

Gideon Obeys God

Gideon could hardly believe that God wanted him to lead the Children of Israel into battle. He asked God to please show him if this was really true. So God did show him in a very special way.

That night, Gideon laid a piece of woolly sheepskin, called a fleece, on the ground. If the fleece was wet in the morning and the ground was dry, then he would know that God wanted to use him.

Early the next day, Gideon hurried out to where he had laid the fleece. He picked it up. It was full of water! But the ground all around it was dry!

Still, Gideon wanted to be extra sure that God wanted him to be the leader. He asked God not to be angry but to please give him a little more proof. He put the fleece out again that night. This time he wanted the fleece to be dry in the morning and the ground to be wet.

As Gideon went out the next morning he could see that the ground everywhere was wet. Would the fleece be dry? It was! And now he knew for sure that he was to lead the Children of Israel into battle.

There were thirty-two thousand men in Gideon's army. God told him that

was too many. He said, "If there are any people who are afraid, tell them to go home." Twenty-two thousand men went home! Only ten thousand stayed. Then God said, "There are still too many. Take the men down to the water and I will test them."

When they arrived at the water, all of the men bent down to get a drink. Three hundred of them scooped up the water with their hands. The others got down on their knees and drank directly from the water. God told Gideon to use just the three hundred men who had scooped up the water and drank it from their hands.

Could they win a battle with only three hundred men against an army of

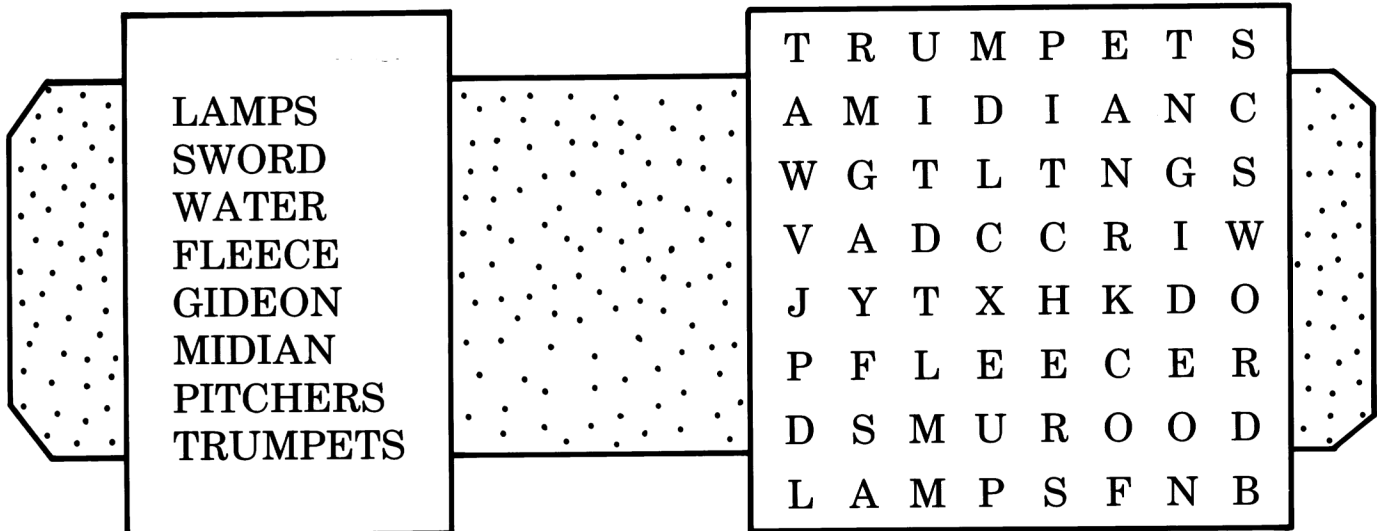
thousands? Gideon knew that God could do anything.

That very night Gideon prepared his army for battle. He obeyed the strange instructions God gave him. Each man was given a trumpet, and a pitcher with a lamp inside. Quietly they surrounded the enemy camp. When Gideon gave the signal, every man blew his trumpet. Then they all broke their pitchers so the lamps inside shone very brightly. All of this scared the enemy so badly they began to fight with each other.

Gideon and the Children of Israel won the battle that night because they obeyed God's plan. Gideon knew he could always trust God.

Hidden Words

Circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

We are starting a unit called, "People God Used." We would like your child to realize that God has a place for each of us to fill—that all of us can be used by Him if we are willing.

As you discuss this thought with your child, make a life-sized poster to reinforce it in his mind. You will need a roll of white paper (such as is used to cover tables) or end rolls of newsprint which is often available from local newspaper offices.

Cut a length of paper your child's height plus a few inches. Have him lie on the paper. Trace around him to make an outline of his body. Your child can then color in the hair, features, and clothing to match his own. When completed, have him write the words "Jesus, Use Me" across the top.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 27:14

