He praised God that he had revealed the dream to him.

Daniel was indeed a wise-man. He was wise enough to know that he should turn to God in his time of need and he was wise enough to praise God when his prayer had been answered. We would be wise to do the same. God will give wisdom to those who ask for it. And when God does give wisdom, we need to remember to thank and praise Him.

Daniel 2:19-23 says, *Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

*Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:*

*And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:*

*He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.*

*I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.*

#### **DANIEL'S SOLUTION**

The first thing Daniel did was to go to the guard who had been ordered to kill all the wise-men. He told the guard not to destroy the men because God had given him the dream. The guard immediately took Daniel to the king.

“Can you tell me my dream and the interpretation?” the King Nebuchadnezzar demanded of Daniel.

Daniel stood before the king and looked him straight in the eyes. “Your majesty, no wise-man could tell you the dream or the interpretation, but there is a God in heaven who knows all things. He has revealed the secrets of your dream to me.”

Daniel did not take the credit for what he was about to do. He gave all the credit to God. God alone deserved the credit.

Daniel 2:24-28a says, *Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wisemen of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wisemen of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.*

*Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.*

*The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?*

*Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wisemen, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;*

*But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.*

## THE DREAM

Daniel began to tell the king exactly what he had dreamed. I am sure that as Daniel mentioned parts of the dream, it came back to the king’s memory and he was certain that Daniel was telling him the same dream he had dreamed. He was not just making something up. How could Daniel do this? Of course, because God told Daniel all about the dream.

Here was the king’s dream: There was a great image that shone brightly. It was a magnificent and frightful image. Its head was made of gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of brass, its legs of iron, its feet were part iron and part clay.

As the king looked at the image in his dream, a strange thing happened. Its hands were cut off by a stone and when the hands fell they dropped on the feet of iron and clay and the feet broke to pieces. When the bottom of the image broke, then the rest of the image fell and the image became like chaff that was blown away by the wind. The image was nowhere to be seen.

The stone became a great mountain and filled the entire earth.

Daniel 2:31-35 says, *Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.*

*This image’s head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,*

*His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.*

*Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.*

*Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

### **THE INTERPRETATION**

The king nodded. Yes, that was his dream, but what did it mean? Daniel knew what the dream meant also because God had told him. Daniel went on to explain.

“O king,” Daniel said, “You are a king of kings and God has given your kingdom power, strength, and glory. You have ruled over the earth and you represent the head of gold.”

Daniel 2:37-39 says, *Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.*

*And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.*

*And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.*

Daniel went on to tell what the rest of the dream meant.

The silver and bronze and iron mixed with clay stood for kingdoms that would follow his. Each following kingdom would become weaker and less glorious until in the end the final kingdom would be only part strong, which was the iron, and part weak, which was the clay. That final kingdom would have no power to stand at all.

The stone in the dream stood for another outside kingdom that would come and destroy the kings who ruled after him.

In this dream, God was telling King Nebuchadnezzar, and all who would listen, about the future. This was more than just a dream that would have an effect on King Nebuchadnezzar and his descendants. It is a dream that God was using to tell us today what will happen in the future yet to come. This is what the dream means to us who can look back on it in the present day.

The head of gold was King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom in Babylon.

The chest and arms of silver stood for the Persian kingdom. It would follow.

The thighs of bronze stood for the Greek reign under Alexander the Great.

The iron and clay stood for the Roman rule. The Romans would be crushed by Jesus Christ who came during that time. They thought they destroyed Jesus when they crucified Him, but

Jesus Christ came back to life after three days. Jesus Christ is God and in the end, the eternal kingdom of Christ will become as a great mountain that will fill all the earth for all eternity.

In Jesus' day, the Jewish people were looking for a Messiah, a Savior, who would come set them free from the oppression of the Romans. When Jesus was crucified they were bitterly disappointed. They rejected Jesus and refused to believe He was their Messiah because he had not freed them from the Romans.

But Jesus did not come to establish an earthly kingdom that would one day come to an end as all earthly kingdoms do. Jesus Christ came to establish an eternal kingdom in Heaven that would last for all eternity. It is a kingdom that you and I will have a part in if we accept what Jesus did for us on Calvary by dying to take the punishment for our sins. We'll talk more about that in just a minute.

#### **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S REACTION**

When the king heard his dream and what his dream meant, he was amazed. He bowed down and worshiped Daniel. Can you imagine that? That great king bowed down and paid honor to one of his lowly wise-men! A gasp must have gone up from all the others watching. Then the king ordered that others honor Daniel also.

But the most important thing that happened was when the king acknowledged that Daniel's God was a God of gods. Nebuchadnezzar clearly stated that he now knew Daniel's God was the true God.

The king gave Daniel the next best job in the land, right under himself. Daniel remembered his faithful friends who had stood by him and prayed with him. He requested that the king also honor them. So they were given the three next best jobs under Daniel. Oh, how God honored Daniel because Daniel honored God.

Daniel 2:46-49 says, *Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshiped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.*

*The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.*

*Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wisemen of Babylon.*

*Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.*

#### **THE ONE TRUE GOD**

Those wisemen in Nebuchadnezzar's court worshiped false gods. They had no wisdom of their own and their false gods were powerless to help them. But Daniel's God was in complete control. God caused the king to have the dream. God made him forget his dream. Then God told Daniel what the dream was and what it meant. God used that dream to let the king know

what a great God He was. He also used that dream to reward Daniel for being faithful to Him.

Isn't it amazing that God would tell Daniel, so many years ago, about something that is so important to us? God was telling us, through Daniel, that His kingdom was an eternal kingdom that would last beyond any earthly kingdom. And you can spend eternity in Jesus Christ's eternal kingdom. Are you saved from your sin? Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sin and take you to Heaven someday to be with Him in His kingdom for eternity? You can do that today. We can show you how. In just a minute I can have someone show you some Bible verses.

If you are a Christian, isn't it wonderful to know your God is in complete control of your life and of the world around you? Things may not always go the way you want them to go, but you can know that God is in control and He has a plan and a purpose for all that happens.

Do you determine to let God control your life? Or do you try to snatch control back from Him? Today would be a good day to tell God that you want Him to control your life because everything He does is always for your good and His glory.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

Today I want to challenge you to determine to let God have complete control of your life. It's a hard thing to give control of your life to anyone else, even to God, but you will not regret it. Daniel knew that God was in control of his life. Daniel was happy that God controlled his life.

How can you give control of your life to God? Simple. Daily tell God you want Him to control the things you say and do. Ask for His help in keeping a godly attitude. Ask for His guidance so you will do things that please Him. Ask Him to give you the wisdom you need for each day.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to take control of your life. If you have snatched control back from Him, this would be a good time for you to give the controls back to Him.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who did King Nebuchadnezzar ask to interpret his dream?
2. Why were the wisemen so upset about the king's request?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What did the king do when the wisemen couldn't help him?
5. What did Daniel do when he heard the king's decree?
6. What did Daniel tell the king his dream was?
7. What did Daniel say the dream meant?
8. How did the king react when he heard Daniel's interpretation?
9. What request did Daniel make of the king?
10. What important thing did King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledge to Daniel?

# Determined to Give God Control

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6



I will determine to obey God.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N | E | B | U | C | H | A | D | N | E | Z | Z | A | R | I |
| M | O | M | O | Y | Q | F | U | I | O | I | J | B | N | V |
| W | Z | X | T | P | I | N | O | W | F | O | H | T | C | V |
| V | I | S | D | R | M | Y | O | R | T | S | E | D | T | A |
| T | N | S | A | A | G | S | Q | Z | B | R | O | N | Z | E |
| S | C | Z | E | Y | N | D | V | Q | P | W | R | Y | X | V |
| Z | T | R | Q | E | I | I | S | R | I | P | O | T | J | G |
| Y | D | O | Q | R | K | D | E | S | U | F | N | O | C | I |
| O | G | D | N | I | N | T | E | L | R | F | O | G | I | M |
| C | K | E | N | E | Y | M | E | E | C | K | H | R | G | V |
| W | Z | V | I | Z | E | X | V | W | L | D | L | O | G | T |
| E | O | R | C | N | O | L | Y | B | A | B | V | F | S | W |
| N | F | P | Z | J | I | W | U | W | Y | H | K | D | W | C |
| R | W | G | U | S | H | L | X | O | Q | J | G | Q | L | H |

Who controls your life? We all like to do things our own way. We don't like to have others tell us what to do. But God always knows what is best for us. Give God the controls to your life. You will never regret it!

Daniel  
Babylon  
Friends  
Prayer

Interpret  
Dream  
Wise men  
Confused

King  
Forgot  
Gold  
Silver

Bronze  
Clay  
Stone  
Destroy

Nebuchadnezzar  
Bow  
Honor



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LESSON 40

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO STAND STRONG FOR GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 3:1-30

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Today we are going to be talking about determining to standing strong for God.

There are days when you don't feel very strong aren't there? There are probably days when you feel very weak. Well, you don't have to be strong all by yourself. It is really God who makes you strong. He gives you the strength you need day by day.

But to be strong in the Lord, you need to ask His help. Then you need to determine to listen and obey Him. You cannot be strong if you are not close to Him. You cannot be strong if you do not obey Him. God gives strength to His obedient and faithful servants.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### REFINED

Obtain Flash Card

A gold bowl or a silver goblet are such beautiful things, aren't they? They are costly and highly prized. But you probably know that you can't just pick up a gold nugget from the ground and have it create itself into something of beauty by itself. No. First the craftsman must put the gold through several steps before it looks like this. (Show Flash Card)

Everyone one wants gold because of its great value, so let's talk about gold.

First, gold must be mined out of the earth. It takes hard work for a miner to blast and dig away the ground to find the gold. He must carefully sift through other bits of dirt and rock to find the precious nuggets. Some gold is already on the surface of the earth and can be mined by panning for gold. But that takes lots of time and patience. And the miner must have a good eye for the valuable nuggets because they don't always look very beautiful when they are first discovered.

Secondly, gold must be refined. This means it must be purified. There are bits of impurities and other substances in the gold that have little or no value. You wouldn't want a gold cup that had bits of dirt here and there in it. So, all that is not gold must be removed.

Gold is refined by heating it at high temperatures in large vats until it melts. The gold is mixed with a second fluid when it is being heated. When the gold reaches the melting point, it will float to the top and the other fluid will remain beneath it. Everything that is not pure gold will sink to the bottom. Only the pure gold will float to the top. Then the workers will skim the gold off the top. Only pure gold will be removed.

The third thing that happens is the pure gold must be shaped or molded into something of value. Otherwise, it is still just a lump. Artists and craftsmen will take the pure, refined gold. They will mold and shape it into something of great beauty and use.

Mining, refining, and shaping are processes of converting raw gold into a product of value. All the work must be done or the gold would not appear to have much value. It is possible that you could hold a gold nugget in your hands and not even realize that what you were holding was of any value at all. First the nugget must go through the process necessary to convert it into something you can use. Then the gold is of value to you.

Even though the gold is of value even before it is pulled out of the ground, it is not usable until it has gone through the entire process I just described. Even though the gold was always valuable, before it was pulled from the ground and before it was purified, it is the craftsman's work that makes it even more valuable. You might buy a lump of gold, but you would pay much more for a beautiful gold vessel than you would for a lump of gold.

You are a lot like that lump of gold. Before you were saved you were a lost sinner. There was no way you could save yourself from your sin. But God saw your value. He reached down into the pit and pulled you out.

Psalm 40:2 says, *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*

After God pulled you out of the horrible pit of sin, God sets to work refining you. He works in your life to remove all the things that don't belong there. He will purify you. Then He shapes you into a useful person who has great value and beauty in His eyes.

Isaiah 43:4 says, *Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee.*

God pulled you out of your sin and began to work in your life. In fact, God continues to work in your life everyday to refine and shape you into something of great value to Him.

How do you go from being a lump of gold that doesn't appear to have much value to being a beautiful and useful vessel that God can use each day?

Allow God to work in your life. Determine to give Him control. Wherever you are in the process, there is always something that God needs to do to make you more valuable. As long as you live on this earth, God wants to be working in your life. He is the great Craftsman who knows exactly how to make you into a valuable vessel. Here's how to be a usable vessel.

1. Be pulled from the pit. Have you ever been saved from your sin? If not, then you are still in the horrible pit. But Jesus died to take away your sins. Today, you can let God pull you out of the horrible pit of sin. Later we will tell you how you can do that.

2. Be purified. Be like the gold when it is being separated from the things that would cause it to be of less value. There are so many things in our world that will keep us from being pure. Separate yourself from things that would lessen your value as a Christian. Stay away from things that would keep your life from being pure.

3. Be shapeable. Allow God to shape and mold your life into whatever He chooses. God has a plan for you. He knows what He wants to make of you. He wants to make you into a strong vessel that He can use, but you must yield control to Him. You must allow Him to shape you into a vessel of great beauty, strength, and value. Every day tell God you want to be yielded to Him. Ask Him to make you into a vessel of value. If you do that, God will use you. He will make you into a person who He can use.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 3:1-30

### LESSON

#### THE GOLDEN IMAGE

King Nebuchadnezzar was extremely proud of himself. He was the richest and most powerful king in his part of the world. Everyone looked up to him. He had conquered all the surrounding nations. He had amassed great wealth. He was sure there was no one else like him. He even felt he deserved to be worshiped. He thought that since he was so great, perhaps he was a god. Or at least he was as great as any god.

So the king commissioned his workmen to build a statue that looked exactly like him. It was a big statue so that people could see it from a great distance. It was 60 feet high and 9 feet wide. And the image was made of beautiful, gleaming gold. It must have been very impressive.

The king ordered that the statue be set in the plain of Dura where everyone could see it.

Daniel 3:1 says, *Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.*

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

When the statue was completed and set in place, the king decided that such an impressive image should have a dedication service where all the important people of the land could come to admire it. After all, if the king expected the common folks to bow and worship the image of himself, then those who ruled over the people must show respect also. Having the important people bow would set the tone for everyone else to follow.

All the important people began to gather around the image. Princes and governors came who ruled the people and made sure they obeyed the king and paid their taxes. There were captains of the royal guard, money collectors, sheriffs, and other rulers from the far reaching lands who did the king's bidding. They all gathered together and stood staring at the image of the king.

When everyone seemed to be in place, the king gave the nod from his palace and the herald, who announced all the royal news, stood to cry with a loud voice.

“O people of all nations, when you hear the sound of the music, you must bow down and worship the king's golden image. Whoever does not bow and worship the image will be thrown into a burning, fiery furnace.”

Daniel 3:2-6 says, *Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*

*Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.*

*Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,*

*That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:*

*And whoso falleth not down and worshipping shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

Most of the people were used to bowing to false gods. They probably didn't think there was anything wrong with worshiping an image of the king. Besides, they certainly did not want to be put to death. They weren't about to argue. They would bow.

The instruments sounded and it seemed that all fell to their faces and began to worship the golden image.

The king must have been watching from the palace or from someplace behind everyone. He was very satisfied and proud to see all the important people of his realm worshiping his image as if he were a god. At that point, King Nebuchadnezzar must have felt like he was a god!

Daniel 3:7 says, *Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshiped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*

## **JEALOUS ACCUSERS**

As certain of the wisemen bowed to the image, out of the corner of their eyes they noticed that not everyone was bowing or worshiping the image. They were not surprised to see three Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, stood straight and tall. They were not bowing. They were not even bending slightly to give the appearance that perhaps they were going to bow.

Now these three Hebrew men were well known to the wisemen who advised the king. The wisemen, the Chaldeans, knew that they had been captured in Judah and trained to advise the king. They also remembered the day when these men's friend, Daniel, had interpreted the king's dream. As a reward Daniel had been given the highest and best job in the land. He had requested that his three friends also be given good jobs. The wisemen had been demoted so that these Hebrews could take over the best jobs. It just didn't seem fair to the wisemen and they were jealous!

Daniel must have been away on business, but here stood his three friends and they were not doing as the king ordered. The wisemen knew the Hebrews worshiped only their own God, but this was in direct disobedience to the king's orders. The wisemen were so excited they could hardly wait to go tell the king what they had seen!

"O king, live forever," the wisemen whined as they bowed low when they went before the king. They stood in the throne room and they couldn't wait to tell the king their news, but first they needed to butter him up. They praised him and told him how great he was. Then they began to remind the king that he had ordered everyone to bow to his image or be punished by a fiery death. Then they got to the part they were dying to repeat.

"O king, there were three Hebrews who did not bow down to your image. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down! They will not serve any other god but their own, you know! So they did not bow to your image as you commanded. Isn't that terrible?"

Daniel 3:8-9, 12 says, *Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.*

*They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.*

*There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

The tattletale wisemen did not think it was so terrible the Hebrews had not bowed down. They were full of glee. Finally they would see those young upstarts put to death and they could get their jobs back!

#### **AN ANGRY KING**

The proud king was furious. How dare his own men humiliate him in front of everyone? How dare they disobey him? He had given them power and position. Did they think they were so great that they need not obey him?

The king called for the three Hebrews to be brought to him. He had been pleased with their work and faithful service so he decided to give them one more chance to bow to his image.

"Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, why did you not bow to my image? I will give you a second chance to worship my image. When you hear the sound of the music this time, you had better bow or I will throw you into the fiery furnace! Who is your God anyway? How can He deliver you out of my hands?"

Daniel 3:13-15 says, *Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.*

*Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?*

*Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?*

### **A BRAVE STAND**

It was the moment of truth for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They could bow or they could burn.

How would you feel if you stood before a powerful king who had the power to kill you and he said you had to bow and worship him? He did not care about the fact that you worshiped your own God. He only cared that you worship him or he would kill you. You know the end of this story, so you can be brave and say, "I would not bow!" But Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not know the end of their story.

"O king," they said without hesitation. "We are not worried about what we need to say to you. Our God is able to deliver us out of your fiery furnace and out of your hand. But if he does not, even if we burn to death, know this: We will not bow and worship your golden image!"

Daniel 3:16-18 says, *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.*

*If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.*

*But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

### **THE FIERY FURNACE**

The three Hebrews bravely answered the king, and the king was furious with their answer. He was so angry his face screwed up in fury. How dare these lowly Hebrews defy him?

The king shouted for the guards to bind the three men. He ordered that the furnace be fired seven times hotter than it was made to be heated.

"Take them and burn them," he shouted. "Get them out of my sight. The next time I see them they will be burning in the fire!"

Daniel 3:19-20 says, *Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.*

*And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.*

The furnace was heated beyond what it had ever been heated before. The biggest, meanest guards roughly marched the Hebrews toward the fire. The heat was so hot that the guards could hardly keep walking as they approached the furnace. Finally the guards had gotten so close to the tremendous heat that they themselves were burned to death. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell into the fire.

The king angrily marched as close to the furnace as he dared and stared into the flames. He saw his guards sprawled dead by the furnace opening. He expected to see three more charred remains lying inside the furnace. But what he saw instead caused him to cry out in fear and amazement.

“Didn’t we throw three men into the fire?” he demanded.

“Yes, your majesty. They are burned to death by now.”

“But look! I see four men, standing up, walking around inside the fire! And the form of the fourth man is like the Son of God!”

Everyone looked and everyone saw that there were, indeed, four men walking around in the fire. They were talking as if they felt no heat. They looked as if they were having a normal, everyday conversation. Everyone was astounded.

Daniel 3:24-25 says, *Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.*

*He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.*

The king called for the men to come out of the furnace. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out. The fourth man was gone.

All the important men gathered around and closely examined the Hebrews. They had not been hurt by the fire in any way. They were not burned. Their clothing was not burned nor did it smell of smoke. There was no evidence at all that they had even been in that terrible fire. Everyone could plainly see that they had been totally spared.

Daniel 3:26-27 says, *Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.*

*And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king’s counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.*

## **GOD IS GLORIFIED**

King Nebuchadnezzar stood before all the gathered dignitaries and he made an amazing statement. He said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent His angel and delivered his servants out of my hand so that they should not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."

Daniel 3:28 says, *Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.*

Then the king gave them even better jobs than they had held before. He held them in special regard. I suppose the other wisemen were still jealous, but they must also have been awed by the miracle God had done to protect His faithful servants who had been willing to die rather than worship any god except the one true God.

Daniel 3:30 says, *Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.*

## **YOUR STRONG STAND**

These three men stood strong for God and God honored them. For all they knew, they were headed for death when the guards began to march them toward that fire, but they did not count their lives so precious that they were willing to disobey God to save themselves.

Would you be willing to die rather than disobey God? That is a hard question to answer. But let me ask you, when God gives you easy things to do, do you always obey? They obeyed when faced with a very, very hard thing. The easy things must have been so natural to them. Every time something came up, they asked, "What does God want us to do?" Then they obeyed God.

Do you ask yourself, "What does God want me to do?" Then do you do it?

God wants you to determine to take a strong stand for Him in the way you live and act. He wants you to obey Him and His Word regardless of the consequences. When you are supposed to stay away from Worldly things, God wants you to stay away. Do you? When your friends want you to join them in doing something a Christian shouldn't do, do you say, "No?" When your enemies taunt and tease you, do you stand strong for God regardless? When your parents give you a job to do, do you do it with a sweet attitude?

If you are a Christian, then others are watching you. They watch the way you act. They watch your attitude. They watch how you do things. They listen to the words that come out of your mouth. What kind of a stand are you taking for God? Do others watch your life and say, "Blessed be your God?"

Every Christian should have the heart attitude and the determination that he would be willing to die rather than to disobey and disgrace God. You represent God to the godless World. You need to take a strong stand in all you say and do so that others will see God in your life and will bless your God because of your strong stand.

The wonderful blessing and reward of taking a strong stand for God is that you know He will stand by you in your time of need. It does not mean you will never have trials and troubles. You may have to go through the furnace of adversity just as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did, but you will also know that just as God stood by them in the fire, God will also stand by you. God will be with you in your furnace times of life!

Maybe you are not a Christian. You have never accepted Jesus Christ into your life. You do not have the protection of God on your life. Today you can ask Jesus to forgive your sin and become a part of your life. Today you can know that the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is your God also.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

How do you take a stand for God?

1. Openly show you are a Christian.

Don't be ashamed to tell others, "I am a Christian." Let others know you love and serve God.

The other wisemen knew the Hebrew men would not bow to the image because they would worship no other God but their own. From the very beginning of their stay in Babylon, they took a strong stand for God. They never tried to hide the fact that they loved and served the one true God. You should follow their example.

2. Obey regardless of circumstances.

The Hebrews obeyed in the little things. They would not eat the meat sacrificed to idols. Then when the big decision came along, they did not need to debate what they would do. They would obey even if they were burned to death.

You should determine in your heart that you will obey, regardless of the circumstances. Start with the little, everyday things. Then, when the big things come along, you won't have to debate what you should do. You will do what you always do.

### 3. Obey with a right attitude.

One of the amazing things about Daniel and his three Hebrew friends is their godly attitude. They never sat around and had a pity party because they had seen their land destroyed. They never complained because they were captives in a foreign land. They did not complain because they had to work for a godless king. Instead they determined to do their best. They worked hard and kept a godly attitude in the way they talked and acted.

If you want to take the kind of stand for God where others will take notice, then you must also have a godly attitude in the way you talk and act. What does that mean? It means no whining when things don't go your way. It means no complaining when you have to do something you don't want to do. It means no bad-mouthing others you don't like or don't agree with. It means having a sweet spirit towards others.

You may need to make some changes in your attitude. You can ask God to help you change. Ask Him to help you keep your tone sweet and kind. Ask Him to help you not to whine and complain. And if you fail sometimes, then ask Him to forgive you and help you to start again.

So, determine to take a strong stand for your God at home, at school, and everywhere you go.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to take a strong, firm stand for Him in all you say and do.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Why did King Nebuchadnezzar feel he deserved a statue?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Describe the statue.
4. Who were the first people that the king gathered to worship his statue?
5. What did the Herald proclaim would happen to those who did not bow and worship?
6. Who did not bow to the image?
7. What did the three Hebrews tell the king when he demanded they bow?
8. What did the king see in the fire?
9. What was so amazing about the three Hebrews when they came out of the fire?
10. What did the king say after the fire?

# Determined to Stand Strong for God

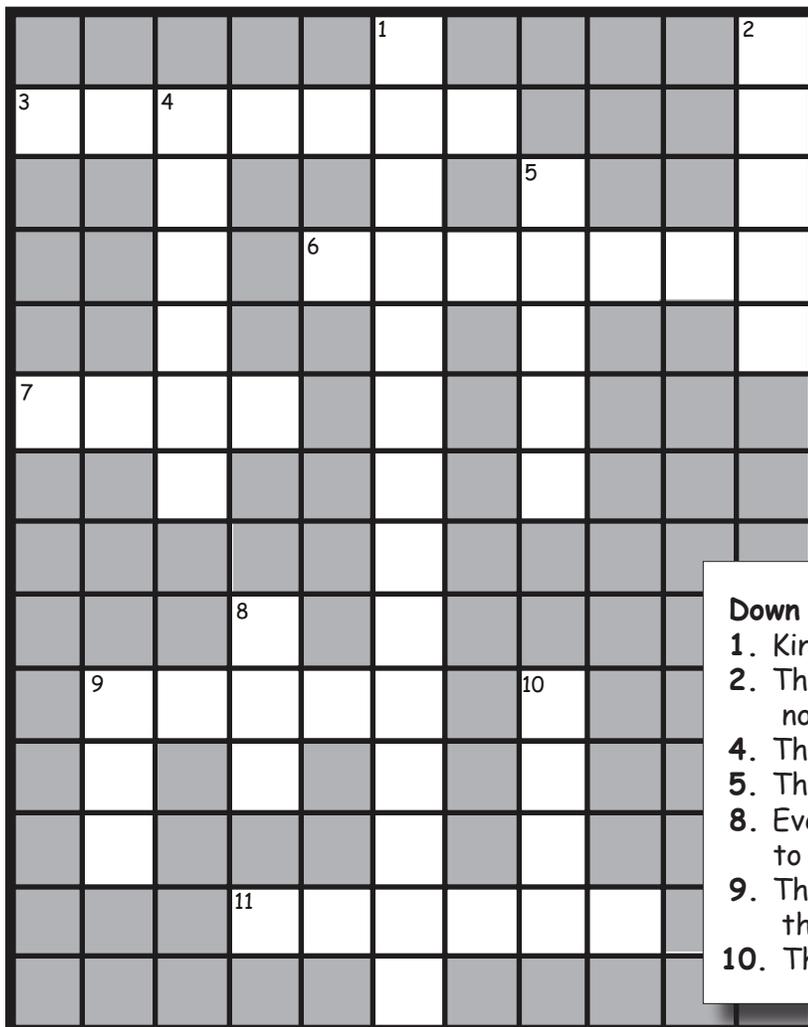
Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6



I will determine to obey God.

Sometimes it is not easy to stand strong for God. It is hard to take a stand for God when others laugh at you. It is hard to take a stand for God when it would be so much easier to go along with the crowd.

If you do take a strong stand for God, you can be certain that He will be standing right beside you all the way!



### Across

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ rushed to tattle to King Nebuchadnezzar.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ was heated.
7. The king saw \_\_\_\_\_ men.
9. The Hebrews did not smell of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The strongest \_\_\_\_\_ burned.

### Down

1. King \_\_\_\_\_ ruled Babylon.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews would not bow.
4. The king had a \_\_\_\_\_ built.
5. The king was very \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Everyone gathered to \_\_\_\_\_ to the statue.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God was with the Hebrews.
10. The statue was make of \_\_\_\_\_.



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LESSON 41

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO SERVE GOD HUMBLY**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 4:1-37

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Pride is a terrible thing. God tells us in the Bible that He hates pride. He also tells us that pride can lead to some very bad things. It can lead to embarrassment and it can lead to destruction.

You see, we really don't have anything to be proud of in ourselves. We can't take the credit for much of anything. If you are pretty, that is because God made you that way. If you are smart, that is because God gave you a good brain for thinking. If you are athletic, then God gave you your ability. All you have and all you are is given or allowed by God.

Instead of having a heart full of pride, have a heart full of praise to God for all He has done for you. Be humble enough to give all the credit to God. Determine to be humble enough to obey Him each day.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

CLASS PRESIDENT

CHERYL REID

Obtain Flash Card

"Rachel Cox is so jealous of me!" Ashley said to Emmy as they talked on the phone. "She knows she isn't as pretty as me, and her clothes aren't as nice as mine, and her house is much smaller than mine is. I don't know why she thinks she can win the election. She's not at all popular!"

"I don't know," Emmy replied. "Maybe she thinks people will feel sorry for her."

Ashley and Emmy thought they knew Rachel, but they didn't. They only knew what they saw on the outside. What they saw was an ordinary girl who wore ordinary clothes and lived in an ordinary house. They saw what they wanted to see. What they didn't see was the part of Rachel who loved God with all her heart, loved her parents, and loved Concord Middle School. Rachel was an excellent student who studied hard and tried to do her best. She had wonderful friends who knew that Rachel would be a great sixth grade class president, and that is why they nominated her for the job.

As Rachel sat in her bedroom that evening, she thought about her day. When she found out that she had been nominated, she was surprised. “Why did you nominate me?” She asked her friend Molly.

“Are you kidding me?” Molly replied. “You are the only person who would take this responsibility seriously! Ashley thinks this is a popularity contest! She doesn’t care about anything but herself.” Sadly, Molly was right.

Rachel wasn’t so sure that she was the best person for the job, but she knew that she loved her school and that she wanted it to be the very best school possible. If she could do anything to help that happen, she would be willing to run for class president. Rachel realized that she probably didn’t have a chance of winning, but if the Lord wanted her to have the position, she would win.

As Rachel talked to her parents that evening, her dad gave her some good advice. “You know, Rachel, you don’t have to have a position to be a leader. The title of class president doesn’t make you a leader. You can be a leader just by asking God to help your testimony for Him show forth to your classmates. When they see God working in your life, that makes you a leader. Others see your obedience to God and they will either want to do the same thing, or will be ashamed because they don’t.”

Rachel knew her dad was right. Her parents had always taught her to guard her testimony, and she tried hard to put Jesus first every day. “I’ll do it,” she decided. “I’ll run for class president; and if I don’t win, then I’ll support whoever does.”

The next day, Molly helped Rachel make several posters to put up in the hallways at school. They might not be as fancy as Ashley’s posters, with all the glitter and ribbons and jewel accents, but they were fine. (Show Flash Card)

Rachel began working on her speech after her homework was finished that evening. She wasn’t sure what she would say, but she wanted it to be just right. It shouldn’t be long, and it shouldn’t be focused on herself. She decided to talk about how she loved her school and wanted it to be the very best it could be. It would be easy to write that kind of speech.

The week flew by, and speech day was here! Rachel’s mom ironed her nicest dress and helped her with her hair. Rachel was a little nervous, but her speech was all memorized and ready to go. Ashley would give her speech first, and Rachel would follow.

At school that morning, Ashley spoke to Rachel. “Are you actually going through with this? You’re going to really be embarrassed when you don’t get any votes.”

Rachel was a little surprised at Ashley’s pride. “Well, if you win, I’ll do everything I can to help you improve our school. Are you ready for the speeches?”

“My mom helped me write my speech. I couldn’t remember all the contests I’ve won and all the trophies I have; but she did. She already has an article written for the newspaper for when I win.” With that, Ashley quickly headed to the auditorium to get ready for the assembly.

Rachel slipped into an empty classroom for a moment. She took a few deep breaths and then she silently prayed. “Lord, please help me today. I pray that I will give my speech well and that I will trust you for the election. Please help me to be a good testimony. Amen.”

As the two girls sat on stage, the principal made several announcements before he introduced the candidates. Ashley stood and walked to the podium. “As you all know,” she began, “my name is Ashley. I’ve won lots of contests before, but I’ve never been a class officer. I’ve been Little Miss Concord, and I’ve won three talent competitions. If I win, I promise we’ll have lots of parties and trips. My dad knows the head of the school board, so he can make sure we have some changes around here. So a vote for Ashley is a vote for fun!” As the audience clapped, Ashley walked to her seat and smugly smiled at Rachel.

Rachel stood and slowly walked to the podium. She cleared her throat and began. “Hi. My name is Rachel Winters. Some of you probably don’t know me. But I just want to say that I believe we have the best school in the whole city. We have great teachers and a great principal. They really care about us and about our school. And I do, too. I have some ideas that I believe would make our school even better—ideas that we could all work on together to support our school and each other. I would like to have the opportunity to work on them with you. Thank you for listening.”

As Rachel turned to walk back to her seat, a few people began to clap—then others joined. Before she was seated, the entire auditorium broke out into loud applause for Rachel. Ashley didn’t know what to think! Surely they didn’t prefer Rachel over her! What was happening?

After the assembly was over, the students went to their home-rooms to cast their votes. When the announcement was made, the girls were both nervous to hear the results. “And now, the results of this morning’s election for sixth grade class president. The winner is . . . Rachel Winters. Congratulations, Rachel. We look forward to hearing some of those ideas of yours in the next few weeks.”

After school that day, Rachel hurried to find Ashley. “I’m sorry you lost. I know you’re disappointed.”

“Oh, forget it,” Ashley replied. “I didn’t want to do all that extra work anyway. You can have it.” And she walked off.

Rachel worked hard to be a good class president. She was able to begin several projects that were helpful to the students and the school. Her friends helped to make sure everyone had a chance to get involved if they wanted to. Ashley even decided to help paint a mural in one of the hallways. Let’s hope Ashley had learned something important from the election—that calling attention to herself made others think that she didn’t care about anyone or anything else. There’s nothing really attractive about pride. I hope we also learn that we should determine to serve God in a humble way.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 4:1-37

### LESSON

#### NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S OWN STORY

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, is our storyteller today. The rest of the book of Daniel was written by Daniel, but this story is written in the words of the king. It is possible the king told Daniel to record this story for him.

Why does the king tell us his own story? King Nebuchadnezzar tells us that he wants us to know that God is great and mighty.

Daniel 4:2-3 says, *I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.*

*How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.*

It is really amazing to hear the king give God such praise and honor when you remember that in our story last week this very same king said, "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"

But when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace untouched, the king had completely changed his heart and mind. Then he proclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego."

Many years have gone by since the time when King Nebuchadnezzar captured Daniel and the rest of the men of Judah. This story takes place over thirty years later when the king was an old man.

Over the years the king watched Daniel and his godly friends. He saw how God guided them, provided for them, and protected them. He was convinced that their God was real and powerful. He was not a true believer in God, but he certainly had a great respect for God.

So, the king's story begins. The day came when the king says he was resting in his home. He was resting from his battles with surrounding countries. For years he had traveled to foreign lands to do battle. He had been victorious and as a result, his kingdom had grown larger in size and he had amassed great wealth. He lived in a beautiful palace and everyone admired his greatness. Things couldn't be better for King Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:4 *I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace.*

### **A TROUBLING DREAM**

The king went to bed one night and he had a nightmare. He woke up sweating in fear.

“What could my dream mean? Why did I have such a troubling dream?” he wondered.

So the king gathered all his wisemen together. He told them what the dream was and he asked what they thought it meant. Not one of his wisemen present could come up with what it might mean. They were baffled.

Daniel 4:5-7 says, *I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.*

*Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.*

*Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.*

The king was so frustrated. He was positive his dream meant something and that it was important for him to understand. Finally, Daniel went to see the king. Perhaps he heard the other wisemen discussing the fact that the king was very displeased because no one could interpret his dream.

Daniel 4:8-9 says, *But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,*

*O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.*

The king told Daniel all about his dream.

King Nebuchadnezzar said, "I saw a tree and it was a great big tree. It grew tall and strong. It was full of green leaves and it had lots of fruit. Animals rested and sheltered under it. Then a holy one came from heaven and ordered that the tree be cut down. He ordered that the branches be cut and the fruit be scattered so that all that remained would be the stump of the once mighty tree. The holy one said that now the mighty one would be like a beast of the field and eat grass from the earth. He said the man's heart would be changed into a beast's heart. The holy one decreed that seven times pass. What does this mean, Daniel?"

For one whole hour Daniel thought about the king's dream. He was troubled because he knew the dream was not good news for the king. Perhaps Daniel worried what the king would do to him when he told him what the dream meant. But the king assured Daniel that no matter what the dream meant, he wanted to know the interpretation of it.

So Daniel began to tell the king what the dream meant.

The tree represented the king. Just as the tree was strong and tall and mighty with others enjoying its shade and fruit, so the king had become a strong and mighty king whose kingdom benefited many people. But that would soon end. God would allow men to drive the king out of his kingdom. He would become like a beast of the field for seven years. He would eat grass like an oxen and would sleep out in the fields like an animal. This would go on for seven years until he realized that God was the true ruler. The king had to realize that he only had power and might that was given to him by God and not by his own power and might.

