

TEACHER
RESOURCE

UNIT 4

From Saul to Elisha

LEVEL ONE

SON SEEKERS

AGES 5-6



**David and
Goliath**



**ELIJAH MAKES A
HOUSE CALL**



Name:

**The Prophets of Baal
meet their match**

Teacher Resource

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Teaching Sonseekers ...

Dear Teacher

Teaching young people about God's Word is a great honour and privilege. We note God chose Abraham, a man of faith because he "would teach his children and his household after him, to know the Way of The Lord" (Gen 18:19)

One who undertakes such a task will understand they have accepted a responsibility to become a witness of God's great love and faithfulness. As an example of Christian faith and integrity they have a wonderful opportunity to share their love for God's Word. The tremendous blessing for those who commit themselves to this task is that the Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip you to shine as a light to your class.

Recent trends away from Sunday School structures towards child minding activities have, we believe, been unfortunate as they fail to recognise the impact and effect the message of God's love through Christ has on young people.

Children are the Church's future. As such they are precious and well worth any investment in quality resources and dedicated teachers.

The 'Sonseekers' curriculum offers children Sunday School material that gives them a sound background in Biblical events, people and places. Secondly it offers a pastoral approach for the children to know God is able to help them and change their lives.

Structurally, any program will operate effectively if those teaching are faithful, zealous and committed to a team approach that might include:

- regular prayer and discussion in relation to curriculum issues, student needs and upcoming events and presentations;
- organisation and management of resources;
- training and development needs of teaching staff.

Teaching Sunday School is a rich and rewarding task. May God bless and guide you as you serve in this way.

Yours in Christ

The Sonseekers Team

A teacher's guide to using the Sonseekers materials . . .

Timeline

4000BC	Creation Adam and Eve The Fall
2500BC	Noah The Flood Tower of Babel
2000BC	Abraham
1900BC	Isaac
1800BC	Esau and Jacob
1750BC	Joseph
1360BC	Moses
1280BC	Exodus from Egypt and Journeys Joshua
1240BC	Entry into and Conquest of Land
1220BC	Judges
1100BC	Gideon
1070BC	Samson
1063BC	Samuel
1020BC	Saul as King
980BC	David as King
940BC	Solomon as King
900BC	Kingdom Divided
839BC	Elijah Emerges; Mt Carmel Jehoshaphat
814BC	Elisha's Ministry
749BC	Jonah
662BC	Hezekiah; Isaiah
576BC	Josiah
540BC	Daniel taken to Babylon
527BC	Exile into Babylon
457BC	Restoration from Babylon
4BC	Birth of Jesus
26AD	Baptism of Jesus Call of Disciples
28AD	Feeding of 5000 Parables
29AD	Miracles; Transfiguration
30AD	Raising of Lazarus Parables Palm Sunday Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection Day of Pentecost Peter's Ministry
33AD	Conversion of Paul
45AD	Paul's Missionary Journeys
60AD	Paul as Prisoner to Rome

What are the Sonseekers materials?

The Sonseekers Sunday School materials are a four year course of 128 Bible lessons. The lessons are written with the twin aims of teaching the students an accurate chronology of Biblical events and also drawing from each lesson pastoral points relevant to the age and stage of each child. They are written at four levels to cover from Prep to Year 6 age groups. The 128 lessons are organised into 8 units, each of sixteen lessons. The table below indicates the suitable age group for each level:

Sonseekers Level	Student Age	School Level
Level One	5 - 6	Prep, Year 1
Level Two	7 - 10	Year 2, Year 3, Year 4
Level Three	11 - 12+	Year 5, Year 6

The Sonseekers materials comprise two related elements:

- **Teacher Resource** – including lesson plans & activity masters which can be photocopied;
- **Student Handbooks** – including homework activities.

There is also a Bible timeline showing chronology of major events, with the dates of the current unit's lessons highlighted, included in each Teacher Resource.

What's in my Sonseekers Level One Teacher Resource?

Each Level One Teacher Resource contains sixteen lesson plans for the relevant age of your students. Each lesson plan comprises:

- the key thought or focus for the lesson;
- a suggested way to introduce the lesson;
- a summary of the relevant bible story;
- a memory verse for the lesson, together with a suggested way of teaching that verse;
- an activity which can be used in the lesson;
- a number of extra ideas involving fun, practical activities.

Note: The photocopy masters for each activity are included with the lessons in this Teacher Resource book.

.../cont'd

... teacher's guide ...

How do I best use my Teacher Resource?

The art of serving as an effective Sunday School teacher is linked to the degree of diligence in preparing for each lesson. The Sonseekers materials are only designed to assist the teacher in this process. They do not take away from the teacher his or her responsibility to prayerfully consider the needs of the children in the class and to seek God's revelation and wisdom in presenting each Bible lesson. The following suggestions are then made with regard to using this resource.

Prior to the lesson

- ◆ Prayerfully read the Bible passage for the lesson. The reference is provided in the header on the first page of the lesson plan. All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version (1983 edition).
- ◆ Read through the lesson plan and decide which activities will be most appropriate for the students in your class. Generally, aim for a variety of activities over a unit.
- ◆ Think about how you will combine the various elements of your lesson. Refer to the suggested teaching approach for ideas if necessary. Link the activity to the story so that the significance of the activity is clear to the students.
- ◆ Prepare all activities thoroughly prior to the lesson. Rehearse any planned activity at home to make sure:
 - that you know how to do it yourself;
 - that you have all the relevant materials in the quantities you will need;
 - that you know the length of time that the children will need for the activity.

During the lesson

- ◆ Review the memory verse from the previous lesson with the children. Also check on the completion of the homework activity page.
- ◆ Revise the previous lesson before going on to a new story. You may like to use the timeline to help you do this.

Saul chosen

I Samuel 9:1 - 10:16

Storyline

Even though it was not God's perfect will, He heard the people's cry for a king and allowed them to have one. Saul was a very tall, handsome young man and he was chosen by God to be their king. Saul was sent by his father, along with a servant, to look for some lost donkeys. After much searching, they came to where Samuel the prophet lived and asked him if he knew where the donkeys were. Samuel told them the donkeys had been found. (God had told Samuel beforehand that Saul was coming and that he was going to be the king. Saul did not even know yet.) Samuel invited Saul to a feast and gave him meat to eat, that had been specially put aside for him. Later, he anointed Saul and prophesied over him, then God changed Saul's heart and he worshipped and praised the Lord. When it was time to introduce Saul to all the people as their king, Saul hid among some equipment. However, God could see him and told the people where he was, so they could bring him out.

Suggested Teaching Approach

To begin, ask the children if they have ever lost something special and spent a lot of time looking for it. Now ask them if they have ever felt special themselves - perhaps on a birthday. Tell them that this story is about someone just like that.

Theme One

"Chosen of God"

God allowed the donkeys belonging to Saul's father to be lost. God then prepared Samuel, the prophet, to expect Saul to come to him to enquire about the donkeys, and then to anoint Saul as king. Every day, God allows things to happen to His children, to bring about His purposes for their lives. When Saul visited Samuel, he did not have the slightest idea that God had chosen him to be king of Israel. Did you know that God chose you and me even before we knew Him?

Key Thought

God knew us and chose us long before we ever came to know Him or chose to follow Him.

Aim

For the children to realise that God chose them in Christ before He created the world.

Memory Verse

"He chose us in Him." (Ephesians 1:4).

Theme Two

"With God, nothing happens by chance"

The furthestmost thought from Saul's mind as he set out to retrieve the donkeys was that he would return, anointed by God as king over Israel. God so ordered Saul's circumstances that what appeared to be a chance meeting with Samuel was exactly what God had planned. Having committed our way to the Lord, we must be prepared for life-changing circumstances to occur – not by chance, but in God's will.

Key Thought

When we commit our will to the will of God for our lives, He will direct our paths.

Aim

For the children to understand that God has a perfect plan for each of us and we can live our lives in the faith that He will lead and guide us in this plan.

Memory Verse

"He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:6).

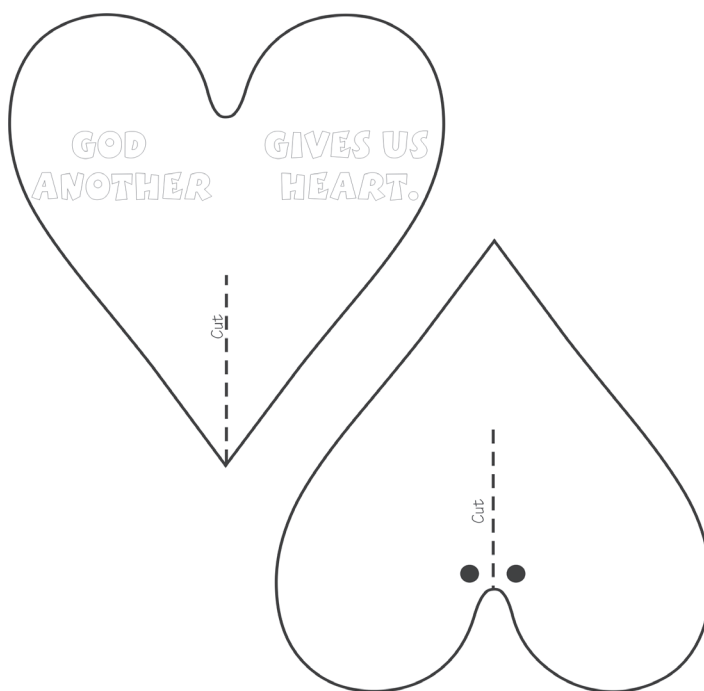
Activity A - A Changed Heart

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Stapler and staples.
- Colouring pencils.
- Safety scissors.
- Bodkin or large needle.
- A piece of wool or string (approx. 20 cm long) per child.

Steps

- Children cut out the two hearts, then cut down the dotted lines.
- Slot the two hearts together.
- Using a bodkin or large needle, thread the wool or string through the two hole marks on the blank heart and tie in a knot.



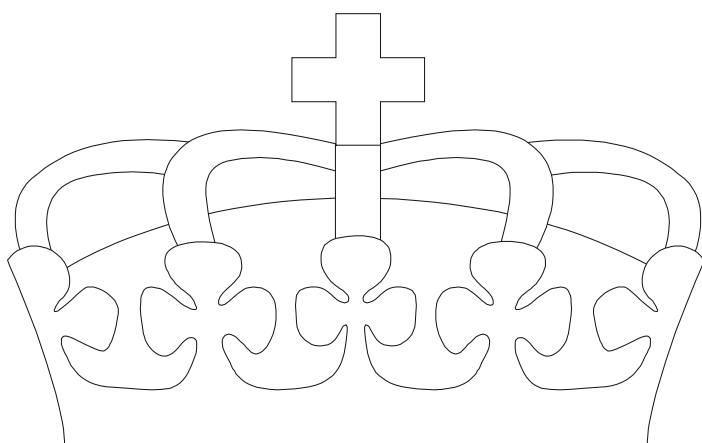
Activity B - Make a Crown

Materials

- 2 Activity Sheets per child, mounted or photocopied onto cardboard.
- Felt pens.
- Scissors.
- Stapler and staples, or sticky tape.
- Glue.
- Glitter.
- Anything else you would like to decorate the crowns with.

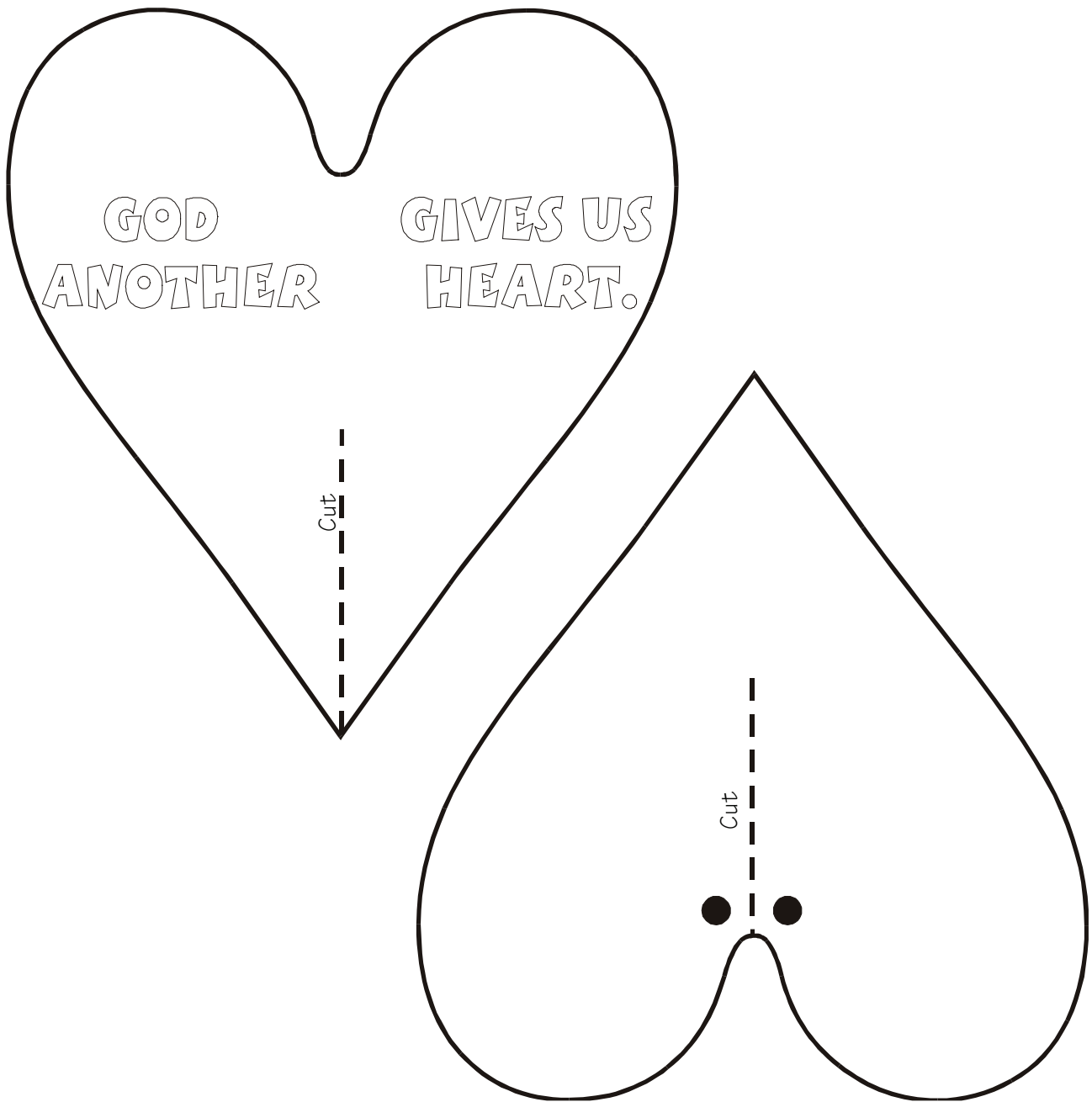
Steps

- Cut out the crowns.
- Make one join with staples or sticky tape.
- Decorate the crowns in your chosen manner.
- Make the other join with staples or sticky tape



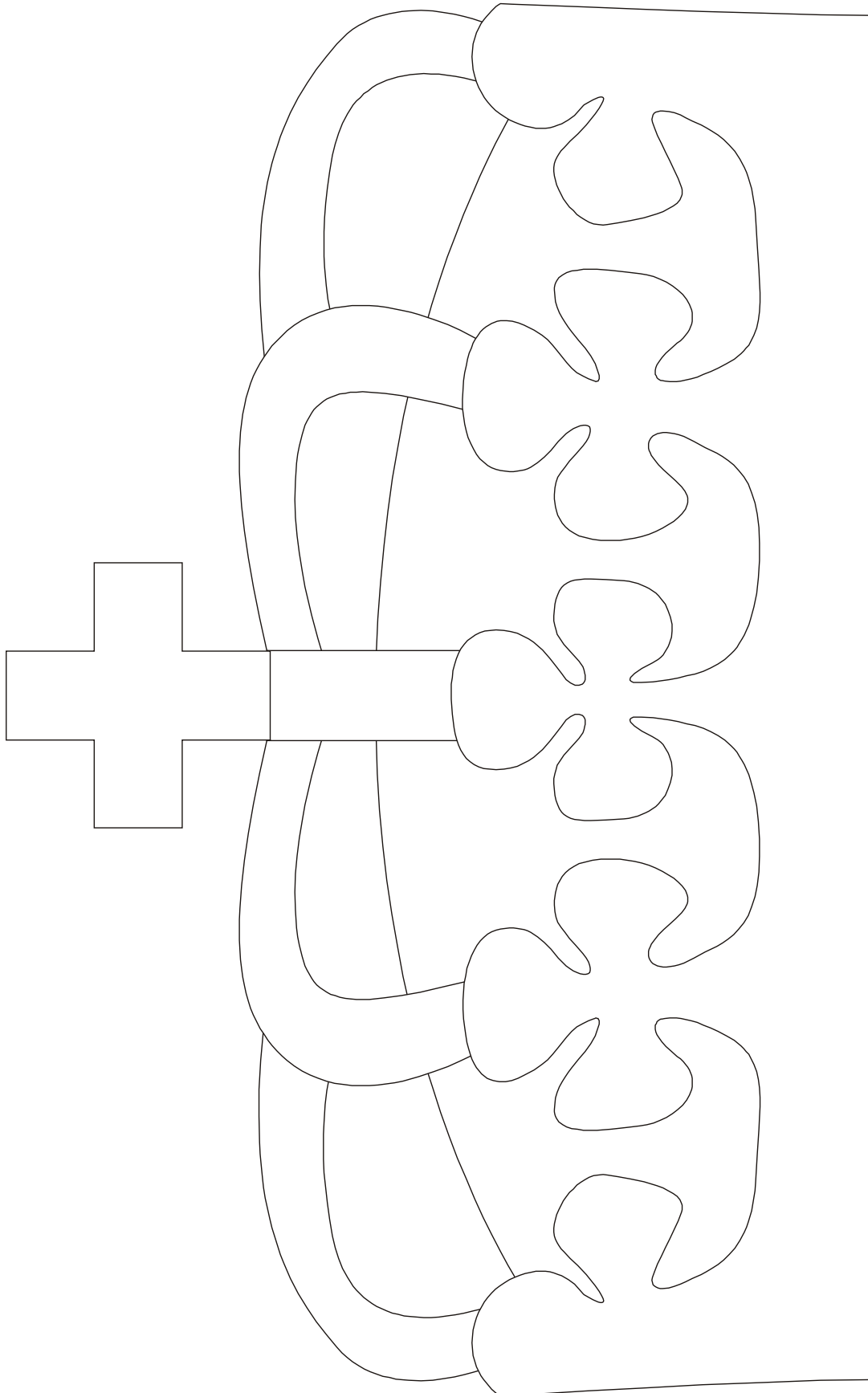
Saul chosen

Activity A – A Changed Heart



Saul chosen

Activity B – Make a Crown



Saul and the Amalekites

I Samuel 15

Storyline

When the Israelites came out of Egypt, the Amalekites had attacked them. God had said that when the Israelites had settled peaceably they were to destroy the Amalekites (Deuteronomy 25:17-19). Some time after God had made Saul king, He sent Samuel to give Saul some clear instructions about completely destroying the Amalekites and their animals. He and the people did part of this, but they spared the king and the best of the sheep and cattle. When Samuel met Saul, he said they had obeyed the Lord, but Samuel asked about the bleating of sheep and lowing of the cattle. Saul blamed the people and said they had kept them to sacrifice to God. Samuel told Saul that God was more interested in obedience than sacrifices. Because of Saul's disobedience, God rejected him from being king.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Ask the children: Who has to do jobs? What sort of jobs do you do? Has anyone not finished a job they were given? Has anyone blamed a sister/brother/friend because the job was not finished properly? Has someone blamed you when they have not finished their job?

Lead into the story.

If you have another person helping with the class, you could act out the last two questions, using some simple props, like some Lego strewn around on a mat, and a box to tidy it into.

Or, have the children join in the story, by bleating and mooing on a pre-arranged cue from the teacher. Teacher should really ham it up when they bleat or moo.

Theme One

"Obey the Lord"

The Amalekites had attacked the Israelites when they came out of Egypt. God told Samuel to tell Saul to destroy the Amalekites completely, including their oxen, sheep, camels and donkeys. Saul and the people kept the best of the sheep and oxen, rather than doing as they were told. Sometimes when we have been given instructions to do something (eg: come straight home from school) we can be tempted to think that we do not need to do exactly what we were told. It may seem like a good idea at the time, but God sees disobedience as a terrible sin.

Key Thought

The thing that God required from Saul and requires, above all else, from us, is obedience. Nothing is a substitute for obedience.

Aim

To help the children realise that God requires total obedience above all else.

Memory Verse

"To obey is better than sacrifice." (1 Samuel 15:22).

Theme Two

"Fear God, not man"

Having received the word of the Lord to utterly destroy the Amalekites, Saul instead was swayed by the popular opinion of the people. What they said probably made a lot of sense, but it was not what the Lord had said. Saul's continued kingship depended on his obedience to the word of the Lord, not his popularity with the people. It is very easy for us to be influenced by what our friends or others think about us. It is much more important to be popular with God than to be popular with men.

