

Name _____

Class Notes

1. In Judges 6, God punished the Israelites for their sin of (**worshipping idols** OR **disobeying parents**).
2. God sent the (**Moabites** OR **Midianites**) against Israel because of their sin.
3. Gideon was hiding in a (**cave** OR **winepress**) when God called him to lead.
4. Gideon placed a (**wool fleece** OR **camel skin**) on the ground for a sign from God.
5. The Midianite army had (**135,000** OR **500,000**) fighting men.
6. Gideon took (**32,000** OR **300**) men to the battle.
7. God made Gideon's army smaller so the people would say, (**"We won!"** OR **"God won!"**)
8. Gideon and his men took jars, torches, and (**trumpets** OR **bows/arrows**) to the battle.
9. God caused the enemy to (**fight back** OR **panic and run**).
10. After the battle, Gideon became a man of (**fear** OR **valor**).

Class Notes Answer Key

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Review Questions

1. Why did God send the Midianites to attack the Israelites? *He was punishing them for their sin of idolatry, worshipping false gods.*
2. What did the Israelites have to do whenever the Midianites came? *Run and hide. Hide in caves.*
3. How many years did the Midianites terrorize the Israelites before they cried out to God: 10, 7, or 50? *7.*
4. Who did God choose to lead and deliver the Israelites from the Midianites? *Gideon.*
5. What was Gideon doing when the angel of the Lord came to him? *Beating wheat.*
6. Why was Gideon beating wheat in a winepress? *He was hiding from the Midianites. He didn't want them to steal his wheat.*
7. God called Gideon a mighty man of what? *Mighty man of valor.*
8. What is valor? *Great courage.*
9. What did God call Gideon to do as a judge? *Lead the Israelites into battle against the Midianites.*
10. Why did Gideon think he wasn't a good choice to lead the people? *He was from the weakest tribe, Manasseh, and was the least in his family.*
11. When the Midianites came into the land, Gideon called the men of Israel to come to him. How many came: 32,000, 10,000, or 300? *32,000.*
12. What did Gideon lay on the ground two nights in a row to test if God was with him? *Wool fleece.*
13. Why did God reduce the number of men in Gideon's army? *So God would get the glory, or credit, for the victory. So the people wouldn't boast that they had done it themselves.*
14. What men did God tell Gideon to send home first, men who were what? *Fearful, trembling, scared.*
15. At the water, how did God choose the men who would leave and who would stay? *He tested how they drank water.*
16. After dividing the men at the water, Gideon was left with how many men for the battle? *300.*
17. Name one of the items Gideon and his men took to the battle. *Allow several students to answer. Empty jars, trumpets, torches.*
18. What did God make the Midianites do when the Israelites blew their trumpets, smashed their jars, raised their torches, and shouted? *They panicked and ran and started fighting each other.*
19. What did Gideon and his men shout? *For the Lord and for Gideon! A sword for the Lord and for Gideon.*
20. What did God show his people when he won the battle for Gideon and his 300 men? *He had the power to save them. The people had to trust God to win.*
21. According to the memory verse, what does the Lord do when the righteous cry to him for help? *Hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

Edible Torches

Materials

- Sugar cones (with a pointed end)
- Ready-made frosting
- Plastic knives
- Orange and red fruit leather
- Wax paper sheets
- Large plastic cups

Instructions

Pass out one wax paper sheet for each student to use as a work surface. Give each student a sugar cone and a plastic knife. Have them tear several pieces of fruit leather. Use the knife to spread frosting on the wide end of the cone and stick the fruit leather around the end to look like flames. (Pinching the tips of the fruit leather together will help it stand up straight.)

Give each student a cup to put their torch in for the discussion.



Suggested Discussion

Have students cover their torches with a cup. Gideon's men carried their torches with clay jars over them so the enemy couldn't see the light. But when they broke their jars, the flames from their torches would have suddenly shined brightly in the night.

Have students uncover their torches and hold them up. What a surprise for the Midianites to see lights shining all around them!

Carry your torch home in your cup and tell your family about how God helped Gideon win the battle against the Midianites. Then you can enjoy eating your torch!

Battle Torches

Materials

- Torch sheets (following page)
- Tissue paper (orange and yellow)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons or markers
- Tape

Instructions

Print one torch sheet for each student. Have students color and cut out their torch then roll it up and tape it closed. Next, have students tear tissue paper and glue pieces around the inside and outside edge of the large end for flames.

Optional: use the torches as props for the Gideon's Battle Role Play.

Suggested Discussion

Even though Gideon's army wasn't very large, God gave Gideon a clever plan. The 300 men hid their torches under clay jars so the light wouldn't give them away as they quietly surrounded the enemy camp at night. Then when each man broke his jar, the flames from their torches and the sound of their trumpets surprised the enemy, making them think they were being attacked.





**For
the Lord
and for
Gideon!**

Print one for each student.

Gideon's Battle Role Play

Props

- Battle Torches (Hands-On activity)
- Party horns
- Large plastic cups or paper lunch bags
- Optional: One or two sheets and four to eight chairs for tents

Instructions

Divide the class into three groups. One will be Gideon's army, the other two will be the Midianites camping out in the middle of the room. Have the Midianites either

pretend to set up camp or use four chairs back to back and throw a sheet over them to set up each tent.

Choose a student to be Gideon. Have the cups/bags, torches they made, and horns all in one place for Gideon's army to grab during the role play.

Use the following script, pausing to allow students to repeat their lines and act out their roles. If there is time, allow students to change roles and act it out again.

Optional: give all students a party horn, a cup or bag, and their own torch to take home.

Gideon's Battle Script

Have Midianites and Gideon's army begin on opposite sides of the room.

The Midianites were enemies of the Israelites.

(Midianites move to center of the room, looking mean and tough.) They would swoop into the land and devour all the food. Then they set up camp by the hill of Moreh in the valley. (Midianites set up tents and sit down beside them acting like they're eating all the food.)

Meanwhile, Gideon and his army were on the hill above where they could look down at the Midianite camp and see their huge army spread out through the valley.

Gideon called his 300 men to him and divided them into three groups of 100. *(Have Gideon divide his army into three groups.)*

Each man was given three things: a trumpet, a torch, and a jar. *(Have Gideon's army grab a cup or bag, a party horn, and the torches they made.)*

That evening, they took the trumpets and hid their torches inside the jars so they couldn't be seen and followed Gideon. *(Have Gideon's army place cups/bags upside down over their torches.)*

After the Midianites had settled down for the night (Midianites lie down to sleep), Gideon told his men the plan. "When you hear my trumpet sound, that's your signal to blow your trumpets, too." *(Have Gideon repeat the line.)*

In the dark of night, Gideon and his men spread out all around the enemy camp. *(Have the army sneak around to surround the Midianites.)*

When they were all in place, Gideon blew his trumpet and smashed the jar holding his torch, letting the light shine brightly in the night. *(Have Gideon drop the cup/bag, hold up his torch, and blow party horn.)*

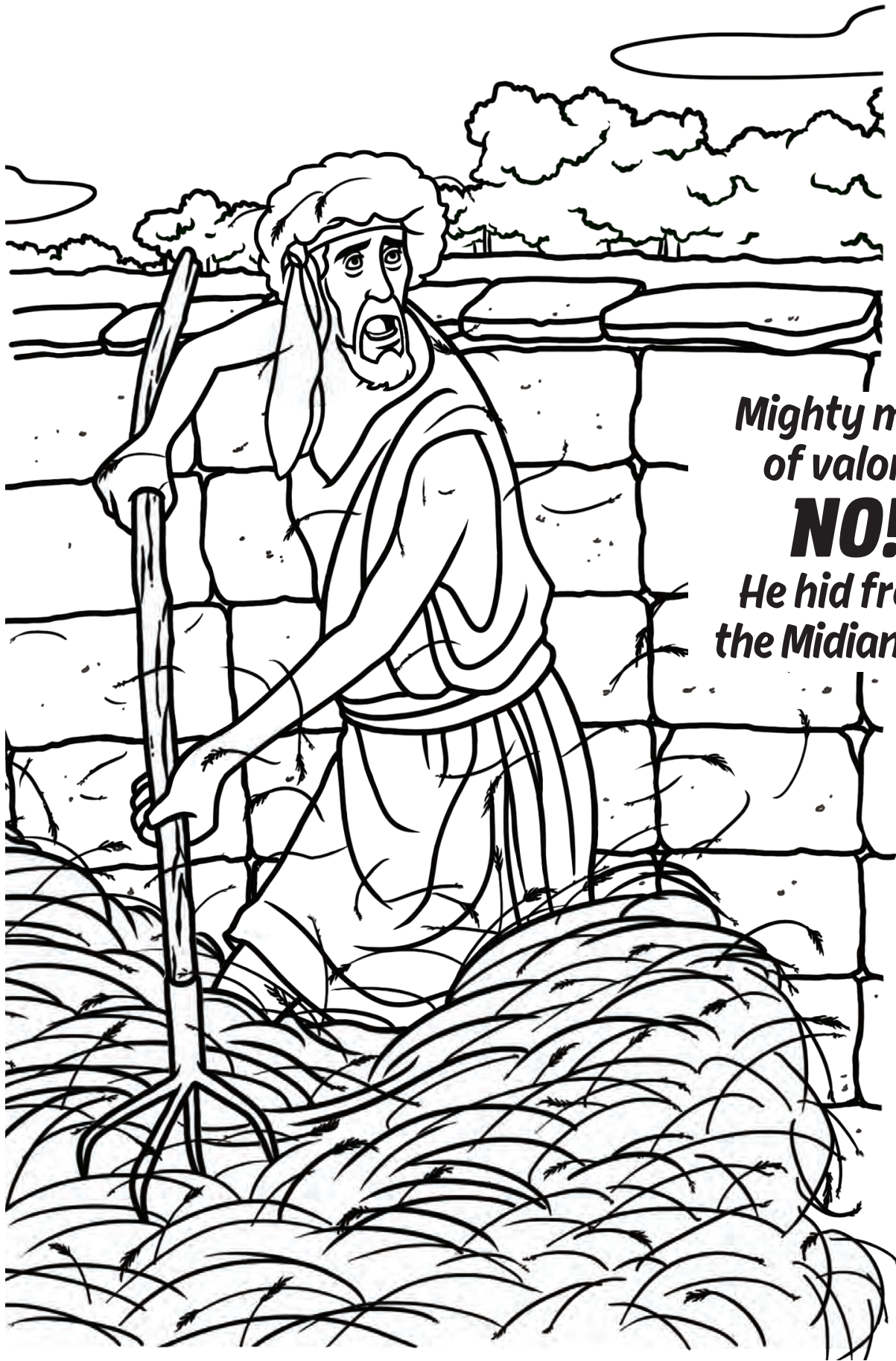
That was the signal! Gideon's men all did the same thing together. *(Have army drop cups/bags, hold up torches, and blow party horns together.)* **Suddenly, the Midianites were surrounded by torches and the sound of trumpets. Then they heard a great shout, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"** *(Have army repeat.)*

The Midianites cried out, "We're surrounded! Let's get out of here!" God made them panic, and they tried to run. *(Midianites run into each other, acting confused or pretending to die.)*

Gideon and his men chased the Midianites, and men from other Israelite tribes came out to help. *(Have Midianites run across/around the room with Gideon's army chasing them.)* **The Midianites were defeated!** *(Gideon's army shouts, "Hooray!")*

What a battle! This was a great miracle showing God's power to save his people.

Name _____



*Mighty man
of valor?
NO!
He hid from
the Midianites.*

Name _____

*Mighty man of valor? **YES!**
He trusted God for the victory.*



The Thing About Cats & Hamsters

“Yes, Mary, I think she could do it,” said Jessie’s mom on the phone. “Okay, I’ll let her know. Goodbye.”

“Who was that?” Jessie asked.

“Miss Mary, our neighbor. She has to go away for a few days and wants you to take care of her three cats and a hamster. She said they’re all very friendly.”

Jessie nodded. She took care of her own cat, Freckles, so this should be easy.

The next day after school, Jessie ran next door to Miss Mary’s house. As she walked in, two cats greeted her with hungry meows. “Meeoow! Mew, mew!”

“Okay, okay! Give me a chance to find your food,” Jessie said as she went to the kitchen. She tried not to trip over the cats as they moved in and out around her legs.

Jessie pulled out the bag of food. As she was opening it, another cat came charging toward her through the doorway. “Wahhh!” Jessie yelled. *Riip!* Jessie looked down at the bag of cat food. She had torn the bag down the side when the cat startled her, and kitty kibble poured out all over the kitchen floor.

“Oh no! See what you made me do?” she said to the cat, who busily gobbled the kibble. When she picked him up so she could clean up the mess, the cat scratched her arm as he squirmed and jumped down to the floor.

Jessie sighed as she refilled the water dishes. She let the cats eat while she went to check on the hamster. “Hi, little guy!” She said as she opened the cage and poured a scoop of food into his dish. The hamster squeaked and

huddled in the corner of the cage. “Aww, are you scared?” She gently pet the hamster’s quivering nose to calm him down, when suddenly—*chomp!* He bit Jessie’s finger!

“Ow! Hey, that’s not nice,” Jessie scolded before she slammed the cage door shut.

Jessie trudged back to the kitchen. The cats were lazily cleaning their whiskers after finishing their meal. Finally, Jessie headed home, exhausted and frustrated.

“Hi, Jessie! How did it go?” asked Mom.

Jessie looked up with a sour look. She held up her finger that the hamster had bitten and showed her mom the scratch on her arm from the cat that scared her.

“Oh, my. I see it didn’t go so well,” Mom concluded. “Do you want me to come help you tomorrow? It looks like you’re outnumbered—three cats and a hamster against just you.”

“No, thanks.” Jessie sighed heavily. “I’d like to try and do it since Miss Mary asked me to.”

“Taking care of pets can be hard. Let’s pray and ask God to help you,” said Mom as she bowed her head to pray.

The next day Jessie was just about to go out her door when her cousin Emily rang the doorbell.

“Hi, Jessie. I heard you were petsitting. Can I come help?” Emily asked.

“That sounds like a great idea, Emily,” said Jessie’s mom.

“Okay, let’s go! I’ll tell you what to do,” Jessie said, smiling.

Jessie opened the door of Miss Mary's house. This time, no cats came to greet her. "Kitties?" Jessie called. "Here, kitty, kitty!" She turned to Emily. "That's weird. They were right here at the door yesterday." Jessie shrugged and walked into the kitchen. "Come on, let's get their food."

The girls bent down to scoop food into the dishes when suddenly all three cats came running full speed into the kitchen.

"Ahh!" Emily yelled. "They're all attacking!"

Jessie pulled Emily out of the way, and they both sat down hard on the kitchen floor as the cats went straight to their dishes and wolfed down their food. "Ow! Well, that part of the job is done. Now we have to feed the hamster," Jessie said leading the way down the hall.

"Oh! He's adorable!" Emily cooed at the little animal. "You're so cute."

"Watch out, Emily. He bit me yesterday," Jessie warned.

"I'll feed him then," Emily volunteered. She stuck her hand into the cage and poured food into the dish. Then, without warning, the hamster made a break for it! Emily felt his tiny cold feet on her skin as he scrambled up her

arm and out the door of the cage. "Wahh! Eeek! Ahh!" Emily squealed.

Jessie turned just in time to see the hamster jump from the top of Emily's head onto a shelf where it hid behind a book. "Let's get something to put him in, then I'll move the book, and we'll catch him."

Jessie ran and grabbed a box from another room. "Ready? One, two, three," Jessie whispered. Emily quickly moved the book out of the way, and the startled hamster jumped right into the box Jessie was holding. "Hooray! We caught him," the girls cheered as they put the hamster back into the cage.

"Whew! Let's go home now," Jessie said. "Thanks for your help, Emily."

"I'm glad I could help. It was like you against three attack cats and a crazy hamster." Emily shivered, still thinking about the hamster's little feet skittering up her arm.

"Yep, I think you were the answer to my prayer for help. I couldn't have done this job without you. The thing about cats and hamsters is that they are full of surprises."

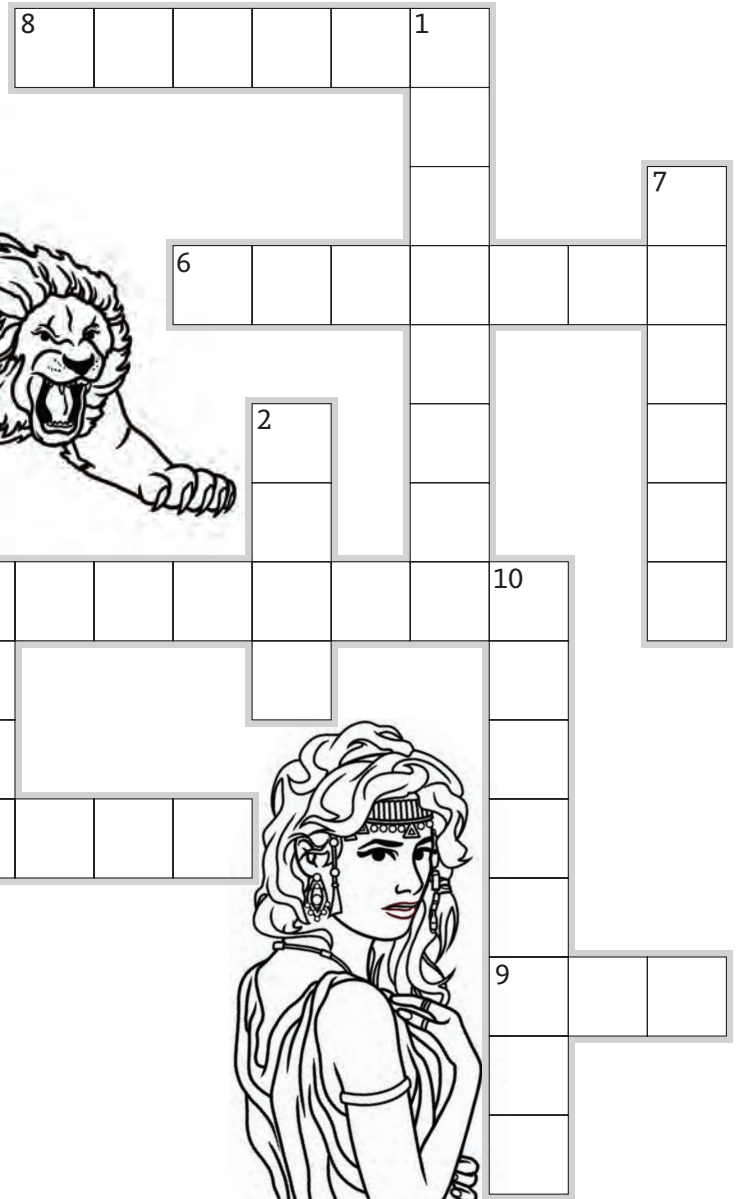
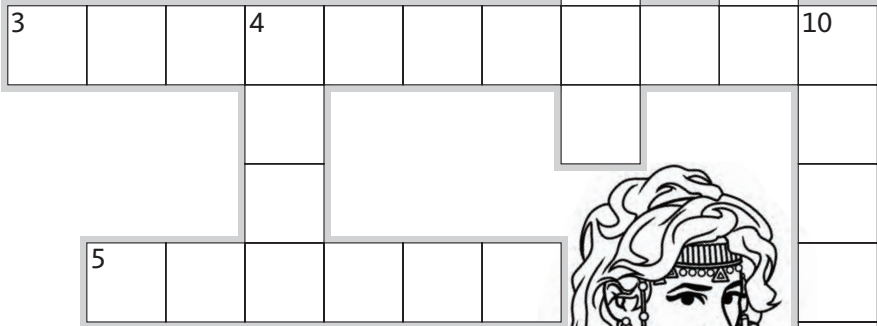
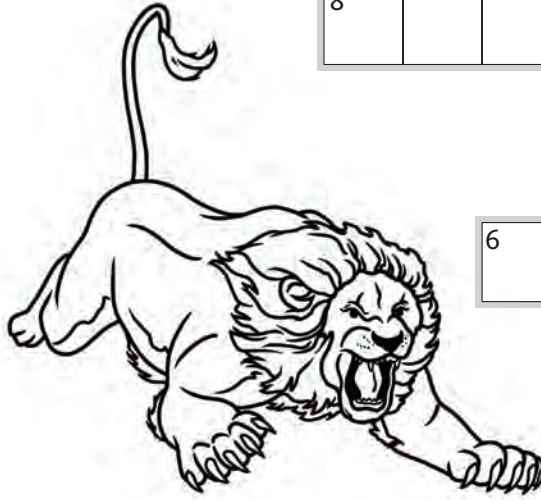
"That's for sure!" Emily agreed.



Name _____

Class Notes

1. Samson would be a _____, which means “set apart to God.”
2. A Nazirite could not drink wine or cut his _____.
3. God said Samson would help save the Israelites from the _____.
4. God gave Samson supernatural strength to kill a _____ with his bare hands.
5. Samson used the jawbone of a _____ as his only weapon against 1,000 Philistines.
6. _____ wanted to find out the secret of Samson’s strength.
7. When Samson finally told Delilah the truth, she had his head _____ to break his Nazirite promise.
8. The Philistines put Samson in _____ once they captured and blinded him.
9. _____ was the source of Samson’s strength, not his long hair.
10. Blind Samson prayed that God would give him _____ one last time.

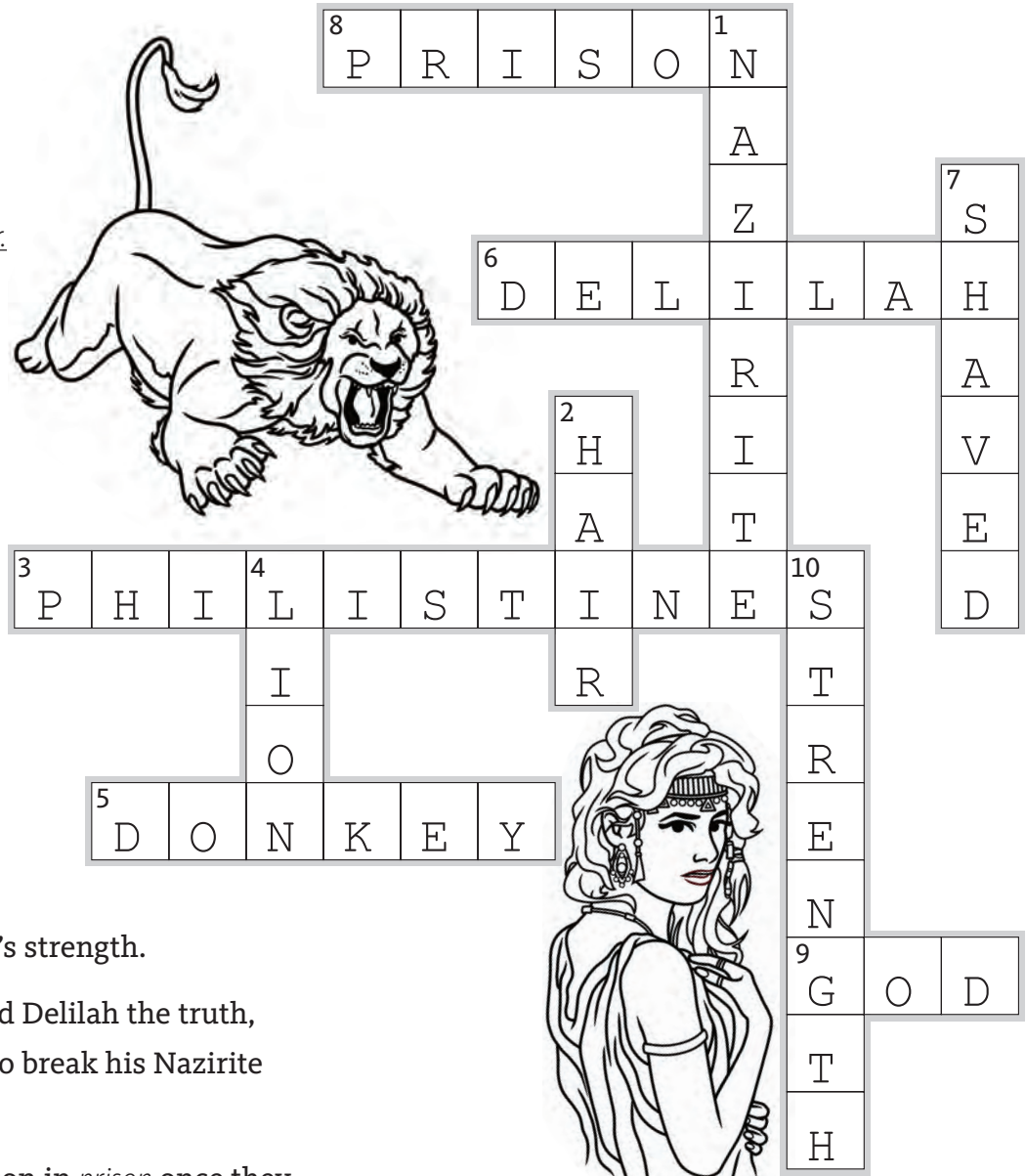
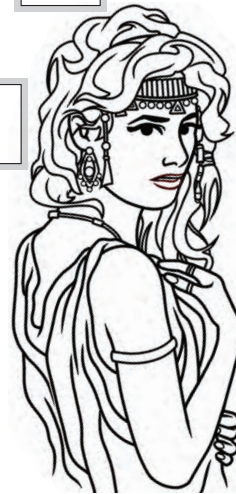
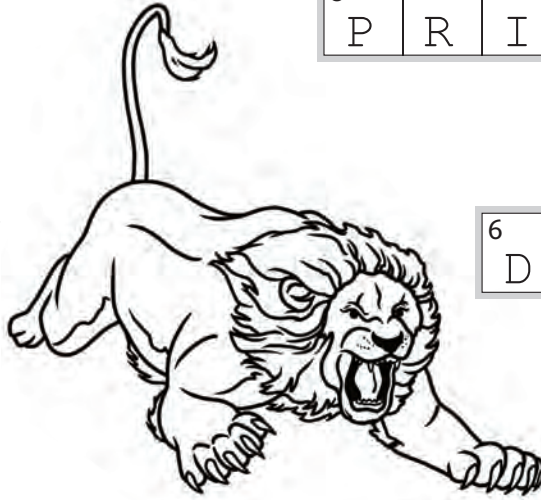


WORD BANK

DELILAH	NAZIRITE
DONKEY	PHILISTINES
GOD	PRISON
HAIR	SHAVED
LION	STRENGTH

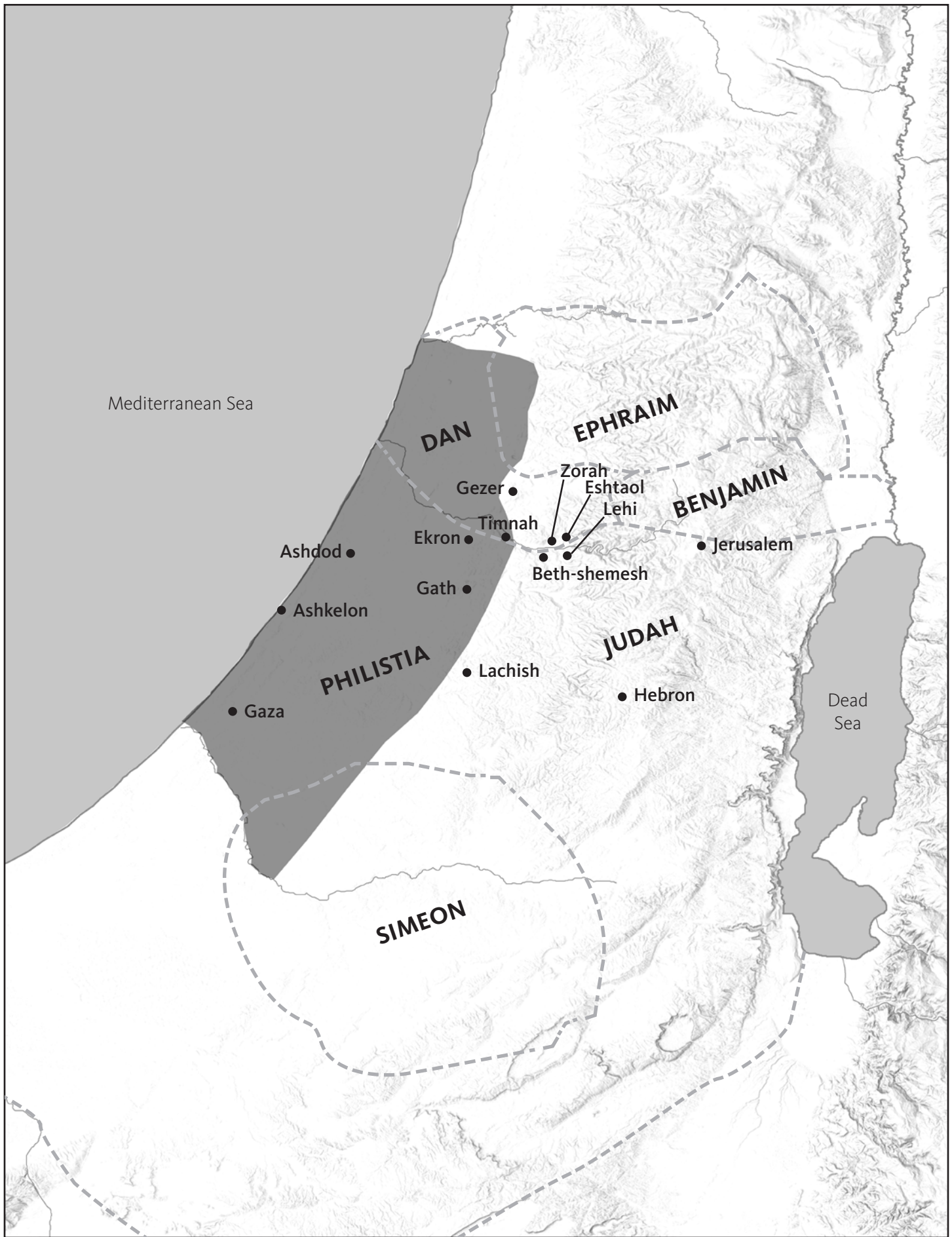
Class Notes Answer Key

- Samson would be a Nazirite, which means “set apart to God.”
- A Nazirite could not drink wine or cut his hair.
- God said Samson would help save the Israelites from the Philistines.
- God gave Samson supernatural strength to kill a lion with his bare hands.
- Samson used the jawbone of a donkey as his only weapon against 1,000 Philistines.
- Delilah wanted to find out the secret of Samson’s strength.
- When Samson finally told Delilah the truth, she had his head shaved to break his Nazirite promise.
- The Philistines put Samson in prison once they captured and blinded him.
- God was the source of Samson’s strength, not his long hair.
- Blind Samson prayed that God would give him strength one last time.