Daniel 4:19-22 says, *Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.*

*The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;*

*Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:*

*It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.*

#### **DREAM COME TRUE**

The king must have been astonished at Daniel's words. But the days went by and perhaps the king forgot all about the dream. But one day, the dream came true. And his dream was more like a nightmare!

The king was walking through his palace and he began to brag about the beautiful palace he had built. He bragged about his powerful kingdom. He heaped honor upon himself.

As the words of self-praise were still coming out of his mouth, God spoke from Heaven. God said, “King Nebuchadnezzar, you will lose your kingdom.”

Men came and drove the king from the palace. His hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails were like bird’s claws. He slept on the wet ground and ate grass. He was just like an animal of the field.

Daniel 4:29-33 says, *At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.*

*The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?*

*While the word was in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.*

*And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.*

*The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles’ feathers, and his nails like birds’ claws.*

For seven long years the king remained in the fields and lived like a beast. He was no longer rich or powerful. No one looked up to him and praised his name. Finally the day came when the king came to his right mind and he looked up to Heaven. He praised God. He acknowledged that God was the true and everlasting God. He acknowledged that everything done on earth is according to God’s will. He acknowledged God’s great power.

When God saw that the king had humbled himself before Him, God restored his kingdom to him. The people who served the king came to greet him and they cleaned the king up. They gave him his robes and God blessed the king again.

From that day forward, when the king began to brag, he did not brag about his own power and wealth. Instead, he gave glory and praise to God. He was a smart man. He learned a valuable lesson.

Daniel 4:34-37 says, *And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:*

*And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

*At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.*

*Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.*

### **TRIPPED BY PRIDE/LIFTED UP BY HUMILITY**

Just as Daniel had warned, his interpretation of the king's dream came true. God had warned Nebuchadnezzar about his pride, but the king had been too proud to believe that anything so terrible and so outlandish could happen to him. After all, he was a great and mighty king! He had power and wealth! Who could stop him?

The king's pride caused him seven long years of misery and humiliation. How much easier it would have been if he had listened to what Daniel told him about his dream and then gone directly to God and humbled himself. He should have said, "Almighty God, I know that you are the true source of power and wealth. I know that all that I have has been given by you. I know that I would have nothing if you did not allow it. I know that you are the mighty King! I am your humble servant."

Had King Nebuchadnezzar humbled his proud heart before God, I am sure that God would have been pleased with his heart attitude. If the king had humbled himself, God would not have needed to humble the king.

It is not only rich and powerful kings whose hearts are filled of pride. You and I can also have pride in our lives too. We can start thinking that we are something special because we are so smart or so athletic or so good looking. We can think we have accomplished things because we are so talented. We can want others to look at us and admire us.

Pride is a terrible thing, yet it is something that most people need to fight in their lives. It is so easy to look at the good things we do, or the way we look, or the abilities we have and be filled with pride. We have a heart attitude of pride.

Do you know what? Everything you have, all that you are, every ability you possess, and all that you accomplish in life is a result of God's gifts and blessings on you. God created you. God gave you breath and keeps you breathing daily. If you are smart, God gave you your mind. If you are beautiful or handsome, God made you look like you do. If you have an ability, like an athletic or musical talent, God gave you that ability.

You really don't have anything to be proud about. All you have and are is from God. He is the one who deserves the praise and honor for your good points. So don't be like King

Nebuchadnezzar who looked at all he had and became puffed up with pride. Instead, praise God for all the good things in your life and give Him the honor and glory.

When you look around and see good things in your life, say, “Thank you, Lord, for all you have done for me. Thank you when I can do something that is good. Thank you for the abilities you have given me. Help me to use all you give me for your praise and honor.”

You should always do your best job in life and you can be pleased with what you do and accomplish, but you must remember that God made you who you are and you must remember to give God the praise for what you accomplish in life. Instead of having a heart full of pride, have a heart full of thankfulness for all God has done through and for you. If you humble yourself before God, he will know that you have a humble heart attitude. That will please God.

The first way a person must humble themselves before God is to admit they are a sinner. Don't be too proud to tell God you know you are a sinner. Instead humble yourself and ask God to forgive your sin and come into your life. You can do that today. We can have someone take a Bible and show you how you can know your sin is forgiven and you are on your way to Heaven.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to put pride out of your life. If you have something to brag about, remember to brag on God, not yourself. Make the choice to be a humble servant of God.

Why? Pride can cause trouble in your life.

1. Pride keeps you from relying on God.

A proud person trusts in his own self. A humble person knows he needs God.

Psalm 10:4 says, *The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.*

2. Pride won't listen to wisdom.

A proud person thinks he knows what is best. A humble person knows that true wisdom comes from God.

Proverbs 13:10 says, *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

Proverbs 11:2 says, *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

3. Pride leads to destruction.

A proud person relies on his own goodness to get to Heaven, but he is mistaken. A humble person relies on God to give him eternal life.

Proverbs 16:18 says, *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*

II Chronicles 7:14 says, *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to determine to have a humble heart attitude before God.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who is the storyteller in today's story?
2. About how many years after Daniel was taken captive did this story take place?
3. Where was the king when he had his dream?
4. What did the king say he saw in his dream?
5. What did Daniel say the dream meant?
6. How long of a time passed before the dream came true?
7. How long did the king live like an animal?
8. What did the king do after seven years?
9. What did God do for the king after he humbled himself?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

# Determined to Serve God Humbly

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean  
not unto thine own understanding In all thy ways  
acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6



I will determine to  
obey God.

Don't be proud. Instead, be humble enough to know  
that all you are and all you have comes from God. Deter-  
mine to give God the credit for the good things in your  
life.

1. Our storyteller was \_\_\_\_\_ . CHADNEBUZZARNE
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ was in his palace. GKIN
3. The king had a vivid \_\_\_\_\_ . RAMDE
4. Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ the dream. NTIREEPEDRT
5. The king became like an \_\_\_\_\_ . LAMINA
6. This went on for \_\_\_\_\_ years. NESEV
7. God restored the king when he \_\_\_\_\_ God. OOHNERD
8. Be \_\_\_\_\_ , not proud. ELBUHM

Unscramble the words at the end of the line and fill in  
the blank.



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LESSON 42

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO RESPECT GOD**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 5:1-30

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

We live in a world that is very disrespectful. Children and teenagers don't respect their parents. People on the streets don't respect those in authority over them like the police. Robbers steal other people's property. Liars are dishonest about the things they tell others. Murderers take the lives of innocent people. You hear it on the news every day.

But worst of all, most people don't show any respect toward God. They think they can ignore God's Word. They think they don't have to obey God in any way. They just ignore God. It is a sad thing, but it is true.

You don't have to be like those people. You can determine in your heart to respect God by the way you act and speak. Don't be like those people on the news who ruin their lives and the lives of others by being disrespectful to God. Instead, you can please God by showing Him respect.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### TEMPLE TREASURES

Obtain Flash Card (Note: See I Kings 5-6)

When God first delivered the Children of Israel from slavery in Egypt, He told them to build a temporary place of worship. This place of worship was called the Tabernacle. In the Tabernacle the people would go to offer sacrifices to God to cover their sins and to offer thanks and praise to Him. God came down and dwelled in the inner most part of the Tabernacle, called the Holy of Holies. The people could see that God was with them as they traveled away from slavery in Egypt and toward the land that God had promised to give to them.

The Tabernacle was made especially for travel. It could be quickly set up by the Levites when the people stopped to rest for a short while. It could be quickly taken down and made ready to travel when the Lord told the people it was time to begin to move again.

After the people had sinned against God by refusing to go into the promised land, God sent them back out into the desert to wander aimlessly for forty years. God was punishing the people,

yet God did not leave the people. They still continued to set up the tabernacle and God continued to reside with them.

Finally the day came when the people went back to the land. God led them in victory, and they began to establish homes and grow crops. How blessed they were to be in the land God had selected for them.

You would think that as soon as the people took possession of the land, they would have built a temple for God, but they did not. Instead they took their time establishing their own homes and settling in. One day, 480 years later, King David noticed that even though the Israelites had homes and he had a beautiful palace, God did not have a permanent home. So David determined to build a permanent home for God also.

God told David that he could begin to make plans for a Temple to be built, but his son, King Solomon, would be the one to build the Temple.

We can only imagine the beauty and splendor of the temple that King Solomon built. Solomon was one of the richest kings in his day and he had all the money and resources he needed at his fingertips. He had the finest cedar trees shipped in from other countries. Huge stones were cut and transported for the foundation of the Temple. (Show Flash Card)

The place where the ark of the covenant would sit in the Holy of Holies was covered with pure gold. The walls were covered with gold. Beautiful, gold-covered cherubims were built to stand around the ark. Even the floors were covered with gold. Can you imagine walking on pure gold?

King Solomon called for the most skilled craftsmen and women to come lend their skills to building the Temple. Great care was taken to do everything perfectly. Great reverence was taken as the workers built. The Bible says that much of the work was done outside so that the inside of the Temple would be kept silent in reverence and respect to God. Not once was a hammer banging heard in the Temple as they built. (Show Flash Card)

It took Solomon seven years to build the temple. It took the Babylonians just a few days to loot and destroy it. They carried away the holy vessels of the temple and disrespectfully place them in the temple for their false god.

That is always the case that some thing good takes a long time to build up but bad things can quickly tear the good down. It takes long hard work to build up something of worth, but only seconds to tear it down.

Did you know that God no longer dwells in a temple made of wood and stone and gold. Now God dwells in a totally different type of temple. You are the temple that God dwells in.

The Bible says that you are the temple of God and He dwells inside of you.

1 Corinthians 6:19 says, *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

Carefully, skillfully, God is working on your temple, your life. He is trying to build you into the type of Christian whose life reflects His beauty and Holiness. Just as it took years to build the beautiful temple in Jerusalem, it takes years for God to work in your life. Daily He is building you into the person He wants you to be. Daily He is trying to make you holy and pure and obedient.

But just as it only took the enemy a few short hours to destroy the temple, you have an enemy who wants to tear down and destroy you. He wants to keep you from being the type of Christian who God can use for His glory. Satan wants to tear you down. But he cannot do a single thing to harm you if you give God complete control of your life. Ask God each day to help you to keep your temple clean and pure. Ask Him to help you to live an obedient life within your temple. Determine to keep your temple totally dedicated to God and determine to respect the things of God.

The Holy Spirit dwells within you. He is with you constantly to help you to keep your temple safe and clean. Make sure that you respect and honor the temple, your body, which God has given to you!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 5:1-30

### LESSON

#### A NEW KING

Shortly after King Nebuchadnezzar had learned his lesson in humility, he came to the end of his life. He had been king for over thirty years. Nebuchadnezzar's son was the next in line for the throne, but he had been king for two years when his brother-in-law murdered him and stole the throne. This new king reigned a short time and then he died. His son became king in his place, but that didn't last long either. In a few months' time that king was also murdered by a man who seized the throne. This new ruler reigned for a short time before he left the kingdom in the hands of his son. The new king was named Belshazzar.

King Belshazzar was definitely not a godly man. He worshiped false gods and so did the people of his kingdom.

Daniel was certainly a godly influence on the land of Babylon, but the throne had changed hands so many times that the new king barely knew that Daniel existed. Daniel was one of the wisemen, but he was older now and the new king must not have called on Daniel's wisdom very often, if at all. Regardless, Daniel continued to worship God faithfully in spite of the godless land in which he lived.

This distant descendant of King Nebuchadnezzar may have heard the stories of the Fiery furnace and his grandfather's years of wandering the fields and living like an animal. He may have heard that there was supposed to be a mighty God of the people of Israel, but he did not concern himself with that God. He certainly did not have any respect for God.

#### THE GREAT FEAST

The king of Persia, King Cyrus, who ruled a nearby land, was determined to capture Babylon. He knew it was a holiday time for that land. It would be a time when their guard was down and they were not paying attention.

King Cyrus was right. King Belshazzar foolishly ignored the threat of King Cyrus. Instead of arming his men and defending his country, he declared a great feast. He gathered all the important lords and ladies of the land together and they began to be merry. They ate and drank and just forgot all their troubles.

Suddenly King Belshazzar got another very foolish idea. He remembered that when his grandfather, King Nebuchadnezzar had captured Judah, they had brought back gold and silver goblets and bowls that had been used in the Hebrew temple to worship God. Those vessels must have been stored away, but Belshazzar decided it was time to bring them out. He thought they would make perfect drinking glasses for their wine. They were already drunk, but they wanted to use those beautiful, holy vessels to drink more.

Belshazzar had no respect at all for God or for the holy things of God. He felt he did not need to respect anyone else because he was the king. He certainly did not feel he needed to respect a God whom he did not know.

So a servant was sent to bring the vessels. The wine was poured and the king proposed a toast. All those foolish, drunken people lifted their glasses and drank to the false gods of gold, silver, iron, wood, and stone. They defiled the vessels that had been created and used for the worship of the holy God of Israel!

Daniel 5:1-4 says, *Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.*

*Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which was in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.*

*Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives, and his concubines, drank in them.*

*They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone.*

### **THE WRITING ON THE WALL**

While the drunken king and his people were holding the holy vessels in their hands and laughing, a strange thing happened that made the room fall suddenly silent. Everyone froze in place. Not a sound was made as a hand appeared and began to write on the wall.

How strange and frightening that must have been! The people must have wondered if they were so drunk that they were beginning to see things. But this was no illusion. It was not a drunken vision. The hand of God began to write out a message on the wall for all to see.

When the king saw what was happening, he was terrified. The color drained from his face. He sobered up quickly! No longer was he calling for wine and laughing like a fool. No longer was he mocking the holy God of Israel. He was so scared that all his joints felt like jelly and his knees actually began to knock against one another!

Daniel 5:5-6 says, *In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.*

*Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.*

The king began to shout for his advisors. He saw the writing on the wall, but he could not read it. He didn't know what it meant and he demanded that someone tell him what the strange writing meant. He wildly promised that anyone who could decipher the writing would be rewarded richly and made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.

But no one could read the message. The wise men were baffled.

Daniel 5:7-8 says, *The king cried aloud to bring in the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers. And the king spake, and said to the wise men of Babylon, Whosoever shall read this writing, and shew me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.*

*Then came in all the king's wise men: but they could not read the writing, nor make known to the king the interpretation thereof.*

What would the king do? How would he ever understand the strange message that caused such fear in his heart?

Suddenly the Queen Mother remembered that in the days of King Nebuchadnezzar there had been a man who had a godly spirit. She remembered that man had been wise and, because of his great wisdom, Nebuchadnezzar had made him the master over all the other wisemen. She suggested the king search for that wise-man.

Daniel 5:10-11 says, *Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:*

*There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers.*

#### **DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM**

So, Daniel was summoned to the palace. The king asked Daniel if he could read the writing on the wall. He promised Daniel that if he could interpret the writing, then he would reward him greatly.

Daniel told the king that he was not interested in the gifts or the power the king was offering. But he also told the king he would read the writing and make an interpretation.

Daniel 5:13, 16-17 says, *Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?*

*And I have heard of thee, that thou canst make interpretations, and dissolve doubts: now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.*

*Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.*

Everyone listened carefully as Daniel began to speak. Not a sound could be heard except the sound of Daniel's voice. Everyone waited anxiously to hear what he would say.

Daniel reminded King Belshazzar that when his grandfather had been filled with pride and had ignored and disrespected God, God had brought Nebuchadnezzar low. When Nebuchadnezzar finally acknowledged that God was the one and only true God, then God had restored his kingdom. Daniel told Belshazzar that God was in complete control. He was even in control of a king.

Daniel told the king, "You have not humbled your prideful heart. Instead you have insulted and disrespected God by bringing the holy vessels from the temple to be used in your drunken feast. Instead of respecting and worshiping the true God, you have paid honor to false gods."

Then Daniel began to interpret the writing. MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN

This is what the writing meant: MENE - God has numbered the days of your kingdom. Times up! It is finished.

TEKEL - You have been weighed in the balance and have been found wanting. You have fallen short of God's standards.

PERES - Your kingdom will be taken and divided by the Medes and the Persians.

God was telling King Belshazzar that because he had not respected and honored Him, his kingdom was at an end. Two other kings would come and take over. He was finished.

Daniel 5:22-23 says, *And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;*

*But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:*

The king must have been shaking in his boots! Now that he knew what the writing meant, he had more to be frightened of than before.

He commanded his servants to bring fine clothing and golden chains to put on Daniel. He proclaimed that Daniel would be the third highest ruler in the land.

Then, with a sick heart the king headed to his bed chambers. In the night, just as God had warned, the king of Persia overthrew King Belshazzar's kingdom. The king was murdered in his bed and his kingdom was given to a new king. King Darius, king of the Medes, was now the ruler.

Daniel 5:29-30 says, *Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.*

*In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.*

## **RESPECT GOD**

What a terrible price Belshazzar paid for failing to show respect to God. It is a fearful and foolish thing to disrespect God who is the creator of the universe!

God does not take disrespect lightly. Just as God demanded respect way back in Bible days, God still expects His creations to show Him respect. But not many people show God very much respect. They ignore God and refuse to worship Him. They laugh at holy things and make fun of godly people. They are proud of their sinfulness. They have no fear of God. They have no respect for God. How foolish!

Proverbs 1:7 says, *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Psalms 36:1 says, *The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.*

Lack of respect for God is a terrible thing, but when you show respect for God and for His holy things, then God will bless you.

Psalms 31:19 says, *Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!*

Maybe you think that you are just a child and God doesn't even pay attention to you. You may think He doesn't even know you exist. Well, God does know about you. He knows you personally because He personally created you. He loves you and He wants you to love Him.

Psalms 115:13 says, *He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.*

Let me ask you a question. Are you a Christian? That means that you have admitted that you are a sinner and you cannot take away your own sin. You know that only Jesus Christ, who died on the cross in your place to take away your sin, can save you. A Christian is a person who has asked Jesus to forgive his sin and come into his heart.

Just as King Belshazzar was weighed in the balances and found wanting, or found to fall short of God's expectations, we all fall short of God's expectations. We are all sinners and no one can save themselves.

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Only Jesus Christ can take away your sin. Only He can save you.

Would you like Jesus Christ to take away your sin and come into your heart today? You can. We can show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

I challenge you to examine your heart and life. Do you show respect to God?

The God who created the universe is the same God who created you. Do you honor and respect God with the way you act and the things you say? Does your attitude toward God and God's holy things show respect?

How do you treat God's house, the church?

You should show respect for God's house by treating it like a holy place. Don't run and play in the halls and classrooms. Don't damage church property. Instead, act like a lady or gentleman. Show respect to God when you are in church. Showing respect for the church is one way of showing your love for Him.

How do you treat God's Word, the Bible?

Take time each day to read at least one or two verses. Think about what God is trying to say to you. Then obey God's Word. Treat your Bible with respect since it is God's Holy Word.

How do you treat God's servants, your pastor and others who teach you at church?

Listen carefully to those who are trying to teach you about God. Honor your pastor by listening to the sermons and then obey the things he teaches you from God's Word. Listen to and obey your parents when they teach you how to live like a Christian. Show your respect for God by showing respect to those He has placed in authority over you.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to show Him the love and respect that He deserves.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did King Belshazzar do when he knew King Cyrus was coming to attack his country?
2. What disrespectful thing did King Belshazzar do during the feast?
3. Recite today's memory verse.
4. What happened to frighten the king?
5. When the wise men could not interpret the writing, who knew where to go for answers?
6. What did Daniel say the word MENE meant?
7. What did Daniel say the word TEKEL meant?
8. What did Daniel say the word PERES meant?
9. Who attacked King Belshazzar's kingdom in the night?
10. What happened to the king?

# Determined to Respect God



Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

God is worthy of your respect. Show respect by reading your Bible and then obeying it. Show respect by treating God's house like a holy place. Show respect to those God has placed in authority over you.

When you show respect for God, you are showing Him how much you love Him.

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Write all the number 1 letters in order on the lines below. Then write all the number 2 letters in order. Then the number 3 letters and so on.



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LESSON 43

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO AVOID SATAN'S TRAPS**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 6:1-9

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Satan tries to set traps for you to fall into. He wants you to become entangled in things that are sinful so that he can destroy you.

The Bible says that Satan is like a roaring lion that goes around sniffing out Christians to capture and devour them. But you don't have to live your life in fear. The Bible also says in I John 4:4b, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

God is stronger, mightier, and more powerful than Satan could ever be. You may not see the traps that Satan is trying to set for you, but God knows and sees. He can keep you safe and deliver you from each and every trap.

But you must determine to stay out of Satan's traps. Some Christians want to give in to the temptations that Satan puts before them. They want to play with dangerous things that Christians should avoid. Don't be foolish. Determine to avoid Satan and his traps. You will be glad you did.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### THE SPIDER'S TRAP

Obtain Flash Card

Have you ever been walking outside when all of a sudden you walked right into a spider's web without even seeing that it was there? It is a strange and creepy feeling to have a web across your face or body. You quickly try to brush it away and get it off of you, don't you?

Well, the spider that spun that web was trying to catch something, but they weren't trying to catch you, were they? No. They were not trying to catch a human being. Instead, they had something else in mind.

Spiders are very smart hunters. Most of them live by eating other bugs and insects. But the spider does not waste its time and energy going out to hunt for prey. Instead the spider will spin a web. The web will do the work of capturing dinner for the spider. (Show Flash Card)

Spiders have glands in their abdomens that produce a silk thread. This thread is what the spider uses to create its web.

The spider will start by spinning a single tread. Its first challenge is to get the thread from one tree to another. Have you ever wondered how a tiny spider can get its web stretched across a couple of trees that are a good distance apart? Spiders use the wind to help them. After they have spun a long thread, they will depend on the wind to catch the free end and blow it to a tree across the way from where they are working.

When the loose end finally becomes attached to another tree, the spider will walk back along the thread and spin another thread that attaches to the first one. They will do this over and over until there is a strong thread that extends from tree to tree.

Now, the real work begins. More and more threads are spun and the spider begins to create a design. There are many different types of spiders and so there are many different designs to their webs. The spider will create an elaborate design. Have you ever looked at a spider's web? They are quite interesting and beautiful to look at.

After the web design is finished, the spider will begin to go over the entire web again. But this time the spider will spin a thread to go over the original design that is a bit different than the first threads they laid down. The threads now will be very sticky.

When the web is complete, the spider will go off to the side of the web. There it will wait for a fly or some other insect to become caught in the web. The spider will wait to feel the web begin to vibrate. When that happens, it knows there is something in its web.

Spider webs are often hard to see and insects do not realize the danger they are zooming toward. Because the web is sticky, when an insect flies into the web, it becomes stuck and cannot get out. The spider will feel the web vibrate, and quickly rush to devour its prey.

The spider is just doing what God made it to do. Spiders are not wickedly planning to destroy other insects. They are only trying to survive. But the spider and its web reminds me of what Satan does. He plots and plans to entangle you in his web so that he can entrap you and eventually destroy you.

Satan carefully sets a trap for you. He lures you in by tempting you to sin. He tries to make sin look harmless. He wants you to think no harm will come to you. But Satan is so deceitful. If he can catch you in a trap of sin, then he will do his best to destroy you!

The good news is that God can deliver you from Satan's trap. He is bigger and stronger than Satan will ever be. God can tear down Satan's trap just as easily as you can tear down a spider's web with one swipe of your hand. So, look to God when you see a trap that has been set by Satan. Determine to trust God to protect you and keep you out of Satan's traps!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 6:1-9

### LESSON

#### A NEW KING

King Cyrus of Persia attacked the kingdom of Babylon on the very night that King Belshazzar gave his big feast. Everyone was partying and getting drunk. They even sent for the holy vessels from the temple of God and defiled them by drinking wine from those vessels.

God was very displeased with King Belshazzar and sent him a message that was written on the wall telling him his kingdom was being taken away from him. That very night the king of Persia attacked and killed Belshazzar in his bed. Then King Cyrus of Persia gave the kingdom to King Darius of Mede to rule over it. Just as God had told Belshazzar, his kingdom had been taken from him and given to the Medes and the Persians.

The new king set up his government so that there were 120 princes over all the land and there were three main presidents over those princes. Daniel was one of the three main presidents.

Of the three presidents, Daniel was the favorite one. The king noticed him and set him up as the main president over all the land of Babylon.

The fact that Daniel would be set up as the number one man under the king was very unusual. Daniel had been brought as a captive from the land of Judah. He was a foreigner. He did not worship the false gods of the land of Babylon. He most likely did not associate closely with

the other men in power positions because he lived in a different manner from those ungodly men. Yet, Daniel stood out in the crowd. He was singled out by the new king as the most productive and most trustworthy man in the kingdom. King Darius trusted Daniel above all others.

Why did the king favor Daniel? The Bible tells us that Daniel had an excellent spirit in him.

For one thing, God was with Daniel. God blessed Daniel by allowing others to see that he was a hard worker and that he was honest and wise.

For another thing, Daniel had an excellent attitude about him. He did not complain about things that did not make him happy. He did not whine when he didn't get his way. He spoke kindly to others. He treated others with respect. He did not abuse his position of power by bossing others around or taking advantage of others. Daniel did not make trouble for those who were in power over him and he did not make life difficult for those who were under his authority.

Daniel had a great attitude in life. He had a great attitude toward God. He had a great attitude toward the king. He had a great attitude toward his fellow workers. He had a great attitude toward those who worked under him. What kind of attitude do you have? When you have a great attitude in the way you speak to others and the way you treat others, then you will stand out just as Daniel did. You will find that an excellent spirit will make your life happier and it will make the lives of those around you happier. On top of all that, God will bless you for it.

Daniel 6:1-3 says, *It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;*

*And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.*

*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*

## **JEALOUS HEARTS**

When the king made Daniel the head of the entire country, even though most of the people liked and respected Daniel, there was a group of men who were not happy at all. Why weren't they happy? These men were very jealous of Daniel. In their hearts they wished the king had admired them and had placed them in such a powerful position. They were also angry that a foreigner could rise to such a powerful position in their land.

So these men banded together and had a little meeting. They decided to find some dirt on Daniel. They figured there had to be something this goody-goody fellow did wrong. When they found what he did wrong, then they could use it to discredit him. There had to be some flaw in his life. There had to be some mistake he was making. There had to be some way to convince the king to take the job away from Daniel and give it to them!

Well, these men looked and looked. But no matter how hard they looked, they could not find anything that Daniel did wrong. He was kind to others. He was honest. He worked hard. He lived a pure life. He did everything right! That made them so angry.

Daniel 6:4 says, *Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.*

Finally the men said, “There is only one thing we can find that might trip up Daniel. His God!”

The men had been keeping a close eye on Daniel. They watched him at work. They watched him at home. They noticed that every day Daniel took time to pray and worship his God. Daniel set aside a time each day to have his devotions.

Daniel’s life was a testimony for God. He was such a godly man that the only thing his enemies could say about Daniel was that he was totally devoted to his God.

Daniel 6:5 says, *Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.*

#### CONFERENCE WITH THE KING

So the men begin to plot and plan for a way to use Daniel’s God against him. Finally they had an idea of what to do so they could get Daniel in trouble. Nothing he did presently was wrong, so they would make him do something wrong.

The princes and presidents went behind Daniel’s back and called a meeting with the king. They began to butter him up. They complimented him.

“O, King,” they said, “You are so wonderful. You really deserve to be worshiped by your people. We all got together and said we thought you should have a statue made that looks like you. And then you should make a law that says that for thirty days everyone must worship only you. It should be against the law to worship or pray to any other god except you. If someone dares to defy you, then they should be thrown into a den of lions. Isn’t that a great idea, O, King?”

King Darius thought about it. It did sound like a pretty great idea. He was a rich and powerful king. He deserved to be loved and adored by his subjects. He liked the idea of the people bowing down to his image and paying tribute to him. It would be a way for his people to show their loyalty to him.

So the king commanded that it be done just as they said. He had a decree written and he signed it. Now it was a law of the Medes and the Persians.

When something became a law of the Medes and the Persians, it was set in cement. It could not be changed. The law could not be taken back and it could not be broken. Anyone, regardless of who they were, would suffer a severe punishment if they broke a law of the Medes and the Persians!

Daniel 6:6-9 says, *Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever.*

*All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.*

*Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.*

*Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.*

Those jealous men finally had him! They set a trap for Daniel and now all they had to do was wait for Daniel to walk into their trap. They knew that now Daniel would finally be guilty of breaking a law. They knew Daniel would not stop worshiping his own God. They knew Daniel would never bow to an image of the king.

They were so excited. I am sure they couldn't wait for Daniel to hear about the new law!

### **WHY DID THEY HATE DANIEL?**

Why did those men hate Daniel so much?

Daniel was a good man. He was honest, faithful, blameless. He treated others with fairness and respect. He never did harm to others. In fact, he did great good for others. Why didn't those men like Daniel?

Those men were jealous and they did not love God. They worshiped their own false gods. They could not understand how Daniel could believe there was only one true God. They resented the fact that Daniel so faithfully worshiped and obeyed God. They resented the fact that all that was good about Daniel was a result of the fact that Daniel obeyed God in the way he acted and in the way he spoke.

Often sinful people will look at a Christian and begin to feel jealous and have hateful feelings toward them. They want to find some way to discredit that Christian.

The Bible says that the sinful World hates God. They make their own gods to worship. They may worship money or pleasure. They may even worship themselves. They have no intention of worshiping our God. Our God hates sin and they love sin. It makes them angry that God condemns their sin and wants them to turn away from sin.

Since the World hates God, they also hate godly people. They don't like it when you are honest, pure, or trustworthy. They don't like it when you love and obey God. In fact, one sure sign that you are a faithful Christian is when the world hates you.

John 15:19 says, *If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

## DETERMINE TO BE A DANIEL

Don't worry if the sinful World hates you. God loves you and He will honor you and bless you if you live faithfully for Him.

Instead of worrying about what the World and worldly people think of you, determine to be like Daniel. He did not worry when others thought he was a goody-goody. He didn't try to show them he was a regular guy by telling a few bad jokes or by cheating on the job. He didn't try to be popular with those people by going along with things he knew were wrong for a man of God to do.

No, instead, Daniel stayed faithful to God. So, determine to be a Daniel. Determine to stay faithful to God so that others around you will see your good testimony. Keep a good attitude in all you do and say.

Maybe you say, "I can't be a Daniel because I am not a Christian. I don't know and love God. I am a sinner."

We were all born in sin and the only way to get rid of your sin is to accept the fact that Jesus died on the cross for your sins. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins and He will.

Today you can become a Christian. We can have someone take their Bible and show you exactly how you can do that.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

How can you be a Daniel? Here's how. Do these things and then you will be like Daniel.

1. Be totally devoted to God.

Take the time to talk to God in prayer. Take the time to let God talk to you through the Bible. Most importantly, love God with all of your heart.

2. Live a godly life.

Determine to keep away from sin. Sin will destroy your testimony and eventually it will destroy your life. Be like Daniel and have a clean life where sin has no place. Avoid the trap that Satan wants to set for you.

I Thessalonians 5:22 says, *Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

Titus 2:12 says, *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.*

3. Don't worry about what others think.

Only worry about what God thinks about you. Only strive to please Him. Don't try to be popular with ungodly people. Don't worry that others will think you are strange if you love and obey God. Set your heart to love God and it won't matter what others think.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to avoid Satan's trap of sin.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What happened to King Belshazzar?
2. Who was the new king?
3. What position did the king give to Daniel?
4. Why did the king make Daniel the main president?
5. Recite today's memory verse.
6. How did the other men feel about Daniel?
7. What did the men try to find out about Daniel and why?
8. What was the only thing the men could find to use against Daniel?
9. What did the men say when they went to the king?
10. What could not be changed once it had been decreed?





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LESSON 44

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO TRUST GOD IN TRIALS**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel 6:10-28

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey  
God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own  
understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Has there ever been a time in your life when you had a real problem and you didn't know what to do?

We all face times in our lives when we feel worried and frightened because things are not going the way we think they should go. Maybe something bad happens. Maybe you are worrying that something bad will happen. Either way, you don't know what to do or how to solve your problem.

God knows everything you face in life. He knows the problems you face. He knows your fears. He knows all about the things that seem like very big, very unsolvable troubles. But He also knows how to help you. There is nothing that is too big or too hard for God. There is no problem that God cannot handle.

God will not take away all the problems you face in life, but He will be right beside you to guide and direct you. You can know for certain that God will not allow anything to happen to you that is not a part of His plan for you.

Your job is to determine to trust God, even in the hard times. If you trust and obey, then God will come beside to help you. What a comfort and joy it is to know that in your time of need, God is always there for you!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

FLIGHT 509

CHERYL REID

It was the very first flight for Nate. He and his mom were meeting his dad in Orlando, where he had been on business for the past several days. Nate thought the week would never be over, but it was finally Friday! Mom was picking him up from school, and then they were driving straight to the airport.

"There she is," Bradley pointed, as Nate's mom pulled up to the curb into the car line at school. "Have fun, and bring me back a souvenir!"

Nate hopped in, all smiles. "Excited?" Mom asked.

“Oh, yeah,” Nate said. “I not only get to fly, but I also get to spend three days at Disney World! I’m excited, all right!”

Mom drove to the airport, and she and Nate carried their luggage to the check-in counter. After they got their tickets, they had a little time to go into a couple of shops in the terminal before going to their gate for boarding. It was fun, and helped the time go by more quickly.

“We’d better get going,” Mom said. “Our flight will be boarding soon.” She handed Nate his ticket. “Hang on to it!”

Nate took the ticket from his mom and walked with her to the counter at the gate. Their boarding passes were all in order, so they sat near the door and waited. In just a few minutes, someone announced, “Flight 509 to Orlando will now begin boarding.” Mom and Nate gathered their things and walked down the narrow hallway that led to the door of the plane. A flight attendant checked their boarding passes and directed them to their seats. Nate got to peek into the cockpit at the instrument panel as they passed through the door. There were so many knobs and lights and levers, he hoped to be able to take a closer look later on.

The rest of the passengers found their seats quickly. Nate looked up to see a flight attendant walking toward him. “The captain wonders if you’d like to see the cockpit,” she said.

“Yes!” Nate answered. Mom nodded, and Nate headed to the front of the plane. In a few minutes, he came back to his seat. “You should have seen it, Mom! It was so cool! The captain let me sit in the co-pilot’s chair. I can’t wait to tell Dad about it.”

Just then, the flight attendants went through all the emergency procedures and asked everyone to fasten their seat belts. Nate could hear the jet engines warming up, so he knew that they would be taking off soon. His stomach felt a little funny, and he hoped he wouldn’t get sick. He gulped hard and focused on watching what was happening outside the window. Just then he felt a little bump, and the plane started moving. He smiled at his mom. “This is it!” she said.

The plane taxied to the end of the runway, the pilot turned the engines to full throttle, and the plane began going down the runway, going faster and faster. Nate felt the plane tilt up and saw that they were in the air. He watched out the window as the ground got farther and farther away. The seat belt sign went off, and the flight attendants began serving snacks. Nathan saw that they were flying over forests, lakes, houses, and even cities. The cars and trucks on the highways seemed like small toys. In another few minutes, they were in the clouds, and suddenly, they were above them. The sun shone brightly over the marshmallowy clouds. It was so beautiful! “Wow!” Nate said. “I never thought it would look like this!”

Mom smiled. “It makes me think of how great our God is.”

“Me, too,” Nate agreed. He continued watching the clouds. A long way away, he saw another jet going in the opposite direction, and wondered where it was headed. For a while, things looked the same. But later, the clouds began to look gray, and then almost black. Nate began to feel a little afraid.

Mom noticed the change in Nate's countenance, and she tried to reassure him. "Remember, Nate, God is with us even up in this airplane. He knows about the storm."

"I know," Nate nodded, "but it's looking really scary, and I know that we have to fly into the storm sooner or later."

"Yes, you are probably right," Mom agreed, "but this is the time to remember that God is in control, and that He will never allow anything to happen that will not help us to grow more into His likeness. Let's take a minute to pray and ask God to help us to remember that and to help us trust Him."

After Mom finished praying, the captain began talking over the intercom system. "Looks like we'll hit a bit of turbulence as we begin our descent into Orlando. I'm turning the seat belt sign back on, so please stay in your seats and we should be landing in about twenty minutes."

