

Memory Verse:

And he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not. 2
Kings 18:7

Questions:

1. Who was Hezekiah's enemy?
2. Why did Hezekiah get ready for an attack?
3. What did the king of Assyria demand that Hezekiah do?
4. Why did Hezekiah take the silver and gold from the temple of the Lord?

Constrained by Kindness

Riding on a train across Tokyo, Japan, a young American man stared quietly out the window. Andy did not want to visit with any of the other passengers who were mainly older people and young mothers with their children.

At a station, the train door opened and a loud, angry man suddenly burst into the car. He was dirty and cursing horribly as he swung at a young mother and her baby. The blow sent her and the baby into the lap of an elderly couple and he took her seat. Then, with a wild grin, this terrifying man turned around to look the passengers over.

Andy was very upset at the man's bullying and decided to "punish" him. An expert at karate, Andy trusted in his skill to work that man over. So when the angry man glanced at Andy, Andy made a face.

Of course, this made the man fly into a rage. "Aha!" he roared. "A foreigner!

You need a lesson in Japanese manners!"

By now, Andy was standing and holding on to the commuter strap overhead. The big, angry man bellowed loudly as he began his charge at Andy. This is what Andy wanted. He planned to step aside and take the man off guard. Then he would give two well-aimed punches and set that angry man in order.

Just as the angry man began to run, a commanding voice shouted, "Hey!" Andy wheeled to his left and the angry man spun to his right. They stared down at a little old Japanese man. His silver hair and kindly wrinkled face reflected a perfect picture of peace.

"What'cha been doin'?" he asked the angry man with a twinkle of interest in his eye.

"It's none of your business," spit the angry man.

"Oh," said the old gentleman with a smile on his face, "No doubt you have a wonderful wife who cares about you."

"No," replied the man as he faced the gentleman. "My wife died. I don't have a wife, I don't have a home, and I don't have a job." Then the man unclenched his fists and wiped a tear from his eye. "I'm so ashamed of myself."

"My, my," clucked the old gentleman softly, "these are difficult problems indeed. Please sit down here and tell me about them."

Andy watched in amazement as the old gentleman quieted the angry man with a few kind words and a listening ear. Andy felt ashamed of himself. He remembered the scripture, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Proverbs 15:1

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

January 1, 2017. V67, Q1, W1

Hezekiah's Enemy

Lesson text: 2 Kings 18:9-16

The king of Assyria was an enemy of Hezekiah and his people. The Assyrians captured Samaria and carried the Israelites away into Assyria when Hezekiah had been Judah's king for only eight years.

Before Hezekiah ever became king, the Assyrians gained power over Judah. After that, the people paid heavy taxes to the king of Assyria. When Hezekiah became king, he taught the people to trust in God instead of worshiping idols. He did not want his people paying taxes to a king who served idols.

Hezekiah knew the king of Assyria would bring an army to try to force him to pay. To get ready for the attack, he built up the walls around Jerusalem and made them very strong. Then he gathered an army and prepared to fight.

Even when Hezekiah had his men trained for battle, they were only a handful compared to the Assyrian army. The enemy marched into the land of Judah and took one city after another. The army of Judah was no match for the multitude who fought for Assyria's king. Closer and closer they marched toward Jerusalem.

Hezekiah saw that his army could not keep the Assyrians away. Quickly he sent a message to their king, saying, "I have done wrong. Take your army away and I will pay whatever you ask."

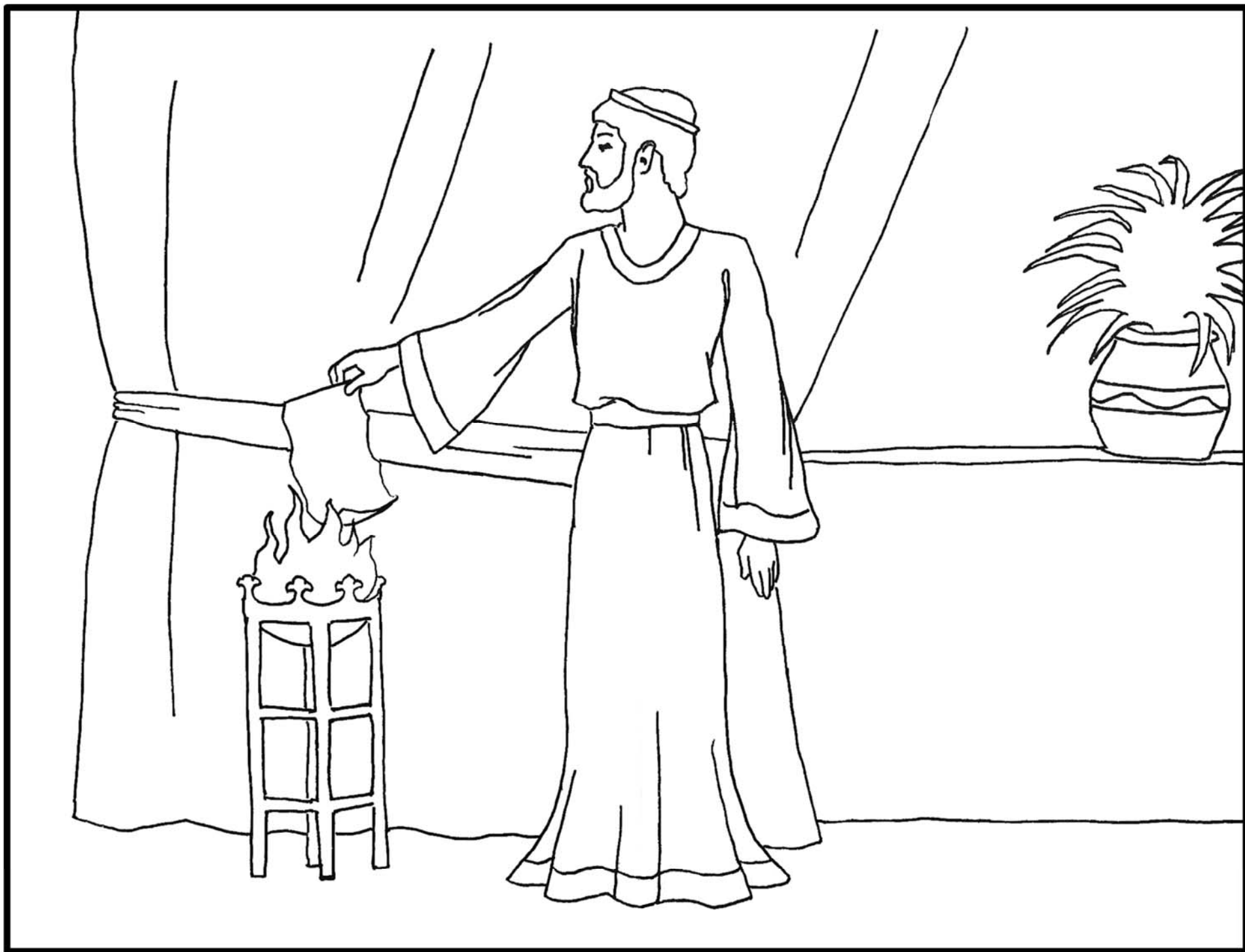
When the king of Assyria got the message, he decided to do as Hezekiah asked. He would not destroy Judah by war. Instead, he would ruin the little country by taking away all of their riches. He demanded Hezekiah to pay him three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.

Hezekiah did not know how he could gather so much silver and gold. First, he took all he had in the palace. Added to this was all that he could get from the people. Still there was not enough. Finally, he even had to take silver and gold from the temple of the Lord.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 1. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles. 2

Chronicles 32:8

Questions:

1. Was the king of Assyria satisfied with what Hezekiah sent?
2. Why did Hezekiah want to encourage the people?
3. Why didn't the king of Assyria come at once to fight?
4. Why did the servants ask the messengers to speak in the Syrian language?

Worth Understanding

"Puppies for sale," said the sign in front of the store door. Passing by, a little boy read it and went inside to see about the puppies.

"How much are you going to sell the puppies for?" he asked the store owner.

"Anywhere between \$30 and \$50," replied the store owner.

The little boy brought out some change from his pocket. "I have \$2.37," he said. "Can I please look at them?"

Smiling, the store owner agreed and whistled for Lady, the momma, to come out of her kennel. Behind her trailed five, fluffy, baby puppies.

The little boy watched them with sparkling eyes. Then he noticed one of the puppies lagged behind with a limp in

his walk.

"What is wrong with that puppy?" asked the little boy as he reached down to pet the puppies around his feet.

"Oh, that poor little puppy doesn't have a hip socket," explained the store owner. "The veterinarian says it will always limp if it makes it at all."

"That is the very puppy I want to buy!" exclaimed the little boy.

"If you really want him," said the store owner, "then I will just give him to you. You don't need to pay money for him."

"No, sir," replied the little boy. "I will buy him. He is worth just as much as all the other puppies. I will pay you \$2.37 now and give you some money every month until I have paid the full price for him."

The kind store owner shook his head. "That's okay, son. Keep your money but you can have the puppy if you really want him. Do you realize he will never be able to run and jump and play with you like the other puppies?"

With an understanding look in his eyes, the little boy smiled up at the store owner. Then he reached down and rolled up his left pant leg to show his own badly crippled left leg supported by a big, metal brace.

In a quiet but determined voice he replied to the store owner, "Well, I don't run so well myself, and the little puppy will need someone who understands."

That day a happy little boy walked out of the store with a loved puppy wiggling in his arms.

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

January 8, 2017. V67, Q1, W2

Hezekiah's Encourages the People

Lesson text: 2 Kings 18:17-27; 2 Chronicles 32:1-10

Hezekiah sent all the silver and gold he could gather to the king of Assyria. But the king was still not satisfied. Hezekiah knew that his enemy was determined to destroy Jerusalem. He must prepare for battle! He and the people did all they could to make the city strong against the enemy.