Key Thought

When we know what the Lord is saying to us, let us not be persuaded otherwise by our well-meaning friends.

Aim

For the children to understand that God's word is not to be taken lightly or to be interpreted according to the wisdom of men.

Memory Verse

"Fear the Lord." (Psalm 34:9).

Activity A - Construct a Book

Materials

- 3 sheets of A4 paper per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Stapler.
- Activity Sheets (if desired).

Steps

At Home

- Fold the sheets of A4 paper in halves and secure down the centre with staples.
- Either write out the captions on the appropriate pages, or photocopy, cut and glue the pre-printed words supplied as follows:
 - Page 1 (cover page): Obedience is better than sacrifice. (I Samuel 15:22).
 - Page 2: God made Saul King of Israel.
 - Page 4: God told Saul to fight the Amalekites.
 - Page 6: Saul disobeyed God and spared the best of the animals.
 - Page 8: God rejected Saul and chose another king.
 - Page 10: I must obey God.

Obedience
is
Better
Than
Sacrifice

In Class

- On Pages 3, 5, 7, 9 & 11, the children illustrate the underlined word from the opposite page.

Activity B - Glasses

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Stapler and staples.
- A piece of wool, string or hat elastic (approximately 40 cm long) per child.
- Colouring pencils.

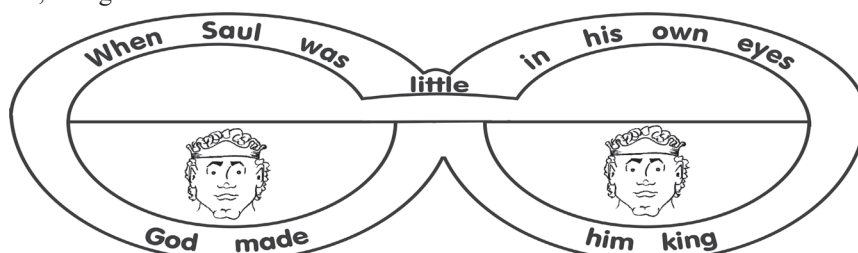
Steps

At Home

- Depending on the skill level of your class, you may have to pre-cut part or all of the glasses.

In Class

- Cut out the glasses, or part thereof.
- Colour in the little kings.
- Staple the wool, string or hat elastic to the sides.



Saul and the Amalekites

Activity A – Construct a Book

Obedience
Better Than Sacrifice
God made
Saul King
of Israel

Saul and the Amalekites

Activity A – Construct a Book

God told
Saul to
fight the
Amalekites

SAUL DISOBEYED
GOD AND SPARED
THE BEST OF
THE ANIMALS

Saul and the Amalekites

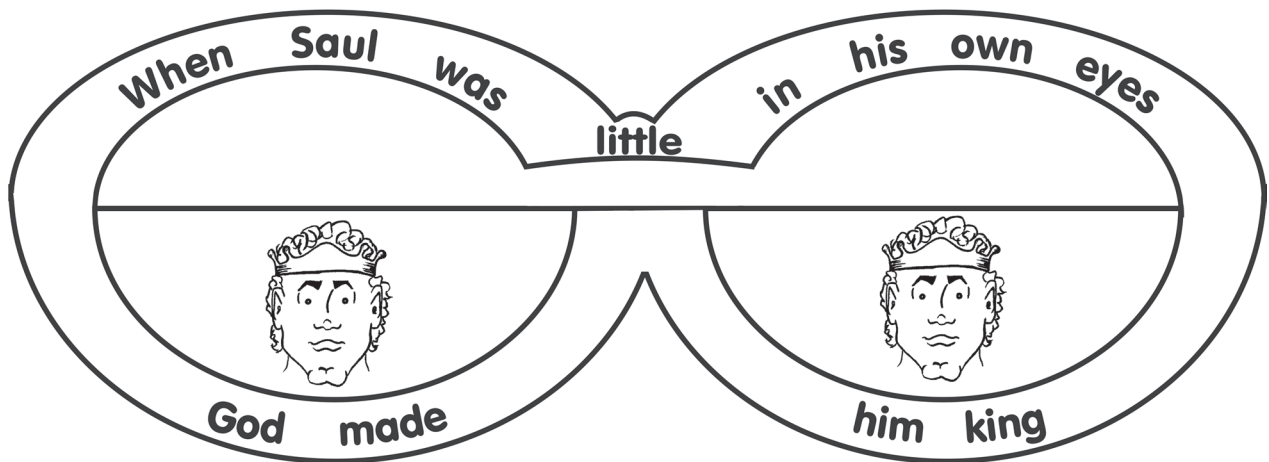
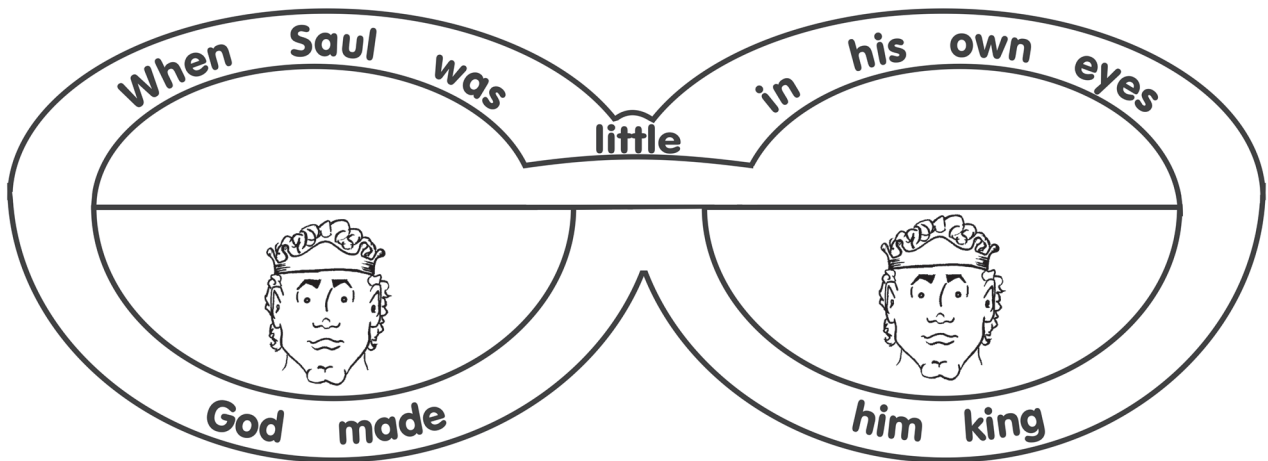
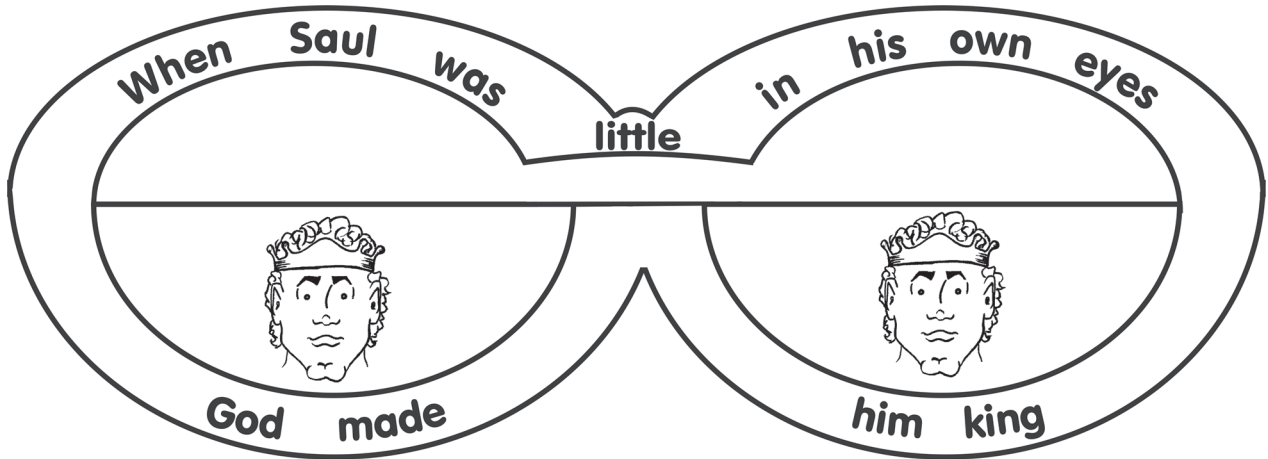
Activity A – Construct a Book

1
must
obey
God

God rejected
Saul and chose
another king

Saul and the Amalekites

Activity B - Glasses



David chosen

I Samuel 16

Storyline

Because of Saul's disobedience, God had rejected him as king and taken His Spirit away from him. The Lord now told Samuel to fill his horn with oil and go to Bethlehem where Jesse lived with his sons, because God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be king, instead of Saul. When Samuel asked, Jesse brought his sons to him and as each one came before Samuel, he asked God if this was the one. Samuel thought the oldest son, Eliab would be the one the Lord chose, but God told Samuel not to look at their outward appearances because He was looking at their hearts. Finally the youngest son, David, was brought in from looking after his father's sheep and God told Samuel to anoint him because he was the one. God had sent a distressing spirit to Saul and his advisers told him that David could play the harp skilfully and this would soothe him when the spirit troubled him. Saul sent for David, and loved him immediately, and made him his armour bearer. David played the harp whenever Saul was distressed and this would make the evil spirit go away.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk to the children about families - little families, big families.

Talk about the jobs we have to do in our families.

Ask if the children talk to God as they are doing their jobs or learning their lessons or learning to play an instrument.

Talk about David's family and the jobs David had to do.

Lead into the aspect of the story you wish to address.

Theme One

"God looks at the heart"

When Samuel saw David's fine looking older brothers he thought one of them must surely be the one God had chosen. God showed Samuel it wasn't the physical appearance that He was concerned about, but the heart of man. God was concerned about the state of the heart of the man who would become the king of Israel. God is not really concerned as to what we look like on the outside. He is concerned about our state of heart.

Key Thought

People often judge others by their outward appearance. God looks not on our outward appearance, but at our heart.

Aim

For children to be challenged to search their own hearts, and, to desire the fruit of the Spirit in their lives rather than just physical attributes and talents.

Memory Verse

"The Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7).

Theme Two

"Faithfully serving God"

David was anointed king but was not to become king for many years. However, God acted in his life to prepare him to fulfil his call, by arranging for him to minister to King Saul in the royal court. David's willingness to play before Saul showed a willingness to obey what the Lord wanted to do in his life. We too, are being prepared for royal service as we give ourselves willingly to live in the body of Christ.

Key Thought

God wants us to be involved in His service. He prepares us and trains us so that we can fulfil His purpose.

Aim

To help the children see the day by day events of their lives as the training ground which prepares them for their place in Christ.

Memory Verse

"Serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalm 100:2).

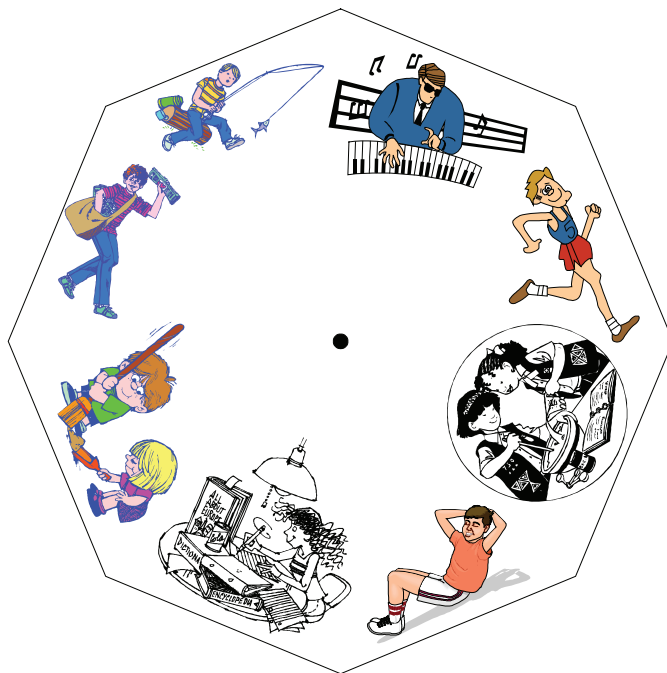
Activity A - Spinner Game

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted onto cardboard.
- 1 wooden toothpick or used match, per child (it would be wise to have several spares as well).
- Safety scissors.
- Glue.

Steps

- Cut out the eight sided spinner.
- Carefully push toothpick through the centre. Try to keep this as tight as possible.
- Children now take turns spinning their spinner and miming the activity it lands on.



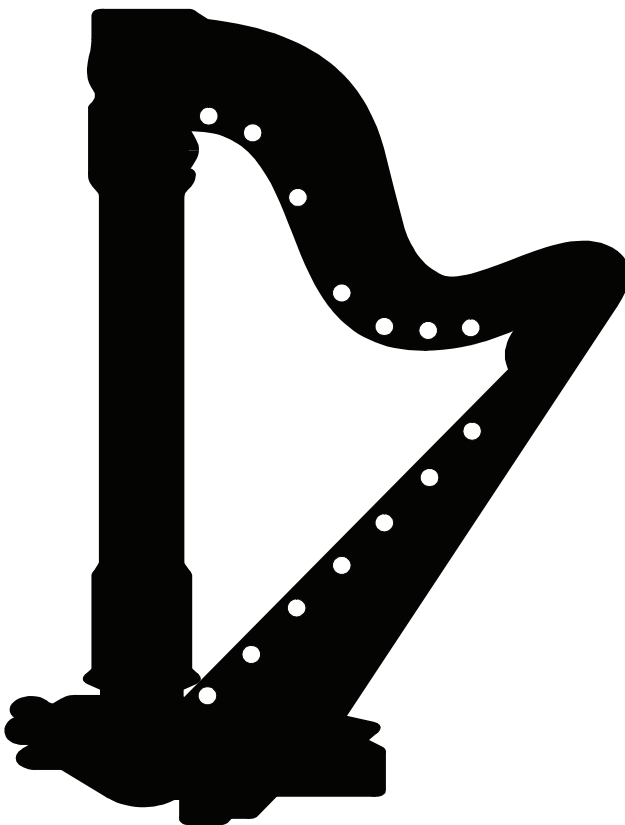
Activity B - Make a Crown

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted onto cardboard.
- Hole-punch.
- Wool or cord.
- Glue.
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.

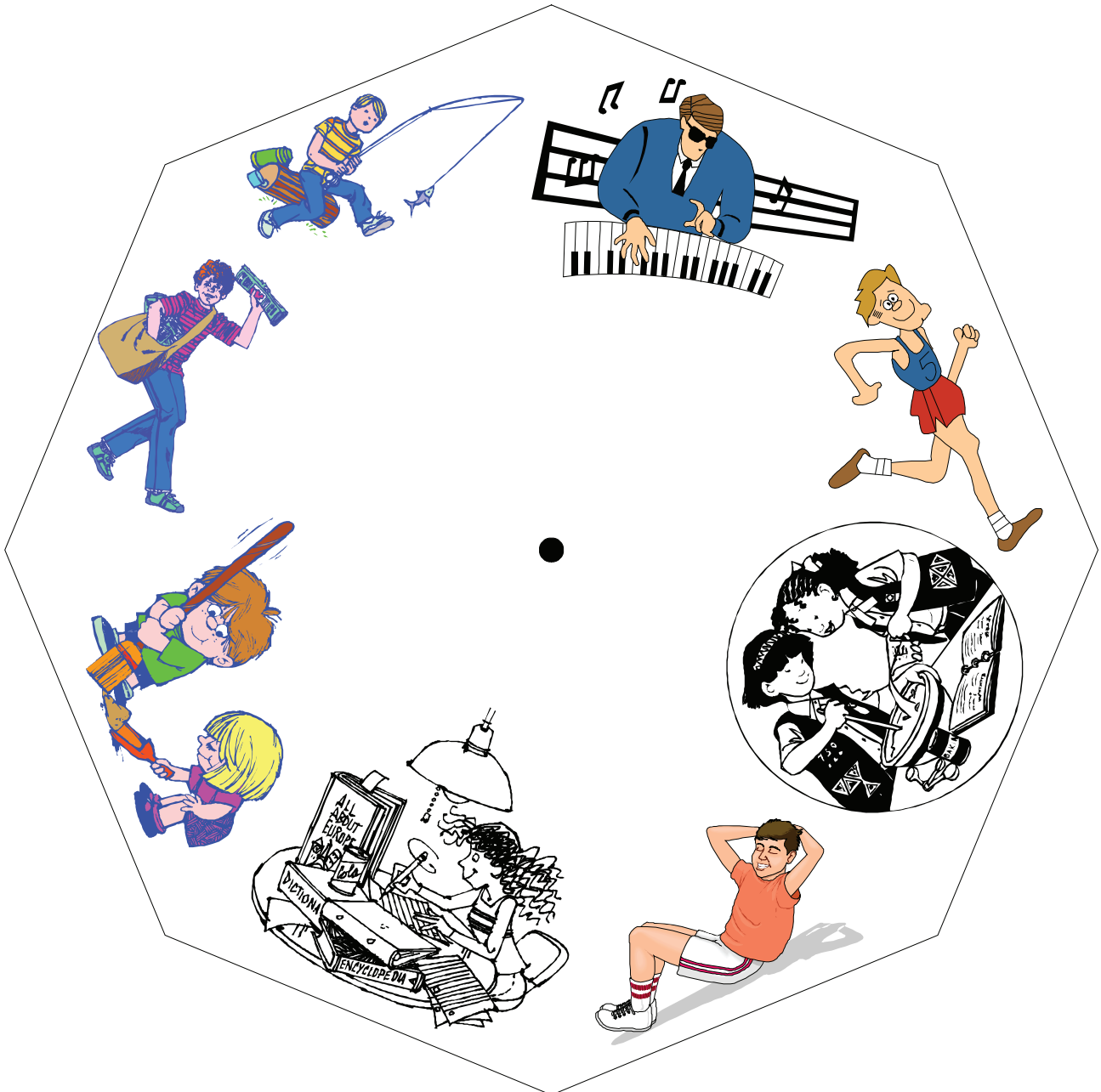
Steps

- Cut out the harps.
- Punch holes where indicated.
- Thread wool or cord through the holes.
- Colour or decorate the harps.



David chosen

Activity A – Spinner Game



David chosen

Activity B – Make a Harp



David and Goliath

I Samuel 17

Storyline

Three of David's older brothers were in King Saul's army, fighting the Philistines. A Philistine champion called Goliath, who was about nine feet tall, stood in front of the Israelite army and challenged one of the Israelite soldiers to kill him. If one man could do this, the Philistines would become their slaves. However, if Goliath killed the champion of the Israelites, then the Israelites would become slaves to the Philistines. All Saul's army was afraid. Goliath taunted them morning and night for forty days. David's father asked David to take his brothers some food and to find out how they were. When David found them, he found they and all the army were afraid of Goliath. David told Saul he could kill Goliath. Saul offered his very own armour to David, but it was too large and heavy. Instead, David chose five smooth stones and challenged Goliath. Goliath was insulted that such a young man with absolutely no armour was to be his foe. As David ran towards Goliath, he gave God the glory as he said, "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied." He then hurled one stone from his sling and struck Goliath deep in the forehead, killing him.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Try an introduction something like this: "Who is scared of big, mean kids at school? Today's story is about a young kid and a big, very mean and nasty man. The smaller, young one wasn't scared though, because God had prepared him and he knew God was his friend." Tell the story.

You could use a Bible Story Picture Book to show the children how big Goliath was, or if you have the time and resources, make a giant out of butchers paper or cardboard, to blu-tack to the wall. Goliath was almost 3 metres tall.

Theme One

"Trust in the Lord"

David was not afraid to stand up for God. He knew he did not have to face the giant in his own strength, but trust in God to give him the victory. He just had to stand up and go in God's name. He used a sling and stones, but he did not trust in these. He told the giant, "The Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." It is the same for us today. There are things today that oppose God. We have to stand up when these things come against us, knowing that God will give us the victory.

Key Thought

David loved God and had learnt to trust Him. He knew that God who gave him victory over the lion and the bear would give him victory over Goliath. We, too, can trust God to give us the victory over sin and all that is against God.

Aim

To show the children how God enabled David to gain the victory over the giant, and have them understand that He will enable them too to get the victory.

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord." (Psalm 37:3).

Theme Two

"God is our protector"

Although David was young and appeared to be ill-equipped to face Goliath, his trust was in the Lord his God. There is no need for us to fear the enemy. Just as David was able to defeat Goliath, we too, can be victorious over the giants in our lives. Just as David did not rely on the set of natural armour available to him, we must resist the temptation to fight from our own strength. We must learn how to put on the whole armour of God.

Key Thought

We, like David, have a need to look to the Lord to protect us in our everyday life. God has provided us with armour and weapons. As we keep close to Him, He will give us the victory.

Aim

For the children to understand that the Lord protects His own. Our daily preparation is found in the armour which God provides.