Nathan fastened his seat belt and clutched his armrests. The first bump came a few minutes later. A flash of lightning lit up the sky, followed by a boom of thunder that could be heard over the roar of the engines. Suddenly, the plane dipped. Several people screamed at the surprise, and Nathan grabbed for his mom. She put her arm around him and tried to reassure him; then the plane hit another wave of turbulence. This time the oxygen masks released from above, and the flight attendants helped everyone get their mask in place. The storm raged outside as the plane kept descending. Things seemed to be going from bad to worse, but when Nate looked over to his mom, her eyes were closed, and her face seemed very calm. Nate knew that his mother was praying, and that she was trusting God to get them safely on the ground. He reached for her hand and held it as she finished praying. She opened her eyes and smiled at her son. "We are going to be fine," she assured him. "Now, let's try to stay calm and focus on what we need to do." Nate and his mom listened and followed instructions from the flight attendants to get ready for the landing. The captain had said it might be a rough one.

It seemed as if the storm was getting worse instead of better, and Nate couldn't wait to be on the ground again. He tried very hard not to think about a possible crash landing, but he couldn't help it. And if they did crash, would he and his mom be okay? How could Mom be so sure that they would be all right?

The captain's voice came on again. "Prepare for a rough landing. In storms like this, we hope for the best, but prepare for the worst. We'll break through the clouds in a few minutes, and land almost immediately. Emergency vehicles are ready to assist if the need arises. Please, stay calm, and cooperate with us as we try to safely land in Orlando."

Everything happened quickly after that. The flight attendants did one last check to see that seat belts were fastened and oxygen masks were worn properly. They instructed the passengers to lean forward and brace themselves for an impact upon touchdown. Nate and his mom followed instructions exactly. Nate took one last look out the window and saw that they were finally below the clouds, but it was raining very hard. "Help me to trust you, Lord," Nate prayed. "Please protect us and get us down safely."

In just a few moments, the airplane's landing gear made contact with the runway. The plane bounced a few times and tilted to the side, but straightened up at the end and made a safe landing. Everyone else on-board cheered and clapped for the pilot, but Nate and Mom bowed their heads and thanked the Lord. They knew that He was the One Who gave them safety.

Dad was waiting at the gate. He grabbed Nate and Mom in a bear hug. "I was praying for you. We were told that the plane would probably make a crash landing. Thank the Lord that He protected you!"

"Amen to that!" Nate agreed. "I was really scared up there, but Mom wasn't. She just trusted in God, and He took care of us. I won't ever forget this day!"

"Me, either," Mom agreed. "But let's try to think about all the fun we'll have for the next three days at Disney World. Then you get to fly again!"

Nate laughed. "I think I'd rather walk back home!"

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel 6:10-28

Obtain Flash Card

### LESSON

#### **DANIEL'S DILEMMA**

Last week we left our story hanging. Remember that Daniel had been made the second most powerful man in the land of Babylon right under King Darius. This didn't set well with the other presidents and princes who ruled. They were jealous of Daniel and they tried to find some way to discredit him. But the only thing they could find against Daniel was the fact that he daily worshiped God.

The wicked wisemen set a trap for Daniel. They flattered King Darius and convinced him to build a statue of himself. They also talked him into signing a decree that ordered everyone to worship only his image for thirty days. The enemies of Daniel knew he would never consent to worship any god except his own God.

Those wicked men could hardly wait until Daniel found out about the new law. They were filled with glee. They knew Daniel would brake the law and they were sure it would be the end of him since the king had also decreed that anyone who did not bow to the image would be thrown into a den of lions.

#### **DANIEL'S CHOICE**

It didn't take long for the news to reach Daniel.

Daniel had a choice to make. He could obey the king's decree and save his body from the lions' den, or he could disobey the king's law and obey God, the King of kings. For thirty days he could bow to the image, or he could go on worshipping his own God.

It wasn't a big decision for Daniel. He didn't spend hours pacing back and forth saying, "What am I going to do? If I bow to the image, then I will be untrue to my own God. God has commanded that we never worship any other god. But if I don't bow, then King Darius will throw me into the lions' den. I'll be eaten alive! Oh, my! What on earth shall I do?"

Daniel didn't even wonder if he should try to fool everyone by going into his house, closing all doors, and pulling the drapes tightly closed on the windows so no one could see him worshipping his God. He would not hide in fear as he worshiped God.

No! Daniel made the choice to do what he always did. Every day in the past, three times a day, he had gone into his house and, with open windows, he had bowed toward the city of Jerusalem and he had prayed to God. Now, he would do the same.

He would not close the drapes. He would not try to hide. He would openly continue to worship God and give Him thanks just as he had always done. That was Daniel's choice.

Daniel 6:10 says, *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

### **DELIGHTED ENEMIES**

Of course, Daniel's enemies were crouching below Daniel's window, peeking in to see what Daniel would do. When they saw Daniel bow to worship his God, they didn't even wait for his prayers to finish. They jumped up and ran to the king.

Finally they had their proof that Daniel had broken a law. Now they could stand before the king and accuse Daniel of doing something wrong. They probably almost knocked each other over trying to be the first one to reach the king. Can you picture them now pushing and shoving to be the first to blurt out the news that Daniel was in his house praying?

"O King, do you remember the law you signed saying no one could pray to anyone except you for thirty days? And do you remember that you said that if they broke the law that person would be thrown into the den of lions?" they slyly asked.

The king acknowledged it was true. It was a law of the Medes and Persians. It could not be broken.

"Well, O King, Daniel has just broken your law. Isn't that a shame? How could he ignore your law? Yet, three times a day he still prays to his own God!"

Daniel 6:11-13 says, *Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.*

*Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.*

*Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.*

When the king heard about Daniel, he was not happy. He wasn't angry at Daniel for breaking the law, instead, he was angry at himself for being tricked into making a law that would put Daniel in this terrible position. The king respected Daniel and he valued the work he did. The

last thing the king wanted to do was throw Daniel into a lions' den where he would be killed. If he did that, he would lose his best leader.

All day long the king tried hard to find a way to rescue Daniel. The law could not be taken back and it could not be broken, but he was hoping to find some loophole that would allow him to pardon Daniel. He probably called in his lawyers to see if they had any ideas. But no one could come up with any way to save Daniel. He had broken the king's law and now he must pay the price. Daniel had to be thrown into the lions' den.

Daniel 6:14-15 says, *Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.*

*Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.*

### **DANIEL IN THE DEN**

With a heavy heart the king sadly ordered that Daniel be taken into custody and thrown into the lions' den. The king stood by the den and spoke to Daniel.

“Daniel, I am so sorry those jealous men tricked me into making that foolish law. But you must be thrown into the lions' den. But your God will deliver you, won't He?”

Daniel 6:16 says, *Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.*

The guards threw Daniel into the den and a large stone was rolled over the mouth of the den. The king took his ring and put a seal on the door. No one would dare to break the seal and roll away the stone unless the king gave his permission. Both the lions and Daniel were trapped together. There was no way for Daniel to get out.

The king returned to the palace, but he was so upset he could not sleep. Musicians were called in to play soothing music, but it did not help. All night long the king refrained from eating and he could only think of Daniel. He was sick with worry. How he hoped that Daniel's God was real just as Daniel claimed. If Daniel's God was real, then surely He would deliver his faithful servant. The king certainly hoped so!

Daniel 6:17-18 says, *And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.*

*Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.*

## THE NEXT MORNING

Early the next day, just as the morning light was beginning to show, the king rushed down to the lions' den.

"Daniel," he called. "Are you still alive? Was your God able to deliver you from the lions?"

The king held his breath as he waited to see if Daniel was still alive. Would he hear a reply, or was Daniel dead?

With a loud voice filled with confidence, Daniel called out, "O king, live forever. My God has indeed sent His angel to protect me. He shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me at all!" (Show Flash Card)

Daniel 6:19-22 says, *Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.*

*And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?*

*Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.*

*My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.*

The king was so relieved. He commanded that Daniel be pulled out of the den, and just as Daniel had said, he didn't have a single tooth mark on him. God had delivered him safely! The king was excited to see Daniel was unharmed.

Then the king turned his eyes toward the men who had tricked him into making such a foolish law. The king was extremely angry at those men, so he ordered that they be thrown into the lions' den. By now the lions were quite hungry. They had spent the night smelling Daniel and they were ready to eat. So they did. The lions made quick work of those wicked men.

Daniel 6:23-24 says, *Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.*

*And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.*

King Darius made another decree now. This time it was a wise decree. He ordered that everyone in his kingdom pay honor to Daniel's God who had delivered his faithful servant from the lions.

Because Daniel had determined to faithfully obeyed God by worshiping only Him, God was honored by everyone in the kingdom of Babylon. There wasn't a person who did not hear the account of how God had protected Daniel. What a wonderful testimony to the greatness of God!

Daniel 6:25-28 says, *Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.*

*I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.*

*He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.*

*So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.*

### **GOD DELIVERS HIS CHILDREN**

God blessed Daniel for his faithfulness. Day by day Daniel did what God commanded and God honored Daniel as a result. God will honor and protect any child of His who determines to faithfully love and obey Him.

What are the requirements for obtaining deliverance from God in your time of need?

1. God will deliver you if you are His child. That means you have accepted Jesus as your Savior and have your sin forgiven.

Psalm 79:9 says, *Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.*

2. God will deliver you if you love and obey Him. Just as God delivered Daniel for his obedience to His laws, God will do the same for you.

Psalm 119:153 says, *Consider mine affliction, and deliver me: for I do not forget thy law.*

3. God will deliver you if you give your praise and glory to Him. Daniel's praise went to God and God was honored and glorified by everyone in Babylon. When you give praise and glory to God with your life, God will be pleased with you.

Psalm 50:15 says, *And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.*

Daniel reminds me a bit of Jesus Christ. Daniel was an innocent man yet he was punished for something he didn't do. Daniel went into the lions' den and was sealed in. Early in the morning the king came to see if God had delivered him.

Jesus Christ is God the Son. He never committed a single sin. He was totally innocent, yet He took the punishment for something He did not do. He took our sins upon Himself. He died

on the cross and went into the tomb. It was sealed and early in the morning of the third day He rose alive from the tomb.

Daniel was not harmed because God protected him, but Jesus Christ actually did suffer and die on the cross. He took our place so we wouldn't have to die. But because Jesus is God, He was able to come back to life. He had victory over death and sin.

You cannot get rid of your own sin, but Jesus can. If you tell Him you are sorry for your sin and you ask Him to forgive you and come into your life, He will. That is why He died on the cross in your place. He wants to forgive your sin.

Have you had your sin forgiven? You can do that today. We can take a Bible and show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

God will deliver and protect you if you faithfully love and obey Him. But does that mean nothing will ever go wrong in your life again? Does that mean you will never be harmed in any way? Does it mean you will never have an accident, or get sick, or have anything bad happen?

No. God does not promise that. There are times when God will keep you from harm. There are times when God will stop a bad thing from happening, but not always.

Just as God allowed Daniel to be thrown into the lions' den, God may allow you to have times that seem frightening. God may allow you to have problems to face. But God delivered Daniel. God controlled the situation so that in the end He would receive the glory and honor in the kingdom. The same is true of your life. Hard and scary times may come, but if you are faithful to God and determine to trust Him, He will do what is best so that He will receive the glory in the end.

God will be right beside you as you go through hard times, just as He was with Daniel. He will strengthen you and give you the courage you need. He will not allow anything to happen to you that is not for your good and His glory.

So I challenge you, determine to be like Daniel. Live a faithful life for God each day. Then, when hard times come into your life, God will deliver you in the way He knows is best and He will be glorified.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to determine to trust Him in your time of need.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What law did King Darius make?
2. Why was this law such a problem for Daniel?
3. What did Daniel do?
4. What did Daniel's enemies do when they saw Daniel praying?
5. What was the king's reaction when he heard that Daniel was praying to his God?
6. What happened when the king went to the lions' den the next morning?
7. Recite today's memory verse.
8. What did the king do with Daniel's enemies?
9. What new decree did the king make?
10. Name something you must do in order for God to deliver you.

# Determined to Trust God in Trials

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6



I will determine to obey God.

Don't worry about anything. Pray about everything. God is listening!

- Daniel
- King
- Darius
- Enemy
- Jealous
- Decree
- Law
- Medes
- Persians
- Obey
- Pray
- Lions
- Den
- Choice
- Window
- Stone
- Rolled
- Sleepless
- Deliver
- Protect
- Faithful
- Trap

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LESSON 45

**A CHILD OF DETERMINATION  
DETERMINED TO BE LIKE DANIEL**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Daniel - Review

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will determine to obey God.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*  
Proverbs 3:5-6



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Our stories about Daniel have taught us so many things about the type of girl or boy that God wants you to be.

God wants you to be a person of vision like Daniel who was able to look beyond the bad things that happened to him and have the courage to trust God.

God wants you to be a person of principle like Daniel who refused to defile himself or go against what he knew God wanted him to do.

God wants you to be a person of integrity like Daniel who always did the right thing in God's eyes.

God wants you to be a person of holiness like Daniel who loved and obeyed God regardless of what others were doing. I hope you will determine to be like Daniel!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** I will determine to obey God.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### ONLY ONE LIFE

Obtain Flash Card

Wendy looked up at the picture that hung over the couch in her living room. It wasn't a big picture, but it sure was pretty.

In a simple frame was a picture with delicately hand-painted pansies on one side and in the center was a poem. The pansies were her mother's favorite flower and these flowers had been painted by her mom's china painting teacher. The lettering for the poem had been done by the teacher's daughter.

Wendy knew this, because whenever her mom saw her studying the picture, she would tell Wendy the picture's history.

But that wasn't why Wendy spent so much time looking at the painting. What truly fascinated her were the words that were carefully printed on the picture. (Show Flash Card)

Only one life,

'Twill soon be past.

Only what's done

For Christ will last.

What could Wendy do for Christ? She was just a child.

There were many things Wendy wanted to do with her life. She and her friends dreamed about what they would do when they grew up. Her friends talked about wanting to be a nurse, or a secretary, or even a mother.

Wendy didn't spend too much time wanting to be any of those things, although she thought she'd be a mother someday. What Wendy really wanted to be was a writer. She wasn't sure what she was going to write about. But she loved books.

Wendy's mom had a bookcase full of books. There were books of fiction and books about missionaries. The books were for adults, but already Wendy was reading the books that filled those cases.

She dreamed about being a writer. How wonderful it would be to have your words and ideas written down in books. Imagine! Those books would be on someone else's shelves long after you were no longer living. You might be gone, but your words would live on.

"Only one life. 'Twill soon be past."

Even at a young age, Wendy realized that you won't live forever. But a book, that could go on much longer than you did. That wouldn't go away so quickly.

"Only what's done for Christ will last."

That was the part that stuck in Wendy's mind. What could she write about? She didn't know exactly. But she knew that it should be something for Christ. That was what would be important. That was what would last.

God planted the desire to write in Wendy's heart. And from an early age, she knew that she wanted to write for Christ. She wanted to write something that would last for eternity.

Of course, Wendy knew that no book would last for eternity, except for God's Word, the Bible. She knew that no book she wrote would last for eternity. It was the effect of what was in the book that could last for eternity.

Wendy wanted to write something that would point others to Christ, something that would last.

How true the words of that poem are. God gives each of us just one life. And only what we do for Christ will make an eternal difference. Here on earth we think so many things are important. We busy ourselves doing what we enjoy and what we think is important, but we need to check what we do against whether or not it will be important in eternity.

What seems important today may be gone by tomorrow.

There are so many things that can make a difference for eternity. There are so many things we can do for Christ.

Wendy's mom lived to be almost 85 years old. In those years, she did many things. Some were unimportant. But some of the things she did will last for eternity.

Wendy's mom loved children. She spent many years teaching children in Sunday School, Junior Church, and Vacation Bible School. She led many little ones to Christ. Over the years Wendy's mom and dad gave money to support missionaries and young people who were training for the ministry.

All of those things will last.

But, what can you do for Christ? You are only a child.

There are so many things that you can do, even now, for Christ. You can pray for your pastor and your missionaries. You can write notes of encouragement to missionaries telling them you are praying for them.

You can invite unsaved friends to church and VBS. You can live a life that is a good testimony in front of others. You can obey your parents. You can help your parents around the house. You can love and respect your brothers and sisters. You can keep your heart and mind pure for Christ.

You can also give your life to God with a willing spirit.

Even if you don't have any talents yet, or if you are just developing talents, you can tell God that when you get older, you will determine to use your talents for Him. Someday you can sing, or tell Bible stories, or play the piano, or help out at church, or tell others about Christ, or visit the sick, or send cards of encouragement, or write for Christ like Wendy does now. The list goes on and on. There are so many things you can do for Christ.

If you determine to serve God even now, then He will use you. And it will last for eternity. So remember:

Only one life,

T'will soon be past.

Only what's done

For Christ will last.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.* Proverbs 3:5-6

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Daniel - Review

### LESSON

#### A MAN OF VISION

What a godly man Daniel was! There are so many important lessons we can learn from his life. There are so many character qualities which Daniel had that would be wise to have in our own lives also.

Daniel served as a prophet of God in the land of Babylon for about 69 years. He was carried away to that foreign land as a captive when he was just a young man. All through the years he remained faithful to God regardless of the circumstance. He faithfully served whatever king was in power at the time. And to the end, Daniel loved and served God with great determination.

Late in Daniel's life, God gave Daniel dreams or visions about things that would happen in the future. Someday Jesus is going to come back to earth. He will judge the wicked people and He will create a new Heaven and a new earth. In that new Heaven, Jesus will sit on the throne and rule for all eternity. God told Daniel to write about those things even though they have not even happened yet, but they will happen when Jesus Christ comes back to earth to claim His eternal throne.

Daniel 7:13-14 says, *I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.*

*And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.*

How wonderful it was that God told us such wonderful things about our future. It will be an exciting time when Jesus Christ comes to claim His eternal throne.

#### **A MAN OF PRINCIPLE**

Daniel was a man of principle. He purposed to not defile himself. He set his mind to stick by what he believed. He firmly determined to obey God.

Daniel 1:5, 8a says, *And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.*

*But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.*

Some people are not willing to make up their minds to obey God because they only care about themselves. They want to do things that bring themselves pleasure. It can be hard to have principles and then stick by them. It isn't always fun to determine to do what is right in God's eyes. A selfish person only lives for self. They aren't willing to do the hard things for God.

Some people are too afraid to make up their minds to do what God wants them to do. They are fearful that if they stand up for God, then something bad will happen. If they had been faced with the choice of obeying God's law not to bow to any other god, or obeying King Darius' law to bow to his image so they would not be thrown into a lions' den, they would be too afraid to stand up for God. A fearful person has a hard time having the character needed to have godly courage.

But God can give courage, even to a fearful person. He can help him to stand up and do the right thing. God can give a person, who is willing to make up his mind and stick by his principles, the ability do what is right. So, if you find yourself being afraid to do what you know God wants you to do, ask God to make you a person of godly character and principles like Daniel.

Be a person of principle. Make up your mind to stick to what you believe.

Romans 14:5b says, *Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.*

#### **A MAN OF INTEGRITY**

Daniel was a man of integrity. His actions were always the same. He was dependable, honest, and hard working. When he was given a job to do, he did it. He didn't whine about it. He didn't try to find a way out of doing the job. He didn't do only what he had to do and no more.

Daniel always did his very best. He always did the right thing, even when it was the hard thing.

Others noticed that Daniel was a man of integrity who could be depended upon. When a king had a hard matter to figure out, it was Daniel he called to help because he knew he could depend on Daniel.

When the King Belshazzar wanted someone to read the writing on the wall, the Queen Mother immediately thought of Daniel.

Daniel 5:10-11a says, *Now the queen, by reason of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banquet house: and the queen spake and said, O king, live for ever: let not thy thoughts trouble thee, nor let thy countenance be changed:*

*There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him.*

When King Darius wanted a man to help rule his entire kingdom, it was Daniel who got the job.

Daniel 6:1-3 says, *It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;*

*And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.*

*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*

Daniel was a man whose character spoke for itself. Daniel was a man whose actions and attitudes were pleasing to God and pleasing to good men. A person who is lazy or undependable would never be praised and honored like Daniel was in his lifetime.

Integrity has to do with inner strength. Daniel had inner strength because God gave it to him. You can be a person of integrity. God can give you the inner strength to live for Him each day.

### **A MAN OF HOLINESS**

Daniel was a man of holiness. He purposed in his heart to seek God, to love God, and to obey God. He worshiped God daily, regardless of the circumstances.

The most important thing in Daniel's life was his relationship with God. He knew that kings would come and go, friends would come and go, and enemies would come and go. But what mattered most to Daniel was his God who would never, for all eternity, leave him.

Daniel valued his times when he worshiped God. He would not quit loving and serving God even though he was a captive in a strange land. He would not quit obeying God when it meant he might get in trouble with those above him. He would not quit praying even when it meant he would be thrown into a lions' den.

Daniel 6:10 says, *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

As a result of Daniel's holy life, an entire heathen nation heard about God and knew that Daniel's God was great and powerful. God was honored because of Daniel's holy life.

Daniel 6:25-28 says, *Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.*

*I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.*

*He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.*

#### **DARE TO BE LIKE DANIEL**

Will you dare to be like Daniel? You can. What Daniel did, you can do. How? Let's talk about it.

##### 1. Have principles.

Your mind is the key to having godly principles. It is in your mind that you decide what you believe and then determine to stay true to your beliefs.

How can you decide what to believe? The Bible is the Christian's guide book. It tells us what God wants us to believe.

Philippians 2:5 says, *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

After you know what God wants you to believe, determine in your mind to stick to your principles. Don't let anyone talk you out of them. Don't let anyone scare you out of them. Rely on God to help you to stick to your principles. That's what Daniel did.

Isaiah 26:3 says, *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Romans 12:2 says, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

## 2. Have Integrity.

Your actions and attitudes are the key to having integrity. It is the way you act and the attitudes you display which show what type of person you really are. To be a person of integrity, determine to always do right.

You are just human, so how can you do right?

First, let's look at your attitude.

What kind of an attitude do you have? Your attitude is a choice, you know. You can choose to have a joyful spirit as you face life. You can choose to speak kindly to others. You can choose to obey with a cheerful attitude. Choose to have an attitude that is pleasing to God.

Next, let's look at your actions.

How do you do the jobs you have been given to do? Put forth your best effort. Work hard. Be honest even when it would be easier to lie or try to hide the truth. Do what you know is the right thing to do.

Proverbs 11:3 says, *The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.*

Psalms 25:21 says, *Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.*

Daniel was a man of integrity. Everyone around him knew that Daniel did what was right. His actions and attitudes were godly.

## 3. Have Holiness.

Your heart is the key to holiness. Determine in your heart to seek God. Determine in your heart to love and obey God.

Daniel knew that the book of Deuteronomy said that he was to seek the Lord with all his heart. A person who seeks the Lord can't help but want to be holy, just as the Lord is holy. Daniel wanted to be holy and God helped him.

Deuteronomy 4:29-30 says, *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*

*When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice.*

The same book also says a person should love the Lord with all his heart.

Deuteronomy 6:5 says, *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

Do you want to be holy? The answer is in your heart. Seek the Lord with all your heart, love the Lord with all your heart, and obey the Lord with all your heart. God will help you to be holy.

1 Peter 1:15 says, *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.*

So, I challenge you, be like Daniel.

Let me ask you a question. Do you know the God of Daniel? Have you ever asked for your sins to be forgiven? Today we can show you how you can accept Jesus Christ, God's own Son, as your Savior from sin. Today you can know that you will go to Heaven and spend eternity with God.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week, I dare you to determine to be like Daniel.

1. Be a child of principle. The key is in your mind.

Determine in your mind to know what God's Word tells you to believe and then stick to your beliefs.

2. Be a child of integrity. The key is in your actions and attitudes.

Determine that your actions and attitudes will be right and pleasing in God's eyes.

3. Be a child of holiness. The key is in your heart.

Give your entire heart to God to love and serve Him daily.

Dare to be like Daniel!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to dare to be like Daniel.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Daniel do first when he got to Babylon?
2. How many years was Daniel a prophet in Babylon?
3. Which king became like a beast and lived in the fields for seven years?
4. Which king defiled the holy vessels by drinking wine out of them?
5. Who was thrown into the fiery furnace?
6. Why was Daniel thrown in a lions' den?
7. What happened in the lions' den?
8. Name a quality of Daniel's that God wants you to have in your life.
9. Recite today's memory verse.
10. Near the end of Daniel's life, what things did God reveal to him in dreams?

# Determined to be like Daniel

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.  
Proverbs 3:5-6



I will determine to obey God.

# Dare To Be Like Daniel!

Be like Daniel by having godly principles, a life of integrity, and a holy heart. I dare you!

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How many new words can you make from Dare To Be Like Daniel?



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LESSON 46

A BOLD CHILD  
BOLD TO TELL OTHERS

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Acts 10:1-28, 34-44, 11:18

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be bold for Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace.* Acts 18:9b



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

The Old Testament tells us that God selected the Jewish people to be His special people. He guided them, protected them from enemies, and provided for them. Even when they ignored Him and went their own way, God still loved them.

But in the New Testament we find that even though God still dearly loved the Jewish people, He opened the door of salvation to include the Gentiles also. Because of God's great love and grace you and I can be saved too!

When the men who followed Jesus realized that the Gospel, God's Good News, was for everyone, they began to boldly go and tell everyone they met about Jesus Christ. God wants you to boldly carry the Good News to others also!

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be bold for Christ.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### **HE INCLUDED ME**

Obtain Flash Card

Sometimes the hymns we sing are worked on by more than one person. Often one person will write the words to a song or poem and another person will write music to go with the words. That's what happened with our song for today.

Johnson Oatman Jr. wrote the words for the song, "He Included Me." He lived from 1856 until 1922.

Mr. Oatman was the son of an excellent singer. His father loved to sing for others and it rubbed off on the son. I don't know if Johnson ever sang for others, but he had a great love for music just like his dad. (Show Flash Card)

When Johnson was in his early 20's, he became a Methodist preacher. He loved to preach the Word of God and tell others about Christ, but he never lost his love for music. During his lifetime Johnson Oatman wrote the words for over 3,000 songs! Another of his most famous songs was "Count Your Blessings."

Hampton H. Sewell was born in Georgia and lived from 1875 until 1938. He had a great love for music also and he studied music as a young man. For years Hampton worked as a farmer and a merchant. Then, when Hampton was 34 years old he joined with a traveling evangelist.

Hampton was the song leader for the special services and he often sang solos for the groups of people who would gather to hear the preaching. For 25 years Hampton traveled and led people in worship by song.

While Hampton Sewell lived he wrote the music, and sometimes the words, for about 500 songs.

In 1909 Johnson Oatman wrote the words for the song, "He Included Me." Then Hampton Sewell wrote the music to go with Mr. Oatman's words. Together they gave life to a very beautiful song that we still sing today. Listen to the words and think of how Jesus Christ included you and me in His gift of salvation!

I am so happy in Christ today,  
That I go singing along my way;  
Yes, I'm so happy to know and say,  
"Jesus included me, too."

Gladly I read, "Whosoever may  
Come to the fountain of life today";  
But when I read it I always say,  
"Jesus included me, too."

Ever God's Spirit is saying, "Come!"  
Hear the Bride saying, "No longer roam";  
But I am sure while they're calling home,  
Jesus included me, too.

"Freely come drink," words the soul to thrill!  
O with what joy they my heart do fill!  
For when He said, "Whosoever will,"  
Jesus included me, too.

Jesus included me, yes, He included me,  
When the Lord said, “Whosoever,” He included me;  
Jesus included me, yes, He included me,  
When the Lord said, “Whosoever,” He included me.

Aren't you glad that Jesus included you in His plan of salvation? Jesus freely says to anyone who will listen and believe, “Come to Me. I have included you!” Now it is our job to go and boldly tell others about salvation through Jesus Christ!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace.*

Acts 18:9b

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Acts 10:1-28, 34-44, 11:18

### LESSON

#### THE CENTURION

For the next few weeks we will be talking about being bold for Christ. To be bold means that you can speak and act in a confident, courageous way. You can know that what you believe in Christ is true and you can bravely share what you know with others.

The Bible calls everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ a Christian. The name Christian comes from the words Christ Ones. Christians are those who follow Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the

Good News that we can have our sin forgiven and be on our way to Heaven because Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. Because we know we are Christians, then we can be bold for Christ!

The book of Acts tells us about the things that happened to the early Christians. It tells us about how Jesus told the disciples to go to all the world and boldly preach the Gospel. It tells how the early Apostles won many believers to Jesus Christ. It also tells us that not everyone liked the Christians. Some hated Jesus and they hated the Christians too. There were religious leaders who wanted to stop the Christians from sharing the Good News with others.

When the early believers were persecuted for what they believed, they were forced to scatter and leave Jerusalem. They preached the Gospel wherever they went. But one day God changed the heart of Saul, the man who persecuted the believers the most, and when he got saved there was peace in Jerusalem for awhile.

In the city of Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius. He was a Gentile. That means he was not Jewish. But we know that even though he wasn't Jewish, he believed that the God of Israel was the one true God. He was what was called a "God-fearer."

Cornelius had great respect for God. He and all those in his family prayed to God. He gave money to help the poor. He tried to please God in the way he lived and the way he acted. But even though he respected and feared God, he was not a Christian.

Cornelius was an important man. He was a soldier called a Centurion. He was the leader of a large group of over 100 men called the Italian band.

It must have been unusual for a man of war to also be a man who revered God, but he was both. He was both important and humble. That is a very rare combination!

Acts 10:1-2 says, *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,*

*A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.*

## THE VISION

One night something very strange happened to Cornelius. At about the ninth hour of the day, which was the time of prayer, an Angel of God appeared to him. Cornelius saw a vision.

God often speaks to the hearts of those who are praying and listening for God's voice. Prayer is a two-way thing. It is you speaking to God. But it is also God speaking to your heart.

"Cornelius," God spoke.

Cornelius was frightened. That was natural. I don't imagine that when he had prayed before that God had ever spoken out loud to him. But Cornelius was quick to answer God.

"What is it, Lord?" Cornelius recognized the voice of the Lord. Do you recognize the voice of the Lord when He speaks to your heart?

“I have heard your prayers,” the Lord told him. “I have seen the alms you have given to the poor. I want you to send some of your men to Joppa to the house of Simon. There they should ask for a man named Peter. He will tell you what to do.”

Well! This was certainly unusual. God told Cornelius to send his men to the house of a Jewish man. This was not a normal thing. The Jewish people kept themselves strictly apart from the Gentiles. They did not spend time making friends with Gentiles. In fact, back in Bible times the Jews referred to the Gentiles as dogs. They had a very low opinion of Gentiles.

But Cornelius did not hesitate to do as God commanded him. For a long time he had been a “God-fearer.” He had earnestly prayed that somehow he could learn to please God. Now God was about to answer his prayers.

Cornelius sent two men and one soldier to go to the place God had indicated. These men were faithful servants of his. He knew he could trust them to obey God’s command.

*Acts 10:3-8 says, He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.*

*And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.*

*And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:*

*He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*

*And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;*

*And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa.*

## **A SECOND VISION**

Let me take a minute here to introduce you to Peter. Peter was one of Jesus’ disciples while Jesus was on earth. Peter was an outgoing man. Peter was a bold man.

Sometimes Peter’s boldness got him into trouble. He was always quick to speak up and say what was on his mind. He often spoke before he thought. Sometimes he said and did things that were not wise. But after Jesus died on the cross and rose from the tomb alive, Peter became a very different man. He was still bold in the things he said and did, but now his boldness was used to tell others about Jesus Christ.

Now, back to our story.

The next day, as Cornelius’ men traveled to Joppa, Peter went up onto Simon’s housetop roof and he began to pray. Peter was very hungry but it was not time to eat yet. He had to wait until dinner was ready, so he waited on the housetop. While he was up there the Bible says that Peter fell into a trance. He began to see a vision.

In the vision Peter saw that a large sheet being lowered down from Heaven. The sheet was being held up by its four corners. As the sheet came lower Peter could see that there were all sorts of four-footed animals and birds in the sheet.

Every single one of the birds and animals in the sheet were absolutely forbidden for Jews to eat. Back in the Old Testament, when God had given Moses the Law, God had told the Children of Israel what they could and could not eat. There were some birds and animals that God called unclean and he forbade the Jews to eat them. The Jews were very careful to always avoid eating any unclean animal!

Peter must have been amazed to see this sheet full of unclean animals. But he was more amazed when he heard the voice from Heaven say, "Peter, rise, and kill, and eat."

Peter was quick to disagree. "No, Lord!" he said. "I have never eaten anything unclean!"

But for the second time the voice spoke. "What God hath cleansed, do not call it unclean!"

Three times this happened and then the sheet was taken back up into heaven.

Acts 10:9-16 says, *On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:*

*And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance,*

*And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:*

*Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.*

*And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.*

*But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*

*And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

*This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.*

## **KNOCK, KNOCK**

Peter woke up but he remembered exactly what had happened and what God had said to him. But Peter was so confused. Why would God say, "What I have cleaned, do not call unclean?" What was God trying to tell him?

While Peter was thinking about what all this meant, there was a knock at the door. Simon answered the door and there stood three Gentile men. They asked if a man named Peter was there.

The Holy Spirit spoke to Peter. He said, “Get up, Peter. Three men are looking for you. Don’t doubt or fear. I have sent them.”

So Peter got right up and headed downstairs. There stood the three Gentile men and Peter went right to them.

“I am the man you are seeking,” Peter said. “Why have you come here?”

The men told Peter about their master and how God had spoken to him in a dream.

Normally a Jew would never invite a Gentile into their home. They would never go visit a Gentile. And they did not think that their God was ever going to be the same God as a Gentile would worship. But Peter remembered his vision clearly. It was beginning to make sense to him. God was telling him the Gentiles should not be turned away. So Peter quickly invited them to come in for the night. Then the next morning he and a few friends traveled to meet with Cornelius.

*Acts 10:17-23 says, Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon’s house, and stood before the gate,*

*And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.*

*While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.*

*Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.*

*Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?*

*And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.*

*Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.*

## **THE VISIT**

When the group of men arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius was anxiously awaiting them. He had called for all his friends and family to gather at his house. He wanted them to hear what God would say to them through Peter.

Cornelius ran to meet Peter and fell at his feet to worship him. Peter quickly pulled him to his feet and told him that he was just a man. He was not worthy of worship. Peter also reminded Cornelius that it was against Jewish law for him to visit the home of a Gentile. But then Peter told Cornelius that God had clearly told him that he should not call any man unclean.

Acts 10:24-28 says, *And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.*

*And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshiped him.*

*But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.*

*And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.*

*And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.*

The two men compared the dreams or visions that they had. It dawned on Peter that God was telling him that the Gospel was not just for the Jewish people, but for all people. The Gentiles had been in spiritual darkness and had been unclean. But now God was opening salvation to them also! So Peter began to preach with great boldness. He told them that God was not a respecter of persons. God would welcome anyone. He told them that Jesus had come to die on the cross for their sins and that Jesus had risen from the dead on the third day. Jesus was God and Jesus was able to forgive their sins.

Acts 10:34-35, 39-40, 42-43 says, *Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:*

*But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.*

*And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:*

*Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly.*

*And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.*

*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

Peter had not even finished his sermon when the Gentiles there began to believe in Jesus as their Savior! Their sins were forgiven and God sent them the Holy Spirit. Everyone in that house that day became believers in Jesus Christ. The Gospel was no longer just for the Jewish people, it was opened up to the Gentiles also!

Acts 10:44 says, *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.*

## **THE REPORT**

When Peter and his friends got back to Jerusalem they shared the wonderful news that a group of Gentiles had been saved. The Apostles and other believers in Jerusalem were astonished.

They had never even thought that God might give salvation to the Gentiles. They weren't sure they believed Peter at first. They listened in silence as he told them what had happened.

Peter told them of the vision he had from God and he told them about Cornelius' dream. Then he told them about how he had preached to all the Gentiles at Cornelius' home, and they had believed, and God had sent the Holy Spirit to them.

When they heard all that Peter said, they were joyful. They glorified God and rejoiced that God was going to give salvation to the Gentiles too!

Acts 11:18 says, *When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.*

### **YOU'RE INCLUDED!**

This story from the book of Acts is so exciting because it means that God wants us to be a part of His family also! Anyone who is not a Jew is a Gentile. In Old Testament days God had made an exclusive covenant or contract with the Jewish people. They had been His special and chosen people. No one else was included. But all of that changed. Now God was opening salvation to everyone in the entire world who would believe on Him and accept what Jesus Christ did for them on the cross.

From that time on, Peter began to boldly go to tell everyone he met, Jew and Gentile, that Salvation is for all people, no matter who they are. All a person has to do is believe Jesus died for their sins and accept Him as their Savior.

