



David's Anger

David was one of Israel's greatest kings. Just because he was called "a man after God's own heart" does not mean he always acted like he should. In 1 Samuel 25, we read of his actions with a man named Nabal and Nabal's wife, Abigail.

Nabal was a rich man, but he was not a nice or smart man. While David was camping in the wilderness next to animals of Nabal, David and his men helped protect and take care of Nabal's men and animals. When it came time to shear the sheep, David sent men asking for a payment for his protection. Nabal insulted them and refused to give them anything. When David heard this, he was very angry. He and his men decided to kill Nabal's family and animals.

A servant told Abigail what Nabal had done. She prepared two hundred loaves of bread, some wine, five butchered sheep, roasted grain, one hundred bunches of raisins and two hundred fig cakes. She went out to meet David. When she saw him, she quickly fell on her face and asked for forgiveness for Nabal's response (even though it wasn't her fault). Abigail's words and humility cooled David's anger. He agreed not to do anything he would regret. Just ten days later, God struck Nabal and he died. David then asked Abigail to marry him.

Abigail is a good example for us—we should face hard situations with humility and without an attitude. God was pleased with her actions.

Say not, I will do so to him as he hath
done to me: I will render to the man
according to his work.
Proverbs 24:29

Frustrated Jack

Violet hops past her brother on one foot, then hops past him again on the other. Jack is trying to clean Annie's stall, and Violet is supposed to be gathering eggs from the new chickens.

"Go gather the eggs!" Jack tells her after a particularly large hop causes Violet to tumble over.

She laughs as she picks herself up. "Hopping is more fun," she says.

"More like annoying me is more fun," Jack grumbles under his breath.

"I heard that!" Violet calls out in a sing-song voice that causes Jack to grit his teeth.

She grabs her egg basket as if she's about to leave Jack alone. Suddenly, Jack finds himself wearing a wire basket for a hat.

He roars in exasperation and throws off the hat. He is so annoyed at his sister! Why can't she just leave him alone? Can't she see that he wants to be left in peace?

Violet snatches the basket hat back, and, quick as a flash, Jack grabs one of her pigtails and yanks. Hard.

Violet screeches like a big pig Jack once saw at the county fair. He's pretty impressed with Violet's vocal capabilities, but then he sees the tears well up in his sister's eyes.

"I was just trying to have fun!" Violet says between snuffles.

"You were annoying me on purpose," Jack says quietly, trying to ignore the guilty feeling inside.

"That doesn't mean you should hurt me!" Violet protests.

"So you can annoy me but I can't do anything back?" Jack asks.

The children walk to the house, wanting their mother.

Kathryn listens to each child. She gently reminds Violet that Jack won't want to play with someone who is annoying, and she tells Jack that even when people treat him badly, he still must choose to not retaliate in anger.

ANGER STOPLIGHT

Materials: Scissors, glue, red, green, and yellow construction paper.

Directions: Cut circles from the red, green, and yellow paper and glue them in the correct order on your stoplight.





David Has Compassion

The Bible describes David as “a man after God’s own heart.” While David had fought in many battles and killed men, God was pleased with him. David showed compassion and justice, even to men who were his enemies.

In the beginning of 2 Samuel, we read how David had compassion. King Saul had died, and his son, Ishbosheth, was placed to reign over eleven of the twelve tribes of Israel. David was king over the other tribe, Judah. Judah and the other tribes fought some hard battles. David placed a man named Joab over his army and Ishbosheth placed a man named Abner over his army.

It was obvious that God was blessing King David and Judah. Because of this, Abner came to David and made a peace treaty. When Joab, the commander of David’s army, heard this, he was very upset! Abner had killed his brother in a previous battle. Joab decided to secretly meet up with Abner, and he killed him. When David heard this, he cried loudly and ripped his clothes. He was so sad, he refused to eat the day of Abner’s funeral.

Even though Abner had once been David’s enemy and Abner had killed some of David’s men in battle, David still mourned his death. Not long after Abner’s death, some men killed Ishbosheth. David was not happy and killed those men because they killed Ishbosheth in a sneaky way. Even though David was a man of war, he still had compassion and honored justice.

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of
compassion, and gracious, longsuffering,
and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalm 86:15

Compassionate Jack

Jack and Violet walk under towering evergreens on the old trail that winds through the woods behind their home.

“October is my favorite month,” Violet says dreamily.

Jack snorts. “Why? You say it as though you’re dreaming about Mom’s blueberry crisp.”

“Octobers are just as nice!” Violet says earnestly. “The sky is just the right shade of gray-blue, and the wind makes my cheeks feel cold in a good way.”

Jack grins. “Anything you’re hoping to see today?”

“I’d like to see some squirrels hiding nuts away in places they will forget about in the winter,” Violet giggles. She loves spending time with just Jack.

Suddenly, Violet trips on something and falls. Jack quickly spots a hole in the ground previously covered by pine needles.

Violet cries out, her face white. She clutches at her foot. “It’s broken!” she wails.

Jack doubts that, but he’s sure it’s a nasty sprain. His heart swells with compassion. He scoops his little sister up into his arms and staggers toward home, his ten-year-old arms struggling with the weight.

Finally, he reaches the yard. “Mom, Mom! Come quick!”

Kathryn takes her little girl into the house and tenderly removes Violet’s boot and socks. She wraps the swollen ankle. Jack makes silly faces at Violet to try and make her laugh. They bring her to the living room couch and prop up her foot with pillows.

Jack sits beside his sister, feeling bad. Then he hops up and runs into the kitchen. Violet’s face brightens at the steaming mugs of hot chocolate he brings back.

“This is why I love Octobers,” Violet says, smiling weakly. “And I love them even more now because of my strong big brother.”

Jack takes a sip of hot chocolate that hides his happy smile. “I love Octobers, too,” he says.

