

DESTRUCTION TO SALVATION

3rd Grade

Chicago CBF



Foundational Bible Studies for 3rd Grade

Destruction to Salvation: Foundational Bible Studies for 3rd Grade
Chicago Children's Bible Fellowship 2011
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Lesson 1 [1 Ki 19] *A Gentle Whisper*
 Lesson 2 [1 Ki 20] *The Bloody Prophet*
 Lesson 3 [1 Ki 21] *Undeserved Mercy*
 Lesson 4 [1 Ki 22] *Ahab's Final Battle*
 Lesson 5 [2 Ki 1-2a] *Chariots of Fire*
 Lesson 6 [2 Ki 2b-3] *Faith is the Victory*
 Lesson 7 [2 Ki 4a&6] *Elisha the Evangelist*
 Lesson 8 [2 Ki 4b] *No Takebacks*
 Lesson 9 [2 Ki 5] *A Little Girl's Wish*
 Lesson 10 [2 Ki 6a] *Ours is Greater*
 Lesson 11 [2 Ki 6b-7] *Four Lepers Have A Problem*
 Lesson 12 [2 Ki 8-10] *Justice is Served*
 Lesson 13 [2 Ki 13] *God Keeps His Promises*
 Lesson 14 [2 Ki 15-17] *Big Time Detention*
 Lesson 15 [Joh 1-4] *The Missing Prophet*

Part 5: Adventures In The Kingdom Of Judah

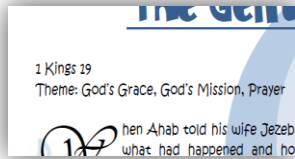
Lesson 16 [2 Ch 12-20] *The Wee Kingdom of Judah*
 Lesson 17 [2 Ch 21-24] *Bad Move Jehoshaphat*
 Lesson 18 [2 Ch 25-28; Isaiah 6] *Finish What You Start*
 Lesson 19 [2 Ki 18-21; 2 Ch 28-32; Isaiah 35-38] *Finally a Good One*
 Lesson 20 [2 Ki 21-23; 2 Ch 33-35] *The Law, What's That?*
 Lesson 21 [2 Ki 23-25; 2 Ch 36; Jeremiah 22; 36-43] *Jeremiah, The Sad Prophet*
 Lesson 22 [Eze 37] *Dry Bones Live*
 Lesson 23 [Dan 1-2] *I Won't Be Unclean!*
 Lesson 24 [Dan 3] *Can You Take the Heat?*
 Lesson 25 [Dan 4] *Animal Man*
 Lesson 26 [Dan 5] *The Writing On The Wall*
 Lesson 27 [Dan 6] *Daniel In The Lion's Den*
 Lesson 28 [Ezr 1-3] *A Happy Journey*
 Lesson 29 [Ezr 3-6; Hag 1-2; Zech 4] *The New Temple*
 Lesson 30 [Ezr 7-10] *Ezra, Bible Teacher of Israel*
 Lesson 31 [Est 1-3] *Raised Up For God's Purpose 1*
 Lesson 32 [Est 4-10] *Raised Up For God's Purpose 2*
 Lesson 33 [Neh 1-7] *Rebuilding the Wall*
 Lesson 34 [Neh 8-13; Mal 1-4] *So That Everyone May Understand*

Part 6: The Bridge from the Prophets to the New Testament

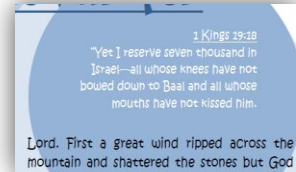
Lesson 35 [Psalm 2,22,16] *King David Meets Jesus*
 Lesson 36 [Psalm 35,41,68,69,118,132] *Glimpses of the Messiah*
 Lesson 37 [Isaiah 7,9,40] *Isaiah Jesus' Messenger*
 Lesson 38 [Isaiah 35,42,59] *The Mission of the Messiah I*
 Lesson 39 [Isaiah 53] *By His Wounds We Are Healed*
 Lesson 40 [Isaiah 49, 50, 60] *A Light for the Gentiles*
 Lesson 41 [Isaiah 65] *The Kingdom of God Now and Forever*
 Lesson 42 [Jeremiah 23,31] *The New Covenant*
 Lesson 43 [Ezekiel 11,17,29,36] *For God's Glory*
 Lesson 44 [Daniel 2,9] *God is in Control*
 Lesson 45 [Joel 2, Malachi 3] *The Day of the Lord*