MONDAY: Psalm 31:24

TUESDAY: Deuteronomy 31:6

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 27:3

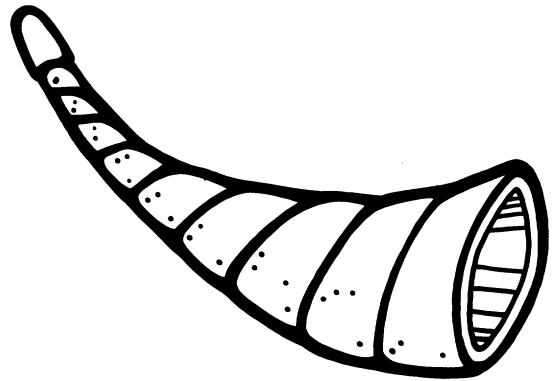
THURSDAY: Psalm 118:6

FRIDAY: Isaiah 12:2

SATURDAY: Proverbs 3:5

Bible Text

Judges 6:11-16,36-40; 7:1-23

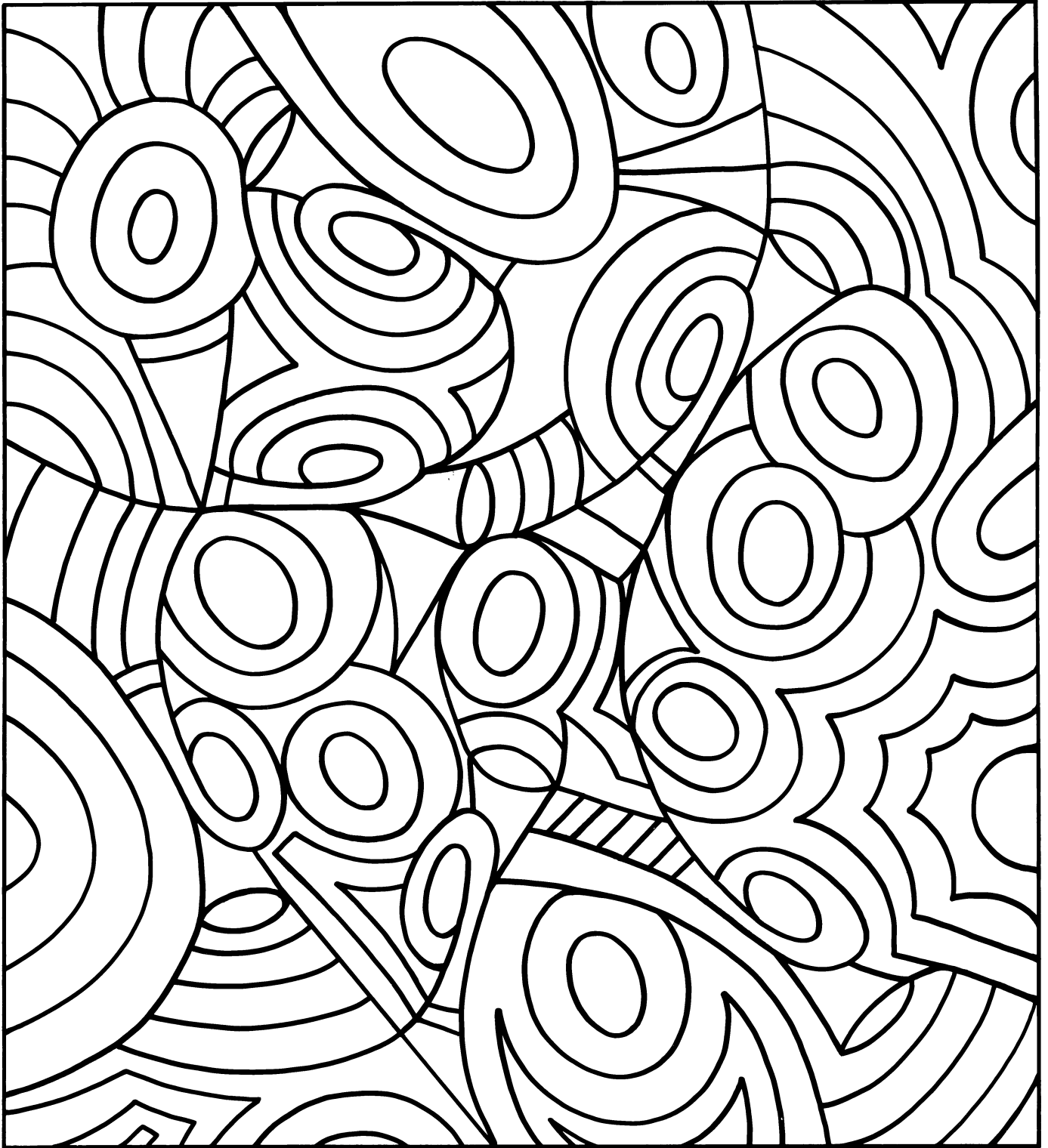


Memory Verse

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart. — Psalm 27:14

Find the Trumpets

Find and color the six trumpets that are hidden in the picture below.



Name: _____

PRINCESS PAIS



A Big Decision

Julie stared at the soft patch of light on the ceiling above her bed. She couldn't sleep. Julie had a problem!

At the dinner table this evening, Mama had told Daddy that Grandma wanted Julie to spend the summer vacation with her and Grandpa. Julie had never been away from home for that long before, but she loved going to Grandma's. Mama had asked Daddy what he thought. "What does Julie want to do?" he asked. They told her to think about it.

Now she couldn't sleep. She thought about the trip her mother and father were planning to take. It would be fun

to go with them, she thought. But if I stay with Grandma I'll get to go to the camp meeting with her and to the youth camp afterward. She always helps at the youth camp. Grandma says I would have lots of fun.

Julie loved being with Grandma and Grandpa. They told her Bible stories, and showed her where to find those stories in her own Bible. They had even given her the Bible she had just read out of tonight. It was Grandma and Grandpa who had prayed with her when she had asked Jesus to come into her heart. She still remembered that night and how happy she had

been. She loved Jesus so much! She wished she lived near Grandma and Grandpa so she could always go to church and Sunday school.

If she went to her grandparents for the summer she could go to church for that long at least. Grandma had asked Mama and Daddy to stop by on their trip and enjoy part of the camp meeting. I wish they would, she thought. I want them to ask Jesus into their hearts too.