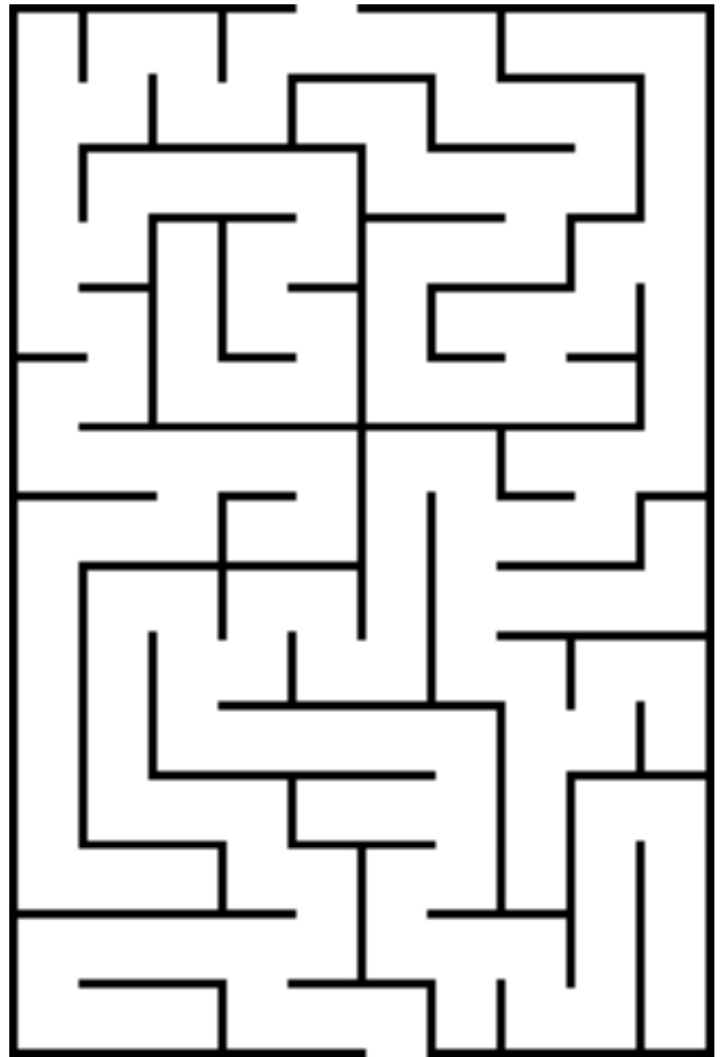
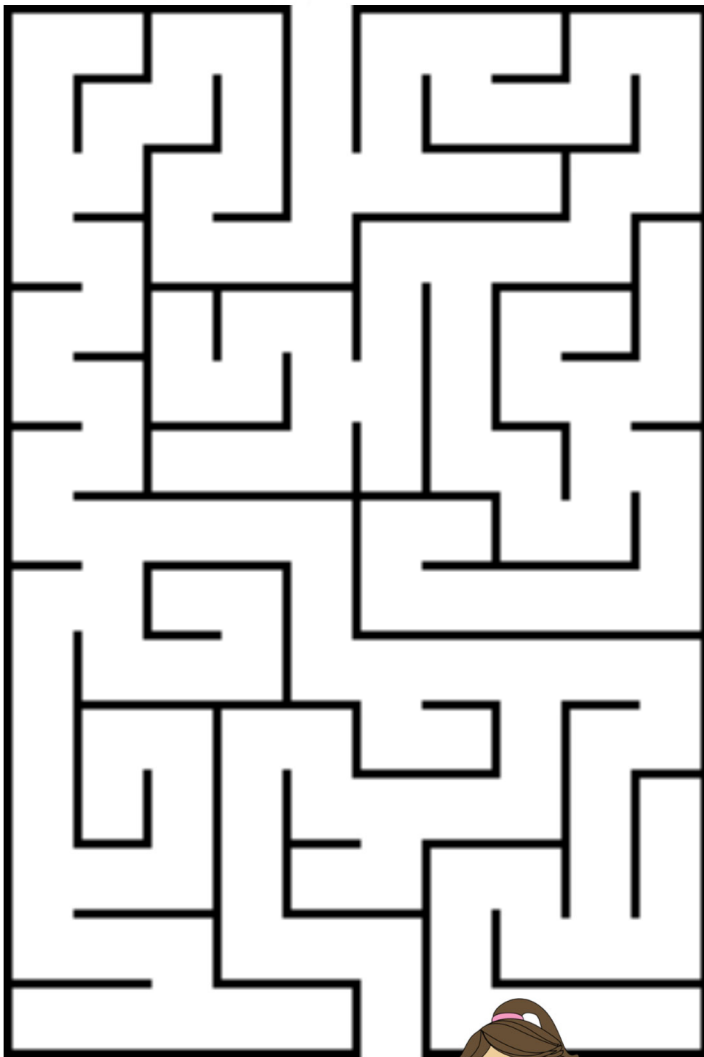
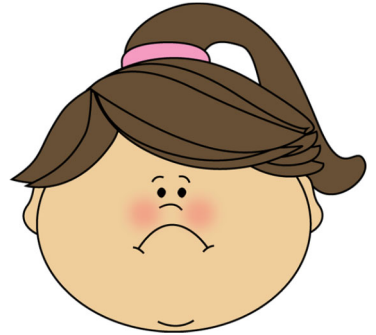
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COMPASSION MAZES

Compassion means feeling what other people feel and helping them.

Help the happy boy find the happy girl by completing the first maze, then help the sad girl find the sad boy by completing the second





David Trusts and Obeys

Last Sunday we read about when Israel's king, Ishbosheth, was killed. The men of the land asked David to be king over all twelve tribes. The twelve tribes of Israel were all together again! Because Jerusalem was an important city to the Israelites, King David took back the city from their enemies. It was there he built his home, married more wives and had more children. He ruled over Israel for thirty-three more years!

The Philistines heard that David was now anointed king over all of Israel. They camped out in the valley of Rephaim to fight with him. Instead of depending on his own knowledge or past military experiences, King David asked the Lord what he should do. God told David He would bless with victory over his enemies. David went into battle and defeated the Philistines! They even left their fake gods in the field. David and his men burned all of them after the battle.

Not long later, the Philistines came back to the valley to fight once more. Again, instead of thinking he knew best, David asked God what to do. This time, God told him to sneak up behind the Philistine armies and wait until the wind blew. When it did, David and his men attacked and had another victory.

David sets a good example for us. Even if we think we know something, we should humbly come before God and ask Him what to do. God will be pleased when we depend on Him.

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalm 20:7

Stuck Wheels, Great Pride

"Tell us a story, Daddy!" Violet says as she hops on her father's lap. "Tell us a story from when you were a little boy."

Jack comes in from the kitchen. He's just finished drying the dishes and putting the food away. He likes hearing about his father's childhood, too.

Anderson leans back in his chair and crosses his hands behind his head.

"Just today, I remembered an important lesson I learned when I was a little older than Jack. I had learned to drive my father's truck, and boy did I think I knew all there was to know about driving. I drove that old pickup all over the fields.

"Well, one day after a heavy rain, I planned to go near the creek bottom to haul off some stumps. I bragged about how a little mud wouldn't stop me. I knew how to handle the vehicle.

"Mother heard me bragging, and advised me to wait a day until the ground wasn't so marshy. My pride was hurt, and I wanted to show everyone that I could do it."

"Did you get stuck?" Jack guesses with a grin.

"Yes sir, I sure did. The more the wheels spun, the more the mud flew, the more embarrassed I got.

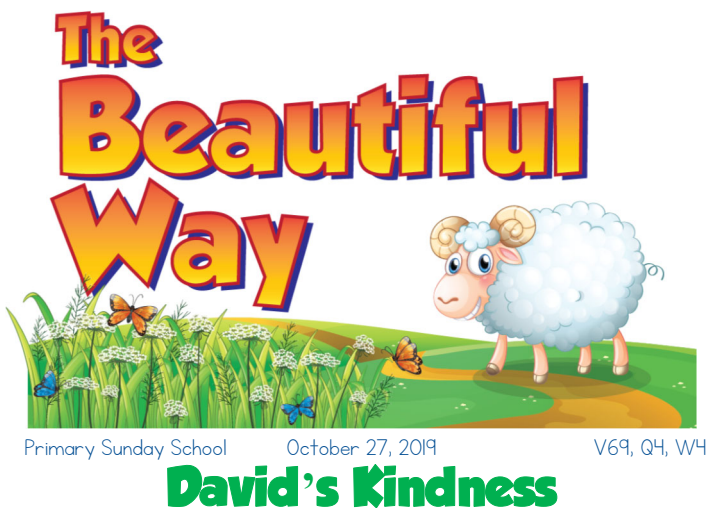
"Mother knew it was bound to happen. Pretty soon she walked into view, carrying a few small boards. I quickly realized she knew more about stuck pickups than I. She showed me how to position them behind the wheels, then guided me out of my ruts. Thankfully the truck didn't need to be pulled."

"Were you embarrassed?" Jack asks.

"Was I! I learned my lesson that day. Even though I knew how to handle the pickup better than most boys my age, I didn't know everything. There's always someone out there older or wiser. It's a good lesson to learn."

Follow the color code to find out who YOU can trust in!

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Be Kind Anyway

Amy plops down next to Violet during reading hour. "I'm only sitting here because my friend isn't here today," she says.

Violet's cheeks turn red. "Why is Amy so rude?" she wonders to herself. She wants to say something mean, but she remembers a Sunday School lesson on kindness. Instead, she gives Amy a small smile and scoots to make room.

Before Amy opens her mouth to speak again, Violet asks, "Would you like to look at my book with me? There are all kinds of horses in here."

