



Primary Sunday School

October 7, 2018

V68, Q4, W1

Israel's First King

Nahesh, an Ammonite, formed an army and fought against the Israelites in Jabesh. The Ammonites were victorious in battle and wanted to take the Israelites for their slaves. The Israelites promised, "We will be your servants if you will be willing to have peace with our people."

"We will be peaceful to you only if we are allowed to take out everyone's right eye," Nahesh replied. He continued, "Then, you will be humiliated in front of all the other Israelites."

"Give us ten days before you do this," pleaded the Israelites, "and we will send you messengers to all of Israel. If no one comes to save us, we will be your slaves."

Working hard in a nearby field, Saul was watching his animals when he heard the people weeping in sorrow.. "Why are you so sad?" Saul asked them. The people told Saul what the messengers had said. The news made him feel angry.

He sent messengers to all of the Israelites to gather men. Three hundred thousand men from Israel and thirty thousand men from Judah answered his call. "Tell this to the people of Jabesh," Saul told his messengers, "Tomorrow, when the sun is hot, you will have help."

The next morning, Saul divided his men into three different armies. They came into the middle of the Ammonite camp and killed many of the Ammonites. Others ran away. The Ammonite army was so scattered that two Ammonite men could not be found anywhere together. After this victory, Samuel and the Israelites went to Gilgal. The Israelites made Saul their king. They offered sacrifices and worshipped the Lord and rejoiced because of their victory.

Sister Monica Murphey

Saul came after the herd out of the field; and said, What aileth the people? | Samuel II:5

Questions

- Who fought against Jabesh?
- Where was Saul when he heard the news?
- What did Saul do?
- What did the Israelites do to Saul after their victory?

Following Directions

Trey struggled to unscrew the lid of a small bottle of paint. Dad had left to run an errand, and Trey wished he would hurry and return. He and Dad were going to use the paint to decorate the go-cart they were building together, a little at a time on the weekends.

Trey's face turned red as he tried to turn the lid. When he failed, he grew angry and impatient. He picked up one of Dad's screwdrivers and tried to pry off the lid. The screwdriver slipped and jabbed his finger.

"Ouch!" he cried. He put the bottle down and went inside for a bandage. He met his dad coming in the front door.

"What did you do to your finger?" Dad asked. Trey told him about the lid. "Did you read the directions?" Dad asked.

"Directions? To open a bottle? I didn't see any" Trey replied and shook his head.

Dad helped Trey with his bandage then went with him to the garage. Dad picked up the paint and pointed to the writing on the side of the bottle and read, "It says to push down and then turn."

Trey followed the directions and the lid came off easily. "Guess I should have paid attention. I didn't even see those directions," he said.

"Remember when we talked last week about why we should read the Bible and memorize verses?" Dad asked thoughtfully.

Nodding, Trey said, "You said the Bible gives us directions for life, and, without those directions, we may do things that are wrong and then we're sure to get hurt. Like, I hurt my finger when I ignored the directions on the bottle of paint."

"Exactly," Dad said. "Only, you can get hurt a lot worse when you don't follow God's instructions on how to live your life."

"... Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What aileth the people...?" | Samuel 11:5





A Warning to the Israelites

Samuel watched as the Israelites rejoiced over their newly appointed King Saul. He was disappointed that the people wanted to serve a man instead of serving the Lord. For many years, the Lord had appointed judges to rule over Israel. Samuel had been a judge in Israel for a long time. He had seen the people turn from God and serve false gods. Samuel was worried that this would happen again.

"I am old and grey-headed," Samuel told the people. He continued, "While I judged Israel, did I ever take anything from you dishonestly? If I have, I will return it."

"You have never done anything wrong to us," the people answered.

Samuel said, "Let me warn you before the Lord. The Lord led your ancestors out of Egypt to this place. When the people forgot the Lord, He sold them into the hands of their enemies. Then they cried out for deliverance, and the Lord sent judges to help you. Since then, you have lived peacefully. You have cried out for a king, so the Lord has sent a king to rule over you. If you will fear the Lord and honor His commandments, then you and your king will live peacefully. If you do not obey the Lord's commands, His hand will be against you just as it was against your fathers."

"The Lord will send thunder and rain for a sign so you will remember your sin of wanting a king to worship," Samuel declared. It only rained certain times of the year in Israel. At this time of the year, it never rained. But suddenly, the skies became gray and the rain and thunder continued all day. The Israelites feared the Lord greatly.

"Pray for us, we have made God unhappy by asking for a king," they begged Samuel.

"You have nothing to fear if you serve the Lord with your whole heart," answered Samuel. "Serve Him in truth and remember the great things He has done for you. Do not continue in wickedness or you and your king will be punished."

Sister Monica Murphey

The Lord sent thunder
and rain that day...
1 Samuel 12:18

Questions

- Who had ruled over Israel for many years?
- What would happen if the Israelites honored God?
- What would happen if they disobeyed God?
- What did God send for a sign?

Tall Glass of Warm Water

"Come on in, guys," invited Michael. "My parents are gone so we can do anything we want. They won't be home until five today."

"Party!" the boys yelled, charging into the house. Ben searched through the cabinets for an assortment of snacks. As the boys sat around talking and laughing, Ben turned on the radio to a station his friends recommended. He felt a prick in his heart at the unclean lyrics but turned the volume up. Then, he propped his feet up on the coffee table.

"Michael Edward Thatcher!" Dad's voice boomed over the music.

Michael jumped up, suddenly scared. His parents weren't supposed to be home yet!

"What's going on here?" Dad asked. After turning the radio off, he said, "You know the rules, Michael. You aren't supposed to have friends over while we are gone." Dad glanced at the mess of food on the coffee table and floor and continued, "And you aren't supposed to eat more than a small snack before dinner."

Michael felt a little sick to the stomach and said, "I... I didn't think you'd be home until five."

Dad ushered his friends out the door and sent Michael up to his room without saying another word.

Later that night, Michael's parents came up to his room. His father began, "Your mother and I have decided that you will be grounded for the next two weeks for disobeying us. You will also be spending your Saturdays doing chores around the house. Michael, more than being upset that you broke the rules, we are disappointed that you weren't more responsible and respectful. What you did reminds me of the world today. People believe they have plenty of time before Jesus arrives, but in truth, we never know what moment He might choose. We must always be ready without any wrongs on our record, or our punishment will be worse than a couple weeks of grounding."





Saul Disobeys God

Saul had reigned over Israel for two years. He had two thousand men assembled into an army that was under his command at Michmash and another thousand that his son, Jonathan commanded. Jonathan and his men fought a battle against the Philistines, and they won. Saul sent messengers throughout Israel. They blew loudly on a trumpet and shouted, "Let the Hebrew hear: Saul has defeated an army of the Philistines."

This made the Philistines very angry. The Philistines gathered more of their army together. There were 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and as many people as the sand that is on the seashore. They marched toward Israel and set up camp. The men of Israel were afraid when they saw the Philistine army. Some of them ran away. Others hid in caves, thickets, rocks, high places, and pits.

Saul stayed in Gilgal with his men. King Saul's men were very afraid. Samuel had given King Saul specific instructions from the Lord. Saul was supposed to stay in Gilgal until Samuel came. Then Samuel would offer sacrifices to God.

Saul waited for Samuel and watched as his men trembled and hid in fear. Finally, he decided he couldn't wait for Samuel any longer. "Bring the sacrifice to me, and I will offer it to the Lord," Saul said. As soon as he finished burning the sacrifice, Samuel walked into his camp. King Saul went out to greet him.

"Why did you do this?" Samuel asked.

"When we heard the Philistines were coming, many of my men ran in fear," King Saul replied. "I did not want to face the Philistines in battle without making a sacrifice."

Samuel reprimanded them, saying, "You have been foolish. You did not obey the Lord's commandment. Now your kingdom will not last. The Lord will look for someone else who will obey Him and follow His commandments to be captain over His people."

Sister Monica Murphy

...As soon as he had made an end of the burnt offering, Samuel came... 1 Samuel 13:10

Questions

- Who defeated the Philistines' garrison?
- Why did King Saul stay in Gilgal?
- Who was supposed to make a sacrifice?
- What was Saul's punishment?

Five O' Clock

"Come on in, guys," invited Michael. "My parents are gone so we can do anything we want. They won't be home until five today."