A Note on using these materials



The Old Testament studies cover a wide range of chapters, so you probably won't have time to read entire passages but rather a summary of the passage. The passages covered in the summary are in the upper left hand corner. Children should be encouraged to read the passage at home with their parents. In the upper right hand corner is a key verse which the children can learn or memorize.



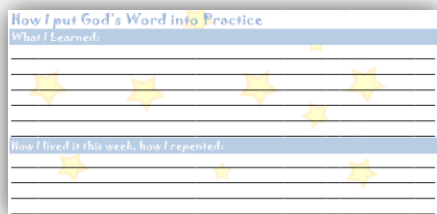
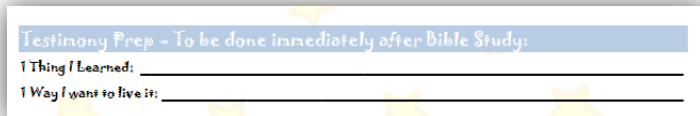
On the second page there is a think about it section and a talk about its section. The think about it section summarizes the main points of the Bible passage

and serves as a teacher's guide. The Talk About It questions don't cover every minute detail of the passage but encourage discussion of the main spiritual points. The bolded, underlined questions are questions that don't have a specific answer from the passage but can be discussed giving everyone a chance to give their input. These questions are the focus of the study and the Think About It section gives some guide to answering these questions.



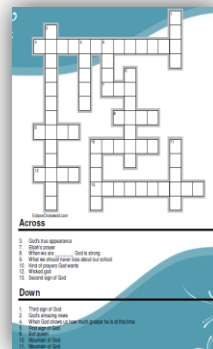
The next page lists around 8 questions for group discussion. The teacher can use these questions to talk with the class about topics that relate the passage to their life so they can get talking and thinking about the application of the passage and have some discussion time.

There is a page for testimony writing (2 for 3rd grade). At the top is space for them to



write one thing they learned and one way they can apply it. This is to assist in testimony writing, since over the course of the week, they often forget the main point of what they learned when they go to write. The testimony section, consists of a brief section for summarizing what they learned and a much longer section describing how they put it into practice or repented this week.

Finally, there's an activity at the end of the lesson. It's good to have fun time to build relationships in the class between each other and the teacher.



May God help you to have His wisdom in using these materials, and have fun!
~Tim McEathron

Preface

“And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and favor with God and men.” -Luke 2:52

Though there are not many verses mentioned about Jesus’ childhood in the Bible, Luke 2:52 shows that Jesus is the role model of our children’s education. Jesus was fully man and fully the beloved only Son of God. Boy Jesus was favored by God and men while he was growing in wisdom and stature. We want to know how our children can also be favored by God and men.

In 1994, Chicago CBF formed the curriculum team to serve children’s spiritual growth and published two books: one Old Testament and one New Testament. In 2006 we formed the second curriculum team, among teachers who have been serving CBF for more than five years. At the onset we set three goals: 1) to comprehensively teach the Bible in full 2) to assist teachers 3) to help children put the Bible into practice. With these, we gathered together every month for 5 years, prayed and developed 8 books of Bible study materials by grade covering the entire Bible over 8 years.

It was necessary and very fulfilling to make our own materials even though there are so many Bible study materials in the bookstores. We have a special mission and unique task to provide materials which deeply study the Bible for application among CBF children. We know that these books are not perfect. But we believe that God will accept our prayers and labor and use it for raising missionaries and Bible teachers in this generation.