Amy looks surprised. She doesn't know what to say. Finally, she nods and leans over the book. The two girls share the book, reading quietly until Ms. Jane tells her students it's time for recess.

"Violet, please stay a few minutes," Ms. Jane calls out. Violet wonders why her teacher wants to talk to her alone. She walks up to the desk after the class leaves for playtime.

"I saw what happened with Amy," Ms. Jane said. "You responded kindly. That can be hard, especially when the other person isn't being nice."

"Amy is a lonely girl, and she often hides it by being mean. She doesn't know how to make friends very well. I'm sure that you made her feel special, though she probably won't admit that to you."

Violet feels sorry for Amy. She remembers the time she visited Amy on her birthday. Amy's parents ignored Amy, and the girls had to try and help Amy feel special.

She walks outside, warmed by the praise of her teacher. "I'm glad Ms. Jane decided to teach second grade." Violet thinks. "Now, let me find Amy so I can play with her and be kind to her again."

David's actions often pleased God. We have read about his praise to God, his fairness, his faith when he faced Goliath, his honor by not killing Saul, his loyalty in friendship, his trust in God and more. In addition to all of this, David was kind.

Do you remember when we read about King Saul and David's best friend, Jonathan, dying in battle? Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. When his nurse found out Mephibosheth's dad and grandpa had been killed, she picked him up to quickly run away. Because she was hurrying, she accidentally dropped Mephibosheth and he got hurt. From that day forward, he couldn't walk or run. He was only five years old! How many of you are five? Think about what it would be like if you didn't have family and you couldn't walk by yourself. That's sad to think about.

But Mephibosheth's life got better. Before Jonathan died, he and David had promised each other to take care of each other's families. David did not forget. He asked if any family of Jonathan was still alive. When Mephibosheth came into the palace, even though he was king, David welcomed him warmly. He told Mephibosheth he had nothing to fear and treated him like a son. He even ate with David's family! He also gave back all the land Mephibosheth's family had lost.

David remembered his promise to his friend, kept it and showed great kindness. God wants us to do the same thing!

For his merciful kindness is great
toward us. Psalm 117:2

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David's Sin

We've read a lot about King David lately. We have admired his qualities and the good things he did for God. But he was not perfect. There was a night he did what he knew was wrong. He felt bad and tried to cover up his sin.

Nathan was a prophet at this time. God told Nathan what David had done and sent him to give David a message. He told David this story: Once there was a rich man who had a lot of sheep. There was also a poor man who had one sheep. The poor man loved his sheep like a daughter—it slept in his house and ate at his table. One day, the rich man had a visitor and because he was selfish, he killed the poor man's sheep instead of one of his own to feed to his guest. At this, David became angry and said, "That man should be punished!" Nathan said, "You are that man." David had stolen something that wasn't his. He even killed a man to cover up his sin!

God asked David, "Haven't I given you enough? Why did you do this thing?" David admitted his sin and asked God to forgive him. God agreed to forgive David and said he wouldn't die. But God punished David by letting his baby son die and told him his children would always fight with a sword. Even if God forgives us of our wrongs, we still have consequences for our actions.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Psalm 19:13

Disobedient Jack

"Let's put away the tools and head in for dinner," Anderson says to his son Jack. "Now I don't want you playing with the tools by yourself--not until I am sure that you can handle each one safely."

Jack puts away his project. He and his dad are building a dollhouse for Violet as a birthday present. He drags his feet back to the house. He doesn't want to wait to use the tools again!

The next day, Anderson drives to town. Jack remembers his father's instruction, but he wants to hammer some nails! He gives in to his temptation, and tries to whistle loud enough to cover the guilt he feels inside.

Suddenly, Jack shouts in surprise and pain. He hit his thumb with the hammer instead of the nail! He throws the hammer to the ground. Then he slowly puts everything away, trying to cover up his actions.

Before bed, Anderson slips into Jack's room.

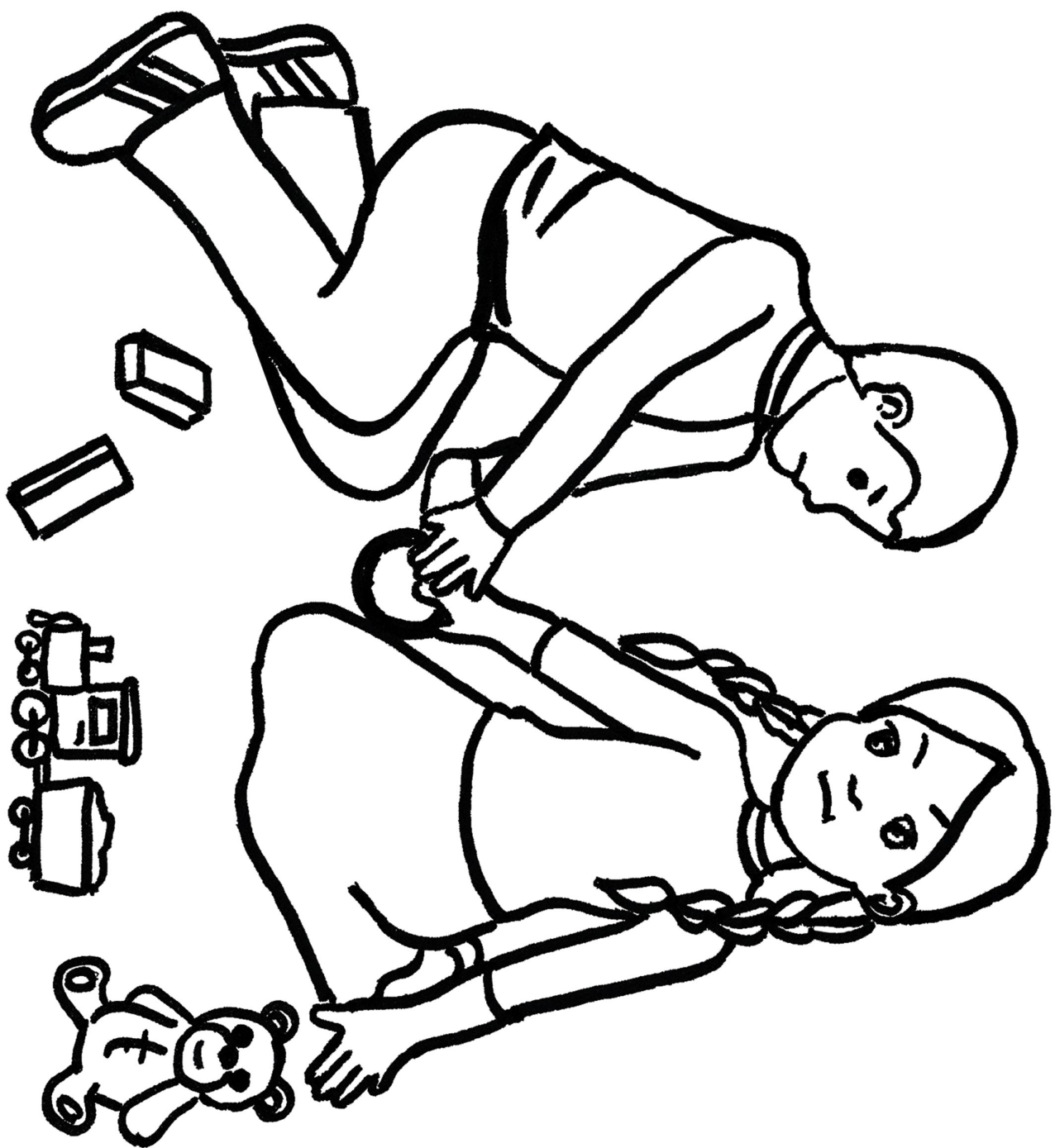
"Jack, did you hurt your hand today?"