"Party!" the boys yelled, charging into the house. Ben searched through the cabinets for an assortment of snacks. As the boys sat around talking and laughing, Ben turned on the radio to a station his friends recommended. He felt a prick in his heart at the unclean lyrics but turned the volume up. Then, he propped his feet up on the coffee table.

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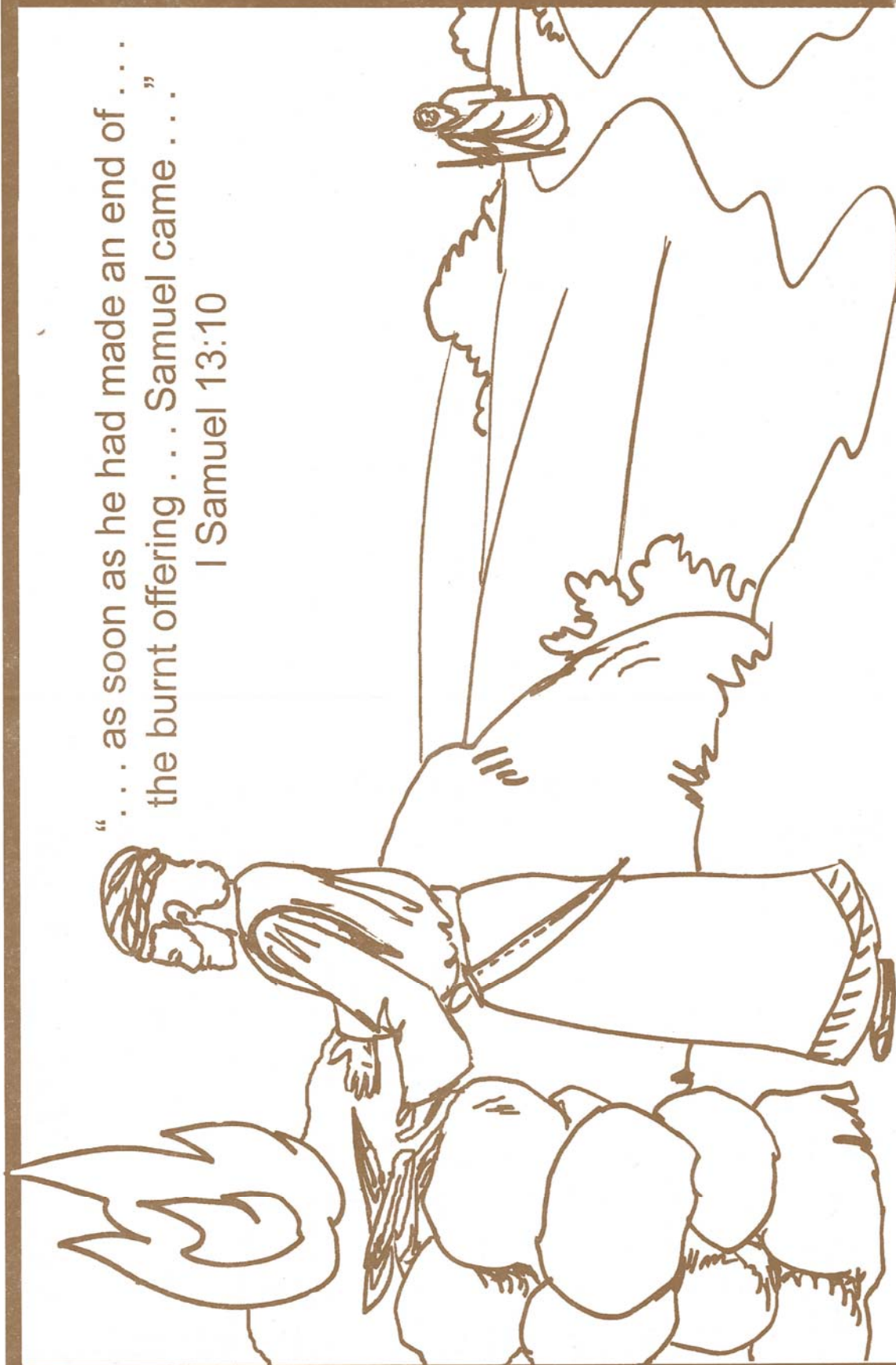
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“... as soon as he had made an end of ...
the burnt offering ... Samuel came ...”
1 Samuel 13:10





Jonathan is Victorious

"Come with me," Jonathan said to his armor bearer. "The Lord may deliver the Philistines to us," Jonathan said. "He can work through two men just as He can through many."

"Do what your heart tells you," Jonathan's armor bearer said, and "I will go with you."

Saul and a company of 600 men were resting in Gibeah underneath a pomegranate tree. Jonathan and his armor bearer left the camp without King Saul's knowledge.

"If the Philistine guards tell us to wait, then we will not go into their camp. If they say to come and visit them, then we will go in. This will be a sign that the Lord has delivered them into our hands," Jonathan said.

Jonathan and his armor bearer approached the men guarding the small army. "Come in, we have something to show you," they invited. Jonathan and his armor bearer killed all 20 of the men that were in the fort. Other Philistines were very afraid when they heard the news.

The spies King Saul sent to check on the Philistines brought back an amazing report. There was confusion in the Philistine camp. Many of the men were running in fear for no apparent reason. Saul quickly counted his men. They discovered that Jonathan and his armor bearer were missing. The Israelites ran after the Philistines. The men who had hid in fear came out to join the battle.

King Saul made a decree that no one should eat until the Philistines were defeated. Jonathan did not hear about his father's command. He found some wild honey and ate it off the honeycomb. Jonathan felt much better. Saul made sacrifices and prayed for advice from God. God did not answer.

"Someone has sinned," Saul decided. When Saul found out what Jonathan had done, he said Jonathan must die.

"Why should Jonathan die?" the people protested. "He saved Israel and worked with God today." King Saul spared Jonathan's life because of the people's words.

Sister Monica Murphey

He put forth the end of
the rod and dipped it in
an honeycomb...
I Samuel 14:27

Questions

- Where did Jonathan go, and who did he take with him?

- Did King Saul know that

Jonathan had gone?

- What did Jonathan accomplish?

- What happened when Saul decreed no one should eat?

The Shepherd's Voice

"Oh, look!" exclaimed Julie as Mom parked the car at Uncle Lewis's farm, "Uncle Lewis has sheep now! Let's pet them."

Julie and her brother, Josh, climbed out of the car and raced toward the sheep pen. "I'm first," yelled Josh. But the sheep darted to the furthest corner of the pasture. "We scared them," Josh said in disappointment. "This time, let's walk, not run."

"Help me pull up some grass," suggested Julie, "because that will bring the sheep to us." Josh agreed, and they each pulled an armful of grass and slowly carried it toward the sheep. All at once, the flock spun around and dashed away. Julie dropped her grass. "I give up," she said.

As Josh threw his grass on the ground, Julie saw Uncle Lewis coming to meet them. They ran to give him a hug. "Uncle Lewis, why do you have those baby bottles?" asked Julie.

"Two of my lambs need these," replied to Uncle Lewis. "I feed them because their mother died."

"I wish I could feed a lamb," said Julie, "but your sheep don't like us. They run away."