“This is sort of like Ruth in the Bible story,” Julie whispered to herself. “She had to decide whether to go with Naomi or stay with her family.”

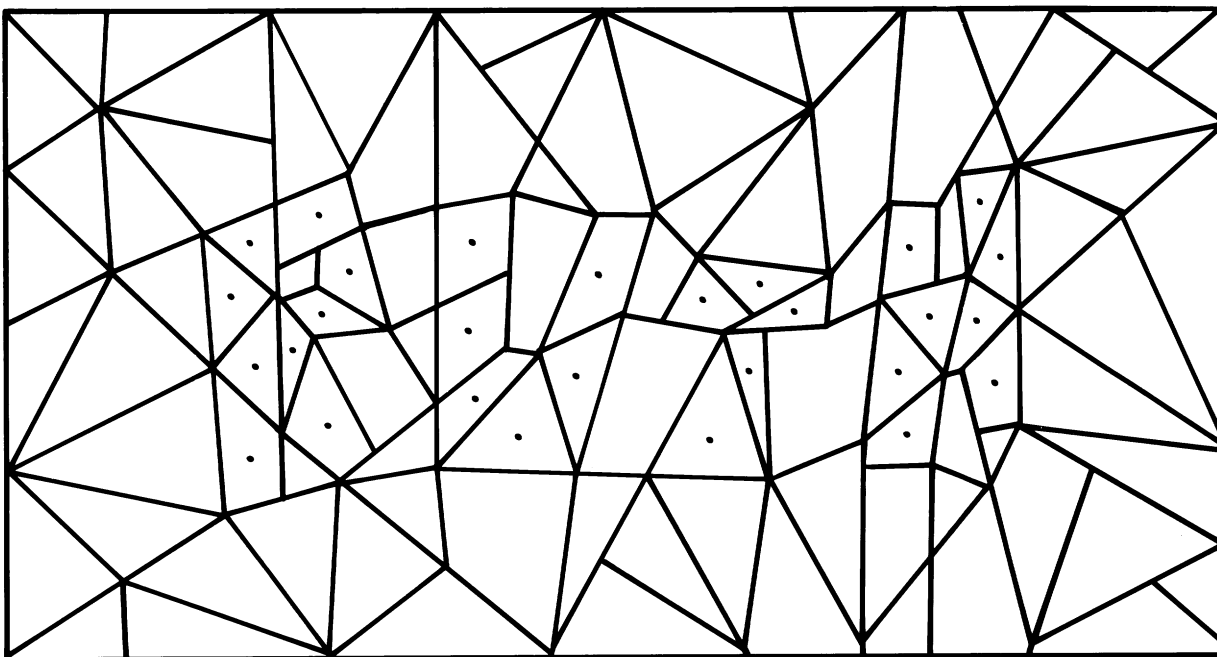
Closing her eyes, Julie continued to think about that Bible story. Ruth’s mother-in-law, Naomi, had lived many

years in the land of Moab. That was where Ruth’s family lived. When Naomi was planning to return to her homeland, Ruth had to decide whether to go with her or not. If she went with Naomi she would be going a long way to another country to live. It might be many years before she saw her family again. Maybe she would never see them again! But Ruth made the decision to go with Naomi because she loved her and she loved Naomi’s God. I’d like to be like Ruth . . .

“Mama! Daddy!” Julie said as she came to the breakfast table the next morning. “I’ve decided what I’m going to do during my vacation. I’m going to go to Grandma and Grandpa’s. Do you want to know why?”

Color the Dots

Color the spaces that have a dot inside. You will find the name of the lady in our story.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

The beautiful story of Ruth's purpose to leave her homeland and follow the God of her mother-in-law, Naomi, is one of the treasured stories of the Bible. Emphasis in this lesson will be placed on the thought that God could use Ruth because she was willing to follow God even though it meant leaving all that was dear and familiar to her.

As you talk with your child about what it means to follow God, here is a short activity which will help your little one visualize this concept. Have your child remove his shoes so you can outline his feet on a piece of construction paper. Let him color and decorate the outlines of his feet however he wishes.

The feet can be cut out and mounted on a separate piece of paper under the words, "I Will Follow Jesus." Add a sticker or small picture of Jesus if you wish.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 128:1
MONDAY: Joshua 24:14
TUESDAY: Matthew 4:19,20
WEDNESDAY: Luke 9:57
THURSDAY: John 8:12
FRIDAY: John 12:26
SATURDAY: Ephesians 5:1