Jack looks away, then mumbles, "I worked on Violet's dollhouse while you were away. And I hit my thumb instead of a nail."

Anderson is quiet. Then he kneels beside Jack's bed and tells him gravely, "Son, the Lord is displeased with disobedience. It is sin when we know to do right but we do wrong. I will not punish you, because your thumb is going to hurt for a long time and is punishment enough. But I hope you ask the Lord for forgiveness of your wrong."

Jack gulps down a sob and says, "Can we pray right now?"

Father and son kneel by the bed and ask the Lord for forgiveness. Jack's thumbnail stays sore and black and blue for many weeks.





David in Trouble

We learned last week about a terrible sin that David committed against God. It isn't right to take things that don't belong to you! God told David he would be punished for his sin, and now David was being punished.

Many of David's sons were grown up into men, and his oldest son was named Absalom. He was a very good-looking man, and he made people in Israel love him. He would stand by the gate of his father's palace and tell people, "If I were the king, I would fix all your problems." He listened to everyone's problems and acted like he really cared about them. Pretty soon, Absalom had a lot of followers. They would rather he be king than his father, David! But it was David who God had chosen to be king.

However, David became scared that Absalom would kill him and a lot of other people if he stayed in his palace. David and 600 of his most faithful men left Jerusalem and ran into the wilderness. David's heart was so sad that his son had turned out so wicked, and he knew it was part of God's punishment for his sin. David climbed a mountain in the wilderness with his head covered and his feet bare. He cried all the way to the top, but when he stopped climbing, he knelt down and worshiped God!

Sometimes we have to be punished if we do something wrong, but God wants us to come back and worship Him. We should love Him no matter what, just like David!

I cried unto the Lord with my voice,
and he heard me. Psalm 3:4

Repentance in the Greenhouse

Jack angrily jams a plant into the soil. He's in his mother's little greenhouse, repotting small herbs. He winces as his sore thumb hits the side of the wooden potting table.

"I don't want to be working with these plants," he says to their new cat, Nova. Nova looks at him without blinking. Then she yawns and rests her head on her front paws.

"I'm here because Mom made me. I was going to go to town with my friends and ride our bikes at the park. But Mom thinks I've had a bad attitude this morning, and she said she felt like I needed to spend some time with my thoughts instead of my friends."

Jack jams another plant into the soil, working through his frustration and the big emotions inside his heart. He knows his mother is right; he told her this morning that he was too old to help her in the kitchen and that Violet should clean up the dishes because she's a girl.

She said, "There is no age or gender limit to keeping a clean house. Young boys must know how to clean, too."

"In fact, I heard you tell Violet this morning that she needed to clean up your mess in the bathroom. I don't like this attitude you've displayed the past few days."

Then she sent him to the greenhouse.

Jack finally finishes his gardening. Something about getting fingers in potting soil and working with plants helps a young boy think through his thoughts.

He trudges back to the house, knowing he owes his mother and sister an apology.

"Mom, Violet. I am sorry for thinking I shouldn't have to help keep the house clean. Forgive me?"

Kathryn draws him close. "Of course. Thank you. Now who's ready for lunch and chocolate cake?"





David Has a Forgiving Heart

King David and his men were camped in the wilderness while his son, Absalom, acted like he was the king in Jerusalem!

Do you remember Jonathan's son named Mephibosheth? Mephibosheth's servant brought gifts of donkeys and food for David and his men while they were in the wilderness. David was upset that his best friend's son did not also come with his servant. He wanted his friends with him in the desert. David got upset and told the servant that he could have all of Mephibosheth's land.

Later, while David was traveling, a descendant of Saul's (or someone from Saul's family), came out of his house and said hurtful and cruel things to David and his men. His name was Shimei. He threw rocks and dirt at them until David was forced to pass Shimei's house on the other side of the road. Shimei didn't stop saying mean things until David was all the way past his house. Some of David's soldiers wanted to kill the man, but David said they could not kill him.

In a few weeks, you will learn how David gets his kingdom back, but for now, we will skip ahead in the story. When David was getting ready to go back to his palace, both Shimei and Mephibosheth came to him and begged for forgiveness for what they had done. Again, some soldiers wanted to kill the men, but David was kind and forgave them both.

God wants us to forgive other people when they do something that hurts us!

For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Psalm 86:5

Twisted Twine

Violet wants to braid her hair like her Sunday School teacher, Ms. Charlotte. She brushes her hair and winds her hair together as she imagines her teacher must do. Then she proudly ties the end of the misshapen, crooked braid with her beloved blue hair ribbon.

Violet waltzes into the kitchen and sits down at the table, beaming. Jack snorts on his milk, and spits his bite of oatmeal back into his bowl.

Violet glares at him. "What's so funny, Jack?"

"Got you a new hair-do?" Jack asks between chuckles.

"Mom, Jack is laughing at me and I don't know why!" she says shrilly.

"It looks like a crooked piece of twine!" Jack howls.

Violet's eyes fill with tears. She knows deep down in her little heart that her braid looks funny, but she was proud of her efforts before Jack made fun of her.

"I was just trying to make my hair look like Ms. Charlotte!" she wails. "Mom, does it really look like a twisted piece of twine?"

"No, Violet. It looks like a wonderful first attempt at braiding your hair. Braiding takes practice. I will help you, so you can practice some more on your own."

Later that afternoon, Violet and her mother emerge from the bathroom. Violet's hair is braided in a smooth, pretty waterfall braid.

Jack looks at her in admiration, but doesn't know how to tell her he thinks she looks pretty.

"Look, I'm sorry for laughing at you earlier, Vi. You look.... Well, it looks like a mighty pretty piece of twine!"

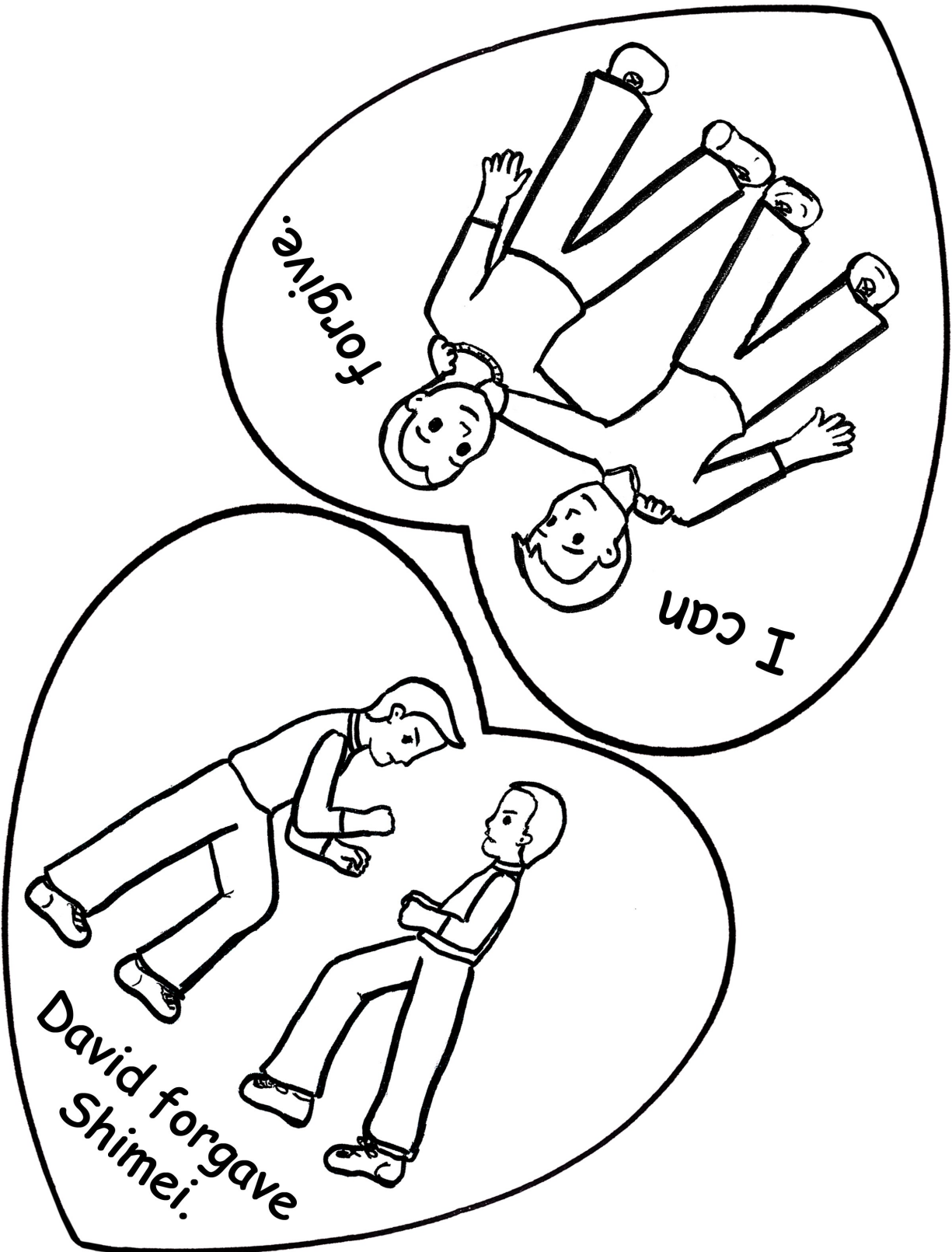
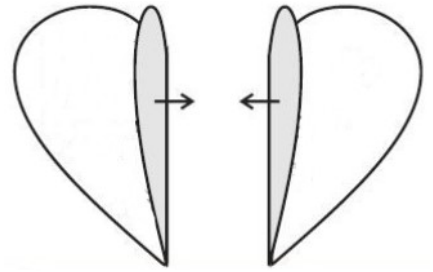
Violet laughs. "I forgive you, Jack."