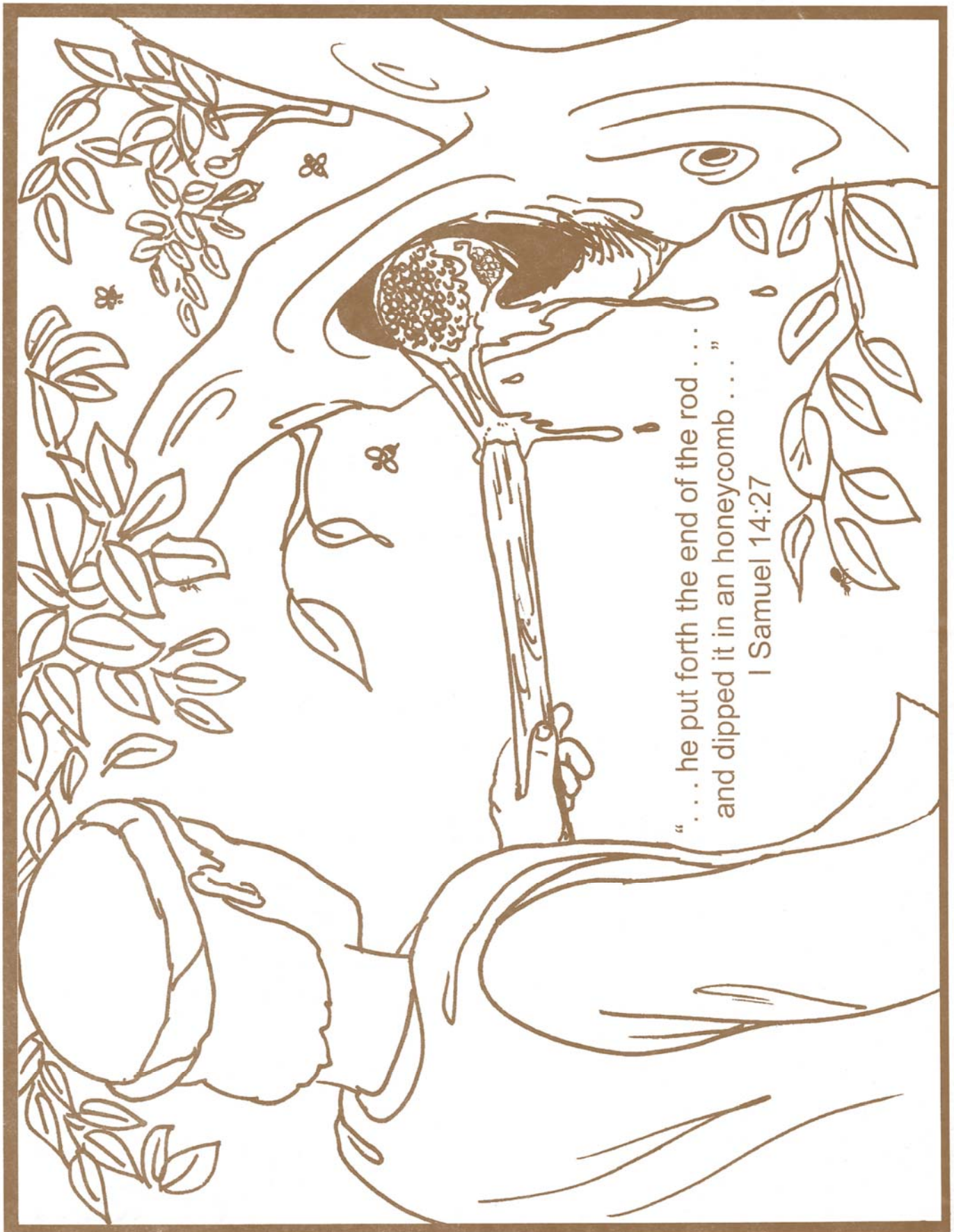
Uncle Lewis smiled. "Watch," he said as he led the children to a small pen beside the barn. "Here, Duffy. Here, Oreo," he called as he opened the pen. Two lambs scampered out and followed Uncle Lewis across the lawn. "They play follow the leader," said Josh.

Uncle Lewis nodded and handed the bottles to the kids. "You can hold the bottles for them," he said.

Julie giggled as she fed one of the lambs. "This one dances while he eats," she said.

"Mine's praying," said Josh. The one in front of him was on its front knees. "But why wouldn't your sheep eat the grass we pulled?" Josh asked.

"They didn't hear my voice, so they ran," explained Uncle Lewis. "Sheep follow their shepherd and run away from other people," he said, smiling at Josh. "We should be like them—we should run away when Satan calls us to follow him. We should love Jesus and do what He says."



“... he put forth the end of the rod . . .
and dipped it in an honeycomb . . .”

| Samuel 14:27



God is Unhappy with Saul

Long before the time of King Saul, Moses was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt to Canaan when Amalek came up from Egypt and attacked them. When Moses held up his hands during the battle, the Israelites beat the Amalekites, but when his hands fell to his sides, the Amalekites won. After this battle, Moses built an altar to God. Moses said, "The Lord has promised that He will have war with Amalek from generation to generation."

Later, during the reign of King Saul, the Lord spoke to Samuel. He remembered what Amalek had done to the Israelites. God commanded Saul to destroy Amalek and everything in his kingdom. Saul and his army fought the Amalekites and won. Saul spared Agag, the king, but all the other Amalekites were killed in battle. The Israelites also took the best animals and all that was good back to Israel.

The Lord was not pleased, for He had told King Saul to spare no person or animal. God told Samuel, "I am sorry I made Saul to be king. He has turned his back from Me and refuses to obey."

When Samuel met with the king, Saul praised Samuel saying, "You are the Lord's blessed. I have done everything God has told me to do."

"Then why do I hear the bleating of sheep?" Samuel asked.

"The people have brought them from the Amalekites," Saul replied.

"The Lord told you to destroy everything from the Amalekites," Samuel rebuked.

"And I have obeyed what the Lord commanded. I have destroyed the Amalekites and brought back the king. The people brought back the oxen and sheep to sacrifice to God," Saul said in defense.

Samuel was saddened by Saul's disobedience. He said, "To obey God's word is better than to sacrifice, and to listen to God's voice is better than the best meats. Because you have disobeyed the Lord, He has rejected you as king."

But God spared Agag,
and all that was good...
1 Samuel 15:9

Questions

- Who won the battle between Saul's army and the

Amalekites?

- Did Saul obey God and destroy everything?
- What did Samuel tell Saul?
- Was Saul still allowed to worship God?

"I have sinned," Saul grieved, continuing, "I have disobeyed God's commandments. Forgive me, please, and come with me so that I may worship the Lord."

Samuel could see that Saul meant his words, so Saul was again able to worship the Lord.

Sister Monica Murphey

Following Instructions

The pieces of Jason's model car kit lay scattered on the table in front of him. A frown creased his forehead as he looked at the part he had already put together. He was concentrating so hard on his model that he didn't hear his mom come into the room until she spoke.

"I thought you were coming up here to study your Sunday school lesson," she said.

"I tried, Mom, but it's a confusing one, and my brain is tired. Besides, I want to get this car put together. I'm having trouble getting this part right, though. It's not fitting together the way it should," Jason responded.

"Maybe I can help you," Mom offered. She began reading the instructions out loud, one step at a time.

At step number six, Jason stopped her, "Wait, I see what's wrong! This piece is upside down. It isn't so hard when you read the directions."

Mom responded, "That's the key to living as a Christian, too. The Bible is like the directions. God gave us a set of instructions just like the ones listed for your model car."

"Really?" Jason asked, surprised.