WORD BANK

DELILAH	NAZIRITE
DONKEY	PHILISTINES
GOD	PRISON
HAIR	SHAVED
LION	STRENGTH



Review Questions

1. What evil did the Israelites do again that brought God's punishment in Judges 13? *They worshipped false gods/idols.*
2. In this lesson, what warlike people did God bring to punish the Israelites' sin: the Philistines, the Midianites, or the Egyptians? *Philistines.*
3. What did the angel of the Lord tell Manoah's wife she would have? *A son.*
4. What did God say Manoah's son would do for the Israelites? *Deliver them from the Philistines.*
5. What was special about Manoah's son? What would he be? *A Nazirite.*
6. Name one of the Nazirite rules Samson was supposed to follow. *Don't drink wine or eat grapes and don't shave his head or cut his hair.*
7. Why did Nazirites follow these rules? What were they showing? *That they were set apart for God.*
8. What did Samson do when he was attacked by a roaring lion? *Tore it to pieces. Killed it with his bare hands.*
9. When Samson had been captured and was about to be turned over to the Philistines, what did he use to kill 1,000 Philistines? *The jawbone of a donkey.*
10. What was the name of the woman who wanted to know the secret of Samson's strength? *Delilah.*
11. Why did Delilah try so hard to find out Samson's secret? What was promised to her? *Money.*
12. How many times did Samson lie about the secret to his strength: ten, five, or three times? *Three times.*
13. What happened each time Delilah tested each of Samson's lies? *She had men jump out and attack him, but Samson would always defeat them.*
14. Why did Samson finally tell Delilah about his hair? *She kept begging him so much that he got tired of it (vexed) and gave in.*
15. What did Delilah do when Samson told her about his Nazirite vow to not cut his hair? *She had a man cut his hair while he was asleep.*
16. Why did God take away Samson's strength after his hair was cut? *Samson put his love for Delilah above his relationship with God.*
17. What happened to Samson when the Philistines attacked him after his hair was cut? *He was captured, blinded, and put in prison.*
18. When did Samson repent? *When he cried out to God for strength to defeat the Philistines.*
19. How did Samson kill over 3,000 Philistines when he was blind? *God gave him strength to push two pillars that were supporting the building with the Philistines in it. When the pillars fell, the building collapsed.*
20. What word is missing from the first part of our memory verse? *When the righteous cry for _____ (help), the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

Samson Relay

Materials

- Medium-sized boxes or bins, one for each team
- Chairs, minimum one per team
- Masking tape
- Optional: balloons

Instructions

Divide class into teams. Use masking tape to mark a start line. Set up one chair across the room from each team. Give each team a box/bin.

When you say “Go,” the first student on each team will raise the box/bin up and over his head and run across the room to the chair, go around the chair three times, and return to start where he will pass off the box/bin to the next student in line. Students must keep the box/bin raised the whole time they complete the course or else they must repeat it. The first team to have all students finish the course wins.

You may want to set up more obstacles between the start line and the chair (e.g., extra cones or chairs for students to weave around).

Balloon option: You may choose to inflate balloons and put them in the boxes/bins. Fill them to the top so if students run, balloons will blow out. If students lose a balloon from the box/bin, they must go back and return it before continuing.

Suggested Discussion

The relay today required strength to keep something raised over your head.

- ?** How many of you felt your arms or shoulders getting tired when you ran? *Show of hands.*

One of Samson’s feats of strength was to remove a city gate, put it on his shoulders, and carry it to the top of a hill over 30 miles away! Imagine carrying an entire city gate—posts, bars, and all—that far?

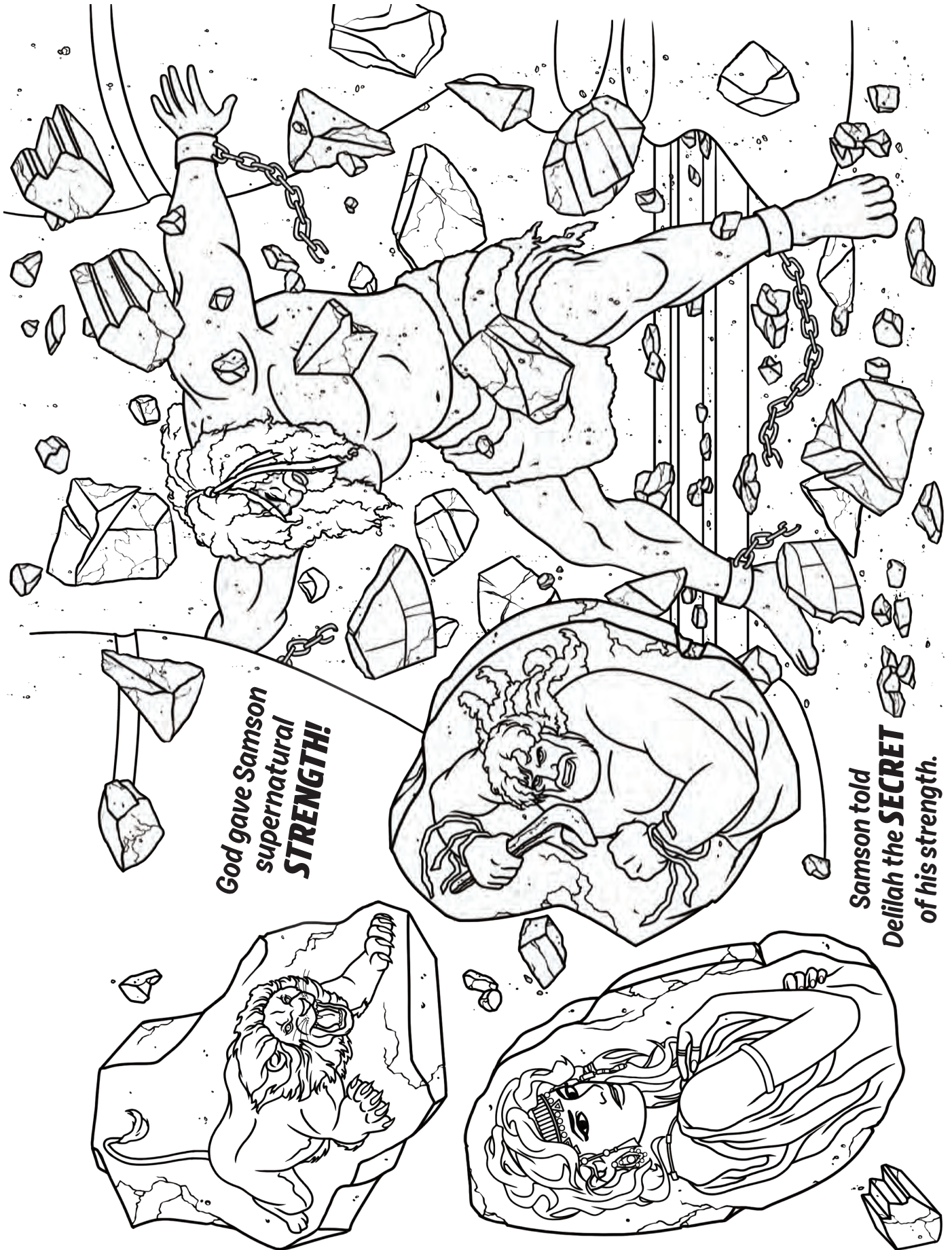
Yet for all Samson’s physical strength, he lacked spiritual strength to recognize his own sin. God wants us to be spiritually strong by reading his Word, praying, and spending time with him.

Name _____

**Find the path
through the maze
of Samson's hair!**



Name _____



God gave Samson
supernatural
STRENGTH!

Samson told
Delilah the **SECRET**
of his strength.

Trading Cards & Soccer Goals

“Wow! That one’s so cool! You wanna trade for this one?” asked Jeremy as he sorted through his stack of trading cards.

“I don’t know. It took me a long time to get him. I think I’ll keep it. But I can trade this one,” said Jeremy’s soccer teammate.

The two boys discussed the trade until they heard the whistle. “Come on, team!” Coach Martin called. “We should get started with soccer practice now.”

Jeremy hurriedly stashed his cards in his bag and ran to line up with the rest of his teammates.

After a long, tiring practice, Jeremy sat down for a rest while he waited for his ride home. “Hey, Jeremy,” said Justin as he flopped down beside him. “I’m nervous about the game on Saturday. It’s pretty important.”

“Yeah, it is,” Jeremy replied. “But you don’t need to worry about it. Hey, did you see my new trading cards? I got some great ones in my pack yesterday!” Jeremy rummaged through his bag looking for his new cards.

Just then Coach Martin walked toward them. “Justin, I’d like to use you more in the game on Saturday. You’re passing has really improved! If you and Jeremy can practice your goal shots each day this week, I think you’ll feel more confident to score in Saturday’s game.”

“That sounds great, Coach Martin,” said Justin eagerly.

“Okay, Jeremy? Will you do this special job for me?” Coach Martin asked.

Jeremy didn’t answer. He was busy looking at the new card he got earlier.

“Jeremy?” Justin nudged him.

“Huh? Oh, yeah. Right,” Jeremy replied. “I can work with Justin. Sure.”

The next day after school, Justin raced over to Jeremy’s house with his soccer ball. But when he knocked on the door, Jeremy’s sister, Emily, answered. “Jeremy isn’t here,” she said. “He’s at Patrick’s house trading cards.”

“But he was supposed to practice with me,” Justin said, confused.

“Sorry.” Emily shrugged.

Justin trudged back home. He felt hurt that Jeremy would forget about him like this.

When bedtime came, Justin slouched down under the blankets while his dad tucked him in. “Did you have a good practice with Jeremy today?” Dad asked.

“No. He wasn’t home. Emily said he was at Patrick’s trading cards.”

“Really? That doesn’t sound like Jeremy. Well, maybe tomorrow,” Dad said reassuringly. “Don’t worry. Good night, Kiddo.”

Justin closed his eyes. “But I *am* worried,” he whispered to himself. “I sure hope Jeremy will help me tomorrow.”

The next day, Justin raced down the sidewalk to Jeremy’s house and rang the doorbell.

“Oh, hey, Justin,” Jeremy greeted him at the door.

Justin let out a sigh of relief. “Hi, Jeremy. We have to hurry up and practice. I’ve got to go to Kids’ Club at church, so I don’t have much time.”

They went out back, and Jeremy showed Justin how he always aimed and kicked to score goals. “Now you try it,” he directed.

Justin lined up the ball and was just about to kick it when Emily shouted from the back door, “Jeremy! Patrick’s here. He says he needs to show you something.”

“Okay! I’ll be there in just a sec,” Jeremy replied. Then turning to Justin, he said, “I’ll be right back.”

Justin looked at Jeremy. “But I don’t know if I’m doing this—” The back door slammed as Jeremy rushed into the house, leaving Justin standing by the soccer ball. “—right,” Justin finished saying.

Justin kicked the ball and missed the net completely. “I’m the worst player ever! I’m never gonna score,” he huffed as he picked up the ball and headed home.

A few minutes later, Jeremy came back out. “Justin? I’m back! Justin?” He looked around, but Justin was nowhere to be found.

The next afternoon, Jeremy ran to Justin’s house. “Hi, Justin. I’m sorry I left you yesterday. But Patrick got a new pack of trading cards that just came out. He said I could have first pick! They’re super cool! You wanna see them?”

Justin shook his head. “No, thanks. I wish you would forget about those stupid cards and help me. I just want to be able to make one goal in the game Saturday.” Justin glared at Jeremy.

“My cards aren’t stupid!” Jeremy glared back at Justin and was about to walk away when he

noticed that Justin had tears in his eyes. “Justin, I’m sorry. You’re right, it was stupid of me to ignore you and not do my job because of those cards.”

Justin sniffled. “I’m really nervous, Jeremy. Saturday is only two days away, and I’m so afraid I’ll make us lose.”

“Well, if you’ll give me another chance, I promise to help you practice as much as we can today and tomorrow—and no more trading cards,” Jeremy said.

“Okay.” Justin smiled and followed Jeremy to the yard to practice.

Finally, Saturday came. The game was tied 2–2, so Justin’s team, the Tigers, needed a goal to win. Jeremy stole the ball from a player on the other team and ran with it down the sideline. Then he saw Justin sprinting hard toward the goal.

“Justin!” he shouted as he passed the ball. “Shoot!”

Justin saw the ball roll perfectly in front of him. He gave the ball a strong, steady kick just like Jeremy had taught him, and off it sailed—right into the net! GOAL!!

As the Tigers mobbed Justin, cheering and slapping his back, Justin looked at Jeremy and mouthed, “Thank you!”



Name _____

Class Notes

For each sentence, circle the letter of the correct answer.

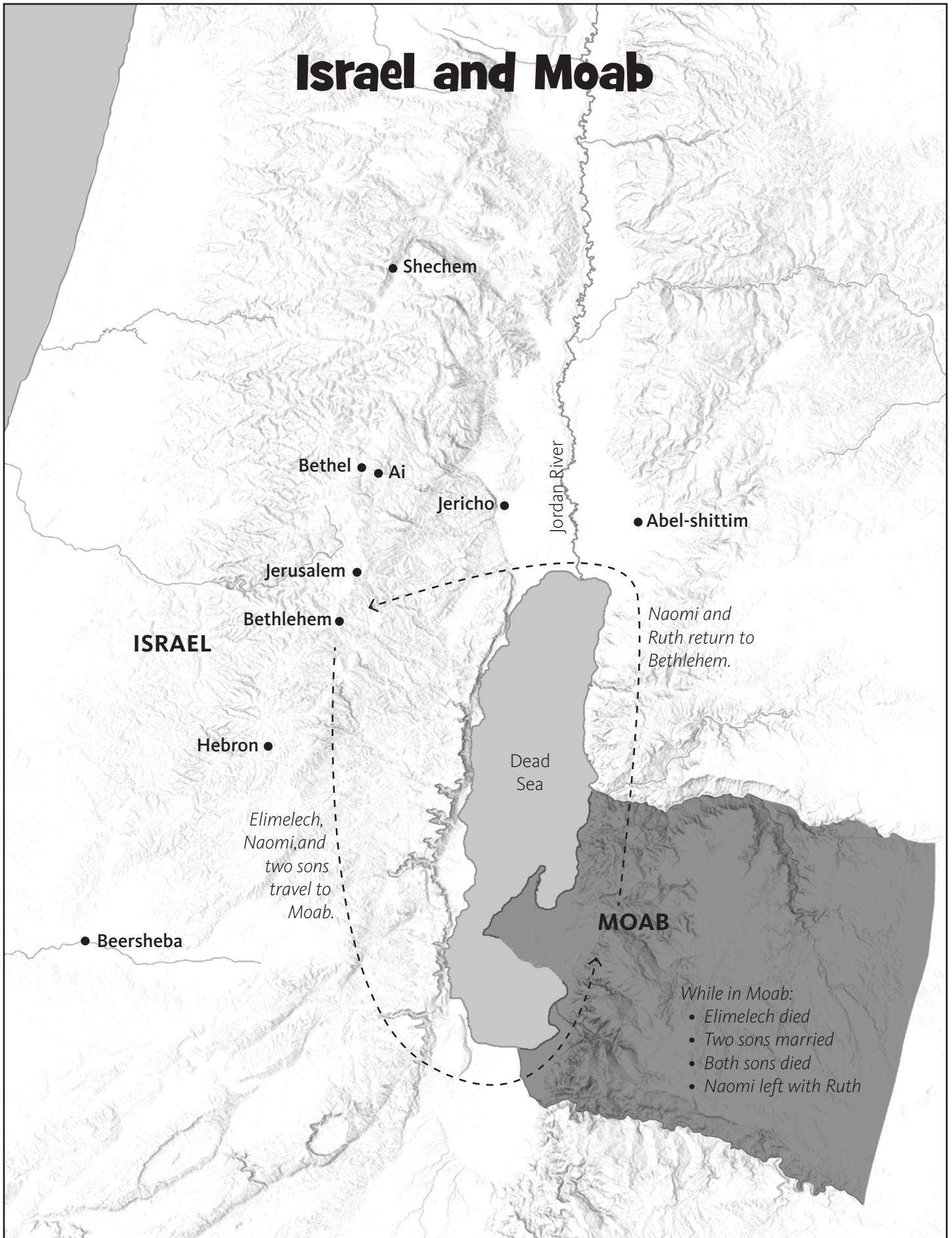
- 1. Because of the famine, Elimelech brought his wife, Naomi, and two sons to the land of**
A. Moab. B. Egypt. C. Judah.
- 2. Naomi's sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married women from Moab named**
A. Ruth and Olivia. B. Ruth and Orpah. C. Ruth and Oprah.
- 3. Elimelech and his two sons**
A. got lost. B. died. C. went back to Bethlehem.
- 4. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to**
A. come with her to Bethlehem. B. stay and sell the
house in Moab. C. go back to their families.
- 5. Ruth wanted to**
A. go with Naomi to Bethlehem. B. go home to her mother. C. go with Naomi to the
land of Midian.
- 6. Ruth collected grain in the fields of Naomi's close relative named**
A. Zobaz. B. Boaz. C. Bozab.
- 7. The word "redeem" means**
A. to trade for something
you want or work for it. B. to give away something
for free out of kindness. C. to buy something back or
free someone from distress.
- 8. Boaz was the relative who**
A. redeemed Naomi and
married Ruth. B. married Naomi and
redeemed Ruth. C. married Ruth and
sent Naomi away.
- 9. God blessed Boaz and Ruth with a son named**
A. David. B. Obed. C. Jesse.
- 10. King David was in the family line of Jesus! Ruth was, too, because she was the**
A. grandmother of David. B. great-great-great-great-
grandmother of David. C. great-grandmother of David.

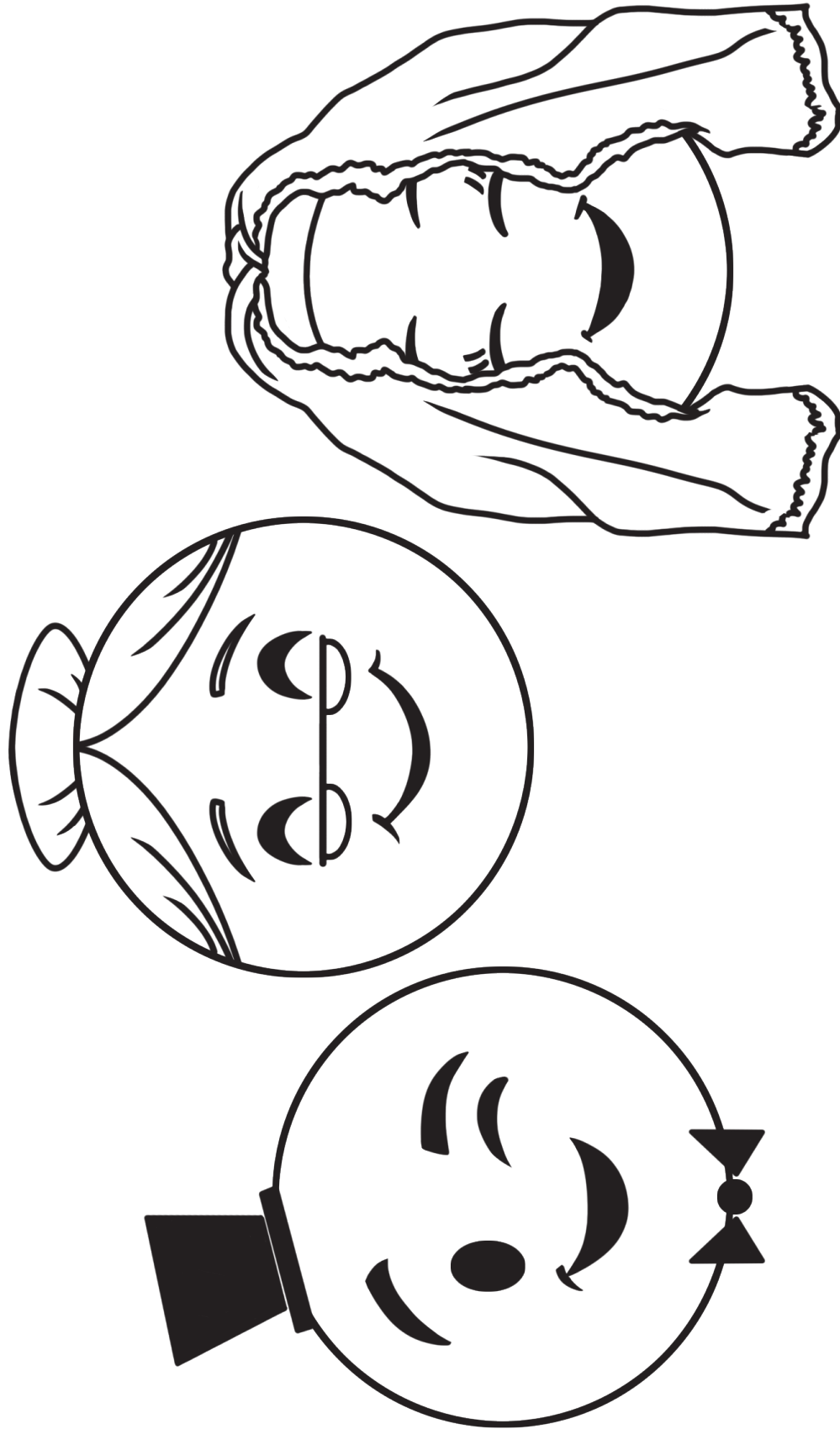
Class Notes Answer Key

For each sentence, circle the letter of the correct answer.

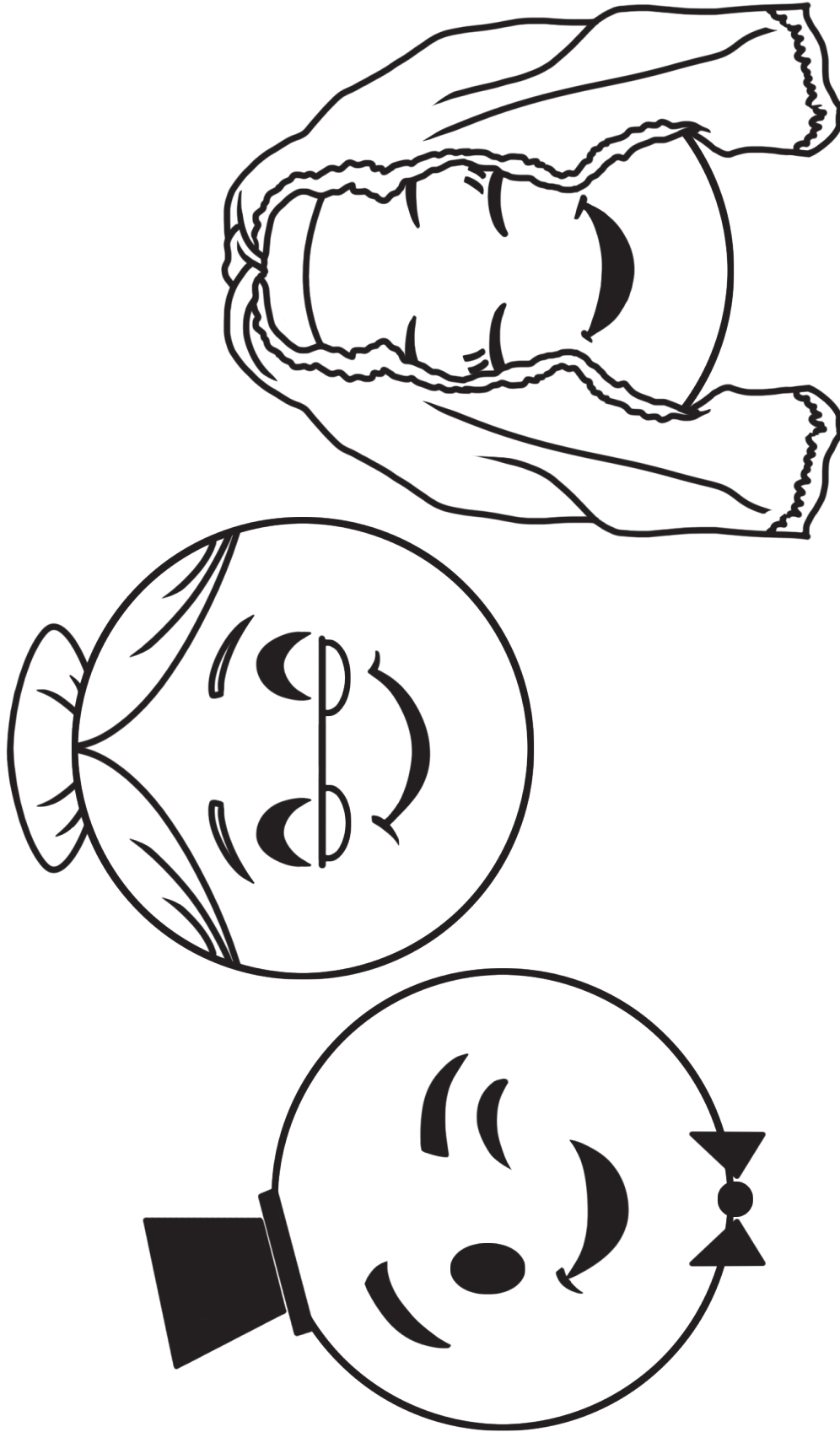
1. Because of the famine, Elimelech brought his wife, Naomi, and two sons to the land of
 A. Moab. B. Egypt. C. Judah.
2. Naomi's sons, Mahlon and Chilion, married women from Moab named
A. Ruth and Olivia. B. Ruth and Orpah. C. Ruth and Oprah.
3. Elimelech and his two sons
A. got lost. B. died. C. went back to Bethlehem.
4. Naomi told her daughters-in-law to
A. come with her to Bethlehem. B. stay and sell the house in Moab. C. go back to their families.
5. Ruth wanted to
 A. go with Naomi to Bethlehem. B. go home to her mother. C. go with Naomi to the land of Midian.
6. Ruth collected grain in the fields of Naomi's close relative named
A. Zobab. B. Boaz. C. Bozab.
7. The word "redeem" means
A. to trade for something you want or work for it. B. to give away something for free out of kindness. C. to buy something back or free someone from distress.
8. Boaz was the relative who
 A. redeemed Naomi and married Ruth. B. married Naomi and redeemed Ruth. C. married Ruth and sent Naomi away.
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Israel and Moab

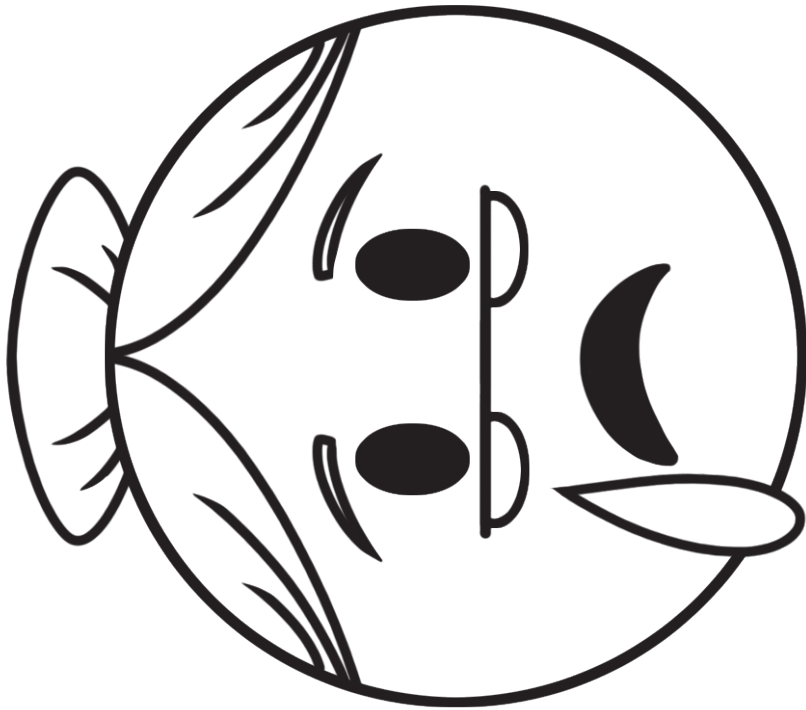




MOTHER-IN-LAW



DAUGHTER-IN-LAW



WIDOW

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

**Redeem for
one treat.**

Review Questions

1. Why did Elimelech and his family move to Moab? *There was a famine.*
2. How many sons did Elimelech and Naomi have? *Two.*
3. What were the names of the wives of Naomi's sons? *Ruth and Orpah.*
4. What happened to Naomi's sons several years after they got married? *They died.*
5. Where did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law to go after their husbands died? *Back to their families.*
6. Which daughter-in-law would not leave Naomi? *Ruth.*
7. What town in Israel did Naomi and Ruth travel back to? **It was Naomi's hometown.** *Bethlehem.*
8. Why were Naomi and Ruth in a bad situation when they returned? *They didn't have husbands to provide for them or protect them.*
9. What did Ruth do to get food for herself and Naomi? *Worked in the fields to collect grain.*
10. Whose field did Ruth end up working in? *Boaz's field.*
11. Boaz showed kindness to Ruth. Why did that surprise her? *She was a foreigner from Moab, not an Israelite.*
12. Why did Boaz treat Ruth kindly? What had he heard about her? *All she had done for Naomi; how she had left her family and country to live in Bethlehem.*
13. What was Boaz able to do for Ruth and Naomi because he was a close relative? *He could redeem (help) them.*
14. Name one thing Boaz did for Ruth and Naomi to redeem them. *Allow several students to answer. He bought the land that was Elimelech's. He married Ruth. He brought Ruth and Naomi into his family to care for them.*
15. What was the name of Boaz and Ruth's son? *Obed.*
16. Who was Obed's grandson and Ruth's great-grandson? *King David.*
17. What special descendant did we talk about that was born many years later from Boaz and Ruth's family? *Jesus.*
18. How is Boaz a picture of Jesus? *Boaz redeemed Ruth and Naomi, and Jesus redeemed sinners.*
19. How did Jesus redeem (save) us? *Through his death on the cross, by his blood.*
20. According to our memory verse, what does the Lord do when the righteous cry for help? *He hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

Real World Skit

You and an assistant will read a skit discussing how to respond when bad things happen to Christians. Bring some props to add interest!

Student 1: You seem really down today. Is everything okay?

Student 2: Actually, I'm not doing so great.

Student 1: What's wrong? Anything I can do to help?

Student 2: Not really. My family is going through some tough times. My grandpa died about a month ago. Then my grandma fell and broke her hip! But we live far away, so it's hard to help her.

Student 1: Oh no! Your poor grandma! Will she be okay?

Student 2: I hope so. She's in a care facility, but she doesn't like it there. Then if that weren't bad enough, we just found out my uncle has cancer. I just don't understand why all these bad things are happening.

Student 1: I know how you feel; my cousin was just in a terrible car accident. She'll be in the hospital for a while.

Student 2: Sounds like we're both dealing with a lot of sad and scary things. It feels like God has left us!

Student 1: Yeah, but my dad reminded me last night that things like death and sickness are in our world because of sin. They happen to all of us, but that doesn't mean God doesn't care.

Student 2: But God could stop these things from happening, right? I mean, my family believes in Jesus! We're Christians!

Student 1: Yes, he could. But God doesn't promise that Christians won't have anything bad happen to them. Actually, he promises just the opposite!

Student 2: What?! I thought things were supposed to work out for good for those who trust God! That's what our memory verse said in Sunday school.

Student 1: We aren't promised that nothing bad will ever happen. We live in a sin-cursed world, so bad stuff is all around us. But we can trust that God is working things out—even the bad things—for our good and his glory.

Student 2: I'm not sure I understand.