After a few minutes she giggles and says, "It really did kind of look funny, yeah?"

The siblings grin together, then run outside to play in the cold, fresh air.

FORGIVING HEARTS

Color and cut out the hearts below. Then fold them each in half, and glue them together as pictured to the right.





David's Adoration

Do you remember the stories we've been studying about King David? This morning we will see David's adoration for God. Adoration means a deep love and respect. David wrote many psalms we read in our Bible. It seems King David praised and worshipped God a lot!

The Ark of the Covenant was built to hold the Ten Commandments and a few other important items. It had been in Beth-Shemesh for fifty years, but King David wanted to bring it back to Jerusalem. They made a new cart and attached it to oxen (an animal similar to a cow) to make the long journey. God commanded *no one* touch the special box. When the oxen tripped, a man named Uzzah put his hand out to catch the ark. He didn't want it to fall, but because he disobeyed God, he died right there.

This scared David. Instead of bringing it back to Jerusalem, he left it with a man named Obbedom. After three months, David saw God was blessing Obbedom's house. Because of this, David decided to bring it all the way back to Jerusalem.

When they brought it into the city, King David couldn't have been happier! He was dancing and praising God with everything in his heart. When someone asked him about his dancing, he told them he didn't mean anything bad, but was just so happy before God! The Ark of the Covenant was special, and he was filled with joy to have it back in their city.

Morning in November

Jack whistles a merry tune. What a wonderful day! The sun is bright, the air crisp. He and his family plan to go to a pumpkin patch this afternoon to pick out some pumpkins. He's never been to a pumpkin patch before, and he's also excited about the pumpkin pie his mother has promised.

He mucks out Annie's stall and prepares to head back for breakfast. The barn door slides open.

"Well, good morning sleepy-head!" Jack calls out. He grins. He knows that some days, his sister takes a very long time to wake up.

"Looking for this?" he asks. He holds out the egg basket. Violet rubs her eyes and reaches for it, but not before Jack plops it on top of her head.

"Jack!" she groans, trying to hide a little smile. "Why are you so cheery this morning?"

"Why shouldn't I be?" Jack asks as he takes her egg basket hat off and hands it back to her. "I've never been to a pumpkin patch before. You told me all about it last month when you were in a good mood, and I've been looking forward to this trip ever since. By the way, that basket hat was for doing it to me a few weeks ago when I was in a bad mood."

Violet grins sheepishly. "Just give me a few minutes, Jack. I just need to wake up."

By the time Violet gathers the eggs, she is excited for the trip, too. She meets Jack outside the barn and together they walk to the house, the smell of bacon making their mouths water.

"Just wait until you go on the hayride and taste real apple cider." Violet chatters excitedly.

Jack thanks Jesus for fall and pumpkin patches when he prays over the food.

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that
is within me, bless his holy name.
Psalm 103:1

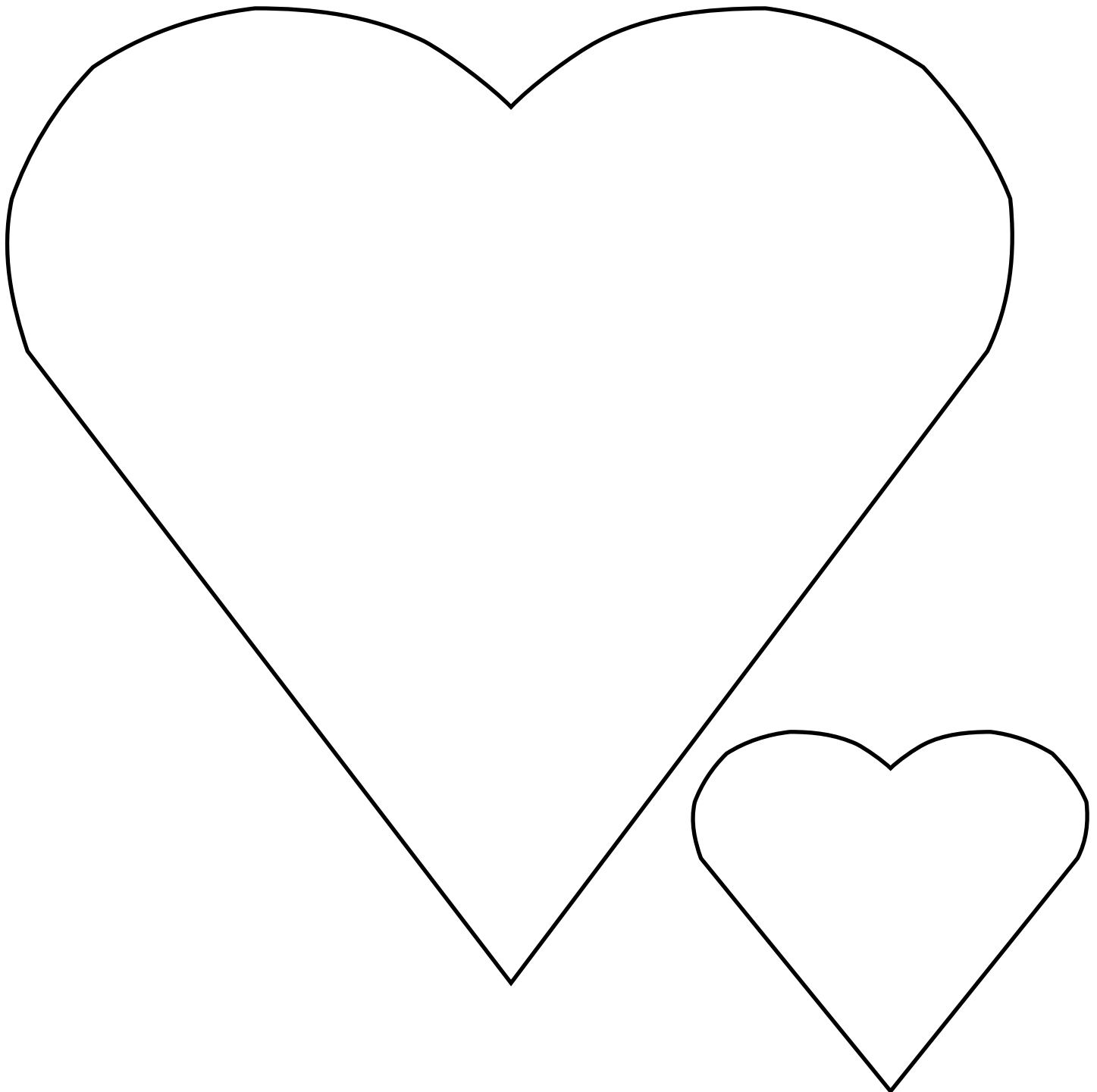
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LOVING GOD !