Then Hezekiah gathered the people together. He knew they must soon face their cruel enemy and he wanted to encourage them. "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid of the king of Assyria and his multitude of soldiers," he told them. "The Lord our God is with us to help us and to fight our battles!" The people loved and trusted Hezekiah. They were comforted by his words.

After the king of Assyria demanded silver and gold from Hezekiah, he pulled his army away from Jerusalem as he had agreed. He would give Hezekiah time to gather the money.

The king was soon engaged in a battle against another city. When he learned Hezekiah could not meet his demands, he decided he would not leave this battle to attack Jerusalem. Instead he sent messengers to Hezekiah.

When the messengers got close to Jerusalem, they called for Hezekiah. Hezekiah did not go out. Instead he sent three of his servants to hear what they had to say. One of the messengers said, "Tell Hezekiah the king of Assyria says, 'On whom do you trust, that you rebel against me? If you are trusting in the king of Egypt, he cannot help you. And if you say to me, 'We trust in the Lord our God,' He will not save you from my hand. Your army is so small it could not turn away even one of my master's captains!'"

Hezekiah's servants did not want the people to understand the words of the messengers. They asked the Syrian messengers to speak in the Syrian language instead of the language of the Jews. But they answered, "Our master has sent us to speak to the men of this city."

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 2. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Be not afraid of the words which
thou has heard. 2 Kings 19:6

Questions:

1. Whose language did Rabshekah speak in?
2. Who heard his awful threats and blasphemy?
3. Where did Hezekiah go when he heard the bad news?
4. Who said the king of Assyria would go back home?

Reaching Out

Dwight was an average first-grade student. His sloppy, oversized clothes and tousled, untrimmed hair gave him the appearance of neglect, though he was not a troublemaker.

On the playground, Dwight usually played alone or he would stand by the school building and watch the other children play. His teacher, Mrs. Appleton, noticed his shyness. She would take Dwight by the hand and with encouraging words lead him into a game some of the children were playing.

With happy, glowing eyes, Dwight would join in if the children accepted him. However, some of the children were not kind to Dwight, perhaps because of his clothing and tacky appearance. They would not include him in the game. Sometimes they would act like he wasn't even there.

Mrs. Appleton noticed. She would call Dwight to come and stand by her and keep her company. They would chat away, and in time, they became good friends.

One day, Mrs. Appleton gave each of her students a piece of drawing paper. "I would like for you to draw a picture of something you're thankful for," she said to her first-grade class. "You may draw a picture of your house if you are thankful for your house. Draw some clothes if you are thankful for what you have to wear. You may want to draw a picture of your favorite food. Then you could draw a picture of your mother and father, brother or sister if you are thankful for your family. When you are finished, I will put your pictures here on the bulletin board."

As Mrs. Appleton took up the pictures, she noticed Dwight's picture right away. It was simply a hand outline.

"Dwight, could you explain your picture to me?" she kindly asked.

"Yes, Mrs. Appleton," he replied with a cheery grin. "That is a picture of your hand."

A warm feeling swept over Mrs. Appleton as she gave Dwight's shoulders a hug. Then she remembered the ties on the playground when she would take Dwight by the hand and lead him into the games. Sometimes she would hold his hand when they visited. Her hand had helped Dwight just like God's hand helps His children.

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

January 15, 2017. V67, Q1, W3

God Helps Judah

Lesson text: 2 Kings 18:27—19:9

Rabshakeh, a messenger from the king of Assyria, stood where he was easily seen and heard by many men of Israel. "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!" he shouted in the Jew's language, even after Hezekiah's servants had begged him not to speak in the Jewish tongue.

"Do not let Hezekiah deceive you," Rabshekah continued. "He shall not be able to deliver you from the king of Assyria. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be taken by the king of Assyria.'"

"Do not listen to Hezekiah. Make an agreement with the king of Assyria. Give up the city and come out of it to be his servants. Then you can stay in your own homes until he comes to take you away to a land much like your own. Then you will live and not die in the battle.

"Have any of the gods of other nations delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of all the nations we have conquered? Then how can the Lord deliver Jerusalem out of our hand?"

The people heard the awful threats and blasphemy against God. But they held their peace and answered him not a word. For Hezekiah had commanded, "Answer him not."

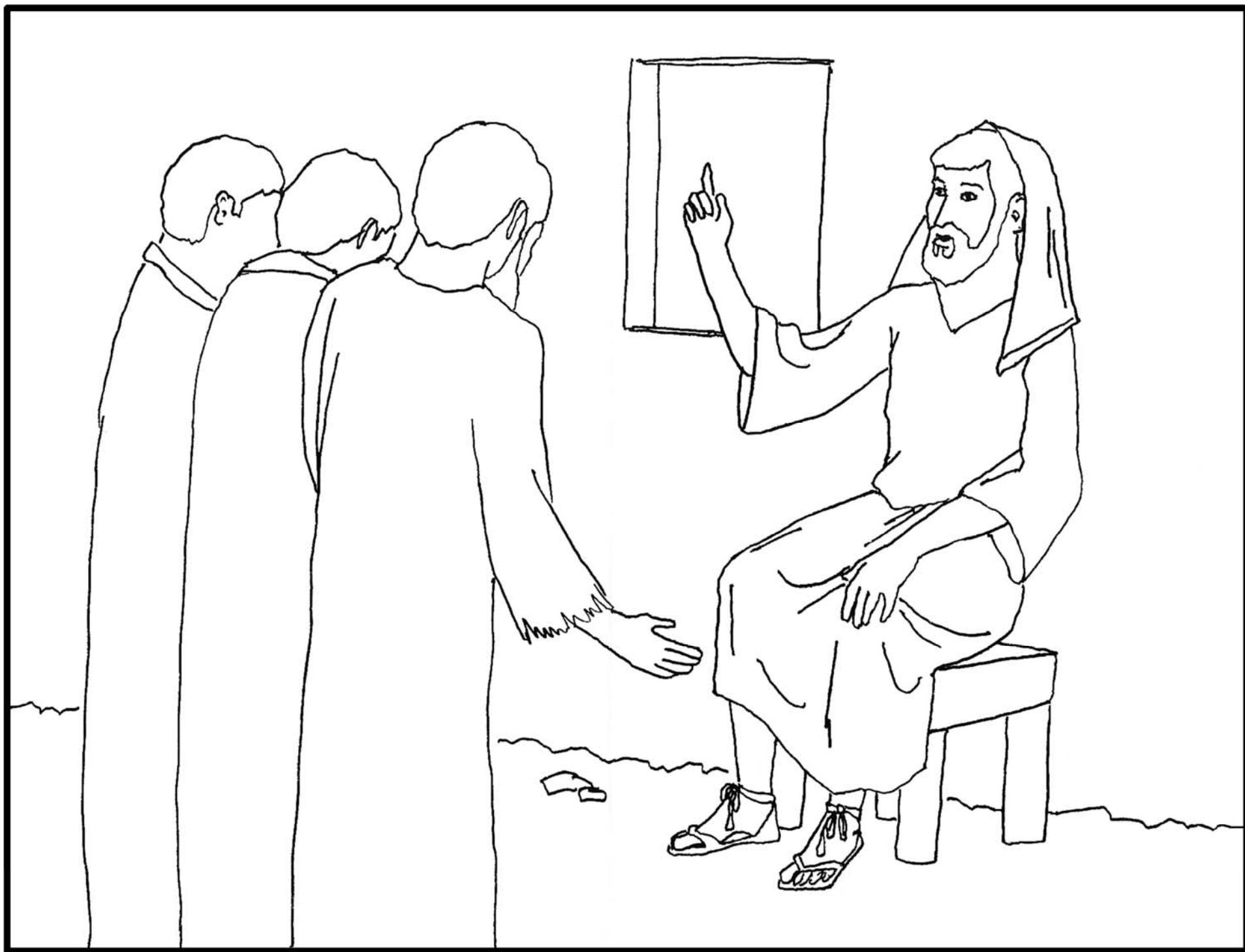
The servants went back to the palace with their clothes torn to show how troubled they were. When they told Hezekiah the words of Rabshakeh, he tore his own clothes and covered himself with sackcloth. Then he went into the house of the Lord.

Hezekiah knew Isaiah, God's prophet, could help. He sent his servants to beg him to pray that God would save His people. Isaiah listened to their message, then he sent them back saying, "Tell your master, The Lord says not to be afraid of the words you have heard. He will send a blast upon the king of Assyria. He will hear bad news from his own land that will cause him to go back to his homeland."

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 3. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

For I will defend this city to save it
for mine own sake. Isaiah 37:35

Questions:

1. Who knew his army could not drive the enemy away?
2. What did Hezekiah do with the letter from the king of Assyria?
3. Who went through the camp of the Assyrians?
4. Who won the battle?

A Whistling Train

(A True Story)

Officer Lance Land is an ordinary policeman who is concerned about the welfare of others. One night on his evening patrol, he saw a black sports car stalled on a railroad crossing.

When his cruiser drove up behind the stalled car, a young mother jumped out of the car and asked him for help.

"David is still buckled in his car seat," she said of her three-year-old son. "I need to get him out."

All of a sudden, warning bells clanged and the crossing bar swung down, landing on top of the stopped car.

"Oh, dear God, there's a train coming—help us!" prayed Officer Land as he sprang into motion. He could not push the car with his police cruiser because the back wheels were locked on the stalled car. He knew he had to push the

car from the front. "Give me strength, Lord!" he prayed under his breath.

The mother was in the car struggling to unfasten David's seatbelt. "Mommy, that train is going to smash us," David said quietly. Everything was happening so fast he did not realize the amount of danger they were in.

Officer Land was at the front of the car when the train gave another warning blast. With a sudden burst of strength, he lifted the front of the car and pushed with all his might. It moved three feet back but was still on the railroad tracks.