Student 1: Well, my dad showed me some examples from the Bible of how God sovereignly worked out events that seemed terrible to accomplish his purpose.

Student 2: Really? Like what?

Student 1: Well, like Joseph being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. That's a terrible thing to happen! But God wanted Joseph to be taken to Egypt so he could eventually save his family from a famine.

Student 2: Oh, yeah. That's right!

Student 1: Another example is Naomi. We talked about her in church last week. Her husband and two sons all died. She felt alone and forgotten, but God used Ruth to completely change her situation into something good. Remember?

Student 2: Yeah, Ruth ended up marrying Boaz, and their family became the ancestors of King David and Jesus!

Student 1: Right!

Student 2: Wow! I just thought of something—God even used family members dying to do something good.

Student 1: Yes! Death is always hard, and God will comfort us when we're sad. But he can use those things to bring others to faith in him or to direct our paths.

Student 2: That makes me feel better to know that God is in control.

Student 1: Yep. Nothing is a surprise to God. The more we learn about who God is, the more we can trust him, especially when we're going through tough times.

Student 2: I guess I was wrong to think that God didn't care. I'd stopped reading my Bible and praying because I was so sad and angry.

Student 1: I felt like doing that, too, when I heard about my cousin's accident. It's like we want to blame someone. But instead of blaming God, we should come to him for help and comfort. He really is a good Father!

Student 2: You're right. Thanks. I needed that reminder.

My Redeemer Door Hanger

Materials

- Door hangers (next page)
- Mini pom-poms, smaller than 1/2" (yellow, brown, green, orange)
- Yellow, green, or brown yarn or raffia
- Glue
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Hole punch

Instructions

Print on colored card stock and cut out one door hanger for each student. Have students color the leaves then glue yarn or raffia to the stalks and bristles. Next, glue pom-poms on for seeds.

Punch two holes at the top where indicated and use yarn to make a loop for hanging on a doorknob.

Suggested Discussion

- ?** We just decorated our door hangers with stalks of grain. What did grain have to do with our lesson today? *Allow discussion.*

Ruth gathered grain for food, didn't she? Ruth and Naomi were poor widows who had very little to eat. But God worked it out so Ruth met Boaz, a relative who could redeem her and Naomi.

- ?** What are the words on the door hanger? *Jesus is my Redeemer.*

That's right! Just like Boaz rescued Ruth and Naomi from their trouble, Jesus has rescued sinners from the punishment of sin. He paid for our sin on the cross so anyone who believes in him can be saved and live with him in heaven forever.





**Jesus
is my
Redeemer!**



**Jesus
is my
Redeemer!**

Print on colored card stock and cut out one for each student.

Glean the Grain

Materials

- Large room or space outside
- Orange cones or masking tape
- Drinking straws (at least 5 times the number of students)
- Large cups or containers to hold straws
- Timer or stopwatch

Instructions

Use cones/masking tape to mark boundaries for the “field” area. Spread straws on the floor to be “grain” in the field.

Have students find a partner and give each pair a cup/container. Explain that each pair of students must link arms so they each have only one hand free. Two pairs of students (or more if you have a large space) will be sent into the field to collect as much grain (straws) as they can in 15–30 seconds (adjust time according to size of the area and number of straws) and put it in their container. Pairs must work together to pick up straws and put them in their container without unlinking their arms. If they come unlinked, they must dump out the straws they’ve collected and start over.

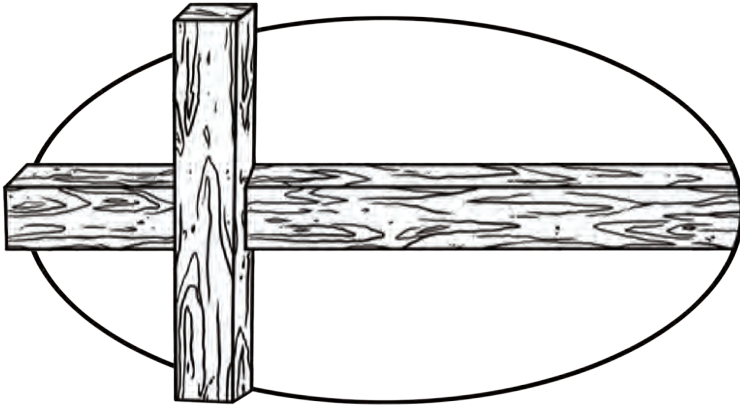
When time is up, count the collected straws and declare a winning pair. After all pairs have competed once, have the winning pairs play against each other until there is a final winner.

Suggested Discussion

Our game today was a bit like how Ruth collected grain in Boaz’s field. This work was called gleaning, which is another word for gathering or collecting. Ruth went through the field after the workers and picked up the stalks of grain that were left behind. Ruth was willing to work hard to get food for herself and Naomi.

God was watching over both Ruth and Naomi by having Ruth work in Boaz’s field. Boaz noticed Ruth and was kind to her. Later, Boaz married Ruth and cared for her and Naomi. God was in control of everything that happened!

Name _____



Cookies & Cream

Ding-a-ling-a-ling! rang the bell on the ice cream truck. It was spring break, and Justin and Jessie were playing outside. “Hey, I’m hungry!” Justin exclaimed.

“You’re always hungry,” Jessie teased. They ran up to the house where their mothers were chatting on the front porch. “May we buy some ice cream? The truck is on our street right now!”

“Sure,” both moms said as they handed some money to the kids.

Justin and Jessie raced down the sidewalk toward the truck.

“I’d like a strawberry sundae cone,” Jessie told the driver.

“Hmm. I think I want cookies and cream,” Justin decided.

They turned to walk home when suddenly, a shaggy dog trotted up beside them licking his chops.

“Woah! Where did you come from?” Justin said. “I think he wants my ice cream.”

“Go home! Go on,” Jessie commanded. But as they kept walking, so did the dog—all the way back to Justin’s house.

“What is that?” Justin’s mom asked.

“What do you mean? It’s my ice cream,” said Justin as he wiped some off his cheek.

“No, not that—THAT!” Mom pointed past Justin.

Justin turned, and there, lying on the grass, was the dog. “Oh! I guess he followed us home.”

Jessie noticed the dog was panting. “He looks hot and thirsty.”

“Why don’t you give him some water, Justin,” said his mom.

The fluffy dog lapped up the water with gusto. Justin knelt beside him. “Hey, Mom. He’s a nice dog. He doesn’t have a collar. Can I keep him?”

“Oh, Justin. He might actually belong to someone and may have just lost his collar.”

“I promise to take good care of him. I’ll wash him and feed him and brush him,” Justin begged.

“We’ll see what Dad thinks when he gets home. For now, you can feed him some bread and milk.”

Justin and Jessie sat in the yard with the dog, watching him gobble down the bread and milk. “He sure likes that stuff,” said Justin.

“Yeah, but I think he really wanted your cookies and cream ice cream,” Jessie giggled.

“Hey! I think I’ll call him Cookies & Cream,” said Justin, grinning.

“His fur is all mixed up black and white like cookies and cream,” Jessie agreed. “But how about just calling him Cookie?”

Just then, Justin’s dad drove into the driveway. “What is this?” he asked walking toward the kids.

Justin explained how the dog had followed them home. “And we just named him Cookie,” he finished, patting Cookie’s head.

The conversation at dinner that evening was all about the dog. Would they keep him or not? What if he was lost and someone wanted him back?

Justin frowned when his parents decided to take the dog to the animal shelter. “You see,” Dad explained, “if he is lost, his owners would call the shelter, looking for him. But if we keep him here, they would never know, and that

wouldn't be fair." So Justin said goodbye to Cookie, and Dad took him to the shelter.

Later, Dad walked into the house frowning. "What's wrong, Dad?" Justin asked. "Is Cookie okay?"

"Yes," Dad replied. "But the man at the shelter said they can't keep Cookie very long. They have too many dogs, and it's too crowded. If Cookie's owner doesn't show up by Saturday, they'll have to take Cookie somewhere else."

"Oh no!" Justin said. He didn't want Cookie to end up in a strange place all alone with no one to take care of him.

Justin thought about Cookie all week long. Finally, on Saturday Justin and Jessie sat in Justin's yard. "I don't want Cookie to be alone, so I've been praying for him every night all week long." As Justin finished explaining to Jessie about the dog, his mom called to him from the window. "Justin! Will you come in please?"

"Okay! See ya, Jessie," Justin said as he got up off the grass. Justin walked through the front door to find his mom and dad staring at him. "Um," he said, "did I do something wrong?"

His parents smiled. "No, we just need to ask you an important question."

Justin sat. His dad began, "Justin, how much do you really want a dog?"

Justin's mouth dropped open. He was flabbergasted! "I'd LOVE to have a dog!" he jumped up and shouted.

"Good! Because the animal shelter said Cookie is yours if you want him," Mom announced.

"Yippee!" Justin danced around the room. He couldn't believe it—finally, a pet all his own. "But he's still at the shelter, right?" Justin asked. "How do we get him out?"

"Well, we have to redeem him I guess," Dad replied.

"Redeem?" Justin thought a minute then remembered that word from church. "Doesn't that mean we have to buy him back?"

"Yes, actually. That's exactly what it means," Dad said. "Do you have any money to help redeem your dog from the shelter?"

Justin ran to his room and looked in his bank. "I've got ten dollars I've been saving up for something special!" he exclaimed.

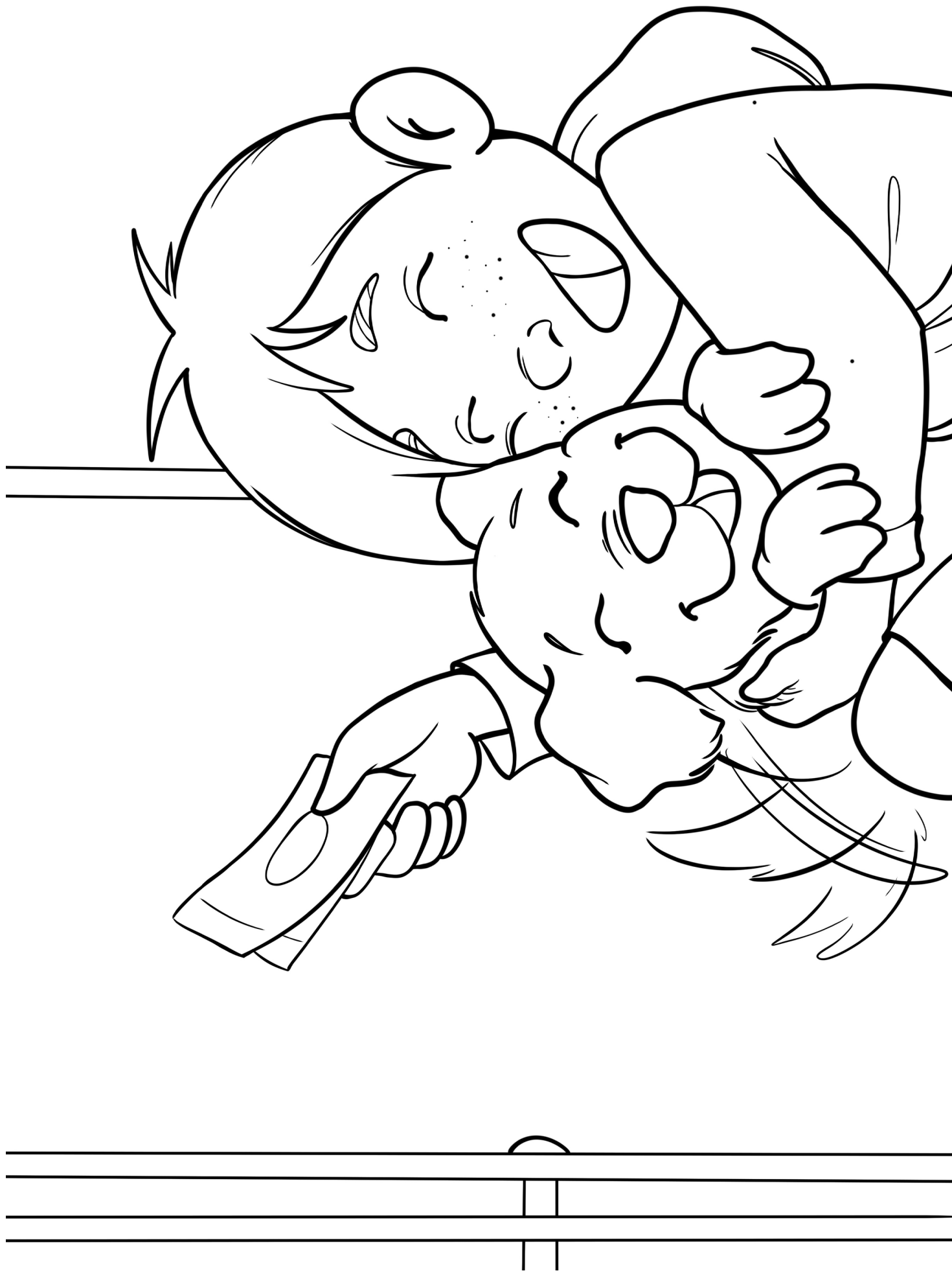
"Well, this seems pretty special to me, don't you think?" Mom asked.

"Oh, yeah! It sure is."

Justin clutched his ten dollars all the way to the animal shelter. A man led them to the dog cages. When Cookie saw Justin, his tail wagged, and he began to jump around like a crazy puppy. "Woof! Woof-woof!"

"Looks like you've got a sweet dog there, Kid," said the man.

"I sure do!" Justin replied as he handed the man his money. "Come on, Cookie! You're all mine now. Let's go home."



Name _____

Class Notes


Match the shape in the sentence with the shapes below, then fill in the answer.

1. A man named  was the judge and high priest at Shiloh.

2. The ark of the  was kept inside the tabernacle. _____

3. A woman named  prayed for a son.

4. Hannah's son  was brought to the tabernacle to serve the Lord and help Eli.


5. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were  priests. _____


6. God called Samuel when he was  in the tabernacle. _____


7. God told Samuel judgment would come on the  and Eli's family.


8. The Israelites brought the ark of the covenant to the battle for a good luck

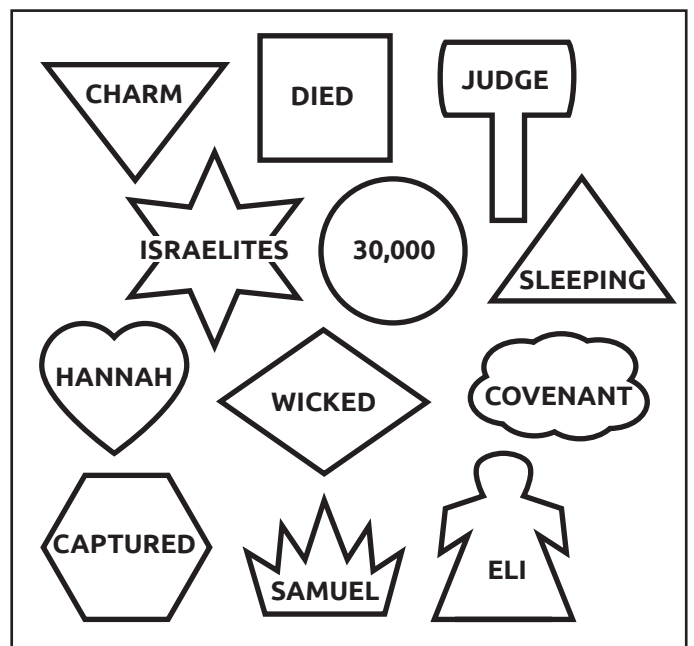
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9. The word of God was fulfilled when the Israelites lost  soldiers in the battle.

10. Eli's sons died in the battle and the ark of the covenant was .













11. Eli  when he heard that his sons died and the ark of the covenant was taken.

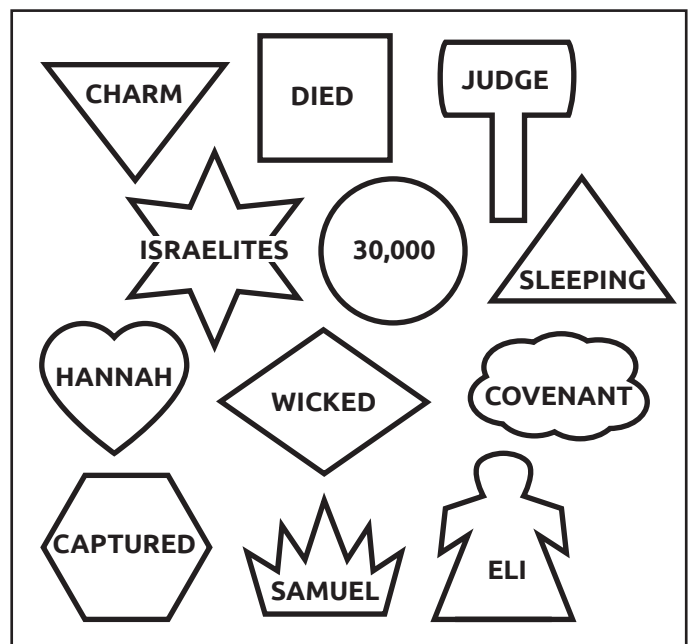
12. God planned for Samuel to be his faithful prophet, priest, and .



Class Notes Answer Key

Match the shape in the sentence with the shapes below, then fill in the answer.

1. A man named  was the judge and high priest at Shiloh. Eli
2. The ark of the  was kept inside the tabernacle. covenant
3. A woman named  prayed for a son. Hannah
4. Hannah's son  was brought to the tabernacle to serve the Lord and help Eli. Samuel
5. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were  priests. wicked
6. God called Samuel when he was  in the tabernacle. sleeping
7. God told Samuel judgment would come on the  and Eli's family. Israelites
8. The Israelites brought the ark of the covenant to the battle for a good luck . charm
9. The word of God was fulfilled when the Israelites lost  soldiers in the battle. 30,000
10. Eli's sons died in the battle and the ark of the covenant was . captured
11. Eli  when he heard that his sons died and the ark of the covenant was taken. died
12. God planned for Samuel to be his faithful prophet, priest, and . judge



God Calls Samuel Skit

(Based on 1 Samuel 3:1–18)

Parts: Samuel, Eli, and Narrator (teacher)

Props: two bathrobes (or pajamas), two pillows, two towels/blankets, two chairs

Scene: Give Samuel and Eli bathrobes (or pajamas) to wear. At the front of the room, have Eli and Samuel each lie down on their towels/blankets with a pillow. Set up chairs as a wall between them.

Narrate the script below and give cues to the volunteers for what to say and do.

Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. At that time, Eli couldn't see well. He was lying down in his place. Samuel was lying down in the tabernacle of the Lord, where the ark of God was.

Then the Lord called Samuel, "Samuel!"

Samuel sat up and said, "Here I am!" *Have Samuel repeat line.*

Then Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." *Have Samuel run to Eli and repeat line.*

Eli woke up and said, "I did not call; lie down again." *Have Eli repeat and Samuel run back to bed.*

And the Lord called again, "Samuel!"

And Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." *Have Samuel run to Eli and repeat line.*

Eli said, "I did not call, my son, lie down again." *Have Eli repeat and Samuel run back to bed.*

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time, "Samuel!"

And Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." *Have Samuel run to Eli and repeat line.*

Eli finally figured out that it was the Lord calling Samuel. *Have Eli smack his palm against his forehead.*

Eli said, “Go, lie down. If he calls you again, you should say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.’” *Have Eli point for Samuel to return to bed.*

So Samuel went and lay down in his place. *Have Samuel return to his bed.*

And the Lord came and stood, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”

And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” *Have Samuel repeat line while lying in bed with eyes closed (as in a dream).*

Then the Lord said, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day, I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay until morning. Then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And he was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. *Have Samuel get up and pretend to open a door.*

But Eli called him, “Samuel, my son!” *Have Eli get up and repeat line.*

Samuel answered, “Here I am.” *Have Samuel jump or look afraid when Eli calls him, but he goes to him.*

Eli asked him, “What did the Lord tell you? Do not hide it from me.” *Have Eli look sternly at Samuel.*

Then Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. *Have Samuel whisper in Eli’s ear.*

Eli said, “It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him.”

End of Skit

Let’s give our volunteers a hand for helping us today! *Have students clap for actors. Tell volunteers to return props and costumes and then return to their seats.*

Review Questions

1. Who was the high priest at the tabernacle of God in Shiloh? *Eli.*
2. Who came to the tabernacle and prayed for a son? *Hannah.*
3. What did Hannah promise God if he gave her a son? *That she would give him back to serve the Lord.*
4. God heard Hannah's prayer and gave her a son. What was his name? *Samuel.*
5. When Samuel was still a young boy, why did Hannah bring him to Eli at the tabernacle? *To fulfill her promise to give him back to God. So Samuel could serve as a helper to Eli.*
6. Who were Hophni and Phinehas? *Eli's two wicked sons.*
7. Where was Samuel when God first called him? *In bed. Lying down in the tabernacle.*
8. Why did Samuel run to Eli when he heard God call him? *He thought Eli was calling.*
9. How many times did Samuel run to Eli before Eli realized it was God calling? *Three times.*
10. What did Eli tell Samuel to say if God called him again? *Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.*
11. What terrible message did God give to Samuel? Who was going to be judged? *Israel and the house (family) of Eli.*
12. What sin had Israel committed? *Idolatry, worshipping false gods.*
13. Why would Eli be judged? What did he fail to do? *He didn't stop his sons from sinning.*
14. How did Samuel feel about the message from the Lord? Did he want to share it? *No, he was afraid to tell Eli.*
15. Who did God bring against the Israelites to punish their sin: the Ammonites, Moabites, or Philistines? *Philistines.*
16. After losing a battle to the Philistines, what did the Israelites bring to the next battle for good luck? *Ark of the covenant.*
17. Why was it wrong for the Israelites to bring the ark of the covenant to the battle? *They were trusting in an object rather than trusting in God to help them.*
18. Who came with the ark of the covenant to the battle? *Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas.*
19. How did God fulfill his promised judgment at the battle? Name one thing that happened there. *Allow several students to answer. The Israelites lost 30,000 soldiers and fled. The ark of the covenant was captured. Hophni and Phinehas were killed.*
20. What happened to Eli when he heard about the ark being captured and his sons killed? *He fell and died.*
21. What three jobs did God give Samuel? *Prophet, priest, judge.*

Hear the Message

Materials

- None

Instructions

Direct students to stand or sit in a circle. Explain that they will each be hearing a whispered message from the student beside them, which they will then pass on by whispering what they heard to the next student. The last student to hear the message will share it aloud to see if it stayed the same or changed from the original message given by the teacher.

Choose one or more of the messages below, or come up with your own message based on the lesson, and whisper it to one of the students to pass on to the student on his right. Students may not ask for the message to be repeated; they should pass it on as best as they can. Continue passing the message to the right until everyone has heard it. Play as time allows or until all messages are used.

Messages:

- *Samuel served the Lord in the tabernacle at Shiloh.*
- *Eli did not restrain his evil sons, Hophni and Phinehas.*
- *God called Samuel when he was sleeping in the tabernacle.*
- *God's prophecy of judgment came to pass on Israel and the house of Eli.*
- *The Israelites tried to use the ark of the covenant for good luck in a battle.*
- *Samuel became a prophet, priest, and judge.*

Suggested Discussion

Sometimes it was hard to hear the message because it was whispered. But when God spoke to Samuel, he made his message clear: he was going to judge Israel and the house of Eli for their sin. This was a hard message for Samuel to share, but he did.

We can share the message of the gospel with our friends and family. Some people may not like to hear about God's judgment for their sin, but they must understand the sin problem before they can appreciate God's love and mercy in sending Jesus to take the punishment for sin.

Who Is it?

Materials

None

Instructions

Choose a volunteer to step outside the door of the classroom. (If there's a window, remind him/her not to peek.) Next, choose another student to go to the door and call out the name of the student standing outside. Students may disguise their voice or make it easier and use their normal voice. After calling the name three times, he or she should quickly go back and sit down.

Have the student come back inside. Ask, "Who is it?" and have the student guess who was calling to him through the door. Allow three guesses. If he guesses correctly, allow him to choose the next student to go out the door. If not, have him sit down, then you choose another student to go outside the door and repeat the game as time allows.

Suggested Discussion

When God first called Samuel, Samuel thought the voice he heard was Eli's. Finally, Eli understood what was happening and told Samuel what to do. The next time Samuel heard the Lord, he humbly said, "Speak, Lord, for your servant hears."

Samuel wanted to listen to the Lord and be obedient. How about us? Do we want to listen to God's Word and obey? When we ask God, he will help us understand his instructions in his Word so we can be obedient to follow him.

Name _____



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Baby Bottle Blunder

“Well, it looks like I’m going to be in the nursery at church by myself today,” Justin’s mom announced to the family as Dad parked their van in the church parking lot.

“Ooh! That could be tough by yourself. I’d help, but I’m teaching a class,” Dad replied.

Justin thought about offering to help but knew he didn’t want to be in the nursery. Babies always slobbered on you, and they had stinky diapers.

Mom suddenly turned to him. “Justin! You could help me!”

Justin almost choked! “Huh? Me? Umm.”

Mom smiled. “Thanks, Justin.”

Once inside the church, Justin’s mom dropped Ellie off at her class then walked into the nursery. Justin followed slowly, cringing at the sound of a whining baby.

It turned out that only three babies were in the nursery today. One sat on a blanket and played with a toy rattle. Another baby slept soundly in a crib. But then . . . there was Joey. Baby Joey sat in the bouncy swing and drooled on his fist.

“Eww,” Justin said. “Why do babies slobber so much, Mom?”

“Because their teeth are growing in,” Mom replied as she gave Joey’s swing a little push.

“Justin, look in Joey’s diaper bag for his bottle. His mom said he’ll be hungry soon.”

Justin looked at the three diaper bags. But he didn’t see any names on them. “Which bag is Joey’s?” he asked.

“The blue one with stripes.”

Justin grabbed a blue-striped bag and fished around inside for a bottle. “Ah ha! Here it is.” Then he noticed another bag that also had blue stripes. He reached into the second striped bag and found another bottle.

He set the bottles down and put the bags back. “Here you go,” said Justin as he handed the bottles to his mom.

“Did you get both of these out of the blue-striped bag?”

“Well, yeah,” Justin replied. Suddenly he felt confused. “There were two bags with blue stripes,” he explained, “and they both had bottles.”

“But do you know which one is Joey’s?” asked Mom.

“Uhh . . . no. I guess not,” Justin admitted.

Just then, Joey saw the bottles and let out a howl as he reached for them. “Ba-ba!” he cried, “Ba-ba!”

“Oh no!” Justin’s mom picked up Joey and hurried over to Joey’s diaper bag, searching for another bottle. “There aren’t any more. Justin, find Joey’s mom and ask her which bottle is his.”

“But, but, I don’t know where she is,” Justin stammered.

“Ba-baah!” Joey squealed.

“She should be in an adult class in one of the rooms close to where Dad is teaching. Please hurry, Justin!” his mom urged as Joey’s cries grew louder.

Justin grabbed both bottles and raced out the door. He sprinted up the stairs and slammed right into a crowd of people streaming through the main entrance.

“Excuse me. ’xcuse me,” Justin said as he squeezed through. Suddenly Justin felt his big toe being scrunched. “Ow!” he shouted.

“I’m sorry, Dear,” said a tall lady, peering down at him.

Justin tried to move on. *Clunk!* A huge purse whacked him in the head. Justin almost dropped one of the bottles. But he held on tightly and continued to plow through the throng of people and purses. Finally, he reached the other side and ran down the hall.

“Don’t run in the hallways!”

Justin stopped to see who was scolding him. It was Mrs. Blewitt staring sternly at him through her triangle-shaped glasses.

“Yes, ma’am,” said Justin. “But I gotta find Joey’s mom. It’s an emergency!” Justin shook the baby bottles at Mrs. Blewitt to show her what he was talking about. *Splooosh-splooosh!* To his surprise, milk squirted out all over Mrs. Blewitt’s yellow dress. Mrs. Blewitt stared in shock at the milk splotches on her front.

“Uh, sorry,” Justin stammered. “But my mom said I need to find baby Joey’s mom fast!”

“Well, I think I saw her go into that room.” Mrs. Blewitt pointed to a door then quickly spun around and marched away to clean off her dress.

Justin couldn’t remember ever having a morning like this before; he wanted to sit down and quit. But then he remembered his poor

mom all alone downstairs with three babies—who were probably all crying by now. Justin opened the door Mrs. Blewitt had pointed to. A group of adults all turned and stared at him.

Justin was afraid to speak. He nervously looked around the room. Then he spotted her, Joey’s mom! Justin frantically held up the bottles. “Which bottle is Joey’s?” he blurted. “My mom needs to know.”

The adults all laughed, but Justin didn’t care. He needed to find out the answer. He had a message to bring so his mom could feed Joey and make him stop bawling.

“It’s that one,” said Joey’s mother, pointing to the bottle in Justin’s right hand.

“Thanks!” Justin turned and headed back to the nursery. He could hear baby Joey wailing when he got to the bottom of the stairs. Finally, Justin opened the nursery door and tossed the bottle to his mom.

“Ba-ba!” Joey clutched the bottle and stuffed it in his mouth.

“Whew! Thank you, Justin. I’m so glad you came to the rescue,” Mom said with a sigh of relief.

Just then baby Joey let out a satisfied “*Buuurp!*”

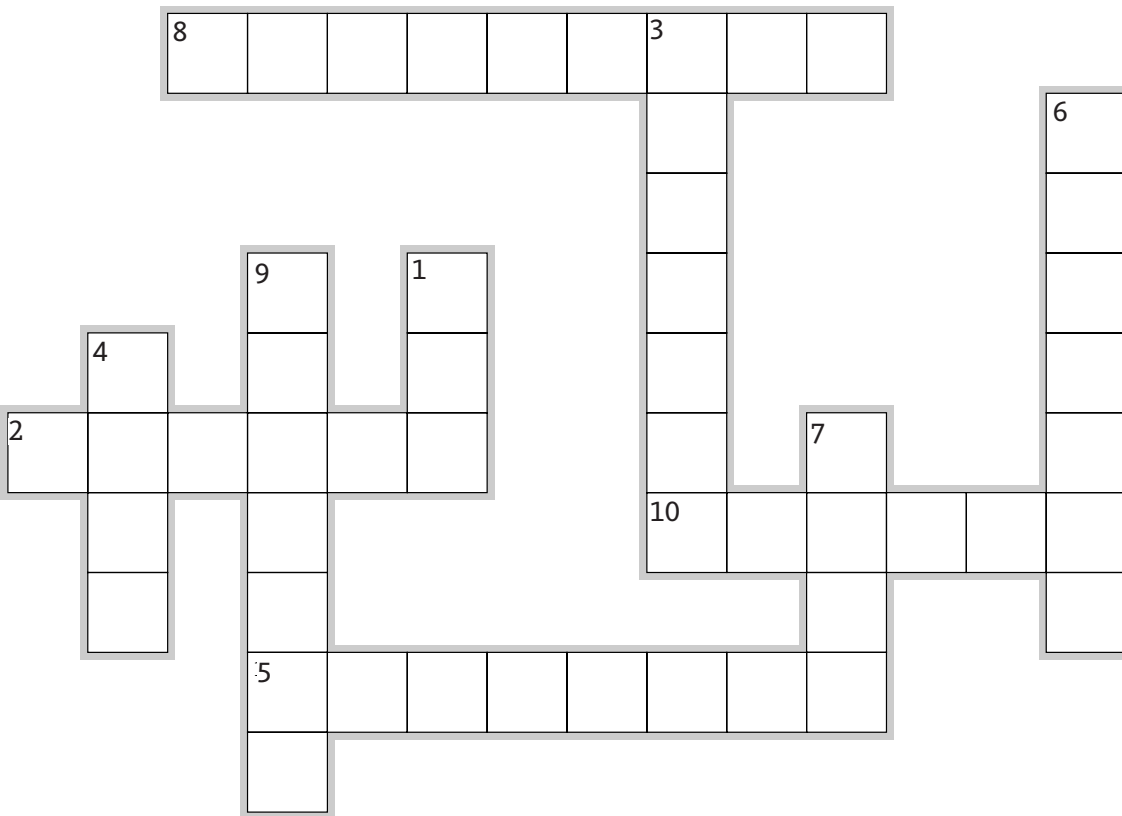
Justin laughed. “I guess Joey’s glad, too,” he said.