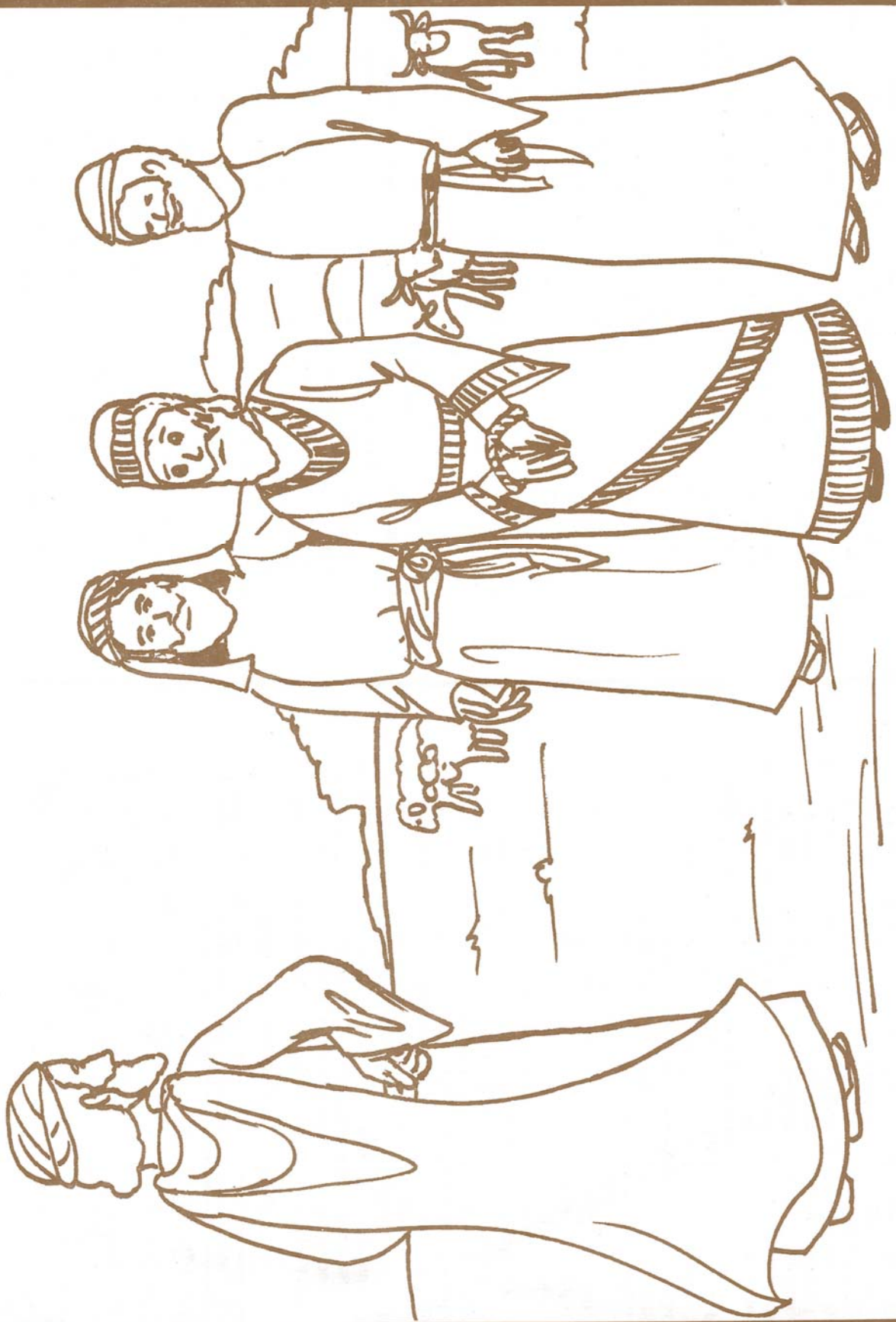
Mom nodded and smiled at him. "Yes! We call it the Ten Commandments. But, those are only part of God's instructions. We need to study all of His word. You saw what happens when you mess up just one part of the instructions."

"Yeah, but that's an awful lot to learn," Jason said.

"True. I guess we never stop learning. And, one good way to study is to finish your Sunday school lesson every week," Mom winked at him.

"I knew you would say that," Jason said, laughing. "I'll do it right now."

"But Saul . . . spared Agag, and . . . all that was good . . ." | Samuel 15:9





A New King is Anointed

The Lord spoke to Samuel, saying, "How long will you sorrow over King Saul? Since he has disobeyed me, Saul will no longer be king over Israel. Take your oil. Go to the house of Jesse in Bethlehem. One of his sons will be the next king." Samuel was afraid Saul would find out and kill him for anointing someone else, but Samuel obeyed God.

Samuel met with Jesse's sons in Bethlehem. They were so strong and handsome. Samuel looked at Jesse's son, Eliab. Surely, he was the one. God said, "Do not pay attention to what they look like on the outside. Man sees what they look like on the outside. I see what they look like in the heart."

Seven of Jesse's sons came before Samuel. "No, none of these are the ones. Are all of your children here?" Samuel asked.

"There is still the youngest. He is watching the sheep," Jesse told Samuel.

"Go and get him," Samuel replied. "I will not sit down until he comes."

Jesse's youngest son was brought in. He was also very handsome. The Lord told Samuel, "Go and anoint him, for he is the one to be king."

Samuel took his oil and anointed David. God's spirit stayed with David from then on. But, God's spirit had departed from King Saul to whom the Lord sent an evil spirit to trouble.

"Find a man who can play the harp," Saul's servants advised. "Maybe it will help you be calm when this evil spirit comes to you."

"One of Jesse's sons in Bethlehem is a very talented musician," another servant advised. "The Lord is with him."

Saul sent messengers to Jesse, saying, "Send David to me." King Saul came to love David, and the young shepherd boy became his armor bearer. Whenever the evil spirit came upon him, David would play his harp and the king would be soothed.

Sister Monica Murphey

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7

Questions

- What did God tell Samuel to do?
- Where was

Jesse's youngest son?

- Who did the Lord choose to be the next king?
- Why did King Saul want David to come to him?

God is Calling !

As Brother James talked about his "call" to the mission field, Axel wondered what it would be like to receive a call from God. Brother James called it a "strong urge to serve God," but Axel still wondered how he would know if God ever called him to do something.

Brother James told a story about how he fixed a truck with the help of his thirteen year old son, Jacob. It was especially interesting because they just didn't have any of the right tools, and Jacob came up with one crazy idea after another. When they least expected it, the engine roared to life!

"I wish I was there when Jacob and his dad fixed that truck," Axel said on the way home from church.

"That would have been interesting," agreed Dad. "It was rather sad that they didn't have any decent tools to work with, wasn't it?"

Axel nodded. "You should have been there with your supply of tools!" Dad was a mechanic and had just about every tool imaginable.

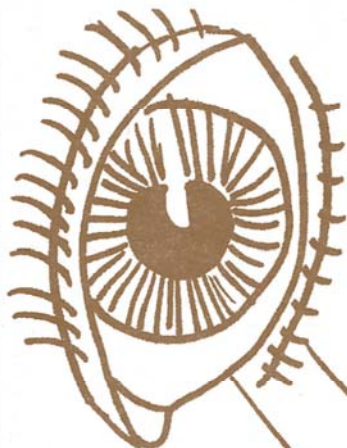
During the next few days, Axel thought about the lack of tools on the mission field. He had some money saved up that he could use. Still, that would mean giving up the skateboard he wanted to buy. His thoughts went back and forth for some time. Then, one evening, he talked to his dad.

"Dad, would the money I saved for a skateboard be enough to buy tools for missionaries?"

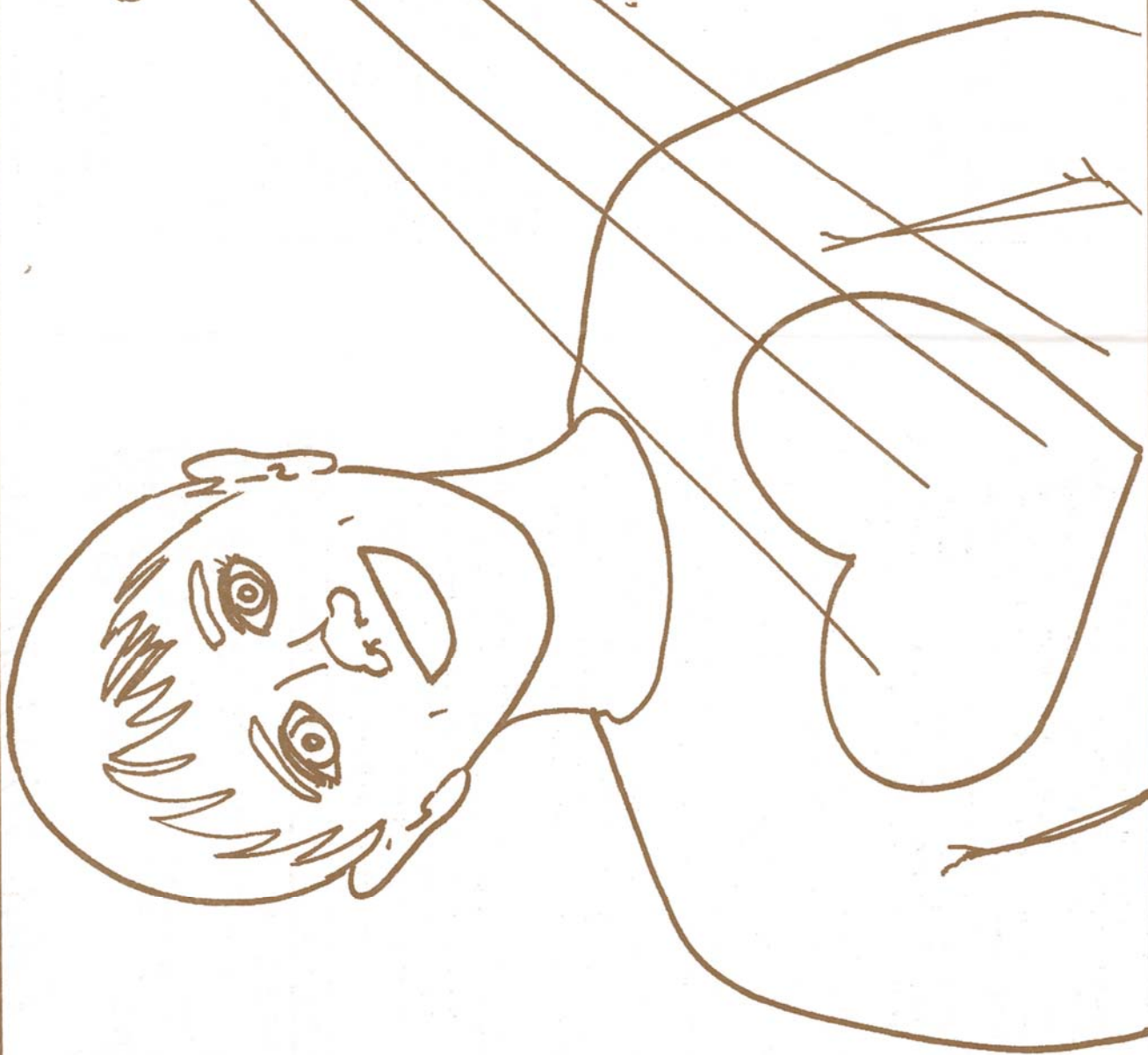
Dad nodded. "It would be enough to buy a basic set, and I would throw in a few extra if that's really what you want to do."