God wants you to be like Peter too. He wants you to be bold in telling others that Jesus loves them and died for them. You can tell them, "You are included! Salvation is for you."

Let me ask you, have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart? The Bible says we are all sinners and we can not take away our own sin. But Jesus can take away your sin. He is willing to forgive your sins if you ask Him. Have you done that? Would you like to? We can show you from the Bible how you can be saved. We can do that today!

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

All through the Old Testament and during the ministry of Jesus, when He was on the earth, God had been hinting that one day salvation would be opened up to the Gentiles.

In Psalm 72:17 it says, *His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.*

When Jesus was born the angels said in Luke 2:10-11, *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

I would like to like to challenge you to spend some time this week thinking about the fact that God included you in His plan of salvation! He included you! Isn't God's grace wonderful! Then go tell someone else about Jesus Christ. Be bold for Christ!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be bold for Christ this week.

## BIBLE QUIZ

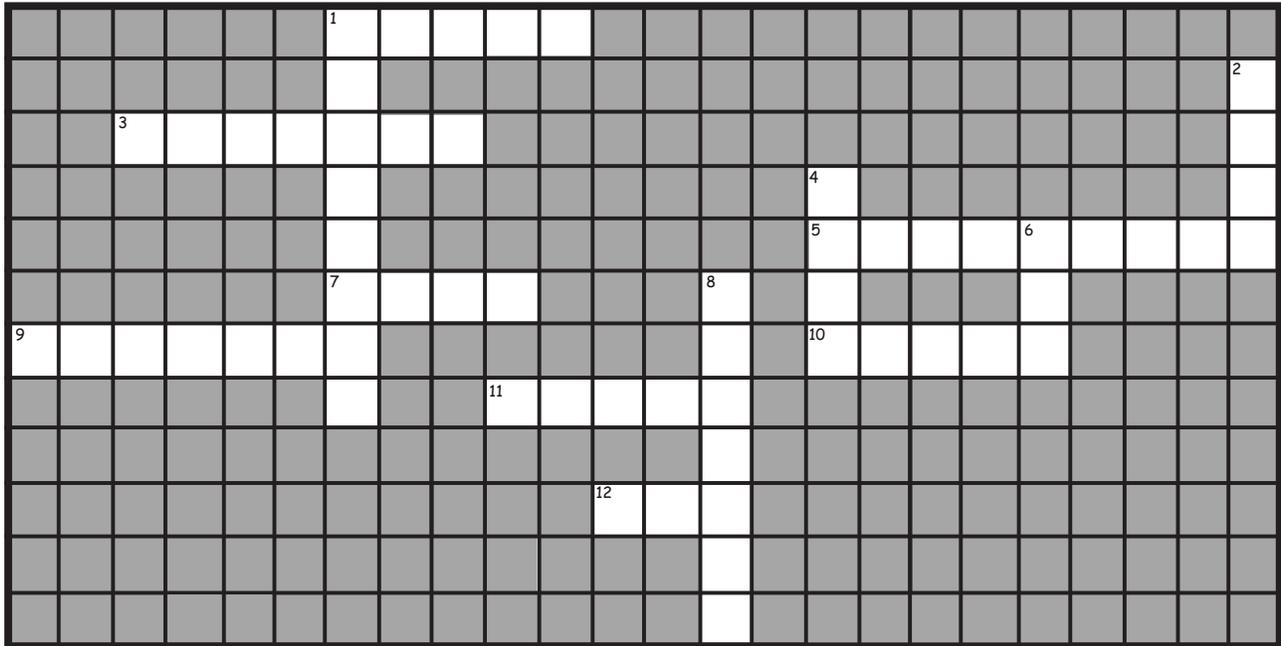
1. Who was a "God-fearer"?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What happened when Cornelius went to pray?
4. What happened to Peter on the rooftop as he prayed?
5. Why was it so unusual for Cornelius' men to go to Simon's house?
6. Who did Peter find gathered when he got to Cornelius' house?
7. What did Peter do?
8. What happened before Peter was even done preaching?
9. How did the Apostles and Jewish believers in Jerusalem react at first?
10. What did Peter tell them that caused them to rejoice?

# Bold to Tell Others

Be not afraid, but speak,  
and hold not thy peace.  
Acts 18:9b



I will be bold for  
Christ.



## Across

1. God told Cornelius to send for \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. The animals in Peter's vision were \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. This man was from Caesarea.
7. Cornelius' friends and family were saved and received the \_\_\_\_\_ Spirit.
9. Cornelius was a \_\_\_\_\_ .
10. Peter saw this lowering from heaven.
11. God spoke to Cornelius in a \_\_\_\_\_ .
12. Even though Cornelius was a *Gentile*, he feared \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Down

1. When Peter got to Cornelius' house he \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. God offers salvation to both \_\_\_\_\_ and *Gentiles*.
4. This book tells us about the early *Christians*.
6. God told Peter not to call the animals unclean but to kill and \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. One day Peter also had a vision on the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(Two words)



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LESSON 47

**A BOLD CHILD  
BOLD IN PRAYER**

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Acts 12:1-17

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be bold for Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace.* Acts 18:9b



## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Do you think that God listens to you? Does He hear your prayers?

When things don't happen the way we want them to happen, we often think that God doesn't hear us or care about us. We think that maybe God doesn't answer our prayers. But that would be wrong. God does hear us. He cares about us. And He answers prayer.

The Bible tells us that we should come boldly to God's throne with our prayers. God loves us and He wants to hear our prayers. He wants us to spend time talking to Him in prayer. And God says that we can be bold about talking to Him. We don't have to worry that God will turn us away!

Hebrews 4:16 tells us, *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be bold for Christ.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### LISTEN TO ME!

Props: A paper bag. An orange colored object. Can be a T-shirt, a book, a hat, or an orange cup, etc. Just so it's orange and if it's ugly that's all the better. Place the object in the bag nearby.

**You:** I think that Andy is going to come talk to us today. Let me get him. Hi, Andy. How are you today?

**Andy:** I'm great! Guess what!

**You:** What?

**Andy:** I got you a present!

**You:** Really? A present for me?

**Andy:** Yes. I know you'll like it because it's your favorite color!

**You:** How exciting!

**Andy:** It's over there in that bag. You can get it out.

**You:** (With other hand open bag and peek inside.) Let's see what it is! (Pull out the object and hold it up for the children to see. Hold it up with fingertips like you don't really want to touch it and give it a strange look so it looks like you aren't too happy with the object.)

**Andy:** Well? Isn't it great?

**You:** Oh . . . it sure was kind of you to get it for me.

**Andy:** And it's your absolute favorite color in the whole, entire universe!

**You:** MY favorite color?

**Andy:** Right! Orange!

**You:** Andy? Why do you think orange is my favorite color?

**Andy:** Because that's what you told me!

**You:** I told you that orange was my favorite color? Are you sure?

**Andy:** Sure! Just last week you said something like, "Orange is my favorite color." Or something like that.

**You:** Andy, you weren't listening to me very closely. I said that oranges are my favorite FRUIT!  
Not my favorite COLOR!

**Andy:** Oh! I thought for sure you said COLOR!

**You:** This was very nice of you, but blue (or whatever) is my favorite color. (Drop object back in bag.)

**Andy:** Oops.

**You:** I don't think you were listening very carefully when we were talking the other day.

**Andy:** I was kind of distracted so I only half-listened to what you were saying.

**You:** Next time you need to listen more carefully when I talk to you.

**Andy:** I guess I did get things kind of mixed up!

**You:** Yes. You know, Andy, I am glad that when I talk to God He listens carefully! He is never distracted when I pray. He always listens to you and to me. He always cares about what we are saying to Him. He is never too busy to listen! In fact, God wants me to come boldly to Him in prayer!

**Andy:** That's pretty great!

**You:** It sure is. We never know if other people really listen to us when we talk. Sometimes we get distracted and don't listen closely. But that never happens with God. He is never too busy to listen.

**Andy:** I'm glad about that!

**You:** I am too!

**Andy:** I guess I should take that back and get you an orange ORANGE!

**You:** That I would like! Time for you to go now. Say goodbye.

**Andy:** Bye, everyone. See you soon.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace.*

Acts 18:9b

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Acts 12:1-17

### LESSON

#### **A WICKED KING**

After Saul saw the great light from the Lord on the road to Damascus, He accepted that Jesus was the Messiah. Of course, he stopped persecuting the Believers. He became known as Paul. Then things settled down for the believers in Jerusalem. The man who had been causing the Christians worse suffering had joined their side and things were more peaceful. But not for long!

Shortly after the religious leaders stopped persecuting the believers, King Herod began to do the same. Herod was a very wicked man and he came from a long line of wicked kings. He followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. He began to persecute the believers.

King Herod took one of the Apostles, James the brother of John, and he had him killed by the sword. When the king saw that the Jewish leaders were pleased with what he had done to James, he thought he'd keep going. Next he had his men capture Peter.

Do you remember Peter? He was the Apostle who was so bold to speak out for Jesus Christ. His boldness made some real enemies for him!

Peter waited in the dirty, dark prison and wondered if he too would soon lose his head to the king's sword. Surrounding him were four of the king's biggest, meanest guards. They chained Peter up and placed two guards at the door of his cell and two of the guards sat right next to him. They treated Peter as if he were a dangerous, hardened criminal. But Peter's only crime was that he went around boldly preaching to others about salvation through Jesus Christ.

The king was determined to kill Peter but first he had to wait until after that year's Passover celebration had been completed. He didn't want to cause trouble during Passover.

Acts 12:1-4 says, *Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.*

*And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.*

*And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)*

*And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.*

## **A PRAYING CHURCH**

It didn't take long for word to spread that Peter was in prison. I imagine the early believers kept close track of each other and when something happened the word spread from believer to believer like wild fire. Within a short time all the believers knew that Peter had been captured and they all clearly remembered what had happened to James.

I am sure they were very worried, but they did the smart thing. Instead of sitting around weeping and wringing their hands in fear, they went right to God in prayer. They gathered at the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, and began to pray that God would somehow spare the life of Peter. They prayed around the clock without taking a break.

Praying is a wise thing to do when you have a need, whether it be something big like what was happening to Peter or even something small. When you have a need, the wise thing to do is to go to God in prayer. Tell Him your need. Then trust God to work things out in the way He knows it best.

We always want God to do things in such a way that we are happy with how it works out. We want God to keep anything bad from happening, but sometimes God allows things to happen that we don't understand. When that happens, that is the time to trust that God knows and does what is best. We may not understand, but we can trust God to be working out His perfect plan.

Right then the believers were helpless, but they knew that God could help. So they boldly went to God in prayer asking for Peter's safety.

Acts 12:5 says, *Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.*

### **A PEACEFUL PETER**

There sat Peter, chained between two guards with two others nearby. I think Peter may have chuckled to think that the king thought he needed so many big, strong men to keep him in prison.

Whether or not Peter thought it was amusing that the king was so worried about his escape that four men were assigned to watch him, I don't know. But I do know that Peter was not worried. Instead Peter was at peace.

How do I know that Peter was peaceful and not full of fear? Simple. The Bible says that Peter went fast asleep.

What usually happens when you crawl in bed and you are afraid or worried about some big problem? You fret and stew and review the problem over and over in your mind. Don't you? You do everything but sleep!

But Peter was sound asleep between those guards. The chains did not keep him awake. The guards did not keep him awake. Fear did not keep him awake.

I think Peter must have prayed, "Lord, if I die, then I will go to Heaven to be with You. If not, then You will get me out of here. Either way, I'll trust You to do what is best."

Then Peter closed his eyes and had a very restful sleep.

Acts 12:6 says, *And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.*

### **DELIVERANCE**

The two guards chained to Peter were supposed to stay awake and guard Peter all night long, but I suspect they thought, "This man is no threat! He's chained and surrounded by the king's best men. He'll never get away. And besides, look at him! He's sound asleep. We might as well get a little shut eye too!" So the guards also went to sleep.

As Peter slept, something happened. The angel of the Lord came to the prison. A great light shined around the angel. Peter was sleeping so soundly that the bright light did not wake him up. He slept on. So the angel had to reach down and give Peter a hard shake. The Bible says that the angel "smote" or hit Peter. He must have been in a very deep sleep!

When Peter's heavy eyelids opened, he saw the angel, but he thought he was dreaming or having a vision. Peter obeyed when the angel told him to get up and put his shoes and coat on. Peter did what he was told because he thought he was having a very, very good dream!

Then the angel told Peter to follow him. As he stood the chains fell off. Then he began to walk and the gates swung open, first the inner gate, then the next, and the next. Peter just walked through the prison and as he walked through each gate he must have thought, “I really like this dream!”

Finally Peter and the angel got outside and stood in the street. The angel left and Peter stood in the cool, fresh air wondering what would happen next in his dream. But slowly it dawned on Peter that this was no dream! This was real! He was actually standing outside in the street! Peter realized that the angel of the Lord had actually come to rescue him from prison and from the hand of the king!

*Acts 12:7-11 says, And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.*

*And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.*

*And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.*

*When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.*

*And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.*

#### **ASTONISHED**

Peter thought about what he should do. Where should he go? He knew he had to get out of the street or someone would find him and throw him back in prison. So Peter decided to go to Mary's house. I think the Lord led him to decide to go there. He didn't know it, but that was where all the other believers were gathered to pray.

Peter quickly made his way to the house and knocked on the door. Everyone inside was so busy praying for God to rescue Peter that they sent a young girl named Rhoda to see who was at the door.

Well, when Rhoda heard Peter's voice she instantly recognized who it was. She'd know his voice anywhere. She had heard him preach and teach many times. Rhoda was so excited to hear Peter's voice that instead of opening the door, she ran back inside the house.

“Hey, everyone!” she cried in excitement. “Peter is outside!”

Everyone thought she was crazy! After all, they were praying that God would let Peter out of prison. If Peter was outside, then he couldn't be in prison! That's why they were praying, right?

But Rhoda kept insisting that it was Peter outside, so someone suggested that maybe it was Peter's ghost. But that made no sense!

Peter kept knocking and knocking on the gate. He was hoping someone would come and let him in. The believers finally decided to go see who was knocking so hard at their door.

They all rushed to the door and when they opened it, there stood Peter in the flesh. He was no ghost! He was real and he was out of prison!

All the believers were so astonished that Peter had been rescued from prison. God had answered their prayers! Amazing! They couldn't believe it. But even though their faith in God had been small, God had still heard their prayers and God answered them!

Everyone began to talk at once. They were most likely laughing and crying and praising God that Peter was safe! Peter told them to quiet down and then he told them all about how the angel of the Lord had come to deliver him. Then Peter told them to go tell James (this was another man also named James) and all the others who had not been gathered at Mary's house. He wanted everyone to know what a marvelous thing God had done!

Then Peter went somewhere quiet. I think he may have wanted some time alone to thank and praise God for what He had done!

Acts 12:12-17 says, *And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.*

*And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.*

*And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.*

*And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.*

*But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.*

*But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.*

## **HOW DO YOU PRAY?**

Let me ask you a question. Are you amazed when God answers your prayers?

Those Bible time believers really shouldn't have been surprised that God answered their prayers, should they? They had gathered to pray. They knew God could hear them. Yet deep down they weren't really sure that God would answer them. They weren't too bold in prayer, were they?

We can be like that too. We can pray about a problem and ask God to help, yet when God does answer our prayers we are often amazed. We didn't really think God would answer us.

Now, God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we want Him to. There are times when God has different plans. There are times when God's ways are different from our ways. But God always does what is best. He knows what has to happen in order for His will to come about.

I am sure that the believers also prayed for James, yet God allowed James to be killed. Why? I don't know why, but God knew. It was in God's plan to take James to Heaven and it was in God's plan to leave Peter on earth a bit longer. Either way, God was doing what was best.

But God wants us to pray. He wants us to spend time telling Him about the problems we face. He wants us to ask for help. He wants us to ask Him to do what is best.

Let me ask you, are you on praying ground? Can God hear your prayers? The Bible says that if you have sin in your life God does not hear you. That means two things. Number one, if you are a born again Christian, then you need to pray and confess your sin and deny your sin so that God can hear your prayers.

Number two, if you are not a Christian and God has not saved you from your sin, then the only prayer God hears from you is the prayer when you ask Him to forgive your sin and come into your life. God will gladly forgive you! Have you prayed that prayer yet? Would you like to? You can do that today. We can show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to stay on praying ground. If you are a Christian, you need to keep your life free of sin so that God will hear your prayers. Let me tell you some conditions for getting your prayers answered.

### 1. Pray in obedience.

This means that your life is right with God. A Christian who allows sin to remain in their life is not on praying ground. They are not going to get their prayers answered. But when you confess your sin and put it out of your life, then you are right with God and He will hear your prayers.

### 2. Pray in faith.

You need to trust that God does hear your prayers and that He will answer them in the best way. God's way may not always be the way you would choose, but God does answer prayer.

### 3. Pray in Jesus name.

You also need to pray in Jesus name. It is because of what Jesus did for us on the cross that God is willing to hear our prayers. The Bible tells us that Jesus is in Heaven, standing before God, praying for believers. He is praying for you and me. Through Jesus Christ we have direct access to God. Isn't that wonderful? So we need to pray through Jesus and in Him name.

### 4. Pray in God's will.

Prayer should not be a selfish thing to get everything you want or desire. God is not a magic genie. We should pray that God's will be done. We should pray that God work things out the way He knows is best for us.

### 5. Pray with persistence.

We need to be persistent in prayer. Those early believers gathered and prayed without ceasing. They didn't say a quick prayer for Peter and then went their way. They kept praying until God answered them.

We can't always be on our knees, but we can spend time in prayer and we can have an attitude of prayer as we go through our days. When the Bible says "Pray without ceasing" it means that we should live in a way that our lives are honoring to God at all times. We should be able to pray at any time because we are right with God. And, of course, we should always pray with boldness because we know God wants to hear from us!

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to remember to pray boldly when you have a need or problem.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who had James put to death?
2. Who did King Herod capture next?
3. What did the king do to ensure that Peter would not escape?
4. What did Peter do that shows he was not worried?
5. What did the church do when they heard about Peter's arrest?
6. What did the angel of the Lord have to do to wake Peter?
7. What did Peter think was happening at first?
8. Where did Peter go when he realized he wasn't having a dream?
9. What did the believers think when Rhoda said Peter was outside?
10. Recite today's memory verse.

# Bold in Prayer

Be not afraid, but speak,  
and hold not thy peace.  
Acts 18:9b



I will be bold for  
Christ.

Write all the letters with the number 1 under them, in order, on the lines below.  
Then write all the letters with the number 2, in order, under them. Then the 3 letters and so on until you get a hidden message.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | O | S | E | K | D | W | A | N | L | H | K | O | I | E | T |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| W | S | N | O | M | T | I | H | Y | E | S | I | G | N | P | M |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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LESSON 48

A BOLD CHILD  
BOLD FOR GOD

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

1 Peter, 2 Peter

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

I will be bold for Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace.* Acts 18:9b



## OPEN IN PRAYER

## INTRODUCTION

Some people are naturally more bold and out-going. Others are more shy and quiet. God made us all differently. The Apostle Peter was a very bold man as he traveled and preached about Jesus Christ, but there was a time in Peter's life when he wasn't so bold. There was time when he cowered in fear. That was during the time during Jesus' trial and crucifixion. But with the Lord's help, Peter overcame his fear and became bold for God.

God wants you to be bold too. He wants you to speak out and tell others about what Jesus Christ did on the cross for them. Today we will talk about being bold for Jesus Christ.

Today's Life Lesson is: I will be bold for Christ.

## SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### **SINCE JESUS CAME INTO MY HEART**

Obtain Flash Card

Rufus H. McDaniel was born on January 29, 1850 in Ohio. By the time Rufus was only 19 years old he had obtained his license to preach the Gospel. He pastored several churches in his lifetime. Though he experienced some very hard times in his life, he was always faithful to the Lord.

Besides preaching, Rev. McDaniel also wrote songs for God's glory. He lived for 90 years and in his lifetime he wrote over 100 songs. Our song today was written in 1914 shortly after the death of one of his sons.

Listen to the words to this beautiful song.

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought

Since Jesus came into my heart;

I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,

Since Jesus came into my heart.

I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And my sins which were many are all washed away,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.

I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.

There's a light in the valley of death now for me,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And the gates of the City beyond I can see,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.

I shall go there to dwell in that City I know,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
And I'm happy, so happy as onward I go,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.

Since Jesus came into my heart,  
Since Jesus came into my heart;  
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,  
Since Jesus came into my heart.

The first line of the song says, "What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought."  
Jesus can make a wonderful change in your life too.

After the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, the disciples were unsure and frightened. They thought they had lost their path and purpose in life. But after Jesus rose from the grave, everything became clear to them. They were safe, steadfast, and secure in Him. They knew what purpose Jesus had for them. This made them bold.

When Jesus comes into your life and takes away your sin, He has a plan and a purpose for your life too. He wants you to live faithfully for Him on this earth. He wants you to be a bold witness to others about what Jesus has done for you. Then some day you will go to spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Show Flash Card) When you ask Jesus into your heart, you are giving Him the key to your heart and life. Have you done that? Have you given Him the key? Since Jesus came into your life you can be safe, steadfast, and sure in Him! You can be bold for Jesus Christ!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace.*

Acts 18:9b

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

1 Peter, 2 Peter

### LESSON

#### **A DYNAMIC MAN**

The Apostle Peter was a dynamic, godly man who spoke out fearlessly for Jesus Christ. But he wasn't always that kind of man.

When we first met Peter in the New Testament he was a fisherman. He eagerly followed Jesus and he often was the first to speak up and step forward to do a task, but so often when Peter said or did something in those early days he was wrong. He often said and did the wrong thing. And in Jesus' greatest hour of need, Peter did not stand by the Lord. Instead he denied that he even knew Jesus.

But Peter had a big change in his life and he went from fearful to fearless. What was the difference? What made such a big change? What made Peter bold?

Two things made the difference. The first was the cross and the second was the empty tomb. Jesus' death and resurrection made the difference. When Peter finally realized that Jesus died on the cross for his sins and then rose from the grave in triumph over sin, Peter was changed. No longer did Peter fear man. Now he knew that he owed his eternal life to Jesus and because of what Jesus did for him on the cross he was free from sin.

Peter willingly devoted the rest of his life to serving Jesus Christ. Peter willingly died serving Jesus. He no longer feared what men would do to him. Instead he only wanted to love and serve Jesus faithfully. And Peter was faithful to the end.

### LESSONS TO LEARN

There are many lessons we can learn from the life of Peter. There are also many lessons that Peter wanted to make sure we learned, so Peter wrote two books that are a part of our New Testament: 1 and 2 Peter. The Holy Spirit led Peter to write these books and they have so much to teach us about living a bold Christian life as Peter did.

Let's look at some of the things that Peter thought were so important that he wrote them in books for us.

### 1 PETER

Often the Apostles wrote books or really letters to the Christians in Jerusalem and in other cities to help them grow in the Lord. The Apostles could not always be with the believers who had trusted in Jesus Christ, but they wanted to make sure that the Christians were staying close to Jesus and growing in the Lord so they would write a book or letter and send it to the believers to read and follow.

In the book of first Peter, which was Peter's first letter to the Jewish Christians everywhere, Peter had several things he wanted to tell them. First Peter sent a warning. He told them to abstain from fleshly lusts. Peter warned that they should stay as far away from the things that tempt and tease a Christian to sin because those sins war against the soul.

1. Avoid sin. Peter warns us to stay away from sin. A fleshly lust is anything that appeals to us and makes us desire to wander away from God and head toward ungodly things. Peter warned us that lusts of the flesh will harm our souls and take us far from God.

Every day you are tempted to do and say things that would not please God. The World tempts us to do things that look like fun but in truth are dangerous to our souls.

1 Peter 2:11 says, *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.*

2. Have a ready answer. Peter advises Christians to be ready with a good answer or explanation to others about what is different about those that follow Christ. If you live like a Christian

should live, then you will stick out. Your life will be different from other people in the World. People will notice that you don't act and talk like they do. You don't do the things they think are fun. And if you are different then others will say, "Hey, what makes you so different. Why do you always go to church? Why don't you listen to the music I do? Why don't you go to the places I go?"

Peter says, be ready with an answer. Don't say, "I don't know. I guess because my parents make me go to church." Don't say, "Because my church won't let me do those things." Instead, if you love the Lord and serve Him, you should be ready to say, "I don't do those things because I'm a Christian. I love the Lord Jesus and I want to do things that please Him!"

Peter also warns that we should say these things in meekness and fear. We aren't to brag about the fact that we are Christians. We aren't to feel superior to others. Instead we need to remember that we were lost sinners also. We are different because of the difference Jesus makes in our life, not because we are so good.

1 Peter 3:15 says, *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*

3. Trials are expected. Peter says not to be surprised when problems and trials come into your life. Just the fact that you are a Christian means that you will face problems that others may not face. People might make fun of you because you follow Jesus. People might even hate you because you follow Jesus. The people in Peter's day faced persecution and trouble because they loved the Lord. Many of them even gave their lives for Jesus.

Becoming a Christian will not take away all your problems. But the wonderful thing is that when you have a problem you can go to the Lord and He will help you and be with you. You are not alone.

So don't be surprised if problems come, but instead be thankful that you can take a part in Christ's suffering.

1 Peter 4:12, 16 says, *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.*

*Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

4. Be on guard against Satan. Satan hates Jesus and if you are a child of Jesus then Satan hates you too! He is your worst enemy and he will do everything he can to trip you up and destroy your testimony for the Lord.

The wonderful thing is that Jesus Christ is more powerful than Satan. Jesus can help you to resist sin and stand firm against Satan.

Jesus will be with you and help you, but you must keep your eyes open and be aware of the devil's tricks. He wants to destroy you, but if you are on guard then he can never touch you!

1 Peter 5:8-9 says, *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

*Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

5. Be a mature Christian. Peter knew quite a bit about the trouble an immature Christian can experience. Peter was an immature follower for many years, but when he became fully committed to Jesus Christ he grew up in the Lord.

You are just a child and in many ways you are immature. You are young and have much growing to do, but you can grow up in the Lord even as a child. How? Here are some ways to mature in the Lord.

Listen in church. Think about what you learn in Sunday School and Children's Church. Think about what the Pastor preaches about.

Read your Bible. God wants to speak to you and teach you. When you read your Bible and think about what you have read, God is speaking to you.

Pray. Take time to speak to the Lord. Ask Him to help you to be the kind of Christian that will please Him.

1 Peter 5:10 says, *But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.*

## **2 PETER**

The second book or letter that Peter wrote was written to Jewish Christians a few years later. Even though Peter was writing to Jewish Christians, we all can learn from what he told them. Here are some things Peter wrote about in his second book.

1. God gives precious promises. The Bible is full of wonderful promises from God. He tells us that if we are saved by Jesus blood then we are the children of God. We are heirs to the riches of Heaven. What a wonderful promise that someday we will be able to spend eternity with Jesus.

But along with the promises come the responsibilities of being God's children. We must live for God on earth to enjoy the wonders of Heaven.

2 Peter 1:4 says, *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Romans 8:17b says, *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

2. God's Word makes us wise. We may think we are pretty smart, but God is so much smarter. We really know so little about how to be good Christians, but if we read God's Word, the Bible, we can learn so much and we can become wise. God's Word makes us wise!

2 Peter 1:2 says, *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.*

3. Pay attention to God's warnings. Peter tells us that the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, warns us when sin is near and the Lord can help us to avoid sin. When we let sin into our lives, we are not close to God. We are not pleasing to God. But we have the Holy Spirit inside of us to warn us and help us. Make sure you listen when the Holy Spirit warns you. Listen carefully for that still, small voice saying, "No! Don't do that!" It is God warning you to stay away from sin. Be sure to listen!

2 Peter 2:9-10 says, *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*

*But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.*

4. God will return soon. Life is very short. The older you get the more you will understand that fact. Someday you will either go to be with the Lord in death, or Jesus will return to take you to Heaven. The Bible teaches that the Lord will return someday to take His children home with Him. No one knows when the Lord will return, but it will happen someday soon.

Peter tells us that the Lord will come as a thief in the night. What does that mean? It means He will come when we least expect Him to come. And when Jesus returns the Christians will go home to Heaven. But those who are not saved will face terrible judgment on earth and for all eternity. Make sure you are ready for the Lord's return!

2 Peter 3:10-14 says, *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*

*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,*

*Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*

*Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

## LISTEN TO PETER

Peter was a bold preacher and a wise man, but he had to learn things the hard way. If you are wise, you will read the books Peter wrote and learn from him. You will learn the wisdom of staying close to Jesus and the wisdom of obeying His Word.

Let me ask you, are you a child of God? If Jesus were to return this afternoon would you be ready to meet Him? Or would you be one of those who will be left behind on earth?

The Bible tells us that we are all born sinners and there is no way we can take away our own sin. But if you ask Jesus to forgive your sin and take it away, He will.

Today you can admit that you are a sinner and ask Jesus to forgive your sin and make you His child. Would you like to do that? We can show you how.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to be bold for God. How can you be bold like Peter was?

1. Be God's child. You can't be bold for God if you don't know Him as your Father. Make sure that you are His child.

2. Be obedient to God. The best way to show God you love Him is to obey Him. When you do the things the Bible tells you to do and you avoid the things the Bible tells you to avoid, then you will find it easy to be bold for God.

3. Love God. If you love the Lord with all of your heart, then you will want to obey Him. You will want to speak out and tell others about Him.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about the challenge I have just given you. Think of how you can put it into practice in your own life.

(Give the children a few seconds to think. You can change what you say in your prayer according to what the lesson and challenge for the week has been.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to be bold for Him.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did Peter do when Jesus was taken prisoner in the Garden?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. What helped Peter to become bold for Jesus?
4. What are the names of the two books Peter wrote?
5. Name one thing Peter taught us in the book of 1 Peter.
6. Name another thing Peter taught us in the book of 1 Peter.
7. Name another thing Peter taught us in the book of 1 Peter.
8. Name one thing Peter taught us in the book of 2 Peter.
9. Name another thing Peter taught us in the book of 2 Peter.
10. What can you read that will help you to be bold for God?



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EASTER LESSON

RESURRECTION DAY

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Luke 2:8-14, 24:1-8, John 20:1-10,  
Matthew 28:18-48, Mark 1: 15, 16:15

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

Tell everyone the good news  
of Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto  
salvation to every one that believeth.*

Romans 1:16a



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## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever heard some really wonderful news? What do you want to do when you hear good news? You want to tell others about the news don't you? In fact, it's hard to keep it quiet. You surely don't want to keep it a secret.

God has some very good news for you and today we are going to talk about the good news. And we are going to talk about sharing that good news with others.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** Tell everyone the good news of Jesus!

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY

##### FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD - AL SMITH

(Teacher: If you do not already use this wonderful old chorus, "For God So Loved The World," now would be a good time to teach it to your children. It is easy to learn and sing and children have loved to sing it for years. It is the Gospel in a nutshell.)

What is the first verse you would think about if I asked you to tell me a verse you have memorized? For most people it would be John 3:16. It is one of the best loved and most well known verses in the world. (You can have everyone say the verse out loud with you.)

You have probably never heard of Al Smith, but you may have sung some of the songs he has written. He was born on November 8, 1916. He accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was 14 years old. Al learned to love music in his home. His parents encouraged him to listen to good music and he learned to play the violin at an early age.

He wrote the music for a beautiful poem written by Fanny Crosby called "Be Thou Exalted." He also wrote "The Wonder Of It All" and many other songs that we still sing today.

Al Smith also spent years collecting stories about famous Hymn writers and the songs they wrote. He traveled all over to meet hymn writers and music composers. He would ask them what had been the inspiration for the songs they wrote. Thanks to Al Smith, we now know the events that led up to the writing of many of the hymns we sing.

One of Al Smith's most famous songs was also the first song he ever wrote. For almost 70 years "For God So Loved The World" has been a favorite song of many. So here is the story of how the Lord gave Al Smith the words to this well loved song.

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In 1938, when Al Smith was just 22 years old, he made a trip to visit a hymn writer by the name of George Stebbins. Al spent several hours with Mr. Stebbins and eagerly listened to the stories he told about the songs he had written. Mr. Stebbins also told stories about some of the other famous song writers he had known in the past.

After Al finished his visit with Mr. Stebbins, he began his drive back to the home where he was staying as a guest. He was excited about how God had used Mr. Stebbins and the other men and women they had talked about. Through their music thousands of lives had been blessed and many were drawn nearer to God.

Al felt a burning desire to be used of God to bless the lives of others also. He was a young man, but he had a sincere desire to write music that would honor God and draw others closer to God.

Al Smith says, "As I drove along, I began to hum a melody. And soon words with a familiar theme began to fall into place."

When he reached his destination, all but one line of his song had fallen into place. He entered the home where he was staying as a guest of the Townsend family. Quickly he jotted the words and melody on a sheet of paper and hurried on his way. He had a meeting to attend so he left the paper on the piano to be looked at later.

After Al left the house, the two Townsend sisters, Frances and Grace, went to the piano to see what music Mr. Smith had left there. There they could see the words Al had scribbled in such a hurry. Frances read these words out loud to Grace:

For God so loved the world He gave His only Son  
To die on Calvary's tree from sin to set me free.  
Someday He's coming back -  
Wonderful His love to me.

The sisters looked at each other and then Frances said, "Al has left out a phrase." Sure enough, the song had one phrase missing.

Without a moment's hesitation Frances picked up the pencil that had been laying next to the paper and jotted down these words: What glory that will be!

Those were the perfect words and Al Smith never changed them. The song had been completed and God has used that song to bless the lives of many over the years. Listen to the words of this song one more time. This song tells the Good News of how much God loves us all and how we can be saved from our sin.

For God so loved the world He gave His only Son  
To die on Calvary's tree, from sin to set me free;  
Someday He's coming back, What glory that will be!  
Wonderful His love to me.

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God had a job for Al Smith and for years Mr. Smith faithfully wrote the words and music to many songs that are still bringing glory to God.

Did you know God has a purpose for your life also? In some way God wants you to tell the Good News of the Gospel to others. It may not be by writing a song, but there is some way for you to also bring Glory to God in your life. Maybe you can invite a friend to come to church with you so they can hear the Good News right here in church.

(Have the children sing the song one more time now.)

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one that believeth.* Romans 1:16a

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Luke 2:8-14, 24:1-8, John 20:1-10, Matthew 28:18-48, Mark 1: 15, 16:15

Obtain Flash Card

### LESSON

#### GLAD TIDINGS

Everyone loves to hear good news. One day, long ago, God had some very good news for the people of earth. That good news was that Jesus was come to earth.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angels came to tell every one about the good news! A multitude of angels, more than anyone could count, filled the evening sky to make the very important announcement.

They came to tell the people of earth that the Messiah, their Savior, had been born on earth.

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Luke 2:8-14 says, *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Everyone loves to hear the story of Christmas. But that was not the end of Jesus' story on earth, was it? No. Jesus was not born just to give us a wonderful day when we give gifts to each other and remember God's gift to us. Jesus came to earth to do something for us that we could not do for ourselves. Jesus came to save us from our sins.

#### **SAD TIMES**

In order to save us, Jesus had to die for us. We are not good enough to take away our own sins. The blood of an animal sacrificed cannot take away our sin. Only the blood of the perfect Son of God, Jesus Christ, could take away our sin. Jesus came to shed His blood and die for us.

The people who followed Jesus as He went about teaching about God, were very sad when He was taken and crucified on the cross. They couldn't understand why that had to happen.

It is a sad thing when we think that Jesus had to die such a terrible death on the cross, but we understand why Jesus died on the cross. We know He did it for us. But the people back then did not understand.

While Jesus was teaching, He tried to tell everyone why He came to earth. But they just did not understand. Over and over, as Jesus spoke with His disciples, He told them He was the King, but not the type of king they thought. He told them His kingdom was not in the present world but was in Heaven.

They did not understand what He was talking about. They thought Jesus, their Messiah or Savior, had come to save them from the Romans who had conquered their land and were masters over them. Because of the Romans, they could not worship God as they ought. They were forced to live with people who did not love or worship God as they did. They wanted so badly for the Messiah to come and free them from the Romans. Then they would happily make Messiah their king.

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When Jesus came and performed miracles and healed sick people and even raised people from the dead, many of the people believed He was the Messiah. They were thrilled He had finally come to save them. But they were only thinking of the Messiah saving them right then. They did not realize Messiah wanted to save them for all of eternity.