Name _____

Class Notes

1. The Israelites rejected ____ as their king when they asked for a human king.
2. Samuel ____ the people that a king would take their possessions for himself.
3. The Israelites wanted to be like the other ____ around them.
4. The first king of Israel was ____, a tall man from the tribe of Benjamin.
5. When Saul saw his army scattering, he chose to sacrifice the burnt ____ himself.
6. Only ____, like Samuel, were supposed to offer sacrifices to God.
7. Saul was commanded to completely destroy the Amalekites, but he spared the ____ and the best animals.
8. Saul was told that ____ is better than offering sacrifices.
9. God judged Saul's disobedience by taking the ____ away from him.
10. The Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and a harmful ____ was sent to trouble him.

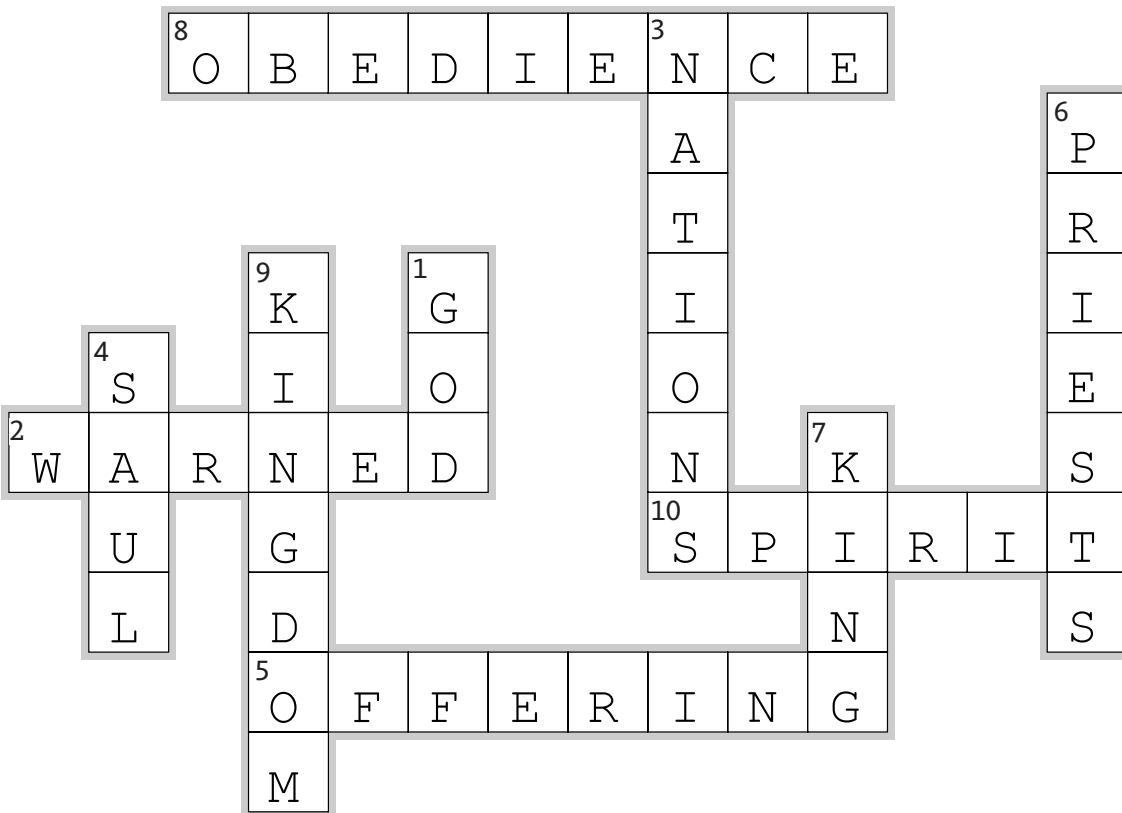


WORD BANK

KING
KINGDOM
NATIONS
OBEDIENCE
OFFERING
GOD
PRIESTS
SAUL
SPIRIT
WARNED

Class Notes Answer Key

- The Israelites rejected God as their king when they asked for a human king.
- Samuel warned the people that a king would take their possessions for himself.
- The Israelites wanted to be like the other nations around them.
- The first king of Israel was Saul, a tall man from the tribe of Benjamin.
- When Saul saw his army scattering, he chose to sacrifice the burnt offering himself.
- Only priests, like Samuel, were supposed to offer sacrifices to God.
- Saul was commanded to completely destroy the Amalekites, but he spared the king and the best animals.
- Saul was told that obedience is better than offering sacrifices.
- God judged Saul's disobedience by taking the kingdom away from him.
- The Spirit of the Lord left Saul, and a harmful spirit was sent to trouble him.



WORD BANK

KING
 KINGDOM
 NATIONS
 OBEDIENCE
 OFFERING
 GOD
 PRIESTS
 SAUL
 SPIRIT
 WARNED

Review Questions

1. Why didn't the Israelites want Samuel's sons to be the next judges? *They were not like Samuel. They were greedy and dishonest.*
2. Who were the Israelites really rejecting when they asked for a king? *God.*
3. Who did the Israelites want to be like by having a king? *Other nations around them.*
4. What warning did Samuel give the people about having a king? What would a king do? *Take their young men and women to work for him and fight in the army; tax their crops and animals; take their best animals and servants and land.*
5. Who did God choose to become the first king of Israel? What was his name? *Saul.*
6. What tribe was Saul from: Dan, Benjamin, or Judah? *Benjamin.*
7. When Saul was chosen to be king, what was he doing? *Hiding by the baggage.*
8. What enemy gathered such a large army with chariots and horsemen that the Israelites ran away or hid from them: the Amalekites, the Philistines, or the Moabites? *Philistines.*
9. Saul's men were running away and scattering while he waited seven days for someone to come. Who was Saul waiting for? *Samuel.*
10. What did Saul do that was Samuel's job? *Sacrificed the burnt offering.*
11. Who were the only ones that were supposed to offer sacrifices to God? *Priests, like Samuel.*
12. God commanded Saul to attack the Amalekites. What was he supposed to do to all the people and possessions of the Amalekites? *Completely destroy them.*
13. What did Saul keep instead of destroying? *King of the Amalekites (Agag) and the best animals.*
14. What sin did Saul commit by keeping Agag and the animals alive? *Disobedience.*
15. What did Samuel say would please God: burnt offerings or obedience? *Obedience.*
16. As a consequence of Saul's sin, what did God say would happen to Saul's kingdom? *It would be taken away.*
17. What type of man would God give the kingdom to: a stronger man who could fight better, a shorter man who could hide better, or a man after God's own heart? *A man after God's own heart.*
18. Name another consequence of Saul's bad choices. *Allow several students to answer. He lost the friendship and advice of Samuel, lost the Spirit of the Lord, was troubled by a harmful spirit from the Lord.*
19. What did God expect from Saul that he also expects from us? *Complete obedience.*
20. Can you say the memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the verse.*

Real World Skit

You and an assistant will read a short skit about how even small choices have consequences. Bring props to add interest!

Student 1: I like helping with the little kids at church, don't you?

Student 2: Yeah. I'm glad the children's director lets kids from our grade help out.

Student 1: The toddlers' teacher lets us do lots of things—help with crafts, play and sing with the kids, and set up the snacks.

Student 2: I especially like snack time! We always get to eat whatever the little kids are having, and they get some good snacks!

Student 1: Speaking of snacks, here's the supply closet. What were we supposed to get again?

Student 2: The teacher said to get crackers and more construction paper.

Student 1: Ah! Here's a pack of construction paper. Now, where are the crackers?

Student 2: Let's see. Here are some shelves with snacks. Found some!

Student 1: Whoa! I found chocolate bars behind the fruit snacks! They're the big size, too—not just minis!

Student 2: Those must be for something special. The little kids can't have those. They'd go crazy with all that sugar!

Student 1: There are six of them here. We should be able to take some because we're helpers, right?

Student 2: No, I don't think so. The teacher sent us to get crackers and paper. We shouldn't take anything else.

Student 1: But I'm really hungry! Don't you want one?

Student 2: No. We'll get snacks with the kids when we get back. Come on! *(Turns to go)*

Student 1: *(Mumbles to self)* I don't want crackers and juice! *(Reaches out, opens a chocolate bar, and stuffs it into his mouth. Looks around guiltily and then eats another.)*

Later that day, the same two students are leaving church:

Student 2: Hey! There you are! What took you so long? I thought you were right behind me.

Student 1: (*Looks miserable*) The children's director stopped me in the hall.

Student 2: Why?

Student 1: She saw us leaving the supply closet and asked me if I'd seen chocolate bars on the shelf.

Student 2: Oh. Did you tell her they were there when we went to get supplies?

Student 1: Yes. Then she asked me if we took any.

Student 2: It must have been someone else. Did she say who the chocolate bars were for?

Student 1: (*Hangs head with embarrassment*) Turns out the chocolate bars were a special prize for some kids who said all their memory verses last week. But since two were missing, she couldn't award their prizes today. The kids were really disappointed.

Student 2: That's terrible! Who would eat someone else's prizes?

Student 1: I had to tell her the truth. It was me!! I wolfed down two chocolate bars after you left. Actually, I feel kinda sick. (*Looks pained and holds stomach.*)

Student 2: (*Gasps*) Oh no! What were you thinking?

Student 1: I don't know. I guess I thought no one would notice if only two were missing. Boy, was that a dumb choice!

Student 2: But you told the director, so that's good you confessed. Was she mad?

Student 1: Well, yeah. I could tell she wasn't pleased. But she thanked me for telling the truth and forgave me. Because I ate them both, I need to buy two of the same kind and bring them next Sunday.

Student 2: Whew! I'm glad she's letting you make up for it.

Student 1: Yeah, she said she wants me to learn that there are consequences for my choices. I thought taking some chocolate bars wouldn't matter. Was I ever wrong!

Face the Consequences

Materials

- Game pictures (following pages)
- One empty square tissue box
- Tape or glue

Instructions

Print and cut out the six game pictures. Tape or glue the crown and sword pictures on the top and bottom of the tissue box and the other four on the sides of the box to make a giant die.

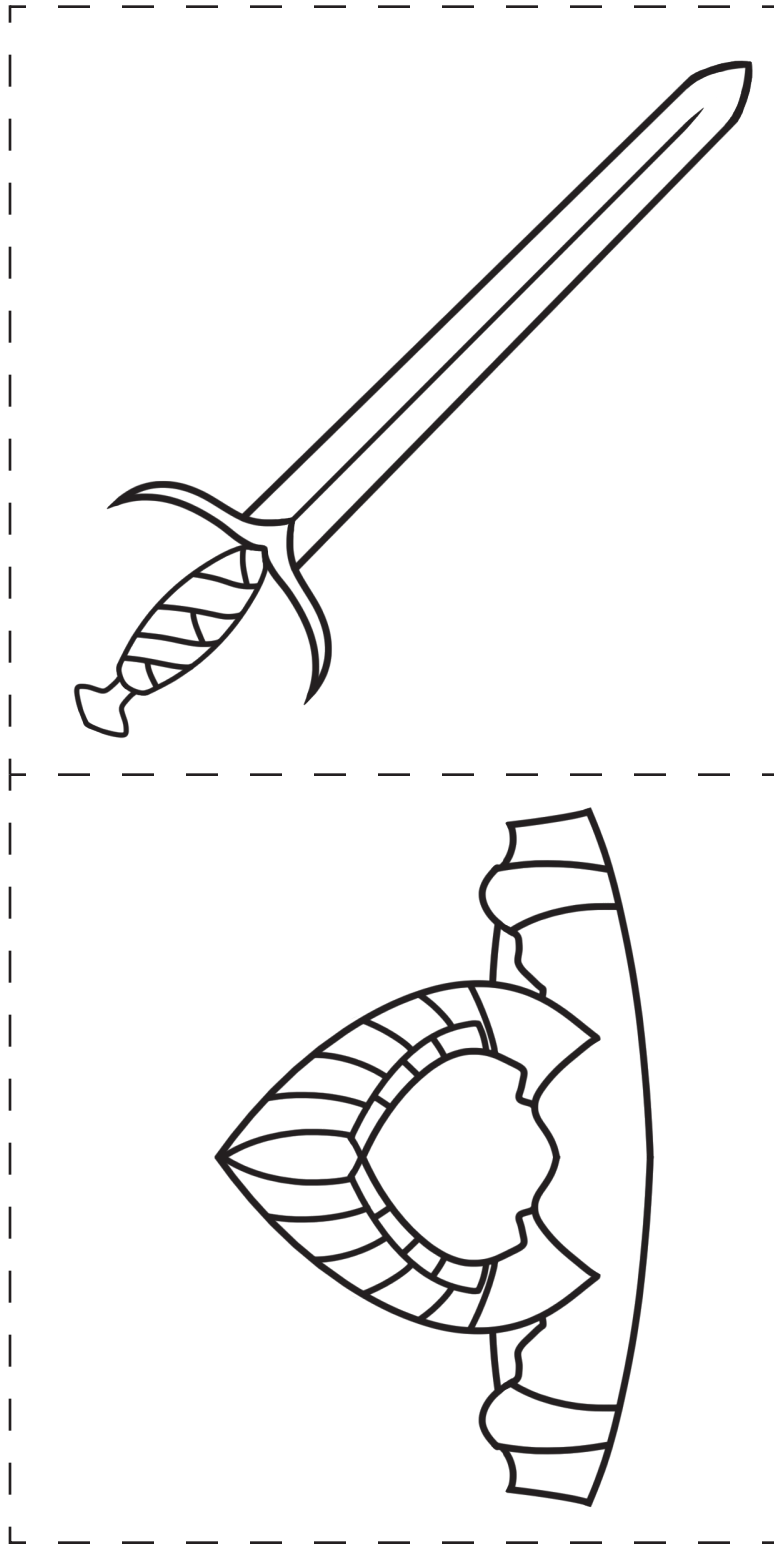
Divide the class into teams. Give each team 10 points on the board to start with. Explain that the pictures on the die stand for Saul's choices. The crown and sword represent Saul's obedience as a king and God's blessing in battle. The other pictures represent Samuel's anger toward Saul and times Saul disobeyed.

Teams will take turns rolling the die. If they roll one of the "good" pictures (crown or sword), add a point to their score. If they roll any of the other pictures, subtract a point. Play until a team reaches zero points or for a certain amount of time and add up the scores to determine a winner.

Suggested Discussion

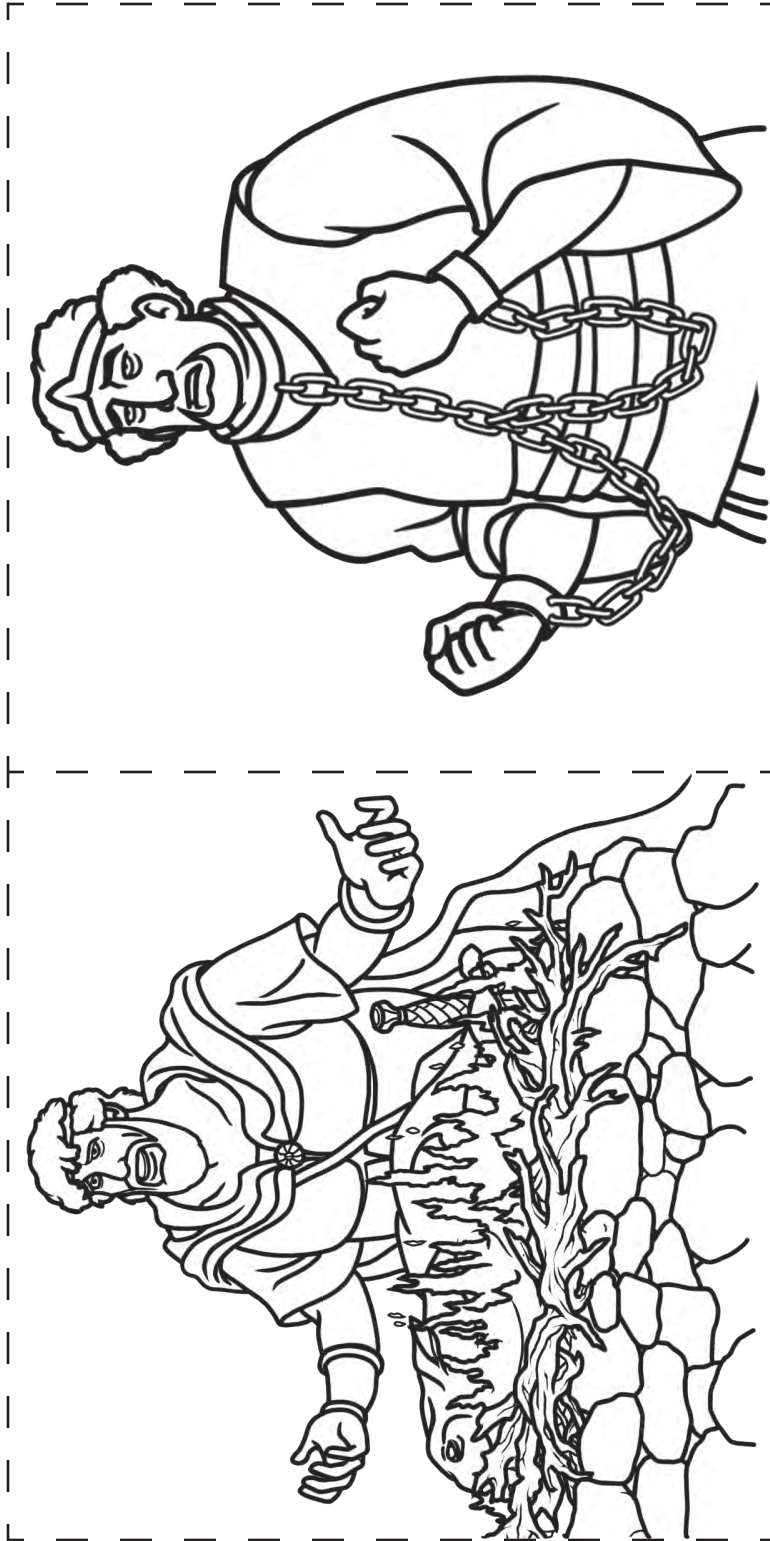
Some people live their lives as if they were rolling a die like we did. They don't think about what God would want them to do or not do. But when we live like that and do things our own way, it will always lead to sin and its consequences.

God gave us his Word, so we don't have to be like that. The Bible tells us how to live in a way that is obedient and pleasing to God. Saul did not always pay attention to the things Samuel shared from God, and he paid the consequences for his sin. Let's pay attention to God's Word and be obedient. It's a much better way to live!



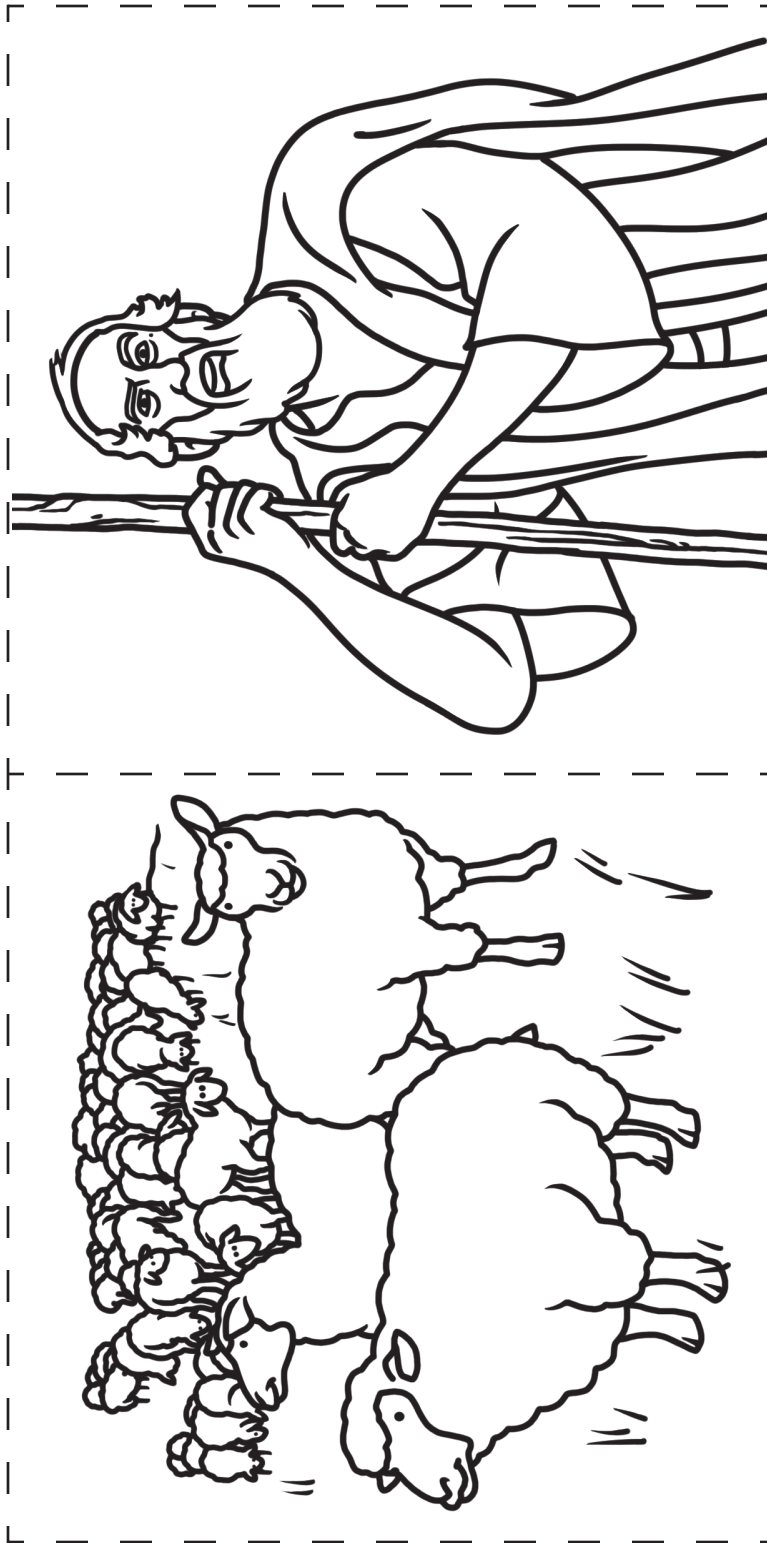
Print and cut out the six game pictures.

Lesson 75 Face the Consequences • Grades 2-3



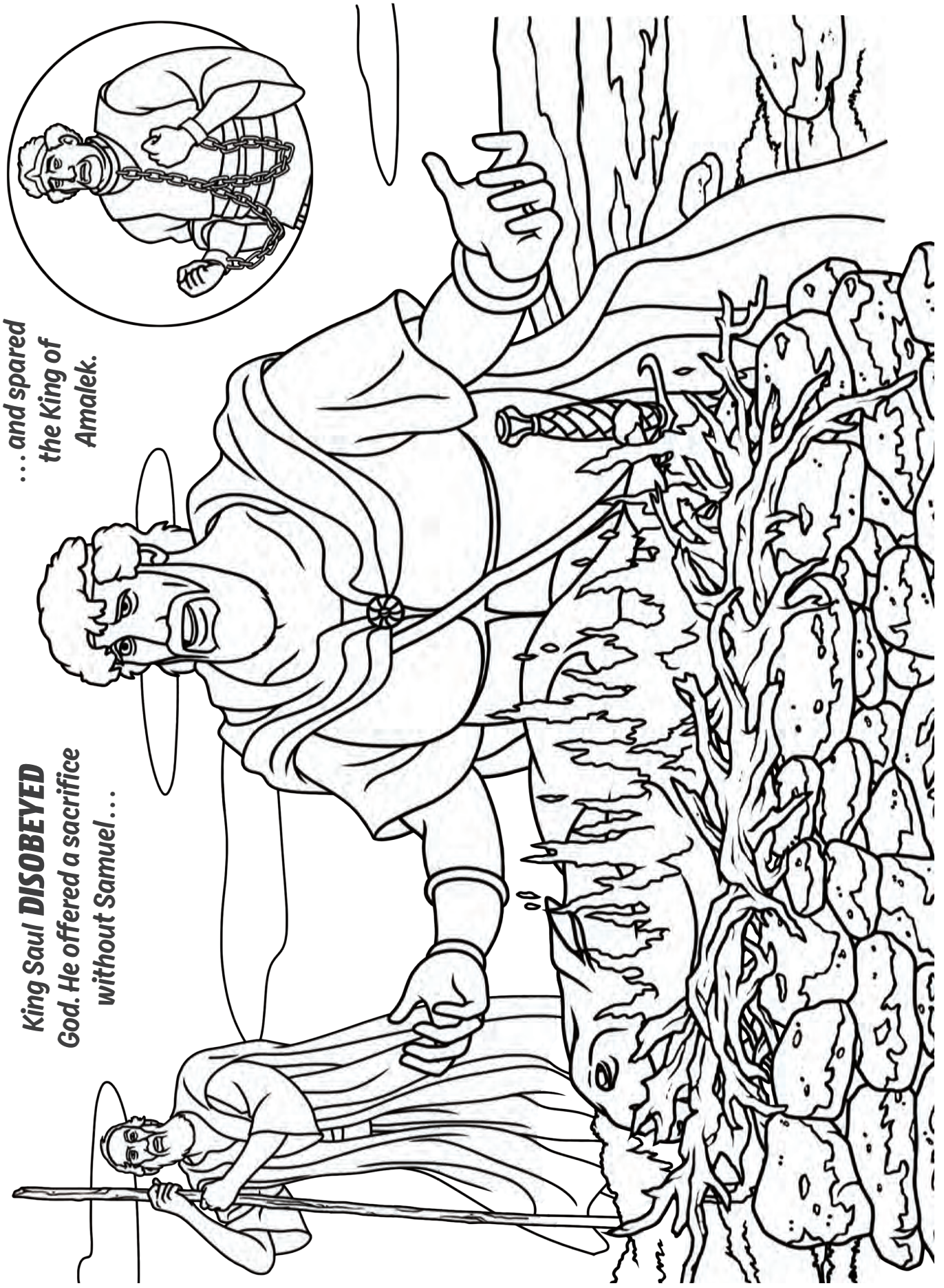
Print and cut out the six game pictures.

Lesson 75 Face the Consequences • Grades 2-3



Print and cut out the six game pictures.

Lesson 75 Face the Consequences • Grades 2-3



... and spared
the King of
Amalek.

King Saul DISOBEYED
God. He offered a sacrifice
without Samuel...

Obedience & Stinky Garbage

“Woof! Woof-woof,” barked Cookie.

“He’s great, Justin! It makes me wish I had a dog, too,” said Jeremy.

Today there was no school, so Justin invited Jessie and her cousins over to play with his new dog.

“He’s so cute!” said Jeremy’s sister, Emily.

“Yeah, until he gets into the garbage.”

“Eww! What do you mean, Justin?” Jessie asked.

“Well, Cookie was a stray, so he used to dig into garbage cans to find stuff to eat.”

“Yuck!” Emily said, sticking out her tongue.

“So now,” Justin continued, “he has a bad habit of knocking over the garbage can.”

“Well, you’re still adorable—even if you do eat garbage,” Emily told the dog, giving him a big hug.

“Hey, kids! Time for lunch,” Justin’s mom called from inside.

During lunch, Jeremy asked Justin, “You wanna come to my house after we eat and play my new game?”

“Sure! That sounds great,” Justin replied.

“Emily and I are going to have a tea party at my house,” Jessie said.

The plans were made as everyone finished their sandwiches and fruit. Justin asked his mom if he could play a game at Jeremy’s.

“That’s fine,” Mom said. “But make sure you take Cookie out back—and don’t forget to put him on the chain so he can’t get into the garbage can or push the gate open.”

“Okay, Mom! Come on, Cookie, here, boy,” Justin called to his dog. As he was taking Cookie out the back door, he heard Jeremy calling to him.

“Hey, Justin, bring your cleats, so we can play soccer too!”

“Okay!” Justin called back. He let Cookie out the back door then closed it and ran to his room to grab his cleats. “See ya, Mom,” Justin said as he flew out the front door to catch up to Jeremy.

“Thanks for lunch, Aunt Kristi,” Jessie said as she and Emily left to go to her house next door.

The two girls had a wonderful tea party, but afterward, there were crumbs and wet napkins all over the table. “Oh my!” said Jessie’s mom. “You sure made a mess. Make sure you clean it up, please. Then you can take the kitchen garbage out for me. I cleaned out the refrigerator, so there’s lots of garbage. Make sure you tie it closed and get the garbage can lid on tight, okay?”

“Okay, Mom,” Jessie said with a sigh.

“I’ll help you,” said Emily. “We can pretend we’re secret spies hiding bags of treasure.”

Jessie laughed. “I don’t think I want stinky treasure like that!”

Emily shrugged. “It makes it more fun though. Come on!”

“Ick! I can’t tie these right.” Jessie frowned as she folded up the edges of the bags. “That’s good enough,” she decided.

“Let’s go, fellow spy,” Emily giggled. The girls dragged the bags out the back door to the garbage can.

“You keep a look out for the bad guys who want our treasure,” Jessie told Emily as she

struggled to get the tight lid off the garbage can.

Emily peeked around the can, pretending to look for bad guys. “There they are! Get down!”

Jessie played along and dove behind the can. “Quick! Get the treasure inside.” They picked up the bags and threw them into the can. “Give me the lid.”

Emily tossed the lid to Jessie, who threw it at the can. Then they dove onto the grass as the lid flew near the garbage can but missed. *Thunk!*

“Let’s get out of here,” said Emily, and they ran back inside the house. The girls played spies for the rest of the afternoon until they heard Jessie’s mom calling.

“Yes, Mom?” Jessie came into the kitchen, and Emily followed behind. “What’s the matter?”

“Take a look outside,” Mom replied.

Emily and Jessie looked at each other and gulped. They all three went outdoors and stopped at the garbage can. “Oh no!” Jessie exclaimed.

“Eww!” Emily said in disgust.

They stared at the mess all around them. The garbage can was tipped over with the lid

lying next to it. The garbage bags lay torn and spread out in the yard. But worse—there was garbage everywhere! Slimy banana peels, wilted vegetables, brown apple cores, and stinky stuff that was splattered on the side of the house.