"It is," Axel said, firmly. "I don't know why, but it seems a lot more important to help missionaries than to buy a new skateboard." Even as he spoke, Axel wondered if he was beginning to understand what it would be like to receive a call from God.

"I'm proud of you, son," Dad said, smiling.



“... man looketh
on the outward
appearance,
but the LORD
looketh
on the heart.”
1 Samuel 16:7





Goliath is Slain

David was at home watching after his father's, Jesse's, sheep. Jesse said to his son, "Take this corn and bread to your brothers and see how they are doing." Early the next morning, David left his sheep with someone and started on his journey to his brothers, who were fighting in Israel's army.

When David finally saw his brothers, he went running to greet them. At the same time, the army was preparing to fight the Philistines. The Israelites stood on one mountain, and the Philistines stood on the mountain facing them. The valley lay spread out below them.

As David and his brothers were talking, a huge giant named Goliath stood on the other side with the Philistines. Goliath shouted to them, "Choose a man to fight me. If he can kill me, we will serve you. If I kill him, you will be our servants."

The Israelites were afraid, but David wasn't. He asked, "What will happen to the man that kills this giant? How dare he make fun of the armies of God!"

"The person that kills Goliath will be given great riches and the king's daughter's hand in marriage," the men answered him.

Someone told Saul about David's words of killing the giant, so Saul sent for him. "I will go and fight this Philistine," David announced to Saul.

"You are just a boy. You can't fight a giant," the king said.

"Once, I killed a lion and a bear, and I will also fight this Philistine. The Lord will be with me to help me fight," David responded.

Saul tried to give David heavy armor to protect him. David would not wear them, and only took his sling and five smooth stones from the brook because he knew God would help him in the fight. With his stones in a bag and a sling in his hand, he went to meet Goliath.

"Am I a dog that you come to fight me with stones?" Goliath asked, laughing at David.

"You come at me with a sword and spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord," David replied. "He does

The battle is the Lord's.
1 Samuel 17:47

Questions

- What did David's father tell him to do?
- What reward would be given the man who killed Goliath?
- What weapons did David use to fight Goliath?
- What did Goliath say when he saw David?

not save with the sword and the spear. The battle is the Lord's," and David put a stone in his sling and slung it through the air. It hit Goliath's forehead, and the giant fell on his face to the ground. With the Lord's help, David had won the battle!

Sister Monica Murphey

Bravery is Trying

Nicole walked over to the edge of the skating pond where some older girls were calling loudly and pointing at a boy out on the ice. "Come on, Alex!" called one girl. "Get up, we want to see you fall again!"

"He's so clumsy," another girl observed loudly. The group laughed loudly.

Nicole recognized the boy as one that went to her school. Those girls are teasing Brandon! she thought angrily. She had never spoken to him before because she was shy. But, she had always thought he seemed like a nice boy. Brandon didn't seem to notice the teasing, though.

"Why don't you come skate?" he called to the girls with a smile.

"And make fools of ourselves like you're doing?" asked one of the group.

Later that day, Nicole told her sister, Lisa, about what had happened. "Those girls were so mean, but Brandon didn't get mad," she said.

"You know, my Sunday school teacher talked about someone in the Bible kind of like Brandon. It was Peter. Remember when he walked on the water?" Lisa asked.

"Yeah," answered Nicole, "He walked a little while, then sank. Jesus had to come and rescue him. I always felt a little embarrassed for Peter because he messed up so bad."

"But at least he tried," answered Lisa with a smile. "Who do you think Jesus was more pleased with? The disciples for staying in the boat, or Peter for trying?"

"Definitely Peter," Nicole replied.

"My teacher said that it's especially important to try when it comes to doing new things or accomplishing what God has asked us to," pronounced Lisa.

Nodding, Nicole said, "I'll try to talk to Brandon tomorrow at school. I want to tell him how brave he was for trying to skate in front of everyone."

"Well," Lisa said, "I think you're brave for trying to make a new friend!"

“... the battle is the LORD’S...”
I Samuel 17:47





David Marries the King's Daughter

Saul watched as David killed Goliath. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they ran. The Israelites followed them and killed many of them.

As David spent more time in the palace, he and Jonathan, Saul's son, became good friends. David did whatever Saul asked him to do and behaved himself very wisely. Saul placed David over all the army. After David killed Goliath, the women of all the cities met Saul, singing and playing musical instruments. "Saul has killed thousands, but David has killed ten thousands," they sang. This made Saul very angry.

"They say David has killed ten thousands, and I have killed thousands," he grumbled to himself. "What is left for David to take from me but my kingdom?"

The next day, an evil spirit came upon Saul. He allowed his jealousy to eat away at his heart. David came to Saul and played his harp. Usually, the king enjoyed the soothing music, but all Saul could think about was the words the women sang. In a fit of anger and jealousy, he threw a spear at David, hoping to kill him, but the spear hit the wall.

Saul knew that God was with David. He knew that the people of Israel loved David. Even though Saul was jealous of him, God's and the people's love for David made the king afraid. He told him, "I will let you marry my oldest daughter, Merab, if you will fight the Lord's battles." Saul thought, Instead of killing him myself, the Philistines will kill David in battle.

When it came time for David to marry Merab, Saul gave Merab to another man to marry. He thought his daughter, Michal, would help him trick David and kill him, but Michal loved David.

Soon, Michal and David were married.

(Read next week to see what happens between Saul, David, and Michal!)
Sister Monica Murphey

And Saul cast the
javelin... I Samuel 18:11

Questions

- Who became good friends with David?
- Why was Saul angry with David and what did he throw at him?
- Who did David marry?
- What did King Saul think his daughter would do?

A Cloud that Rains

Carson stood at the window watching a dark cloud disappear into the distant sky. "That cloud sure wasn't any help," he muttered. "I was hoping it would rain so I wouldn't have to mow Mrs. McPherson's yard today," he said as he sat down and opened a book. "Oh, well. I'm not going to do it anyway."

"Mrs. McPherson's expecting you at two, isn't she?" his father asked.

"Yeah, but it doesn't matter," Carson answered, "the grass will still be there tomorrow. Besides, I'm getting to a really good part in my book."

Dad stood at the window, watching the cloud, which had just about disappeared on the horizon. "That cloud seemed to promise a lot, but it didn't come through," he said thoughtfully. "And I think there's another waterless cloud here in this room."

Carson looked up in confusion. "In the house?"