Jesus had much more in mind than just putting the Romans in their place when He came to earth. He wanted to free His people, but not from the Romans. He wanted to free them from their sins. He came to earth to tell them there was nothing they could do to get rid of their own sins, but that He could get rid of their sin for them. He wanted to tell them about a Heavenly Kingdom where He would be the King forever and ever.

John 18:35-37 gives us the conversation between Pilate, the Roman governor, and Jesus when Jesus was on trial for His life. Listen to what Jesus had to say about His Kingdom.

*Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?*

*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

*Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

Jesus had no intention of being a king on earth, but the people did not understand this. Even His own disciples did not understand what Jesus would do and why he had to do it. So when the priests, who hated Jesus, asked the Romans to put Jesus to death, His followers could not believe this was happening. When they took Jesus and nailed Him to a cross, the people who followed Him and loved Him were very sad.

They were also very confused. Instead of defeating the enemy, Jesus seemed to have been defeated by the enemy. It seemed like such bad, sad news!

### **RESURRECTION DAY**

But God was not done working. God had good news for those who loved and followed Jesus.

On the third day after Jesus' death, the women came to add spices to the cloth that was wrapped around His body. They must have been very sad. They had totally believed that Jesus was their Messiah, but now He was dead. All they could do for Him was to care for His body. And they thought the news was all bad.

Luke 24:1-4 tells us, *Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.*

*And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.*

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*And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.*

*And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout.*

They went to the tomb, but the heavy stone had been rolled back. The tomb was open. So they rushed in to see why the stone had been removed. They were worried and confused. (Show Flash Card)

The Bible says in John that some of the women ran and told the disciples the stone had been rolled away and the body of Jesus was gone! They feared someone had come to steal His body.

But the body of Jesus had not been stolen. On the third day, just as Jesus said, He was able to come back to life. He went right through those grave clothes that were wrapped so tightly around Him when He was dead. He went right through the stone.

Then the angels rolled the stone away so everyone could look and see Jesus was not there. Jesus was not dead. Jesus was alive!

Two shining angels sat in the tomb, ready to tell everyone the good news that Jesus was alive.

Luke 24:4-6 says, *Behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:*

*And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*

*He is not here, but is risen.*

## **THE GOOD NEWS**

That was good news! Jesus was not dead. He was alive!

But that wasn't the best of the good news. The good news God wanted everyone to know was that now they could have their sins forgiven. Jesus paid the price of sin.

Romans 6:23 says, *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

God's first gift to earth was to send Jesus to be born. God's next and greatest gift was to offer man eternal life because of what Jesus had done on the cross.

The people had been wrong to think that when Jesus died on the cross the enemy had defeated Him. The truth is, when Jesus died on the cross, He defeated our greatest enemy and that is sin.

Those who loved Jesus finally understood the good news.

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## GOSPEL MEANS GOOD NEWS

Jesus' followers wanted to tell the good news to everyone. Jesus told them to preach the good news about what He had done to everyone on earth.

In Mark 16:15 Jesus told His disciples, *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Do you know what the word Gospel means? The word Gospel means good news. God has good news for you. He wants you to believe the Gospel.

God wants you to know the good news that if you believe Jesus died for your sin, and you tell Him you are sorry for your sin and want Him to take it away, then you can be saved. You can spend eternity in the Heavenly kingdom where Jesus is King.

Romans 10:9 says, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

Did you know the good news that Jesus died for you? Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart? Would you like to do that today? That is what Easter is all about. What a wonderful day to be saved, on the day when we celebrate what Jesus did for you on the cross and His coming out of the tomb alive.

Today we can show you how you can be saved.

Maybe you have already accepted Jesus as your Savior. You already know the good news of the gospel. Do you ever tell anyone about the good news? You should. Today would be a wonderful day to tell someone about what Jesus did for us all.

Maybe you could call a friend who doesn't know Jesus as their Savior. You could tell them that Easter is not just a day for Easter eggs and candy and bunnies. Tell them Easter is about the good news that Jesus loved them enough to come to earth to die on the cross and then arise alive for them.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to tell someone about the good news of the Gospel. Tell a friend or someone in your family what Jesus did when He died on the cross. Tell them God loved them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to die for their sins and make a way for them to go to Heaven.

If you don't know exactly what to say, then you can at least invite them to come to church with you so they can hear the good news here at church.

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## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to share the good news about Jesus with someone this week.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What good news did the shepherds hear from the angels?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. Who had conquered the Jewish people in Jesus' day?
4. What did the people want Jesus to do for them?
5. Where did Jesus say that He was going to be the King?
6. How did many of His followers feel when Jesus was crucified on the cross? Why?
7. When did the women go to the tomb to care for Jesus' body?
8. What unusual thing did the women see when they got to the tomb?
9. What did the angels tell those who went into the tomb?
10. What does the word Gospel mean?

# Resurrection Day



Tell everyone the good news of Jesus.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.

Romans 1:16a

- Alive
- Angels
- Arose
- Blood
- Celebrate
- Cross
- Disciples
- Easter
- Empty
- Eternity
- Forgiven
- Good news
- Gospel
- Heaven
- King
- Messiah
- Romans
- Sacrifice
- Savior
- Share
- Sin
- Stone
- Tomb

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PATRIOTIC LESSON

# THE STARS & STRIPES

## LESSON ORDER

Prayer / Introduction  
Song Time  
Supporting Story  
Memory Verse Time  
Bible Lesson Time / Invitation  
Challenge / Quiet Time  
Bible Quiz



## BIBLE TEXT

Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 2:1-10,  
Revelation 22:16

## CHARACTER TRAIT

Jesus gives me spiritual  
freedom.

## MEMORY VERSE

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities:  
the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah 53:5



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## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

In every war the United States has fought, starting in 1776 with our fight for the freedom to become an independent nation, the flag has flown for all to see.

Our flag has several nick names. One is Old Glory. Another name for our flag is the Stars and Stripes. The Stars and Stripes fly proudly as a sign that we are a free country. Not every country in the world is free. Not every person in the world can go to church and worship God. But in America, we can worship our God here today because the Stars and Stripes fly.

Our flag only flies because someone was willing to pay the price for our freedom. Men and women over the years have been willing to pay the price of freedom.

The same is true of our spiritual life. In order to have spiritual freedom from sin, a price had to be paid. Romans 3:23 says, *For the wages (or price) of sin is death.* That price had to be paid. But we could not buy our own freedom. Only Jesus, the perfect Son of God, could pay that price for us. He bought our freedom on Calvary. Because of Jesus we can have freedom from sin.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** Jesus gives me spiritual freedom.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY BETSY ROSS - A STITCH IN TIME

Obtain Flash Card

Have you ever heard of Betsy Ross? She was a very important woman in the history of our country.

Betsy was born on January 1, 1752, into a home that was overflowing with children. She was the eighth of seventeen children in her family. Her parents were strict Quakers. They were peaceful people and did not believe in violence of any kind.

As a young lady, Betsy learned to sew. She would use her sewing ability all of her life to earn her living. She would also use it to create her own place in history.

While working as an apprentice to a master sewer, Betsy met a handsome young man by the name of John Ross. John was learning to become a professional upholsterer. As Betsy and John spent time together learning their craft, they fell in love.

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But this meant heartache and sorrow for Betsy. You see, John was not a Quaker. Betsy knew that if she married John, she would be cast out of the Quaker religion. The Quakers did not allow their members to marry anyone who was not a Quaker. Betsy knew if she married John, all her friends and family would treat her as if she were no longer living. They would totally cut her out of their lives. But Betsy loved John so she decided to elope and marry him.

No longer welcomed in her own home or church, Betsy joined her husband in both work and worship. Together they started an upholstery business. They not only worked on sewing coverings for furniture, they also sewed anything that people needed.

Betsy joined her husband's church and their pew in church was right next to the pew of George Washington. There they worshiped God.

On January 1, 1776, the people of the 13 colonies declared war on the British. Britain had helped the colonists to establish their communities, but they also were making the people pay large taxes. The British felt they could control how the colonies were governed. The people had come to the new land to be free to worship God as they chose. There were many colonists who were against the rule and oppression of the British. George Washington was appointed the General of the Continental Army. He would lead the colonies in battle against Britain.

John eagerly joined the colonists who wanted to fight for their freedom. One day, when he was guarding a large load of ammunition, a spark ignited the load and John was killed in the explosion.

Betsy was left alone. She must have been broken hearted, but she determined to continue running her upholstery business. It was unusual for a woman in those days to own and run her own business, but Betsy bravely did what she had to do in order to survive.

So the Revolutionary War continued. General Washington wanted a flag to fly as his men marched into battle. Even though the people of the colonies did not want Britain to rule over them and tax them, they still felt close to them. George Washington first chose a flag called the Grand Union. But the flag looked so similar to the British flag, the Union Jack, that the men on both sides had a difficult time telling the two flags apart.

General Washington knew something needed to be done. A new flag design was needed. So he decided to go to Betsy to ask for help. A meeting was set up. George Washington, along with George Ross, Betsy's uncle through marriage, and Colonel Robert Morris went to see Betsy.

General Washington showed Betsy a sketch of the design he wanted for the flag. He wanted to use the colors Red, White, and Blue. He also wanted stars on the flag.

Betsy took the sketch and added a few ideas of her own. The star that George Washington had drawn had six points. Betsy suggested that a five point star would be better, but the men worried that a five pointed star would be too difficult to make. Betsy took a piece of cloth, quickly folded it a few times and with one simple cut she created a five pointed star. The men were so impressed they quickly agreed to her idea.

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In May of 1776 Betsy set to work. Soon she finished sewing what would be the first version of the Stars and Stripes, the new American Flag.

As Betsy held the cloth for that first flag in her lap and hand stitched each star in place, I wonder if she realized how long the flag would fly over this new country. She could not have known that 13 small colonies of people, longing for a land of freedom, would one day become a mighty nation called the United States that stretched from one ocean to the other.

If she could have looked ahead, she would have seen some amazing things.

One year later, after the war was finished, the flag was adopted as the official flag of our newly established country. The date was June 14, 1777.

That first flag had 13 stripes and 13 stars. (Show Flash Card) Since that time, the flag has changed a bit. The 13 stripes have stayed the same. They represent the original 13 colonies that were founded when our country began. Eventually it was decided that a star would be added and placed against the blue background as each new state was added. Our current flag has 50 stars. One for each state. I'm sure Betsy could not have imagined how vast and grand our country would become.

The flag has gone a long way since then. On July 20, 1969, our flag left American soil and was planted on the surface of the moon by Neil Armstrong. I'm sure Betsy Ross never dreamed the flag she designed and sewed would be an inspiration for our present flag, which would one day be proudly displayed on the moon!

But Betsy must have known that the cause of freedom was a worthy cause. Even though she had been brought up to hate war and violence, she knew there were some things worth fighting for. No one likes war. No one wants to see their loved ones leave their families to go fight and possibly die. But there are times when we must fight for freedom. And the brave men and women who have given so much to fight for our freedom, both now and in the past, deserve our admiration and thanks.

I'm sure if Betsy Ross could see the Stars and Stripes fly now she would be proud to be called an American.

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## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.* Isaiah 53:5

## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 2:1-10, Revelation 22:16

### LESSON

#### **THE STARS AND STRIPES**

The Stars and Stripes have flown over our country for over 230 years. Whenever you look at the flag you can think of all the people, both men and women, who have made great sacrifices to make sure the flag will continue to fly over a country that is free.

Even before our country gained its independence, George Washington realized the people needed something to look to that would encourage them to love and honor their new homeland.

When George Washington chose the colors of the flag, he knew exactly what each color represented. He selected colors and designs that would have meanings. Each meaning was noble. Each meaning was something that each one of us should try to have in our life.

It is interesting to know what the colors mean.

Red stands for hardiness and valor. Hardiness is the quality of being strong and being able to endure hard times. Valor speaks of courage and bravery. God wants each Christian to be strong spiritually. He wants us to have the courage to live for Him.

White stands for purity and innocence. Purity of heart, mind, and body is something God wants each one of us to have in our life. Innocence speaks of one who is free from sin and evil.

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Blue stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice. Vigilance tells us about the character trait of being alert to danger. It means to be watchful. Perseverance is the thing that keeps you trying over and over, even if the task is hard or tiring. It means to keep going even when you'd rather stop. And justice is the quality of being fair to all.

Christians need these qualities. We must be vigilant, always alert and watchful for our enemy, Satan. We should have perseverance, always sticking to the task God gives us to do. And we should be always be fair and just in all we do.

The colors of the Stars and Stripes remind me of our Lord Jesus Christ. His life was a reflection of all those character traits.

Like the red, which stands for hardiness and valor, while Jesus ministered here on earth, He did not live an easy life. He didn't settle down and buy a house. Instead He traveled across His country to tell people about God. His life and ministry displayed hardiness. He also displayed valor as He courageously spoke out and told people about God. The religious leaders of His day were furious about what He was teaching. But even when they threatened Him with death, He did not fear.

Like the white, which stands for purity and innocence, Jesus was born the pure and perfect Son of God. He never sinned here on earth. There is no other human who has lived a sinless life, but Jesus did just that. Though He was condemned to die, He was completely innocent of all wrong. He didn't die for anything He did wrong. He died for our sins.

Like the blue, which stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice, Jesus was vigilant. He was watchful. Just before His arrest, Jesus spent time in prayer with God. He asked the disciples who went with Him to the garden to be watchful and pray. It was late and they fell asleep. But Jesus did not sleep. Instead He stayed true to the mission He had come to earth to fulfill. He kept going even when things got harder and harder. He went to the cross because He knew that only His blood could satisfy the justice of God.

Yes, in many ways the Stars and Stripes remind me of Jesus. But there are also other ways that Jesus reminds me of the Stars and Stripes.

## **THE STARS**

First let's talk about the stars.

Can you think of a star that was important in the life of Jesus? That's right. The Bible tells us when Jesus was born a star appeared in the heavens. God put the star there to announce the birth of Jesus. That star led the wisemen from a far away land to the place where Jesus lived.

Matthew 2:10 talks about the star that led the wisemen. It says, *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

God placed that star in the sky to let all the world know that God Himself had come down to earth to become a man and live with humans. God was reaching out to mankind. He wanted to be with us and to understand us so He could show us His great love.

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## THE STRIPES

The stripes remind me of many years later when Jesus was grew up. He began to travel around and tell people about how much God loved them. He told them about how to be forgiven of sin and how to please God.

Many followed Jesus. They watched Him heal the sick and they listened to His teachings. Some believed He was the Messiah sent from God. But there were others who did not accept Jesus or what He was teaching. They hated Jesus. They wanted to see Jesus dead.

Even though Jesus had done no wrong, those who hated Him plotted to have Him killed. And that is what happened. But what they didn't know is that Jesus already knew He would die. He had come to this earth exactly for that purpose.

The Bible clearly states that God hates sin. It tells us our sin has separated us from having fellowship with God. Our sin makes us dead spiritually. Sin is a terrible thing and we are all lost in sin.

Because God is a holy, just God, He cannot ignore sin. So God provided a way for humans to have their sin taken away.

In Old Testament times, God told His people to sacrifice an animal so that the blood of the animal would cover their sin. But that blood could never take away their sin. Their sacrifices were just looking ahead to the day when the Messiah, would come and take away the sin of the World.

That is why Jesus came to earth. He came to be the perfect sacrifice for sin. Jesus, the Lamb of God, shed His blood so our sin could be taken away, not just covered, but completely taken away.

When they took Jesus to crucify Him, they beat Him. They pulled His beard out. They spit on Him. They put a crown of thorns on Him and made fun of Him. He was their Messiah, their Savior, but they didn't believe it. So they wanted to kill Him.

When they beat Jesus the whip caused terrible marks on His body. His blood flowed on the cross for us. Those marks are called stripes. Those stripes are what bought our freedom from sin.

Isaiah 53:5 says, *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

It was a terrible thing they did to Jesus, but because He allowed them to beat and crucify Him, we can have our sin forgiven and be free from sin. That is a wonderful thing.

## ANOTHER STAR

The Bible talks about one other star in the book of Revelations. It talks about the Bright and Morning star. That Star is Jesus. Someday all those who have been forgiven of their sin will see that star in Heaven.

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Revelation 22:16 says, *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

Jesus is the source of all light. The book of Revelation also tells us there will be no sun or moon in heaven to give it light. The sun and moon won't be needed. Jesus will be the light of Heaven.

Revelation 21:23 says, *And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.*

Darkness always tells us about sin and separation from God. But in Heaven, where Jesus is the light, we will someday spend all eternity with God. There will be no more darkness, no more sin, no more separation from God. In Heaven we will only be surrounded by the light from the Bright and Morning Star, Christ Jesus. How wonderful Heaven will be!

### **OUR FREEDOM**

You may think, "I believe in Jesus. I believe He lived. I believe He died on the cross. I believe He was the Son of God. I know all about Jesus."

But just knowing about Jesus is not enough to gain your freedom from sin. Just believing Jesus is the Son of God is not enough to take away your sin. You must do something about it in order to be saved from your sin.

What can you do? You can't do enough good works. Your works are never good enough. You can't be a perfect person because you are sinful. You can't buy your way into Heaven. You would never have enough money to buy your way into Heaven. Even if you were a billionaire that wouldn't be enough money because you can't buy your way into Heaven.

So what can you do? How can you have your sin forgiven? How can you be sure you are going to Heaven?

Only one thing will get rid of your sin and get you to Heaven. That one thing is to ask Jesus to forgive your sin and to come into your life. You must believe Jesus died on the cross for your sins. You must be sorry for your sin and want to turn away from it. Then you must turn to Jesus to take away your sin.

Would you like to do that? We can have someone take a Bible and show you verses that show you exactly how to accept Jesus as your Savior today.

Because of the stars and stripes of Jesus Christ, we can have freedom from sin and we can have spiritual freedom to live each day for God.

## INVITATION

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## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to remember the freedom you have spiritually because of what Jesus did for you.

Also take the time to look at the Stars and Stripes. When you see the flag, be grateful you live in a country that gives you the freedom to speak as you wish, to live as you wish, and to worship as you wish.

## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you be thankful for your spiritual freedom.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is another name for our flag?
2. Recite today's memory verse.
3. How many stripes were on the first flag?
4. How many stars were on the first flag?
5. How many stars are on our flag now?
6. What two people were most responsible for how our flag looks?
7. What does each star on our flag today represent?
8. What were the colors on our first flag?
9. Name something about the flag that reminds you of Jesus.
10. Why did Jesus come to earth?

**\* Note to Teacher: This week's activity sheet is two sided.**

# The Stars & Stripes

But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
 he was bruised for our iniquities: the  
 chastisement of our peace was upon him;  
 and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:5



Jesus gives me spiritual freedom

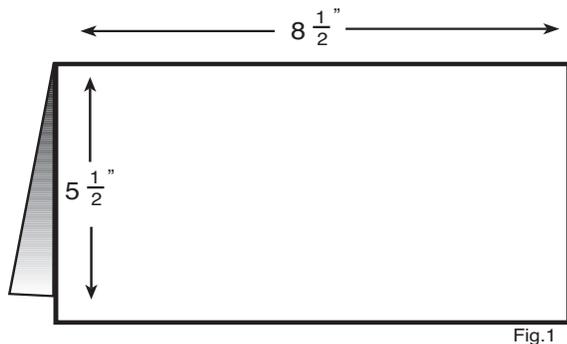


Fig.1

1. Take a sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper and fold it in half. Fig. 1

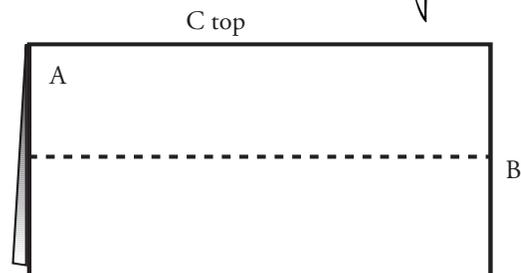
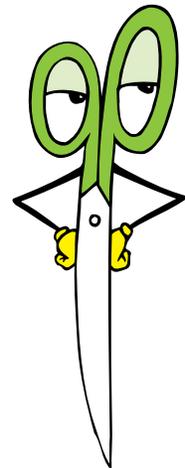
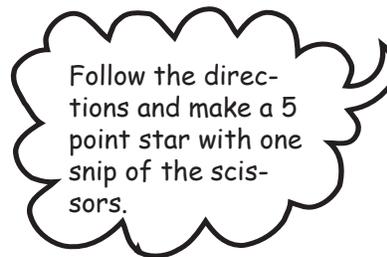


Fig.2

2. Fold in half again and unfold so you have a crease in the middle. Fig. 2

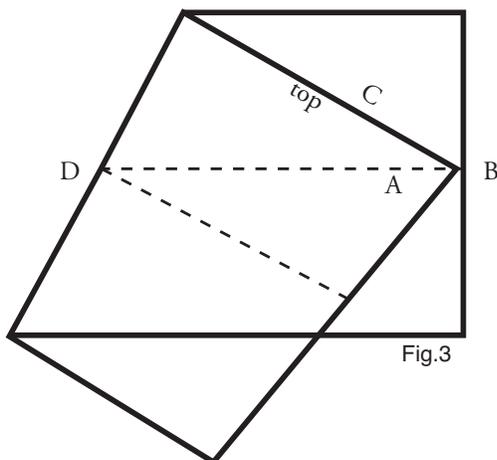


Fig.3

3. Fold top left corner A down to meet the crease at B. Fig. 3

4. Fold side D so that it is even with the C top side. Fig 4

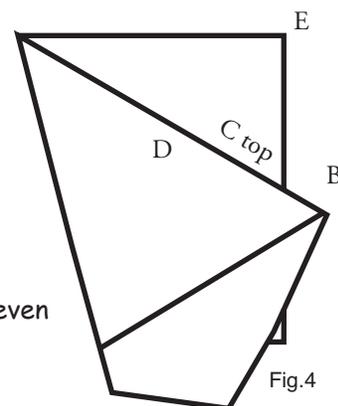
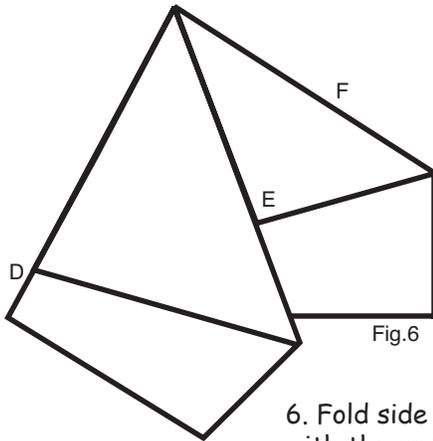
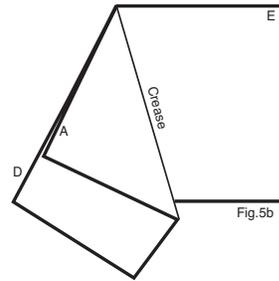
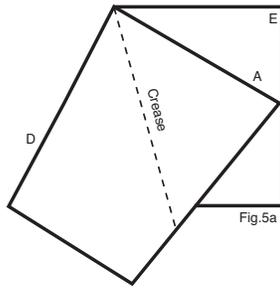
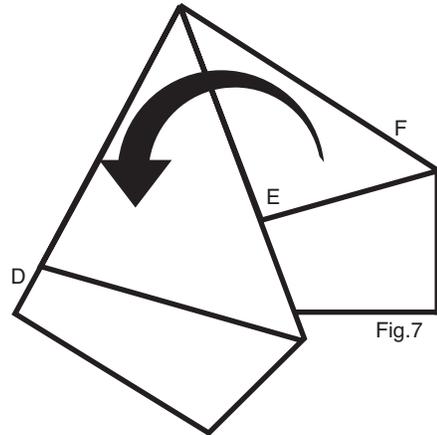


Fig.4

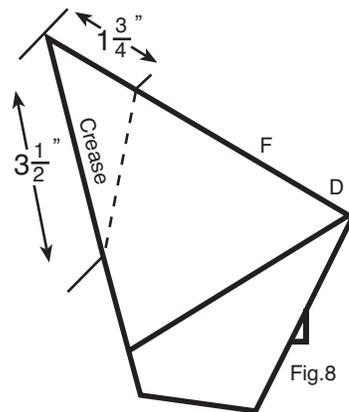
5. Unfold the side you just folded and the Fig. 4 fold. Figs. 5a. & 5b



6. Fold side E down even with the crease. Fig.6



7. Now fold side F even with side D. Fold at the crease. Fig. 7



Open to behold a 5 point star.

8. Turn the paper over and measure down from the point on the folded edge  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " and put a mark.

On the side with the openings measure from the point  $1\frac{3}{4}$ "

Draw a line between the two marks.

Cut on the mark. Fig. 8



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THANKSGIVING LESSON

FIRST FRUITS

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Leviticus 23:1-22

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

God has blessed me greatly.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

Psalm 103:2



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## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

This week is Thanksgiving. Who can name one thing you are thankful for? (Let several children tell you what they are thankful for.)

We all have so many things to be thankful for, don't we? Family, friends, our homes, good food. And also things like the Bible, Church, and Jesus' dying on the cross for our sins.

God has given us so many wonderful blessings. Everyday we should remember to thank God for all that He has given to us. We don't just enjoy His blessings on Thanksgiving. We enjoy the blessings of God everyday!

**Today's Life Lesson is:** God has blessed me greatly.

### SONG TIME

### SUPPORTING STORY

#### GRATEFUL GRETA

"What are you thankful for today?" Mrs. Anderson asked everyone in Children's Church.

Greta was the first to shoot her hand into the air. She knew what she wanted to say. She was excited that she got to give the first answer when Mrs. Anderson called on her.

"I'm thankful for my family!" Greta said with a big smile on her face.

"That's a good one," Mrs. Anderson said. Several other children told Mrs. Anderson what they were thankful for. Then she told a wonderful Thanksgiving story about showing God how thankful we are for all His blessings. Greta loved listening to the stories she heard in Sunday School and Children's Church.

After church Greta raced to the car. She always tried to be the first one there so she could get dibs on her favorite seat. She liked to sit by one of the windows so she could look outside. The window on the right side was the best one on the ride home because that was the side nearest to the horse farm they drove past. She loved looking at all the beautiful horses as they strolled through the fields and bent their graceful necks to eat grass. Sometimes they stood right by the fence and looked directly at Greta.

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She especially disliked having to sit in the middle seat between her younger brother, Andrew and her older sister, Debbie. That was the worst place to sit. There was never enough room and she could barely see past them to look out the window.

To Greta's dismay, both Andrew and Debbie had gotten to the car first. That meant a long ride home in the middle of the back seat. Greta's spirits began to sink. Greta groaned out loud and trudged the rest of the way to the car. There was no use arguing about the seats. Greta knew neither Andrew nor Debbie would give up their spots.

So Greta shoved to the center of the back seat with a scowl on her face and buckled her seatbelt. When they got near the horse farm, Greta leaned over to try to look past Andrew, but he gave her a jab with his elbow and told her she was leaning on him. So Greta jabbed back at him and told him his Bible was taking up too much room.

"Dad," Debbie asked. "After church tonight the youth group is meeting at Stacy's house. They're having pizza and a song time. Can I go?"

"I don't see why not. Will you need a ride home?" Mom asked.

Debbie chatted on and on about the party that night. Greta thought it sounded like lots of fun, but she never got to go to pizza parties, especially on a school night! She knew Debbie was in high school, but what did that matter? It just didn't seem fair to her.

At home Mom asked Andrew to make the iced tea and Debbie to make the salad. "Greta, you can set the table," Mom said.

"Why do I have to do set the table?" Greta whined. Mom gave her a stern look and she didn't say anything more, but she wasn't happy. Setting the table took way more work than making a salad or ice tea.

Finally the meal was on the table. Mom had made her famous meatloaf with her creamy mashed potatoes. It smelled wonderful. Dad prayed and thanked God for the food and for all His blessings.

"What did you learn in Church today?" Dad asked as they started to eat.

"Our teacher asked what we were thankful for," Greta said.

"And what did you say?" Mom asked.

"I said I was thankful for my family!" Greta said proudly.

Andrew let out a snort. "Yeah, right!" he said. "You're really thankful for me, aren't you?"

Greta glared at Andrew. He always knew just what to say to make her angry! So Greta lowered her eyes and ate her meatloaf and potatoes without saying anything more. She listened as the rest of the family talked about what they had learned in church. Everyone of them had heard a lesson on being thankful.

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Greta began to think about what Mrs. Anderson said about being thankful. Greta knew God had blessed her. And she WAS thankful for her family, even if Andrew and Debbie made her angry sometimes. She supposed most of the time they were OK.

Then she thought about how unthankful she had been all day long. She admitted to herself it was only fair that Andrew got to sit by the window sometimes. And Debbie was older than she was. That meant she got to do special things. But Mom and Dad had said that when she was older, she would get to do special things, just like Debbie does.

She remembered that Debbie often took her along with her when she went places with her friends. She even bought her a Coke now and then. She was a pretty good sister. Even Andrew had his good points. He had shared his candy with her last week after a birthday party at his school when she had been home sick with a cold. He did it on his own without being told to do it. That was nice of him.

Without even closing her eyes, right between bites of meatloaf, Greta prayed and asked God to forgive her for her bad attitude towards her family. She had a smile on her face when she finished her prayer.

Everyone was just about done eating so Greta spoke up, "I'll do the dishes today."

Mom, Dad and Debbie smiled at her. Andrew's jaw dropped.

"I've never heard you volunteer to do the dishes before!" he blurted out.

"I want to show you all that I really am thankful for you. I haven't acted very nice today and I hope you will forgive me. But I am thankful to God for all of you. Even for you, Andrew!"

Greta had to laugh at the look of amazement on Andrew's face. And it made her feel good to know she had done something that would show her thankfulness not only to her family, but to God also.

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.* Psalm 103:2

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## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Leviticus 23:1-22

Obtain Flash Card

### LESSON

#### SPECIAL DAYS

Here in the United States we have a special day we set aside to remember all our blessings and to give thanks to God. Many years ago when the Pilgrims first came to this land, long before it was called the United States, they worked hard to survive through the first winter. In spring they planted crops. When the harvest came and they knew there would be enough food to provide for them through the next hard winter, they set aside a special day to let God know how thankful they were for His protection and for all He had provided.

They were wise to be thankful to God. We cannot do anything on our own. The fact that we can live and breathe is due to God's giving us the ability to do so. All of the blessings we enjoy in life are from God.

Just as we have a special time to remember God's blessings and to thank Him, the Israelites also had special days set aside to remember to thank God for all He had done for them.

They did not call their special day Thanksgiving. They had several special days of thanks that they celebrated each year. The first day that God told Israel to set aside as special was the seventh day of every week. That was the Sabbath day. It was a Saturday. On Saturday the people were not to work or do normal things. Instead they were to devote the day to rest and to the worship of God.

Does that day remind you of a day we also set aside each week? Yes, it is Sunday. Sunday is the day that we rest from our normal work week. It is the day we worship God. The reason we worship on Sunday instead of Saturday is because Sunday, the first day of the week, is the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead. That is a very special day for Christians.

The Israelites also celebrated several other special days of praise and thanks to God. They were feast days. They were days to worship God and offer praise to Him.

The Passover was one of the feast days when they remembered how God had saved the oldest born in their homes and then led them to freedom out of Egypt.

In the Bible, Egypt represents the world and sinfulness. On the day you accept Jesus as your Savior, you are leaving the world and the sinfulness of it to live a new life of freedom in Christ. Our salvation from sin is certainly a reason to be thankful to God.

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## ISRAEL'S FIRST FRUITS

There were other feast days that Israel celebrated also. Another feast day was called the Feast of the First Fruits. This was very much like our Thanksgiving because it came at the harvest time of year when the fields were full of the foods and grains they had planted. This was a feast when the people remembered to thank God for all He provided for them.

God told the people that when they got to the promised land He would bless their land so it would bring forth an abundance of food for them and for their animals.

God wanted the people to remember He had brought them out of slavery and led them safely to this wonderful land. He wanted them to remember He had blessed the land to give them the abundant harvest. (Show Flash Card)

Leviticus 23:9-10 says, *9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land which I give unto you, and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest.*

God told Moses to tell the people He had given them the wonderful harvest. All God wanted was for the people to give Him the first fruits of all He gave to them.

In Leviticus 23:14 God clearly told the people they were supposed to give the very first of their crops to Him. The people were not to eat what they wanted first and then give the leftovers to God. Instead, they were to offer the first of the crops to God. They would bring the first fruits to the place where they worshiped God. The priests would offer those gifts as a sacrifice to God. Then they were free to enjoy the rest of what God had given them.

Leviticus 23:14a says, *And ye shall eat neither bread, nor parched corn, nor green ears, until the selfsame day that ye have brought an offering unto your God.*

God wanted the people to bring Him their first fruits. He wanted them to remember Him first so that they would not just gobble down the food and then forget all about Him.

## GIVE YOUR FIRST FRUITS TO GOD

God wants the same thing from you. He wants you to bring your first fruits to Him. He doesn't want you to forget all about Him.

Wait a minute! What if you or your dad are not farmers? What if you don't have any first fruits to bring?

When God speaks of first fruits, He is not only speaking of food. He also speaks of your time, your talents, and your treasures. You are supposed to give the very first of all you have to God.

But how do you give to God? Can you bring the first of all you have to church? With some things yes and with some things no.

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With your treasures, which is the money you have, you can bring that to God through the church. God asks that when you get money you should give back to Him 10%. That means if God gives you one dollar, then 10 cents should be given back to God. You can put it in the offering.

It is a good idea to learn as a child to give 10 percent of all you get to God. So many times adults think all the money they earn belongs to them. They don't want to give back to God. They find it hard to give 10 percent to God. But God gives you the ability to work and earn the money. And more importantly, we give our money to God as a way to show Him we love Him more than we love our money.

OK. So how do you give the first fruits of your time and talents to God? You can't take them and put them in the offering plate, can you?

No. But you can make sure you devote some of your time to serving God. Instead of spending every minute you have doing things you want to do, you can spend some time doing something for God. You can be sure to be in church to worship God when there are services. You can spend some of your time reading your Bible and praying. There are many ways you can give of your time to God. Maybe you can take some of your time to pray for your pastor and for others in your church who need your prayers.

You can give of your talents to God also. No matter what talent you have, you can determine to use your talents for God, at least some of the time. Can you play a musical instrument? You could play a special piece in church one day. Can you sing? You could sing a special number for a service. Can you play sports? You could be a good testimony by playing by the rules and demonstrating good sportsmanship.

There are doctors and dentists who go to countries where the people are too poor to pay for medical help. They offer their talents free of charge. There are young men who are excellent athletes who travel both here and in other countries demonstrating their sport and then they share the Gospel.

No matter what God has given to you, there is always a way that you can give back the first fruits to Him.

You can determine to always use your time, talents and treasures for God. As you grow older, more and more opportunities will open to you. Determine in your heart now that when an opportunity comes your way, you will serve God with the time, talents and treasures He gives you.

### **HOW TO BE THANKFUL**

God has given us so many blessings. There are so many things we can be thankful for. So how can we daily show God we are thankful?

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1. Be thankful with your words.

Tell God “Thank you.” When you pray, be sure to tell Him that you are thankful for His blessings. You can specifically mention things you are thankful for. If God has answered a prayer, don’t forget to say “thanks.”

Use words of praise to show your thankfulness. Don’t be a complainer. People who complain all the time don’t seem to be very thankful for anything.

Psalm 34:1 says, *I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.*

2. Be thankful with your actions.

Show God you are thankful for all His blessings by living in such a way that God and those around you can see you are thankful.

Thankful people reach out to others to lend a helping hand. They are not selfish with their time or their talents. Instead, they freely give what they have to help others.

Colossians 3:17 says, *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

3. Be thankful with your attitudes.

This is the most important way to show you are thankful. A person with a thankful heart can’t help but give thanks. What you think and what you feel in your heart and mind will show in all that you say and do. If you have a thankful attitude, then your words and actions will show others that you are thankful.

Psalm 139:23 says, *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.*

Psalm 19:14 says, *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

### **YOUR FIRST GIFT TO GOD**

Do you know what the very first thing is that God wants you to give to Him? Yes, He wants you to give Him your heart. He wants your love.

We are all born with sinful hearts. We are born far away from God because of that sin.

Isaiah 64:6 says, *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.*

God loves you, but He hates the filthy sin in your life. And there is no way for you to get rid of your own sin. You can’t be good enough to get rid of your sin. You can’t give enough money to buy away your sin. You are helpless to get rid of your own sin.