Materials: Colored construction paper, yarn, glue

Directions: Trace the large heart onto colored paper and cut it out. Trace 5– 8 small hearts onto colored paper and cut them out. On the large heart, write, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy....” On the small hearts, write, “heart, soul, mind, strength,” and anything else you can think of. Glue a loop of yarn to the top of the large heart. Cut three strands of yarn to hang from the bottom of the large heart, and glue the small hearts onto the strings to make a “mobile.”





Hushai is Faithful to David

Absalom was David's son. He wanted to kill his father, and David and his loyal followers had run to the wilderness to save their lives. Meanwhile, Absalom sat on David's throne in Jerusalem and acted like he was the real king. He was a wicked man and did not follow God's commandments. He also surrounded himself with advisors, or people who helped him make decisions about the kingdom. One of these advisor's name was Ahithophel.

Ahithophel wanted to take 12,000 men and go kill King David. Absalom thought that sounded like a good plan, but just to be sure, he asked another one of his advisors. This man's name was Hushai, and he was in the palace spying for David! When Absalom asked him what to do, Hushai advised that he gather an army from all of Jerusalem and go after David himself. After all, David was a strong man who knew how to fight! God made Hushai's advice sound good to Absalom, and he chose to follow his plan instead of Ahithophel's. Ahithophel was so upset, he went home and took his own life.

Hushai hurried to pass Absalom's plan along to two of the priests. Their names were Zadok and Abiathar. These two men hurried into the wilderness and hid so Absalom's men wouldn't know they were going to see King David. Once Absalom's men had gone, Zadok and Abiathar gave King David the message, and he was able to prepare himself and his men for war.

Hushai was a wise and faithful servant to King David!

The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom. Psalm 37:30

Revenge

Amy watches Violet, Emma and Mary enviously. The three girls chatter as they glue sprigs of evergreen boughs onto paper. The class is making Christmas decorations, Miss Jane brought a Christmas music CD that is playing "Away in a Manger," and the classroom is filled with Christmas cheer.

Except Amy. She wants to enjoy Christmas, but she knows it will be another cheerless season at her house. Her parents buy a big tree and give her fancy presents, but they never read to her the story of Jesus, or make gingerbread cookies together, or go caroling with church members.

Her heart twists in pain and anger. All she knows is that she hurts and she wants to get that hurting feeling out. So she decides to hurt someone else.

She sees Violet place her project in the back so the glue can dry. Amy finds some scissors. Mary walks up on her, but Amy doesn't hear. Mary quickly runs back to Violet and tells her that it looks like Amy is about to cut up her project.

Violet runs to the back, right as Amy cuts into the paper.

"Amy, stop!" Violet says loudly. Amy whirls around, her face flushing a nice shade of beet.

Violet lowers her voice. She's trying to be kind to Amy, ever since Miss Jane told her that Amy is lonely. It's hard to be kind to someone who is mean.

She says, "We were just talking about you. We wanted you to join us for the next part of the project. Would you like to go with us when we look for red berries this afternoon at recess?"

Amy stares at Violet, waiting for Violet to yell at her for cutting her project. Violet doesn't say anything, but stands beside her waiting for a response.

Finally, Amy nods silently.

WORD SEARCH

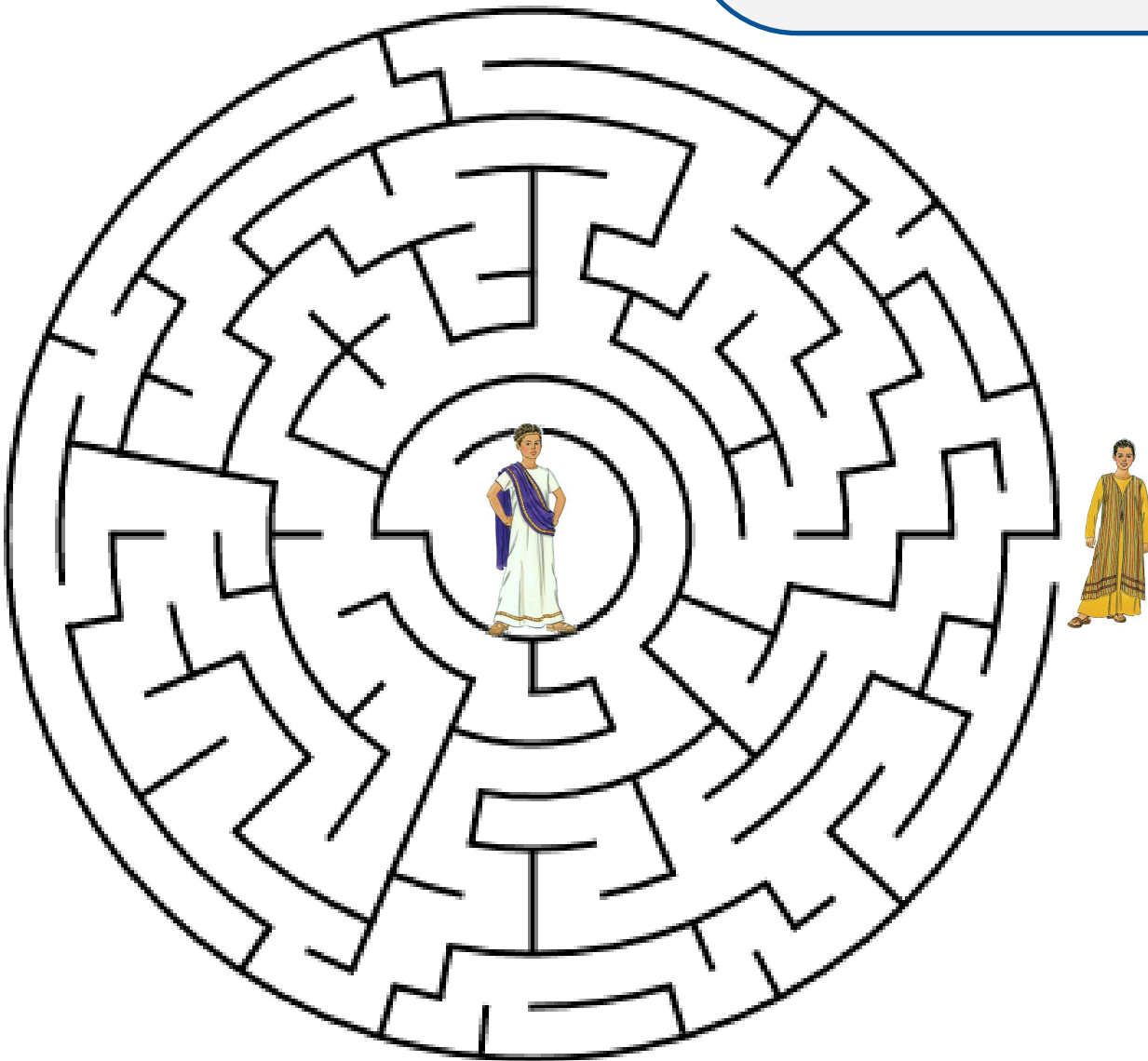
Find the names from today's story in the grid to the right.