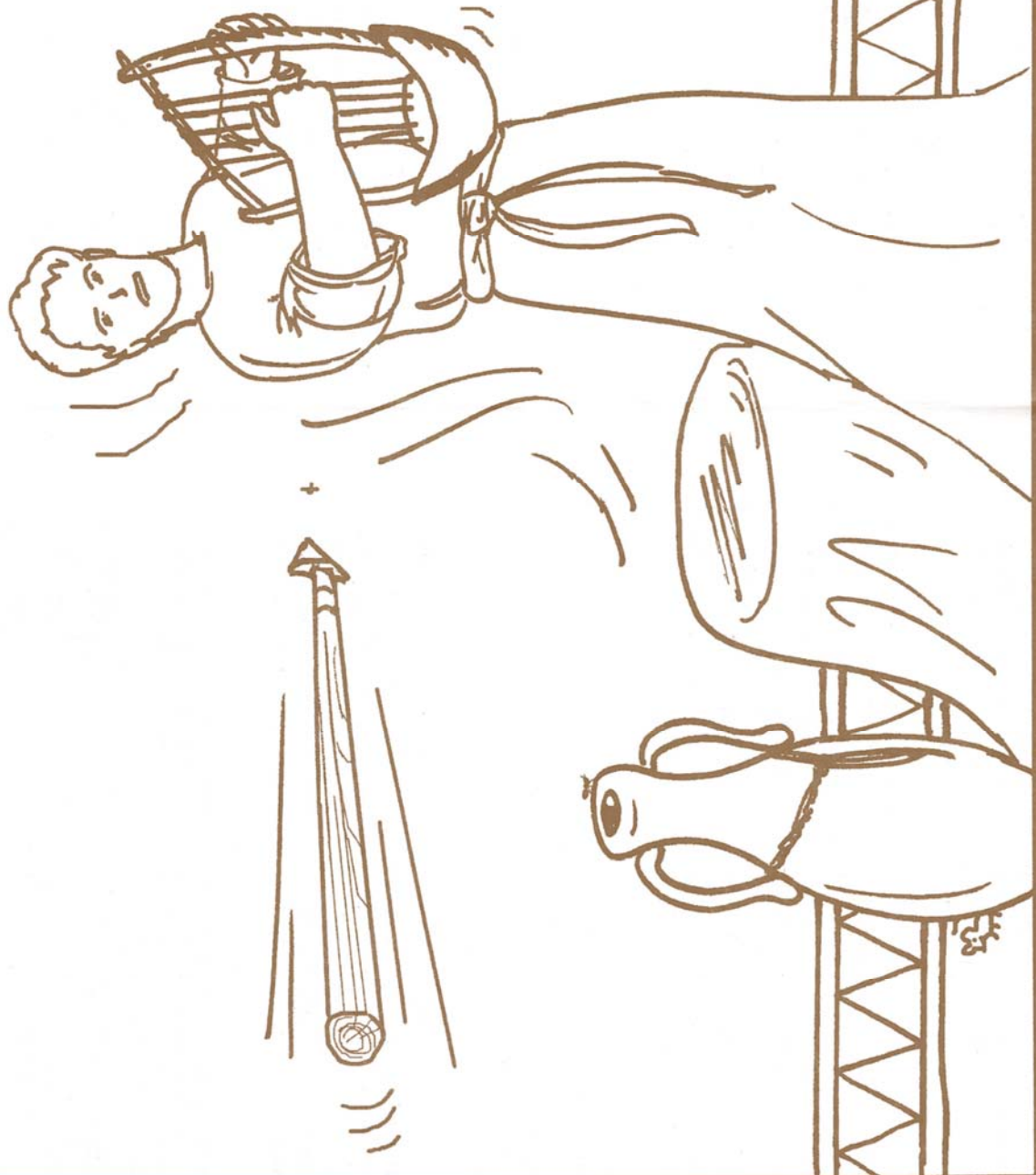
Nodding, Dad said, "Sometimes people are just like that cloud. They talk a lot and make promises, but when it's time to keep them, they just never get around to it." He glanced meaningfully at his son.

Carson looked at his dad who was always so careful to keep his promises to Mom and himself. He knew his dad was a great example of a "cloud" that would fulfill its promise.

Suddenly, his book didn't seem quite so important. "I guess you mean me," Carson said. "And if I don't do what I promised, I guess Mrs. McPherson won't think any more of me than I do of that thundercloud." He snapped his book closed and set it on the side table. "I'll ride my bike over there and be mowing by two o'clock sharp!"

"Good choice," Dad said with a smile.

“And Saul cast the javelin . . .” | Samuel 18:11





Michal Tricks Saul

King Saul was very angry with David. David was a hero in Israel because he had helped defeat the Philistine army. Now Saul told his servants and his son Jonathan that they must kill David. Jonathan was a close friend of David's. He warned David, "My father wants to kill you. Hide until morning, and I will see if it is safe for you to come back."

While David hid, Jonathan spoke to his father. "David has done nothing wrong against you. You should not try to kill him. When he killed Goliath, you were glad. Would you kill David for no reason?"

Saul listened to his son's voice. He said he would not kill David, and Jonathan called for his friend and told him he was safe.

Once again, the Israelites fought against the Philistines. David fought too. He did a good job fighting and the Israelites considered him a hero even more. King Saul's anger grew. As usual, David played the harp to try to make the king feel better, but Saul threw his spear again and missed. David ran away to his house.

Saul sent servants to David's house to kill him the next morning. "If you do not escape tonight, they will kill you tomorrow," Michal, David's wife said. With pillows and goats hair, Michal made it look like David was asleep in bed. Then David escaped through the window.

When Saul's servants came the next morning, Michal said, "David is sick." Saul sent them back again and told them to bring David back in his bed. The men brought the bed to Saul. He discovered the pillows and the goats hair that Michal had made look like a person. David had escaped. He stayed with Samuel until Saul try to find him again.

Sister Monica Murphey

Michal took an image,
and laid it in the bed...
1 Samuel 19:13

Questions

- What did Jonathan warn David about?
- What made King Saul angry?
- What lie did Michal tell?
- What did Saul's servants bring back to him?

Mirages

Looking up from her book, Sharla said, "The girl in this book is always seeing mirages. Are there really such things, Dad?"

"Sure," he replied. "A mirage is an optical illusion. For instance, a thirsty person in a desert might think he sees a lake or a stream up ahead, but the water isn't really there." Sharla went back to her book. Just then, her little sister, Kate, came toddling into the room, banging two toys together. "Play with me?" she asked.

Sharla scowled. "Can't you see I'm trying to read here?" she snapped. "Go play somewhere else." Kate's lip quivered and she toddled back out of the room.

Then the sounds of voices and laughter came floating into the room as Sharla's brother and his friends talked about the basketball game they had played that afternoon. "Can't you guys pipe down?" she hollered angrily. "You sound like a bunch of squealing pigs!"

Dad looked up from his computer sternly. "Sharla, you've been rude to both your brother and sister this evening--and I've noticed you acting like that a lot lately. I think you need to start changing your attitude."

"But, Dad, they drive me crazy!" Sharla objected.