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But Jesus Christ loved you so much that He came to earth to die on the cross for your sins. You can't take away your sin, but Jesus can.

Romans 5:8 says, *But God commendeth (or shows) his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Jesus died to take away your sin. All you have to do is realize you are a sinner. Ask Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your heart. Would you like to do that today? We can show you how to do that. Then you can be thankful to God that He not only gives you good blessings like your family and friends, but also that He loved you so much He took your sin away.

Maybe you are already a Christian. Jesus has already taken away your sin and come into your heart. Let me ask you this: Are you thankful to God with your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

Do you show God and others how much you love Him by the way you live and act not only on Thanksgiving, but every day of the year? If you don't, then you need to spend some time with God getting things right with Him. You need to ask God to forgive you and ask Him to help you to have a thankful spirit every single day.

It is so easy to forget God's blessings. It is so easy to whine and complain when things don't go the way we want them to go. But God has done so much for you. You should want to love Him enough to daily show your thankfulness.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to have a heart full of gratitude towards God. Not just on Thanksgiving, but every day.

But I also challenge you to find some special way this Thanksgiving to show God and others how thankful you are. Maybe you could tell each member in your family one special reason why you are thankful for them. Maybe you could volunteer to help set the table or wash dishes without being told to do it ahead of time. Tell your mom you want to help because you are thankful to God for all His blessings.

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## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to give you a thankful heart that will show in your words, your actions, and your attitudes.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. What is the name of the Israelites' feast that is very much like our Thanksgiving?
2. What time of year did the Feast of the First Fruits come?
3. What were the Israelites celebrating during the Feast of the First Fruits?
4. Where did the Israelites bring their First Fruits to offer them to God?
5. What did the priest do with the First Fruits?
6. Name a way you can bring your First Fruits to God.
7. Name one way God provides for us.
8. Recite today's memory verse.
9. What can you do to show God you are a thankful person?
10. What is the most important thing you can offer to God?

# First Fruits

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not  
all his benefits.

Psalm 103:2



God has blessed me  
greatly.

- Abundant
- Actions
- Attitudes
- Bible
- Blessings
- Celebrate
- Family
- Feasts
- First fruits
- Food
- Friends
- Harvest
- Heart
- Homes
- Jesus
- Passover
- Pilgrims
- Plenty
- Praise
- Remember
- Sabbath
- Salvation
- Talent
- Thankful
- Time
- Treasure
- Worship

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CHRISTMAS LESSON

ROOM IN MY HEART

**LESSON ORDER**

Prayer / Introduction

Song Time

Supporting Story

Memory Verse Time

Bible Lesson Time / Invitation

Challenge / Quiet Time

Bible Quiz



**BIBLE TEXT**

Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:8-18

**CHARACTER TRAIT**

God gave me a great gift.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

Acts 20:35b



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## OPEN IN PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

When you go to the mall at different times of the year, you can always tell what holiday is about to occur. At Easter time, what do you see in all the decorations and for sale everywhere? That's right. Candy, bunnies, and Easter baskets. Near Valentine's Day you find more candy and hearts and roses. At Thanksgiving time there are turkeys and stuffing and all sorts of good food to eat.

At Christmas, we find Christmas trees, lights, Christmas music, and the stores are full of every kind of gift that you can imagine. You need to buy gifts for your mom and dad, gifts for your brothers and sisters and a gift for your teacher at school. Don't forget your best friend.

Christmas is the time when we try to find just the right gift to give to those we love. When God looked down to earth, He saw that we humans needed a very special gift. So God sent us a gift.

It wasn't just a nice gift that would make us happy. God sent a great gift! He sent us a gift that would take away our sins and would make a way for us to go to Heaven. God sent us Jesus Christ to live and die for our sins. It was the best gift we will ever be given.

**Today's Life Lesson is:** God gave me a great gift.

### SONG TIME

#### SUPPORTING STORY THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

Obtain Flash Card

(It would be nice if you brought a small candy cane as a gift to hand out to each child. Tell them you will pass them out at the end of Children's Church. Don't worry about forgetting. The children will remind you!)

The story I am about to tell you is just a legend. That means it's a story that has been passed from person to person and no one quite knows anymore if any or all of it is true.

This story is called The Legend of the Candy Cane.

We do know that in the 1600's in a cathedral in Cologne, Germany, the minister wanted to make sure the young children would sit quietly in the Nativity service. So the minister brought all the children a cane of peppermint candy that they could suck on as he taught them about Jesus' birth.

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Years later the candy cane was made. No one knows for certain who made the first candy cane with its hard white candy and red stripes that are shaped as they are. But here's the legend.

One day a candy maker decided that since Christmas time was coming he wanted to make a candy that would be more than just a sweet to eat. He wanted to make a candy that would tell the true story of Christmas.

(Hold the flash Card to show the J.)

The candy maker started with a stick of pure white peppermint candy. The hard candy would stand for our solid rock, Jesus Christ. He shaped the cane in a "J" shape to stand for Jesus. The cane starts as a pure white candy. That reminds us of the fact that Jesus was born of a pure virgin. It also reminds us that Jesus Christ is God's sinless Son.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

The red stripes tell us of the blood that Jesus shed for our sins. Jesus was born a baby but He grew up to die on the cross for our sins. He shed His blood for us. He gave His life for us.

Isaiah 53:5 says, *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

(Turn the Flash Card upside down now.)

If I turn the cane around, you can see that it looks not only like a cane, but very much like a shepherd's staff. Jesus Christ said, "I am the good Shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Jesus is our shepherd. We are His sheep. Every day He protects us and provides for us. And most importantly, Jesus gave His own life on the cross so that we could have eternal life. What a wonderful gift Jesus gave to us!

John 10:11 says, *I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.*

I don't know if the legend of the candy maker is true, but we certainly can think of all these things when we see a candy cane this Christmas!

I have brought a candy cane as a gift for each one of you to remind you of Jesus this Christmas. As you eat it, remember that the greatest gift you can ever get is the gift God gave to you when He sent His Son, Jesus Christ to live and die for you!

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Here is a poem about the candy cane. (Hold up the Flash Card as you read. Or use a real candy cane.)

Look at the Candy Cane

What do you see?

Stripes that are red

Like the blood shed for me.

White is for my Savior

Who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus My Lord,

That's for sure!

Turn it around

And a staff you will see

Jesus my shepherd

Was born for Me!

## BIBLE MEMORY TIME

### SET UP

Choose a memory verse Game to help teach the verse. First start with telling or showing the verse to the children. Then have them say it with you several times. Then use the game.

### VERSE

*Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.*  
Acts 20:35b

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## BIBLE LESSON

### TEACHER'S STUDY TEXT

Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:8-18

### LESSON

#### GIFT GIVING

Christmas is all about giving. One look around the mall or Wal-Mart tells us it's time to buy gifts to give to each other. But even the very first Christmas, over 2000 years ago, was also all about giving. But it wasn't about the type of gift you could go to a store and buy.

God sent His own Son, Jesus Christ to come to earth. But Jesus did not come as a full-grown man. Jesus was born as a baby. He wasn't born as a King. Jesus was born to normal people who didn't have much money. Jesus wasn't placed in a warm, soft cradle. He was placed in a manger in a stable the day He was born.

But right away those around Jesus began to give Him gifts.

#### THE SHEPHERD'S GIFT

The evening Jesus was born, the angels appeared to the shepherds who were out in the fields watching their sheep. A great host of angels, which may have meant thousands and thousands, sang the glad news that Jesus had been born. Then they gave directions on how to find the baby.

Quickly the shepherds went to see this wonderful baby whom the angels had told them would be their Savior, their Messiah. These Shepherds were not rich men. They didn't have much money and they didn't have a beautiful gift to bring to the baby, but when they got to the stable, they gave the best that they had to give. The shepherds knelt before the baby King and they gave Him their worship and admiration.

That is a gift you can give to Jesus. You can worship Him with all your heart.

Then, the shepherds went on their way, but they did not keep silent. Instead they told everyone they met about the baby King they had seen. That was another gift they gave. They took their time to tell others about Jesus.

Luke 2:8-18 says, *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

*And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*

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*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

*And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

*And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*

*And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

*And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

That is another gift you can give to Jesus. Just like the Shepherds did, you can tell the people you know about how Jesus was born and then died on the cross for them. You can tell others about God's love.

The shepherds did not need to spend a lot of money to give something of great value to Jesus. You do not need to spend money to give Jesus something of value either.

### **THE WISEMAN'S GIFT**

The next people who brought gifts to the baby Jesus were the wisemen. Now when the wisemen saw the star that God had given to let them know a new King had been born, they immediately set out to go see the new King.

These men had enough money to carry expensive gifts to take to the new King. They brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Each of these gifts represented something about the new King.

The gold was a symbol of the fact that Jesus was a King. Gold is a gift fit for a King and Jesus is our King.

The frankincense symbolizes that He was the King of Kings. The smoke of incense was offered to God as a form of worship to God, the great King. Jesus was God the Son. He is the King of kings.

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The myrrh was a symbol of bitterness and sadness. It spoke of the suffering and sacrifice that Jesus would endure for us when He died on the cross for our sins.

These were expensive gifts that these rich wisemen gave to Jesus. Mary and Joseph were poor and they would need help to escape from Herod in the days to come. The gifts could be sold so they would have the money they needed to help in their travels.

You may not have much money to give to God, but you can give Him a portion of the money you have. You can give to your church to help support missionaries.

But you don't have to give money to please God. These wisemen gave more than just the gifts they carried. They also gave of their time and effort.

It probably was a long journey from the land where they lived to where Jesus lived. They couldn't get in their car or take a plane to where Jesus was. They had to travel by foot and by camel. It must have been a long, slow trip. By the time they reached Jesus he may have been a couple of years old. It took quite a bit of time and many long months of travel for the wisemen to go to worship Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-2 says, *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,*

*Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

Matthew 2:9-11 says, *When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.*

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*

You can give Jesus your time and effort too. That is a gift that doesn't take money, but one that would please God. You can give your time to read the Bible and pray. You can give your time to be at church whenever there are services. You can give your time to help others so they will see a Christian who loves God is willing to give to them in Jesus' name.

There are many ways to give your time and talents to God. And all are gifts that will be pleasing to God.

### **GOD'S GIFT**

But there is another gift that was given that first Christmas. It was the gift God gave to the world. Jesus Christ was that gift.

John 3:16 says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

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God loved you so much He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to earth. When God sent Jesus to earth, He knew there would come a day when instead of worshiping Jesus, the people would turn against Him and take Jesus and nail Him to a cross.

That was the whole plan. Jesus came to die for your sins and for my sins. Jesus knew what would happen before He came to earth but He came anyway. What a precious gift God gave to us that first Christmas day.

God gave us that great gift because He loved us so much. We are all sinners. We don't deserve such a wonderful gift. But God loved us anyway. He sent Jesus because He knew there was no other way for us to be saved from our sin and no other way for us to get to Heaven.

Aren't you glad God gave you such a great gift?

### **WHAT CAN YOU GIVE?**

Since God gave you such a great gift, what can you give to Him? When someone we love gives us a gift, we want to show our love to them by giving them something also. Don't we?

But we don't need lots of money to give a gift to God. We can show God we love Him by giving Him our heart. He wants us to love and worship Him with all of our heart and our might and our strength.

The Bible also says we should give God the gift of obedience. We need to keep His commandments that He gives to us in the Bible. We need to live in a way that pleases Him.

Deuteronomy 6:5 says, *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

Deuteronomy 10:12 says, *And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.*

We can give God our time, our talents, and our treasures. We can tell Him we want to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him. That is what truly pleases God.

God doesn't ask us to give Him anything that we don't have. If God only wanted expensive gifts, then there would be many people who couldn't give God what He wants. But God wants love and obedience. Everyone can give that to God.

### **HOW SHOULD YOU GIVE?**

How should we give to God? The Bible tells us we should give with a heart of love.

When you give your love to God, you can give it cheerfully. You can let God know you are serving and obeying Him with a joyful heart, not with a heart that only obeys or serves because you are forced to obey or serve Him.

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II Corinthians 9:7 says, *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

### HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE?

Before you can give a gift to God, you must first accept His gift to you. That is the gift of eternal life. You can get that gift by realizing you are a sinner and admitting there is nothing you can do to take away your own sin. You need to tell Jesus you are sorry for your sin and ask Him to forgive you.

Salvation through Jesus is a free gift to you, but just like any gift, you must accept it. You accept the gift of salvation by asking Jesus to forgive you and come into your heart.

Would you like to do that today? We can have someone take a Bible and show you how to do that.

Maybe you are already a Christian, but you realize you haven't been giving God the very gift He wants most. You haven't been giving Him your heart and life. You haven't been giving Him your love or your obedience.

Today you can make the choice to begin to love and obey God in all you say and do. You won't always be perfect. No one is. But you can do your best. And you can ask God to help you.

## INVITATION

## CHALLENGE

This week I challenge you to give of yourself to God. You can do that in several way.

1. You can give the gift of your heart to God. Show God you love Him by the way you live and act.

2. You can give the gift of showing love to others or helping others. Whether it is your parents who would love to see you do chores cheerfully or a neighbor who needs a helping hand, you can help others as a gift to God.

3. Give God the gift of worship. Tell Him you love Him when you pray. Spend time reading the Bible so He knows you want to spend time learning about Him and being with Him.

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## QUIET TIME AND PRAYER

I want you to bow your head and close your eyes. I want you to think about today's challenge. How can you put it into action in your life?

(Give the children a few seconds to think.)

Now I am going to pray and ask God to help you to accept this challenge and do your best to practice it this week. I am going to ask God to help you to give of yourself to God this Christmas and every day of the year.

## BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who brought gifts to Jesus?
2. Name one gift the Wisemen brought to Jesus.
3. Name another gift that they brought.
4. Name the last gift they brought.
5. What does the gift of myrrh symbolize or picture for us?
6. What gift did the Shepherds give to Jesus?
7. Besides the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, what else did the Wisemen give to Jesus?
8. What gift can you give to Jesus?
9. Recite today's memory verse.
10. What other gift can you give to Jesus?

# God's Great Gift

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Acts 20:35b



God gave me a great gift.



MEMORY VERSE  
GAMES

## MIXED UP MEMORY VERSE

### Supplies

One- 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of Card Stock for each word in the verse.

A 30 inch length of yarn or string piece for each card.

### Set up.

Punch 2 holes in long side of each card about 10 inches apart. Place one end of the string or yarn through one hole and tie. Place the other end of the yarn through the other hole and tie. The card can now be hung over a child's head and worn like a necklace.

Write one word from the verse on each card. Write large enough to be easily seen.

Select one child for each card. The 8-12 age range is best.

## Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select the needed children to come to the platform. Place the card over each child's head. Have the children stand in a row.

Explain to the children on the platform that on the count of three you want them to quietly and quickly mix themselves up to get the verse out of order. Have them return to a straight row.

Choose 1 or 2 children to come up and place everyone back into the correct order. Give them 30 seconds.

Then have the children in the audience tell you if it is correct. Place the children back in the correct order and say the verse together.

Select new children to help mix up the verse and repeat this several times.

One variation on this is to have the audience turn around and you mix up the children on the platform.

## WHICH WORD?

### Supplies

None

### Setup

Have your list of questions ready.

## Game

Present the verse. Review it several times. Have them say it along with you.

Explain that you are going to give them a clue and then they will try to guess which word is the answer to the clue.

Make it boys against the girls. Have them raise their hand if they know the answer. Select a different boy or girl each time.

If you ask a boy for clue #1 and he is incorrect, then a girl will have a chance at clue #2, etc. Keep score.

Give 5 points if they can answer clue #1 and 3 points for clue #2. The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

Have the children repeat the verse between each set of clues.

## SCRAMBLED SCRIPTURE

### Supplies

2 poster boards (11 x 14)

Marker

Music or stop watch.

### Set up

Divide the verse into 3 or 4 phrases.

Cut poster board in half.

Write each phrase on a half of the poster board. Write large so everyone in the auditorium can see.

Select 3 or 4 children to stand in front and hold out their arms like “human easels.” Music stands also work.

Have the piano player play or record 30 seconds of music. Somewhat like the Jeopardy music during the final question. If you wish, you can use a stop watch instead of music to time the 30 seconds.

## Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Scramble the verse cards. Select a child to come to the platform. Tell them they have 30 seconds to look at the verse and decide the correct order. Before time is up, have them place the boards on the “easels” in the correct order.

Encourage the children in the audience to call out to help them as they place the boards on the easels, especially if they have placed the boards in an incorrect manner. When time is up, review the way the verse is placed and let the audience decide if the verse is correct. If not have them tell you the correct order. Say the verse together.

Select another child and repeat for the remaining time you have left.

## THE VANISHING VERSE

### Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board or Overhead

Chalk or Marker

Eraser

### Set up

Write the verse on the board in large block letters. Write large so everyone can see.

## Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select a child to come to the platform. Give them the eraser and tell them they should erase one word in just a moment.

First everyone in the audience must stand and turn around to face the rear of the auditorium. No peeking.

When the child has erased the word, they can return to their seat.

You will tell the audience to turn back around. Now everyone must say the verse and try to remember the missing word.

Again another child is selected to come. The audience turns around and the child quickly erases a word. Keep this moving along at a good pace.

As everyone turns around say things like, "Oh no, that was a hard one. I'm not sure you can say it this time."

As more words are erased, it becomes more difficult but the children are getting plenty of practice at saying the verse. After the verse has been said, encourage and compliment everyone on their memory.

Repeat until the entire verse is erased. Can everyone say the verse with no helps?

## **BOYS VS. GIRLS**

### **Supplies**

Chalk board, Marker board, or Overhead

Chalk or Marker

### **Set up**

None

## **Game**

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Split the group into boys and girls or split the group in halves for a Red Team and Blue Team.

First pick a girl to say the verse. If she can say the verse, their team gets a point.. Then pick a boy. Continue on girl, boy, girl.

You can give one help if you wish. Let the children know if you will give a help. It is not fair to give a help to one team and not the other. If no helps are allowed, let the children know ahead of time. More than one help should not be necessary.

If both teams are having trouble with the verse, you should go back and review the verse several more times and then try the game again.

Use the board or overhead to keep score. The team to get the most points wins. You can give a small prize or piece of candy, but that is not necessary. The children will play just to win. If you don't start giving prizes, they will not expect them.

## GUESS THE WORD

### Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board

Chalk or Marker

### Set up

Have the verse written on board.

## Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select one child to come and stand facing away from the verse so they cannot see what word you are about to point at.

The teacher points to one word and instructs the children to say the verse but when they get to the selected word they must clap instead of saying the word.

Have the children say the verse and clap at the missing word.

Have the selected child try to guess the missing word.

Select another child and play the game again.

## GIVE ME THE WORD

### Supplies

Chalk board, Marker board, or Overhead

Chalk or Marker

### Set up

Write the first letter of each word of the verse leaving room to fill in the rest of the word.

## Game

Present the verse and review it several times with the children. Have them say it along with you.

Select one child at a time to give you a word for one of the letters. It can be any of the letters. It doesn't have to be in order.

Each child gives just one word at a time. Write in the word beside the letter as they tell it to you.

If it gets to a point where the children are stumped and cannot give you any more words, say the verse together again a couple more times. Then resume the game until all the words are completed.

# Andy Puppet

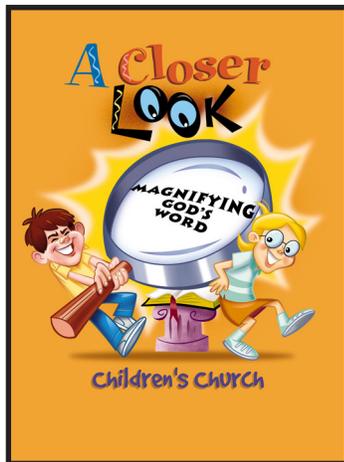
Andy is a versatile puppet that is used for the puppet skits in “Children of Character.” Andy can also be used in many other ways in your children’s ministry.

Andy is a full sized, professional puppet.

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PPT 02 Andy



## A Closer Look

Another great Children’s Church series from Quality Speech Materials is “A Closer Look.”

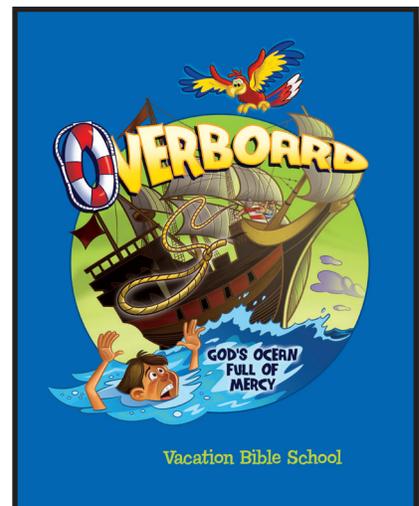
This series starts in Genesis 1 and works through the Bible to Revelations. There are seven years in this series. Years One thru Five are Old Testament. Years Six and Seven are New Testament.

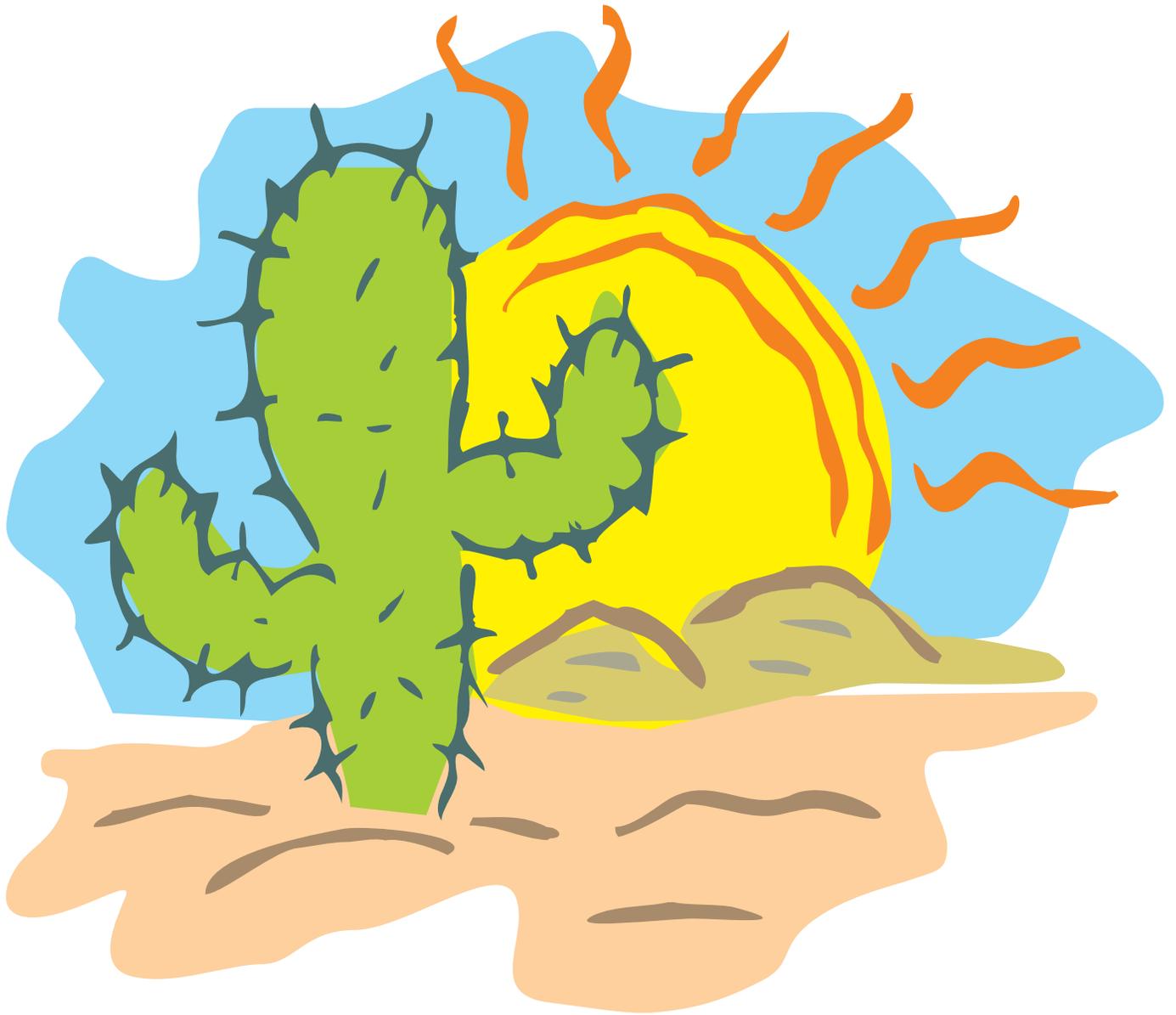
Be sure to check out “A Closer Look.” Download a sample lesson on our website.

## VBS

Quality Speech Materials also has great VBS materials. We offer a wide variety of themes so you can select the VBS program that is perfect for you!

Be sure to check our website to download a sample lesson.

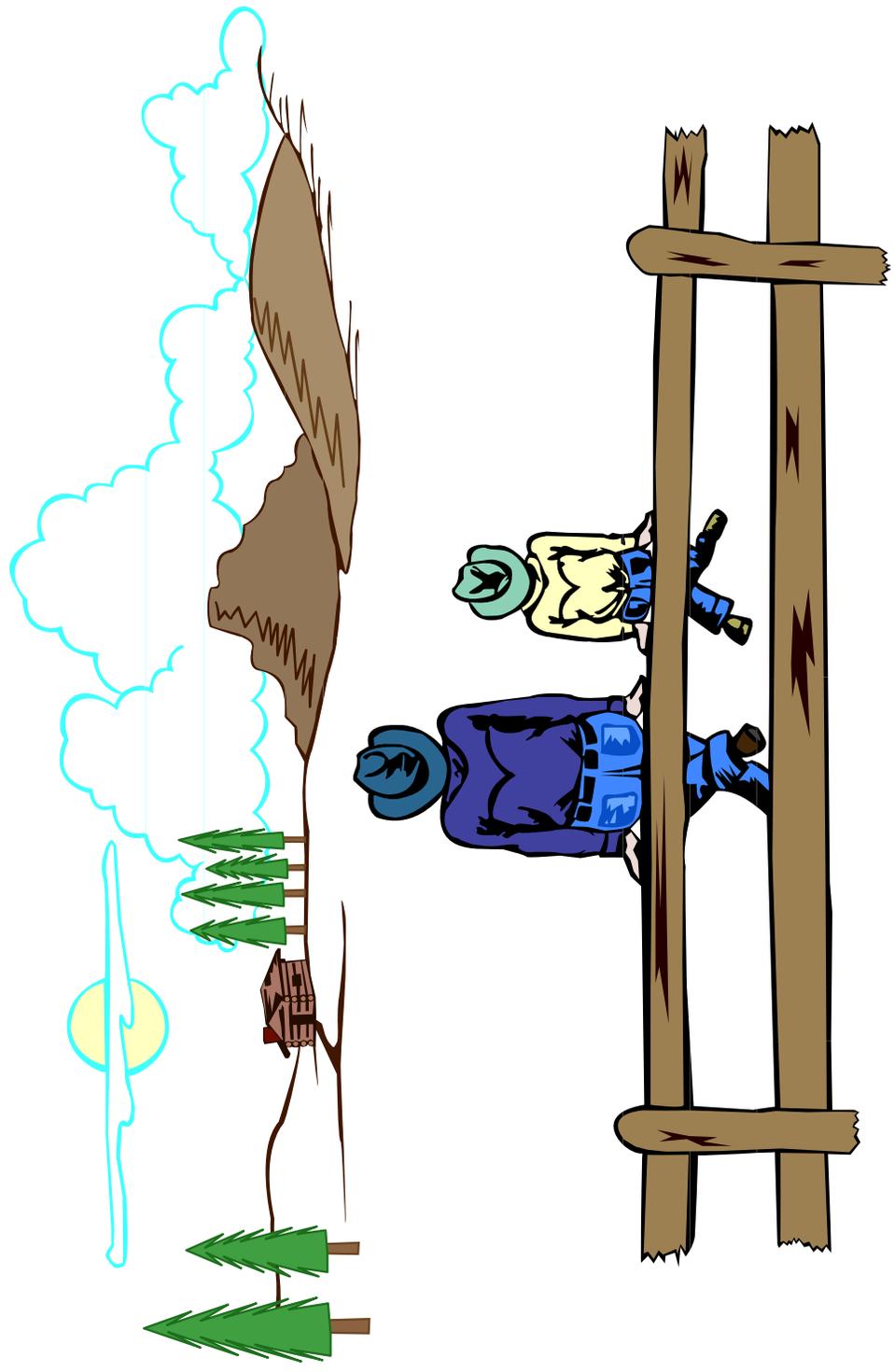


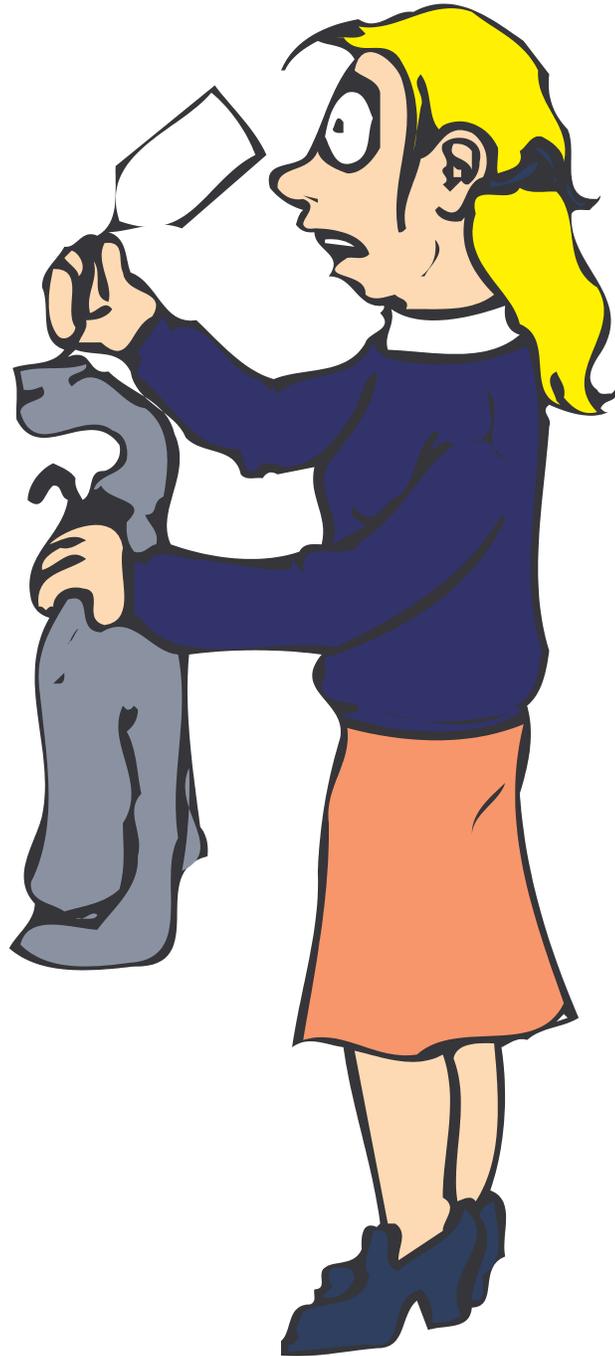




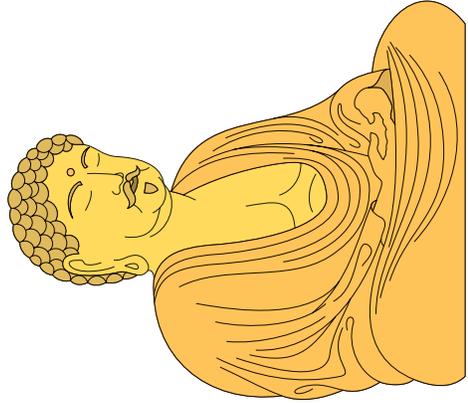
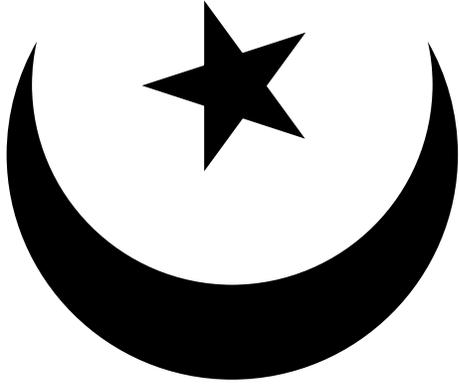
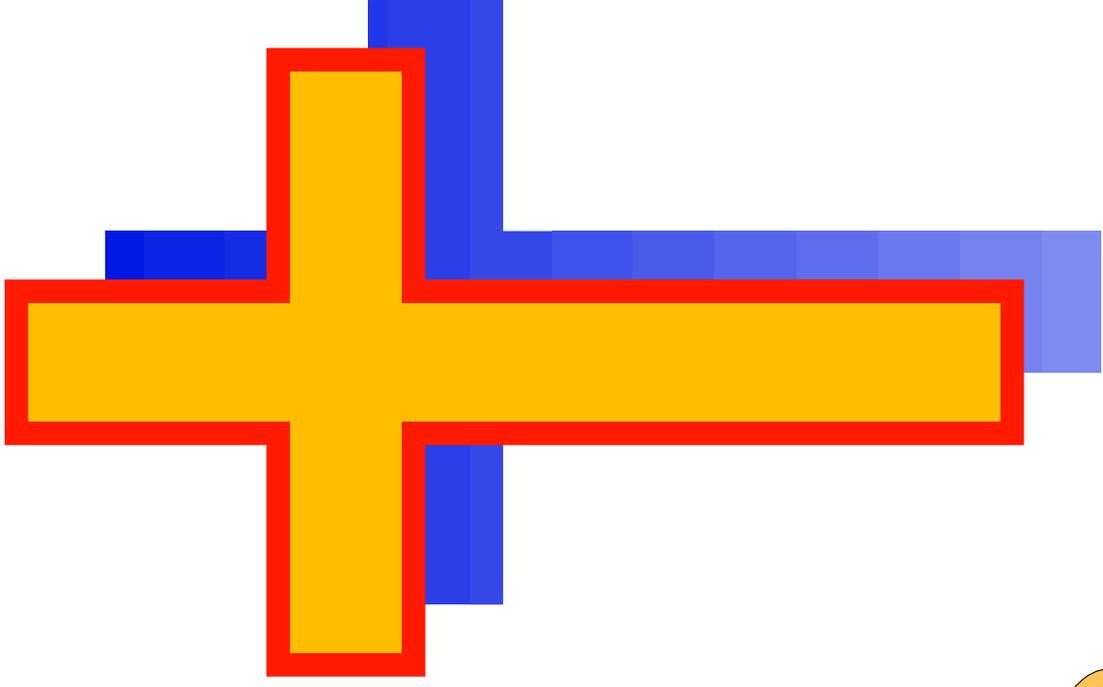
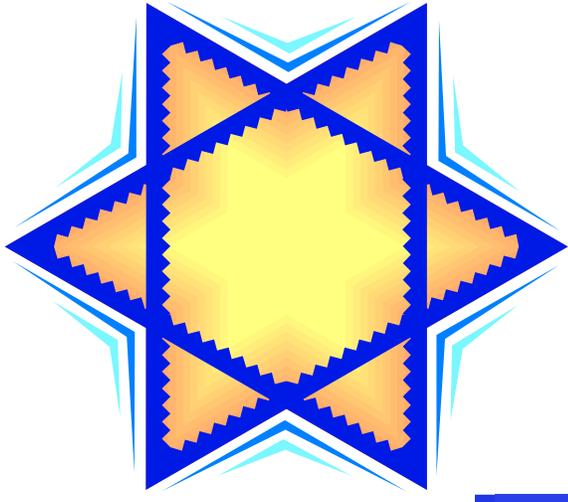