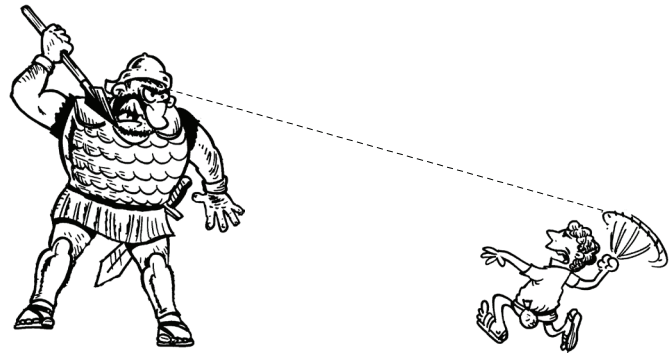
Memory Verse

"Take up the whole armour of God." (Ephesians 6:13).

Activity A - David slays Goliath

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted onto cardboard (if desired).
- Colouring pencils or crayons.
- Safety scissors.
- Glue.
- A strip of card or paper 40 mm x 6 mm per child.
- A small circle of paper about the size of a pea for each child, or a small lump of Blu-tack the same size, to represent a stone, per child.



Steps

At Home

- If you are using card, cut the slits at home with a Stanley knife.

In Class

- Children colour the picture.
- Fold the tab on the strip of card or paper.
- Glue the small circle to the tab on the strip of card or paper or roll up the Blu-tack into a ball and attach it to the strip.
- Insert the strip into the slit, so that the tab with the stone on it hangs on the front of the picture.
- By taking hold of the strip at the back, the children can now move the stone from David's sling, to Goliath's forehead.

Activity B - Invisible Armour

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 sheet of clear cellophane.
- Permanent marking pen - the kind they use to write on overhead transparencies.
- Sticky tape.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

Steps

At Home

- Take your sheet of cellophane and the permanent marking pen and trace over the outline of the figure of David enough times to give each child in your class one copy.
- Don't cut around the outlines of the figures, simply cut a rectangle around each one.
- On each cellophane figure, (on the clothing part) write "The name of the Lord" with the same marking pen.

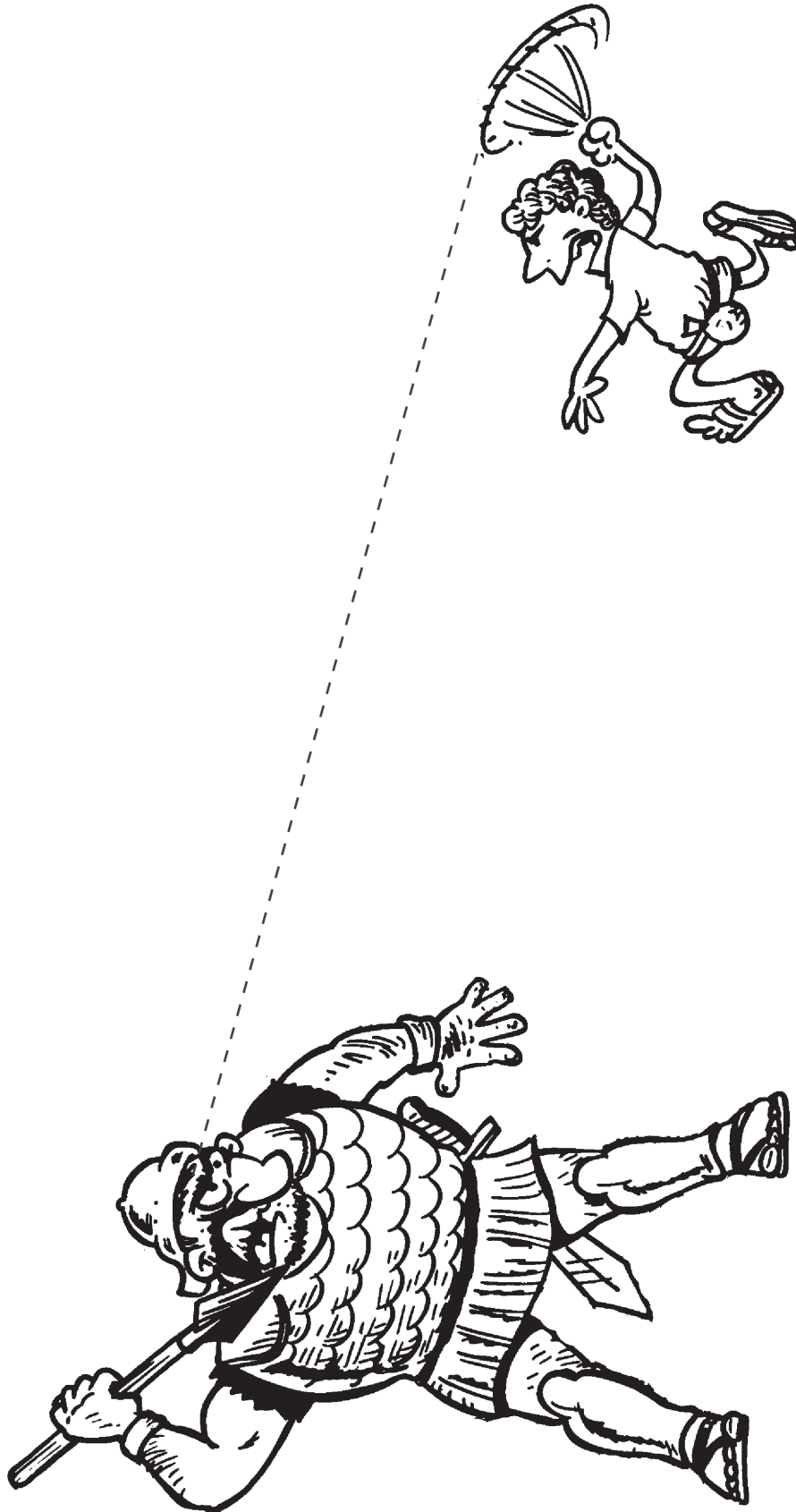
In Class

- Children colour the Activity Sheets then sticky tape the cellophane rectangle over the top of David.



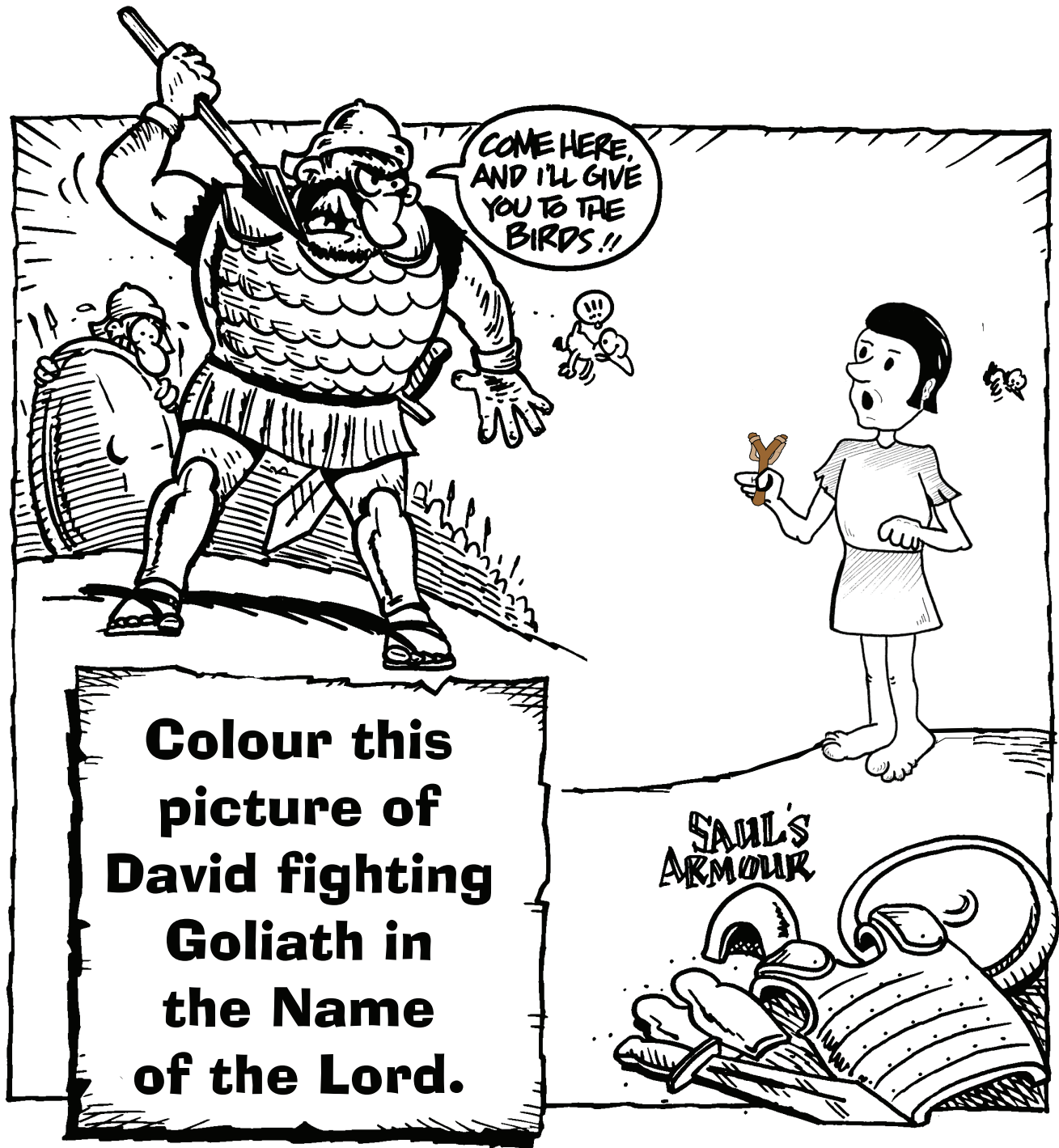
David and Goliath

Activity A – David Slays Goliath



David and Goliath

Activity B – Invisible Armour



David and Jonathan

I Samuel 19 & 20

Storyline

Jonathan was King Saul's son. He was also David's best friend. Saul told Jonathan and all the servants to kill David, but instead, Jonathan warned David. After David and his army had won a war against the Philistines, an evil spirit came upon Saul and he tried to kill David with a spear, as David played his harp to him. Saul attempted to kill David on other occasions too. At the time of the New Moon Festival, David was supposed to dine with Saul, but first he asked Jonathan to find out if Saul was still angry with him. They arranged a secret message, and after promising that he would always look after Jonathan's household if Jonathan died, David hid in a field for two days. Jonathan discovered that Saul was still angry and still wanted to kill David, so he went to the field and shot three arrows, then called out the secret message that warned David not to come. With much crying, David said goodbye to Jonathan and left.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Talk to the children about trusting God. Discuss with them the value of having good friends. From this discussion, lead into the story of David and Jonathan.

OR

Use Activity B to introduce the story.

OR

Talk to the children about how friends during wars, have secret messages to help each other. Lead into the story by pointing out that David and Jonathan were in a life-threatening situation.

OR

Talk with the children about friends. Discuss and make a list of features of 'good friends.' Let them share experiences of good friendships. Lead into the story of David and Jonathan.

Theme One

"Love in action"

David's heart attitude towards Saul in the midst of his difficulties shows us how to love our enemies. David could have run away or rallied forces against Saul to obtain what God had promised to him. Rather, his desire was to restore relationship with Saul if at all possible. Later on, David spared Saul's life twice. All the days of his life, David held no grudge against Saul. There may be people who hate us or despise us. As Christians, we must not hate them, rather we must love them, pray for them, and show kindness towards them.

Key Thought

In spite of Saul's persecution, David continued to show respect towards him. Jesus loved His enemies. This is our example of how to respond to those who are against us.

Aim

To show the children that, like David, they can seek God's strength to continually do good even to those who do evil to them.

Memory Verse

"Love your enemies." (Luke 6:27).

Theme Two

"Suffering as a Christian"

Both David and Jonathan were treated unfairly by King Saul. However neither of them were vengeful but instead showed instances of forgiveness and wisdom. At times Christians may be treated unfairly by others. God knows about these times and is concerned with our reactions. He may be using them to test our faith and to produce Godly character in us. In these times look to God for wisdom.

Key Thought

Sometimes we go through difficult times. People may be unfair towards us. God allows these things to happen for His good purposes.

Aim

To help the children to stand in faith in times of unjust treatment and look to the Lord for wisdom, consolation and forgiveness.

Memory Verse

"Repay no one evil for evil." (Romans 12:17).

Activity A - Collage

Materials

- 1 sheet of A4 paper or card for each child. (Card is the best option).
- Enough pipe cleaners for each child to make three men.
- 3 toothpicks for each child (arrows).
- Blue (sky), green (trees), yellow (field) and brown (rock), crepe paper.
- Glue.
- Safety scissors.
- Lots of imagination.

Steps

At Home

- Make a collage picture yourself, to give the children some ideas.
- Glue a strip of blue and a strip of yellow to the page, for the sky and the field.
- Give it a 3D look by crinkling up some green and brown paper for trees and rocks, and glue them over the page.
- You could use some brown for the trunks of the trees.
- Glue in the three pipe cleaner figures and the three arrows.

In Class

- According to the abilities and imagination of your class, some of the children will need some help, but others will just go for it, and have a ball.

Activity B - Secret in a Field

Materials

- 1 margarine or ice-cream container.
- 1 rubber band or masking tape.
- 1 twig with foliage.
- 2 copies of the Activity Sheet.
- Glue.
- 1 sheet of plain paper with a small square cut out of the centre, the same size as the letters of the message.

Steps

At Home

- Take one Activity Sheet and cut out each letter of the message separately.
- Attach the leafy twig to the side of the plastic container with the rubber band or masking tape.

In Class

- Place the uncut Activity Sheet on a table, covered with the plain sheet of paper with the hole in the middle, so that the children cannot see the message.
- Put the cut letters or the message in the plastic container.
- Tell the children, "We are going to find out what Jonathan and David's secret message was."
- Children take turns picking out a letter from the container.
- The teacher moves the blank sheet with the hole in it over the message, until each child recognises the letter they have.
- Put a dab of glue on the letter and stick it over the master sheet.
- When all the letters are glued on, remove the blank sheet and help the children read the message.
- Make sure you emphasise to the children, that although this was Jonathan's message for David, this was not how he gave the message.

Answer

Saul is still angry.

**Saul
is
still
angry**

David and Jonathan

Activity B – Secret in a Field

**Saul
is
still
angry**

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David and Saul

I Samuel 21 - 24

Storyline

King Saul resented David and sought to kill him. David had to continually flee from Saul. Eventually, David escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and those who were discontented, in distress, or in debt, heard where David was, they went to him at Adullam and he became their captain. God told David where to go and guided his ways. Saul continued to pursue David. He took 3,000 chosen men and went to seek David and his men on the Rocks of the Wild Goats. David and his men were hiding in the recesses of a cave when Saul entered the cave. David could have killed Saul, but instead cut a piece of Saul's cloak because he respected God's anointed king. When Saul realised David could have killed him, he said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have rewarded me with good, whereas I have rewarded you with evil".

Suggested Teaching Approach

Introduce the lesson with a well dramatised or illustrated (felt-board) version of the story. Emphasize the evil thoughts of Saul. Ask questions, eg "What do you think David should do now?" The climax being as David takes his sword – "What is he going to cut off? Saul's ear, Saul's head, Saul's leg, etc." and then proceed to the anti-climax and explain the significance.

Theme One

"God is our guide"

We have to learn what is good for us to do, and what is not good for us to do. David trusted God to guide him in these matters. Even though he was given the chance and his friends thought it was a good idea, David knew that to kill Saul, would not be a good thing for him to do. He trusted God to guide him and was saved from making a terrible mistake. Our parents are responsible to teach us what is good and not good for us to do. If we choose to listen to them and obey them, God can also guide us and keep us from making terrible mistakes.

Key Thought

David trusted God to guide him in what he did. We, too, need to trust God and He will guide us.

Aim

To help the children understand that as they trust and obey their parents, God is able to guide them.

Memory Verse

"Lead me and guide me." (Psalm 31:3).

Theme Two

"A man after God's own heart"

David would have had no trouble finding followers or friends who would have willingly killed Saul and made David their king, as David had already been anointed king over Israel. David had patience to wait for God's time for him to become king. But the Bible says David was a man after God's own heart. He knew and trusted God and saw things God's way. Instead of seeing Saul as an enemy, he saw Saul as God's anointed and treated him with respect. The Holy Spirit can build in us a heart like God's heart and enable us to see things differently – as God sees them.

Key Thought

God is looking for people whose hearts are like God's heart and who see things as God sees them.

Aim

For the children to understand that the Holy Spirit fills us to form in us a new heart like God's heart.

Memory Verse

"Establish your hearts." (James 5:8).

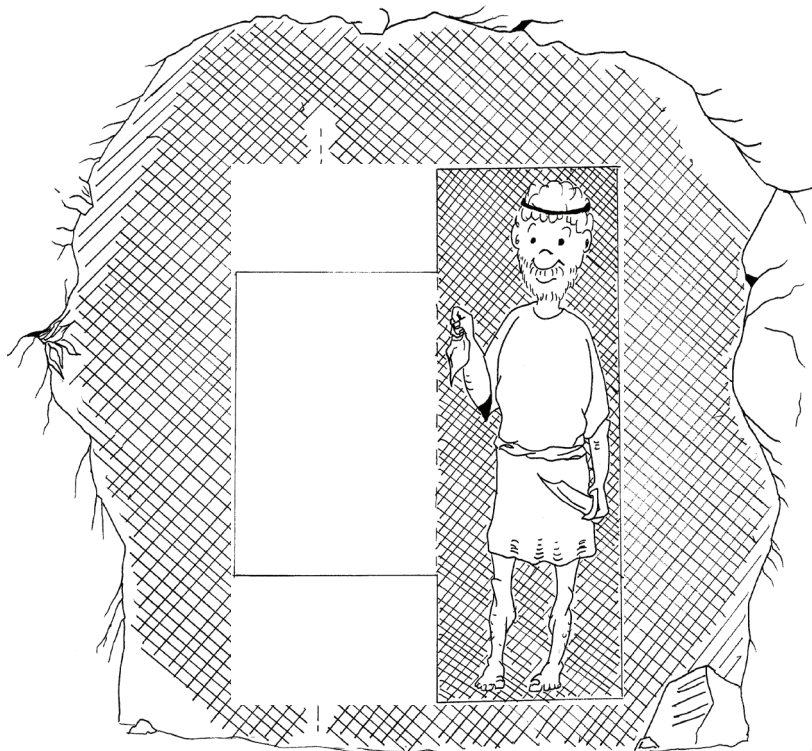
Activity A - Out of the Cave

Materials

- 1 cave and 1 David from the Activity Sheets per child.
- Safety scissors.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

Steps

- Cut around the figure of David with the side tab.
- Bend the side tab back.
- Cut out the cave and cut the slit opening along the dotted line.
- Push the tab through the slit, to the back of the picture.
- By pushing and pulling on the tab at the back, David comes in and out of the cave.
- If there is time, the children can colour the picture.