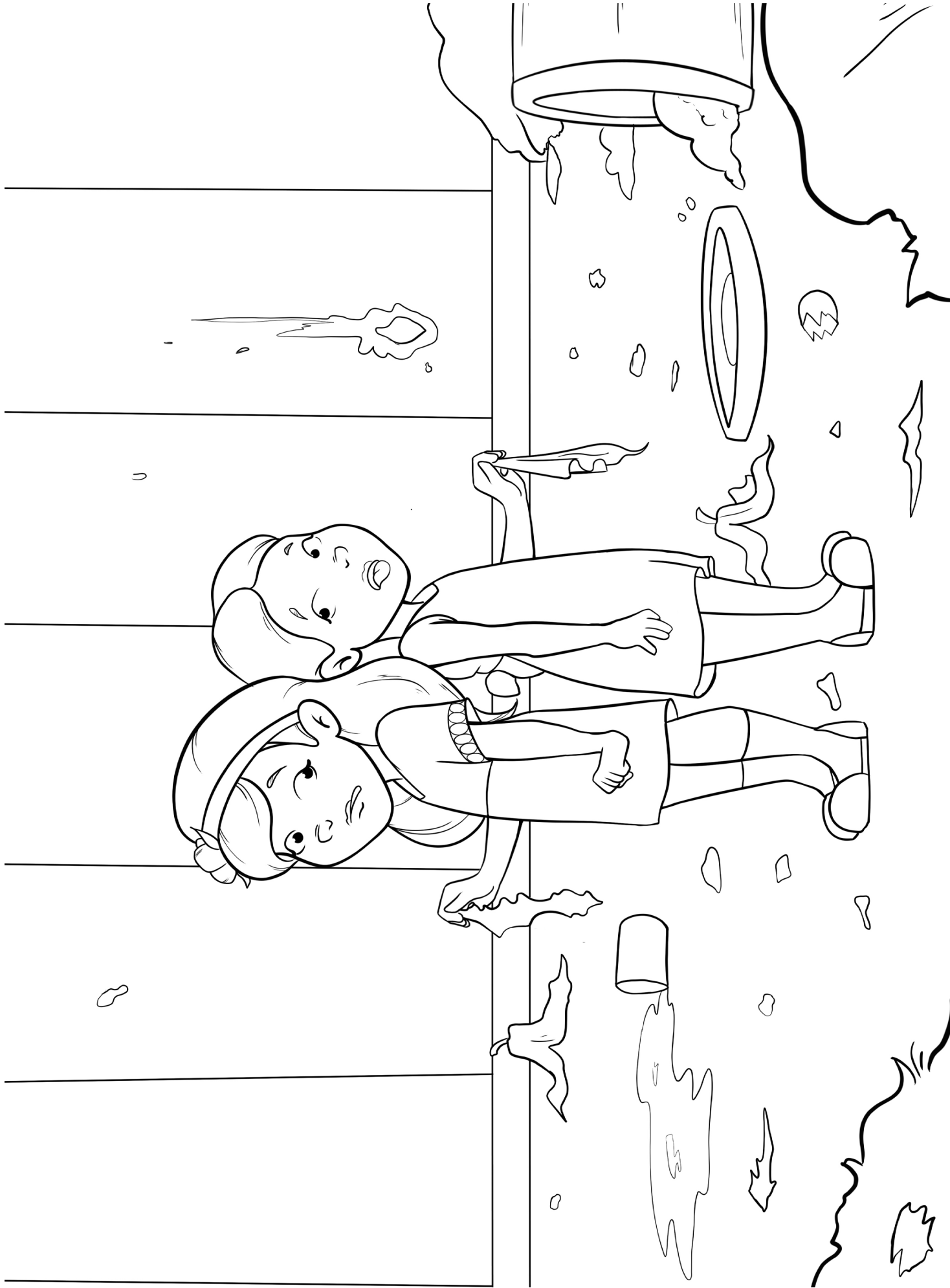
In the middle of it all sat Cookie, licking his chops. “Cookie! Gross!” Jessie’s mom grabbed Cookie’s collar and hauled him through the gate to Justin’s yard next door. She clasped the chain onto the dog’s collar to make him stay put. “Jessie,” she asked coming back through the gate, “did you tie up the bags and get the lid on tight like I said?”

Jessie and Emily cringed as they explained how they had been playing spies and didn’t pay attention to getting the lid on right.

“I guess we only mostly obeyed,” Jessie confessed. “I didn’t tie the bags, and we left the lid on the ground when we ran back into the house.”

“Well, it looks like you girls have some more cleaning to do,” she said, handing fresh bags to each of them. “But this time, will you please obey completely?”

“I’m sorry, Mom,” said Jessie. “This time I’ll make sure and do it right.”

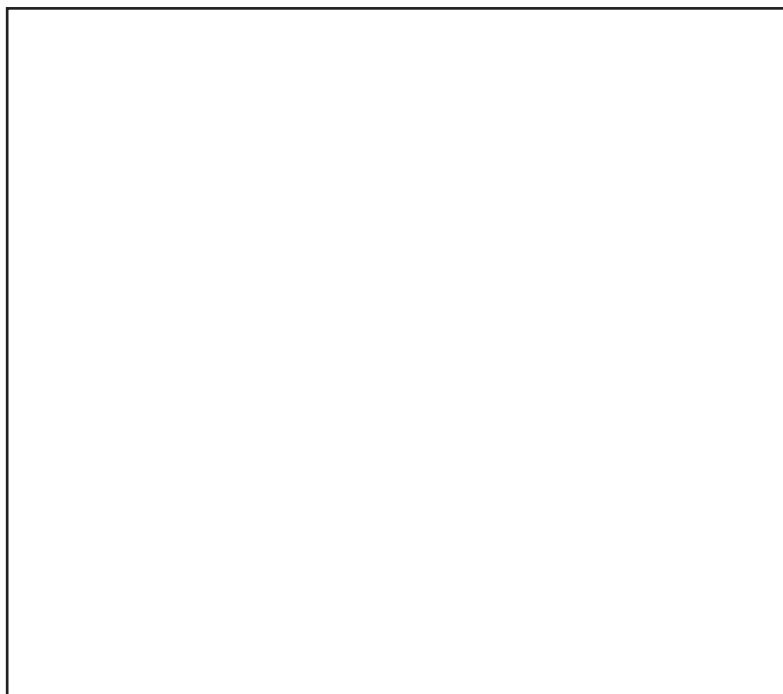


Name _____

Class Notes

1. Samuel went to Bethlehem to anoint one of the sons of (**Jesse** OR **Joseph**) as the next king of Israel.
2. Based on outward appearance, Samuel thought that God's choice would be (**David** OR **Eliab**).
3. God chose the (**oldest** OR **youngest**) son of Jesse to be king after Saul.
4. David was a (**shepherd** OR **farmer**).
5. God knew that David was a man after his own (**heart** OR **mind**).
6. David was brave, wise, and skillful in playing (**games** OR **music**).
7. King Saul brought David into his service so he could play the (**lyre** OR **flute**) to calm him when the harmful spirit troubled him.

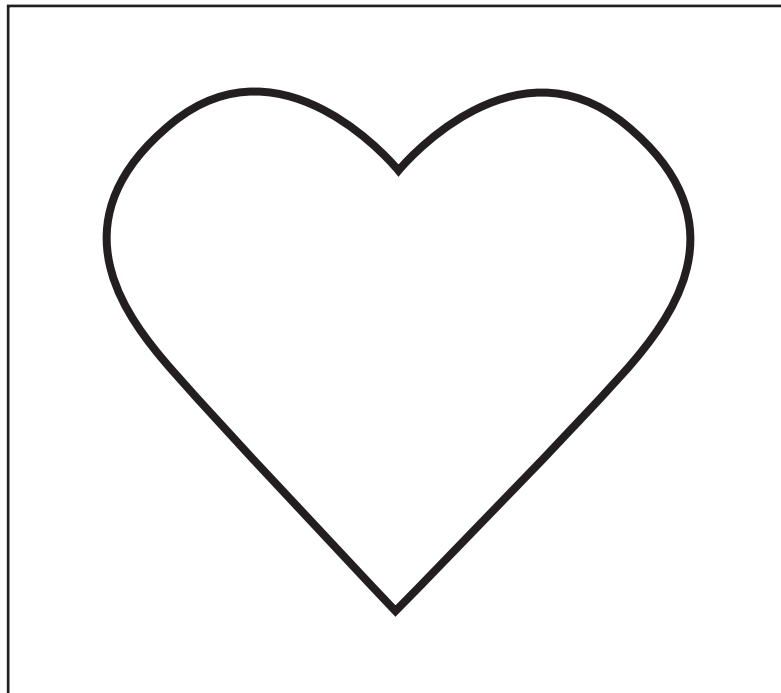
Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the

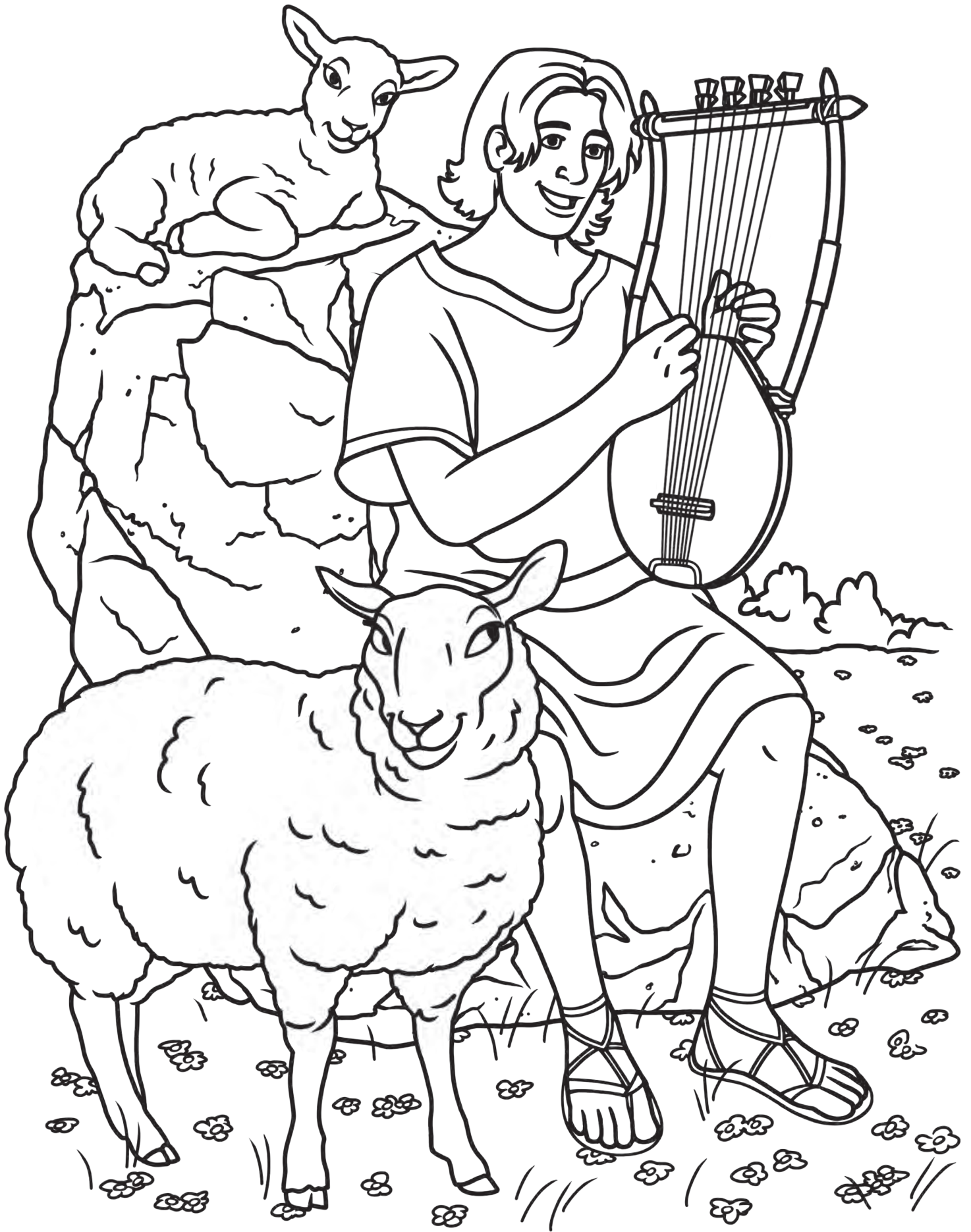


Class Notes Answer Key

1. Samuel went to Bethlehem to anoint one of the sons of **(Jesse OR Joseph)** as the next king of Israel.
2. Based on outward appearance, Samuel thought that God's choice would be **(David OR Eliab)**.
3. God chose the **(oldest OR youngest)** son of Jesse to be king after Saul.
4. David was a **(shepherd OR farmer)**.
5. God knew that David was a man after his own **(heart OR mind)**.
6. David was brave, wise, and skillful in playing **(games OR music)**.
7. King Saul brought David into his service so he could play the **(lyre OR flute)** to calm him when the harmful spirit troubled him.

Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the





Review Questions

1. Where did God send Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel? *Bethlehem.*
2. Who was the man Samuel invited to bring his sons to the sacrifice? He was also the grandson of Ruth and Boaz. *Jesse.*
3. How many sons did Jesse have? *Eight.*
4. At first, who did Samuel think would be chosen as king because he was tall and strong? *Eliab.*
5. What was the youngest son doing when they went to get him? *Watching the sheep.*
6. Who did God choose to be the next king? *David.*
7. How is David described? What did he look like? *Ruddy, beautiful eyes, handsome.*
8. What did Samuel pour over David's head to anoint him as the next king? *Oil.*
9. What came upon David after Samuel anointed him? *The Spirit of the Lord.*
10. Why did God choose David instead of one of his brothers? *He was a man after God's own heart.*
11. In 1 Samuel 16:7, God told Samuel that man looks at what? *The outward appearance.*
12. What does God look at in a person? *The heart.*
13. Why did Saul's servants want to find someone who was skilled in playing music? *To calm Saul when he was troubled by the harmful spirit.*
14. What instrument did David play? *Lyre.*
15. David is described as a man of valor. What does that mean? *He was brave/courageous.*
16. About how old was David when he came to serve King Saul: 15, 25, 40? *About 15.*
17. David was brought to Saul to play the lyre, but Saul later gave David what other job? *Armor-bearer.*
18. What is the reference of our new memory verse? *1 John 1:8-9.*
19. Can you name one of the attributes of God (*from the poster*) that is in the memory verse? *Faithful, just.*

Heart Cookies

Note: This activity uses the same supplies as the taste test in the lesson—except for the salt!

Materials

- Heart-shaped, plain cookies, one per student (or more—see Option below)
- Frosting (store bought or homemade)
- Cookie decorations (e.g., sprinkles, mini chocolate chips, decorative icing, etc.)
- Plastic knives, one per student
- Paper plates, one per student
- Bowls for frosting and decorations, several per table/group
- Optional: cups and drinks/water
- Optional: small plastic bags

Instructions

Place a cookie for each student on a plate along with a plastic knife. Divide frosting in bowls for every 4–6 students. Divide and place cookie decorations on each table.

Direct students to use the knives to spread frosting on their cookies then decorate. Encourage them to be creative and use the cookies as a reminder of how God looks at the heart. If time, have students show their finished cookies to the class before they eat them with their drinks/water.

Option: you may want students to decorate two cookies, one for them to eat and one for them to give away. Bring plastic bags for students to take the extra cookies home.

Suggested Discussion

In the taste test at the beginning of the lesson, we learned that we can't always judge things by their outward appearance. One of the cookies had extra salt, which ruined its taste even though it looked good on the outside. The cookie that wasn't nicely decorated was the one that tasted the best. Those cookies remind us of how God looks beyond our outward appearance to our heart. He wants to see a heart that loves and obeys him. That's why he chose David rather than any of his older brothers to be the next king; he knew that David had a heart that wanted the same things God wants.

As you decorate and then eat your cookies, pray that God will give you a soft, obedient heart like David had.

Name _____



Samuel anointed David, a man after God's own HEART.

Famous Artists & Get Well Cards

“Justin, that’s beautiful!” said Mrs. Wallace, the new art teacher at school. “You draw very well.”

“Thanks,” Justin replied. “You think it’s really that good? I won a prize for drawing Jessie’s cat once.”

“Really? That’s great! I’m sure with more practice, you could be a very good artist.”

Justin turned to his friend Jessie, who sat nearby working on her picture. “Psst! Jessie, see my drawing? You like it? Mrs. Wallace says it’s really good.”

Jessie looked up from her own paper and stared at Justin’s drawing. “Wow, Justin! That is good. I like it a lot.” Justin smiled and carefully placed his picture in his stack of papers to take home.

Later that evening, Justin showed his drawing to his mom and dad. “It’s very nice, Justin. I’ll hang it up on the refrigerator so I can see it every day,” said Mom.

“You’ve certainly got talent.” Dad nodded.

The next day, Justin and his friend Jeremy were in the kitchen when Jeremy noticed the drawing on the refrigerator. “That’s cool!” Jeremy said around a mouthful of banana.

“Thanks,” said Justin proudly. “I drew that yesterday at school!”

“It looks real nice, kinda like the birthday card I got for my Mom. Hey! You could sell your pictures and get rich!” Jeremy suggested.

“Ha! That would be super neat,” Justin agreed.

After Jeremy left, Justin stood staring at his drawing and thinking, “Maybe I could sell my drawings and be a famous artist! I could wear

fancy clothes and buy super cool toys. Everyone would say, ‘Hey, look at Justin, isn’t he great?’”

Just then, Mom walked into the kitchen. “If you’re hungry, you can open it and get a snack,” she said with a laugh.

“Huh?” Justin turned to see his mom smiling at him.

“Why were you staring at the refrigerator?” she asked.

Justin was embarrassed. “Um, well, I was thinking about being a famous artist and getting lots of cool stuff. You think I could be famous, Mom?”

“Hmm,” Mom said as she stirred sugar into her tea. “I suppose that’s possible. But being famous and getting cool stuff isn’t really that important, you know.”

Justin frowned. “But it’s fun to get new games and things.”

“I know,” Mom said. “I like new things, too. But that’s not where our hearts should be.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, the Bible says that people always look at the outward appearance. They look at what we wear or if we’re talented or famous or rich. But that’s not what God looks at.”

“What does God look at?” Justin asked.

“God looks past all the outside stuff to see deep down in our hearts. He can tell if we really love him and want to use the talents he’s given us to make him happy or if we’re just showing off to make ourselves happy.”

“Oh,” Justin replied glumly.

“Well, I’m going to see Mrs. Munson; she’s sick in bed again. You can go play with Jessie

while I'm gone." Mom finished her tea as Justin went out the back door to Jessie's house.

"Hi, Justin!" Jessie greeted him. "What are you doing here?"

"My mom went to see Mrs. Munson, so she told me to come over here."

"Oh. Is Mrs. Munson sick again?" asked Jessie. "That's sad. She's so nice; I wish I could do something to cheer her up."

"Yeah, but what could we do?"

Jessie's eyes got big. "I know! And you can do it better than anyone." Jessie jumped up and ran to her room. She grabbed sheets of paper, crayons, and markers then ran back to the kitchen where Justin waited.

"Here," Jessie said breathlessly as she threw the supplies on the table. "You can draw a beautiful get well card for Mrs. Munson!"

"What? No, I'm not drawing anymore," Justin said sadly as he pushed the crayons away.

"You what?!" Jessie was stunned. "But you're a great drawer!"

"Yeah, but the only reason I wanted to draw was because everyone said I was good at it. I only wanted people to think I was great. I

thought I could be famous and get great stuff. But Mom said that's not the way God wants my heart to be."

"But Justin, remember what Mrs. Jacobs said in Sunday school last week?" Jessie reminded him. "God gives us talents on purpose so we can use them for him."

Justin thought for a minute. "You mean if I use my drawing to cheer up Mrs. Munson, that would be a good thing?"

"Right! And God would like that."

"Okay!" Justin reached for a red crayon. "Help me figure out what to draw on the card, Jessie."

A few days later, the kids went with Justin's mom to see Mrs. Munson. When she opened Justin's card, she exclaimed, "Oh, Justin, this is so lovely! God has given you a great talent, and I'm so happy that you chose to share it with me. Thank you!"

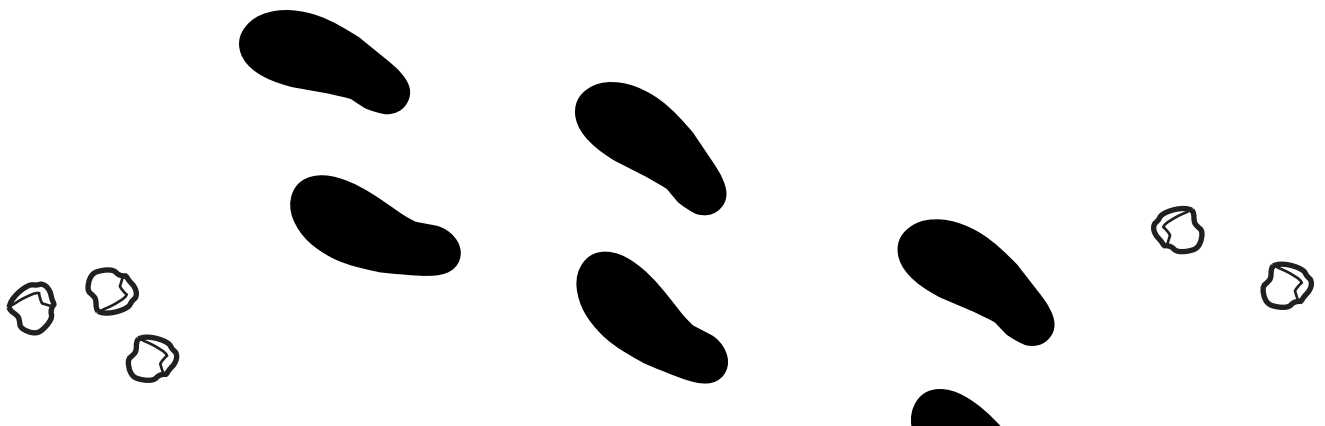
Justin and Jessie smiled at each other. Justin knew for sure now that he could use his drawing to make God happy by making people happy—and that was so much better than just showing off to make himself happy.



Name of Detective _____

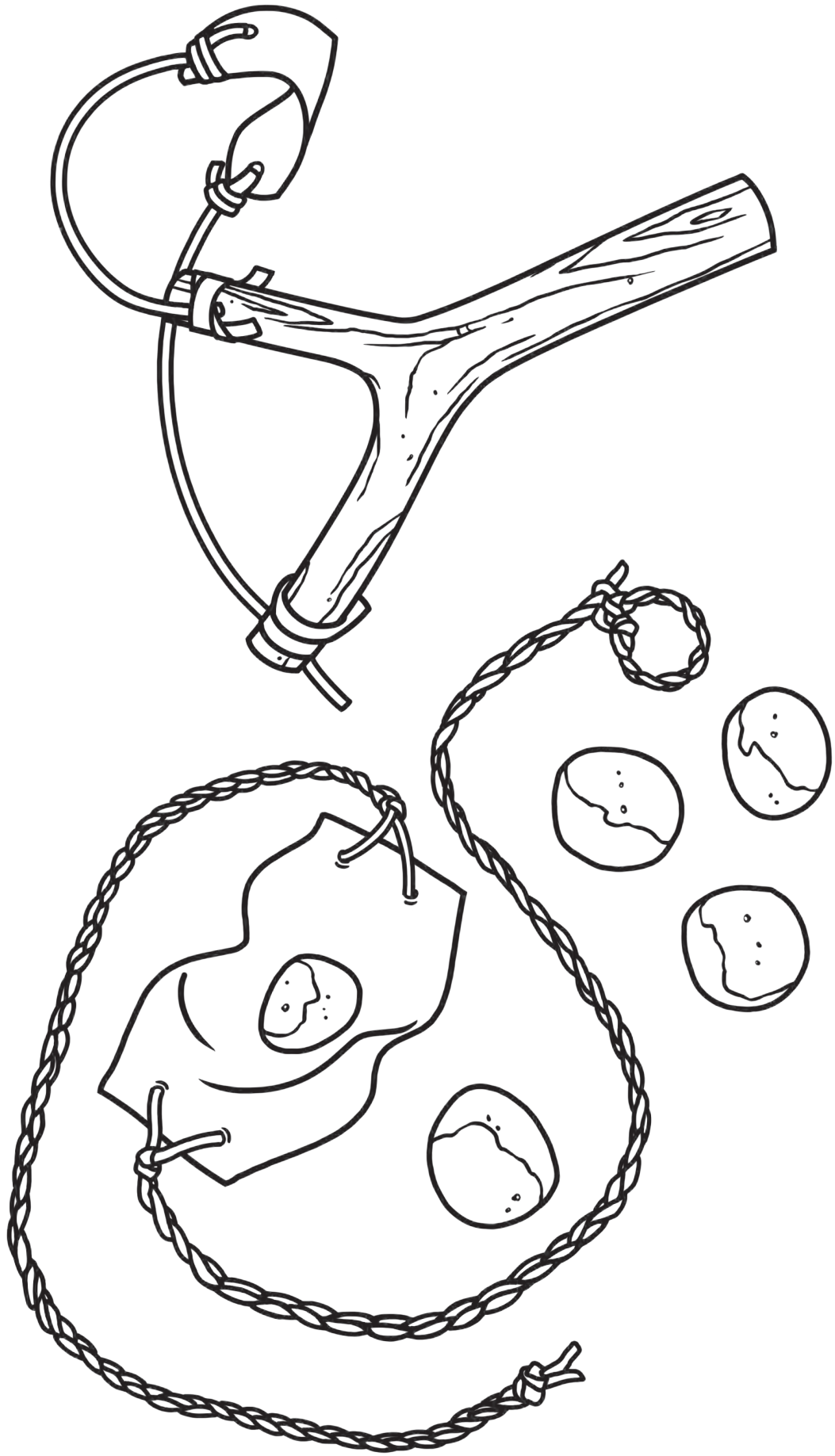
Battle Report

1. The armies of the Philistines and the Israelites camped on mountains with a _____ in between.
2. _____ was a giant who dared Israel to send someone to fight him.
3. Jesse sent David to the battleground with _____ and supplies for his brothers.
4. David was not a child, but a _____ who volunteered to fight Goliath.
5. David took a staff, his _____, and five smooth stones with him to face Goliath.
6. Goliath fell from a single _____ hitting his forehead.
7. David cut off Goliath's _____ with his own sword.
8. David had the courage to fight Goliath because he _____ that the battle was the Lord's.
9. God gave David the victory to show that he is _____ to save those who trust in him.



Battle Report Answer Key

1. The armies of the Philistines and the Israelites camped on mountains with a valley in between.
2. Goliath was a giant who dared Israel to send someone to fight him.
3. Jesse sent David to the battleground with food and supplies for his brothers.
4. David was not a child, but a young man who volunteered to fight Goliath.
5. David took a staff, his sling, and five smooth stones with him to face Goliath.
6. Goliath fell from a single stone hitting his forehead.
7. David cut off Goliath's head with his own sword.
8. David had the courage to fight Goliath because he trusted that the battle was the Lord's.
9. God gave David the victory to show that he is powerful to save those who trust in him.



Battle Scene Introduction

The purpose of this activity is to set up the scene after David's fight with Goliath and have the students work backward like detectives, examining the evidence to fill in what happened in their Battle Reports (Class Notes).

Choose the option that best fits your space, class, and time:

Option 1:

You will show an illustration of the battle scene and pass out Evidence Cards or hide them for students to collect.

Option 2:

If you have the room, you will create an actual "crime scene" of the event for students to visit and collect Evidence Cards.

Option 1

Materials

- Battle Scene Illustration (next page)
- Evidence cards (following pages)

Instructions

Print one copy of the Battle Scene Illustration to show during the lesson introduction. Print and cut out one set of Evidence Cards to either pass out to students or hide around the room for students to collect.

Discussion

Today, you have a detective mission to view a battle scene and see if you can figure out what happened there. I'll show you a picture of the scene then you'll collect/receive some Evidence Cards that we'll use to solve the case. Show the Battle Scene Illustration and discuss. Pass out Evidence Cards or have students collect them then continue with the lesson.

Option 2

Materials

- Battle Scene Illustration (next page)
- Evidence Cards (following pages)
- Footprint pictures (following pages)
- Masking tape or chalk to create Goliath outline
- Measuring tape or meter stick
- One smooth stone in a plastic "evidence" baggie
- Optional: crime scene tape or yellow streamers and tape for barrier

Instructions

Print one copy of the Battle Scene Illustration for your reference. Print and cut out one set of Evidence Cards and one or more sets of Right and Left Footprint pictures.

Before class, in another room, hallway, or outdoors, use the Battle Scene Illustration and measuring tape to create a tape/chalk outline of a headless giant on the ground. Make sure it is about 9 feet (2.75 meters) from feet to shoulders. Place the stone in an evidence baggie next to the outline. Lay down the footprints so they are moving away from the body.

Hide Evidence Cards in the area for students to find but place cards #5-7 next to the evidence they match (footprints, stone, and body outline).

Optional: attach crime scene tape/yellow streamers to chairs, walls, or other objects to mark off the area.

Discussion

Today, you'll be detectives and investigate a battle scene to see if you can figure out what happened there. You'll need to carefully examine everything you see and search for Evidence Cards at the scene. There are 7 cards to collect. After you find one, you may help others find the rest, but don't keep more than one card. Then we'll come back to class to review the evidence together. Lead students to the scene. Give students time to look around and collect all the Evidence Cards then lead them back to class and continue with the lesson.



Card #1

Evidence: Tents and supplies were found in two camps on both sides of the valley where the body was found.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:3

And the [redacted] stood on the mountain on the one side, and [redacted] stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. (ESV)

Card #3

Evidence: Fresh crumbs of bread and pieces of cheese were found near the supplies in one camp.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:17–18

And Jesse said to [redacted] his son, “Take for your brothers an ephah of this parched grain, and these ten [redacted], and carry them quickly to the camp to your brothers. Also take these ten [redacted] to the commander of their thousand. See if your brothers are well, and bring some token from them.” (ESV)

Evidence Cards: *Print and cut out one set.*

Card #2

Evidence: Several Israelite soldiers said they were terrified of a giant.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:4

And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named [redacted] of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

1 Samuel 17:24

All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, [redacted] from him and were much [redacted]. (ESV)

Card #4

Evidence: A servant of the Israelite king said a young man volunteered to fight the giant.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:32–33

And David said to Saul, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and [redacted] with this Philistine.” And Saul said to David, “You are [redacted] to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a [redacted], and he has been a man of war from his youth.” (ESV)

Card #5

Evidence: Footprints matching those leaving the body were also found at a nearby brook.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:40

Then he took his [redacted] in his hand and chose five smooth [redacted] from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His [redacted] was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. (ESV)

Card #7

Evidence: The outline of a giant body (without a head) was found in the valley.