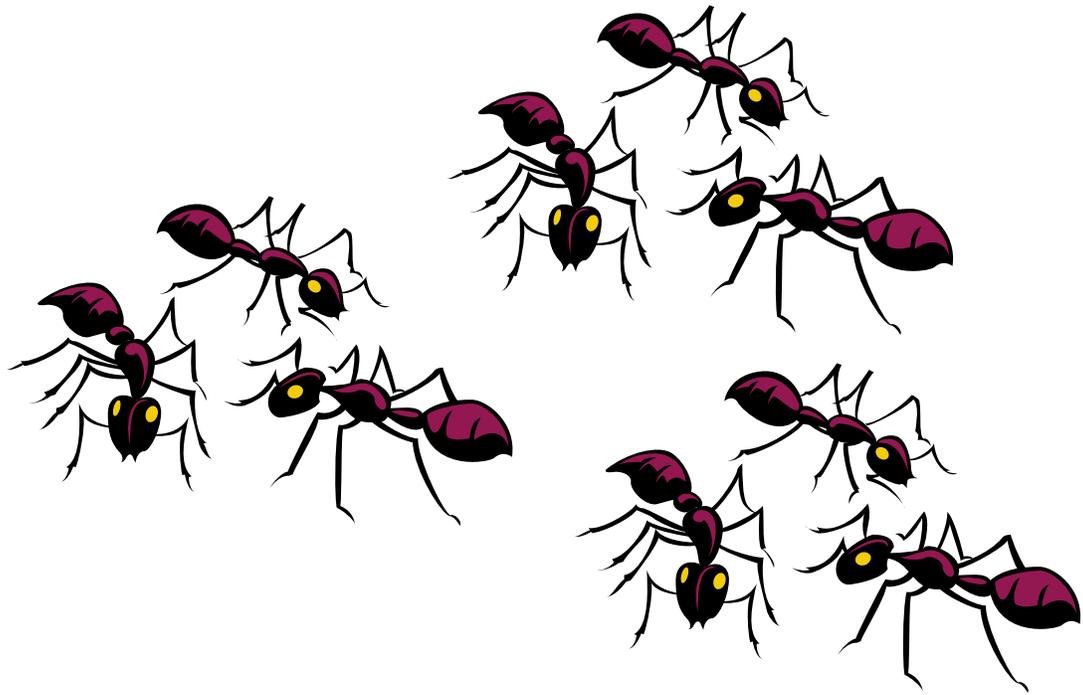








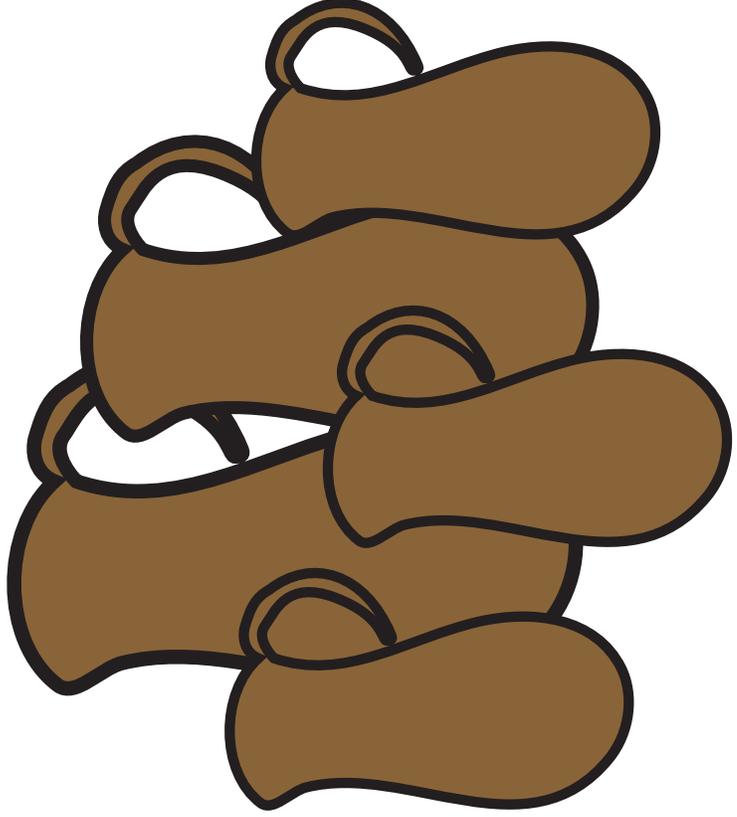
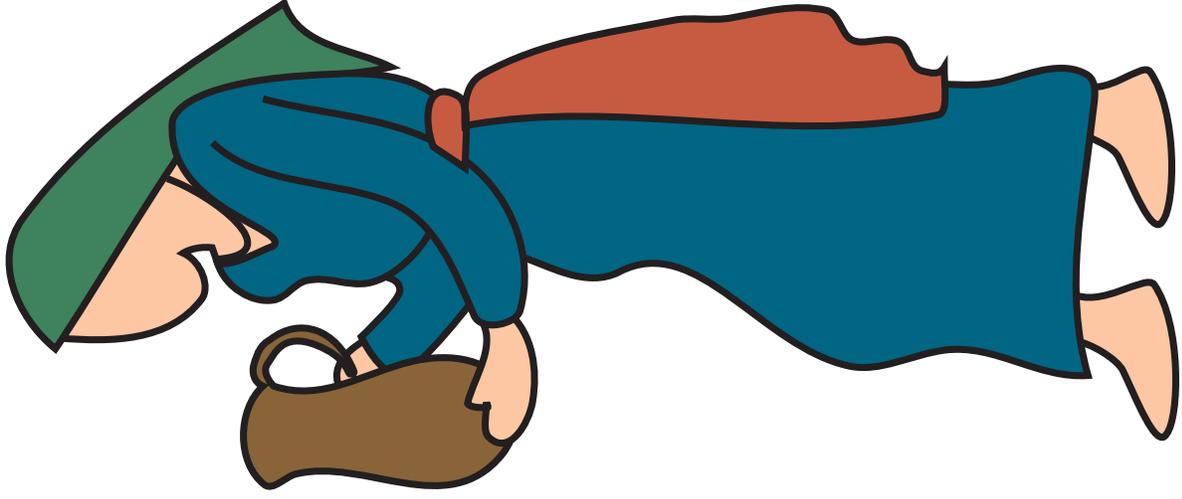


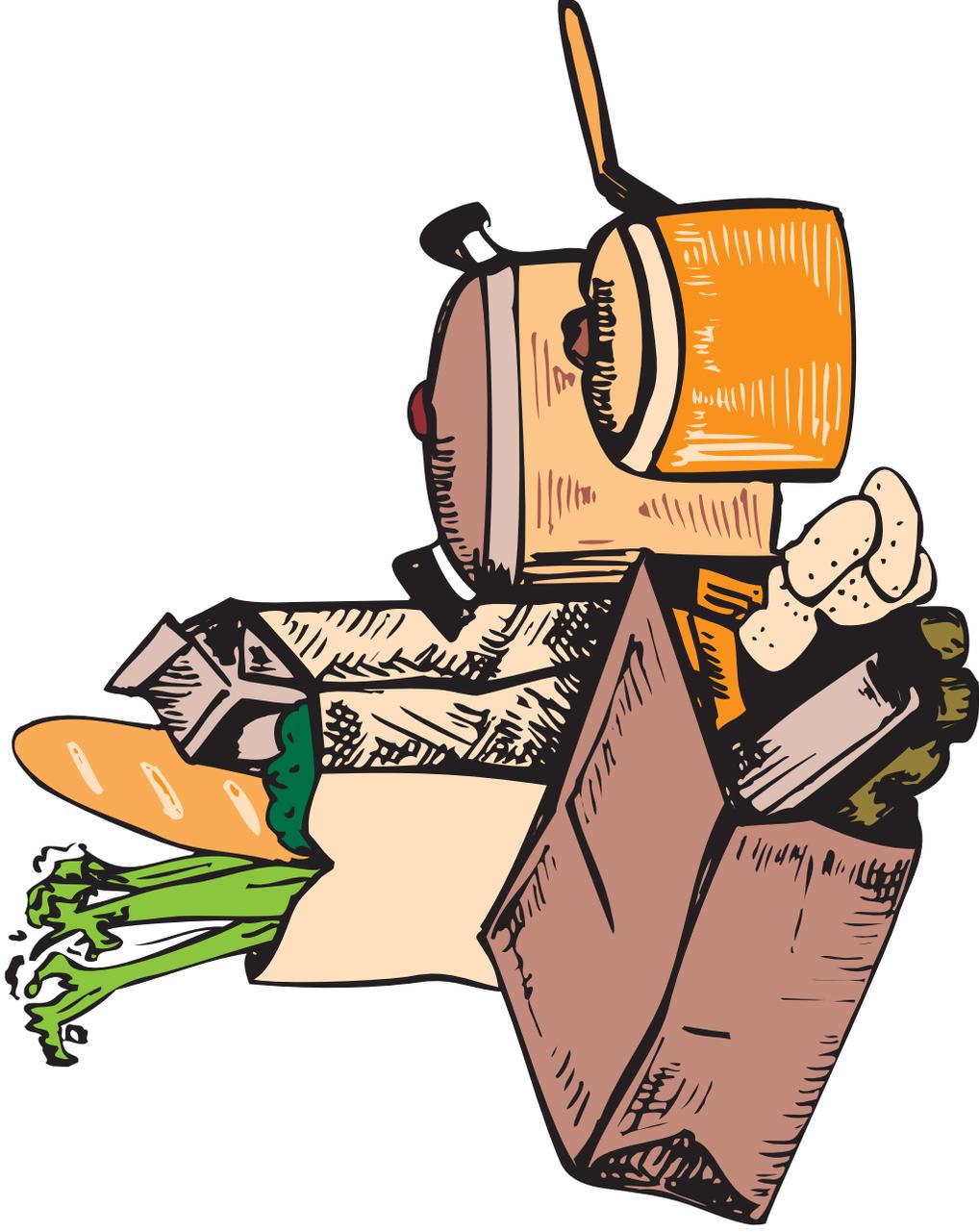




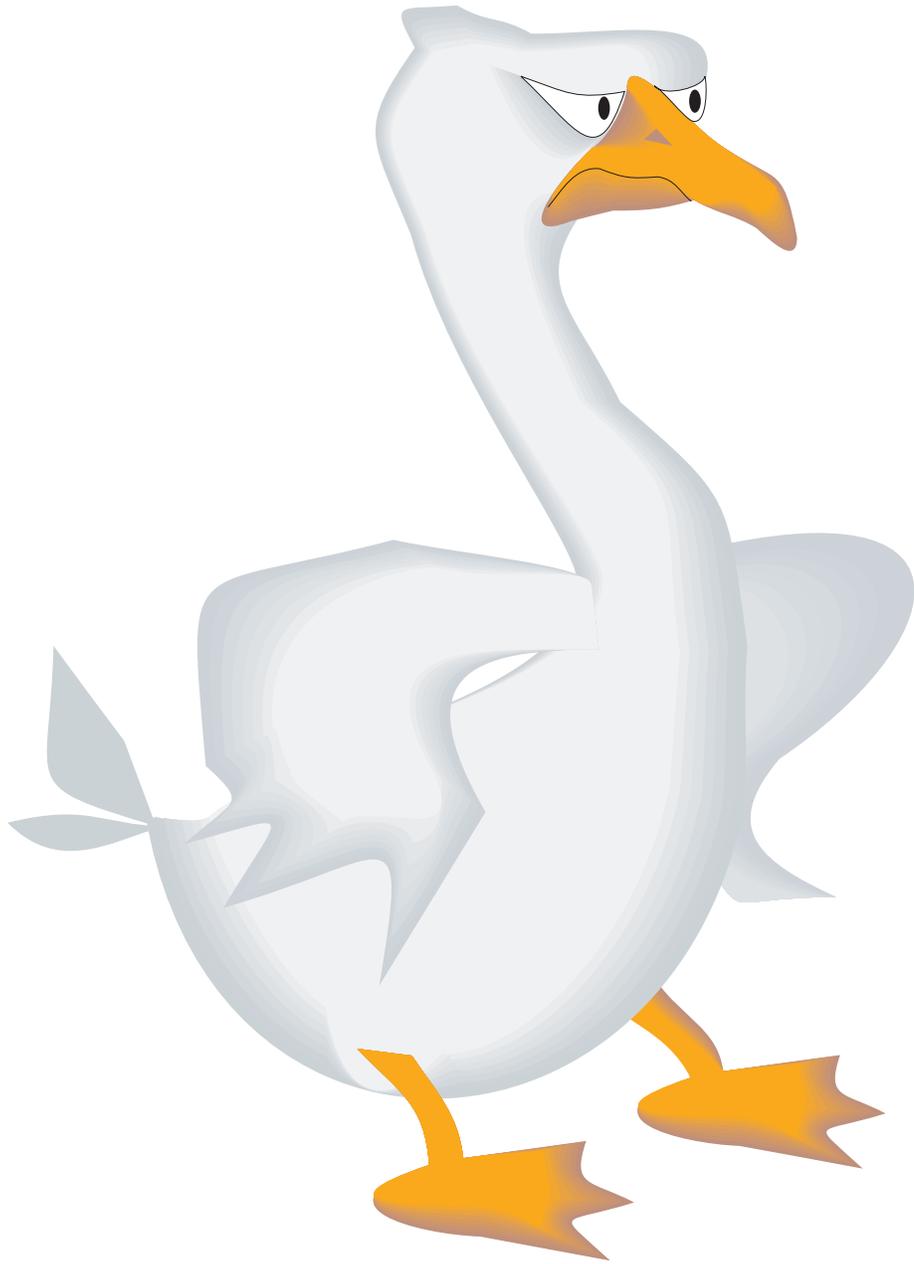




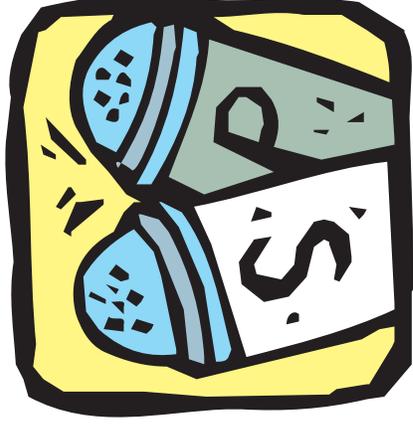
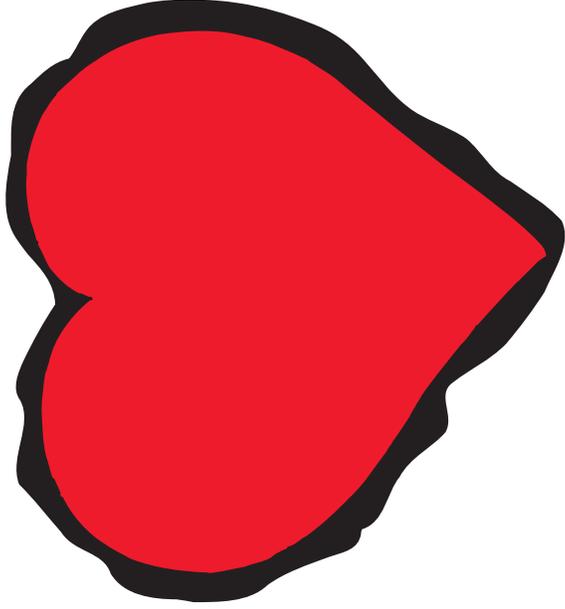
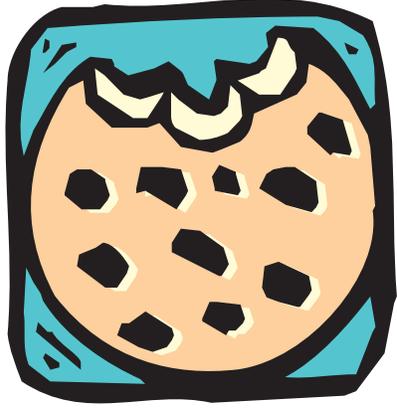


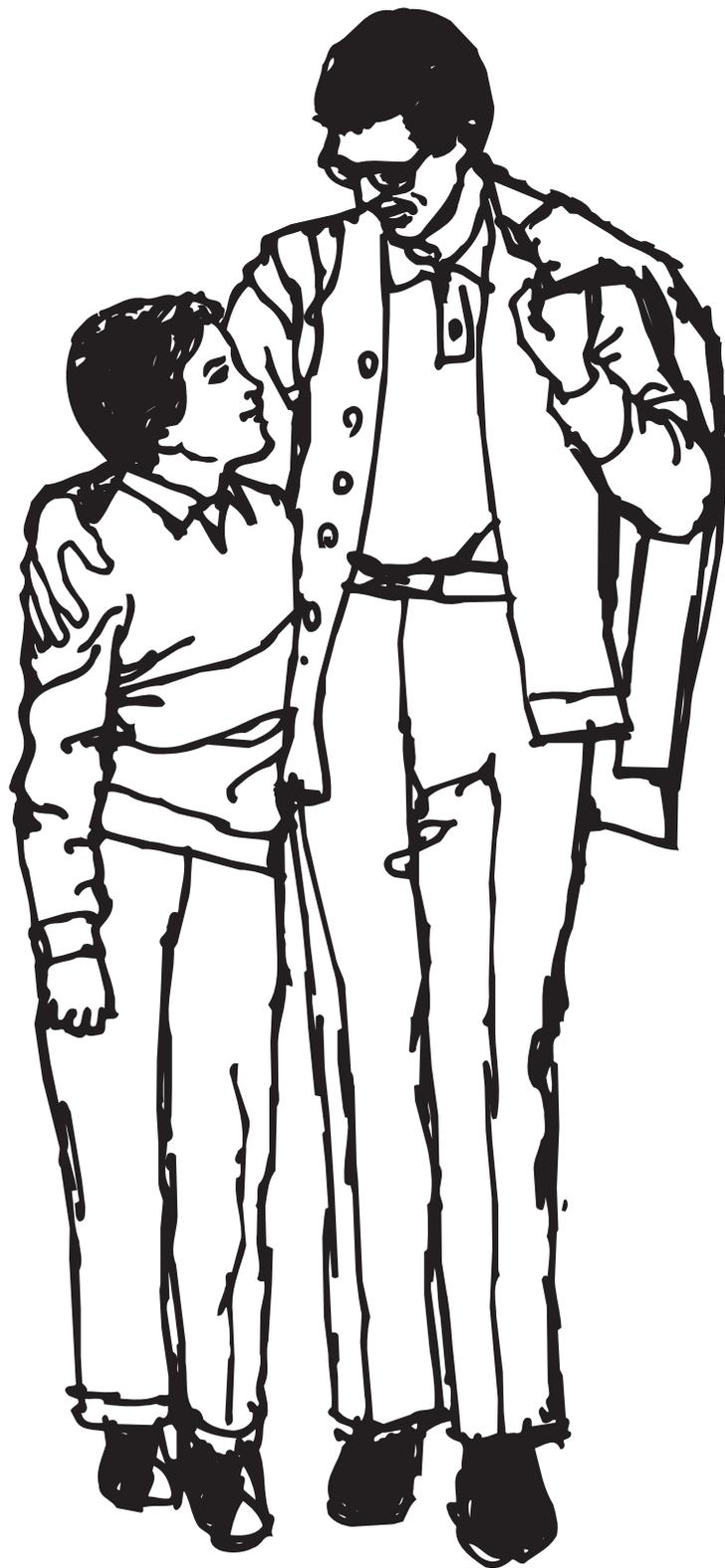




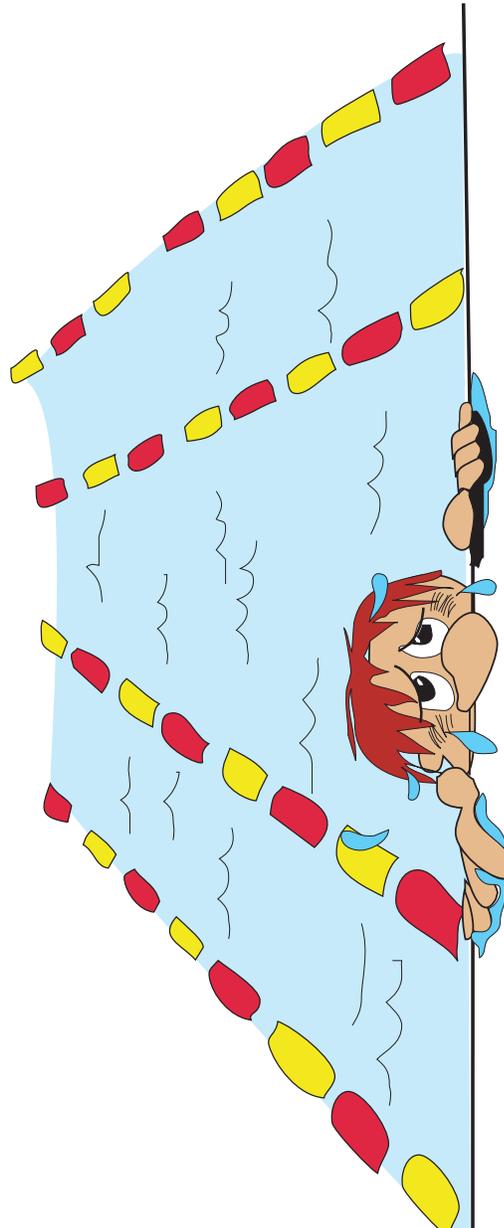
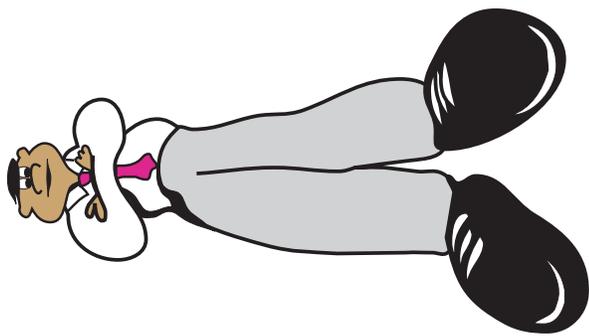


# A Servant's Heart



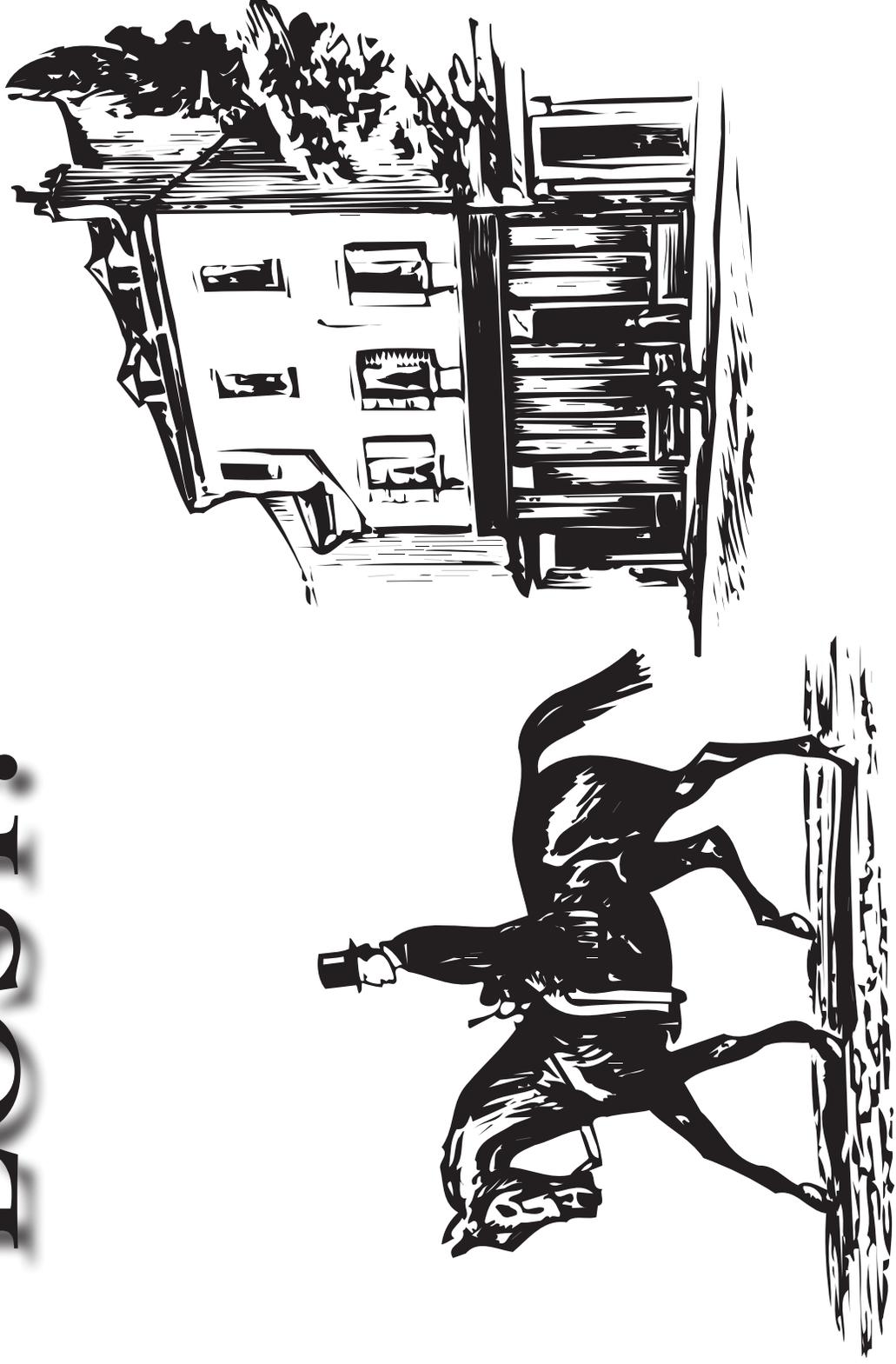








# LOST!



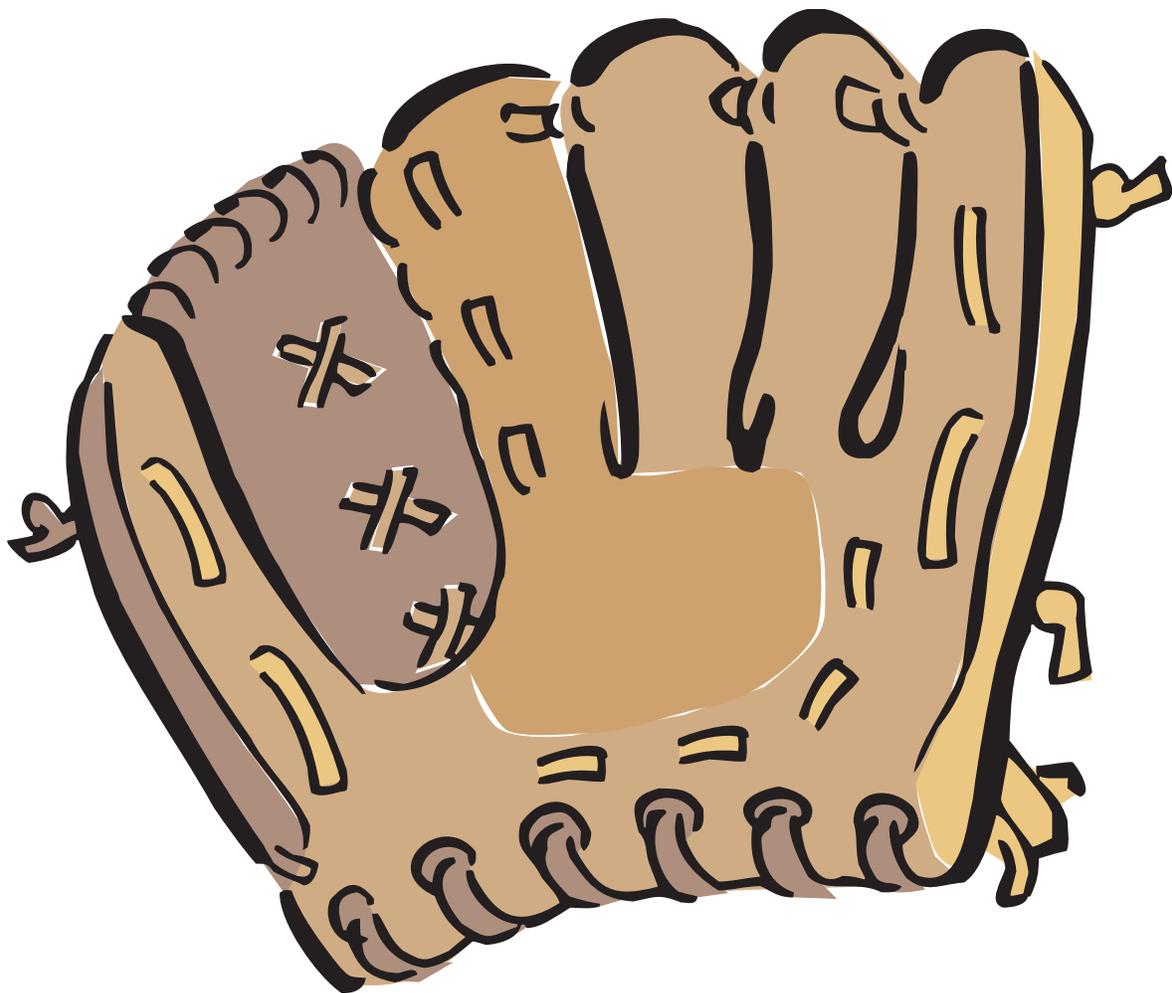


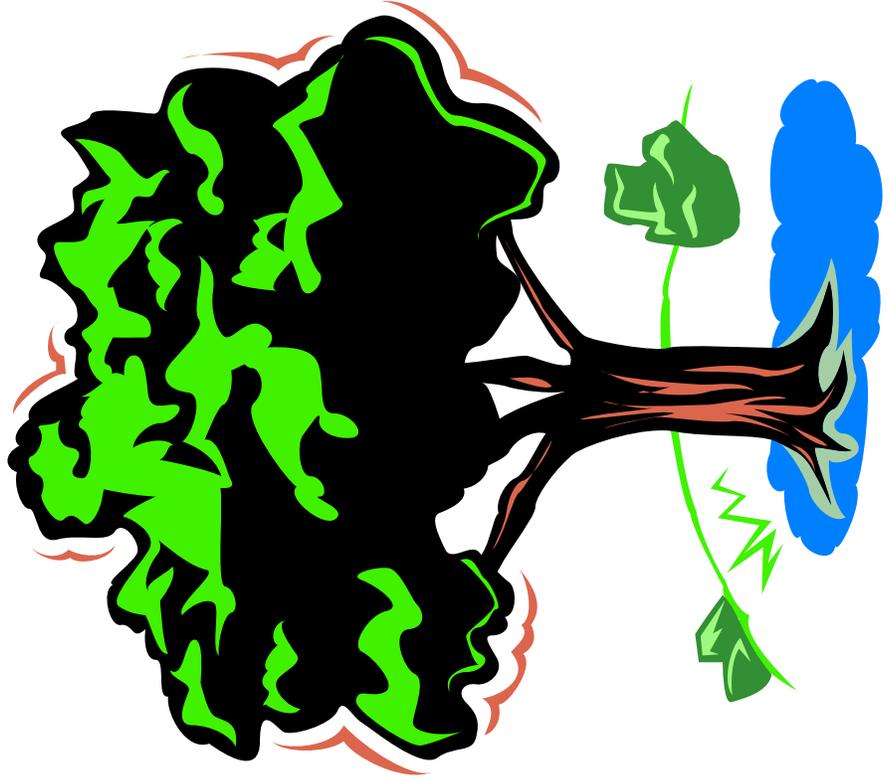


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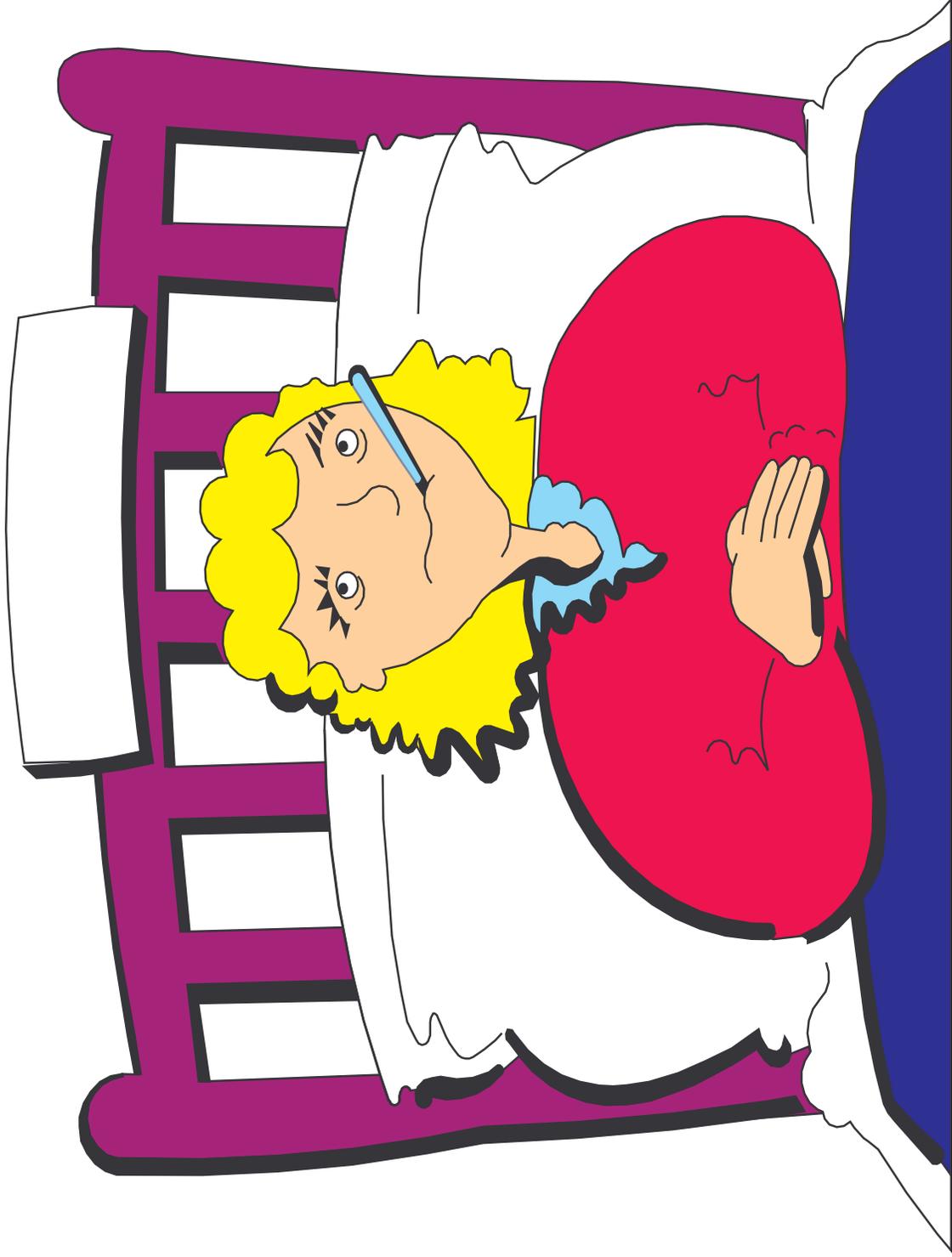