This is an ongoing work and we thank you also for your prayers. Your input is welcome and future updates can be found at www.chicagoubf.org/cbf.

Chicago Children’s Bible Fellowship

The Gentle Whisper

1 Kings 19

Theme: God's Grace, God's Mission, Prayer

When Ahab told his wife Jezebel what had happened and how her priests were all dead, she was angry. Jezebel promised to kill Elijah.

Elijah ran for his life, eighty miles, to the land of Judah, then even farther, into the desert to the south. Soon he was tired and hungry. He was also sad and upset. He didn't think the people would really turn away from the idols. He prayed that God would let him die.

He lay down to rest under a little tree and fell asleep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord was there. "Get up and eat," the angel told him. Next to him, Elijah saw a warm loaf of bread and a container of water. He ate and drank, then fell asleep again. A little while later the angel woke him again. "Eat and drink more," the angel said. "You are too weak for the trip you have to make."

After this he regained his strength and traveled forty days until he reached Mount Horeb or Mount Sinai. This is where God had appeared to Moses in the burning bush and where God had given the Ten Commandments. It was known as the mountain of God and there he went into a cave and God told him to prepare to meet the

1 Kings 19:18

"Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.

Lord. First a great wind ripped across the mountain and shattered the stones but God was not in the wind. Then a violent earthquake shook the whole mountain but God was not in the earthquake. Then fire from the sky scorched the mountain but God was not in the fire. Finally, Elijah heard a gentle whisper. He covered his face and came out of the cave because he knew this was God.

"Why are you here?" God asked.

"I have served you with my whole heart but no one follows you anymore and now they are trying to kill me."

"Go back for I have reserved for myself 7,000 in Israel who never worshipped Baal." Elijah thought he was the last believer left but God had kept 7,000!

Elijah went to work at once. He traveled back into the land, of Judah until he found a young man named Elisha in the fields. Without saying a word, Elijah walked up to Elisha. He took off his cloak made of skins and put it over Elisha's shoulders. Elisha had been chosen as a prophet of the Lord. He would spend the rest of his life working with Elijah and serving God.



After Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal, Jezebel threatens his life, and Elijah feels defeated, and afraid for his life. Note that God is not angry with Elijah, and sends an angel to care for him.





Jezebel reaches out through 'Diplomacy' in hopes to reach a compromise with Elijah. **1 Kings 19:2**

THINK ABOUT IT

- ❖ God doesn't want fancy prayers from us he wants us to be honest, he knows our heart
- ❖ God is there for us immediately when we are at our end, in despair and want to give up
- ❖ God takes over when we reach our limit and takes us farther than we could ever go alone
- ❖ God is like a gentle whisper in our life not a loud hurricane; he gently calls the world to Him
- ❖ When we lose hope, remember God is doing His own work in the world that nothing can stop

TALK ABOUT IT

- ❖ What had Elijah done in the last passage?
- ❖ What did Jezebel vow to do?
- ❖ What did Elijah pray and do in his time of deep sadness?
- ❖ What happened immediately?
- ❖ **What can we learn about God's care for us when we reach our limit?**
- ❖ **Think about the content of Elijah's prayer and God's response. What does God want from us when we pray?**
- ❖ Where did Elijah go?
- ❖ What 3 things came first before God?
- ❖ In what form did God reveal himself?
- ❖ **What do we learn about God who came as a gentle whisper not as something loud or powerful? (think also about Jesus' birth)**
- ❖ What was Elijah's complaining prayer?
- ❖ What surprising news did God tell him?
- ❖ **What does this tell us about the way God works?**
- ❖ **When we lose hope for our friends and classmates what must we remember?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel"

- ❖ Have you ever been scared of a bully?
 - ❖ Have you ever felt all alone?
 - ❖ Has someone ever threatened you for doing good?
 - ❖ Do you pray to God when times get really tough?
- ❖ Do you pray honestly about your problems?
- ❖ What do you do when you feel worn out?
 - ❖ Has God ever helped you when you were down?
 - ❖ Do you go to the Bible for answers?
- ❖ Have you heard God's whisper in prayer?
 - ❖ Do you have hope for your friends and classmates?
- ❖ Can you see God's work going on at your school?