The mother was still in the car, unable to free her little boy. Officer Land knew he could not leave the car but he had to push it farther out of the train's way. He saw the bright lights of the train were only 30 feet away and coming fast.

With another boost of energy, Officer Land picked up the car and pushed it another nine feet. Right when he set it down, he felt something brush the back of his shirt. It was the train. Just then, the mother freed David and Officer Land took the boy in his arms. "You're my policeman," said David.

"Just thank the Lord," Officer Land told him and his mother. "He gave me strength beyond my normal ability."

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

January 22, 2017. V67, Q1, W4

God Wins the Battle!

Lesson text: 2 Kings 19:8-37; 2 Chronicles 32:17-22; Isaiah 37:8-37

The messengers returned and found the king of Assyria fighting against Libnah. Soon word came to the king saying that Ethiopia's king had come to make war against Assyria. The king hurried home to defend his own country. But he had not forgotten Hezekiah. He sent more messengers to him. This time, they carried a letter from the Assyrian king.

"Do not let thy God, in whom you trust, deceive you by saying, 'Jerusalem shall not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria,'" he wrote to Hezekiah. "You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands by destroying them completely. How will you be delivered? Have the gods of other nations delivered them?"

Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. He knew his little army could not drive the enemy away. He must have God's help! So Hezekiah took the letter to the temple and spread it out before the Lord. Then he prayed, "O Lord, you alone are God. You made heaven and earth. Hear all the words that the king of Assyria sent to reproach You.

It is true, the kings of Assyria have destroyed other nations and have thrown their gods in the fire. But they were not gods, only the work of men's hands. Now, O Lord our God, save us that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord, and You alone."

Then Isaiah sent a message to Hezekiah, saying, "The Lord says, 'I have heard your prayer against the king of Assyria. He shall not come into the city, nor shoot an arrow there. For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake."

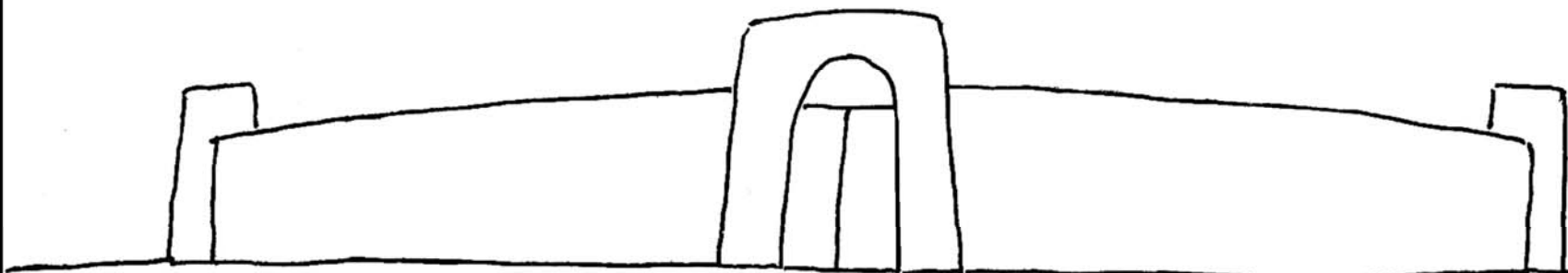
That very night, the angel of the Lord went through the camp of the Assyrians. He smote 185,000 people. Among the dead were all the leaders of the army. The Assyrians hurried back to their own land in great fear. They never returned to fight Hezekiah. God won the battle!

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 4. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.

Notice to Children: Draw an angel above the city.



Memory Verse:

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. 2 Kings 20:1

Questions:

1. Who came to visit the sick king?
2. What did God do as a sign to Hezekiah?
3. How much longer did he live?
4. What kind of king was Hezekiah?

Victory in the Heart

Vickie lived in the thick, deep forest of eastern Canada. She was the oldest of several younger brothers and sisters and because of this, she helped her mother in the kitchen and tended to the baby. The family had to work very hard to have enough food on the table and so it was that Vickie often missed days of school.

Her teacher, a kind Christian woman, noticed Vickie seemed tired and short of patience most of the time. She knew it was the heavy workload that caused Vicki to be this way, and she prayed for her.

One day, the teacher said to Vickie, "We are having a revival at our church this week. Would you like to attend a night service with me?"

Vickie's eyes lit up with hope. She had never attended church before. "Could you write a note to my parents to ask them?" she asked her teacher.

So her teacher wrote her a note and

Vickie eagerly took it home. Finally, her parents said yes, but she had to be home by 9:30 pm.

Thirty minutes before the church service started, the teacher drove down the dusty, gravel road to Vickie's house. Vickie was already waiting. Out to the car she ran and off to church they went.

At the chapel, Vickie watched everything that was done with wide eyes and she listened carefully to the message. The minister spoke about the blood of Jesus that washes away sins in the heart. He explained how this is salvation from sin and that a saved Christian no longer wants to do bad things, but good.

On the way home, the teacher asked Vickie if she had any questions. "Yes," she replied quietly. "Will you ask my mother and father to come also? My family needs to know about Jesus."

"Why, by all means, yes," replied the teacher. "I will write a note for you to give to your parents right now."

When Vickie's mother read the note, she thought it would be good to go. However, her father was very cold. "Our family doesn't need to waste time at church," he said. After some pleading, he agreed that Vickie could attend Sunday morning service with her teacher only if she did her work well throughout the week.

In time, Vickie asked Jesus to wash away her sins with His blood and she became a Christian. Daily, she prayed for her family's salvation. (To be continued)

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

January 29, 2017. V67, Q1, W5

Hezekiah's Life is Lengthened

Lesson text: 2 Kings 20

Rabshakeh, a messenger from the king of Assyria, stood where he was easily seen and heard by many men of Israel. "Hear the word of the great king, the king of Assyria!" he shouted in the Jew's language, even after Hezekiah's servants had begged him not to speak in the Jewish tongue.

"Do not let Hezekiah deceive you," Rabshekah continued. "He shall not be able to deliver you from the king of Assyria. Neither let Hezekiah make you trust in the Lord, saying, 'The Lord will surely deliver us, and this city shall not be taken by the king of Assyria.'"

"Do not listen to Hezekiah. Make an agreement with the king of Assyria. Give up the city and come out of it to be his servants. Then you can stay in your own homes until he comes to take you away to a land much like your own. Then you will live and not die in the battle.

"Have any of the gods of other nations delivered their land out of the hand of the king of Assyria? Where are the gods of all the nations we have conquered? Then how can the Lord deliver Jerusalem out of our hand?"

The people heard the awful threats and blasphemy against God. But they held their peace and answered him not a word. For Hezekiah had commanded, "Answer him not."

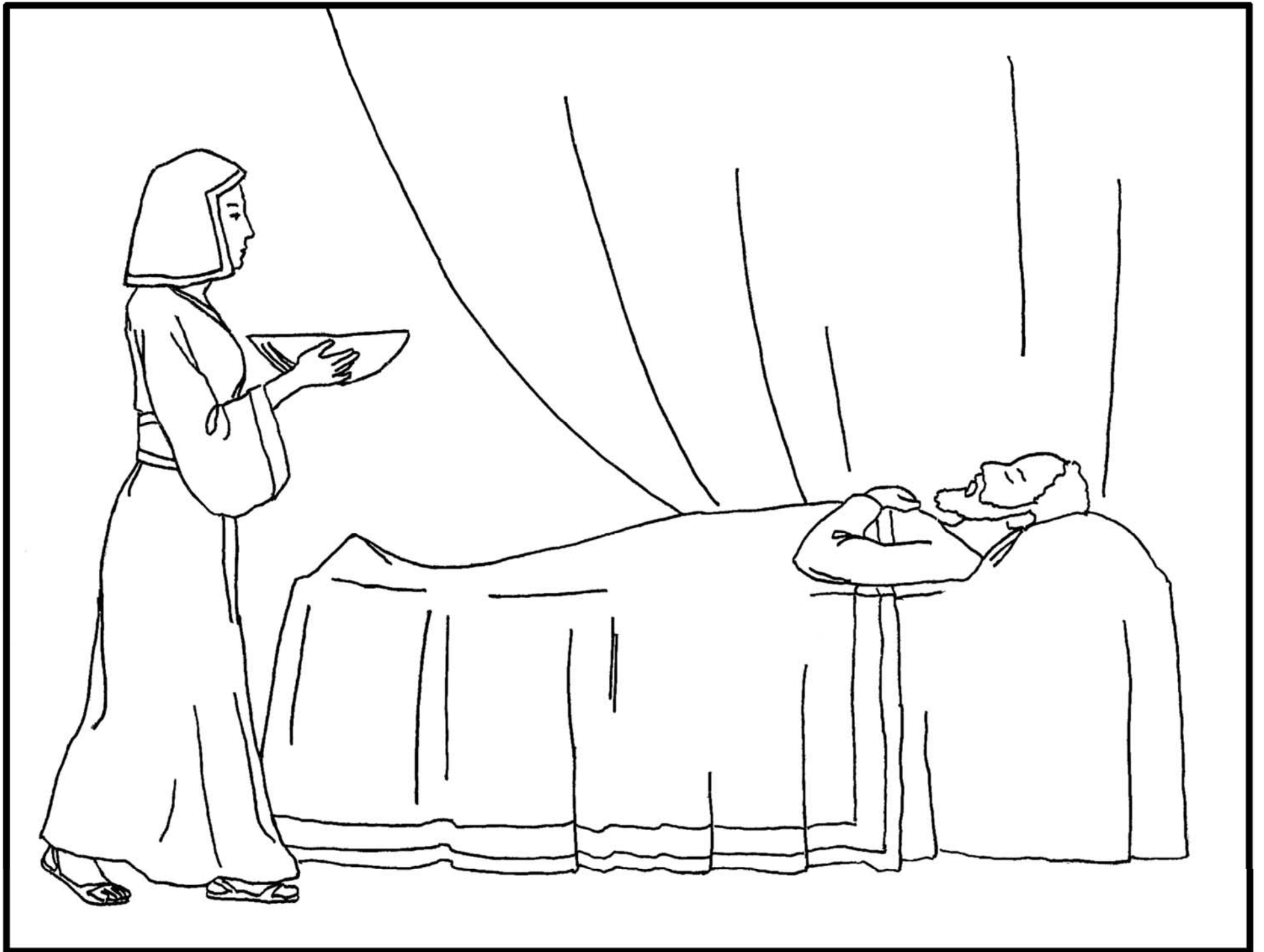
The servants went back to the palace with their clothes torn to show how troubled they were. When they told Hezekiah the words of Rabshakeh, he tore his own clothes and covered himself with sackcloth. Then he went into the house of the Lord.