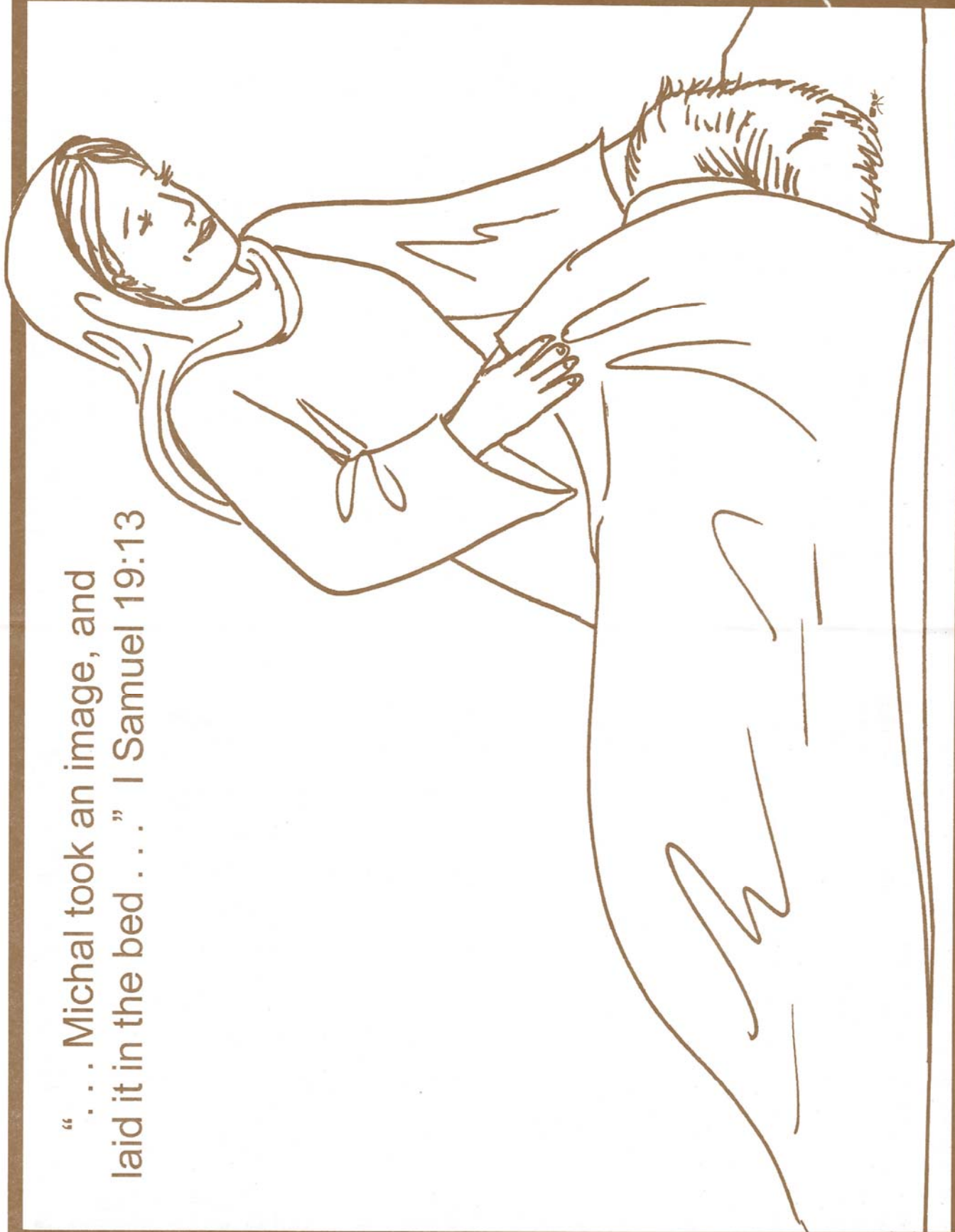
"Then it's the perfect time to start practicing the commandment of God that we read in devotions today," Dad told her. "Remember it?"

Sharla pouted as she shook her head. "I forgot."

Dad frowned. "What was the word you asked about just now--mirage? Well, I'm afraid you treat God's commandments like they're a mirage. You see them, but you act like they're not really there. They are real, and God intends for us to put them into practice. So listen again. The verse we read was Proverbs 16:32. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city." This command is not a mirage, Sharla. We need to be gentle with others in every way, including in our speech.

Sharla sighed. She Dad was right. "I... I'm sorry. I will honestly try to be more polite. And I'll start by apologizing to my siblings."

“ . . . Michal took an image, and
laid it in the bed . . . ” | Samuel 19:13





Primary Sunday School

December 9, 2018

V68, Q4, W10

David's Friend

King Saul became angry with David when David began to become more popular than he was. The king tried to kill David with a spear three different times. Jonathan and Michal, David's friend wife, had helped David escape from being killed. He fled from a city when Saul followed him there. Then David met with Jonathan. "Why is your father so angry?" he asked.

"My father always tells me his plans," Jonathan said. "I don't think he would try to hurt you without telling me."

David had an idea. "Usually, I would eat dinner with the king at this time of month., but tomorrow I will hide in the field. If your father misses me, then give him an excuse for me. If he is not angry that I am gone, then everything will be fine. If he becomes very angry, then we will know he is thinking of doing evil towards me."

Jonathan and David loved each other, and made a covenant of friendship. "Let the Lord punish David's enemies," Jonathan said. They promised that they would always care for one another and exchanged clothing as a token of their covenant.

"After three days have passed, come and hide beside the stone Ezel," Jonathan suggested. "I will shoot three arrows, and send a boy out to get them. If I tell him to go beside you to get the arrows, that will be a sign that all is well. If I tell the boy to go past you to get the arrows, you will need to leave to be safe."

David hid in the field as his friend suggested while Jonathan attended the feast with his father. Just like always, the king sat at his seat by the wall. Jonathan and Abner, his brother, sat by Saul's side, but David's seat was empty. "Why isn't David here?" the king asked Jonathan.

"David asked me if he could go to Bethlehem to make a sacrifice," Jonathan replied. King Saul spoke angrily to his son about David and threatened to kill him. Jonathan knew that his friend was not safe, so he went out the field, taking a boy with him. He shot three arrows beyond where David hid and sent the boy to fetch them.

David knew that he was not safe. When the boy left, he gave his friend a hug goodbye.

Sister Monica Murphy

I will shoot three
arrows... 1 Samuel 20:20

Questions

- Why was King Saul jealous of and angry with

David?

- Where was David supposed to eat?
- How did Jonathan tell David of King Saul's feelings?
- Did David stay near King Saul or leave?

Five O' Clock

Juan walked straight from school to the building where his mom worked as a dental assistant. He arrived and plopped himself down in one of the waiting room chairs, letting his backpack slide to the floor. He was glad school was out for the day. What a day it had been! He gave his backpack an angry kick. Mom noticed.

"What's the trouble today, Juan?" Mom asked as they started home.

"I don't like Butch," Juan answered. "In fact, after what happened today, I think I hate him!"

"Woah, hang on just a second," Mom said. "Hate is not a word I like to hear. What happened?"

"Butch threw a huge wad of paper and hit Sadie on the back of the head. Since I sit right behind Sadie, she told Mrs. Charleston I did it. I said I didn't do it, but Mrs. Charleston made me stand in the hall for the whole period. Butch should have admitted he did it, but he just let me stand out there! After school, he tried to apologize, but I didn't really answer him. It was too late!"

Mom looked thoughtful. "Sounds like you need a filling, Juan."

"A filling?" he exclaimed. "I wasn't talking about my teeth! Besides, I just got one and now my teeth are fine."

"Okay," Mom said. "Remind me what the dentist did when you got a filling."

"Well... he drilled out the decay and filled it with some kind of special material," replied Juan. "But what does this have to do with Butch?" He was eager to return to the day's problem.

"I was thinking about your problem with Butch," his Mom answered. "He was wrong, but I think you need to drill out the decay--which is hate--and fill the space with forgiveness."

"Drill out the hate? How can I do that?" Juan asked.

"You'll need a much more powerful tool than the dentist's drill, that's for sure. A tool called prayer. With God's help, you can get rid of the hate and forgive Butch," Mom explained.

Juan thought about that until he went to bed and decided to talk to Butch tomorrow and told him he was forgiven.

"... I will shoot three arrows..."

1 Samuel 20:20





David is Merciful

Saul was jealous of David and tried to kill him several different times, so David left to hide in a cave. Four hundred men who were also unhappy with the king went with David, and he was their leader. When he was hiding from Saul, David and his men went from city to city, sometimes hiding in the wilderness. Every day, the king tried to find him, but every time he got close, God helped David escape.

David's group of men grew from four hundred to six hundred. One day, they were all hiding in a cave when Saul and his men came close by, searching for them. Saul was tired, so he went into the cave to rest. David crept close to Saul and tore a bit of clothing from the king's robe with the tip of his sword. He felt bad immediately for putting the king in danger.

As soon as the king left, David followed after him and cried out, "My king, while you were in the cave, my men tried to tell me to kill you. I could have, but I thought, 'I will not hurt someone who God has made king.' I have cut off a piece of your clothing, but I did not hurt you. Yet, you keep trying to kill me. The Lord will deliver me out of your hands."

Saul heard David's voice and wept. He said, "You are a better man than me because you have not killed me. I have treated you unkindly. I know that the kingdom of Israel will be yours. Please promise me that you will not hurt my family when you become king."

David promised Saul that he would not, and Saul took his men and went home.

Sister Monica Murphey

The Lord hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to David: Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord.
I Samuel 28:17-18

Questions

- Where were David and his men hiding?
- What did David do to Saul and how did it make him feel?
- How did Saul react to David's story? What did he want from David?
- What did David show Saul in the cave? (*Hint: read the title!*)

Cleaning out the Junk

Aaron and his mother were sitting on the floor with Aaron's dresser drawers pulled out on the floor around them. Mom was helping Aaron clean them out, and she kept suggesting he throw some things out to make more room for clothes and other belongings. "I don't know why you keep all this junk," she said. "You don't have any room for the good things you have!"