Support: 1 Samuel 17:51

Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his [redacted] and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off [redacted] with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was [redacted], they fled. (ESV)

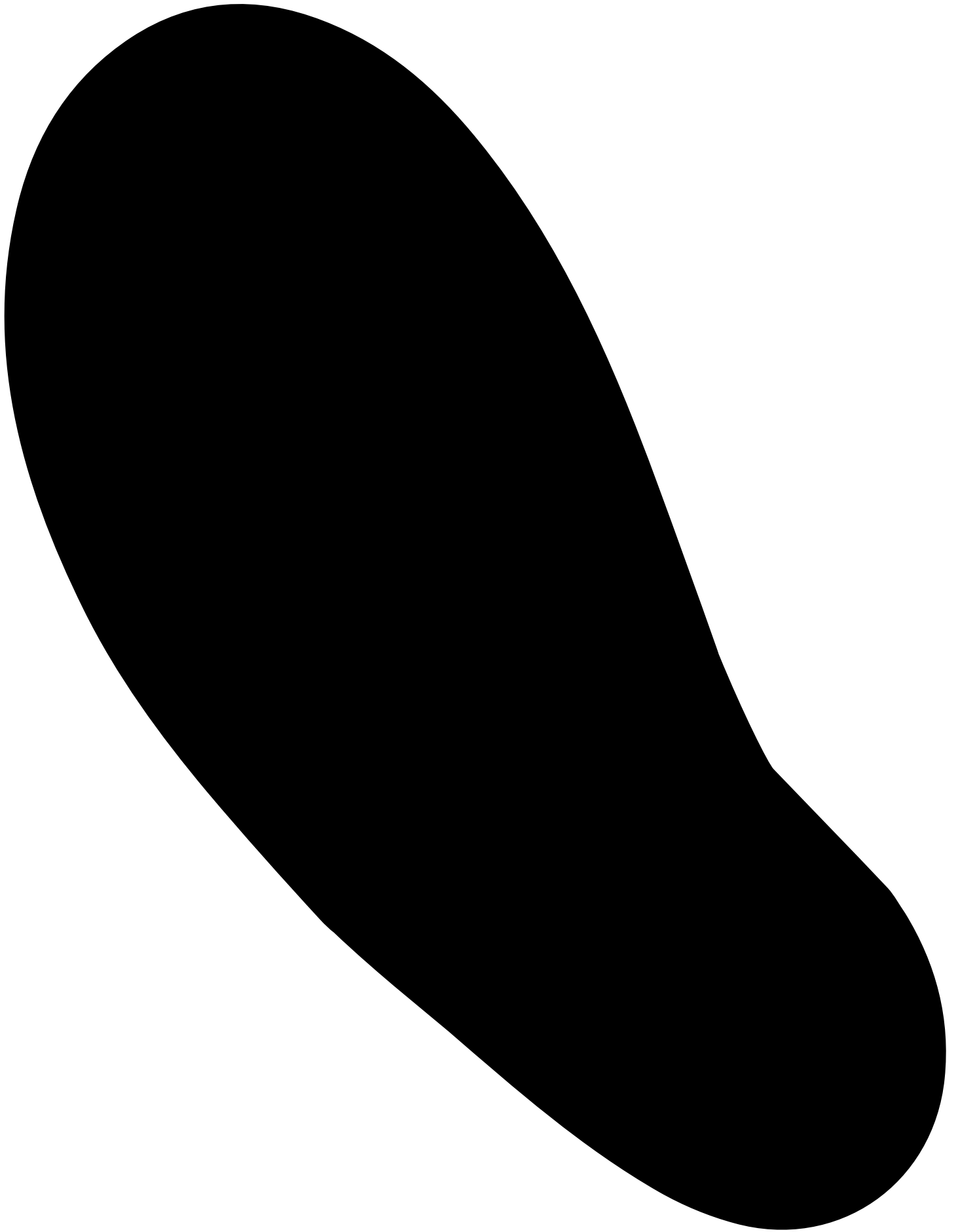
Card #6

Evidence: One smooth stone was found by the body.

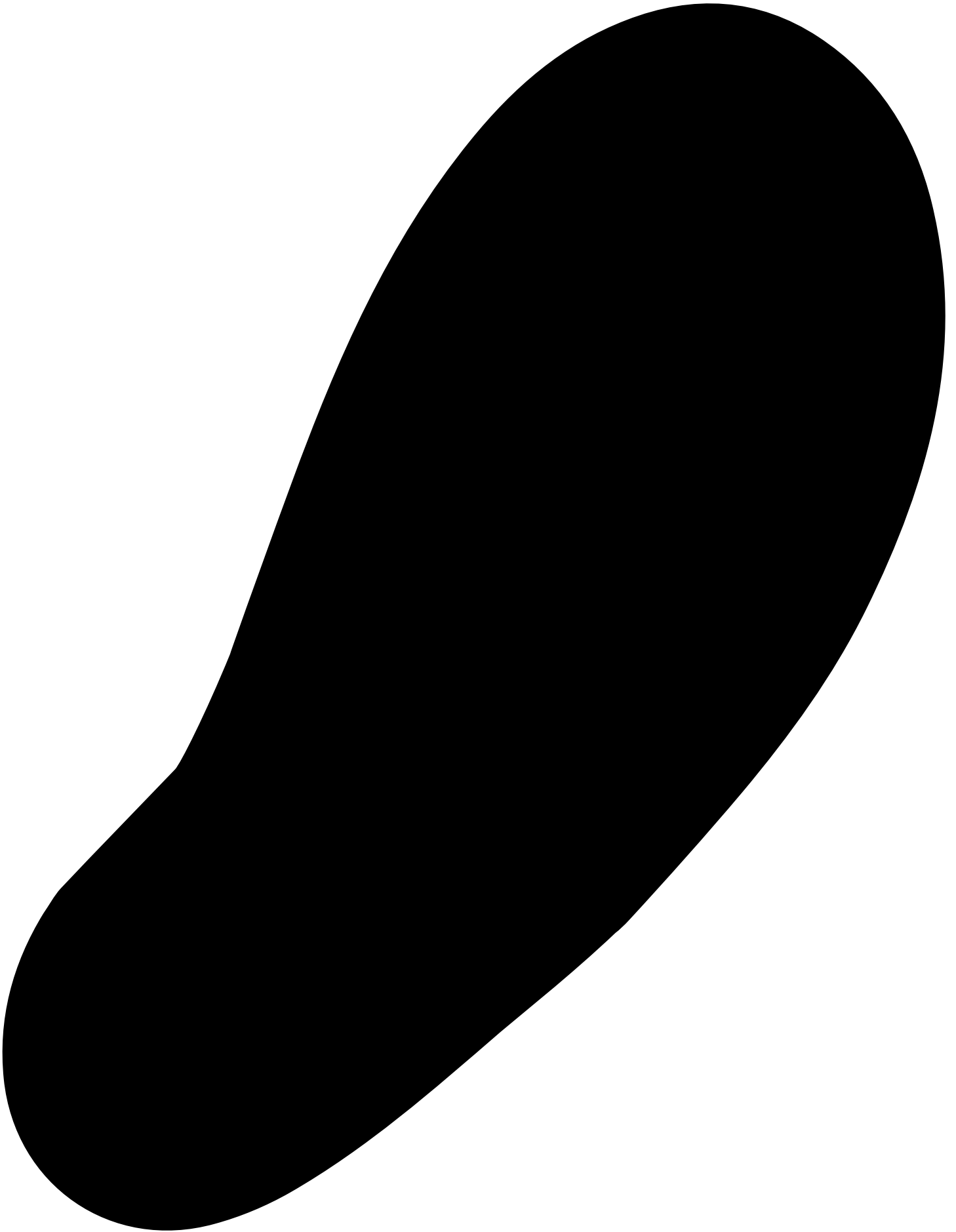
Support: 1 Samuel 17:49

And David put his hand in his bag and took out a [redacted] and slung it and struck the Philistine on his [redacted]. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his [redacted] to the ground. (ESV)

Evidence Cards: *Print and cut out one set.*



Left Footprint: *Print and cut out two or more footprints to place at the scene.*



Right Footprint: *Print and cut out two or more footprints to place at the scene.*

Review Questions

1. What two armies camped on mountains across from each other? *Philistines and Israelites.*
2. Who was leading the Israelite army? *King Saul.*
3. Where did the Philistine champion come and stand to challenge the Israelites to fight him? *In the valley between the armies.*
4. Who was the Philistine champion? *Goliath.*
5. How is Goliath described in the Bible? *Tall, strong, with heavy armor and weapons.*
6. Why did David come to the battle since he wasn't a soldier in the army? *His father sent him to the battle with food/supplies for his brothers.*
7. What did David hear while he was delivering the supplies to his brothers? *Goliath's challenge to the Israelites.*
8. How did the Israelite soldiers respond to Goliath? *They were afraid; they fled.*
9. How tall was Goliath: nearly 8 feet tall, nearly 10 feet tall, or nearly 15 feet tall? *Nearly 10 feet tall.*
10. What was David's response to Goliath? How did he feel? *Upset/angry that Goliath was mocking the Lord and his people.*
11. When David first offered to fight Goliath, what did Saul say? *He said no because David was younger and less experienced than Goliath.*
12. What did David tell King Saul about his experience as a shepherd to convince him to let him fight Goliath? *How God helped him fight lions and bears to protect his father's sheep.*
13. Why didn't David wear Saul's armor to the battle? *He wasn't used to it.*
14. David was about how old when he fought Goliath: 10, 17, or 40? *17.*
15. What weapons did David take to the fight? *Staff, sling, and five stones.*
16. What gave David courage to fight Goliath when the other Israelites were afraid? *Trust in God to give him the victory. The battle wasn't his but God's.*
17. How did David bring Goliath down? *A single stone slung into his forehead.*
18. Why was Goliath's head missing? *David cut it off with Goliath's own sword.*
19. What did the armies do after they saw David kill Goliath? *The Philistines fled, and the Israelites chased them.*
20. Who can say the memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the verse.*

Giant Knockout

Materials

- Two beanbags
- One large cooking spoon (large enough for a beanbag to balance on the spoon end)
- Ten plastic water bottles or two-liter bottles
- Dried beans or popcorn kernels
- Optional: masking tape

Instructions

Pour a small amount of dried beans or popcorn kernels in the bottom of each bottle just to keep it from toppling too easily. You may want to add more or less to some bottles (the more beans, the harder the challenge). Stand the bottles on the floor on one end of the room in any formation. Spread them out or bunch them up for more or less of a challenge. You may want to put small pieces of masking tape on the floor to mark where each bottle goes to make resetting easier between turns.

Divide the class into teams and have them line up to take turns. Give the first student in line on the first team two beanbags for two shots. Direct the student to balance the beanbag on the spoon then fling the beanbag underhanded toward the bottles. You or an assistant should stand near the bottles and quickly reset them after each turn.

Each bottle that is knocked over equals one point. If the student knocks over all the bottles in one throw, he will earn 10 points for his team. Play several rounds, allowing teams to take turns until each student has had a turn. Keep track of scores. The team with the highest score at the end wins.

Option 1: set up two or more areas for each team to play at the same time. Have an assistant or older student keep track of scores.

Option 2: allow members of one team to continue tossing the beanbags until all the bottles are knocked over before resetting them and allowing the next team to toss.

Suggested Discussion

Our giants were pretty easy to knock out, weren't they? But Goliath was a champion in the Philistine army, so he was very tough. God was stronger though, and David knew it.

Because David didn't want God to be mocked, he chose to trust God to help him win the fight over Goliath and the Philistine army. David's faith and trust in God paid off: the Israelites won the battle, and God was shown to be more powerful than the Philistine army and their champion, Goliath.

Marshmallow Slings

Materials

- Completed sling for example
- Sling pattern (next page)
- Felt sheets (9x12 inches), one sheet for every six students
- Leather or suede string cut in 24-inch lengths, two per student
- Scissors
- Bag(s) of large marshmallows
- Goliath Target Poster (following pages)
- Tape for poster

Instructions

Before class: use the pattern to cut the felt sheets into six 3x6-inch rectangles (one for each student). Clip small holes at the marks indicated on the pattern (two at each end).

During class: pass out one felt rectangle and two leather strings to each student. Have students fold the rectangle in half lengthwise and clip the corners off by making a diagonal cut about 1/2 inch from the edge (indicated by dotted lines on the pattern).

Thread one leather string through the holes on one end of the felt rectangle and make a knot to cinch the two corners together. Then repeat with the other string on the other end.

Next, have students tie a loop in the loose end of one leather string to fit around the middle finger on their dominant hand. Tie a regular knot in the loose end of the other string.

Print one Goliath Target Poster. Tape the four pages together and attach high on the wall for students to use as a target. Have students line up facing the poster, leaving space around and in front of shooters. Place one marshmallow in the sling pouch. Show students how to slip the loop over their middle finger and hold onto the knot on the other string. They will swing it over their heads, aim at Goliath, and let go of the knotted string. The loop stays put on the middle finger, and the released



string opens the pouch, sending the marshmallow flying (hopefully toward the target!). Have students take turns slinging at Goliath! You may choose to award points for students who hit Goliath, either individually or in teams.

Suggested Discussion

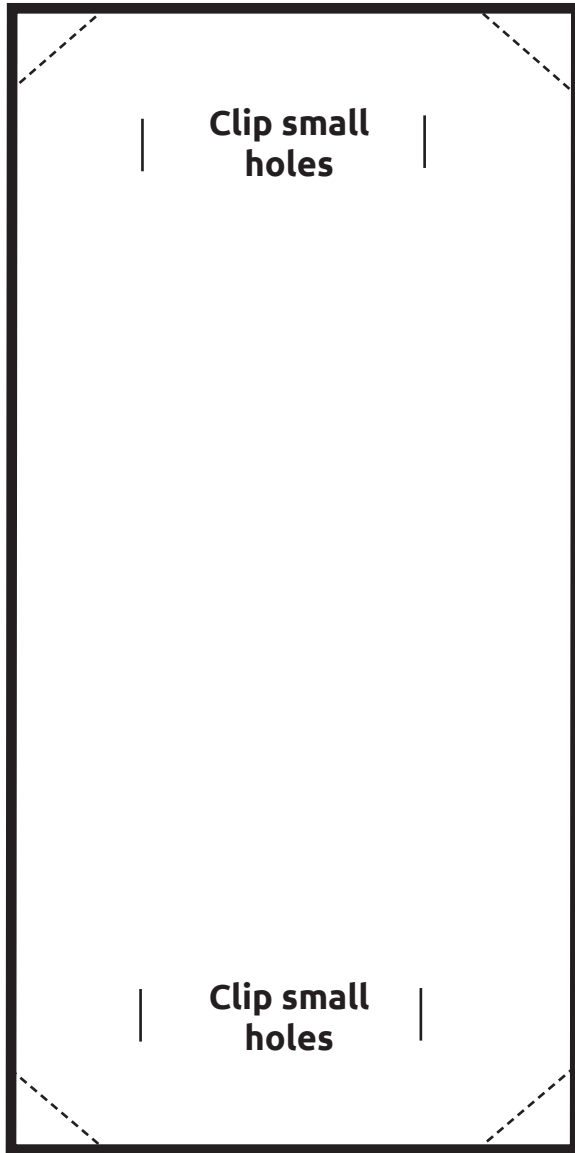
King Saul offered his armor and sword to David before he faced Goliath. But David didn't feel comfortable fighting in armor he wasn't used to. Instead, he chose to take only his shepherd's staff, his sling, and stones. He knew how to use these weapons to fight lions and bears that attacked his sheep.

God used David's simple weapons to defeat a well-armed, experienced war champion—Goliath! We had fun making our slings and practicing with them today. When you play with your slings, I hope you'll remember where David's courage and strength came from.

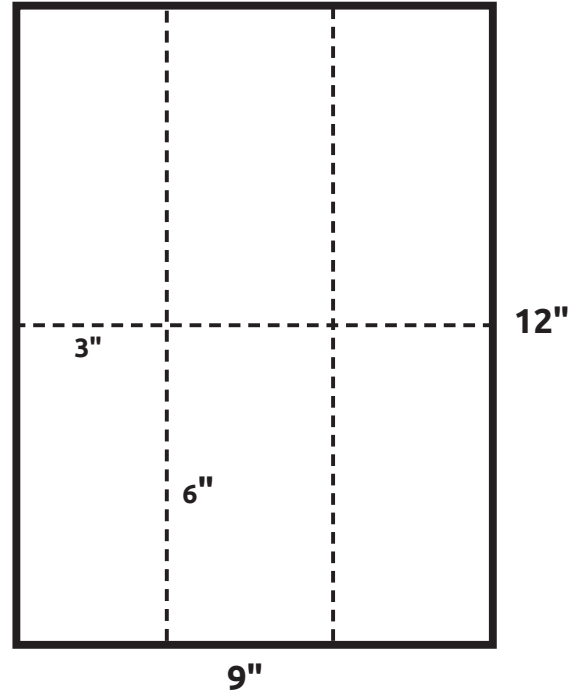
- ? Was David trusting in how well he could use his sling to win? *No.*
- ? Who did he trust to give him victory? *God.*

Right! And God rewarded David's faith by helping him defeat a giant with a sling and stone.

Students will trim corners.



Cut six pieces from one 9x12-inch sheet.





Cut on the dotted lines and tape the four pages together.



Cut on the dotted lines and tape the four pages together.

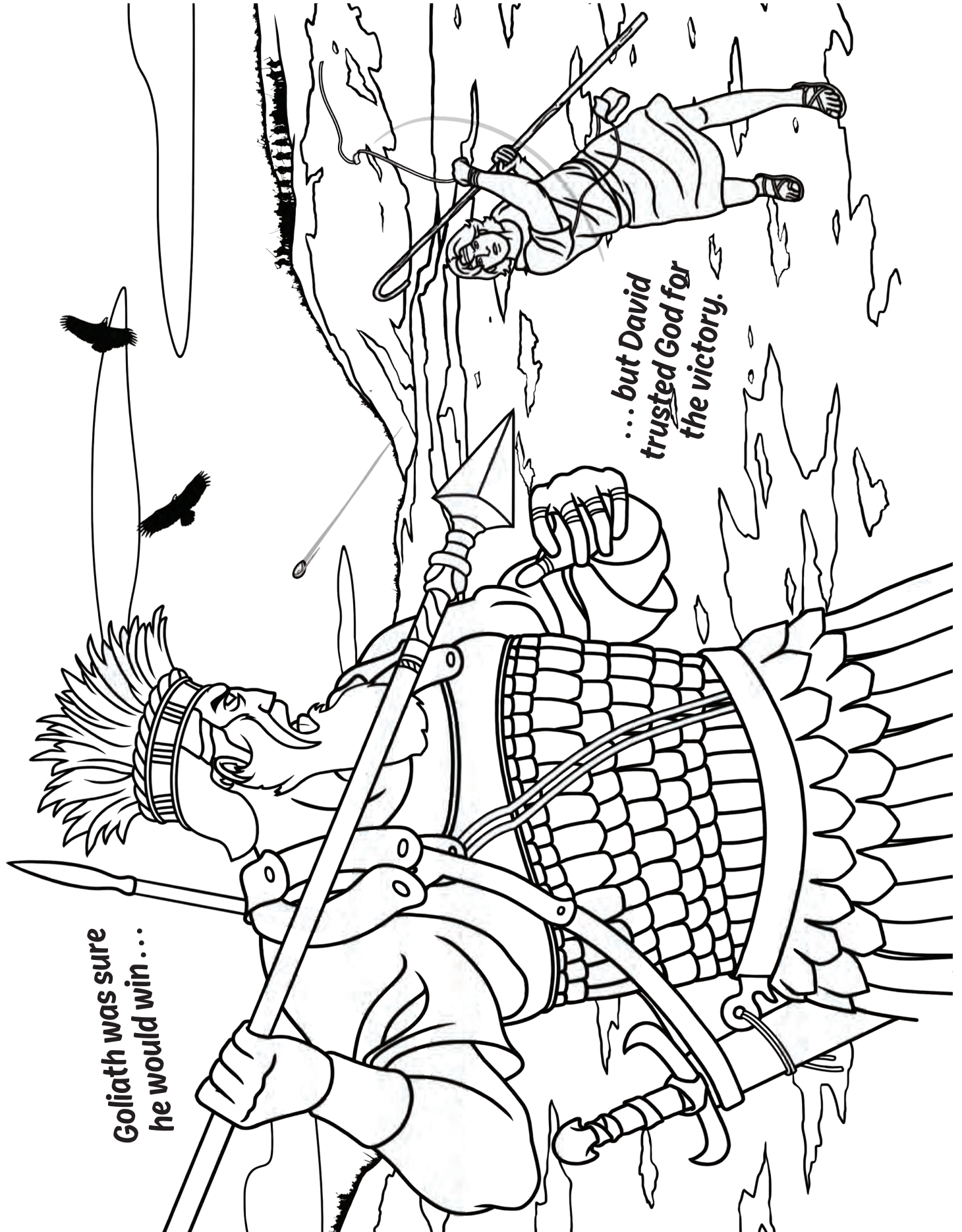


Cut on the dotted lines and tape the four pages together.



Cut on the dotted lines and tape the four pages together.

Name _____



**Goliath was sure
he would win...**

**... but David
trusted God for
the victory.**

Giant Bees and a Giant God

“And now she’s all puffed up like a giant marshmallow!” Emily exclaimed breathlessly as she finished telling Jessie about her friend Marcie.

“All that from a little bee sting?” Jessie asked. “Is that true Aunt Angela?” Jessie turned to her cousin’s mom, who sat in the living room with them.

“Well, Marcie is allergic to bee stings, and they can make her sick. Her face gets puffy, but I wouldn’t say that she’s like a ‘giant marshmallow.’”

“And,” Emily continued, “Marcie’s mom has to give her a shot right away when she gets stung. That’s like getting stung twice at the same time! Oh, I hope that never happens to me.” Emily shuddered.

“Emily,” said her mom as she got up to leave the room. “I know for a fact that you are not allergic to bee stings, so don’t be so dramatic. You’ll scare yourself silly.”

Jessie giggled at that. She could imagine what it might be like if Emily “scared herself silly” and ran around in circles screaming at the top of her lungs. “Come on, Silly,” said Jessie. “Let’s go outside.”

But Emily didn’t budge. “Uh uh. Not me. There might be bees outside. I’m staying right here.”

Just then Emily’s mom called out from the other room, “Emily, that’s enough! Go outside and play.”

Emily sighed and slowly got up from the couch and trudged to the back door. She opened the door a tiny crack and peeked out. “Okay. I don’t see any bees or hear any buzzing. Let’s

make a run for it!” And off she ran as fast as she could to the swing set.

Jessie followed Emily when suddenly—*Bzzzz!* A fuzzy, fat, black-and-yellow-striped bee flew right past her nose!

“Yikes!” Jessie jumped back.

Emily sprang from her swing and ran to Jessie. “Are you okay? I saw that bee attack you! It was enormous. Did it sting you? Are you puffing up?” Emily peered closely at Jessie’s face and poked at her cheeks.

“No, Emily. I’m not puffing up,” she replied, flicking Emily’s hand away from her face. “The bee just flew by. It didn’t sting me.”

“What’s all the fuss about?” asked Jeremy as he came through the gate. Emily retold the story about Marcie getting all puffy from a bee sting. “And just now, Jessie was attacked by a giant bee!” she finished.

“Emily, you’re crazy,” said her brother.

“I don’t know,” Jessie said. “Your mom did say that Marcie did get sick and puffy.”

“Yeah, but the bee didn’t attack her. Mom told me about it. The bee was just sitting on the table outside, and Marcie didn’t see it when she put her hand down,” Jeremy explained.

Jessie breathed a sigh of relief.

“I’m thirsty,” Jeremy announced. “Let’s get something to drink.” Soon the three cousins were sitting on the porch sipping lemonade.

“I still say bees are scary. They’re huge and fat like the one that flew by Jessie—they’re giant!”

“But you’re not afraid now,” said Jeremy.

“No, there aren’t any bees around now,” Emily replied.

“What about those ones?” Jeremy pointed at the flower bush next to Emily.

To her horror, there was not just one but three fat bumblebees hovering over the flowers. “Waaaaa! Jessie! Run away!”

Jessie was so startled by Emily’s cries, she jumped right off the porch. Emily grabbed onto Jessie’s shoulders, and the two of them ran around in circles, screaming, “Aaaaa! Waaaa! A bee, a bee!”

Jeremy laughed so hard at the girls, he spilled his lemonade.

“What is going on out here?” asked Mom as she came out and stood on the porch.

“Mom! Mom! A bee! It’s after us!” Emily shouted, still clinging to Jessie.

“Aunt Angela, there’s lots of them! Giant bees!” Jessie called out as she continued to run around the yard.

“See there? You girls have scared yourselves silly!” Emily’s mom called out. “Stop screaming and come here.”

Jessie stopped running and Emily let go of her. They jogged quickly back to the porch, ready to duck and dodge any more bees on the way.

“You know, Emily,” Jeremy said in his best big-brother voice. “I was just thinking, you know

how Mom and Dad bought me that special star lamp?”

“Yeah, ’cause you were afraid of the dark,” Emily answered.

“Yeah, I WAS afraid of the dark,” Jeremy continued. “But when I trust God to be with me, he helps me not be scared anymore.”

“So?”

“Well, I figured God can help you not be afraid of bees anymore,” Jeremy explained.

“That’s true, Emily,” Mom agreed. “We can trust God to help us when we’re afraid.”

“I don’t know.” Emily looked suspiciously at the bees.

“See, look,” Jeremy pointed to the bees. “They’re not hurting you. They just want the flowers. Besides, you’re scarier to them.”

“Yeah, Emily,” Jessie remarked, “to them, we’re giant!”

“I guess you’re right.” Emily nodded. “They’re not trying to get me, but I guess they’ll sting if I scare them accidentally.”

“That’s usually how it works,” Mom said as she hugged Emily. “God is more ‘giant’ than those bees. He will help you not to be afraid if you trust him.”

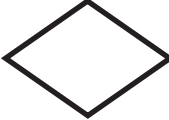











Jessie tugged on Emily’s arm. “Now let’s go swing!” And the girls raced to the swing set—the bees forgotten.

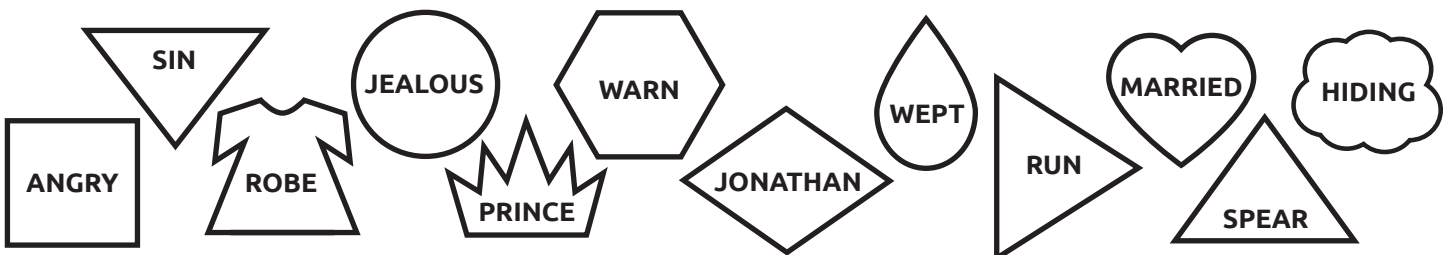


Name _____

Class Notes

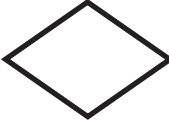











Match the shape in the sentence with the shapes below, then fill in the answer.

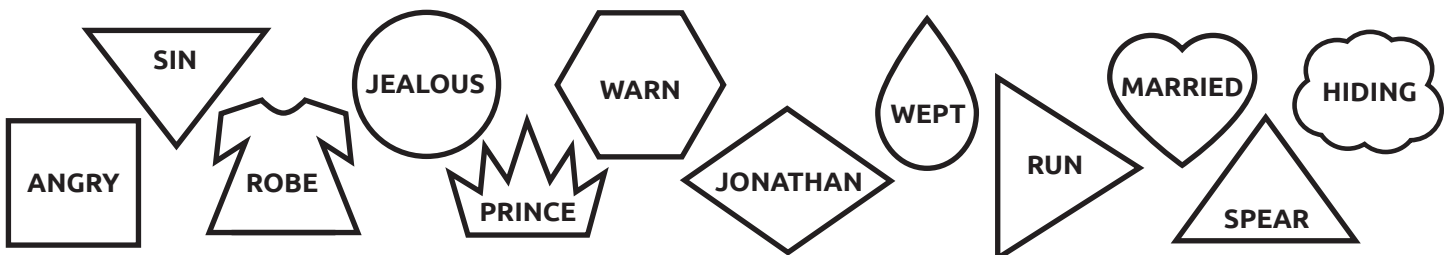
1. David and  promised to be loyal friends. _____
2. Jonathan, a son of King Saul, was a  and warrior of Israel. _____
3. Jonathan gave David his , armor, and weapons. _____
4. The Lord gave David great success, and Saul became  of him. _____
5. Saul tried to kill David by throwing a  at him. _____
6. David  Saul's younger daughter, Michal. _____
7. Jonathan spoke to Saul and told him it would be a  to kill David. _____
8. When Saul saw that David was not at the meal for the second time, he was  and threw a spear at Jonathan. _____
9. Jonathan used his bow and arrows to  David to flee. _____
10. The boy with Jonathan didn't know David was  nearby. _____
11. David would have to  for his life. _____
12. The two friends  as they said goodbye. _____



Class Notes Answer Key

Match the shape in the sentence with the shapes below, then fill in the answer.

- David and  promised to be loyal friends. Jonathan
- Jonathan, a son of King Saul, was a  and warrior of Israel. prince
- Jonathan gave David his , armor, and weapons. robe
- The Lord gave David great success, and Saul became  of him. jealous
- Saul tried to kill David by throwing a  at him. spear
- David  Saul's younger daughter, Michal. married
- Jonathan spoke to Saul and told him it would be a  to kill David. sin
- When Saul saw that David was not at the meal for the second time, he was  and threw a spear at Jonathan. angry
- Jonathan used his bow and arrows to  David to flee. warn
- The boy with Jonathan didn't know David was  nearby. hiding
- David would have to  for his life. run
- The two friends  as they said goodbye. wept



Name _____

Friend Bingo

Find a friend who . . .