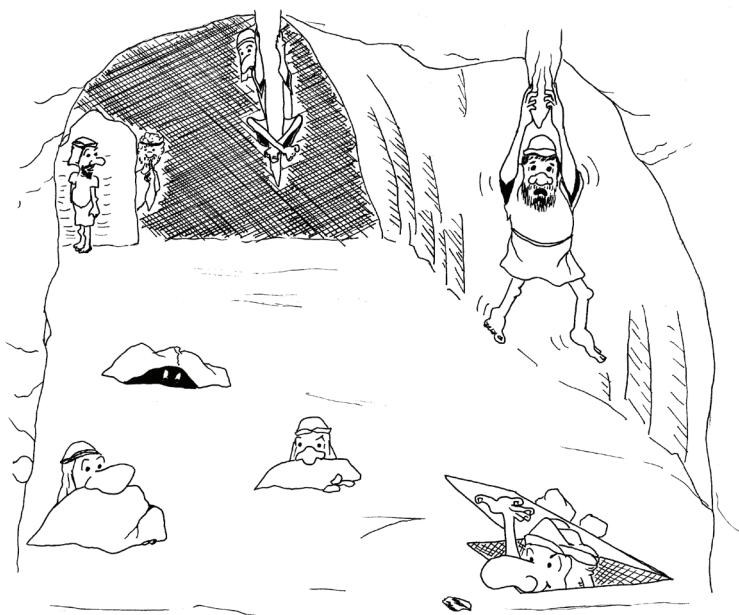
Activity B - Hidden People

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

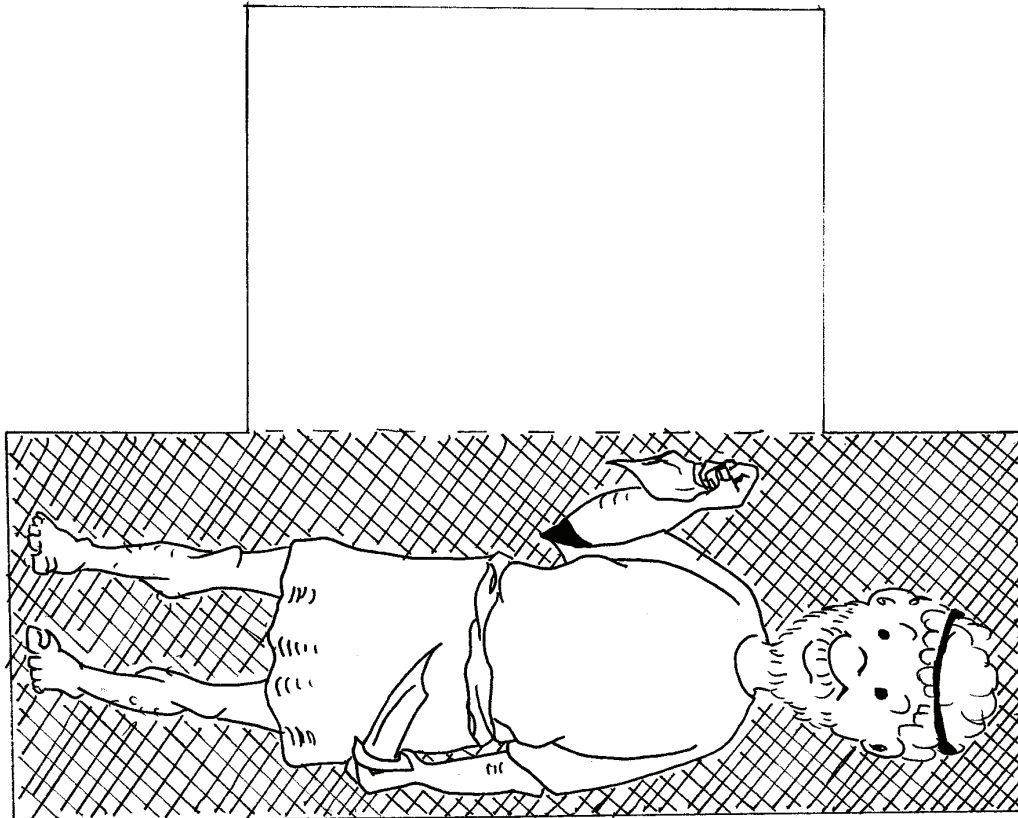
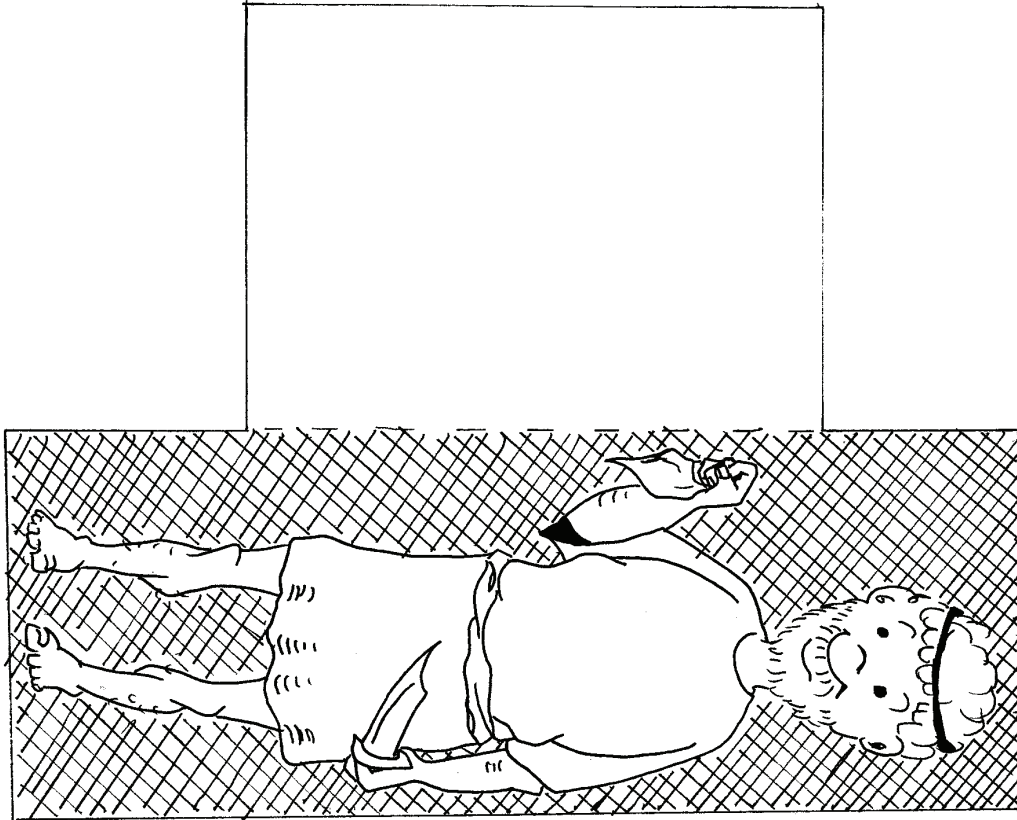
Steps

- The children find the hidden people in the cave and colour them in.



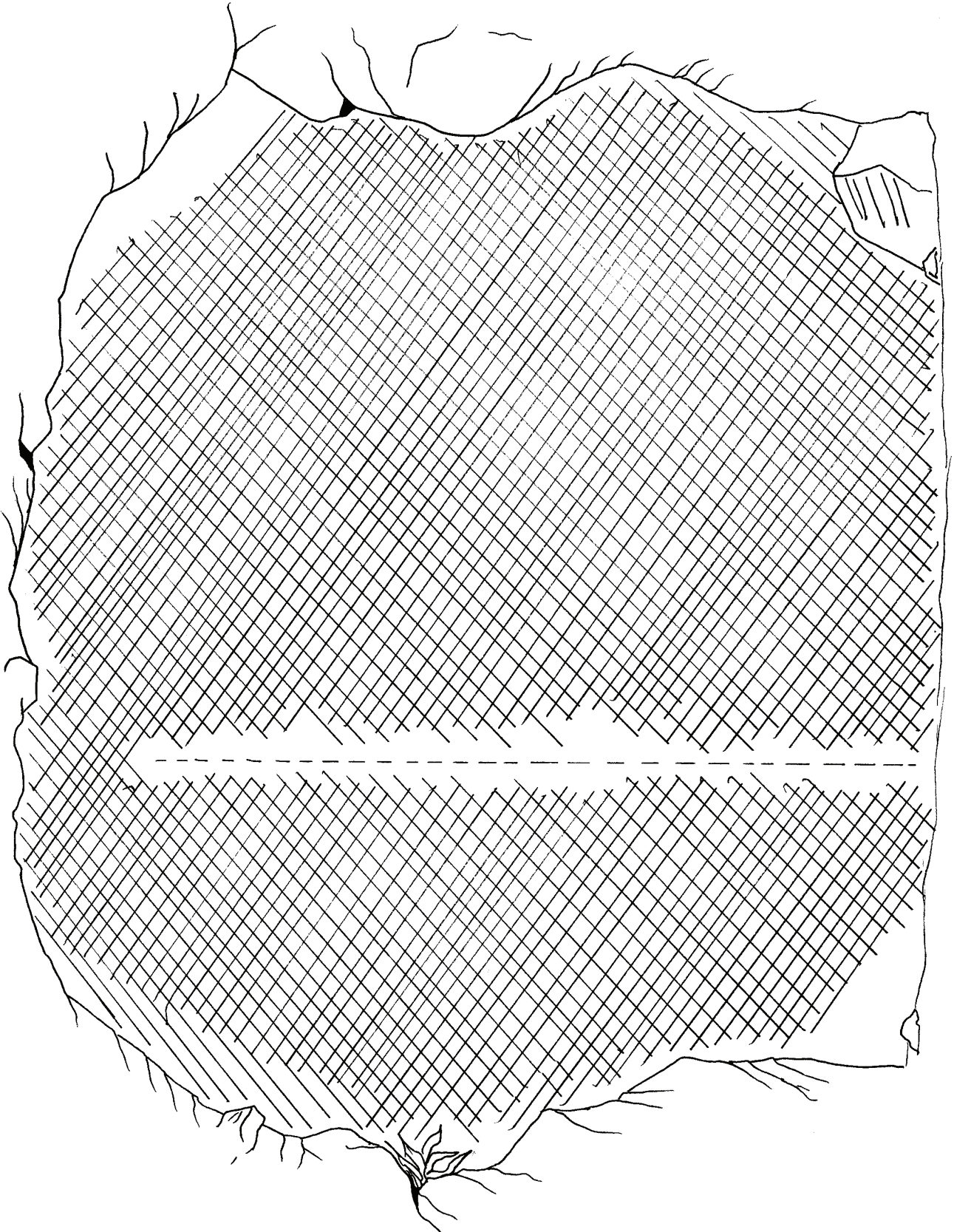
David and Saul

Activity A – Out of the Cave



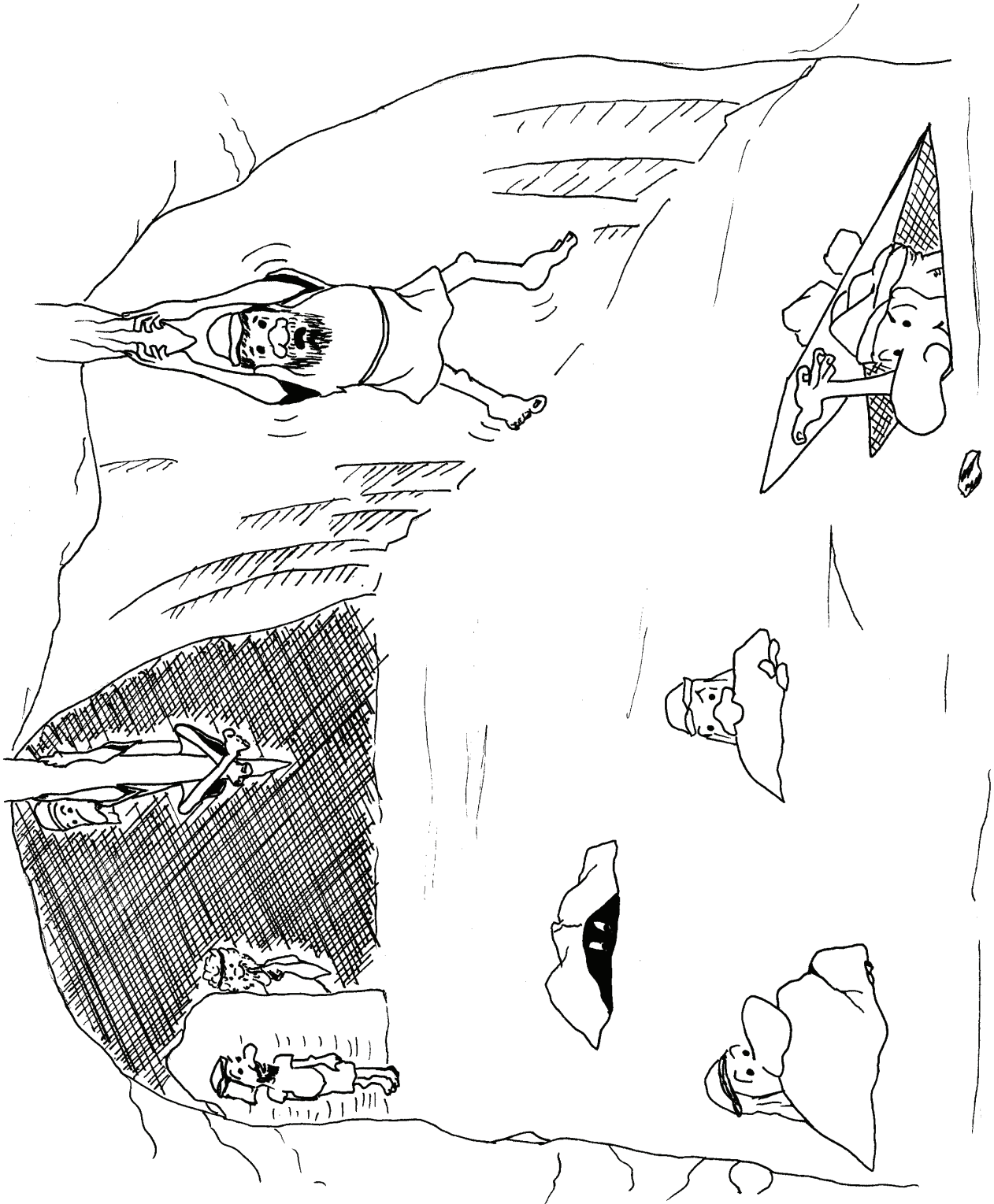
David and Saul

Activity A – Out of the Cave



David and Saul

Activity B – Hidden People



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David crowned

II Samuel 5:1-12

Storyline

After Saul's death, David became king of the two southern tribes. Seven and a half years later, all the elders of Israel told David that they knew God had said David should be their leader, so they anointed him King over Israel. David and his army had to fight a foreign people called the Jebusites, (a Canaanite people) in order to capture Jerusalem and make it his capital. The part that the Jebusites controlled was high on a hill with walls for protection. They were so confident that they were safe, the Jebusites only had the blind and the lame to defend their fortress. David's men climbed up the water shafts to gain entrance, and so defeated the enemy. He then called Jerusalem, "The city of David." David knew God made his kingdom great for the sake of God's people, Israel.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Ask the children if they have ever had something really difficult to do and they really haven't known how to do it. What did they do? Did they ask for help? Discuss how God is able to give us the wisdom to find the way through our difficulties, just like David.

Made beforehand, Activity A could be used as a visual aid while telling the story.

Teachers Note: Residents of ancient walled cities sometimes diverted a local stream, to flow to a point inside their walls, but well underground. To access this water, they built water shafts down to the source.

Theme One

"Trusting in God"

When it seemed impossible to capture Jerusalem, David trusted God to show him the way. David remained humble before the Lord, knowing that it was He who had established him as king over Israel. The Lord honoured David's faithfulness and David found favour with God and man. If we remain humble before the Lord and place our trust in Him, He will always remain faithful to us and lead us in His pathway.

Key Thought

If we are humble before the Lord and obedient to His word, God will lead us in the right path and we will find favour with God and man.

Aim

To lead the children to an understanding of what it means to allow God full control of our lives.

Memory Verse

"Commit your way to the Lord." (Psalm 37:5).

Theme Two

"Seeking God's direction"

If we don't communicate with God, then how can we hear His voice? Therefore, there has to be time set aside for us to pray and have a quiet time with the Lord to really hear His voice for our lives. We need to be careful not to run to and fro, thinking of ourselves and allowing our school work, homework and fun times to demand all our time. Our first priority should be to seek the Lord early in prayer and Bible reading, committing our ways to Him so He can direct our path. David was a fine example to us as he regularly prayed and had a close relationship with the Lord.

Key Thought

Even though David had been given all authority as king, he still had to seek God's voice for direction.

Aim

To teach the children to pray for direction and have faith that all things are in God's control.

Memory Verse

"Seek the Lord." (Psalm 105:3).

Activity A - The Water Shaft

Materials

- 1 cardboard cylinder per child (from paper towels, foil or plastic wrap).
- 1 piece of wool or string the same length as the cylinder, per child.
- 1 small paper clip per child.
- 1 or 2 cut out figures from the Activity Sheet per child.
- Safety scissors.
- Brick and stone coloured felt pens.
- Sticky tape.



Steps

At Home

- According to the abilities of your class, the number in your class, and the time factor, decide if you should pre-cut the figures of the climbing men.

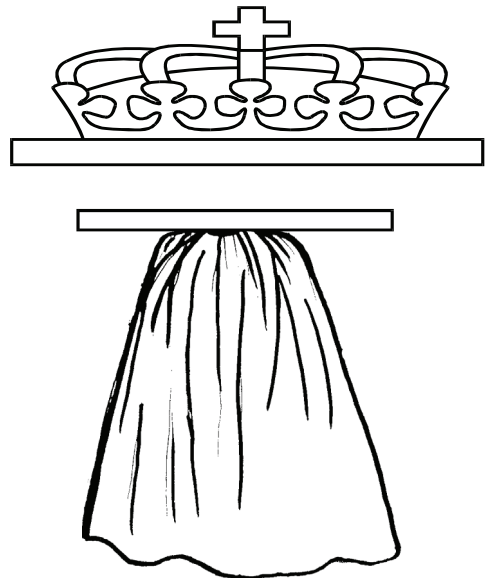
In Class

- Decorate the cylinder to resemble brick or stone.
- Tie the wool or string to the longest side of the paper clip.
- Sticky tape the climbing figures onto the wool or string by the hands.
- Clip the paper clip onto the top of the cylinder and lower the wool or string down inside.
- Opposite the paper clip, cut the cylinder open from top to bottom, so the cylinder can be **gently** opened, to reveal the men climbing up the water shaft.

Activity B - King David Puppet

Materials

- A box of tissues (you will need 2 per child, but allow for a few mistakes). White or peach colours look best.
- 1 crown and cape per child (from the Activity Sheet).
- Sticky tape.
- Biro to draw faces on the tissues.
- Felt pens.
- Glue.
- Glitter.
- 1 straw per child (optional).
- Stapler.



Steps

At Home

- Pre-cut the crowns and capes.

In Class

- Crunch up one tissue into a ball (this will be the head).
- Place it in the centre of the second tissue.
- Gather the second tissue up around the ball and secure it with a piece of sticky tape to form a neck.
- Draw eyes, nose and mouth with a biro on the front of the head.
- Decorate crowns and capes using felt pens, glue, and glitter.
- Attach the crown and cape with sticky tape.
- Push a straw up inside the loose tissue and staple through the straw, back part of the tissue and cape.

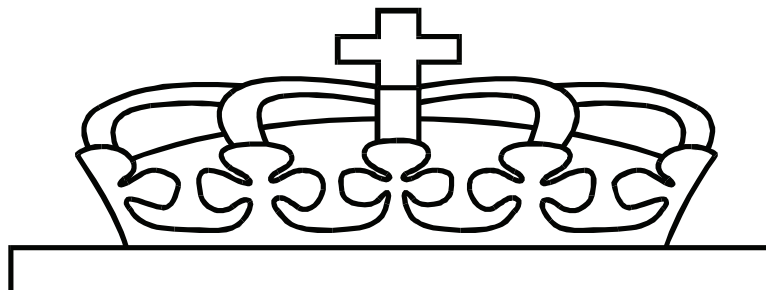
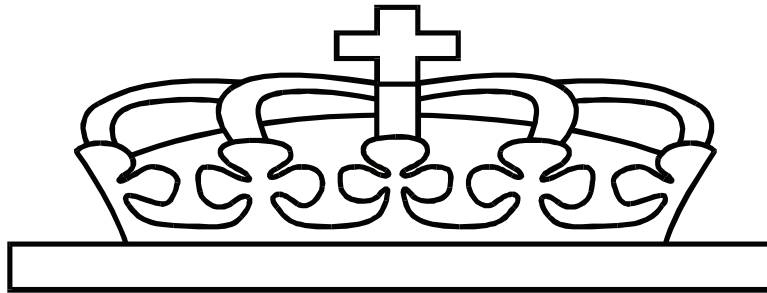
David crowned

Activity A – The Water Shaft



David crowned

Activity B – King David Puppet



David and the ark

I Chronicles 13; 15 & 16

Storyline

David wanted to bring the ark out of the house of Abinadab, back to Jerusalem. He asked the people of Israel and they agreed with him. Lots of people went with David, and the ark was put on a new cart which was pulled by oxen. Ahio and Uzza, sons of Abinadab, drove the cart. On the way, the oxen stumbled and Uzza put out his hand to steady the ark. God was very angry at that and struck Uzza and he died. David was very upset and scared of God that day, so he took the ark aside to the house of Obed-Edom. It stayed there for three months and the Lord blessed the household greatly. David went once again with the people, to bring the ark back to Jerusalem, only this time he did it the way God said it should be done. David had the priests and Levites carry the ark the way they were supposed to. As well as this, he made sacrifices to the Lord after every six paces they took. There was lots of shouting and blowing of trumpets and David danced before the Lord. As they came into the city, David's wife Michal, saw him dancing and was very upset with him. After David blessed all the people with presents of food, he went home to bless his own household. Michal told David how she despised him and because of this, God never allowed her to have any children.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Take something into class which demonstrates the need for instructions to complete successfully, eg: an old alarm clock in pieces, a jigsaw puzzle with no picture etc. Tell the children to fix the clock or complete the jigsaw. When they have problems, explain how it is almost impossible to complete anything perfectly, without instructions. Lead into the story.

Theme One

“Walk in God’s ways”

David and his people thought that putting the ark on a cart with wheels, was a good idea, but God’s way was for the Levites to carry it. How many of us set out to do something without first asking God, or seeing if it is the way God would have us do it? Do we follow the things our parents have taught us, as God has shown them? Or do we do things the way we think is best?

Key Thought

Whenever we do anything for God, we should make it our practice to discover how God wants us to do it.

Aim

For the children to know that awful things can happen if we do God’s things our way, instead of His way.

Memory Verse

“Show me Your ways, O Lord.” (Psalm 25:4).

Theme Two

“Give thanks to God”

David very much wanted the ark to be in Jerusalem, so that He could commune with God. He built a special tent for the ark. It gave David great joy when the ark eventually arrived. David danced with joy expressing what was in his heart, and was thankful when the ark came to Jerusalem. God wants us to be happy and enjoy each day. As we are thankful for what God has made and what He has done for us, it brings joy to our hearts.

Key Thought

If we really know God and appreciate what He has done, we shall be full of joy.

Aim

To show the children that real joy doesn’t come from material things but from a relationship with God.

Memory Verse

“Give thanks to the Lord.” (Psalm 107:1).