Hezekiah knew Isaiah, God's prophet, could help. He sent his servants to beg him to pray that God would save His people. Isaiah listened to their message, then he sent them back saying, "Tell your master, The Lord says not to be afraid of the words you have heard. He will send a blast upon the king of Assyria. He will hear bad news from his own land that will cause him to go back to his homeland."

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 5. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

I have found the book of the law in
the house of the Lord.
2 Chronicles 34:15

Questions:

1. How long did Josiah reign over Judah?
2. Where was the book of the law found?
3. Who was Huldah?
4. Why didn't God punish the people during Josiah's lifetime?

The Peacemaking Fudge

(Continued from last week)

Vickie, a young Canadian girl, learned about Jesus through her school teacher. During an altar service, she asked Jesus to wash away her sins by His blood and now she was saved. Daily, she prayed for her family who didn't know about salvation. Her father didn't want her to even talk about Jesus in his presence. At school, Vickie and her teacher prayed together that the Lord would deal with his heart.

"You are very quiet today," said the teacher to Vickie during lunchtime one day. "Is something wrong?"

"Well," sighed Vickie, "I still become angry and I don't like it when I do. Last night when Dad got mad and cursed at me, I became angry and hollered at him. Oh, Teacher, I can never lead my family to Jesus if I can't live the Christian life before them."

"You need to be sanctified," replied her

teacher. "When you got saved, your old sins were washed away and your heart was made whiter than snow. Now you need to let the Holy Spirit of Jesus live in your heart and keep it clean. We can pray right now if you would like."

So in the back closet of the school, Vickie asked the Holy Spirit to come into her heart and fill her with His love. She felt so much lighter and happier after prayer!

"Now let me give you some guidelines to follow," said her teacher. "When your father gets angry at you, don't answer him but sing a good song to yourself. Then do something very nice for him. Return his evil with good and this will let him see Jesus in you."

That night, as Vickie cleared the dirty supper dishes from the table, she accidentally stepped on her father's bad toe. Right away, he hollered at her and began to curse. This time Vickie had grace not to reply but she began to sing a song to herself.

"Make your father some fudge," whispered the Holy Spirit of Jesus.

"What a good idea!" she said under her breath. Jesus even knew that her father was very fond of fudge. She sang while she made fudge and her father dozed in his easy chair. When she heard him waking up, she took the fudge to him.

"What? Is this for me?" he asked in amazement. Then he looked at his daughter and said, "I'm sorry, honey, for the way I talked to you. Will you forgive me?"

"Yes, Dad, I do," replied Vickie. Making the fudge had softened her father. "Thank you, dear Jesus, for helping me," she prayed.

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

February 5, 2017. V67, Q1, W6

Josiah and the Forgotten Book

Lesson text: 2 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 34:1-28

Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. He reigned over Judah for 31 years. While Josiah was still young, he began to seek after God. He destroyed the places of idol worship and broke the idols in pieces. When he rid the land of idol worship, he returned to Jerusalem. There, he gave orders that the temple of the Lord be cleaned and repaired. After Hezekiah's death, the temple had been neglected.

Josiah hired many skillful workmen to make the temple beautiful again. While the repair work was going on, the high priest, Hilkiah, cleaned the rooms of the temple. There, hidden away beneath some rubbish, he found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses. This book was to be read to the people, but the wicked kings had served idols instead of God. The book of the law had been forgotten.

Carefully, Hilkiah carried the precious book to Shaphan, the scribe. "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord!" he told him.

Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan who then took it to Josiah. "Hilkiah the priest has given me this book," Shaphan told the king. Then he began reading the book to Josiah. When the king heard the words of the book of the law, he tore his clothes and wept bitterly. His people had disobeyed God's law. Surely God would punish them just as the book said He would! What would happen to him and his people?

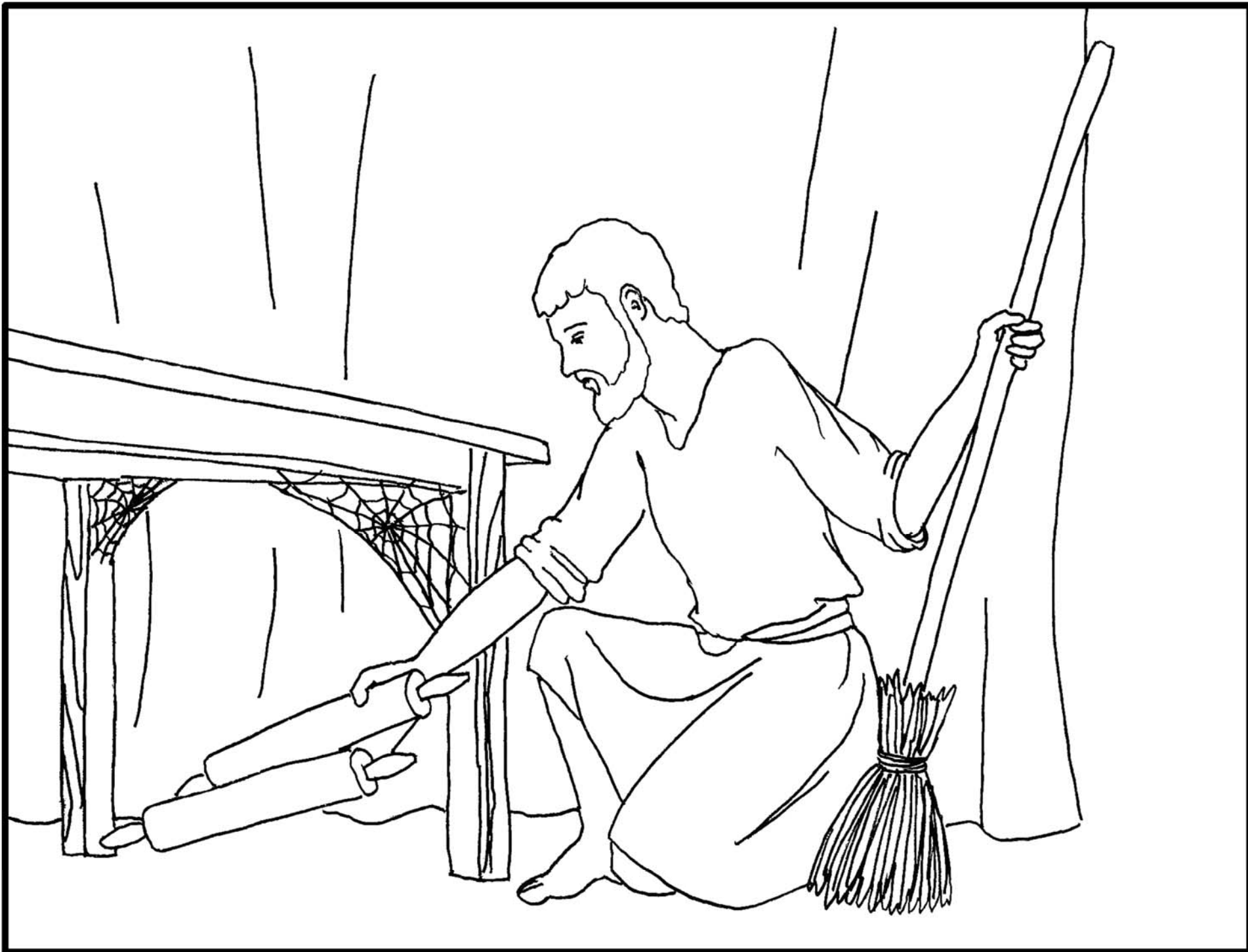
Josiah told the priest to ask God about the words of the book. So Hilkiah went to Huldah, the prophetess, to ask her about God's plan to punish the people for their sins.

"God will send great punishment to those who forsake His law," the prophetess told him. "But because Josiah has humbled his heart, God will not punish the people during his lifetime."

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 6. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

And he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 34:30

Questions:

1. Why did Josiah call all the people to Jerusalem?
2. What did the king give for the Passover supper?
3. Who was marching through the land of Judah?
4. What happened to Josiah during the battle?

The Money in the Envelope

(Continued from last week)

In her family, Vickie was the only one who was a Christian. On Sunday morning, she attended church with her school teacher. Daily, Vickie prayed for her family that they would want to attend church and get saved. Her father was especially bitter. By the grace of God, she desired to win him to the Lord.

"Vickie, come here!" called her father one morning as the children were preparing for school. "I need you to give this envelope to Jim Hunter for his father. In it is the money for the axe that I bought from him. His son will be expecting this money, so don't forget it."

"Yes, sir," said Vickie. She tucked the envelope in a pocket of her skirt. It was nice to be trusted with money. She remembered it all the way to school. As she sat on the school bus, she felt the

edge of the envelope with her fingertips. After she climbed off the bus and walked into the school hallway, Vickie again checked her pocket and felt the envelope. She did not know how much money was in the envelope, but she was determined to give it to Jim Hunter as soon as possible.