<p>Has been on a plane</p> 	<p>Has more than three siblings</p> 	<p>Has a pet that isn't a dog or cat</p> 	<p>Is allergic to something</p> 
<p>Has their own Bible in class today</p> 	<p>Goes to a different school than you</p> 	<p>Is good at math</p> $1+1=2$	<p>Is an only child</p> 
<p>Has traveled to another country</p> 	<p>Plays an instrument</p> 	<p>Has the favorite color purple</p> 	<p>Knows how to whistle</p> 
<p>Is the youngest in their family</p> 	<p>Can say the memory verse without looking</p> 	<p>Has won a contest</p> 	<p>Likes reading</p> 
<p>Has their own bedroom</p> 	<p>Was born in a different city than you</p> 	<p>Plays a sport</p> 	<p>Was born the same month as you</p> 

Review Questions

1. Who was the son of Saul who became David's friend? *Jonathan.*
2. Name one of the gifts Jonathan gave to David. *(Allow several students to answer.) Robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.*
3. Why did Saul become jealous of David? *David was successful in everything he did; God was with David; the people loved him; women sang songs about him.*
4. Why did David play the lyre for Saul? *To calm the harmful spirit.*
5. While David was playing the lyre, how did Saul try to kill him? *He threw a spear at him.*
6. What job did Saul give David to get him out of his presence and possibly harm him? *Commander of a thousand soldiers.*
7. Who did David marry? *Saul's daughter, Michal.*
8. How did Michal help David when Saul was trying to kill him? *She helped him escape out the window.*
9. What did Jonathan say to Saul about what he was doing to David? *He told him he was wrong to try to kill David because David was innocent.*
10. Did Saul keep his promise to let David live after Jonathan spoke to him? *No. Only for a short time.*
11. What plan did David and Jonathan use at the special meal to see if Saul still wanted to kill David? *David didn't come so they could see if Saul would get angry.*
12. Did Saul care if David was at the first meal? How did he respond? *He didn't say anything or get angry.*
13. How did Saul respond when David didn't come for the second meal? *He became angry.*
14. What did Saul do to Jonathan at the meal because he was so mad? *Insulted Jonathan and then threw a spear at him.*
15. What did Saul say would never happen as long as David was alive? *Jonathan would not get the kingdom.*
16. Why didn't Jonathan want the kingdom for himself? *David was his friend; he accepted that God had chosen David, not him, to be the next king of Israel.*
17. What did Jonathan take to the field to warn David about Saul? *Bow and arrows and a boy to collect arrows he shot.*
18. When Jonathan told the boy that the arrow was beyond him, what message did that give David, who was hiding nearby? *Saul still wanted to kill him; David would have to flee.*
19. How much of the plan did the boy know when he went to the field with Jonathan? *He knew nothing.*
20. How did the two friends feel when David had to leave? *Sad; they wept/cried.*
21. Can you say the memory verse without looking at the poster? *Allow several students to say the verse.*

Real World Skit

You and two assistants will read a skit about making new friends. Bring props to add interest! Start with two friends together and the neighbor across the room.

Friend 1: Your cul-de-sac is the best for riding bikes! I'm glad my mom let me bring my bike over today.

Friend 2: Yeah, it's fun to have more room to ride than just our driveway. Our neighbors have kids, too, so they're careful when they drive in here.

Friend 1: Wow, it must be great to have so many friends around!

Friend 2: Yeah! We play in each other's yards and ride bikes together, except the kid in the house on the corner. He's mean! We always take off and hide when he comes outside.

Friend 1: What does he do?

Friend 2: He yells at us and calls us names. One time he even threw rocks at us when we rode past his driveway!

Friend 1: Seriously? That's terrible! I wonder why he acts like that.

Friend 2: I don't know, and I don't plan on asking him either!

Friend 1: Maybe he's lonely.

Friend 2: What? If he wants friends, he shouldn't yell and throw stuff.

Friend 1: Hey! Is that him walking down the driveway now?

Friend 2: It's him! Let's get back to my house, quick! *(Hurries away)*

Friend 1: *(Walk over to the Neighbor and wave)* Hey!

Neighbor: *(Look surprised then frown)* Who are you?

Friend 1: *(Smiling)* My name's _____. I'm visiting my friend, who lives a few houses down from you. Over there. *(Points)*

Neighbor: Yeah? So? Go play with your friend then and leave me alone.

Friend 1: Wait. I think the kids here may have the wrong idea about you.

Neighbor: What do you know?

Friend 1: I know that it's right to be kind to others. Have the kids been mean to you or

something? Is that why you yell at them? They're afraid of you, you know.

Neighbor: Good!

Friend 1: I don't think that's good. I think it'd be great if you played with us.

Neighbor: No one's ever asked me to!

Friend 1: Well, I am. Want to ride bikes?

Neighbor: I don't have a bike, okay? So just go away!

Friend 1: We can take turns riding mine, or we can play a different game without bikes. You like hide-and-seek?

Neighbor: Uh, yeah. But I don't think the others will want to play.

Friend 1: Sure they will! You can show them you've changed! (*Wave toward Friend 2*) Hey! Come here!

Friend 2: (*Nervously comes to join them*) Uh, hi.

Friend 1: Your neighbor said he'll play with us. He just doesn't have a bike right now. How about we get the other kids and play hide-and-seek?

Friend 2: Really?! Okay, we can do that.

Friend 1: Let's get to it then!

Friends and More Friends

Materials

- Action list (next page)
- Strips of paper with one student's name written on each
- Container for paper strips

Instructions

Print one copy of the action list for your use. Put the paper strips with students' names into a container. Clear a space in the room then choose a volunteer to stand in the middle. Choose one action from the list for the volunteer to do. Then say, "You will need a friend to help you with the next action." Have the volunteer draw a name strip from the container. Read the name out loud and have that student stand beside the first volunteer, linking arms together. Give the two volunteers an action to do. Remind them to keep their arms linked as they do it. Continue playing by drawing names of students one at a time to link arms with the previous volunteers and work together to complete an action. Play until all the students have completed an action all together with arms linked. Repeat actions or make up new ones as necessary.

Suggested Discussion

It was fun to do all those things with your friends. But it's a good thing we don't have to walk around with our arms together like that all the time, isn't it?

- ?** When you had your arms linked in our game, you had to be sure to help the others, didn't you? What would happen if some of you decided to just sit down and not help?
Allow discussion.

That would make it really hard for the others to do what they were supposed to. Having good friends is important, but we need to remember to be a good friend too.

Jonathan was a good friend to David. Even though it was dangerous for him to warn David that Saul wanted to kill him, Jonathan cared enough about David to help by making sure he got the message.

Actions List

Volunteers should keep at least one arm linked while doing these actions together.

1. Spin in a circle
2. Give your linked friend(s) a high five (those with a free hand)
3. Bow together
4. Use giant steps to walk to the wall and back
5. Jump up and down three times
6. Waddle like a penguin or duck to the wall and back
7. Skip to the door and back
8. Squat down then stand up
9. Balance on one foot for five seconds
10. Form a circle and sit down and stand back up

Name _____



Jonathan warned
David to **FLEE.**

Lost Kitties & Real Friends

“Please, Craig?” Matt whined at his big brother. “Let me come with you and Dan.”

“I don’t know, Matt,” Craig replied. “You’re too little to hang out with us. Why don’t you go play with your own friends?”

“Aww, they’re boring. I wanna do cool stuff like you and Dan. I’ll do anything you say—please?” Matt begged.

“Oh, all right, come on. Dan’s waiting.”

Matt ran out the front door with his big brother. He proudly greeted Dan. “Hey, Dan! Craig said I can go do stuff with you guys.”

Dan looked at Craig, puzzled. Craig just shrugged and said, “Yeah, well, remember you gotta do whatever we say, okay?”

The three wandered down the sidewalk.

“What’re we gonna do?” Matt asked eagerly. “Play ball at the park?”

“Nah, I have a better idea. Let’s play a trick on a neighbor!” said Craig.

“That would be so funny!” Dan laughed. “Who can we play a trick on?”

As they were discussing it, Justin came by, walking his dog, Cookie. “Hey, Matt!”

Matt turned. “Oh, hi,” he said and bent down to rub Cookie’s fluffy fur.

“You wanna kick the soccer ball around?” Justin asked.

“Nah!” Matt replied. “I’m hanging out with Craig and Dan. We’re gonna do cool stuff together.”

“Really? Okay . . . see ya later then.” Justin and his dog turned and walked away. “That’s weird,” Justin thought. “Craig never lets Matt do anything with him.”

Just then Mrs. Brewster opened her front door. The boys turned to watch her. They could hear her tell her cat, “Now Muffin, stay inside. I don’t want my Sweetie Pie to get lost.”

She closed the door and hobbled down the porch steps, slowly making her way to her mailbox. Her cane clacked on the path as she made her way back inside.

“I’ve got an idea,” Dan said, snickering. “Let’s ring the old lady’s doorbell then run and hide.”

“Yeah, that’s funny. Come on,” said Craig. “Let’s hide by her house. Matt, you go ring her doorbell.”

“Me?! Why me?” Matt exclaimed.

“Because you said you’d do anything. If you’re gonna be our friend, that’s what you gotta do,” Craig explained with an evil grin.

“Well, okay,” Matt agreed. He didn’t think it was a very nice thing to do, but he really wanted Craig and Dan to be his friends.

Craig and Dan hid by the house as Matt crept to the front door. He reached up and rang the doorbell—*ding dong! Ding dong!*

Matt ran to the corner of the house to watch. Soon, Mrs. Brewster opened her door. Her precious cat, Muffin, was tucked under her arm. She held her cane in the other hand as she stepped out to see who was there. “Hello?” she called. “Who rang my doorbell?”

Suddenly, Muffin jumped down and sped away. “Muffin! No, no!” The kitty ran down the sidewalk and into the neighbor’s yard before poor Mrs. Brewster could even get down her steps. “Muffin! Muffin! Please come back, kitty,” she cried.

Matt giggled from the corner of the house. “Did you guys see that?” he said to Dan and

Craig. But there was no reply. The older boys were gone. “Uh, oh,” Matt said to himself, “I better get outta here!” He turned and ran but skidded to a stop as he came face to face with Justin.

“Matt! What are you doing?!” Justin exclaimed.

“Justin,” Matt gasped. “Where’d you come from?”

“Well, it seemed strange that your brother would suddenly let you do stuff with him, so I came to see what was going on.”

“Oh, well,” Matt stuttered. “I was just going to find them. They ran away—chickens!”

“Matt, wait.” Justin grabbed Matt’s shirt sleeve. “I don’t think they were trying to be your friends. I think they wanted to get you in trouble. I saw what happened; they ran away before you even rang the doorbell.”

“But, they said I could be their friend,” Matt replied sadly.

“That’s not what real friends do,” Justin said. “Now Mrs. Brewster lost her cat, and she’s really sad. Muffin is very special to her. Don’t you remember how you felt when Penny got lost?”

Matt remembered how worried and sad he was when he lost his dog. “Justin, will you help me find Muffin and take her back to Mrs. Brewster?”

“Sure, I will.” Justin smiled. He was glad Matt wanted to do the right thing.

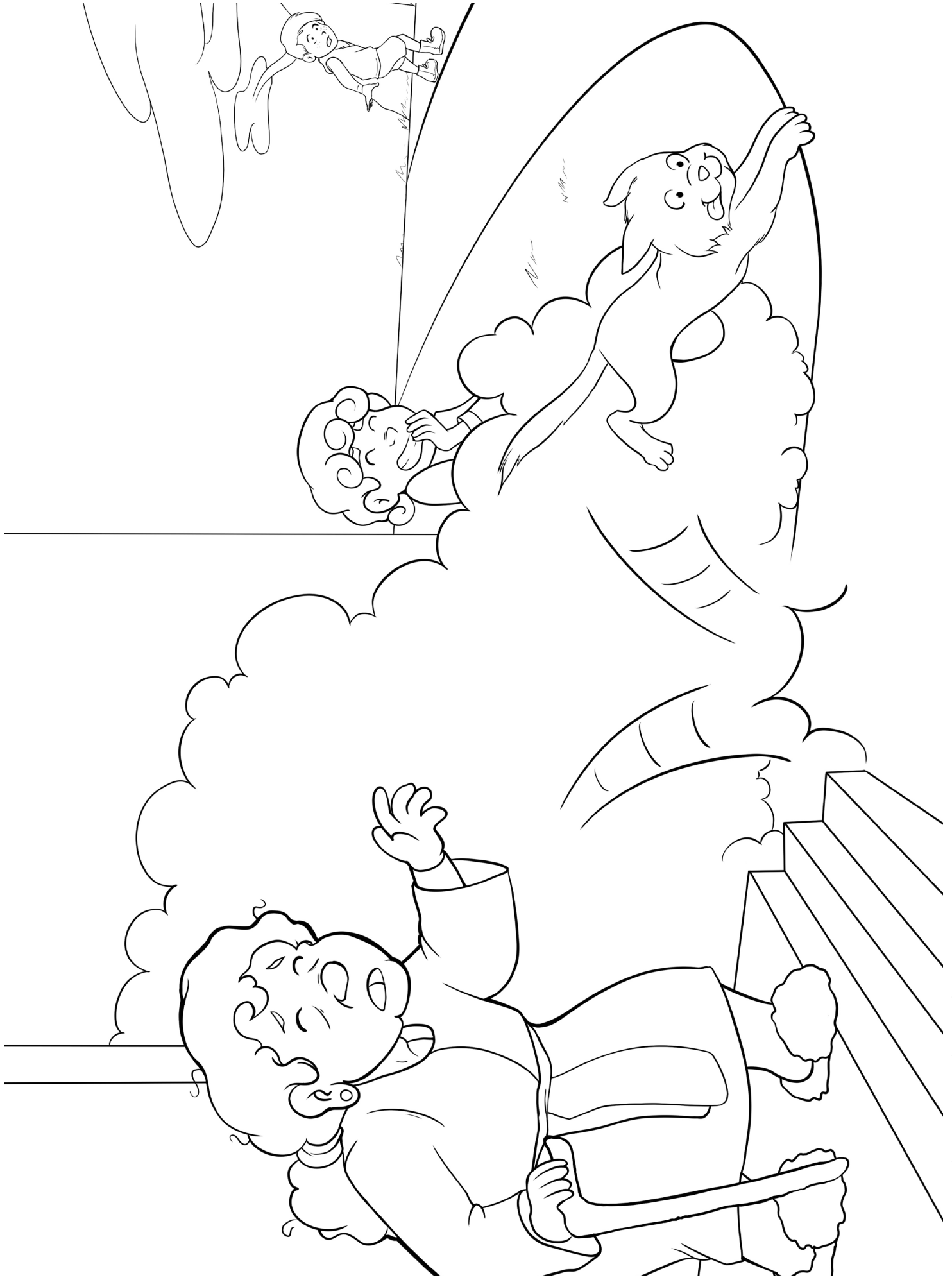
The boys found the cat snoozing in the sunshine by Matt’s house. Justin carefully picked Muffin up and hurriedly walked back to Mrs. Brewster’s.

Matt rang the doorbell, but this time he stayed right there. Mrs. Brewster opened the door. Her eyes were red and puffy from crying. “Oh! Muffin, my sweet kitty!” she reached out and took her cat from Justin. “Thank you, boys! I was so worried.”

Matt gulped then said, “Mrs. Brewster, I’m really sorry I made you lose your cat. I was playing a joke when I rang your doorbell earlier. But I know it was wrong. I’m sorry.”

“I forgive you, young man. Thank you for coming back with my Muffin.”

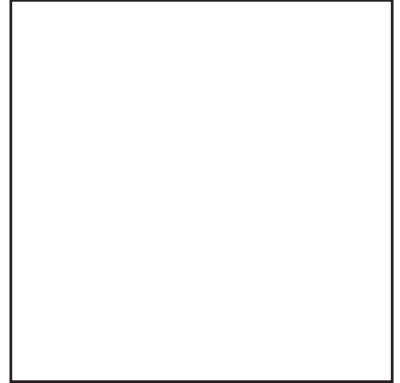
“You’re welcome.” Matt smiled at Justin. “Now I know who my *real* friends are.”



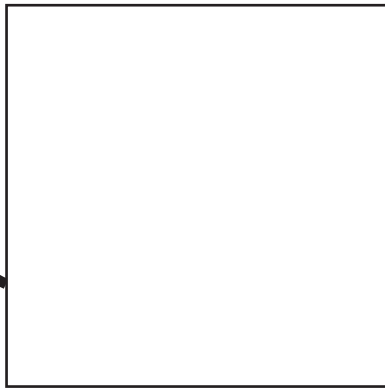
Name _____

Class Notes

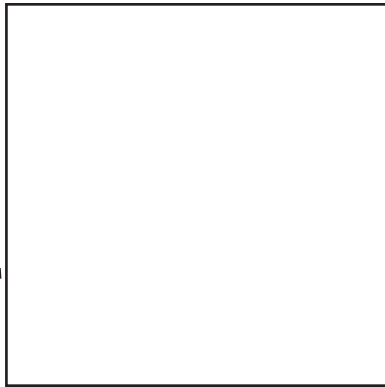
2. Gath: a Philistine city



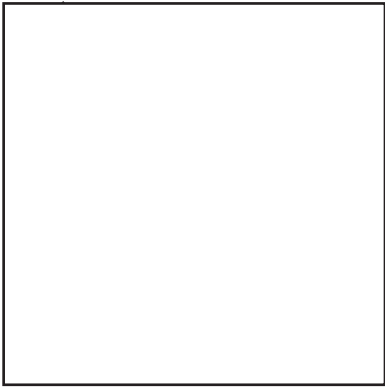
1. Nob: the city of priests



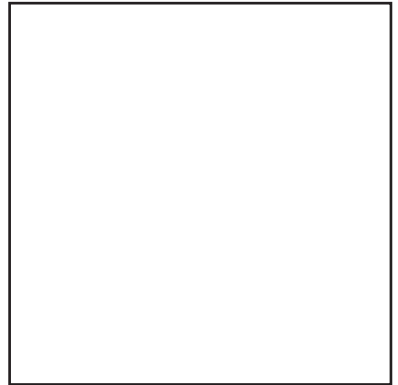
3. Cave of Adullam



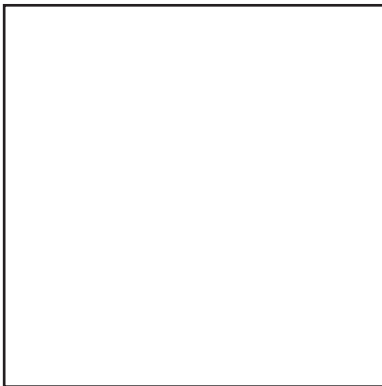
4. Wilderness of Maon: the mountain



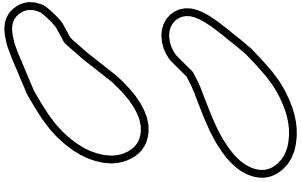
5. Engedi: inside a cave



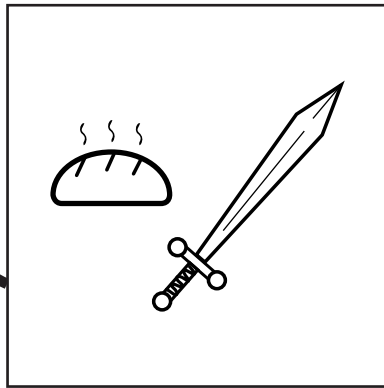
6. Saul's camp on the hill



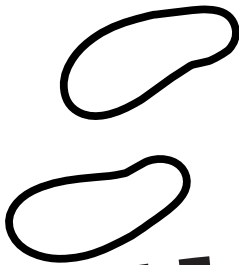
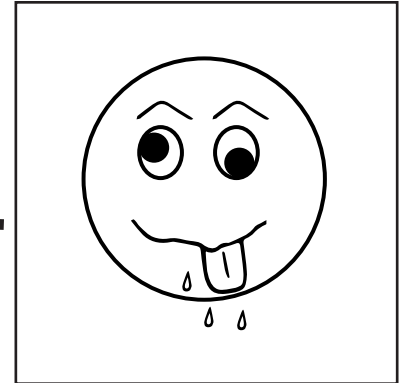
Class Notes Answer Key



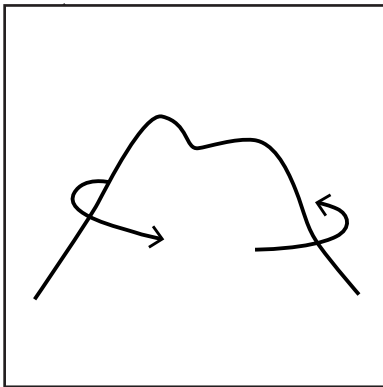
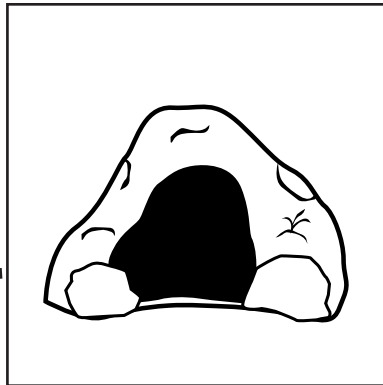
1. Nob: the city of priests