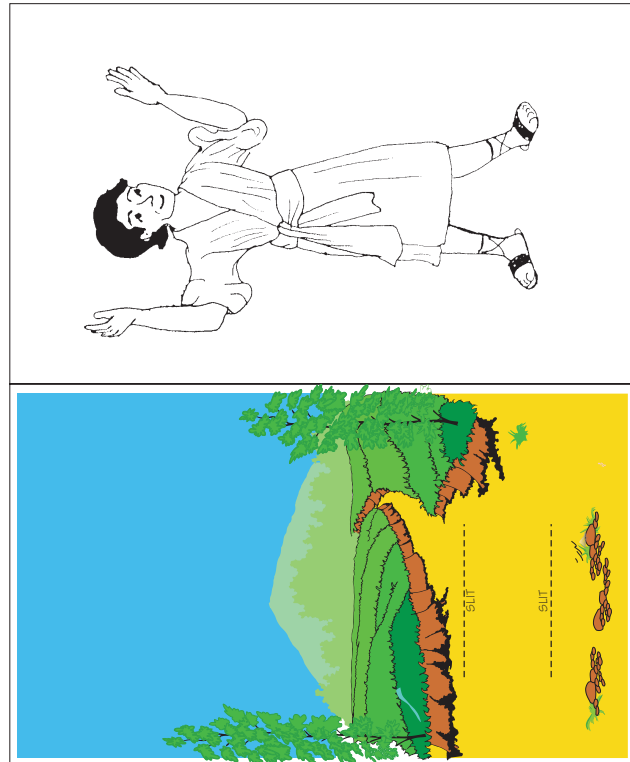
Activity A - Jump for Joy

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 straw per child.
- Safety scissors.
- Stapler or sticky tape.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

Steps

- The children colour and cut out the figure of David.
- Cut out the rectangle and slits.
- Tape or staple the straw half way up the back of David.
- Slide the straw down through the two slits.
- By holding the bottom of the straw and moving it up and down, the children can make David jump for joy.



Activity B - A Blessing for My Household

Materials

- A large container of popcorn (allow 2 cups per child).
- Some plastic cups for measuring.
- Plastic bags with twist ties, to hold the popcorn.
- Old gift wrap, or crepe paper, or alternative. (Crepe paper is the cheapest way to go, but remember that sticky tape will not stick to it, and if it is coloured, the dye could run out on hands in hot weather.)
- Sticky tape or extra twist ties if using crepe paper.
- 1 gift tag per child from the Activity Sheet

Steps

At Home

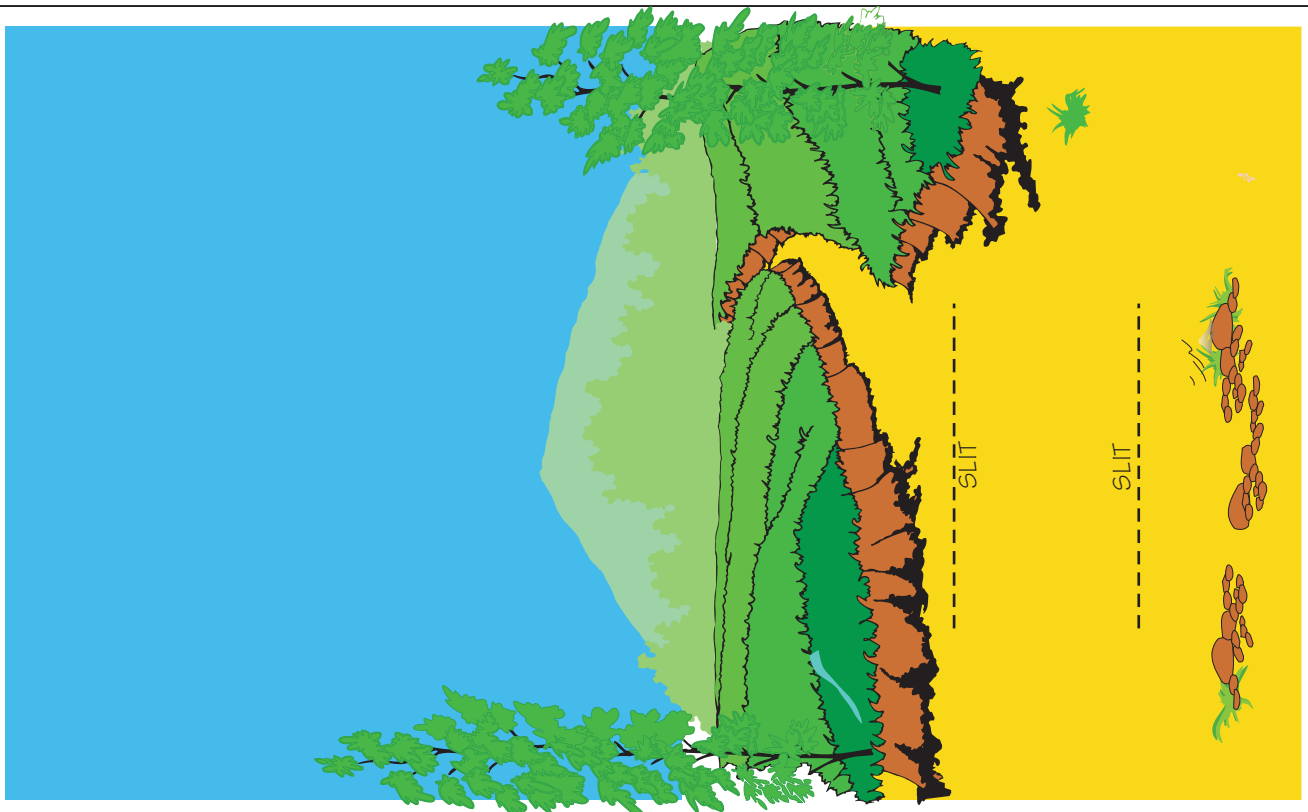
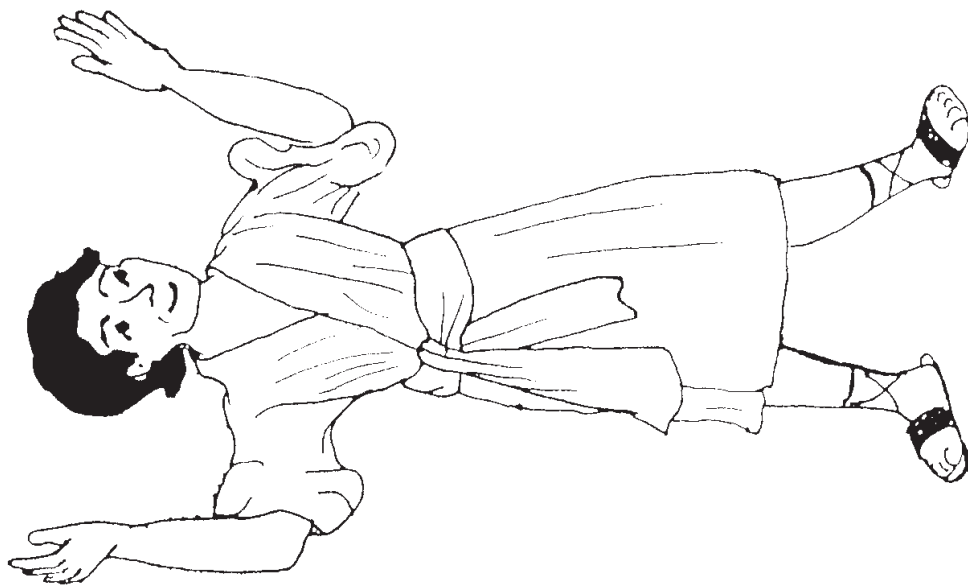
- Make a large amount of popcorn and place it in a sealed container.

In Class

- Each child measures 2 cups of popcorn into a plastic bag and secures it with a twist tie.
- Children wrap the popcorn in the paper provided and secure either with sticky tape or twist ties.
- Decorate the tags and attach to the presents.
- Explain to the children how David blessed the people with presents of food to be taken home and then went home to bless his own household.
- The popcorn is a blessing to be taken home and shared with their families.

David and the ark

Activity A – Jump for Joy



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Absalom

II Samuel 13 - 18

Storyline

Absalom, one of King David's sons, killed another of David's sons and fled. Eventually David allowed him to return to Jerusalem, but would not see him. After two years, David received him and forgave him. After this, Absalom gained supporters in Israel by judging disputes among them before they reached the King. Absalom worked at this for four years. He rose up against his father, setting up himself as king with his own army, which battled with David's. David and his household left Jerusalem to hide from Absalom, but David still loved Absalom and gave instructions to his captains to deal gently with him. The Lord used a man, Hushai, to protect David from Absalom. Absalom was caught in a tree branch during the fighting and Joab, one of David's captains, disobeyed David's orders and speared Absalom. Joab sent word to David to let him know Absalom was dead. David mourned for his son, Absalom, for he loved him no matter what he had done.

Suggested Teaching Approach

To tell the story, have a tray with a layer of rice, sand, or similar, on the bottom. Have two large marbles (stonkers) to represent David and Absalom, and about 20 small marbles. You could emphasise one of the large marbles as David by attaching to it, a paper crown or similar. Have all the marbles gathered around David and as the story unfolds, have the children move several of the small marbles over to Absalom.

Discussion points:

- How God fought against Absalom (read chapter 18).
- Being unhappy with your position in your family.

Theme One

"Being who God made you to be"

Absalom wanted to be king, and found a way to achieve this, but this was not what God had chosen for him. This was evil in God's eyes and God brought disaster on him. We must learn to be happy with the person whom God has made us to be and where He has placed us in our family. This will please God and He will be our helper and not our enemy.

Key Thought

If you choose an evil way, as Absalom did, God will oppose you. Because He loves you, He gives you every chance to come back to Him.

Aim

To have the children understand that they can expect God to help them to be the persons He wants them to be. If they want to be something different, God will oppose them.

Memory Verse

"Be holy." (1 Peter 1:16).

Theme Two

"Forgiveness"

David loved Absalom despite his sin and eventually he was able to forgive him fully. Even though Absalom tried to turn the children of Israel against David, David still loved him even unto his death. We also have to love and forgive those who do wrong against us otherwise we allow ourselves to be bitter against them. This can happen with our parents, brothers and sisters or friends.

Key Thought

Even when friends or relatives are against us, we need to show an expression of love and forgiveness.

Aim

Encourage the children to forgive those who do wrong to them and to love the way that God loves.

Memory Verse

"Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37).

Activity A - Cartoon Strip

Materials

- 1 cartoon strip per child.
- 1 piece of cardboard measuring 10 cm x 10 cm per child.
- 2 pieces of very thin dowel, approx. 15 cm long, per child (available at any hardware store).
- Masking tape.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

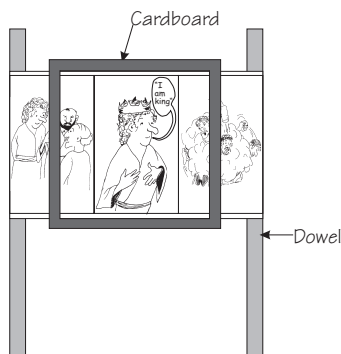
Steps

At Home

- Cut enough cardboard squares for your class.
- Using a Stanley knife, cut two slits in each square. Position them 4 cm apart and 3 cm in from each side and make them 7.5 cm long.

In Class

- Children colour their cartoon strip.
- Thread the strips up through one slit and down through the other, so that the pictures can be seen, one at a time.
- Masking tape a piece of dowel to each end of the strip, so the children can wind the strip back and forth and retell the story.
- If dowel is difficult to obtain, plastic straws can be used, but they won't allow the children to wind the cartoon, it will have to be pulled through.



Activity B - Musical Chairs Variant

Materials

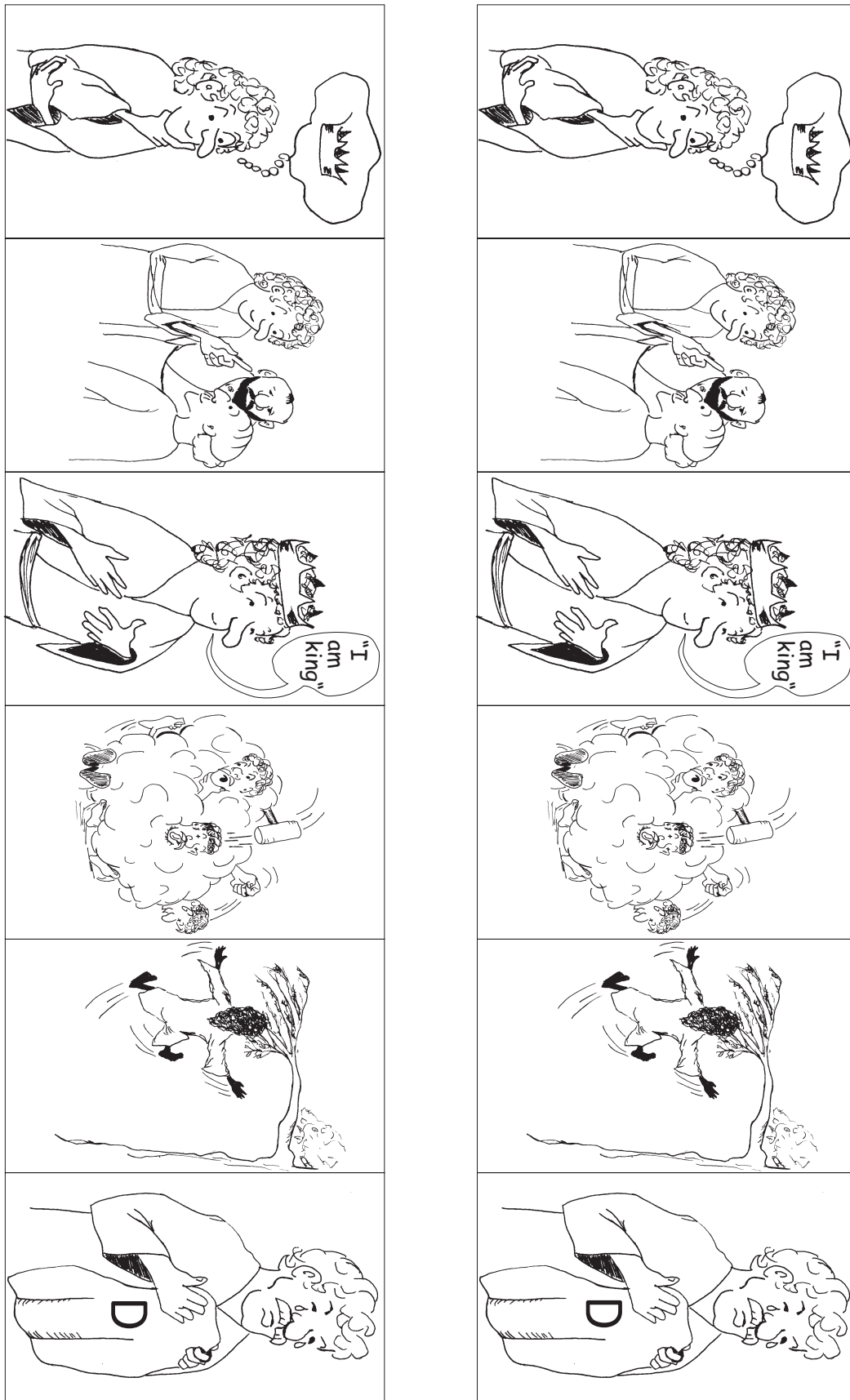
- 1 chair less than the number of children in your class.
- Tape recorder and tape of instrumental music, or guitar, or similar.

Steps

- Set up for musical chairs.
- Play the game as for musical chairs, except when each child misses out on a chair, call out one of the following:
 - "Low branch, you miss out."
 - "Tripped on a root and fell on your face."
 - "Knocked off your mule, broke your leg."
 - "Caught in a tree, you're not going anywhere."
- You can make up as many of these as you wish.

Absalom

Activity A – Cartoon Strip



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Solomon becomes king

I Kings 3 & 4

Storyline

Solomon was one of King David's sons. As David was getting old, God wanted Solomon to take over his father's throne. Solomon loved God. Solomon asked the Lord if He would help him to have an understanding heart and to be able to judge wisely between good and evil in the people. God was very pleased with Solomon because he didn't ask for a gift for himself, but something that would help the people. The Lord made him the wisest of all men. People would come to Solomon for judgement about problems. Once he judged between two women who were fighting over a baby. Solomon became a very powerful king. The Lord extended his kingdom and gave Israel peace, and Solomon had great wealth. People from all nations came to hear Solomon's wisdom.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Talk to the children about asking for things. If they could have anything they wanted, what would they ask for?
2. Relate this to Solomon and all the things he **could** have asked God for and what he **did** ask God for.

Theme One

"Seek God's wisdom"

Not all difficulties are easy to solve but as they are committed to the Lord, He brings the answer in His own time and way. Solomon had sought the Lord for a discerning heart and was able to reveal the truth in the example of the two women with the baby. We must not depend on our own wisdom or on the wisdom of this world's great people. Like Solomon, we need to ask God for a wise heart.

Key Thought

The need to look to God for every situation and understand we are truly dependent upon His wisdom.

Aim

To encourage the children to ask God for wisdom in every situation they face.

Memory Verse

"The Lord gives wisdom." (Proverbs 2:6).

Theme Two

"Serve God and His people"

Of all that Solomon could have asked God for, he chose to ask for that which would benefit God's people most. The result was great blessing, both for Solomon personally and for the Lord's people. Similarly, as we choose to make the service of the Lord and His people the top priority of our lives, we experience rich blessing from the Lord, and become ourselves a blessing to others.

Key Thought

The Lord wants us to make serving Him and His people, the goal of our lives.

Aim

For the children to be encouraged as they think of their futures, to focus their life's direction on serving the Lord and His people.

Memory Verse

"Serve the Lord." (Psalm 100:2).

Activity A - Sharing Day

The aim of this activity is to emphasise the importance of sharing the gifts with which God has blessed us.

Suggestions for some things to be shared with the class:

- A song.
- A Bible verse.
- A prayer.
- A testimony.
- Some cooking, made with Mum or Dad.
- Construction made at home.
- Written story or picture, etc.

Suggestions for some things to be given away:

- Picture/story done in class, especially for grandparent, aunt or uncle.
- As a class, cook something, eg a no bake slice and give it to someone in the fellowship. (If using this suggestion, choose someone who is not related to any of the children, so there is no way of them receiving it back. A word to the recipient beforehand would ensure it is not offered. This way, it is truly given away.)

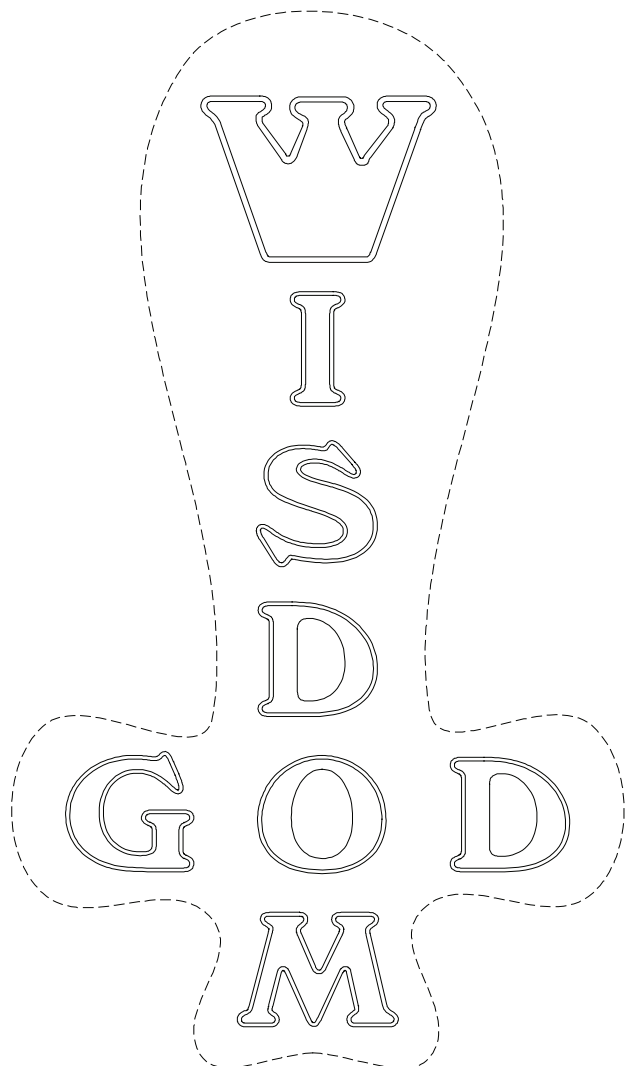
Activity B - Wisdom Mobile

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.
- 30 cm piece of wool or string per child.
- Scissors.
- Hole punch or bodkin.
- Hi-lighters (optional).
- Glue and glitter (optional).