Vickie was in her seat when the first bell rang. As the teacher called roll, she glanced around to see if Jim Hunter was there. Yes, he was sitting at the back of the classroom talking in a loud whisper with a friend. Vickie would give him the money as soon as class was over.

Finally, class was over. Vickie went straight to Jim. "Hello, Jim," she said. "My dad asked me to give you this envelope. Please give it to your father." "Yeah, thanks," said Jim. "He told me that you would give me an envelope. I'll see that he gets it."

Now Vickie was relieved. She had done her part and she didn't worry about the axe money anymore—not until two days later.

"Vickie, come here," called her father. "Did I not give you an envelope with money in it to give to Jim Hunter? Why did Jim never get the money?"

"I-I gave him the money," stammered Vickie. "Right after the first class. I hope he didn't lose it."

"No, Jim told his father that you never gave him the envelope. Now you say you did. I don't know who to believe." Vickie looked at her father's frowning face. Would he believe that she was honest?

(To be continued)

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

February 12, 2017. V67, Q1, W7

Josiah Reads to the People

Lesson text: 2 Kings 23:1-30; 2 Chronicles 34:22—35:24

Josiah did not want to forget the words of God's law. He also wanted his people to hear God's word. So Josiah sent messengers throughout all the land to call the people to Jerusalem.

When the people came, Josiah read the words of the book of the law that was found in the house of the Lord. That day, the king promised to keep the law and to serve the Lord with all his heart. He commanded the people to make the same promise, and they did.

Later, when Josiah had been king for 18 years, he commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this law." So the people came from every part of the land and prepared for the Passover feast. The king gave many lambs from his own flocks for the Passover supper. The people rejoiced together and kept the feast for seven days. There had not been such a great Passover since the days of the prophet Samuel.

One day, Josiah learned that the king of Egypt was marching through the land of Judah. He had not come to fight Josiah. He was on his way to fight the Assyrians. But Josiah did not want this army going through his country, so he prepared to attack them.

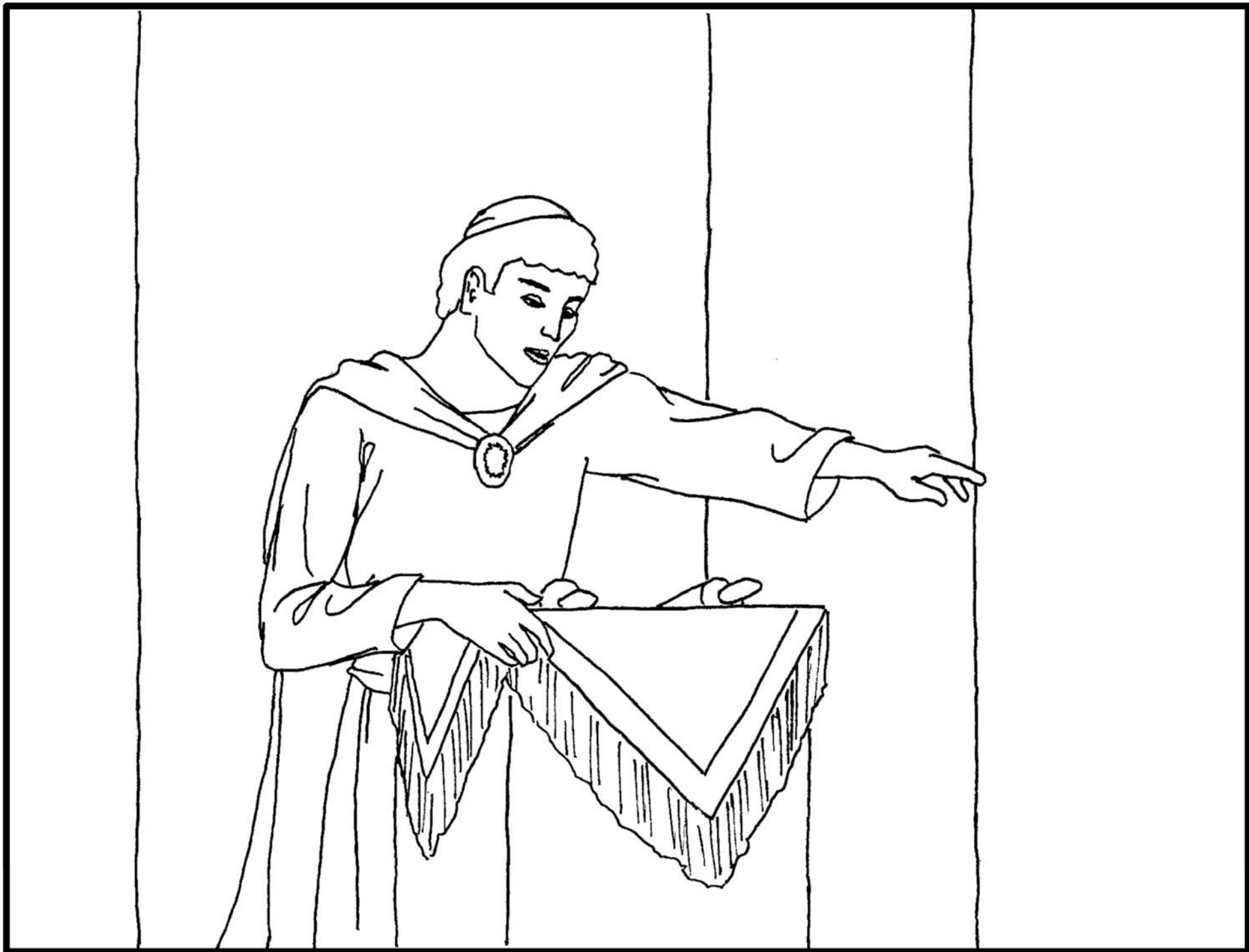
The king of Egypt did not want to fight with Josiah. He sent word for Josiah to go back home, but Josiah would not go. Instead, he dressed like an ordinary soldier and went out to battle. During the fight he was wounded by an arrow. Josiah knew he was hurt badly. He told his servants to take him away from the battle. Carefully, they helped him into a chariot and took him back to Jerusalem.

Josiah never recovered from his injury. He died and was buried among the honorable kings of Judah. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 7. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

I have put my words in thy mouth.
Jeremiah 1:9

Questions:

1. What were the men who taught God's law called?
2. What took away Jeremiah's fears?
3. Who often mistreated God's prophets?
4. Who warned the people that trouble would come?

The Missing Money

(Continued from last week)

Vickie's father was asking her about the envelope with the axe money. He gave it to her to give to Jim Hunter at school. Jim was supposed to give it to his dad, but he claimed he never received it. Vickie knew that she had given the envelope to Jim right after class, but now it was just her word against his. How could she prove that she was faithful in her part?

"I don't know what to do," sighed Vickie's father. "I should have known better than to trust such a delivery service with children. Check all your skirt pockets and coat pockets. Make sure you do not have that envelope and forgot to give it to Jim. I can't afford to pay for the axe again."

Vickie obeyed and checked every pocket on every skirt, but she knew she would not find it. She had given that envelope with the money to Jim. Vickie went to school with a heavy heart.

"Why are you so sad?" asked her teacher at lunch break.

With a tearful voice, Vickie explained about the missing envelope and how she was accused of not giving it to Jim.

"Does your father think you were dishonest?" asked her teacher.

"My dad asked if I forgot to give it to Jim, but he didn't ask if I took it. Oh, I hope the Hunters will find the money and admit they have misplaced it."

"Let's pray about this," replied her teacher. "The Lord knows where the money is and He can allow it to be found."

So Vickie and her teacher prayed earnestly about the money matter. They also prayed for Vickie's father and her family that they would come to church and want to be saved.

"Thank you," said Vickie, giving a little hug to her teacher. "Prayer always makes things better."

This season of prayer gave Vickie the grace she needed for that night. Her father was in a really grouchy mood. His speech was peppered with curse words that made Vickie sad.

"I told Tom Hunter that I'm not about to pay him again for that axe," boasted her father. "We got into an argument about which kid lost the money and I said I'd bet money on my girl that she gave the envelope to Jim. Vickie, I'm counting on you to be honest because you are a Christian and go to church now."

While her father talked, Vickie prayed.

(To be continued)

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

February 19, 2017. V67, Q1, W8

Jeremiah Answer's God's Call

Lesson text: Jeremiah 1-6

Men who taught God's law were called prophets. God chose these men to teach the people His commandments. God told them what to say, and commanded them to speak to the people.

Most of the messages God gave were warnings. They often warned the people to stop disobeying God and encouraged them to do God's will. Sometimes God would tell the prophet what would happen in the future.

While Jeremiah was still a young man, God called him to be a prophet. This call frightened Jeremiah. He told the Lord, "I cannot speak. I am still a child!"

God did not accept Jeremiah's excuse. "You will go to all that I shall send you, and whatever I command you, you will speak it," God told him. "You must not be afraid of the people because I am with you." Then the Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth and said, "I have put My words in your mouth."

Knowing God was with him and would give him the words to speak took away Jeremiah's fear. He would obey God. Jeremiah knew that wicked men often mistreated God's prophets. They did not want to be reminded of their awful sins. But God had promised to deliver him if he would trust God and not be afraid of men.

While Josiah was king, Jeremiah was treated kindly. After Josiah died, the people began worshipping idols again. They did not care for the true God and refused to obey Him. Jeremiah went through the land reminding people of their sins and of the punishment that would come. The people kept sinning. They paid no attention to Jeremiah's warning.

Trouble soon came to the land of Judah, just as Jeremiah had warned. The king of Egypt captured their new king and demanded heavy taxes from the people every year.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 8. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place. Jeremiah 19:3

Questions:

1. Did the people change their wicked ways after Jeremiah's warnings?
2. What did Jeremiah put on his shoulders?
3. What did Jeremiah dash to pieces on the ground?
4. What would happen if they did not listen to the prophets?