Bible Text

Ruth 1:1-18

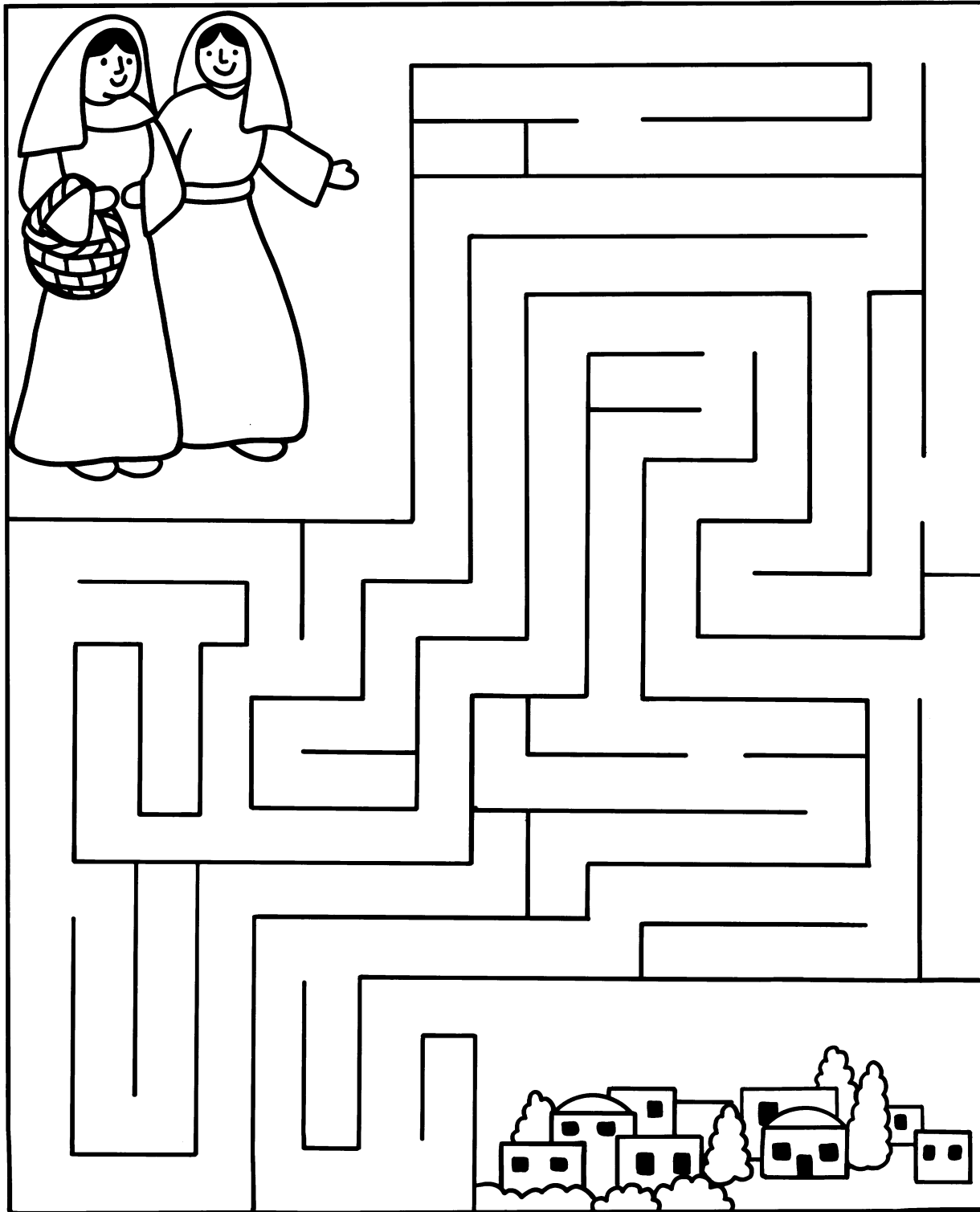


Memory Verse

Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways.
— Psalm 128:1

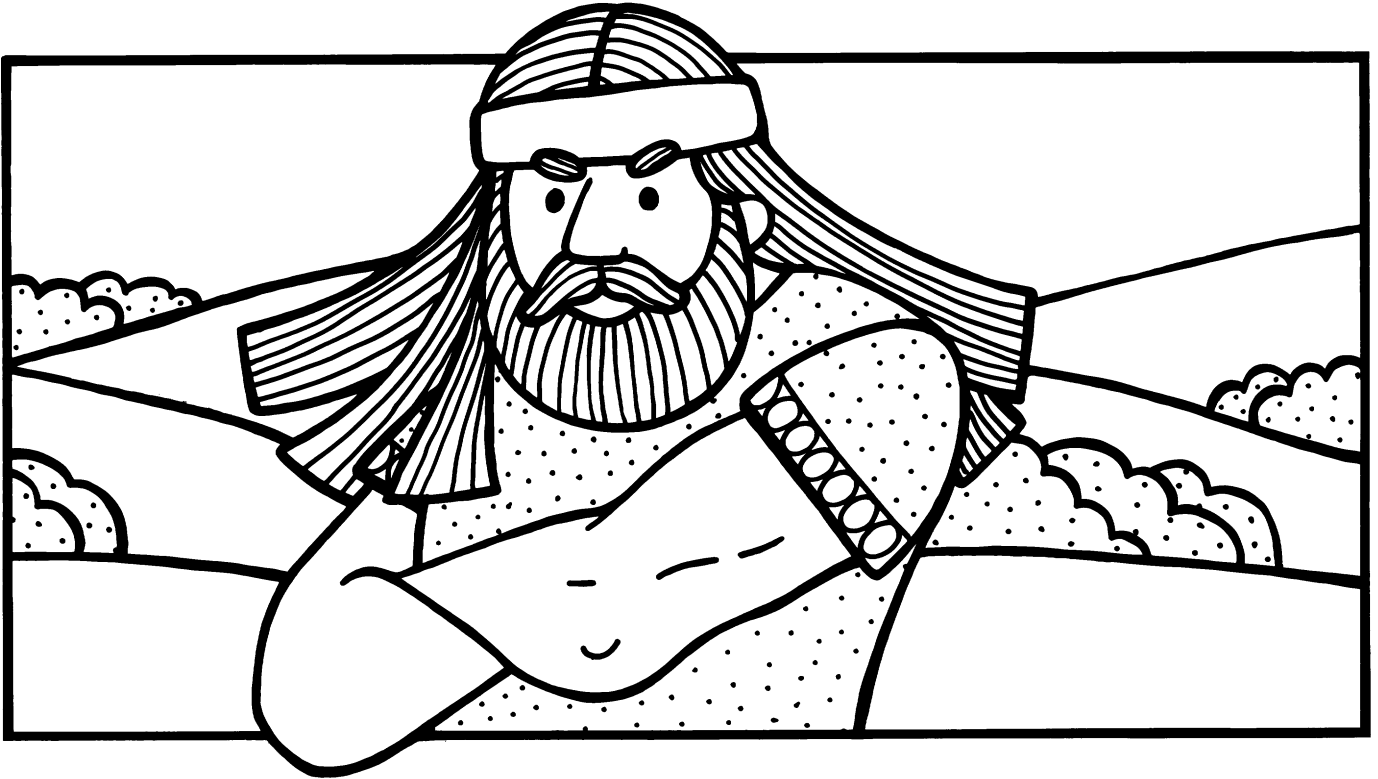
Willing to Follow

Help Ruth and Naomi find their way through the maze to Bethlehem.