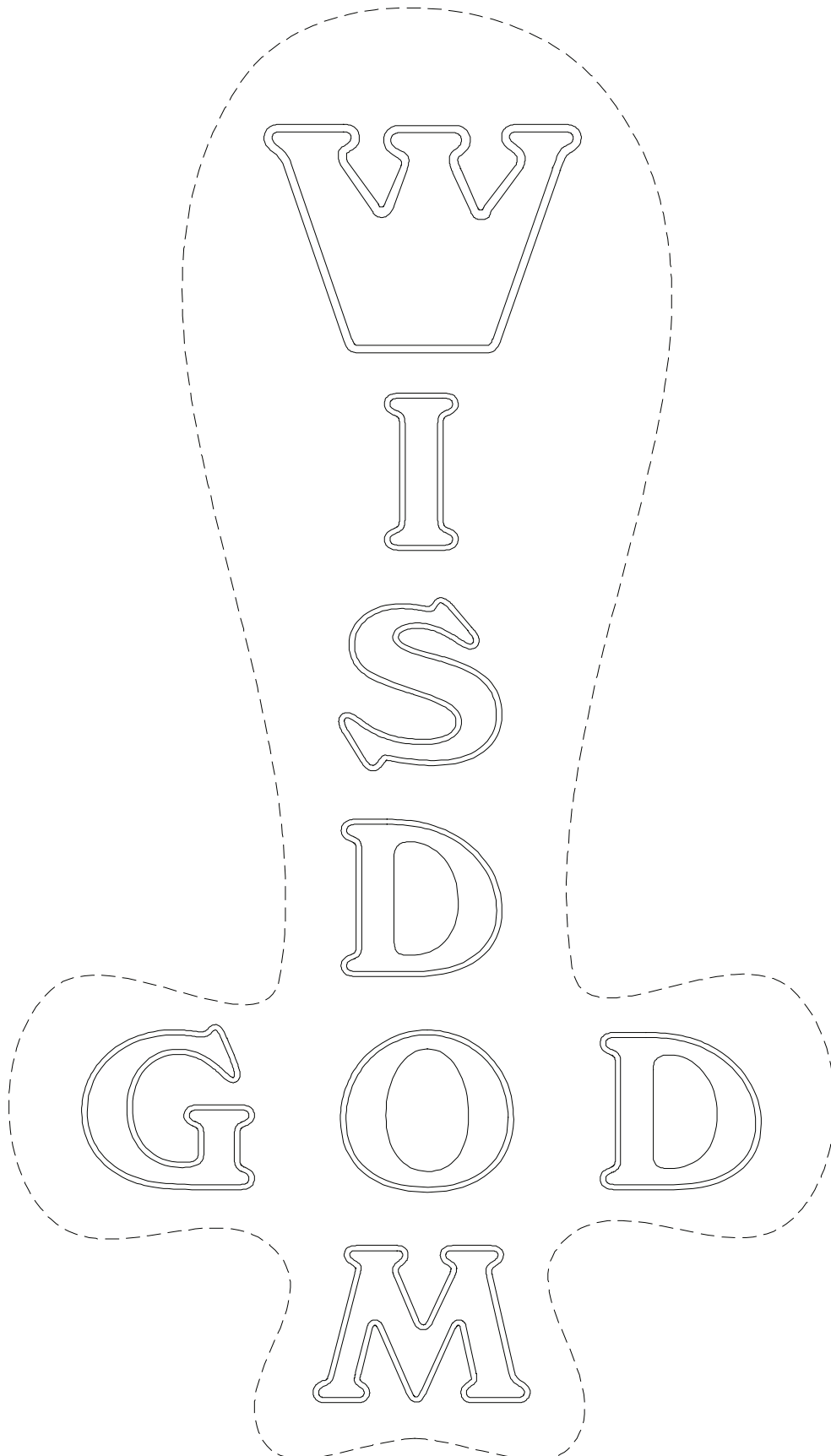
Steps

- Have the children colour the word “God” in one colour of their choice.
- Let them colour the rest of the letters however they wish.
- Staying inside the freeform line, the children can decorate the rest of the area in really bright colours, or with glue and glitter.
- Cut around the outside line
- Punch a hole in the top, thread the piece of wool/string through and tie a knot in it.



Solomon becomes king

Activity B – Wisdom Mobile



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Solomon's temple

1 Kings 5 & 6

Storyline

In the fourth year of his reign, Solomon began building God's temple. All the stones were to be cut to shape, away from where the building was to be erected, as there were to be no hammers, axes, or tools of iron used where the temple was built. The walls, furniture and incense altar in the house were overlaid with gold and it took Solomon and his workers seven years to build the temple. God told Solomon that if he walked in God's way and did all that He commanded, then God would keep the promise that He had given to David, about building the temple. God would also stay with, and look after, the children of Israel.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Collect about 20 small stones of different shapes. The more diverse in colour and shape the better. Also have about 20 children's building blocks of varying colours and sizes. (Make sure they fit together.)

Have a shoe box covered in plain paper, and some Blu-tack or similar substance.

Using the Blu-tack, have the children stick the stones on one side of the box. Point out the gaps, and explain that no matter what they do, they won't ever really fit together unless they are shaped and have all their rough edges smoothed off.

Now do the same thing with the building blocks on the other side of the box. Notice how they fit together, side by side, because they have all been shaped.

Theme One

"You are the temple of God"

When we think of Solomon's workmen quarrying the stones, shaping them, and fitting them together, we have a picture of how God is building His temple, His church. He calls His people living stones. This world is like a huge quarry. He takes a stone here and a stone there from the quarry. Then He uses circumstances and His discipline to shape them the way He wants them to be. He fits them together to become His temple.

Key Thought

Although we are each individuals, God is preparing us to fit together with all those who love and trust Him, so that together we can be one temple for Him.

Aim

To encourage the children to understand that when they give their life to the Lord that they are giving Him the right to start to prepare them to take their place in the church, God's temple.

Memory Verse

"You are the temple of God." (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Theme Two

"God dwells in His temple"

Solomon had built the temple according to the plans God had given to him. It was a magnificent and beautiful structure. When it was complete, the glory of the Lord filled the temple. But God warned Solomon that if the people did not walk in His ways, He would forsake the temple. Both Isaiah and Stephen tell us that God does not dwell in temples made with hands. But God does dwell in His temple, the church and He dwells in those who belong to Him.

Key Thought

God dwells in His people individually. He also lives in His people as His temple, His house.

Aim

To teach the children that if we love the Lord and obey Him, He promises to dwell in us.

Memory Verse

"The Spirit of God dwells in you." (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Activity A - 'Precious Promises' Wall Hanging

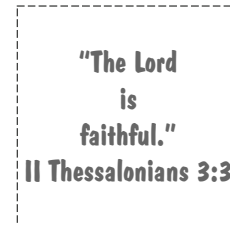
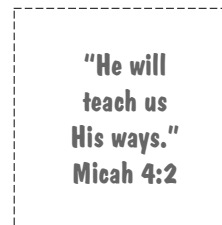
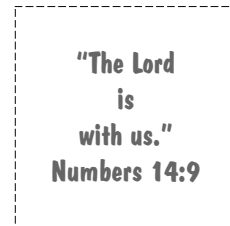
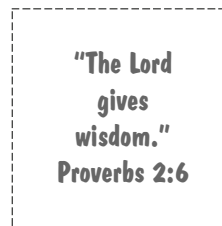
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 piece of coloured cardboard 15 cm x 20 cm per child.
- Safety scissors.
- 1 piece of wool 30 cm long per child.
- Sticky tape or stapler and staples.
- Hole punch.



Steps

- Children cut out all the boxes.
- Tape or staple the two strips with 'precious' and 'promises' onto the cardboard, at ends and bottoms, leaving the tops open. Position the top of 'precious' 4 cm from the top of the card and the bottom of 'promises' 1 cm from the bottom of the card.
- Insert the squares with the verses on them behind the strips.
- Punch a hole in the top of the cardboard, thread wool through and tie in a knot, so it can be hung on the wall.
- If time allows, decorate the wall hanging in whatever way you please.
- Encourage the children to add to the promises with verses they know, or that have been helpful to them. A little note to parents could help this along.



Activity B - Make a Stone Wall

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pencils/colouring pencils.

Steps

- Have each child write his/her name on one of the stones on their own Activity Sheet.
- All the children then pass their sheet on to the next child, so they can write their name somewhere on the sheet.
- Continue the process, until all the children have written their names on all of the sheets, so that each child has the names of all the class members on his/her sheet.
- Any stones left vacant, can be filled in with names of family, friends, etc.



Solomon's temple

Activity A – 'Precious Promises' Wall Hanging

Precious

Promises

**"The Lord
gives
wisdom."
Proverbs 2:6**

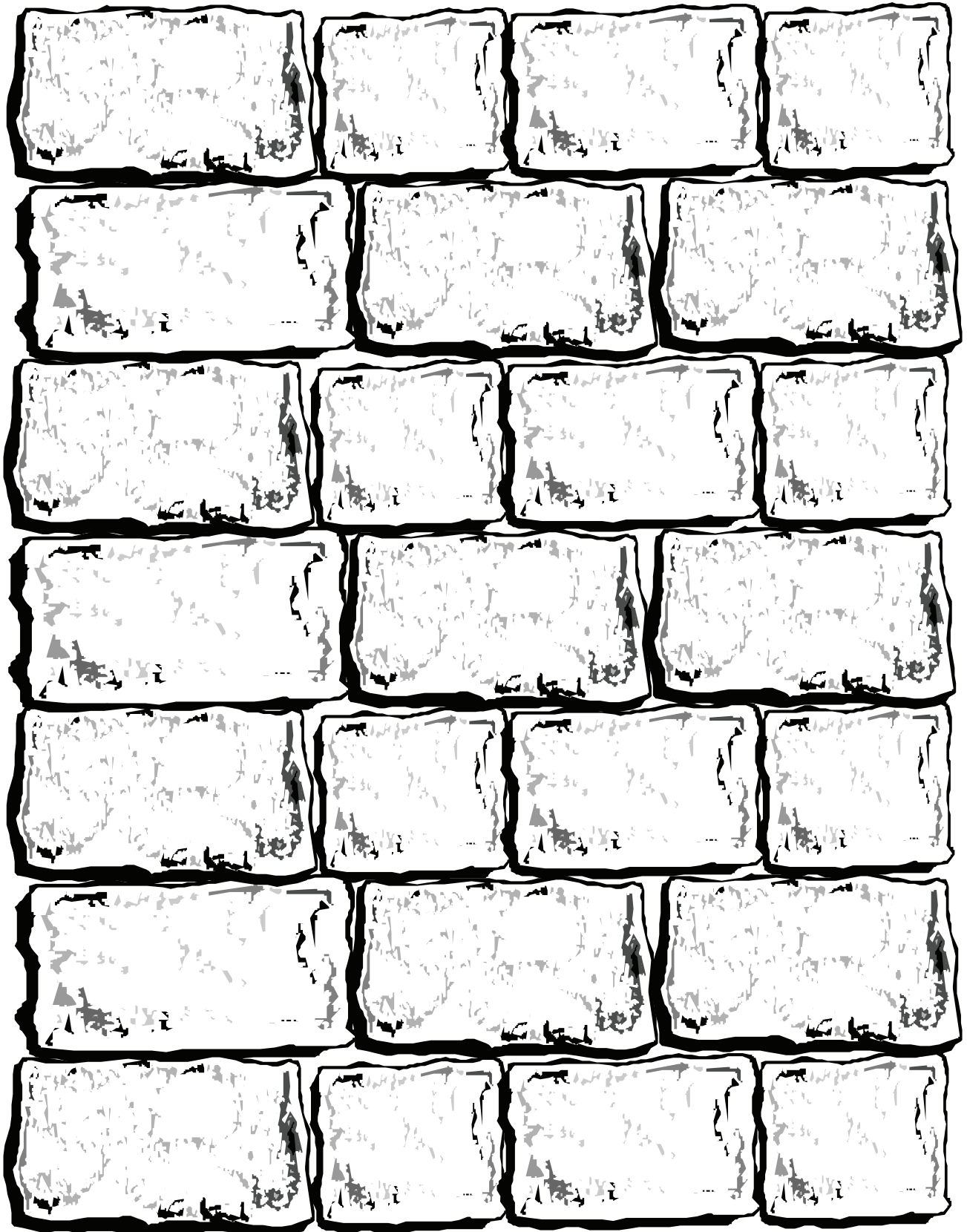
**"The Lord
is
with us."
Numbers 14:9**

**"He will
teach us
His ways."
Micah 4:2**

**"The Lord
is
faithful."
II Thessalonians 3:3**

Solomon's temple

Activity B – Make a Stone Wall



Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam

I Kings 12 - 14

Storyline

Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king after his father died. At Rehoboam's coronation, the people, including Jeroboam, demanded that Rehoboam reduce the hard service and heavy taxes that Solomon had imposed on them. Rehoboam asked for three days for him to receive advice. After the three days, he told the people he would be a harder king than Solomon. All the tribes except Judah and Benjamin deserted Rehoboam and later made Jeroboam their king. This fulfilled God's promise to divide Israel as punishment for the sin of King Solomon for worshipping the false gods of his many wives. King Rehoboam formed an army to war against Jeroboam, however God told him not to fight. Jeroboam was afraid that his people would want to rejoin the tribe of Judah, so he set up idols in Bethel and Dan. Because Jeroboam encouraged his people to worship false gods, God was angered and sent a prophet to tell Jeroboam he would be punished. Likewise, the people under Rehoboam also displeased God even more than they did under King Solomon.

Suggested Teaching Approach

God cares for us and teaches us in all situations.

Points of discussion:

- peer group pressure (give age appropriate examples.)
- fighting and arguments in the family
- difficult circumstances eg being sick, difficulties at school, etc.

Visual aids for telling the story:

- two toilet rolls painted up as kings (Rehoboam and Jeroboam)

Theme One

"Obedience"

The Lord will not accept or bless alternative courses of action that we offer as substitutes for obedience to His will. King Jeroboam (of the northern kingdom) did not obey the Lord, but set up his own system of worship. The southern kingdom also turned away from the Lord. People of both kingdoms were eventually taken into captivity. Some later returned to the land, but the kingdom was not restored. We must not presume on the mercy of the Lord, but remain obedient.

Key Thought

God requires simple obedience from us. This obedience leads to eternal life, but disobedience eventually leads to separation from God.

Aim

To help the children realise that God requires a heart set on obedience to His will, and not on alternatives which we consider more suitable.

Memory Verse

"Obey My voice." (Jeremiah 7:23).

Theme Two

"Knowing the voice of the Lord"

The prophet, the man of God, heard from God and obeyed God. He took an unpopular message to Jeroboam. When God's judgment fell on Jeroboam, he prayed to God for the king's healing. He refused the king's invitation to return home for refreshments, because God had told him not to go. Yet, when the old prophet invited him home, he listened to him and disobeyed God. We must always make sure we are hearing from God and are not deceived by what other Christians may say.

Key Thought

It is important to know the voice of the Lord so we won't be led astray.

Aim

For the children to be training themselves to hear the Lord's voice through their relationship in the body and their family.

Memory Verse

"My sheep hear My voice." (John 10:27).

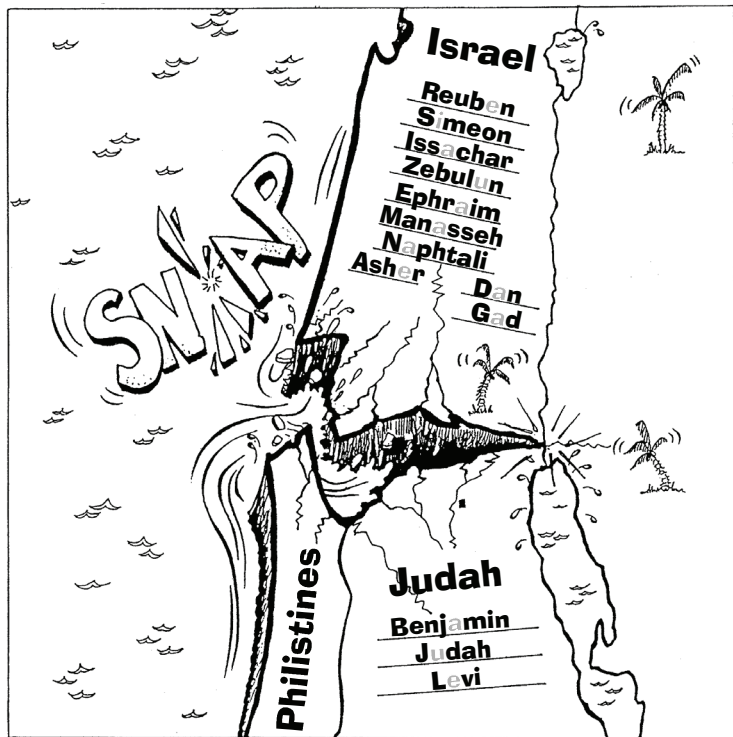
Activity A - Fill in the Missing Letters

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/colouring pencils or crayons.

Steps

- Help the children fill in the missing letters of the names of the divided tribes by giving them clues as follows: For the tribe starting with the letter 'R' fill in the missing letter 'e'; for the tribe starting with the letter 'S' fill in the missing letter 'i'; etc. Each tribe starts with a different letter so there shouldn't be any confusion.
- The children can then colour the picture.



Activity B - What Advice Would You Give?

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils or felt tips.
- Glue.
- Glitter.

Steps

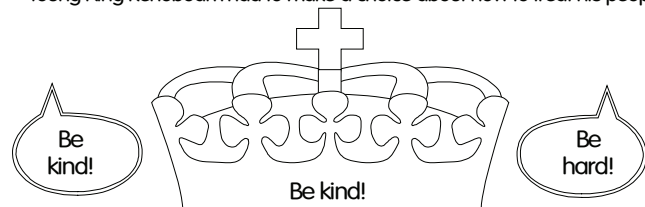
- Teacher reads each question and discusses, if necessary.
- Children copy their answer in the appropriate spaces.
- Glue and sprinkle glitter on the crowns, avoiding the words.

Answers

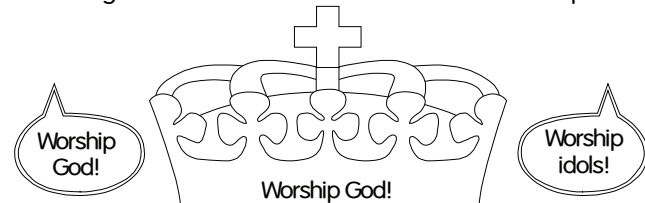
- Be kind.
- Worship God.
- Happy.

What advice would you give?

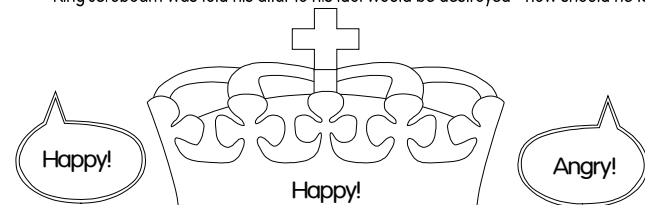
Young King Rehoboam had to make a choice about how to treat his people.



King Jeroboam had to choose who he would worship.

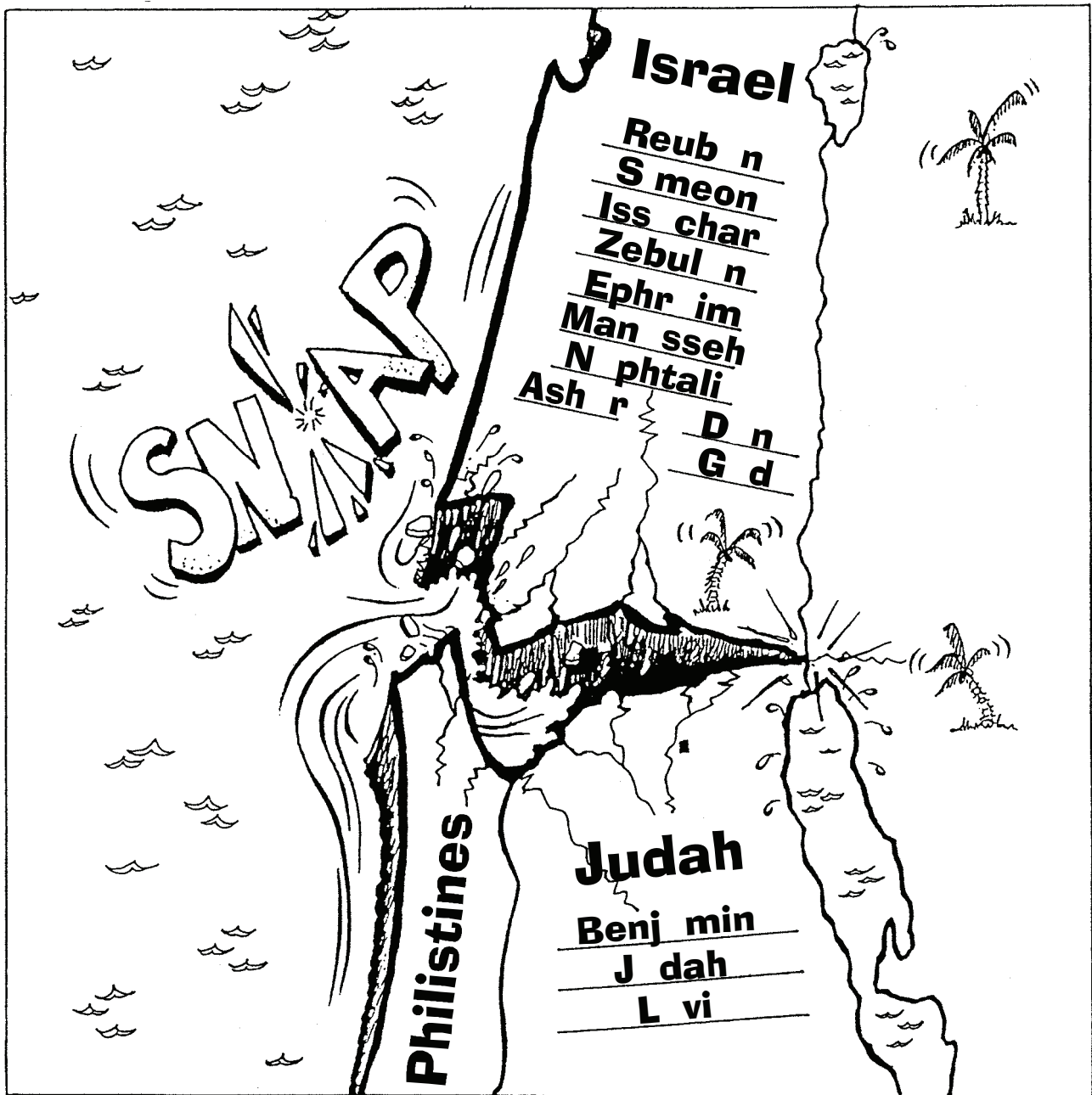


King Jeroboam was told his altar to his idol would be destroyed - how should he feel?



Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam

Activity A – Fill in the Missing Letters

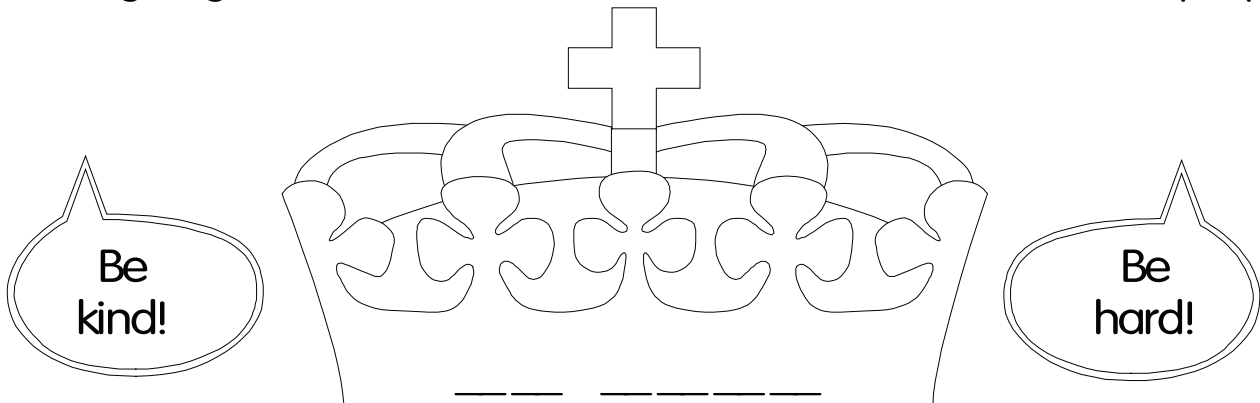


Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam

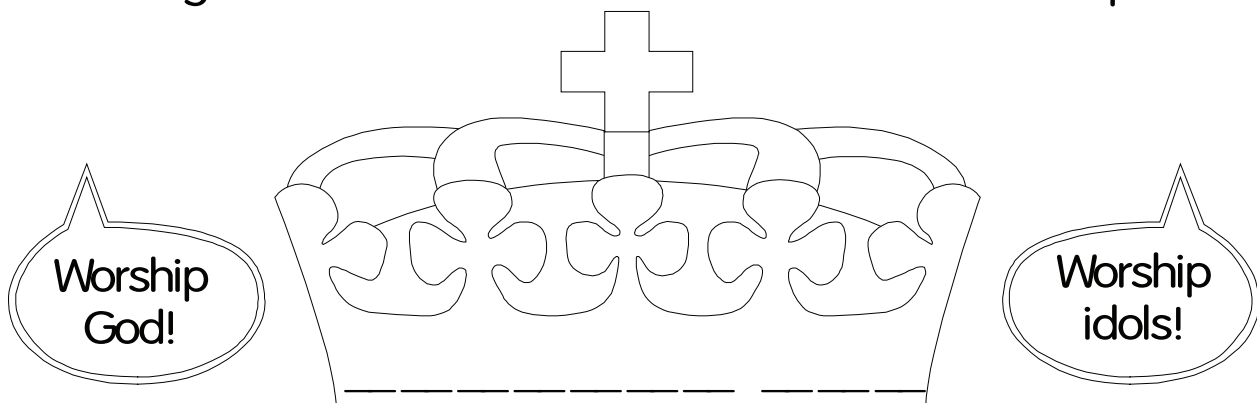
Activity B – What Advice Would You Give?

What advice would you give?

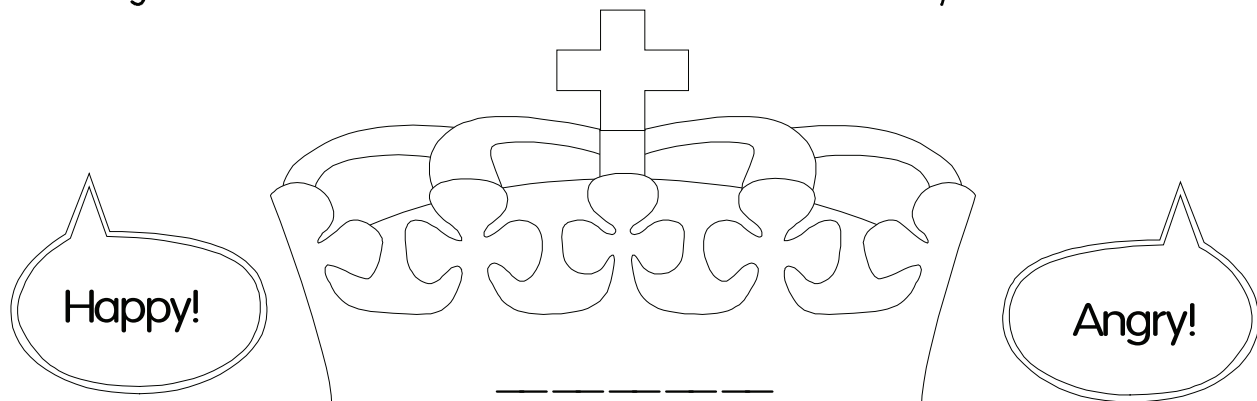
Young King Rehoboam had to make a choice about how to treat his people.



King Jeroboam had to choose who he would worship.



King Jeroboam was told his altar to his idol would be destroyed - how should he feel?



Elijah and the widow

I Kings 17

Storyline

Elijah, a prophet of God, told King Ahab that it would not rain until Elijah said so. God told Elijah to leave where he was and hide by the brook of Cherith. God told him to drink from the brook and that the ravens would feed him, bringing him bread and meat in the morning and evening. When the brook dried up, God sent Elijah to Zaraphath, where he found a widow gathering sticks. Elijah asked her for water and bread. The widow told him she only had enough flour and oil for one meal. Elijah told her not to be afraid, but to make a small cake for him, then for her son and herself, and God would keep her jars full until it rained. She did exactly as Elijah asked her. As a result, her jars continued to have oil and meal. Some time later, the widow's son became sick and died. The widow took him to Elijah and asked why it had happened. Elijah prayed out loud and lay over the child three times. When the child came to life again, the widow knew Elijah was a prophet sent by God.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Find pictures of drought and make a chart. Encourage the children to talk about the chart and the consequences of drought - no water, no food, no money, etc. Ask how difficult it would be to share food, if you had hardly any. Tell the story in an animated way, using props. Flap your hands like a bird, dropping pieces of bread in front of the children. Have some flour and oil there, and mix them up. After pretending to bake it, produce a small cake or biscuit. These things will help to make the story come alive.

Theme One

"God will provide"

God provided for Elijah by sending the ravens and later through the widow. He raised the widow's son to life. He is still working in amazing ways today. If God calls on us to do something special for Him and we do not have what is needed to do this, He will use others to provide those things, so that we can do His will.

Key Thought

Whatever our situation, God wants us to do His will. As we do it, He will help and provide for us.

Aim

To help the children to be confident in knowing that God will give them everything they need in order to obey Him.

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord." (Psalm 37:3).

Theme Two

"Willing to give"

We do not have to be important and we do not have to have lots of money and possessions. All God requires of us is that we be prepared to give from what we have. The widow was not rich and she was not important with lots of possessions and lots of food. All she had was some flour and oil. She was willing to give all she had so God blessed her and provided for her.

Key Thought

Sometimes God asks us to give to others, more than we can really afford, which involves our trusting Him to provide for our own needs.

Aim

To teach the children that God loves a cheerful giver.

Memory Verse

"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Activity A - Raven Bringing Food to Elijah

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet and 1 raven per child.
- Paddle pop sticks or straws.
- Masking tape or stapler.
- Safety scissors.
- Colouring pencils/crayons.

Steps

At Home

- Pre-cut the ravens if you think your class is not up to it yet.
- Cut along the dotted line on all the Activity Sheets with a Stanley Knife.

In Class

- Children attach a raven to a stick/straw by preferred method.
- Insert the raven through the slit and move it back and forth, putting food into Elijah's hand.
- If there is time, children could colour the picture.



Activity B - Pikelets, Scones or Fairy Bread

Materials

- 1 packet of pikelet or scone mix.
- Frypan and spatula. (Oven and baking tray must be available if making scones.)
- Extra flour if making scones.
- Extra butter for spreading.
- Knife.

OR

- Bread.
- Butter.
- 100's and 1000's.
- Non sharp knives

Steps

At Home

- Prepare the pikelet or scone mix, without adding the oil or butter.

In Class

- Allowing the children to help as much as possible, in the safest way, finish mixing the pikelets or scones and cook.
- After cooking, spread with the extra butter and enjoy.

OR

- Children butter bread and sprinkle with 100's and 1000's.
- Enjoy.

Elijah and the widow

Activity A – Raven Bringing Food to Elijah



Elijah and the widow

Activity A – Raven bringing food to Elijah



Elijah on Mt Carmel

I Kings 18

Storyline

When Queen Jezebel was killing all the prophets she could find, Obadiah, who was in charge of King Ahab's palace, hid and fed 100 prophets of God in caves. Obadiah served King Ahab later, by helping look for fodder for the king's stock in the severe drought. While doing this, Elijah met Obadiah and asked him to tell Ahab that Elijah was there. Obadiah was scared, but then obeyed Elijah. Elijah challenged Ahab about allowing idolatry in Israel. Elijah called for Ahab and the 850 prophets of Baal, to meet him on Mt. Carmel. The people of Israel also gathered there. Two bullocks were prepared for sacrifice. The people were to call on their gods and Elijah would call on the Lord. He told them, "The God who answers by fire, He is God." All morning Baal's prophets pleaded, even yelled, and cut themselves for Baal to send fire. None came. Elijah doused his bull with three lots of water, then asked God to send fire. God sent fire which burned up the stones of the altar as well as the bull. The people said, "The Lord, He is God!" Elijah destroyed the prophets of Baal. He cried out to God and finally rain fell.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Have some newspaper soaking in a bucket of water.

Have a tray with wet sand on the bottom. Take the newspaper out of the bucket and crunch it up into a ball without wringing too much of the water out. Remember, the sacrifice was totally soaked.

With all regard to safety, show the children how impossible it is to light anything that is this wet.

Now tell the story.

Theme One

"Trust in the Lord"

Obadiah greatly feared the Lord. He showed this by hiding 100 prophets in caves and feeding them. But when Elijah told him to tell the king he was there, Obadiah was afraid the Spirit of the Lord would take Elijah away and then the king would kill Obadiah. Because Obadiah was scared of Ahab, he found it hard to do what Elijah asked him to do, but he did it anyway. God often gives what seem to us to be hard or scary things to do, but if we continue to trust and obey Him, we find that He works things out wonderfully.

Key Thought

It is easy to be happy with the way we have trusted God in the past, but it is not enough to have trusted just once. Over and over in our lives we have to trust God to see His miracles.

Aim

For the children to understand that trusting God is something that they must keep on doing, more and more, for the rest of their lives.

Memory Verse

"I trust in You." (Psalm 25:2).

Theme Two

"The one true God"

God punished the idolatry of King Ahab and the people with drought and famine. God then proved His power by burning up Elijah's sacrifice in the contest with the false prophets of Baal. Although we cannot see God, He wants us to know that He is more real than anything or anybody else. He wants us to see His mighty power at work in our lives.

Key Thought

The Lord wants us to know Him as a very real Person. He wants us to know His power to overcome all that is against Him.

Aim

For the children to realise that idols in our hearts are unreal and that only God is real and He is powerful.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is the true God." (Jeremiah 10:10).

Activity A - Pop-up Picture

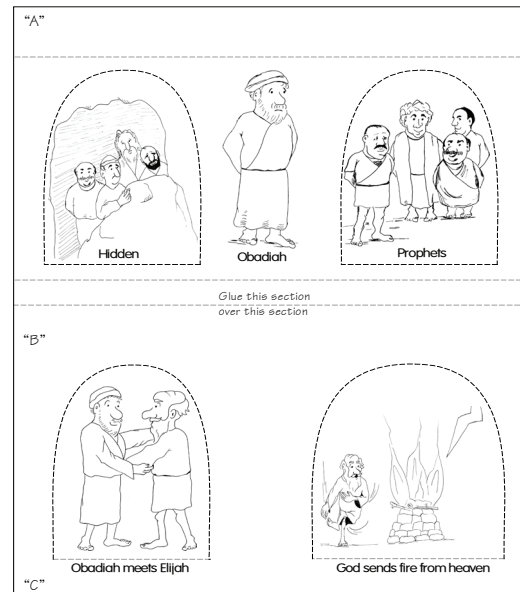
Materials

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child.
- Glue.
- Safety scissors/Stanley Knife.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

At Home

- Make up a complete picture so you are sure how it works. The dark dotted lines are cutting lines, and the lighter dotted lines are fold lines.
- On the top sheet, cut out the two top sections marked “cut out this section completely”. The Stanley Knife would probably be best for this.
- Cut around the dark dotted lines on the two bottom sections that have the pictures on them – don’t cut them out completely. These two pictures fold forwards along the bottom dotted lines.



In Class

- Children fold all fold lines on both sheets.
- On the bottom sheet, apply glue to the sections “A”, “B”, and “C” marked “glue here”. Position the top sheet over the bottom sheet in the correct place so A is glued to A, B to B and C to C.
- After folding up the two bottom pictures, apply glue on the top sheet where it says “glue this section over this section”. This makes the top half of the picture stand up.
- The children can colour the picture if time permits.

Activity B - Elijah's Altar

Materials

- 1 piece of strong, corrugated cardboard per child, approximately 20 – 30 cm square.
- Enough plasticine or play dough for each child to make an animal, and to join rocks together.
- Twigs for each child to lay on the top of the altar.
- Rocks for each child to build an altar.
- Strips of blue cellophane for the water.
- Strips of red/yellow cellophane for the flames.

Steps

At Home

- Assemble a prototype for the children to see.
- Divide all the materials into plastic bags for each child.

In Class

- Hand out the cardboard, rocks and plasticine/play dough to the children.
- Show them how to join the rocks together with a tiny bit of plasticine to make an altar on the cardboard. (Explain that we are only using something to stick the rocks together, so they can take it home without rocks falling all over the place.)
- Have the children mould an animal out of the remaining plasticine.
- Hand out the twigs and cellophane strips.
- Lay the twigs on the altar and crunch up the red/yellow cellophane and stick it in amongst the twigs.
- Lay the animal on top of the twigs.
- Now lay strips of blue cellophane on and around the altar to represent the water.

Elijah on Mount Carmel

Activity A – Pop-up Picture – Top Sheet

“A”

Cut this
section
out completely

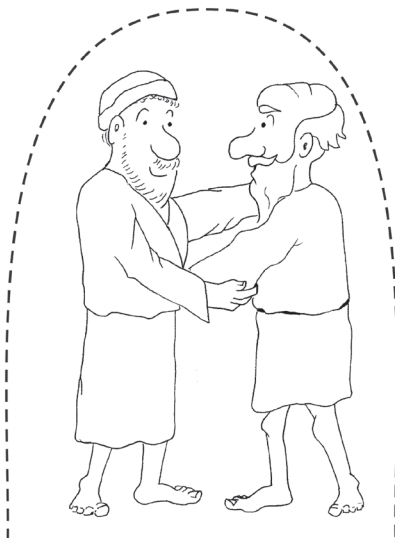


Obadiah

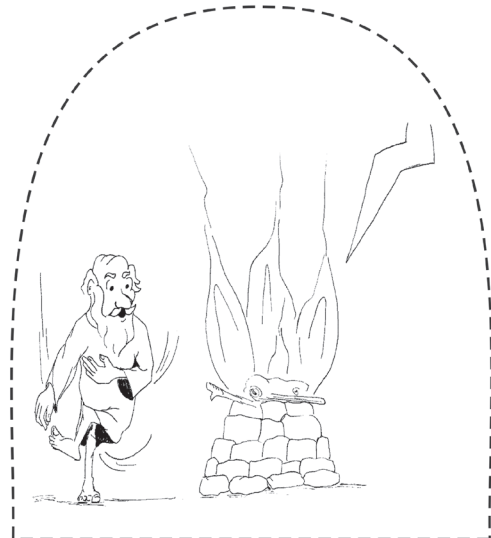
Cut this
section
out completely

Glue this section
over this section

“B”



Obadiah meets Elijah



God sends fire from heaven

“C”

Elijah on Mount Carmel

Activity A – Pop-up Picture – Bottom Sheet

“A” glue here



Fold Line

“B” glue here

“C” glue here

Good King Jehoshaphat

II Chronicles 18 - 20

Storyline

King Ahab's 100 prophets prophesied with a lying spirit that King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat would win their next battle. Micaiah was the only prophet who prophesied the truth that they would be defeated and for this he was put in prison. King Jehoshaphat was persuaded to go into battle with Ahab. Ahab disguised himself in the battle, but was still killed, while King Jehoshaphat went home alive. He was a wise and godly king, who sought God and destroyed the idols. He set judges over Judah and told them to judge wisely and fairly as God would judge. Jehoshaphat had his enemies, the Moabites and Ammonites rise up to fight him. He fasted and prayed to God as he knew Judah was no match for these enemies. Jehoshaphat said the battle was not his, but God's. All the people had to do was get in position and stand still where God told them to. Jehoshaphat sent the singers in front of the army. As they sang praises and thanks to God, God set an ambush for their enemies. The enemies destroyed each other totally. Judah praised God greatly. There was peace for the rest of Jehoshaphat's reign.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1: Discuss how dress codes, hair cuts, earrings, etc., can be used by Christian children to disguise themselves, so they blend in with the world. Talk about situations where they might find themselves tempted to fall in with whatever the crowd is doing. Lead into the story.

Theme 2: Ask the children, "Do you like to sing?" "How does it make you feel?" "Do you know that singing can be a weapon?" Discuss what weapons are and what they are used for. Now explain how praise and worship is more successful than all of them. Lead into the story.

Theme One

"God is able to deliver His people"

Jehoshaphat trusted God to save him in the midst of a battle. Later he and all of Judah prayed and fasted for they feared a great multitude coming against them. We need to heed the example of Jehoshaphat as he first trusted and believed in God's power to save him, then prayed for deliverance. Most importantly, we must obey any directions God gives as He answers prayer. If we only trust in our own strength, we will miss the wonder of seeing God's power at work for deliverance and salvation.

Key Thought

God is able to deliver His people in all circumstances. If we cannot trust Him for this, then we do not know our God well.

Aim

For the children to consider the power God has to deliver those who trust and obey Him.

Memory Verse

"The Lord will deliver." (Psalm 41:1).

Theme Two

"Seek the Lord"

Jehoshaphat lived his life faithful to the God he knew and loved. Though he sometimes found himself in dangerous situations, God heard his cries for help and answered his prayers. Jehoshaphat knew deliverance in those situations, and he and the army of Judah were also rewarded with great spoil as they were faithful to God. Have we known God's reward as we have been faithful to Him and His direction?

Key Thought

Those faithful to God and His ways, shall be rewarded. Though material rewards may be included, the greatest reward is the salvation of our souls and the joy of knowing Him.

Aim

For the children to be encouraged in their faith, to know God as a loving and rewarding Father.

Memory Verse

"Those who seek Him will praise the Lord." (Psalm 22:26).