Double-Crossed

(Continued from last week)

Vickie gave Jim Hunter money in an envelope to pay for an axe her father had bought from Jim's father. Two days later, Mr. Hunter called and asked Vickie's father about the money. Now, each father argued that his child did not lose the money. Vickie's father believed in her honesty because she lived a Christian life before him. However, Mr. Hunter insisted that he had not yet been paid. Vickie and her teacher prayed about this and her father became very angry at Jim's father.

"I'll give that dirty hound his axe back before I give him another red cent!" bellowed her father at the supper table. "I think he or his son has the money, but they are lying."

"I'm sorry about this, Dad," said Vickie. "My teacher and I have been praying

that they will find the money. I know I gave it to Jim at school."

"You can pray about it if you want," retorted her father. "I'm going to do something about it."

Vickie's mother was worried. "Please don't do anything rash," she pleaded. "Just be quiet about it and maybe Mr. Hunter will admit he has the money."

"He better admit it pretty soon! I'm not going to have anybody call me a liar and a thief. I paid him fair and square for that axe and he wants me to pay him again! I'll not do it." On and on Vickie's father fussed, all evening long.

A few days passed, then weeks. Soon it was three months since the money was missing. Both men were not speaking to each other since the fight. Every day Vickie prayed that peace would be made.

One morning at school, Vickie's teacher had some interesting news. "Vickie, the same thing that happened to you happened to Gary and his dad," she told Vickie at lunch. "Gary's dad bought a chainsaw from Mr. Hunter. He paid half the money and sent the other half to school with Gary to give to Jim for his dad. Now Mr. Hunter says he never received the payment, but Gary knows he gave Jim the money."

"That is the same thing that happened to me!" Vickie exclaimed. "I will tell my father about this! Now he will know for sure that Mr. Hunter is dishonest. Let's pray for the Lord's help."

(To be continued)

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

February 26, 2017. V67, Q1, W9

Jeremiah Warns the People

Lesson text: Jeremiah 7-35

God told Jeremiah, "Go stand in the gate of the Lord's house. Tell My words to the people as they enter the gates to worship."

Jeremiah did as God commanded. He took his place by the gate of the temple and called out to the people as they came to worship. Jeremiah had to shout to be heard above the noise of the crowd. "The Lord God of Israel says, 'Change your ways or this land will not always be your home,'" he cried. "'Coming to the temple will not help you unless you live righteous lives. You must be fair to one another. You must not make life hard for strangers, or orphans, or widows. You must not worship other gods.'"

They heard Jeremiah's warning, but they did not change their wicked ways. Jeremiah tried again to warn the people. This time he took a heavy wooden yoke and put it on his shoulders. This was a strange sight! The people stopped to look. Then Jeremiah called out, "Unless you listen to God's warning and turn to Him, you will someday wear the yoke of your enemies!"

Another time, Jeremiah took the priests and those who would follow him to a place beside the Pottery Gate. There, Jeremiah dashed a piece of pottery to the ground and broke it into tiny pieces. He told them the country would also be broken unless they repented.

The people did not like to be reminded of their sins. Even the men in Jeremiah's hometown turned against him and wanted to kill him. But Jeremiah was not afraid. He went on preaching. He even went to the king and told him, "The Lord says you must be just and fair. Unless you do what is right, your kingdom will be destroyed."

It seemed Jeremiah's warnings did no good, but God sent him to the temple again. This time he said, "The Lord says this temple will be destroyed and the city burned if you will not listen to His prophets and keep His laws!"

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 9. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Take thee a roll of a book and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee... Jeremiah 36:2

Questions:

1. Who told Jeremiah to write a book?
2. What did God hope the people would do when they heard the words?
3. Who did Jeremiah call to help him?
4. What did King Jehoiakim do with the book?

Released

(Continued from last week)

"Mother, I need to talk to you," said Vickie when she came home from school.

"Then let's go to my bedroom," said her mother. Once they had shut the door, Vickie told her mother about Gary's father, who bought a chainsaw from Mr. Hunter. He paid half when he got it and then sent the other half of the money to school with Gary to give to Mr. Hunter's son, Jim. Now Mr. Hunter claims that Gary never gave the money to Jim and he is demanding the other half of the money.

"You see, Mother," finished Vickie, "Mr. Hunter is doing the same thing to Gary and his dad that he did to us. I just don't know if Dad should know. It may make him angry again."

Mother was quiet for a while. Then she said, "Maybe I should call Gary's mother and talk to her about it. Together we may be able to reach an agreement with Mr. Hunter."

That evening, Mother did call Gary's mother and soon both families could see that Mr. Hunter was trying to make extra money from them. The next day when both men faced Mr. Hunter about it, he finally backed down and told them he wouldn't ask for any more money.

"How cheap can a man be?" exclaimed Vickie's father to his family. "A man doesn't know who he can trust anymore!"

Without thinking, Vickie said, "'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.' People who don't live for Jesus are sinners."

Her father opened his mouth to say something but Vickie had already realized her blunder. "I'm sorry, Dad, but Jesus does help Christians to do good. I love you, Dad, and I hope you aren't angry at Mr. Hunter anymore."

Without a word, Vickie's father got up from his chair and left the room. All that week, Vickie and her teacher prayed for her father--and they thanked the Lord for answered prayer about the money.

Though Vickie couldn't tell, the Lord was dealing with her father's heart. Much to her amazement, Sunday morning he was up early and told the family to get ready--the were all going to church with Vickie.

"I don't want my family to be dishonest sinners," he said with a respectable glance at Vickie, who was delighted to know that the Lord was answering her prayers.

The End

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

March 5, 2017. V67, Q1, W10

Jeremiah Writes a Book

Lesson text: Jeremiah 36

Word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, "Take a roll of a book and write in it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel and Judah and all the nations. Maybe the people will repent of their sins when they hear this book read."

Jeremiah called Baruch to help him. As Jeremiah spoke God's words, Baruch wrote them down. They worked a long time. Finally the scroll was finished.

Jeremiah was not allowed to enter the temple. He told Baruch, "I cannot go into the house of the Lord. I want you to take the book and read it in the temple on a special day when there will be many people to hear. Tell them that these are the words of the Lord. When they hear this, maybe they will repent of their sins."

Baruch did as Jeremiah asked. A priest's son was much impressed when he heard the book read. He hurried to the palace to tell the princes all he could remember of what Baruch read. The princes were so excited that they sent for Baruch to come and read the book for them. They listened eagerly to every word. They became very frightened when they heard that their country would be captured because the people had forsaken God! The princes believed God's message.

The princes decided the king must also hear the book. They feared he might be angry because Jeremiah wrote about the sins of the nation. They told Baruch, "Go and hide. Take Jeremiah with you. Do not let anyone know where you are!"

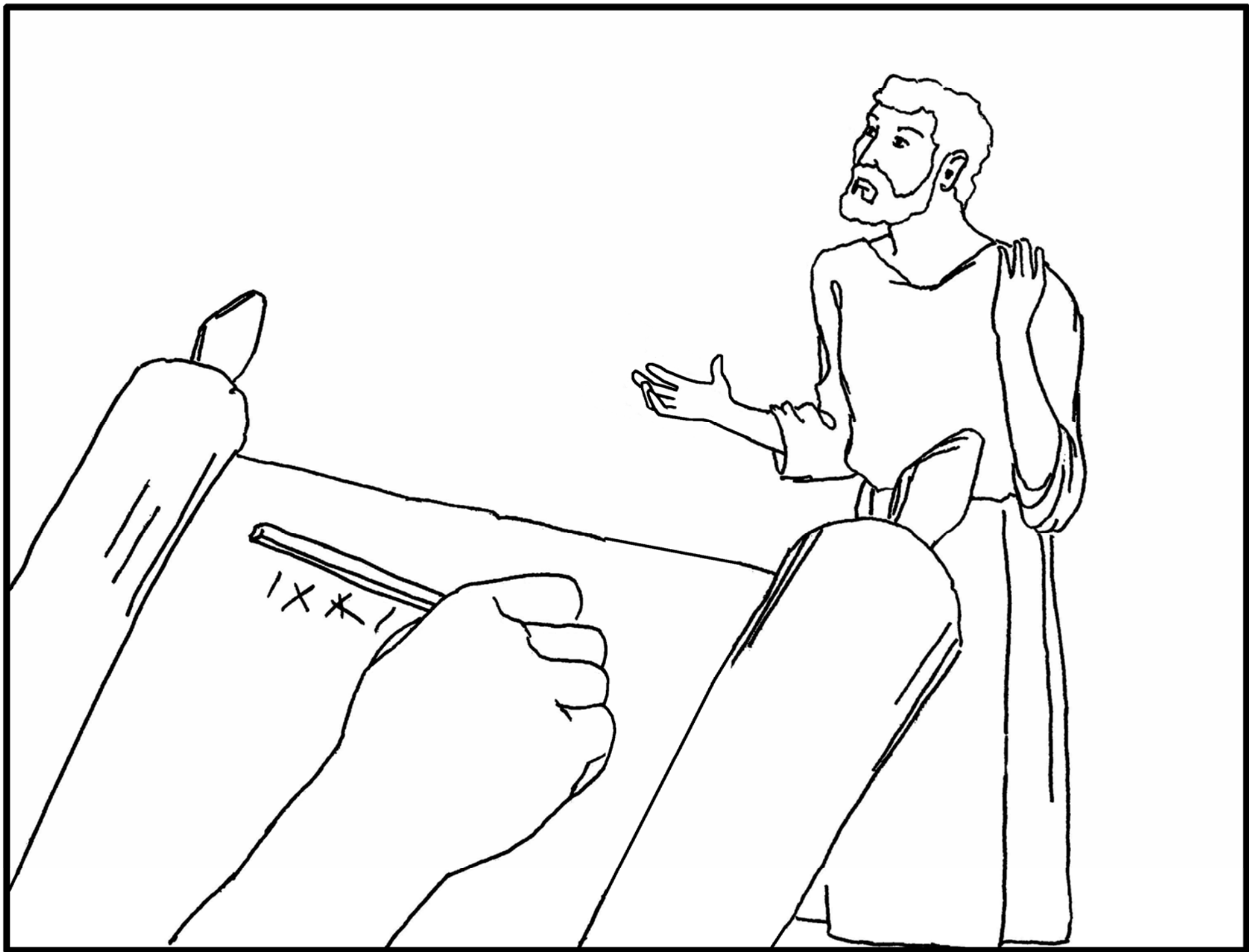
The princes brought the book to King Jehoiakim as he sat before his blazing fireplace. King Jehoiakim commanded them to read the book aloud. He listened as three or four leaves were read. Then he took his knife and cut the book in shreds and threw it into the fire.