Name: _____

PRINCEY PRINCS



Nothing Is Impossible With God

Have you ever tried to jump over a really high fence? You found it impossible, didn't you? There are many things in life that are impossible for all of us but there is Someone who can do the impossible. It is God! Sometimes He uses men and women to do impossible things for Him.

Many years ago the people of Israel found that they needed God's help. The Philistines had treated them very badly for forty years. It was impossible for them to free themselves. God sent help in a very unusual way.

There was a man of Israel, named Manoah. He and his wife had no

children. God sent an angel to tell them that He would give them a son. But there were special instructions for the child. He was to have a very special diet and he was never to have his hair cut. When the child grew up, God would work through him to free the Children of Israel. When the baby was born, his parents named him Samson.

As Samson grew older, God's Spirit made him very strong. With his bare hands he killed a lion, and another time he destroyed a thousand enemies with the jawbone of a donkey.

But one day Samson made a very

bad mistake. He told the secret of his great strength to one of the Philistine women. Her name was Delilah. He let her know that if his hair was cut he would lose his strength.

Delilah told Samson's secret to the Philistines, and while Samson was asleep she had them cut off his hair. What a terrible thing to do! Because Samson didn't do the right thing, God's Spirit left him. Samson's strength was gone. The Philistines put him into prison, and put his eyes out. How awful! Don't you think Samson was sorry he had told his secret?

Time went by. One day the Philistines had a great feast. They

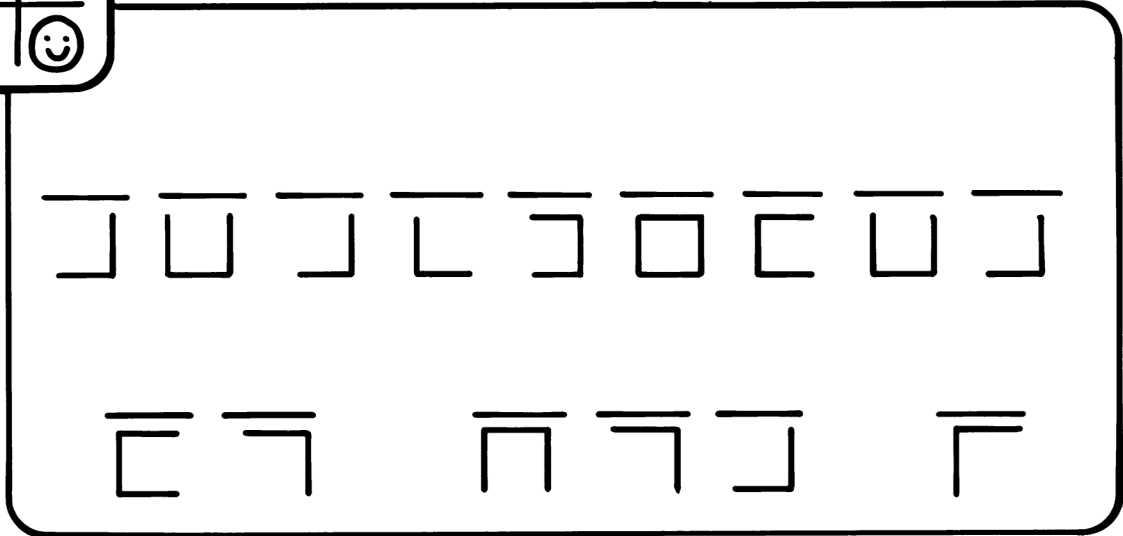
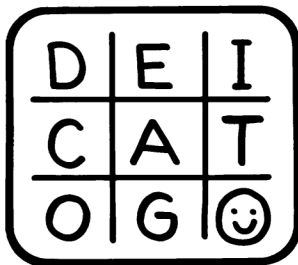
called for Samson because they wanted to make fun of him. But God was ready to use Samson again.

They brought Samson into the great hall where the feast was going on. Samson asked to be led to the two huge pillars which held up the building. He prayed to God for strength to stop the wicked men and women who were very mean to the Children of Israel. Then, with all his might, he pushed over the pillars. With a thunderous crash, the building fell, destroying all the Philistines.

God had helped Samson do the impossible! If we do the right thing, God can use us too.

What Is a Nazarite?

When Samson was born he was to be a Nazarite. To find out what it meant to be a Nazarite, decode the words below.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

The story of the amazing strength of Samson is one which captures the imagination of children. Your child will learn how God was able to use Samson to destroy the enemies of His people.

As you review the lesson with your child, explain that God gives strength to His people in this day too. Study the memory verse together. God may not give phenomenal physical strength such as Samson had, but He will give spiritual strength which will make one usable for Him.