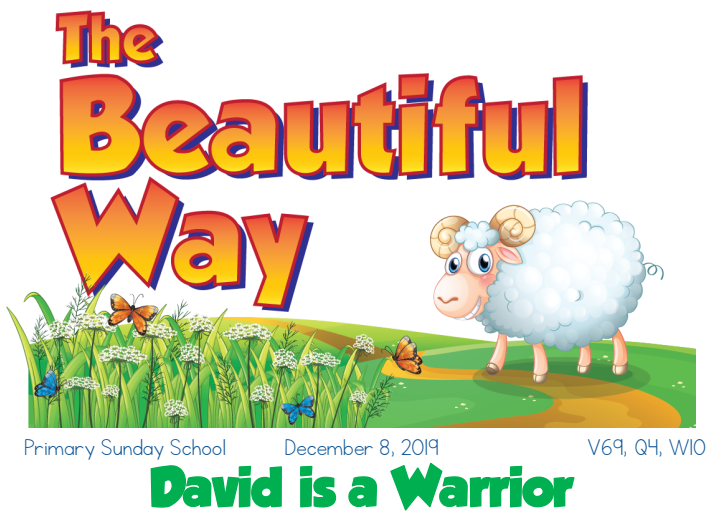
Abiathar, Absalom, Ahithophel, David, Hushai, Zadok

MAZE TO DAVID !

Help Hushai find David with the report about the army !

I	O	L	A	L	A	L	K	D	K	Q	A	Q	Y	X
I	A	G	K	U	D	O	X	I	L	T	H	C	O	C
I	B	H	V	H	D	G	A	V	F	B	I	R	A	C
T	R	E	S	A	S	B	B	A	O	E	T	V	Q	G
A	T	S	Z	U	I	V	Z	D	B	L	H	S	K	Z
M	U	B	M	A	H	R	C	N	E	L	O	L	X	C
U	L	U	T	T	C	Y	L	S	U	H	P	G	C	P
G	K	H	M	O	L	A	S	B	A	N	H	S	B	A
G	A	L	M	A	N	B	Q	X	G	W	E	L	G	Z
R	K	W	W	V	H	C	R	B	V	C	L	M	R	B





Compassionate Jack

Jack slumps into his chair at the table.

“Glad to be home?” his mother, Kathryn, asks.

“Yes.” Jack replies. “I’m just tired of fighting the devil.”

“What do you mean?” Violet asks, her eyes round.

“I’ve been thinking all day about that verse that says we don’t fight humans but evil spirits of the devil. It helped me not get so angry at some boys today.”

Kathryn moves paperwork from the table to the counter. Then she brings her children peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for a snack and sits down with them.

“You are right, Jack. Today we may not be fighting men in wars, but we certainly fight the devil and his evil forces every day. When people around us do not have Jesus in their hearts, their hearts are open for the devil to enter. If the devil lives in someone’s heart, he will do bad things because he is listening to the devil’s voice instead of the Lord’s.”

“It’s easy for us to feel angry at the person we see with our eyes. But if we can remember that the people who treat us badly are being used by the devil, it’s easier to feel sorry for them instead.”

“I’m trying to be nice to Amy, but it is hard because she’s really mean,” says Violet. “Tomorrow I will remember that I am fighting the devil, not Amy. I want her to choose Jesus.”

Kathryn smiles at her children. “I am happy you have tender hearts and that you want to serve the Lord. He will give you strength to fight your battles. He will lead you into very hard ones, but He will never leave your side.”

David was a wise and gentle man who loved God with all his heart, but he was also a soldier! He fought in many battles, starting with the times he killed a lion and a bear who threatened his sheep. We all know the story of David fighting Goliath. That was the first battle he fought against the enemies of Israel, but it didn’t stop there. King Saul tried to have him killed, and many other tribes around Israel went to war against him. David was a great man in battle and God blessed him. He defeated his enemies!

Sadly, David also had to fight members of his own family. When his son, Absalom, decided he wanted to be king instead of David, there was a great battle between Absalom’s men and David’s men. They met in a dangerous forest where David’s men killed many of Absalom’s men. By this time, David was an older man, and his soldiers told him to stay in the city and direct the troops from there. David agreed but asked his men to deal gently with his son when they found him.

As Absalom rode through the woods, his long, thick hair became caught in a tree and he died there. David was very sad that his son had turned out so wicked, but God still blessed David’s army. They were victorious that day against their enemies!

God doesn’t ask us to fight with other people anymore. In fact, He wants us to be peaceful. But He does want us to fight against our enemy--the devil!

Blessed be the LORD my strength, which
teacheth my hands to war, and my
fingers to fight. Psalm 144:1

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Volume 69, Quarter 4, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

DAVID THE SOLDIER

Color and cut out David and his armor (make sure to cut the tabs out !)

Dress David in his armor to get him ready for battle.





David Counts His Men

David had been the king for many years. His army and his kingdom had grown and gotten stronger while he ruled, and David might have started feeling proud of all he had accomplished. One day, he asked the captain of his army to travel around the kingdom and count how many mighty men lived there. The captain tried to talk David out of counting all the strong men, but David would not listen!

Instead of trusting God to take care of him and his kingdom as he had done in the past, David was starting to trust his own strength! He might have even thought, “My army must have thousands of strong men in it! How strong we are!”

The captain of the army obeyed David, and when he returned, he told the king, “There are 1,300,000 mighty men in your kingdom.” In that very moment, David knew he had disobeyed and made God unhappy. God wanted David to trust Him for strength and power, not his army!

David asked God what he could do to make up for his sin. God gave him a choice of three punishments: three days of bugs in the land, three months of being chased by an enemy, or seven years without rain or food. David chose three days of bugs, and during those three days, 70,000 of his mighty men died.

After that, David followed God’s exact orders to build an altar and offer a sacrifice. He knew he had done wrong and wanted to make it right.

For I acknowledge my transgressions:
and my sin is ever before me. Psalm 51:3

Run From Temptation

Marcy counted the bills carefully as her sister, Andrea, looked on. “If we go around the neighborhood and ask for odd jobs, we might be able to make enough money for that Bible mom wanted!” Marcy said.

“Well, let’s go then!” Andrea exclaimed, and jumped up.

The girls talked excitedly about the special birthday gift for their mom while they walked. Soon after, they were working hard in Mrs. Greene’s yard, mowing the grass and pulling the weeds. It was a very hot day and they became wet with sweat after just a few minutes. But after an hour of work, the yard looked beautiful and Mrs. Greene handed over the money they’d earned.

Marcy and Andrea said thank you and started home. “Oh, a popsicle sounds so good right now,” Andrea exclaimed. Just as she finished her sentence, they heard the sound of the ice cream truck down the block. They looked at the truck and then at each other.

“What should we do?” Andrea asked, her eyebrows high. “This is so tempting!”

“Run!” Marcy shouted, and took off toward home.

Back in their bedroom, Marcy and Andrea counted their bills again. “Good thing we didn’t get ice cream with our money! We have just enough to get that Bible now.” Andrea smiled.

Nodding, Marcy said, “My Sunday school teacher says the best way to avoid temptation is to run from it, and that is just what we did!”