When Jeremiah learned what happened, he told Baruch to take another roll and write in it all the words that were in the first book. The second book was even longer. It told how Jehoiakim would be punished. Not long afterwards, Jeremiah's words came true. Jehoiakim was put in prison and his people were carried away to Babylon.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 10. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

The princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison. Jeremiah 37:15

Questions:

1. Who secretly sent for Jeremiah?
2. Where did the king send Jeremiah?
3. Who pleaded for Jeremiah's life?
4. How did Jeremiah get out of the muddy pit?

Unjustly Imprisoned

(A True Story)

Our story today is about a man named John who lives in Nicaragua, a South American country which has been war-torn for many years. John is an educated man who has tried to help the people improve from their poor ways of life. John was raised in the German Church of God. He was taught to respect life and assist those in need, which is not the normal way in Nicaragua.

A party of restless people began to rebel against the government. They called themselves Sandinistas. The leaders of this rebellion sold cocaine and marijuana to the people of the Bluefields where John lived. John knew these drugs were dangerous and he began to warn the young people of the traps the Sandinistas were setting for them.

Things became worse, and because of the civil war, food was not available for all the people. The stronger ones began

to push the weaker down, but John worked with others to keep things fair so that all could have a little to eat.

Because John was such a good leader, a leader from the Sandinistas came to John and asked him to join their group. They bragged on his influence and intelligence. John said no, making the Sandinistas angry. In time, they arrested John and put him in an underground prison.

Each prisoner was punished according to his crime. Since John was an educated man, they wanted to weaken his mind. So the guards were told to never let John sleep. A light was left on at all hours and John lost track of time. When he would get weary and begin to nod, a guard would shout at him or bang on his cell door. Sometimes they would take him out of his cell and make him walk up and down the long hall in front of the other cells. When John became so tired that he could hardly think, an officer would question him. The officer would yell that he was brain-washed and must change his mind.

Through these hard trials, John prayed in his heart. He did not have physical strength of his own but by the grace of God, he was able to stay true to the Lord. In time, the Sandinistas lost most of their power. John was released from prison by the demand of the U.S. government. He is now back in the Bluefields of Nicaragua, teaching about Jesus.

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

March 12, 2017. V67, Q1, W11

Jeremiah in the Dungeon

Lesson text: Jeremiah 37-38

Other kings ruled over Judah after Jehoiakim was taken captive. Even with the changes in kings, Jeremiah's troubles did not end. While Zedekiah was king, enemies again threatened Judah. Jeremiah went among his people, warning them that the enemy would take the city and burn it. The princes became so angry with him that they threw him into the dungeon.

Enemy armies came closer and closer to Jerusalem. The city was in great danger. The king was afraid and he secretly sent for Jeremiah. When Jeremiah came, he asked, "Tell me, is there any word from the Lord?"

If Jeremiah's words pleased the king, the prophet would be free again. Jeremiah knew he must tell God's message faithfully, even if he did have to stay in the dark dungeon. Bravely, he said, "You and your armies will be captured by the king of Babylon." Then Jeremiah begged the king not to send him back to the dungeon.

The king listened carefully. He decided to send Jeremiah to the home of a prison guard. There he would have better care.

This change gave Jeremiah a little more freedom. He again began to warn the people of the terrible things that were going to happen. The people became so angry that they threw Jeremiah into an old well that had deep mud in the bottom.

Jeremiah would have died, but a kind man named Ebedmelech went to the king and pleaded for the prophet. He said, "Oh, King, these men have done wrong by throwing Jeremiah into that pit. He will die there without food or water."

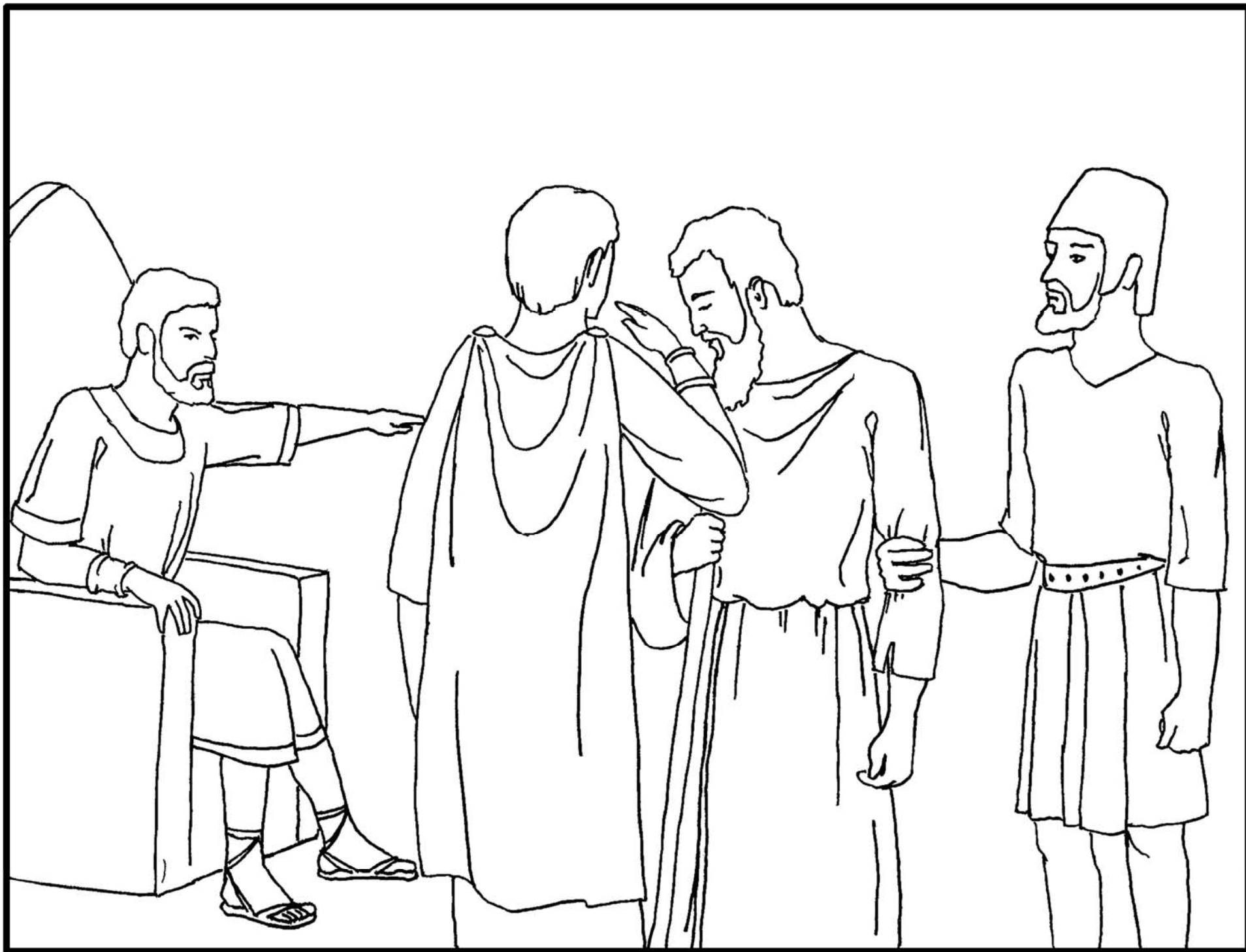
The king ordered, "Take thirty men and get Jeremiah out."

Ebedmelech got ropes that were long enough to reach Jeremiah. Then he found old clothes and rags and took them to the mouth of the pit. Ebedmelech let down the ropes and rags and told Jeremiah to put the rags under his arms so the ropes would not hurt him. When he had the ropes fastened securely, the men carefully pulled Jeremiah up out of the muddy pit.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 11. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled. Jeremiah 52:7

Questions:

1. What city did Nebuchadnezzar's army surround?
2. What did the people suffer from?
3. Who tried to slip away during the night?
4. What happened to the city after the people were captured?

The Needy Woman

She was a homeless, nameless woman who spent her days and nights on the streets in the spring, summer, fall and winter. Marie felt sorry for this poor, old soul who seemed forsaken by all. However, a friendly 'hello' was about all she could force herself to say when she would hurry by the bent, toothless old woman.

Her odor nearly sickened Marie's stomach. The old woman wore warm layers of clothes upon her unwashed body, and her greasy hair hung in gray strings all around her head.

Even though Marie wanted to help the homeless woman, she didn't know what to do or how to do it. That is why when Marie went by the old woman, she simply said 'hello' and hurried on.

One very cold night, Marie thought about the old woman and wondered if she was hungry or out in the cruel wind.

Marie thought of her so much that she made a nice plate of food from her family's bountiful dinner. Then Marie slipped outside in the cold, dark night. Her body shivered as she started her car and backed it into the street.

Marie slowed her car down as she neared the post office where the old woman usually slept. Sure enough, Marie saw her in the icy cold, huddled against the wall of the post office.