Let your child make a paper chain from eight strips of paper to represent the chains that bound Samson. On each strip of paper, have him write one of the words from the memory verse. Then assemble the chain in the proper order.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 29:11

MONDAY: Job 17:9

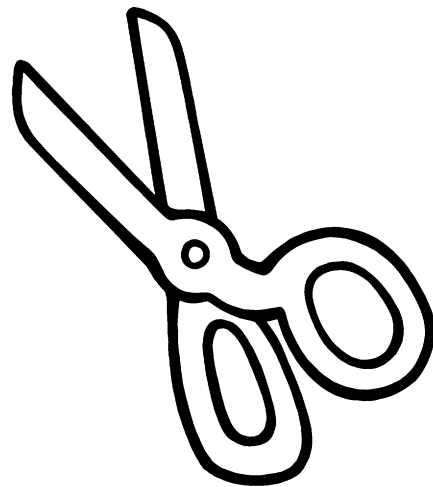
TUESDAY: Psalm 27:1

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 46:1

THURSDAY: Psalm 73:26

FRIDAY: Proverbs 24:5

SATURDAY: Mark 12:30



Bible Text

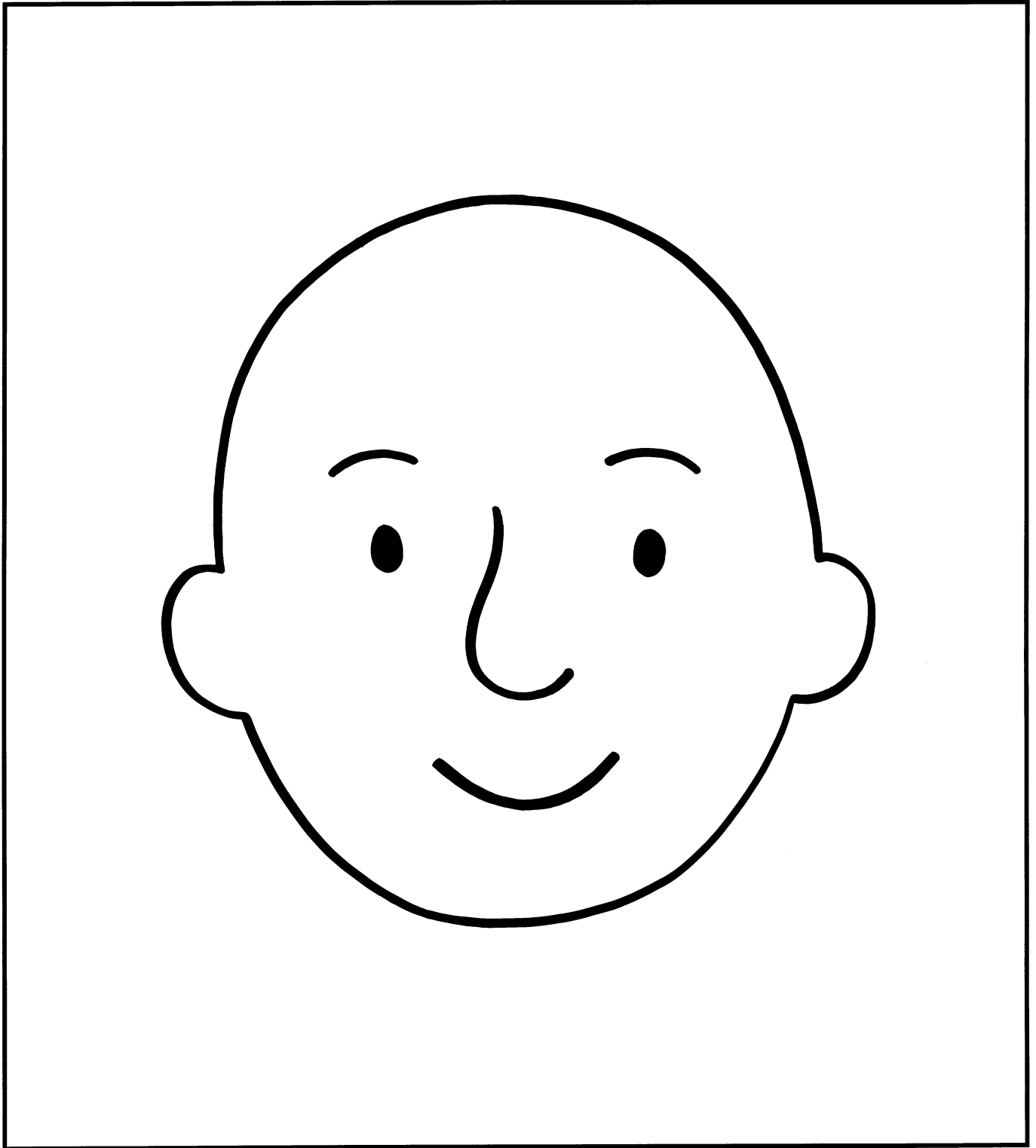
Judges 13:1-5,24; 16:18-30

Memory Verse

The LORD will give strength unto his people. — Psalm 29:11

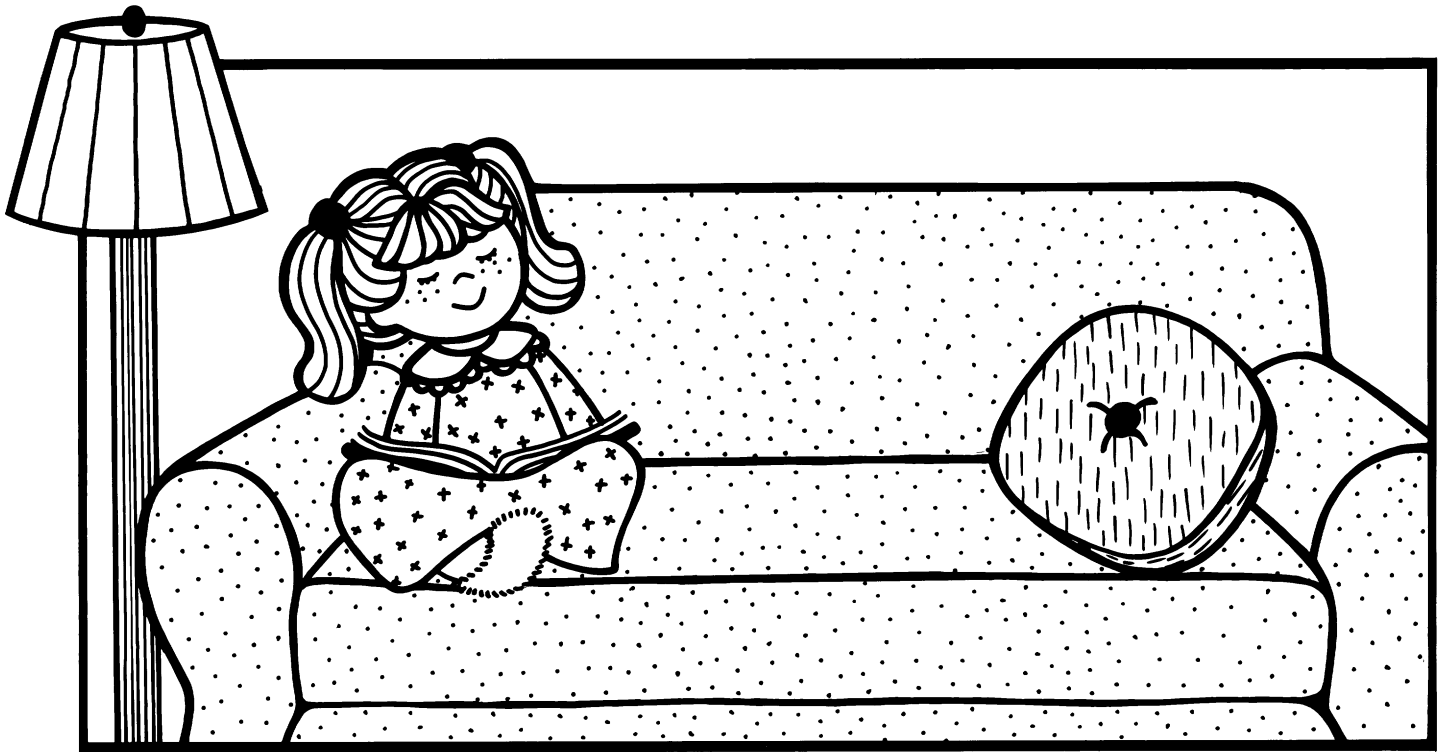
Lots of Hair

When Samson was born, God said he must never cut his hair. Finish the picture to show what you think Samson's hair looked like. Did he have a beard?



Name: _____

PRINCESS



A Good Choice

Lauri curled up in the corner of the couch with the open Bible storybook on her lap. She was going to read one of her favorite Bible stories.

“What story did you choose for tonight, Honey?” asked Lauri’s mother.

“I’m going to read about Queen Esther. I think it’s so wonderful how she was chosen to be queen. There were probably a lot of other girls who were hoping they would be chosen.” Then Lauri asked, “Do you know why I chose this story?”

“No, I don’t. But I’m sure you have some special reason,” said her mother.

“You’re right. For our Sunday school project we are supposed to choose a Bible character and tell how God used that person. We are also supposed to tell why that person was chosen by God. We need to tell if they were brave or loyal or obedient or other things like that. I think I’ll tell the story of Esther.”

“That would be a good one, Lauri,” said her mother.

“Mom, will you help me make a list of some of the things about Esther’s life. I will need to tell the reason she was chosen to be queen. I know she was beautiful, but . . .” Lauri wrinkled

her nose and sighed. “There were probably lots of beautiful women, so that can’t be the only reason. Why do you think Esther was chosen by the king?”

“Well, the Bible tells us that the king loved Esther more than any of the other women. But more than that, I think it was part of God’s plan. He wanted her to be chosen. She had been brought up to know and to love the God of Israel. God knew He could trust her.”

Lauri nodded her head. “Yes, and after she became queen, a wicked man named Haman tried to have all the Jewish people killed! Esther went to the king about it.”

“That took courage, didn’t it?” her mother went on. “Who told her to go to the king?”