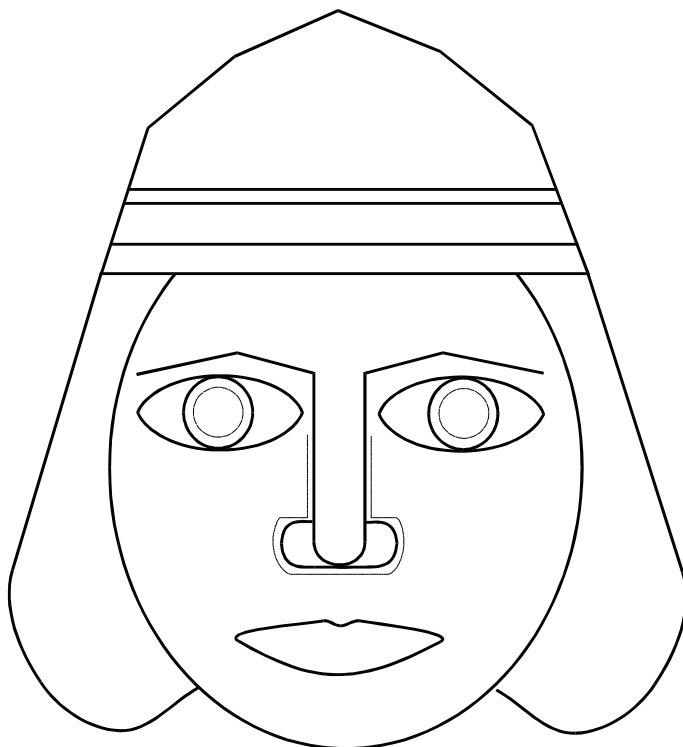
Activity A - Masks

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child (photocopied or mounted on coloured cardboard if desired – it may also need to be enlarged).
- Approximately 20 cm hat elastic per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Stapler and staples.
- Safety scissors.

Steps

- Children colour and cut out the masks.
- Cut out the nose and eyes along the dotted lines.
- Attach elastic with staples to the sides of the masks.



Activity B - Praise and Worship Puzzle

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.
- Glue.

Steps

- Read the words on the top of the Activity Sheet and follow the instructions.

Answer

- Look at Psalm 150




On the bottom of the page there are two boxes without pictures in them. Draw a picture of someone singing in one of them, and a different musical instrument in the other, then cut out the boxes and glue them in the correct places, to see the many ways we can praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord with and

Also with

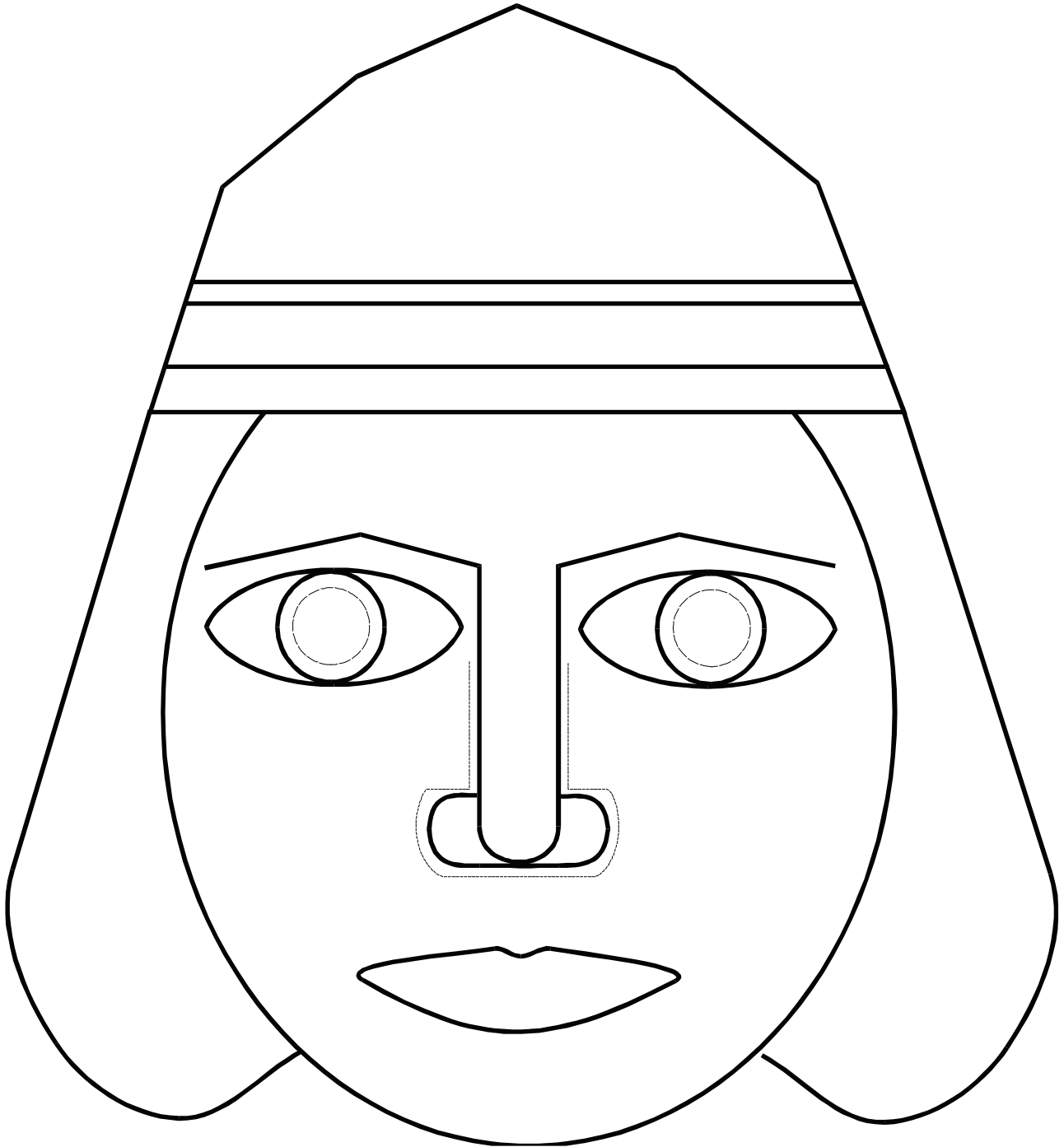
Praise the Lord with your

Praise the Lord in His

Good King Jehoshaphat

Activity A - Masks

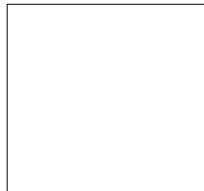


Good King Jehoshaphat

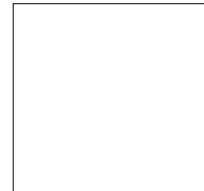
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Praise the
Lord with



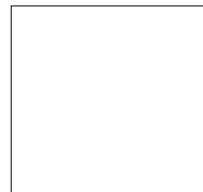
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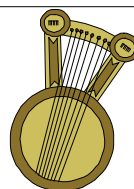
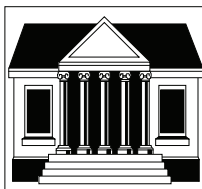
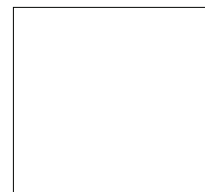
Also with



Praise the
Lord with your



Praise the
Lord in His



Elisha and the double portion

II Kings 2

Storyline

The time was near when God was going to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind. He was led by the Holy Spirit to go to Bethel, Jericho and Jordan. Elisha, his successor, was with him. In each place, prophets met them and Elijah asked Elisha to wait for him and not to come any further, but Elisha said that he would not leave him. Elijah took off his mantle and struck the waters of the river Jordan, the waters parted and they went over on dry land. Here, Elijah asked Elisha what his request was and he asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. Elijah said if he saw him go up into heaven, he would receive this. Elisha saw Elijah being caught up in a whirlwind and said, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" Elisha then returned to Jericho, where the people told him the water was bad and the ground infertile. Elisha poured salt into the water and it was healed. On his way to Bethel, some youths mocked him. He cursed them in the name of the Lord. Two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Activity A could be used as a teaching approach for Theme 1.

Theme 2 – Discuss with the children whether their parents always give them what they ask. Do they know better than we do what is good for us? Do they sometimes refuse to give us something we want? If we ask for a slice of bread, do they give us a stone? If we ask for fish, do they give us a snake?

Theme One

"Be faithful to God"

Although Elijah asked Elisha not to go with him, Elisha insisted and went with him, saying that he would never leave Elijah as long as he lived. Because of his faithfulness, he was there when Elijah was taken up to heaven and this allowed him to receive the double portion blessing. You don't have to be an adult to be faithful to the Lord. You can show faithfulness by being diligent in prayer, obeying your parents which God has called you to do, and living a Christian lifestyle at school and at home.

Key Thought

God rewards faithfulness in His people. He gives His best gifts to His most faithful servants.

Aim

To show the children that to receive God's very best blessings you must show Him you are faithful by always serving Him with all of your heart.

Memory Verse

"The Lord preserves the faithful." (Psalm 31:23).

Theme Two

"Ask and you shall receive"

Even though the thing Elisha asked for was hard to give, God allowed him to receive it because it was a good gift, with which Elisha could help people and not for selfish reasons. Every good and perfect gift comes from God. The Lord said that even earthly fathers give good things to their children. How much more will our heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask Him?

Key Thought

Because God only wants to give us good things, when we ask according to His will, we always receive.

Aim

To show the children that if they ask God for things which help others, or which they can share and not just things for themselves, they will receive what they asked for.

Memory Verse

"Ask, and you shall receive." (John 16:24).

Activity A - Blindfold Game

Materials

- Blindfold.
- Obstacles already in the room. Use squares of paper or towels on the floor to represent objects.
- If playing outside, use whatever is available, eg playground equipment, or bring some cardboard boxes, etc.
- Mantle, eg jacket or shirt.

Steps

- Children play the game, taking turns at being Elisha.
- Teacher puts the blindfold on Elisha, then positions the rest of the children around the room. Teacher must stay close to Elisha, to verbally guide him/her around the obstacles and to wherever the mantle has been placed. For example, “take three steps forward” or “turn left”, etc.
- As Elisha moves around the room, the other children call out different instructions like, “come this way” or “turn right” or “turn around now” but Elisha must concentrate on the teacher’s instructions.
- The game is finished when Elisha picks up the mantle and puts it on.

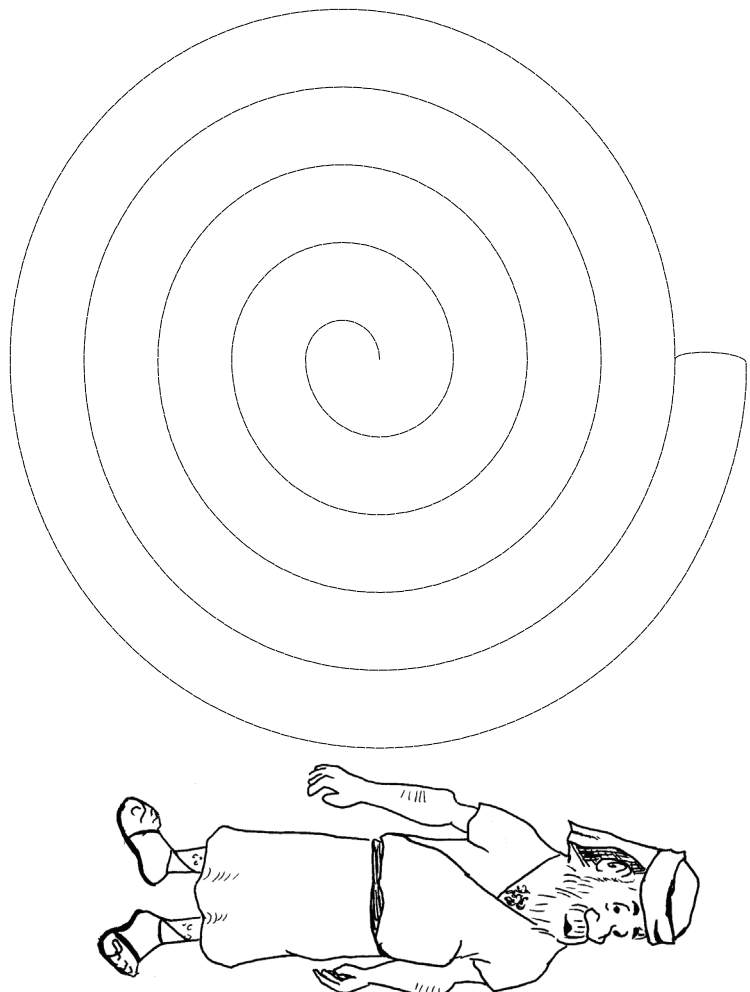
Activity B - Praise and Worship Puzzle

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Half a straw per child.
- Safety scissors.
- Stapler.

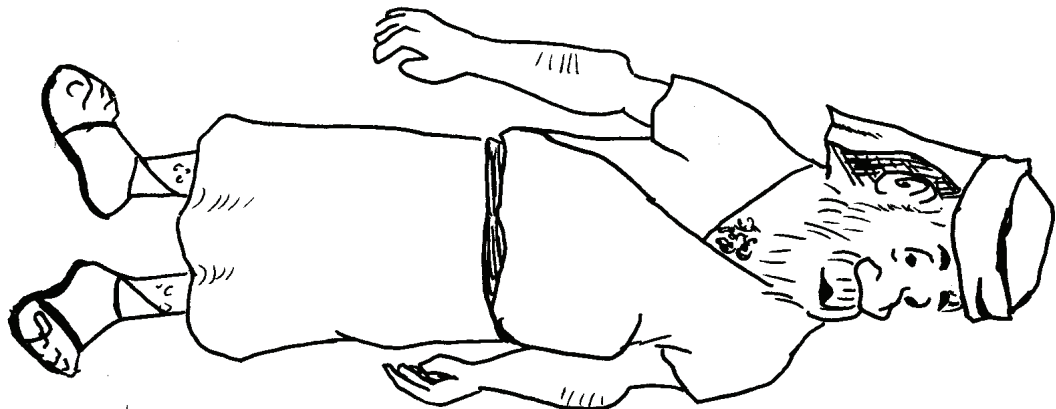
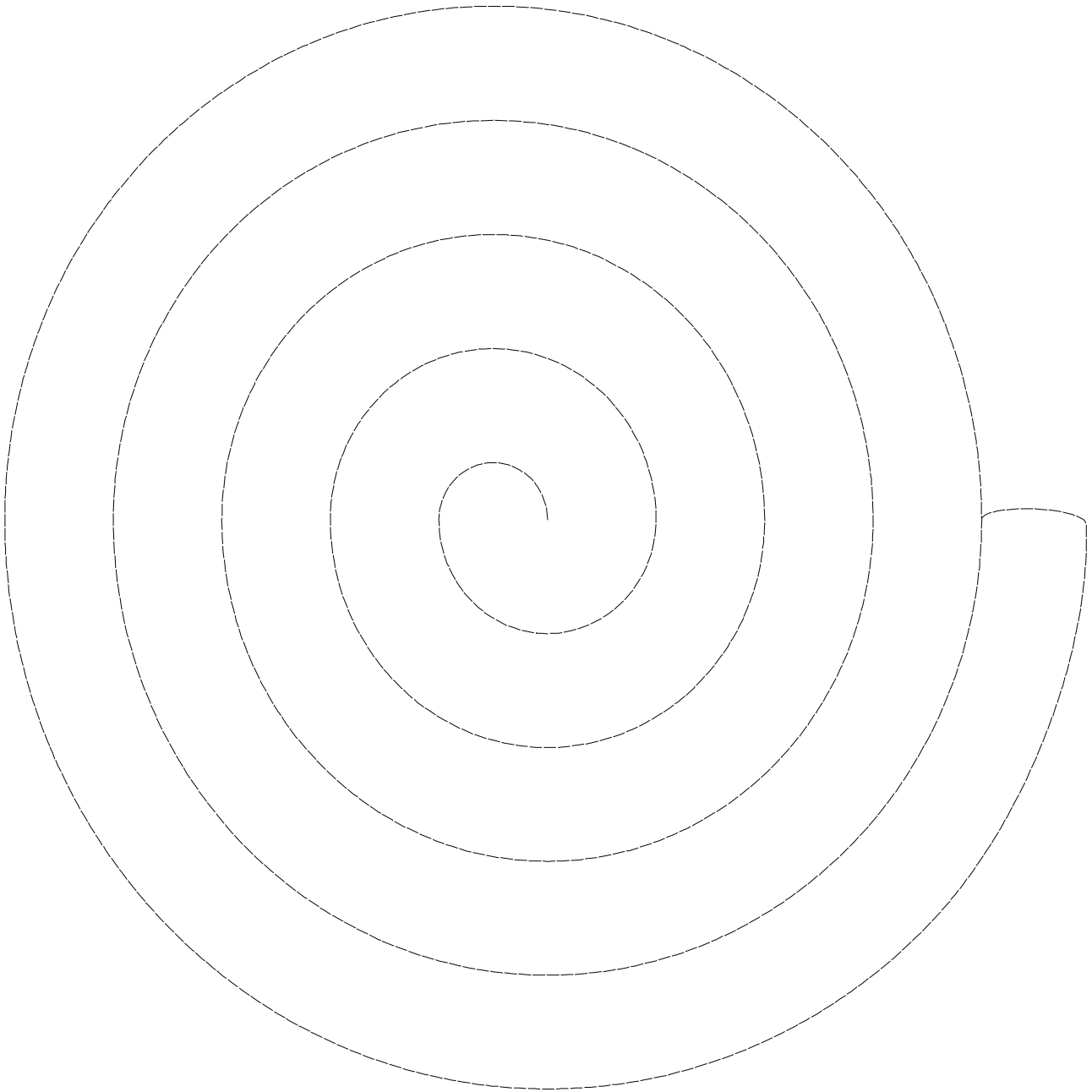
Steps

- Children cut out whirlwind by following the continuous line right into the centre. This will produce a long, curly strip of paper.
- Cut out the picture of Elijah and staple it to the centre of the whirlwind. Fold the picture at the top of the feet, to make Elijah stand up.
- Staple the straw to the outside end of the strip.
- Hold the straw, move it up and down and Elijah bounces around in the whirlwind.



Elisha and the double portion

Activity B – Elijah in the Whirlwind

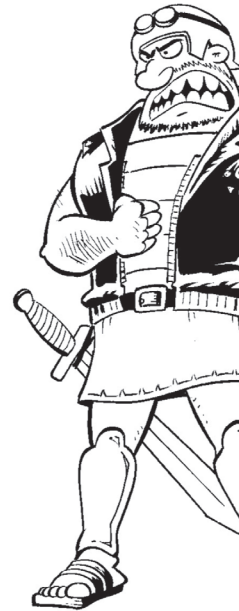




Well Done!



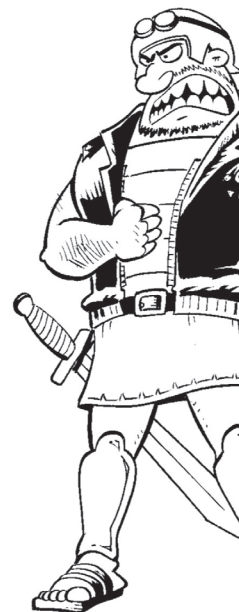
for completing
SonSeekers Unit 4
From Saul to Elisha



Well Done!



for completing
SonSeekers Unit 4
From Saul to Elisha



Sonseekers Curriculum

Unit One	Unit Two	Unit Three	Unit Four
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creation 1 Creation 2 Adam and Eve The fall Cain and Abel Noah builds an ark The flood, Noah and his sons The tower of Babel Abram called, Abram and Lot The covenant with Abraham Ishmael and Isaac Sodom and Gomorrah The sacrifice of Isaac Rebekah, Isaac's bride Jacob and Esau Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob becomes Israel Joseph, the favourite son Joseph goes to Egypt Joseph interprets the dreams Joseph's brothers Israel in Egypt Israelite slaves, Moses born Moses flees and returns to Egypt "Let My people go" The first passover, Israel delivered Crossing the Red Sea Manna, water from the rock Sinai and the ten commandments Moses and the tabernacle The golden calf Twelve spies, 40 years of wandering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron's rod Moses hits the rock The bronze serpent Balaam and his ass Joshua and Rahab Crossing the Jordan, Jericho The sin of Achan The sun stands still Gideon's fleece Gideon and his army Samson Samson and Delilah Ruth, Naomi and Boaz Hannah Samuel hears God speak Eli, Hophni and Phinehas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saul chosen Saul and the Amalekites David chosen David and Goliath David and Jonathan David and Saul David crowned David and the ark Absalom Solomon becomes king Solomon's temple Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam Elijah and the widow Elijah on Mount Carmel Good King Jehoshaphat Elisha and the double portion
Unit Five	Unit Six	Unit Seven	Unit Eight
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The widow's oil, a boy raised Naaman Famine in Samaria Jonah The captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom) Hezekiah and Sennacherib Isaiah Josiah Jeremiah The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom) Daniel interprets the king's dream The fiery furnace The writing on the wall Daniel in the lions' den Esther Restoration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John The birth of Jesus Jesus in the temple John the Baptist Jesus baptised and tempted The call of the disciples Water turned to wine The temple cleansed, Nicodemus The woman at the well Healing of the paralysed man The house built on the rock Jesus stills the storm The feeding of the 5000 The centurion's servant Forgiveness in Simon's house The sower and the seed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jairus' daughter, a woman touches Jesus Jesus walks on the water Miracles of healing The transfiguration A boy is healed The unmerciful servant A man born blind The good Samaritan Prayer The raising of Lazarus The lost sheep, coin and son Attitudes of a servant The marriage of the king's son The ten lepers The ten virgins The talents 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday The last supper and Gethsemane The crucifixion The resurrection Peter restored The risen Christ and His ascension The day of Pentecost Peter and John Peter and the Gentiles Stephen Philip Paul's conversion Paul's first missionary journey Paul's second and third missionary journeys Paul's capture and imprisonment Paul's final journey