"Poor old woman," she thought. "Why didn't she go to a shelter for the night?"

Marie pulled her car up to the curb, then forced herself to get out and approach the old woman, who looked suspiciously at her. "Hello friend, would you like a plate of food? I have brought some for you," Marie said cheerfully.

The old woman's toothless mouth mumbled a few words and Marie had to listen carefully to hear.

"No, I am quite well fed," she said. "Why don't you give the food to someone who needs it?"

Marie was amazed. "Could I take you some place warmer to sleep for the night?"

"No, I am quite comfortable," she replied. "The shelters are too crowded with others tonight."

Marie felt completely defeated as she went back to her car. How could she help someone who refused to be helped? This poor soul did not realize her needs.

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

March 19, 2017. V67, Q1, W12

The End of the Kingdom

Lesson text: 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 37-38

Jeremiah did all he could to turn the people away from their wicked ways. Even the chief of priests broke the laws of God. The kings refused to follow the way of the Lord. God showed much mercy and sent many messages to warn them, but the people only mocked the words of Jeremiah. Finally, God could show no more mercy. He brought Nebuchadnezzar, the Chaldean king, against them.

Nebuchadnezzar's great army surrounded Jerusalem. Jeremiah told King Zedekiah, "This city will be given into the hands of the Chaldeans. Their army will capture the city, break down its wall, and destroy the beautiful temple of the Lord. But God will not let Nebuchadnezzar kill the people of Jerusalem if they will offer to become his servants. Then they will not need to starve to death inside the city."

Jeremiah was kept in the court of the prison and treated more kindly than before. But he was not allowed to go through the city or talk to the people.

The people of Jerusalem and their king did not want to give themselves up to Nebuchadnezzar. Month after month passed. They stayed inside the walls of Jerusalem and suffered from hunger and thirst. Jeremiah suffered with them.

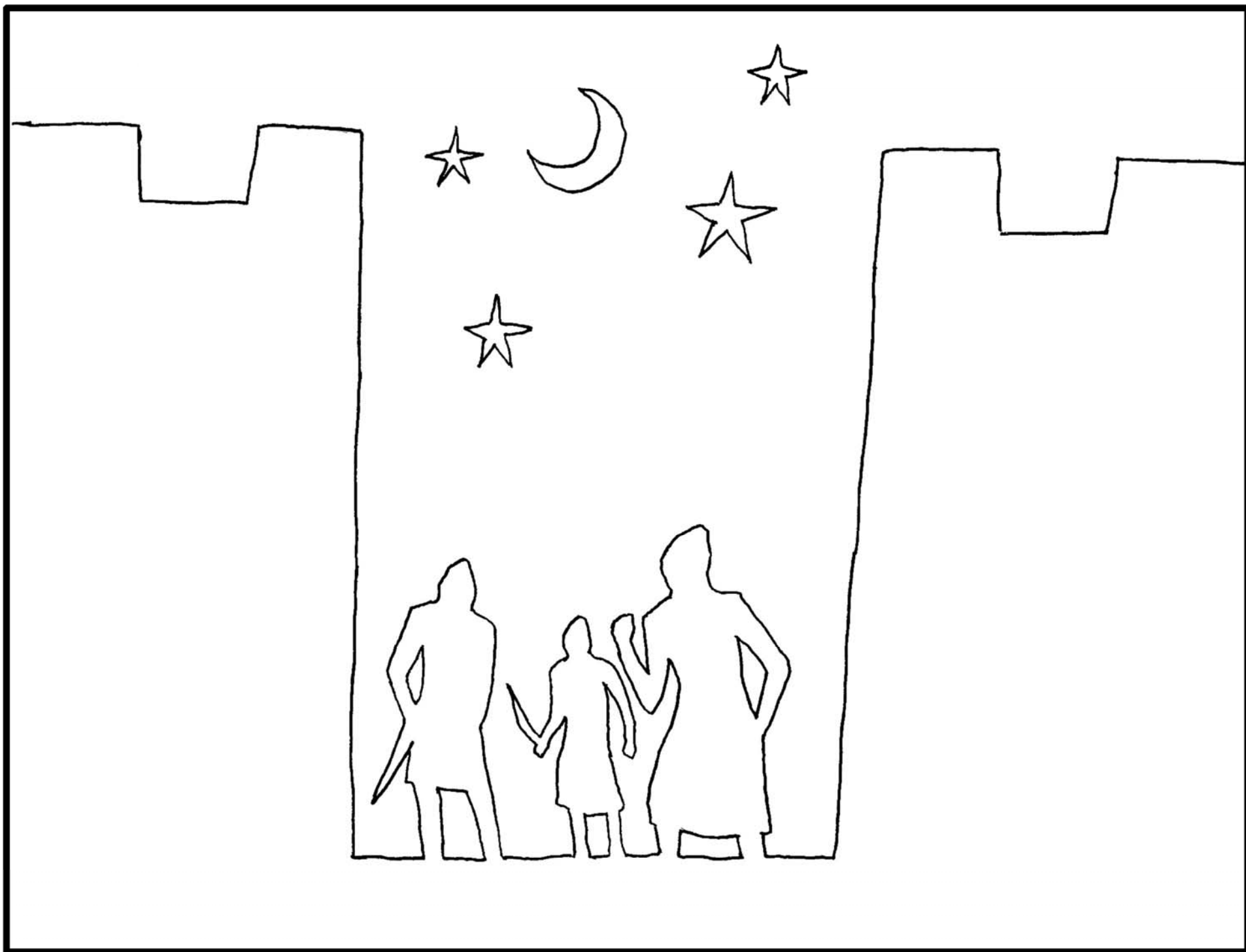
At last, when all the food was gone, the king decided to slip away from Jerusalem during the night. He thought he could get away unnoticed. But King Zedekiah had not gone far when he was captured by his enemies. They led him to Babylon. Most of the people of Judah were taken with him, and only the old, weak, and very poor were left in the land. Because Ebedmelech had rescued Jeremiah from the pit, God protected him and he was not captured.

Nebuchadnezzar and his army broke down the walls of Jerusalem. They took all the gold and silver vessels from the temple and carried them back to their own land. Then they burned

Sister Nelda Sorrell

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Volume 67, Quarter 1, Week 12. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Johanna Booher, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away from Babylon; where they were servants to him...

2 Chronicles 36:20

Questions:

1. Where did most of the people go after Jerusalem was destroyed?
2. By what name was Jeremiah known?
3. What was the name of the other man who God called to speak to the people?
4. What did God show Ezekiel?

Renaldo Satisfies His Thirst

(A True Story)

Renaldo Perez lives in Cuba, an island country not far from the Florida peninsula. When Renaldo was a young teenager, he made good grades in school, so the Cuban government gave him a better job than some of the other teenagers. He was given the job of a road engineer.

With this job, Renaldo traveled many places in Cuba and other countries. His family lived in a nice house and were granted special buying privileges. His children were treated better at school because their father had a professional job.

Though Renaldo had nicer things than most people in Cuba, he still felt empty inside. This longing for happiness brought him to a church where he heard, for the first time, that God sent

His son into the world to save lost sinners. Renaldo drank in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ like a baby drinks a bottle of milk.

His wife tried to stop him from attending the church. "Renaldo, we will lose everything—your job, your travels, our house, our position in society. Please don't go to church! It will cost us too much!"

"Oh, my wife," said Renaldo lovingly, "I know what you are saying, but when I go to church and hear the word of God read, it makes me feel full inside. There is a true happiness in reading the Bible. Please come to church with me and you will see."

Soon, she also went to church and drank in the Word of God. When they began to attend the church, the communist government began to watch Renaldo at work. First, they stopped his travel to other countries and then to other places in Cuba. His personal file of his life's history was marked in red: CHRISTIAN.

As a Christian in Cuba, Renaldo lost his job as an engineer. He had to dig ditches and drains for the roads. His family had to move from their nice home. Renaldo became the pastor of a little church he attended, so his family moved into its basement. He didn't have much money and his family's ration card was cut down. Each person in his family could only have one ounce of meat a week, one bar of soap a month, one towel a year and one pair of shoes a year.

Renaldo is not sad that he became a Christian. He is still full in his soul!

Sister Connie Sorrell



Primary Sunday School

March 26, 2017. V67, Q1, W13

Captives in a Strange Land

Lesson text: 2 Chronicles 36:20-21; Ezekiel

Nebuchadnezzar and his army destroyed Jerusalem, just as Jeremiah prophesied. Most of the people were taken to Babylon as prisoners. Even King Zedekiah was a captive. But Jeremiah was treated kindly by the Chaldeans. He was not taken prisoner. He was allowed to stay in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah felt very sorry for his people. He grieved for them so much he was sometimes called "The Weeping Prophet." God did not forget His people, either. He told Jeremiah to write a message of comfort and hope to those in captivity. God promised to bring them back to their own country if they would try to please and serve Him while they lived in Babylon.

Now the people knew the words Jeremiah spoke came from God. They wanted to return to their homes in Jerusalem, so they tried hard to please and serve God. They would often meet in small groups to talk about the homes they left behind and the beautiful temple of the Lord that had been destroyed. They cried because they were so homesick.

The Chaldeans called their captives "Jews." They treated them kindly, giving them fields and houses of their own. Some of the Jews were even taken to the capital city and trained to become rulers. But the Jews still longed for their own homes in Jerusalem. Carefully, they taught their children about the true God and never forgot the hope that Jeremiah had given them—someday they would return home.

In Babylon, God called another man to speak His messages to the people. His name was Ezekiel, one of the captives. He had been among the first to be taken prisoner. He wrote back to those left in Judah warning them that God would punish them for their disobedience.

God showed Ezekiel wonderful visions. He encouraged the people to believe that the time would come when they would return again to their own land.

Sister Nelda Sorrell

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way. Please email any questions to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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