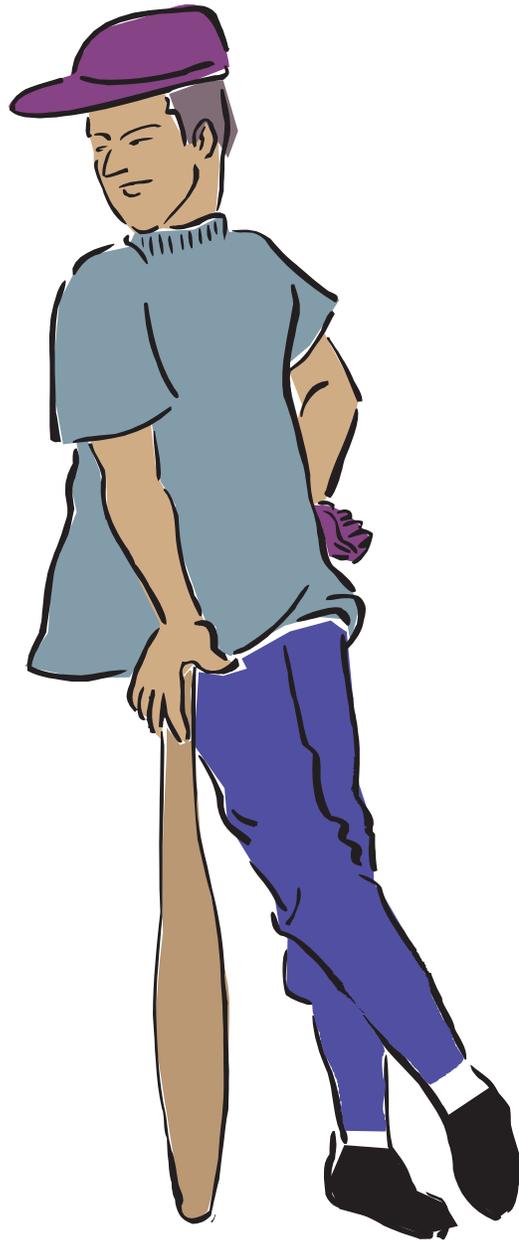
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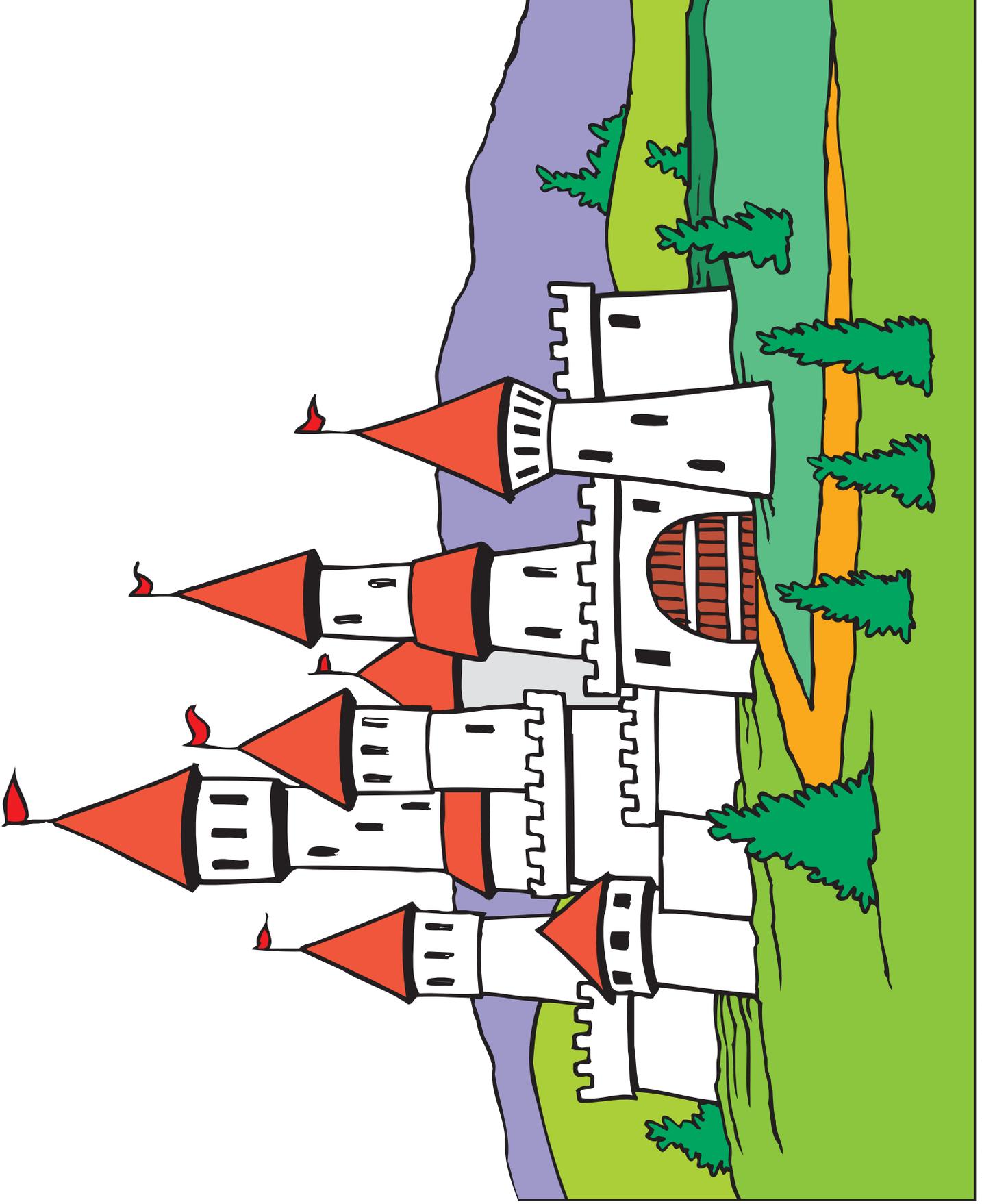


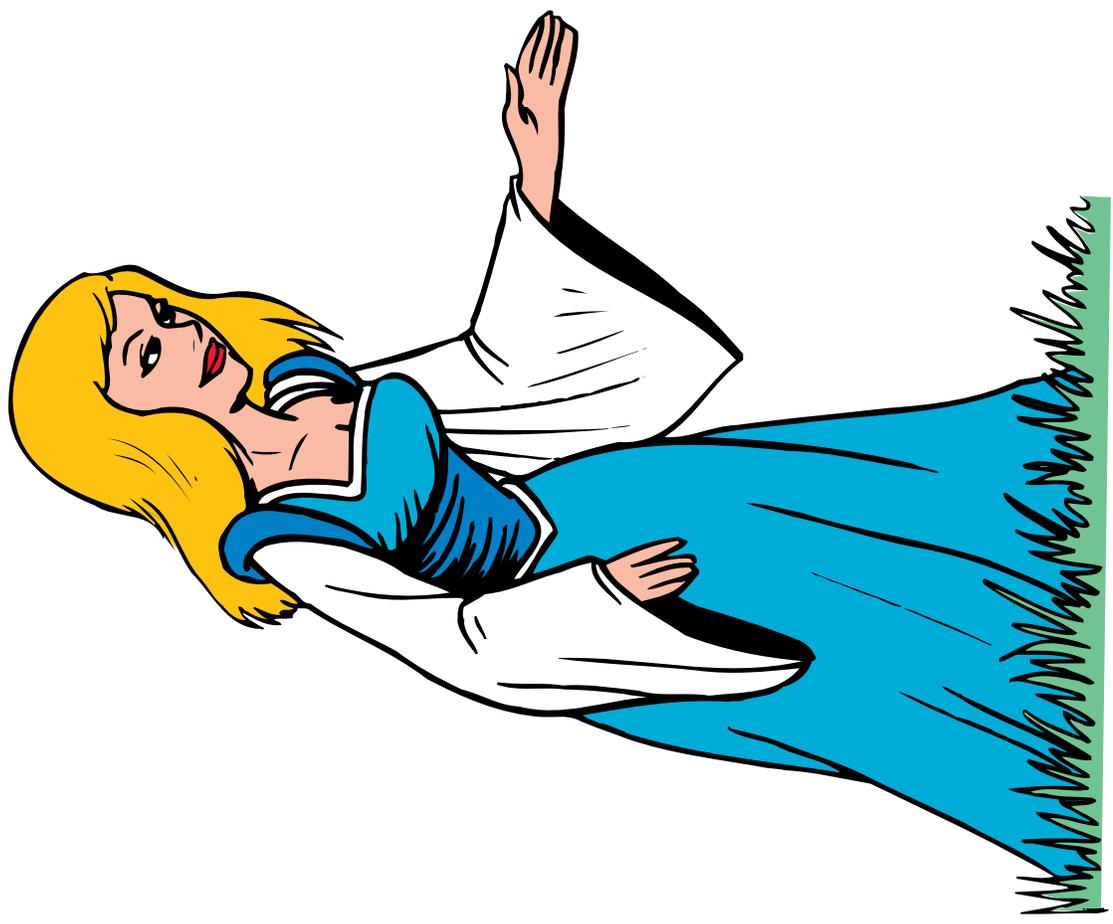
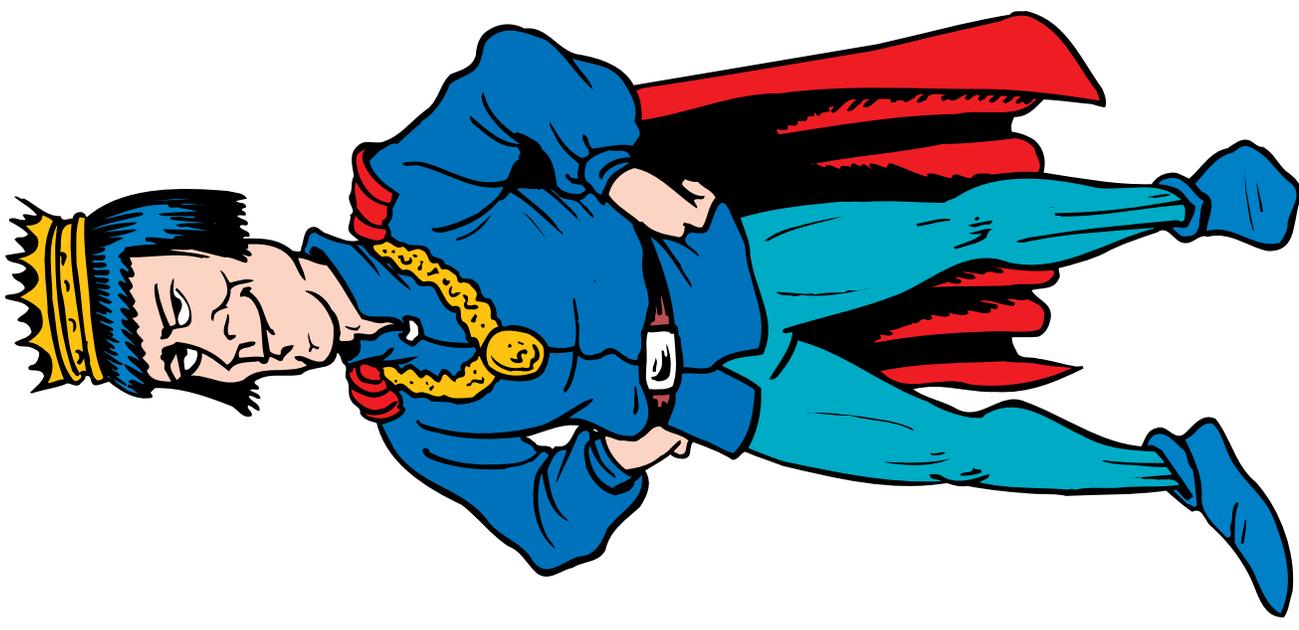


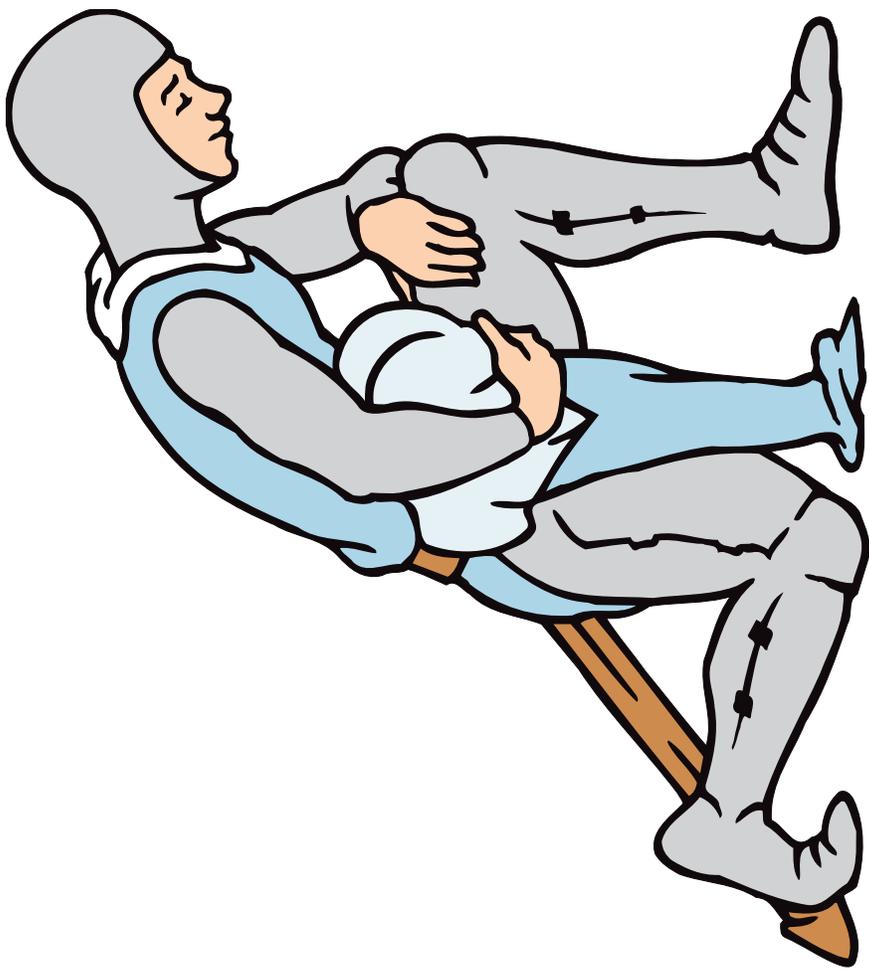
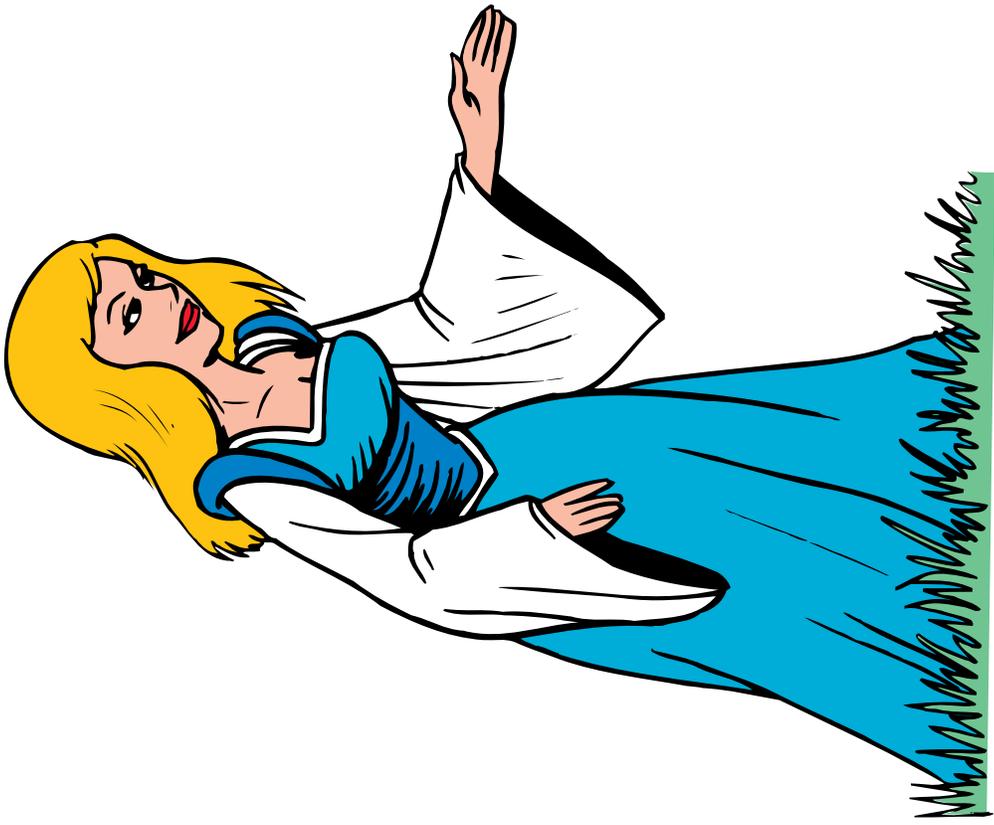




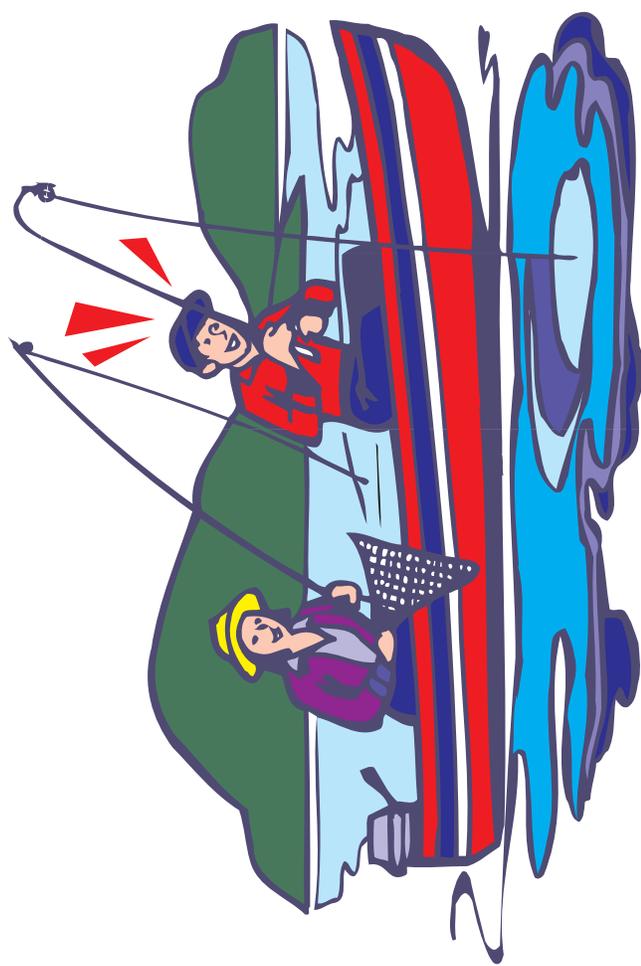




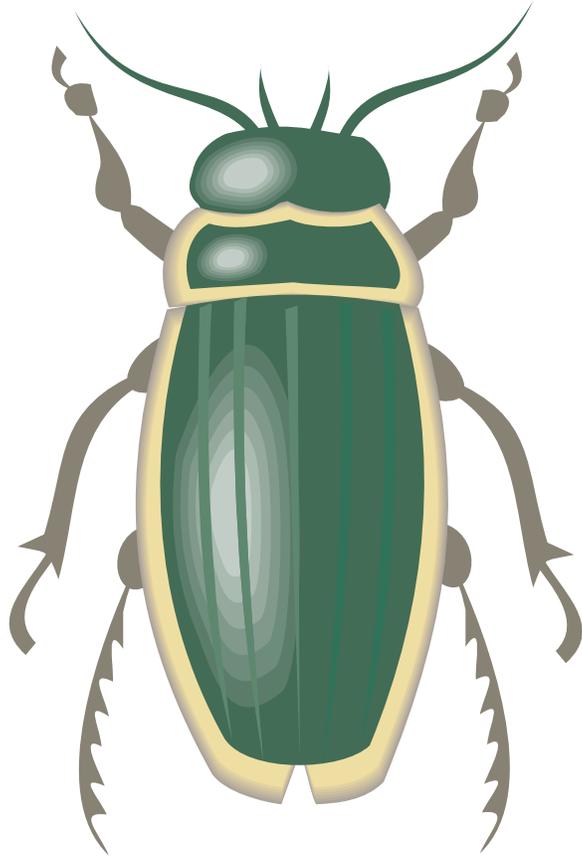


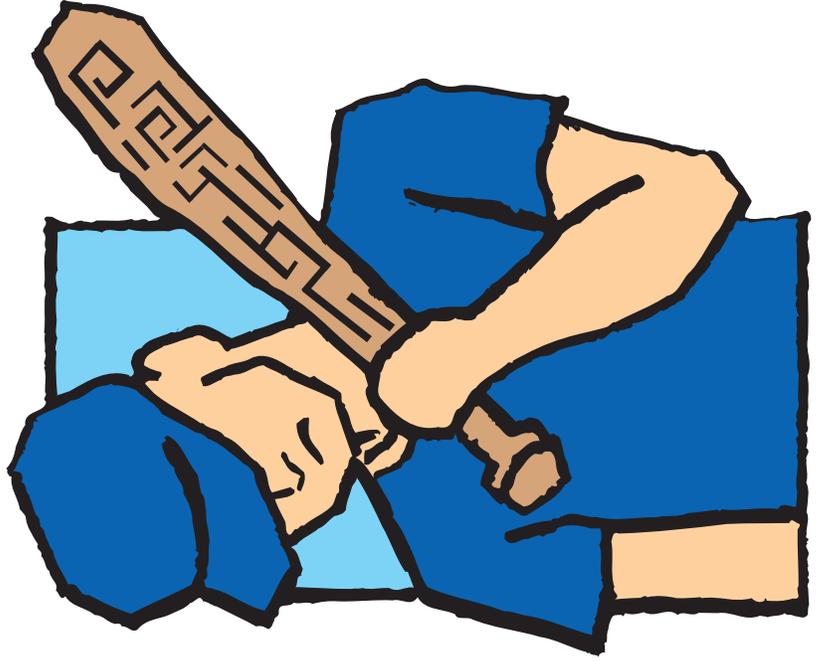
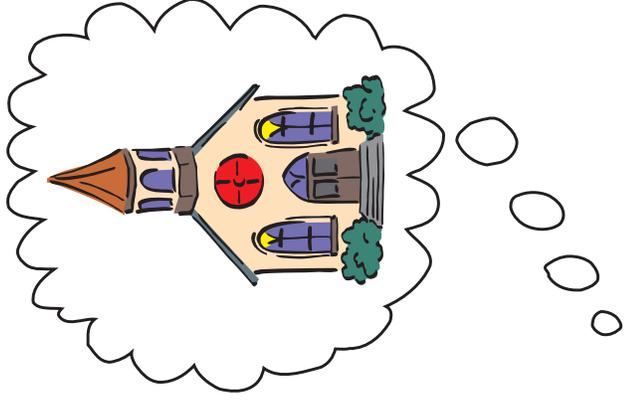


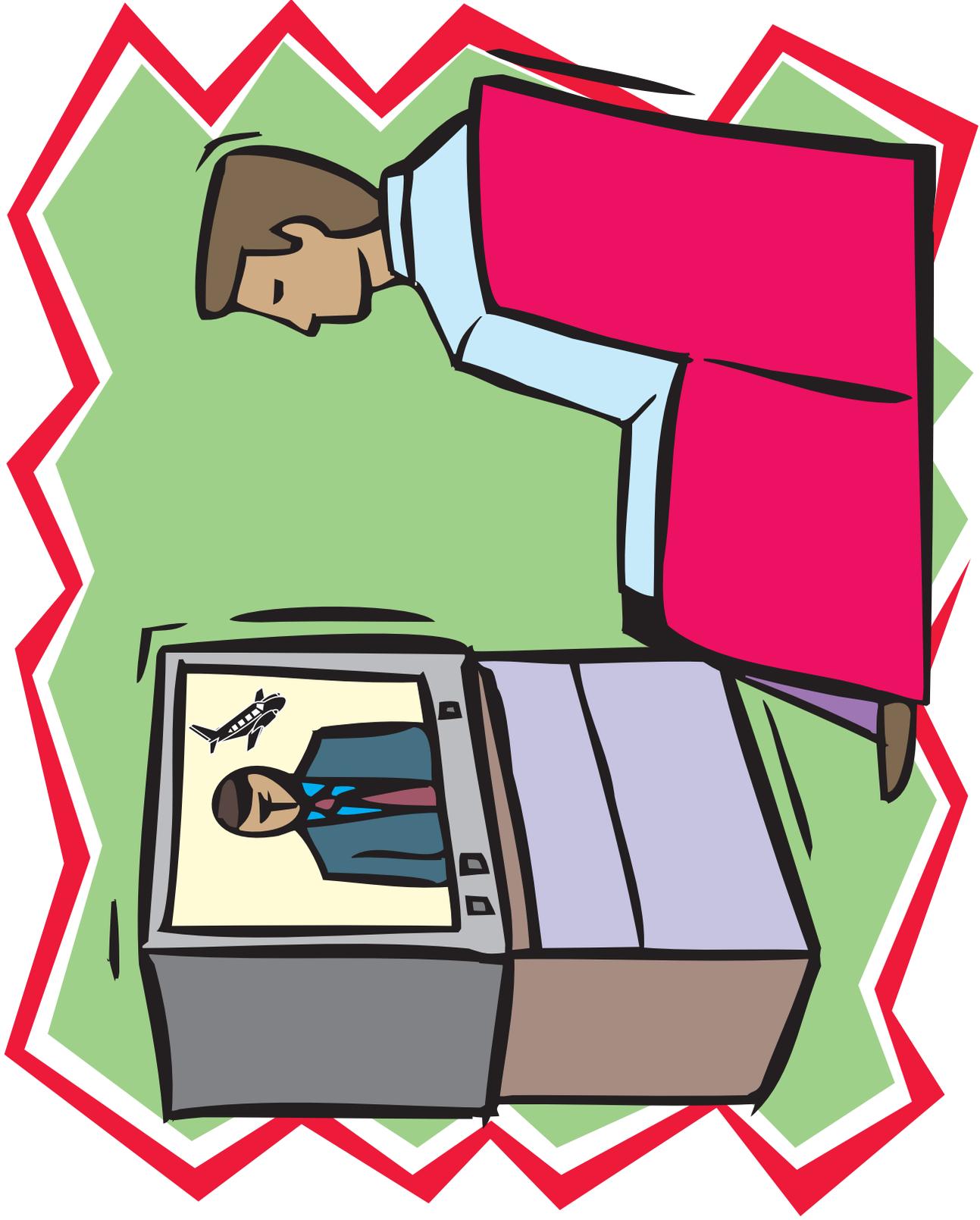


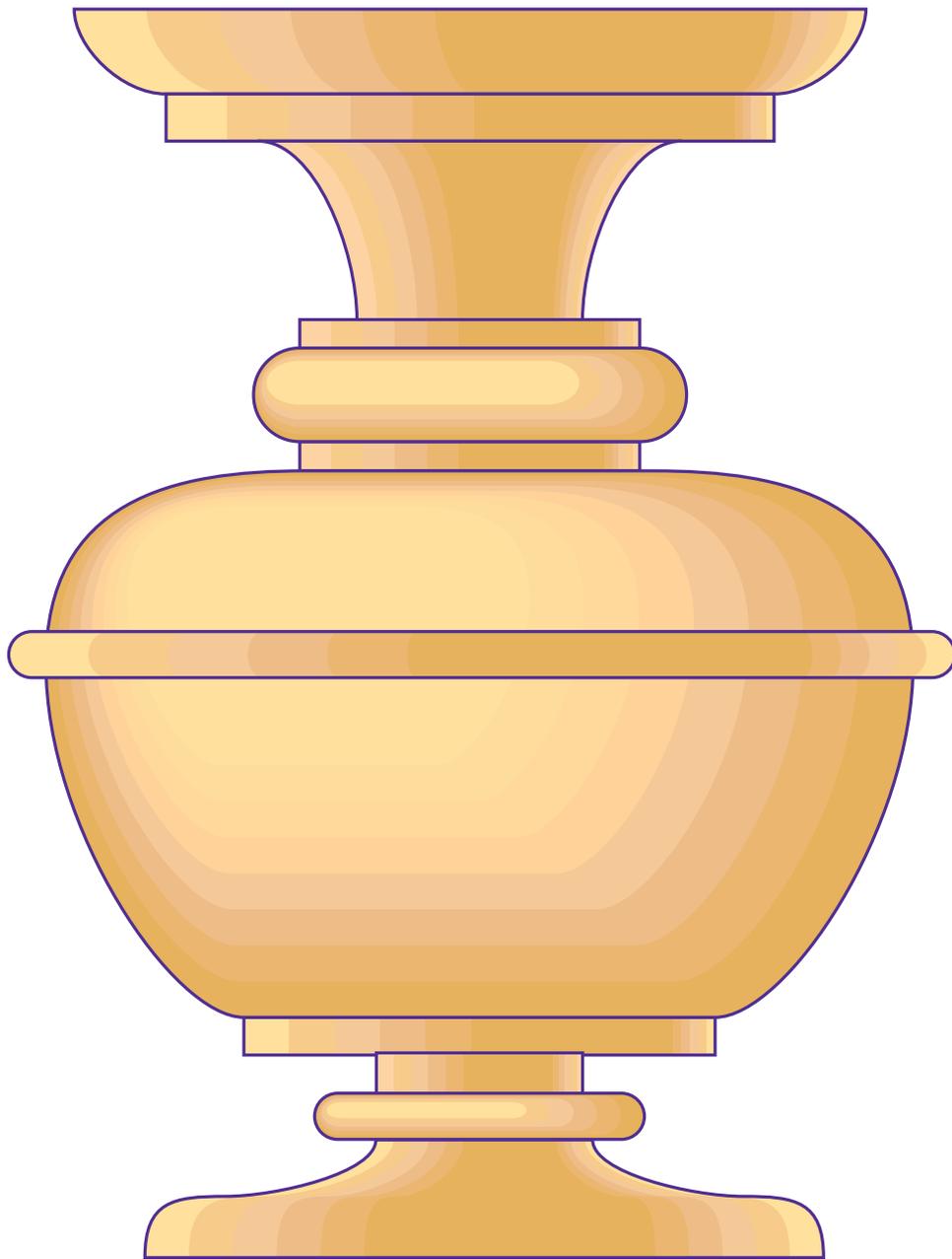




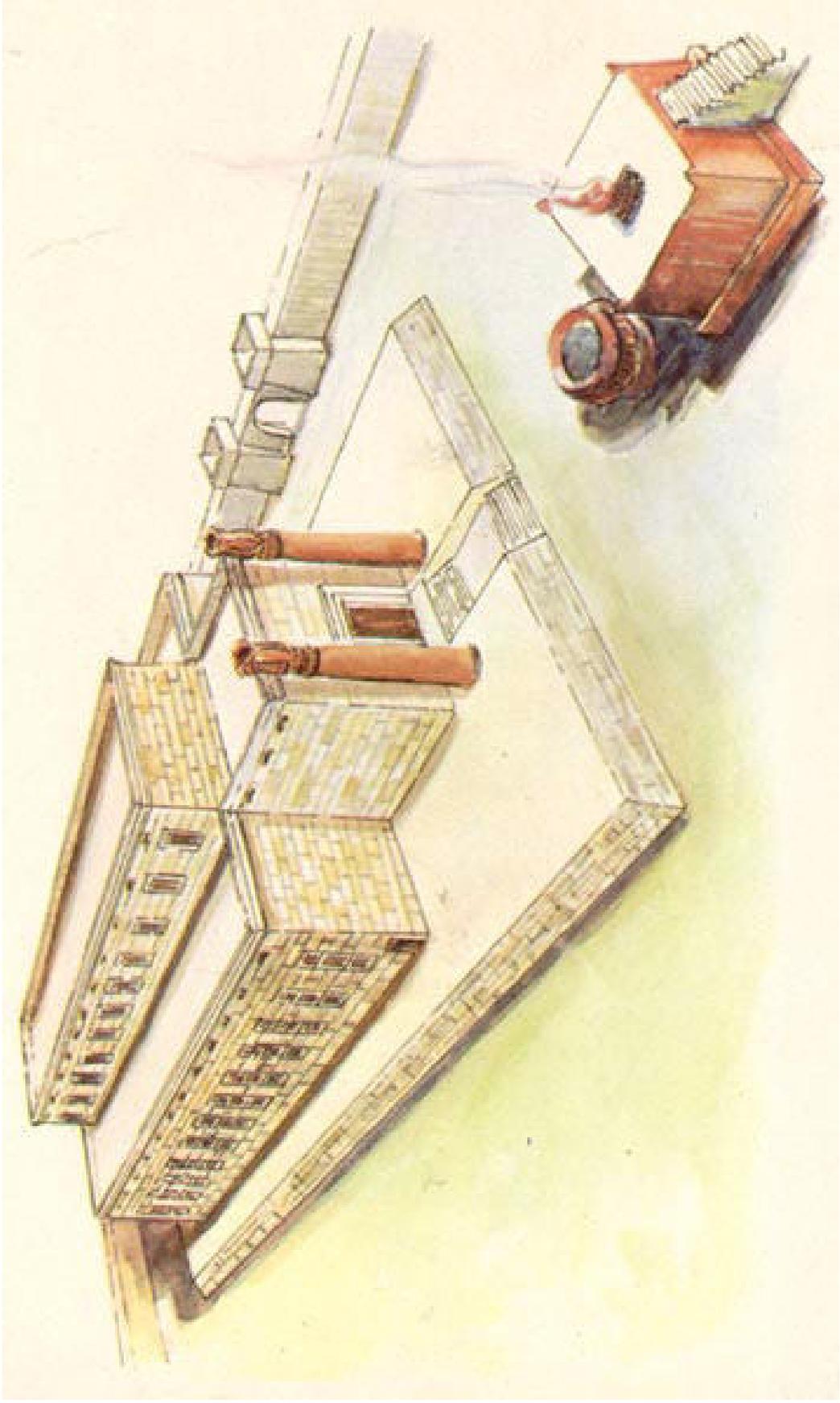


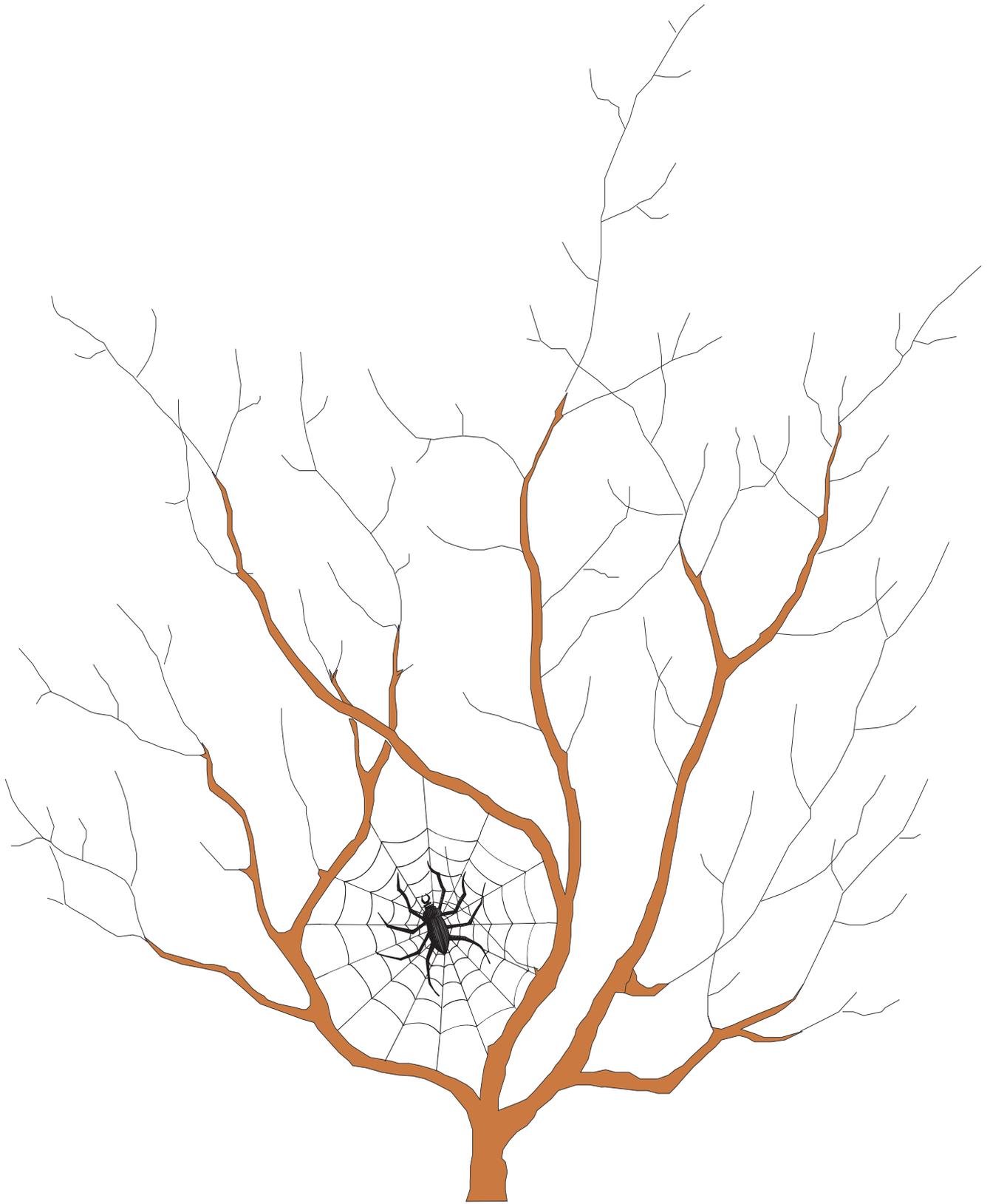
















Only one life  
is I will soon be past,  
Only what's done  
for Christ  
will last.