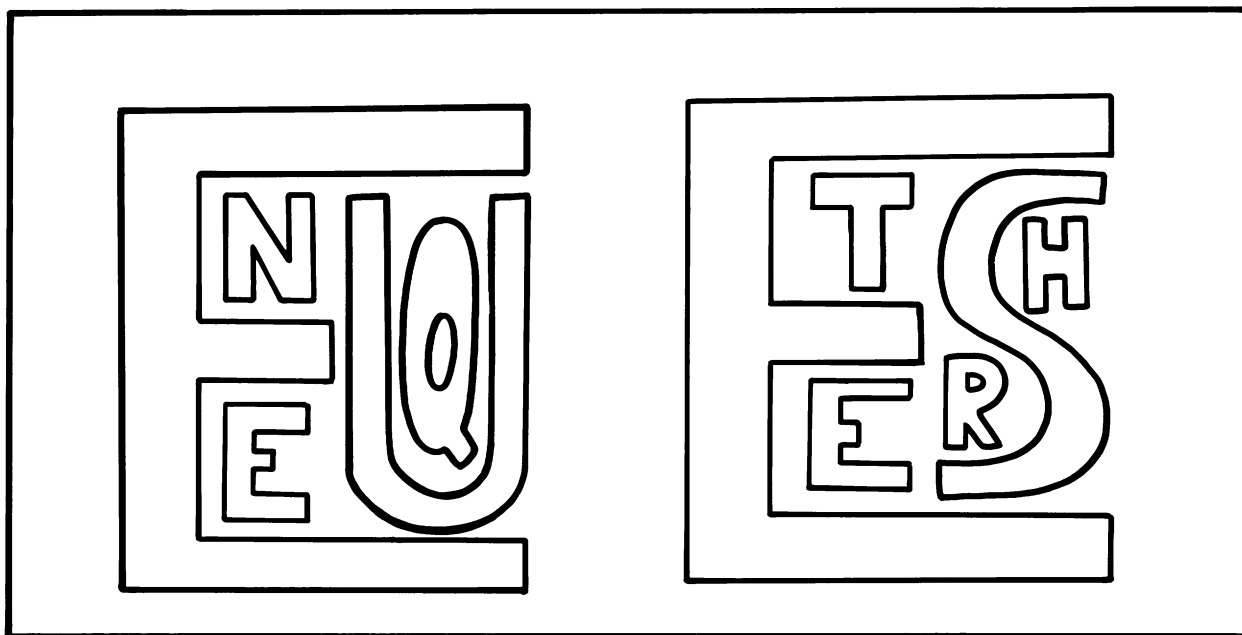
“I know that answer,” Lauri smiled. “Her cousin, Mordecai! And Esther obeyed him, even if she was scared.”

“Yes,” Lauri’s mother replied, “and that was important. So we can see that Esther was faithful to her God and loyal to her own people. She was also courageous and obedient. God still looks for these special qualities in people today. Does this help to answer your question about why Esther was chosen to be queen?”

“Yes,” Lauri answered. “I think both God and the king knew that Esther was special.”

Scrambled Words

Unscramble these two words to find the name of the lady in today’s lesson.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

The dramatic story of Esther's courage in risking her life to go before the king on behalf of her people is the subject of this lesson. Your child will learn that Esther's unselfish regard for others made her a person God could use to preserve His people.

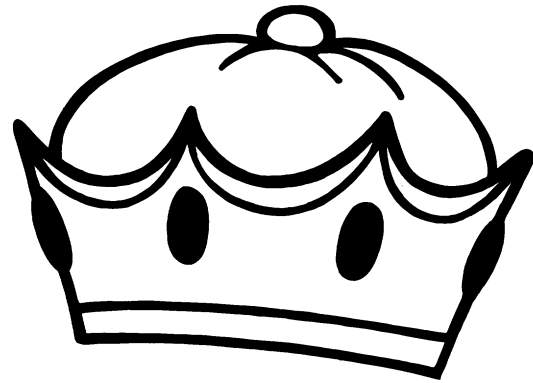
Review the story with your child and then, together, plan a menu that Esther might have used for her banquet for the king. Let your child design a napkin and a place mat for the occasion.

If your child wishes, let him make a matching "crown" for his father or other family member, and let that person use the napkin and place mat at your evening meal. Encourage your child to retell the story as an explanation at the dinner table.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 97:10
MONDAY: Mark 12:31
TUESDAY: John 15:13
WEDNESDAY: Romans 5:7
THURSDAY: I John 4:21
FRIDAY: I John 4:18
SATURDAY: Philippians 2:4



Bible Text

Esther 2:8-11,15-20; 4:4-9,12-17;
7:1-6; 8:1-8

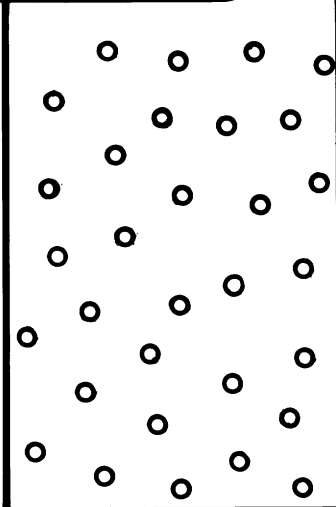
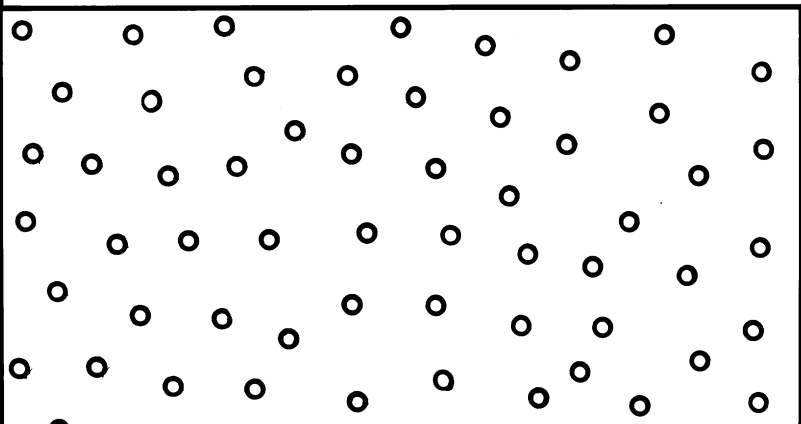
Memory Verse

Ye that love the LORD, hate evil. — Psalm 97:10

Twice Hidden

Each word in the list is hidden twice in the puzzle. Find and circle all of them.

- JEWS
- KING
- CROWN
- FEAST
- HAMAN
- QUEEN
- ESTHER
- FAVOUR
- SCEPTRE
- MORDECAI



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

Name: _____