RESPONSIBILITY GARDEN

Materials: Colored construction paper, green popsicle sticks, squares of craft foam (optional), crayons, scissors, glue

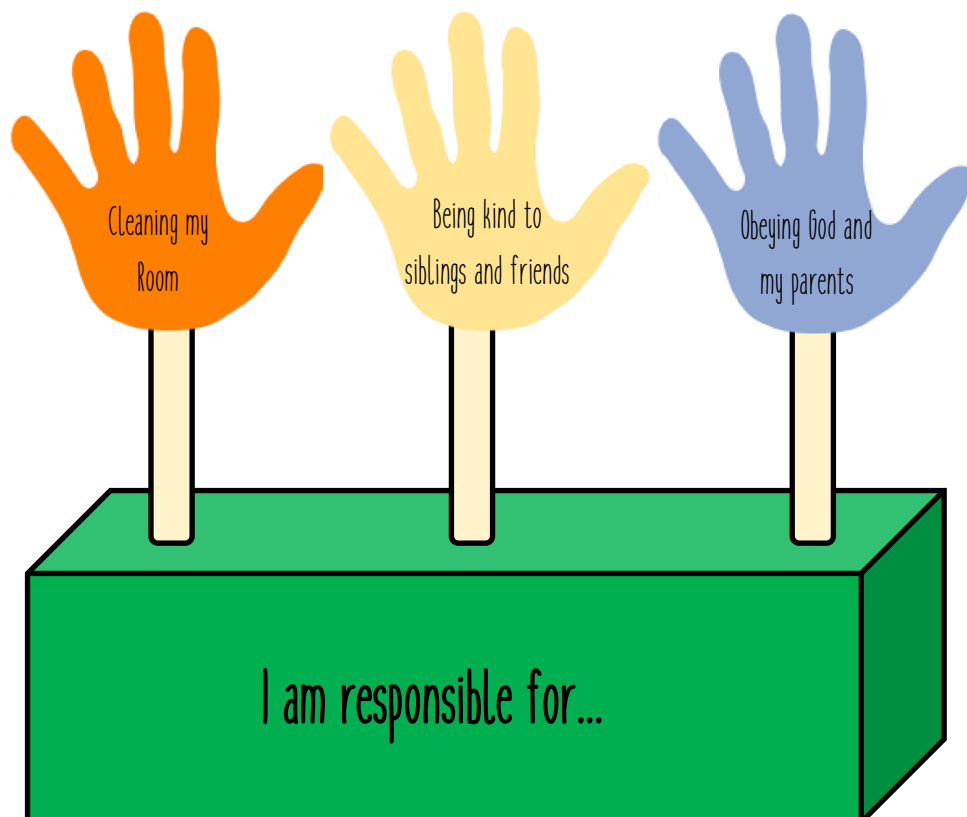
Directions: Each child trace three handprints on different colored paper and cut them out. Write on each hand:

- Obeying God and my parents
- Cleaning my room
- Being kind to my siblings and friends

Glue handprints and leaves (if desired) to popsicle sticks.

Foam Option: Cover craft foam with green paper and write "I am responsible for..." on the side of your paper covered foam box. Stick popsicle sticks with "flowers" attached into it.

Cardstock Option: Glue handprints/stems to heavy green cardstock that reads, "I am responsible for..."





A Humble King

It is Christmas time and we have been reading about King David for the last few weeks. But today, we are going to read about a different king—the King of Kings! Jesus is the most important king that has ever lived.

Have you ever known someone who loves to be the center of attention? Maybe the only thing he wants to talk about is himself. Perhaps he won't let anyone else be the most important person in a game. We don't like being around those kinds of people. They are missing something very important called "humility." That means, they think too highly of themselves.

Think about Jesus. Did He think too highly of Himself? Was He born into a beautiful house with soft, silk blankets and a comfortable baby bed? No, He was born into a stable with strips of cloth to keep Him warm, and a manger for a bed. He was humble.

Jesus also showed that He was humble when He washed His disciples' feet as if He were a servant. A king shouldn't be washing people's feet, but Jesus was trying to teach His disciples something. He wants us to learn this lesson too: Jesus wants us to be humble. We shouldn't think we are better than the people around us and should treat others with kindness and respect. We should be willing and happy to do jobs that are not very fun.

Even though He was the King of all Kings, Jesus showed us how to be humble.

Where is he that is born King of the Jews? And she [Mary] brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Matthew 2:2; Luke 2:7

A Christmas Tale

"Tell us a story, Mommy," Violet says. She sits on a soft rug at her mother's feet, sipping a steaming mug of hot chocolate.

"I've been thinking of a story my mother used to tell me at Christmas. It goes like this:

There once was a very spoiled little boy. He was excited to open all his presents on Christmas Day.

Two nights before Christmas, his father asked him if he wanted to help serve soup and bread to families without much to eat.

The little boy frowned. "Why would I want to do that? I might get cold."

The night before Christmas, his mother asked him if he would help her stuff a cooked goose with fruits and vegetables that she planned to give to their neighbors.

The little boy wrinkled his nose. "Why would I want to do that? I might get my hands dirty,"

That night the little boy's parents stayed up late talking. They realized they had spoiled their boy, and that he was not a nice little boy. They decided to start anew the next day.

The little boy ran down the stairs to open all his presents, then stared in shock when he realized he only had one large package to open.

As he slowly opened his one present, his father said, "A coat to keep you warm, gloves to keep your hands from getting dirty, and a whistle to let the other children know you are coming when you give them each a slice of cooked goose and one of your presents."

The little boy was angry at first, but after seeing the joy on other children's faces, his heart slowly opened. Every year after that, he looked forward to making sure the children he knew had plenty of food and a gift for Christmas."





David Wants to Build the Temple

We have learned a lot about King David over the last twelve weeks! He was a man that God loved, the most loved king of Israel, and a mighty man of war. He killed the lion and bear with his hands when he was a young shepherd, then he killed Goliath in the battle against the Philistines! When he became king, he won a lot of wars and did a lot of good things for Israel. He also messed up and sinned against God, but he loved God more than anything and always came back and asked for forgiveness.

When he was old, King David asked God if he could build the temple. He even gathered cedar trees, gold, silver, brass, and iron, and asked stone masons to cut rocks to begin building. However, God had different plans.

Because David had been a warrior, or a fighter, for his entire life, God chose his son, Solomon, to build the temple. David was disappointed, but he told Solomon, "Be strong and be a man. Walk in God's ways and keep His commandments. Serve Him with a perfect heart and willing mind."

It is easy to see why God loved David! He was a good king and a godly man, and he always did his best to serve God.

Ornamental Fruit

"This has been a very fruitful day," Grandpa said at the end of Ethan's first day in California. Ethan smiled. He and Grandpa had taken a trip to an orange grove where they picked three bushels of oranges. "Enough fresh fruit to last three months! We'll have to share with our neighbors," Grandma exclaimed.

"Speaking of fruits, let's examine the spiritual qualities that comes from following Christ," Grandpa suggested. Opening the Bible, he turned to Galatians 5 and handed the book over to Ethan. "Read verses 22 through 26."

Ethan started reading the passage out loud, and finished in a strong voice. "That seems like a lot of fruit for one person," he commented.

Smiling, Grandpa said, "Don't let the list scare you. All Christians should have this fruit in their lives. We need to let more and more of it show as our relationship with Christ deepens. Of course, we aren't perfect, but we must keep working toward that goal. That is one reason we study the Bible. Why don't you look over the list and pick a fruit you feel needs some work in your own life."

"I don't see it here, but my mother always says I need more patience," Ethan said.

"Patience is listed as 'longsuffering,'" Grandma explained. "How would you like to pray and ask God to help supply you with more patience?" When Ethan nodded, Grandma smiled. "Then you can pray for me to have more peace in my life. I tend to worry about small things, like when you and Grandpa got back late from the orange grove."

"And we can pray for me to have self-control," Grandpa added. "I still get upset over silly things. We can all pray that the Lord will develop His fruits in our lives so that we can please him."

The house that is to be builded for the LORD must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries. 2 Chronicles 22:5

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