2. Gath: a Philistine city

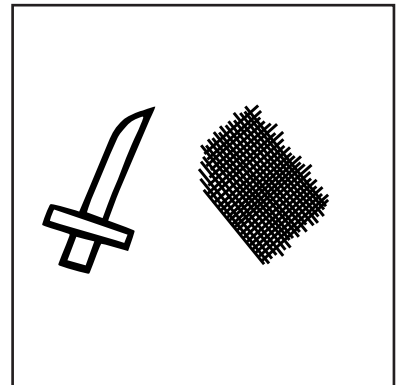


3. Cave of Adullam

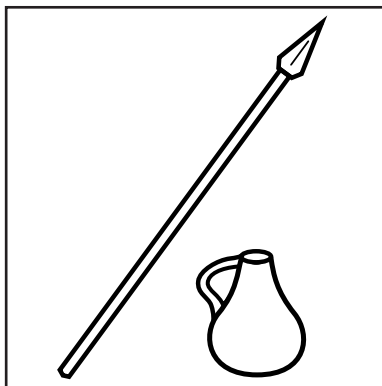


4. Wilderness of Maon: the mountain

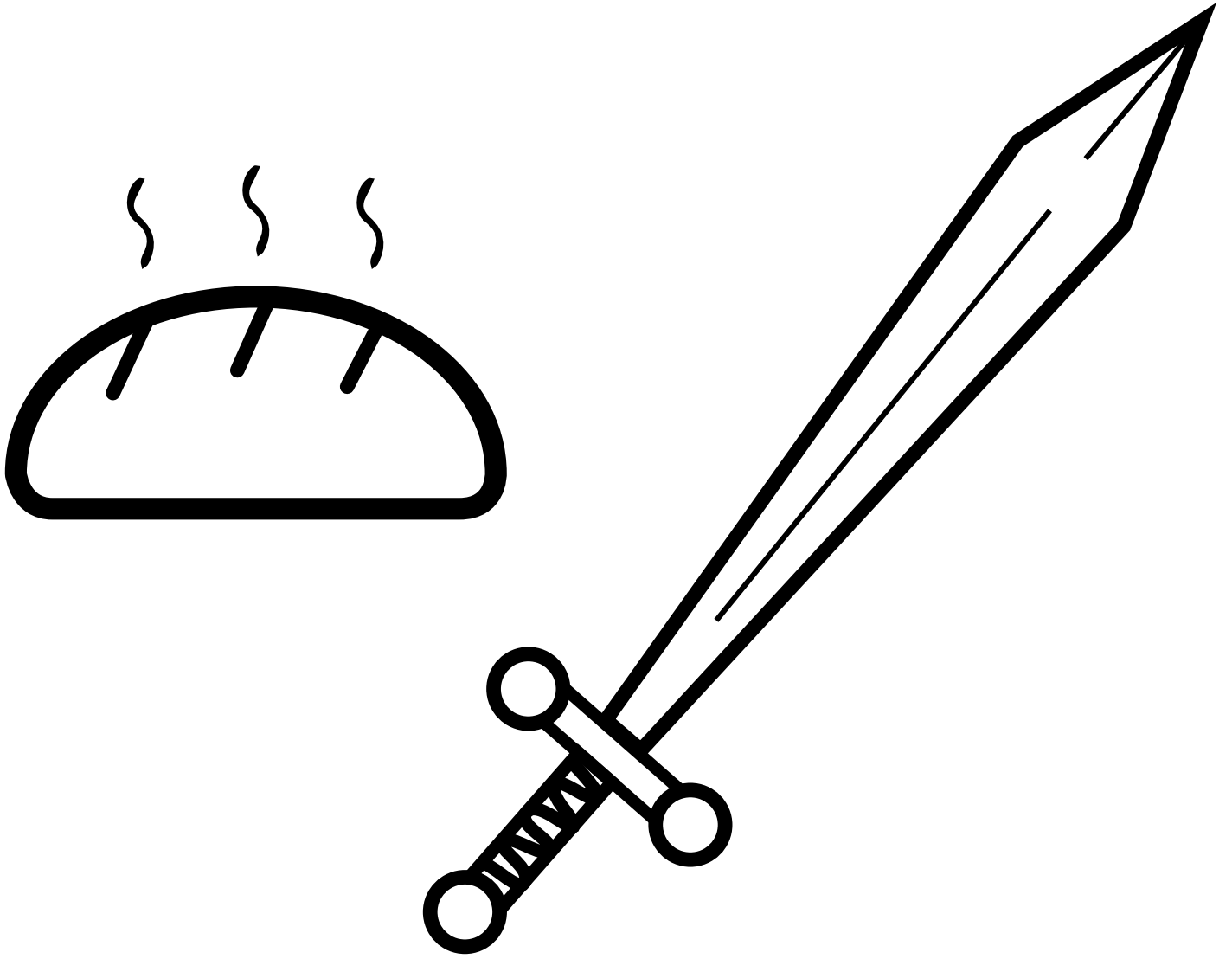
5. Engedi: inside a cave

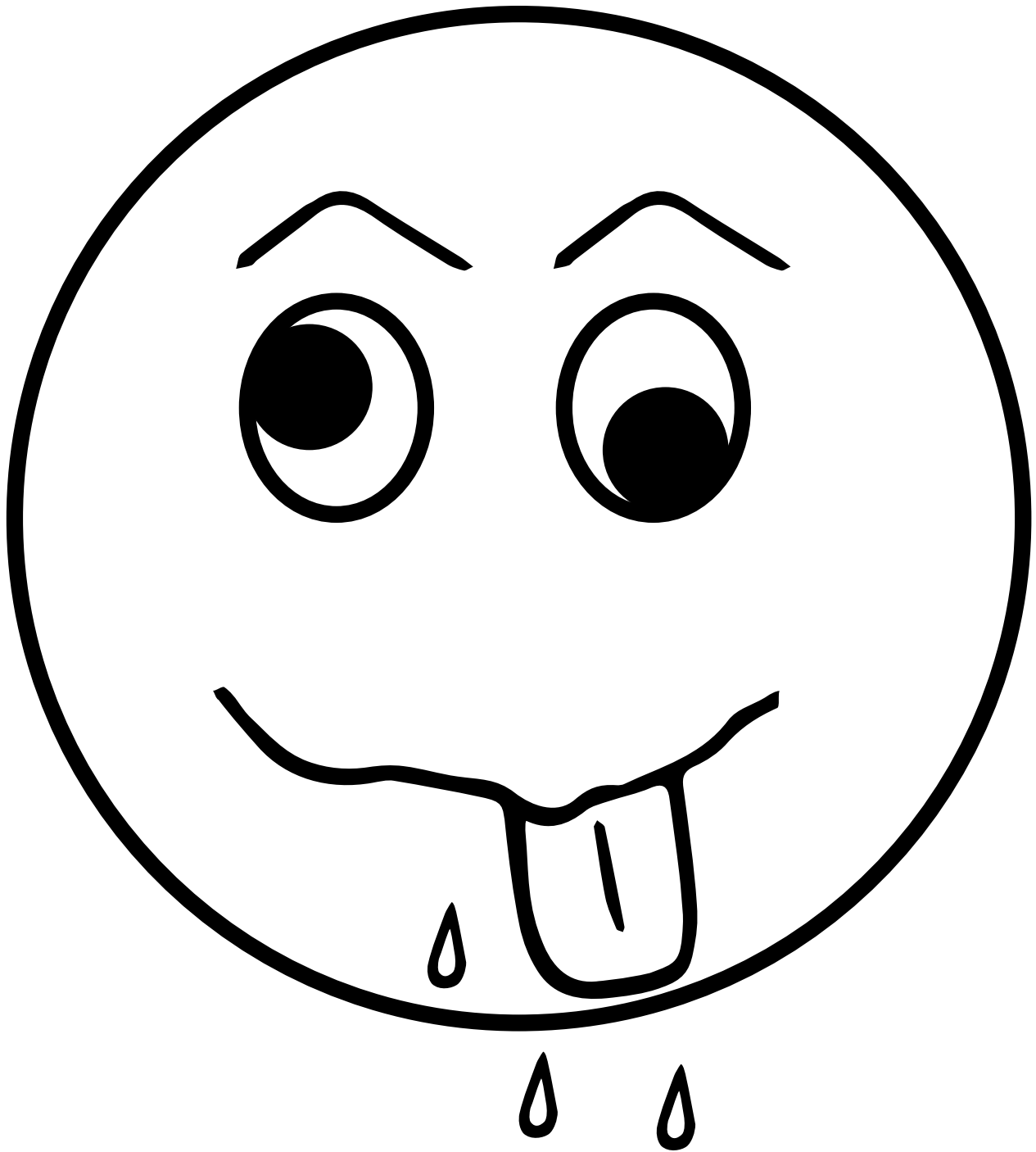


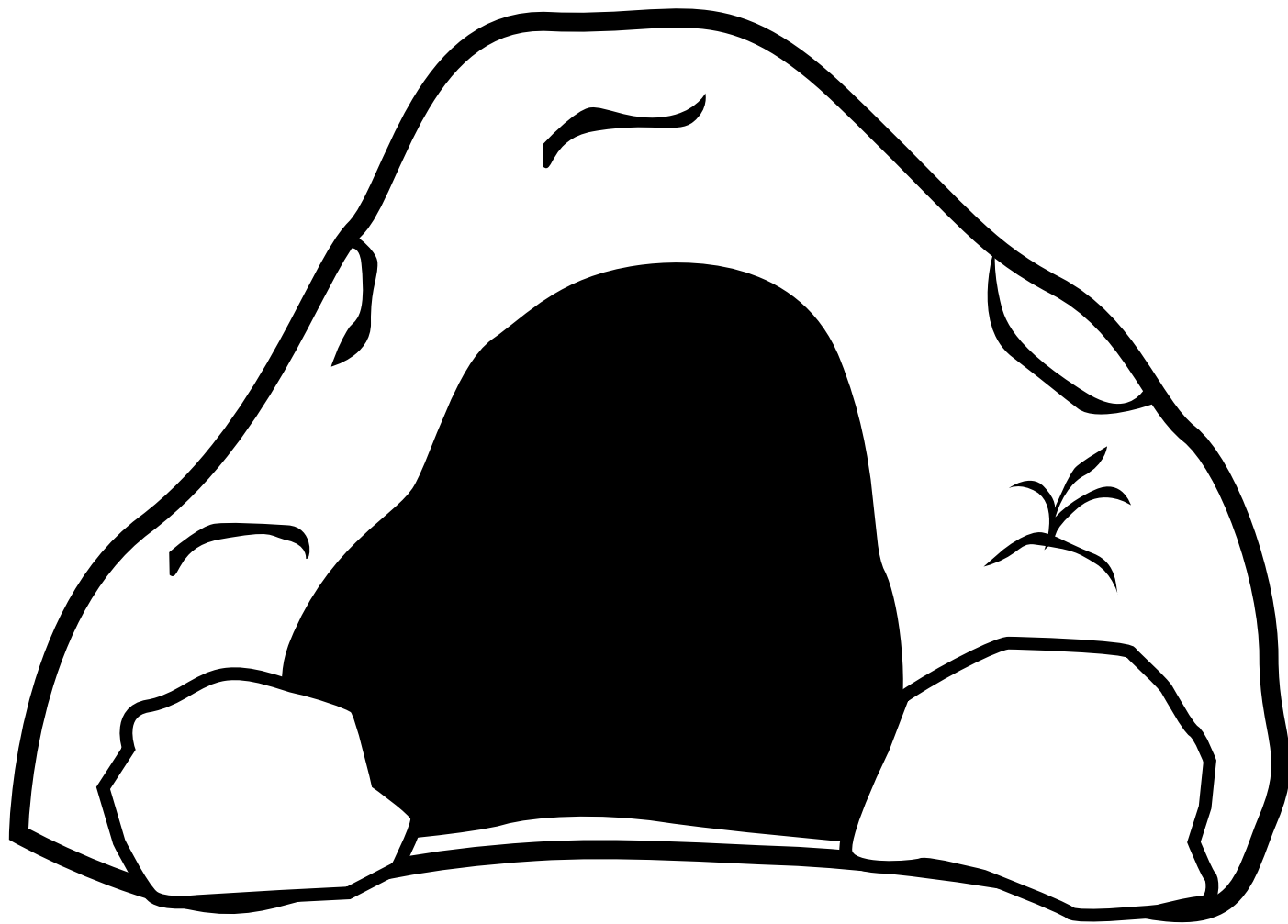
6. Saul's camp on the hill

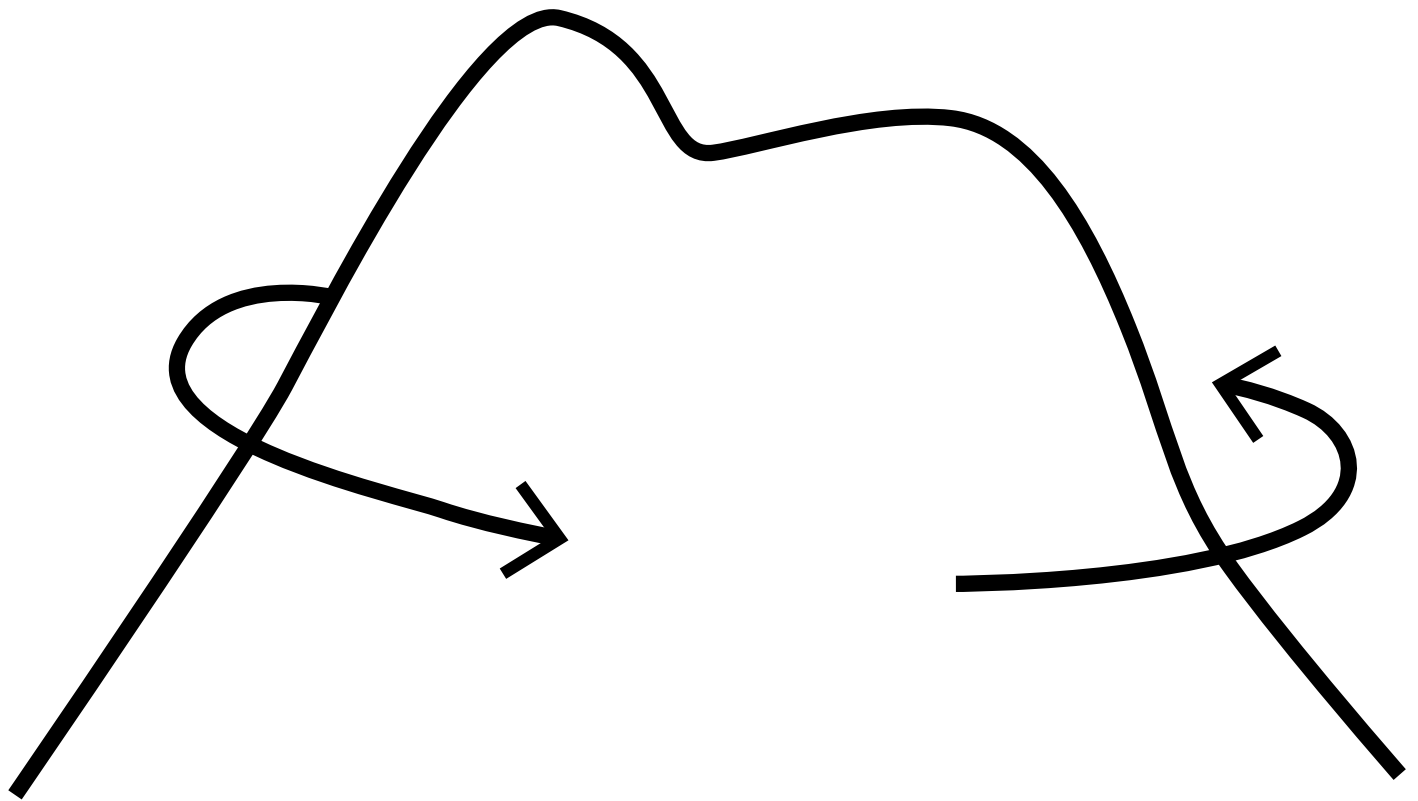


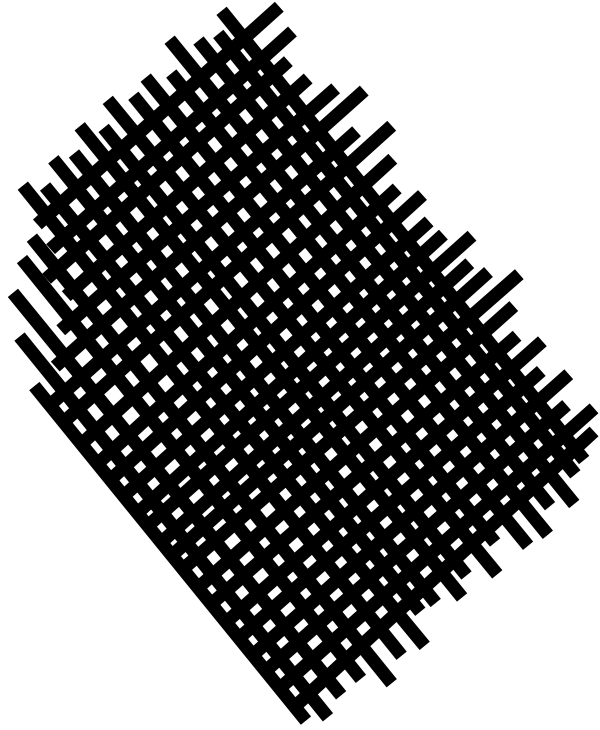
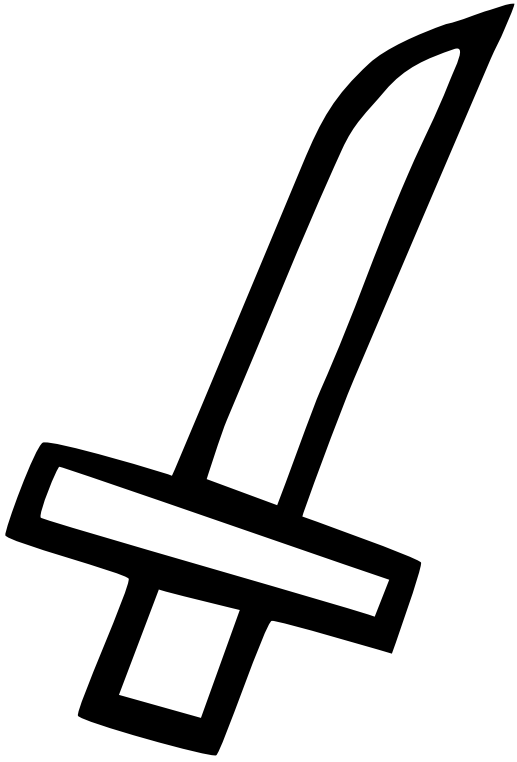
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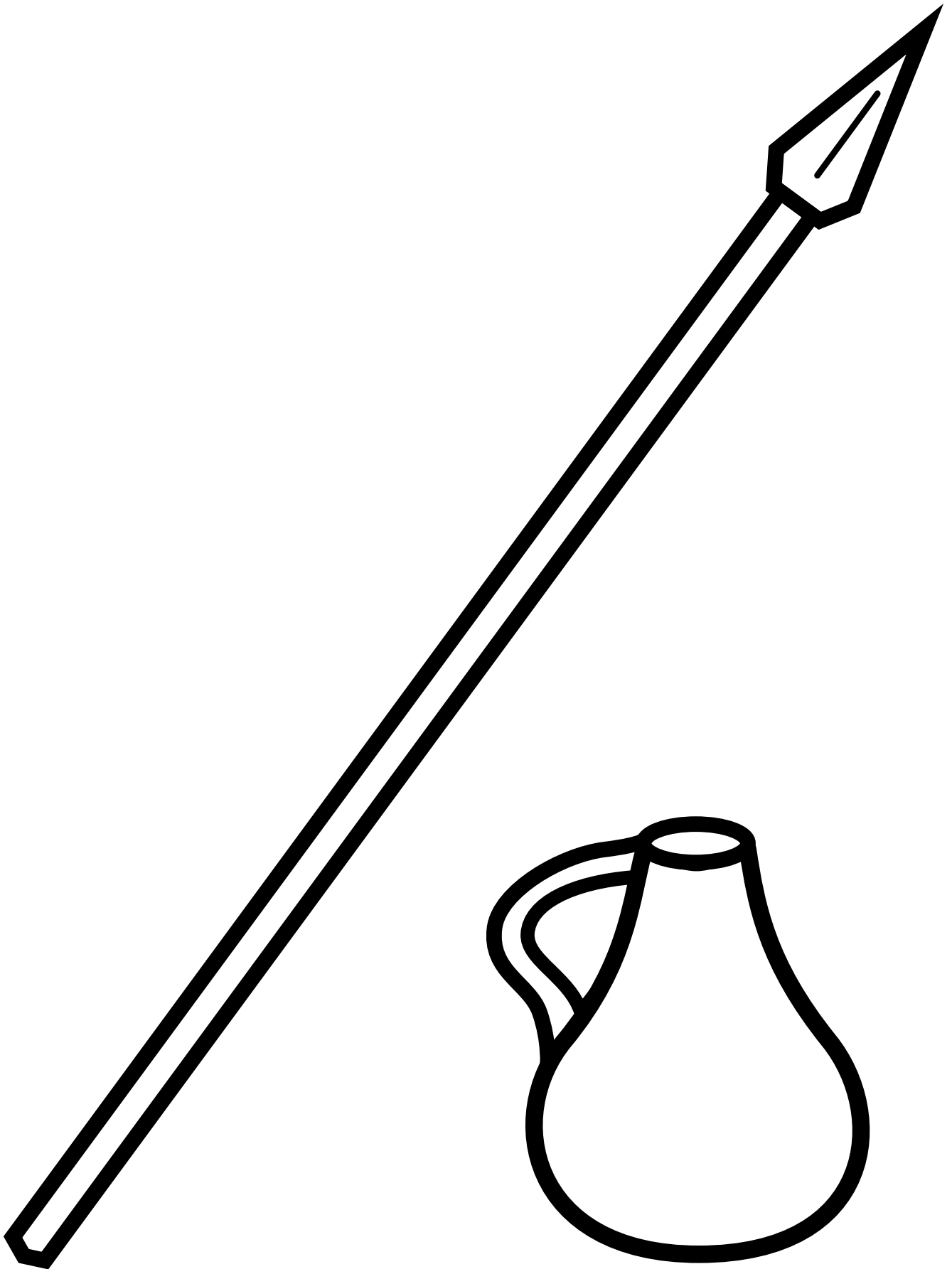












Sleeping Saul Skit

(Based on 1 Samuel 26)

Parts: David, Abishai, Saul, Abner, Saul's men (2 or more)

Props: pitcher/cup, broom handle or long stick for Saul's spear, optional: towels/blankets, pillow, crown for Saul, costumes

Scene: Have Saul, Abner, and Saul's men sleeping on the floor with towels/blankets and Saul in the center. Place the water pitcher and spear next to Saul's head. Have David and Abishai start across the room from Saul's camp so they can sneak in.

Saul, Abner, and Saul's men: *Pretend to fall into a deep sleep.*

David: Saul and his men are camped nearby. Who will go down with me into his camp?

Abishai: I will go with you.

David and Abishai: *Sneak across the room and into Saul's camp.*

Abishai: *(Whispering)* They're all sound asleep! God has given your enemy into your hand. Please let me strike Saul with his own spear. *(Points to the spear by Saul's head.)*

David: No. I will not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed king. But take the spear and the jar of water, and let's go.

David and Abishai: *Collect Saul's spear and pitcher/cup and return to the other side of the room.*

Abishai: I can't believe none of Saul's men woke up!

David: The Lord was with us. Come, let's call to them. *(Cup hand to mouth)* Abner! Will you not answer, Abner?

Saul, Abner, and Saul's men: *Wake up and stretch. Get up.*

Abner: Who are you who calls to the king?

David: Why have you not kept watch over the king? For one of the people came in to destroy him. See where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head? *(Hold up spear and water pitcher.)*

Abner: *(Look around for the spear and jar then whisper)* They're gone!

Saul: Is that your voice I hear, David?

Print seven copies, one for you and six for the actors.

David: It is my voice, O king. But why are you chasing me? What evil have I done?

Saul: I have sinned. Come back, David, for I will not harm you because you have spared my life this day. I have acted foolishly and made a great mistake.

David: Here is your spear, O king! Let one of your men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness. I could have taken your life, but I will not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.

Saul: Bless you, David! You will do many things and will succeed in them. *(Send one of your men to David to collect the spear. Once he returns with it, leave with your men.)*

Review Questions

1. What was the name of Saul's city that David had to flee from? *Gibeah.*
2. What two things did the priest give David when he was running from Saul? *Bread and Goliath's sword.*
3. What was the name of the city where the priests lived? *Nob.*
4. What did Saul do to the priests in Nob because he thought they were helping David? *Killed the priests and their families.*
5. When David was in the Philistine city of Gath, what did he do so they wouldn't kill him? *Pretended to be crazy/insane. He scratched at the gate and drooled down his beard.*
6. What happened at the Cave of Adullam? Who came to join David there? *About 400 men (and his family).*
7. Who warned David and his men to leave the city of Keilah? *God warned David to leave or he'd be caught.*
8. How did God save David and his men when Saul was chasing them around a mountain? *A messenger told Saul that Philistines were attacking, so he had to leave.*
9. What kind of a place was Engedi? How would you describe it? *A place with fresh water, plants, trees, and lots of caves.*
10. Who came into the cave where David and his men were hiding? *Saul.*
11. What did David do when he could have killed Saul? *He cut off a piece of Saul's robe.*
12. How did David feel after he cut off a piece of Saul's robe? *He felt bad. Felt like he did something against the Lord's anointed king. Felt that it was disrespectful.*
13. Who went with David into Saul's camp at night? *His nephew, Abishai.*
14. What did Abishai want to do while Saul slept? *Kill him with his spear.*
15. Why wouldn't David let Abishai kill Saul? *He refused to harm God's anointed king. He didn't want to sin by taking revenge.*
16. What was the name of Saul's army commander? *Abner.*
17. What two items did David and Abishai take from Saul's camp to prove they were close enough to kill him? *Saul's spear and jar of water.*
18. What did God do so David and Abishai could sneak into Saul's camp? *Put Saul and his men into a deep sleep.*
19. What did Saul do when he learned that David had spared his life while he was sleeping? *He left/stopped chasing him.*
20. What qualities did David show when he spared Saul's life? *Mercy, kindness, forgiveness, faith in God, courage to do what was right, etc.*

Sneak into Camp

Materials

- One ruler or cup
- Blindfold (scarf, necktie, etc.)
- Optional: paper crown for King Saul

Instructions

Have the students sit in a U-shape with one chair at the open side of the U. Place the ruler or cup under the chair to represent the spear or jar. Choose one student to be King Saul and sit in the chair. Place a blindfold over Saul's eyes. Silently choose a student to quietly sneak up and take the object from under the chair. He will return to his place, hiding the object behind him.

Tell Saul to remove the blindfold. Give him three chances to pick the culprit. When Saul calls on someone who is not guilty of taking the object, that student may give a clue, "It wasn't me, but he is on my right/left; she has brown eyes; he has blond hair; etc."

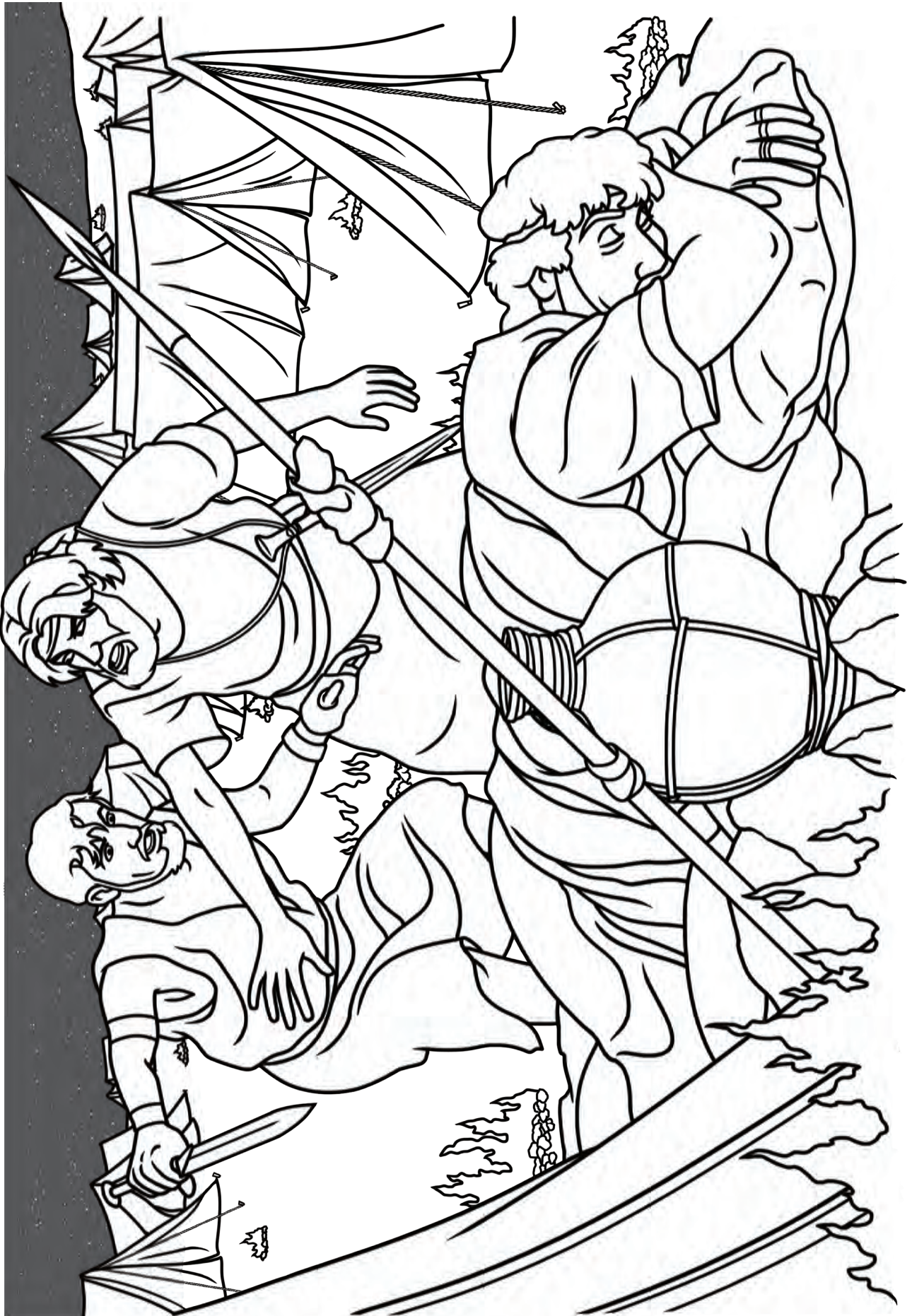
If the culprit is caught, have him place the object back under the chair and keep his seat. Allow King Saul to remain in the chair until he does not guess correctly after three guesses, then have the culprit take his place.

Suggested Discussion

We enjoy playing hide and seek games, but David was not playing a game when he was running and hiding from Saul. It was a matter of life and death for David and his men. Saul had grown so jealous of David that he wasn't thinking clearly. Even though he promised David he would not chase him anymore, he still did anyway.

But David would not take care of the problem himself by seeking revenge and taking Saul's life. He wanted his heart to remain right before the Lord. That was much more important to David than getting back at Saul.

Name _____



David spared Saul's life

Jessie's Revenge

"Class, we have a new student today," announced Justin and Jessie's schoolteacher. "Her name is Olivia." Jessie gave the new girl a big smile, but she only stared back with dark, hard eyes.

When the bell rang for recess, Jessie ran to the toy box and grabbed two jump ropes. "Here, Olivia, we can jump rope together." Jessie handed one rope to Olivia.

"I don't like to jump rope," Olivia said as she threw her rope back into the box. Then she stomped away.

After school, Jessie went to her cousin Emily's house to play. "Hey, Jessie!" said Emily. "How was your day?"

"Okay, I guess," Jessie replied gloomily. "We have a new girl in our class, but she's not very nice."

"Uh oh. That's no fun," Emily replied. "Did you smile at her?"

"Yeah. I invited her to eat lunch with me, but she just sat by herself. Then I tried to get her to play with me at recess, and she stole my swing and tripped me while I was trying to jump rope."

"That's terrible," Emily replied. "Sounds like you need revenge."

"What's that mean?" Jessie asked.

"Getting somebody back for being mean to you. I heard Jeremy say he wanted revenge on the guy in the video game that took all his energy jewels."

"Hmm. I don't know how to get revenge on Olivia."

"Well, let's see," Emily replied. "You could stick a frog in her pocket when she's not looking."

"Yeah," Jessie giggled. "Except I don't even wanna touch a frog myself. Yick!"

"Oh. That's right. Umm . . ." Emily thought hard. "I know! You could fill up her backpack with chicken feathers! Then when she opens it—poof!"

"That would be funny!" Jessie exclaimed. "But where would I get chicken feathers?"

"I don't know." Emily shrugged. "You can take an egg to school and crack it on top of her head."

"How would I do that? It would smooosh all over in my backpack before I even got to school."

"Hmm. Maybe you just need to trip her like she did to you."

"I guess I could do that. Okay, tomorrow is Operation Revenge."

That evening at dinner, Jessie munched on her hamburger as she listened to her mom and dad talk. Then something her dad said caught her attention.

"I've tried to be nice to him, but he acts like he hates everybody. No one in the office likes him."

"Poor man," Jessie's mom replied. "He must be lonely."

"Yeah, I think so, too," said Jessie's dad. "Let's keep him in our prayers. Maybe someday we can be friends."

"Dad?" said Jessie, "How come you don't just take revenge on that guy if he's being mean to you?"

Jessie's dad looked at her in surprise. "Where did you hear about revenge, Jessie?"

“From Emily. She said Jeremy was going to get revenge on the guy in the video game.”

“I see,” said Dad. “But I’m not talking about a guy in a game. I’m talking about a real person that needs kindness and understanding.”

“But he doesn’t sound very nice.”

“Well, he hasn’t acted nice. But the Bible says I should show mercy to him instead of getting revenge.”

“Mercy? I’ve heard that word at church.” Jessie thought for a minute. “It means, umm. . . not punishing someone even if they should be punished.”

“That’s right,” said Mom. “God shows us mercy all the time—whenever we confess our sins, he forgives us.”

“And God wants us to show the same kind of mercy to others, too,” said Dad.

As Jessie crawled into bed that evening, she thought about revenge and mercy. “Maybe I should try again to be Olivia’s friend,” she said to herself as she closed her eyes.

The next day at school, Olivia still wasn’t being friendly, and Jessie was getting frustrated. “I wish I had a frog or some chicken feathers,” she mumbled angrily.

While the class was outside for recess, Jessie saw Olivia walking toward her. This was

it—Operation Revenge. Olivia came closer and closer. Jessie stuck her foot out right where Olivia would step. Then Jessie noticed something; there were tears in Olivia’s eyes—and both of her knees were bleeding!

Jessie ran toward Olivia. “What happened?”

“Someone tripped me,” Olivia sniffled, “and I fell and skinned my knees.”

“Let me help you. I’ll take you to the nurse.” Jessie took Olivia’s hand and gently led her inside.

After the nurse bandaged Olivia’s scraped-up knees, the two girls went back outside and sat in the sunshine.

“Olivia,” said Jessie, “I’m sorry you got hurt. And . . .” Jessie gulped then went on, “I’m sorry that I was going to trip you, too. I was mad because you tripped me yesterday, and I wanted to get you back.”

“I guess I was pretty mean,” Olivia replied sadly. “I was really upset that we had to move here. I miss my old school and my best friend.” Olivia wiped her eyes.

“Oh, that is hard. I’m sorry you miss them so much,” Jessie sympathized. “I was wrong to want revenge. Will you forgive me?”

“Yeah, I forgive you. And, Jessie?” Olivia continued. “Thanks for being my new friend.”



Review Questions

Lesson 71

1. Why did God send the Midianites to attack the Israelites? *He was punishing them for their sin of idolatry.*
2. Who did God choose to lead and save the Israelites from the Midianites? *Gideon.*
3. What was Gideon doing when God came to him? *Hiding from the Midianites.*
4. Why did God make Gideon's army smaller? *So God would get the glory for the victory; so they wouldn't think they won by themselves.*
5. How many men were left in Gideon's army to face the Midianites? *300.*
6. Name one of the items Gideon and his men took to the battle. (Allow several students to answer.) *Empty jars, trumpets, torches.*

Lesson 72

7. As a Nazirite, God set Samson apart to fight the Philistines, the Midianites, or the Moabites? *Philistines.*
8. What did Samson do when a lion attacked him? *He tore it apart with his bare hands.*
9. What did Samson use as a weapon against 1,000 Philistines? *Jawbone of a donkey.*
10. Who betrayed Samson so the Philistines could capture him? *Delilah.*
11. What happened to Samson when Delilah had his hair cut while he was sleeping? *God left Samson, so he didn't have his strength. Samson was captured, blinded, and put in prison.*
12. What happened when Samson prayed for strength when he was brought before a large group of Philistines who were mocking him and God? *God gave him the strength to push down the pillars supporting the building, killing all the people inside.*

Lesson 73

13. What happened to Naomi's husband and two sons while they were in Moab? *They died.*
14. Which daughter-in-law would not leave Naomi and went to her hometown with her? *Ruth.*

15. What town in Israel did Naomi and Ruth travel to? *Bethlehem.*
16. What kind of situation were Naomi and Ruth in back in Bethlehem? *They were poor and needed food.*
17. Who was the relative that redeemed Naomi and Ruth by buying Naomi's land, marrying Ruth, and caring for both women? *Boaz.*
18. Who was Boaz and Ruth's great-grandson who became king of Israel? *King David.*
19. How is Boaz a picture of Jesus? *Boaz redeemed Ruth and Naomi, and Jesus redeemed sinners.*

Lesson 74

20. When Samuel was a young boy, where did Hannah bring him to fulfill her promise to give him back to God? *The tabernacle.*
21. Who did Samuel help at the tabernacle? *Eli, the priest.*
22. What was the problem with Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas? *They were wicked.*
23. When God called to Samuel one night, who did Samuel think was calling? *Eli.*
24. What message did God give Samuel? Who was going to be judged? *Israel and Eli's family.*
25. Name one way that God fulfilled this judgment at the battle between the Israelites and the Philistines. (Allow several students to answer.) *The Israelites lost 30,000 soldiers. The ark of the covenant was captured. Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and Eli died when he heard the news from the battle.*
26. What did Samuel grow up to be? What three jobs did he have? *A prophet, a priest, and a judge.*

Lesson 75

27. When the Israelites didn't want to be ruled by judges anymore, what did they ask for instead? *A king.*
28. Who were the Israelites rejecting when they asked for a king? *God.*
29. Who did the Israelites want to be like by having a king? *Other nations.*
30. Who did God choose to become the first king of Israel? *Saul.*

31. Name one of the ways Saul disobeyed God. *(Allow two students to answer.) He sacrificed the burnt offering when that was Samuel's job. He didn't completely destroy the Amalekites (he spared King Agag and the best animals).*
32. Name one of the consequences of Saul's disobedience. *(Allow several students to answer.) He lost the kingdom. He lost the friendship and advice of Samuel. He lost the Spirit of God. He was troubled by a harmful spirit.*

Lesson 76

33. Where did God send Samuel to anoint the next king of Israel? *Bethlehem, the home of Jesse.*
34. How many sons did Jesse have? *Eight.*
35. At first, who did Samuel think would be chosen as king because he was tall and strong? *Eliab, Jesse's oldest son.*
36. What did God say he looks at instead of the outward appearance of a person? *The heart.*
37. What do we mean when we talk about the heart in this case? *The part of a person that controls how he feels, what he thinks, what he wants, and the choices he makes.*
38. Who did God choose to be the next king after Saul? *David.*
39. Why did God choose David? *He knew that David had a heart that loved him.*

Lesson 77

40. Who was the giant champion of the Philistine army who dared the Israelites to send someone to fight? *Goliath.*
41. How did the Israelite soldiers respond to Goliath's challenge? *They were afraid; they fled.*
42. What did David think of Goliath's challenge? How did he feel about it? *Upset that Goliath was mocking God and his people.*
43. What weapons did David take to fight Goliath? *Staff, sling, and five stones.*
44. What gave David courage to fight Goliath when the other Israelites were afraid? *Trust in God to give him the victory.*
45. How did David defeat Goliath? *A single stone slung into his forehead.*

46. What happened to the Philistine army after David killed Goliath? *They ran. The Israelites chased them back to their cities.*

Lesson 78

47. Who was the son of Saul who became David's friend? *Jonathan.*
48. Name one of the gifts Jonathan gave to David. *(Allow several students to answer.) Robe, armor, sword, bow, and belt.*
49. Why did Saul become jealous of David? *David was successful, God was with David, the people loved him, women sang songs about him.*
50. How did Saul try to kill David when he was playing the lyre for him? *He threw a spear at David.*
51. What plan did David and Jonathan use at the meal to see if Saul still wanted to kill David? *David hid instead of coming to the meal. If Saul got angry that David was not there, they would know it wasn't safe.*
52. What did Saul do at the meal that made Jonathan sure his father wanted to kill David? *Saul got angry and threw a spear at Jonathan.*
53. How did Jonathan warn David about Saul? *Took his bow and arrows and a boy to collect arrows he shot. Whatever he said to the boy was a message for David.*

Lesson 79

54. Why did Saul kill the priests in the city of Nob? *Because they helped David by giving him supplies.*
55. When David was in the Philistine city of Gath, what did he do so they wouldn't kill him? *Pretended to be a madman, crazy/insane.*
56. What did David do when he could have killed Saul in the cave? *He cut off a piece of his robe.*
57. Why wouldn't David let Abishai kill Saul while he slept? *David believed it was more important to be righteous and obedient to God rather than taking his own revenge.*
58. What two items did David and Abishai take from Saul's camp to prove they could've killed him? *His spear and jar of water.*
59. What did Saul do after David showed him that he could have killed him, but didn't? *Saul left with his army.*