Can you think of More? List them Below:



Title: The Gentle Whisper

1 Kings 19:18

"Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

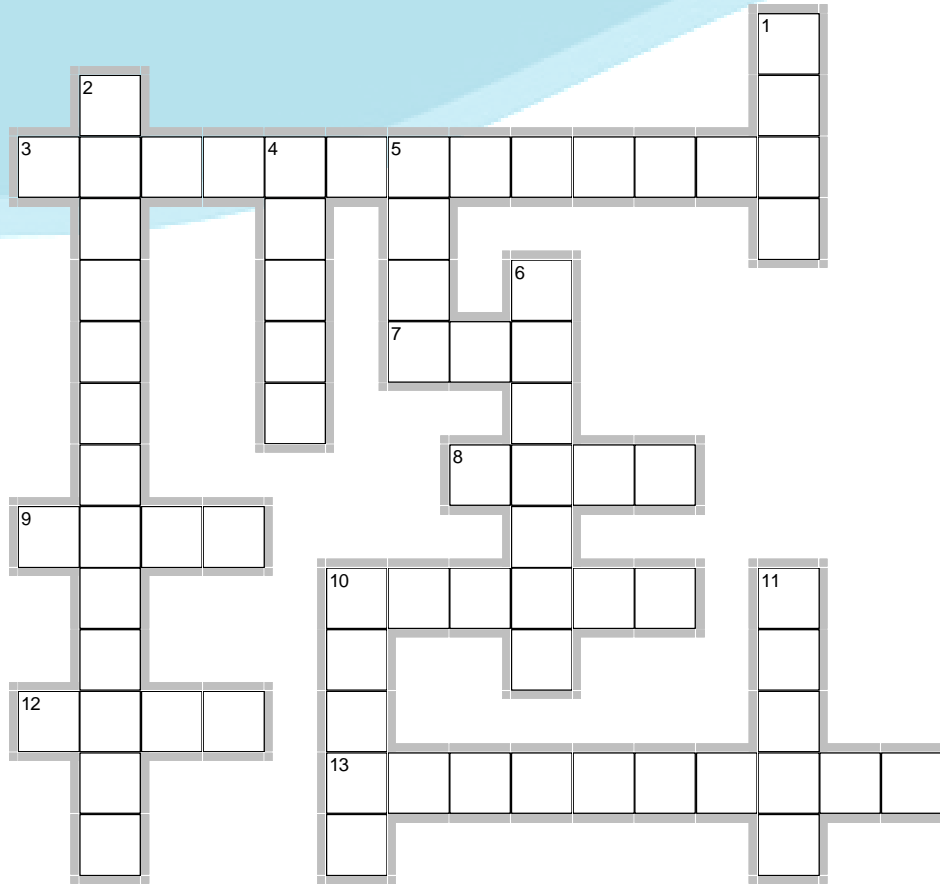
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

3. God's true appearance
7. Elijah's prayer
8. When we are _____ God is strong
9. What we should never lose about our school
10. Kind of prayers God wants
12. Wicked god
13. Second sign of God

Down

1. Third sign of God
2. God's amazing news
4. When God shows us how much greater he is at this time
5. First sign of God
6. Evil queen
10. Mountain of God
11. Mountain of God