"Junk!" exclaimed Aaron. "These things aren't junk. They're important to me."

"Important?" asked Mom, holding up a deflated basketball, a broken kite, an old pair of smelly tennis shoes, and a bent fishing pole. "These things belong in the trash bin."

Aaron picked up the basketball. "But this was my favorite basketball," he said. "Remember the day David borrowed it and bounced it right off an old pop bottle? I still get mad when I think about him bringing it back to me all cut up and deflated."

"I remember," said Mom. "Maybe you need to put more than the basketball in the trash."

"What do you mean?" asked Aaron.

"I think you're hanging on to some pretty bitter memories. In fact, not that long ago, David asked to borrow something of yours and you reminded him of the basketball." Mom looked at Aaron meaningfully. "You know, the Bible says not to be harsh and angry."

Aaron sat quietly for a minute, thinking about what his Mom's words. "I guess you're right, Mom," he admitted, slowly placing the basketball in the trash can. "And you know what? David asked me if he could borrow my baseball mitt tomorrow for his family's baseball game. I'm going to let him!"

"That makes me proud, Aaron," Mom said, smiling. "Now, what else can we get rid of?"



"... the LORD
hath rent
the kingdom
out of thine hand,
and given it to
... David:
Because thou
obeyedst not
the voice
of the LORD ..."

| Samuel 28:17-18





Carolyn's Christmas

There was the excited buzz of secrets in the air! Tomorrow was Christmas!

Becky sat on the sofa and sighed. It had been snowing all day and there was a thick, soft blanket of white over the country. It is all so much like a dream come true, for Becky was from southern California where winters were warm. All her life, she had dreamed of having snow for Christmas. This year, it had really happened. Her Uncle Burt had called to ask them to come for Christmas, and Becky's father had agreed that it would be a good vacation for all of them!

"You like the snow, Becky?" her cousin, Carolyn asked. "I love it! I've never seen so much in my whole life!" Becky answered.

Carolyn's blond curls bounced as she sat down beside her cousin. "It's always fun to have snow for Christmas! But, I guess it can be Christmas without it too—especially when Jesus lives in a person's heart!"

Becky looked up. Both their families were Christians, and Becky and Carolyn had given their hearts to Jesus about the same time.

Oh, Christmas was so exciting! Becky especially wondered about that white fuzzy sweater she had wanted so badly. She'd hinted to her mother for two months, but she didn't know if that was it in the square box wrapped with lovely red paper! Becky propped her chin on her hand and watched it snow. She did wish it would hurry up and get dark. And, she wished the night would pass and that Christmas morning would come.

"I wonder..." Becky went over to the gifts and, stooping down, picked up a couple of packages with her name on them. She pressed and squeezed, but she couldn't figure out what was in them! She did hope Mom, Dad, and her brother, Bud, liked their gifts. They had cost every cent she had made from selling Christmas cards. Oh, Christmas was wonderful, all right, but the waiting was surely hard!

Finally, the two families gathered for the evening meal. Becky hardly tasted the ham and sweet potatoes, but at least that was another step toward the next morning!

Later, they all sat in the living room. Uncle Burt was reading, "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger..."

Oh, how hard it was to wait until morning! How very beautiful all the packages were. Would she get that white, fuzzy sweater?

"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory..."

Can't you hurry, Uncle Burt? Becky wondered in her mind. The sooner we get to bed, the sooner morning will come!

To Becky's surprise, Carolyn went to the kitchen after they had devotions. She closed the doors and wouldn't let anyone come in—not even Becky! Carolyn was doing something! She had some secret that no one knew about! Once in a while, there was a rattle of a pan or the click of a dish, but nothing more.

The long night finally passed. At the crack of dawn with the snow lying white and silent over the land, Becky crept from her bed and joined the others. Oh, hurry everybody!

"Mother, is it alright if I bring in something special first—before we open our presents?" Carolyn asked.

Her mother nodded. She didn't know what it was all about, but the twinkle in her eye said she suspected! And, a moment later, Carolyn was back. In her arms was a cake with a lovely silver star on top!

Becky frowned. Who ever heard of eating cake on Christmas morning before opening the presents?

"It's Jesus' birthday," Carolyn was saying. "It's fun to get nice things on Christmas. It's wonderful to have the gifts and the snow and everything, but I started remembering that Christmas is really His birthday! He's done so much for me that I just wanted to remember Him first."

Becky bowed her head in shame. How could she have been so selfish? Last night, she'd hardly listened to the scripture telling of God's son being born. All she'd thought about was what she was going to get for His birthday! Giving and receiving gifts is wonderful, but Jesus must always come first!

In her heart, she whispered, "Forgive me, Lord Jesus."

Aloud, she sang with the others, "Happy birthday to You, happy birthday to You! Happy birthday, dear Jesus, happy birthday to You!"

The Beautiful Way, Volume 15, 1963





Primary Sunday School

December 30, 2018

V68, Q4, W13

Israel's Second King

After King Saul died, David and the people of Israel mourned his death for many days. Then, all of the elders of Israel gathered together and anointed David as king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he first became king. David was king of Israel for forty years.

One of the first things King David decided to do after becoming king was to bring the ark back to the temple where it belonged. This ark was the one the Philistines had captured after a battle with the Israelites. Many bad things happened in cities wherever the ark went. The Philistines had gotten scared and brought the ark back to the Israelites, to Kirjathjearim, where it had stayed for a long time.

Many people went with King David to get the ark. They set the ark on a new cart, and they walked in front of it, playing many different musical instruments in praise to the Lord.

Suddenly, the ark started to tip off the cart. A man named Uzzah reached out to try to keep it from falling off. But, God had given Moses many instructions about the ark, one of which was that only the sons of Levi could touch it. God was, therefore, angry that Uzzah did not obey this instruction. Uzzah died because he disobeyed God, which made King David afraid, causing him to leave the ark in the house of Obbedom.

After three months, King David had the ark brought back to the temple. He was so glad that it was where it belonged that he danced and shouted in the streets. Others celebrated with King David, shouting and playing trumpets. They put the ark of the Lord into the tabernacle that King David had built for it. He burned offerings in thanksgiving to the Lord. King David gave men and women of Israel some bread, meat, and drink. Everyone was so happy and rejoiced greatly, because the ark of the Lord was back where it belonged.

Sister Monica Murphey

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the trumpet. 2 Samuel 6:15

Questions

- How old was David when he was anointed king?
- What was the first thing David did when he became king?
- What did Uzzah do?
- Why were they afraid?

Candy Apple

Reese had gotten a new bicycle for her birthday. On the way home from the store, Dad asked, "Are you sure you don't want me to lower the seat for you? It looks too high."

"Oh no, Dad," Reese said confidently. "I don't need help," she said as she pictured herself zooming down the street, pretending she was on a beautiful horse. She told him, "Since we don't have room for a horse, I'll pretend my bike is one. Its name is Candy, short for Candy Apple, since it's red."

As soon as they arrived home, Reese wheeled the new bike to the front sidewalk. She had to stand on the front porch step to get on the bike. Then, she put one foot on the pedal and shoved off. Lifting her other foot, Reese was surprised to find that she couldn't keep her balance and could barely reach the pedals. She started to tip over and had to quickly put her feet back on the ground. Again and again, Reese tried to ride the bike, but it kept tipping over. She fought tears as she wheeled it back toward the garage.

Reese was feeling very discouraged when she heard the front door open. "Looks like you could use a little help with this bucking bronco," said Dad. He took hold of the handlebars and said, "Woah, Candy!" She laughed as Dad pulled out his toolbox and lowered the handlebars and the seat a few inches.

Later, as Reese and Dad were resting on the front steps, Reese said, "Thanks a lot, Dad. I thought I could handle the bike all by myself, but I needed your help."

Dad smiled, "A lot of people think they can handle their problems all by themselves, but God wants to help us just as I wanted to help you."

"Candy Apple will help remind me that my Heavenly Father wants to help me," Reese agreed. She tugged on Dad's hand, saying, "Come on! You can get your bike and we'll ride together."

“So David and all the house of Israel brought up
the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the . . . trumpet.”

II Samuel 6:15