The Bloody Prophet

1 Kings 20

Theme: Fully Obeying God's Word

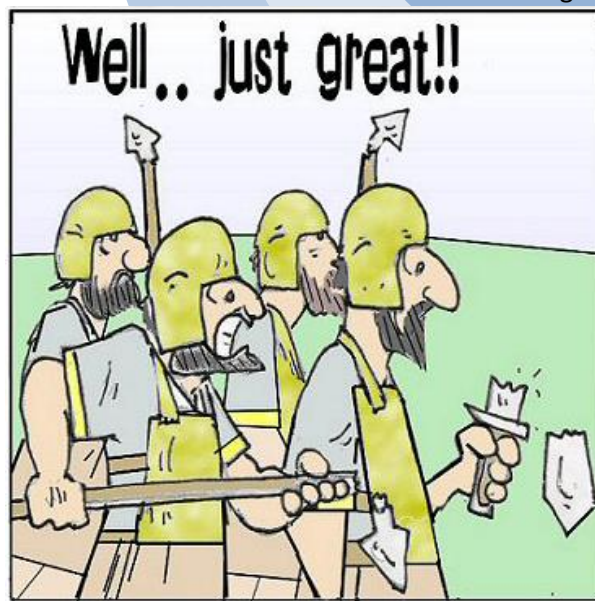
Just north of the kingdom of Israel was the kingdom of Syria. Syria was stronger than Israel. When its king Ben-Hadad decided to attack King Ahab, a prophet came to Ahab with God's message that God would defeat the Syrians with only 7,000 men in Ahab's army and then he would know that the Lord is God. God helped Israel in two battles against the Syrians, and Ahab's little army won them both.

The king of Syria dressed himself in rags and went to Ahab. He begged Ahab not to kill him. Ahab was so pleased to see a great king bowing down to him that he sent the king away without killing him. Ahab had disobeyed God.

By this time Elijah and Elisha had trained many new prophets of the Lord. One of them said to another, "Wound me and make me bleed."

The second prophet refused and was killed by a lion because he did not obey the word of God. The prophet then asked another man to wound him. This man did as he was told. Then the bloody

prophet stood by the road with his face covered and cried out to King Ahab when he passed by.



100,000 Aramean soldiers die that day, and 27,000 more have a wall fall on them. **1 Kings 20:28-29** Defeated by 'Bad King Ahab' and his inferior army + an infinitely superior **ALMIGHTY GOD!**

destroyed, your life will go for his, and your people for his."

Troubled, Ahab went back to his home. Now he knew he had done the wrong thing by letting an enemy go free.

1 Kings 20:42

"He said to the king, 'This is what the LORD says: 'You have set free a man I had determined should die. Therefore it is your life for his life, your people for his people.'"

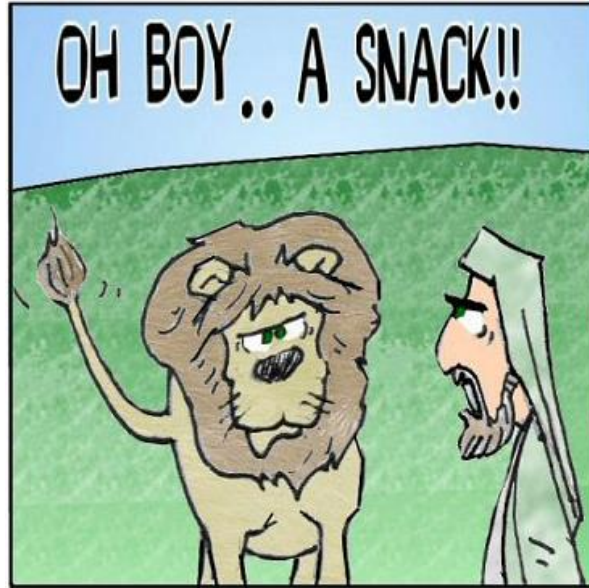
"What happened to you?" Ahab asked the man.

"I was in the battle," the prophet said. "I was in charge of a prisoner. A soldier told me that if I let the prisoner go, he would kill me. When I was busy the prisoner escaped. Please don't have me killed."

"You must die," the king told him. "Your life must pay for the life of the prisoner."

The prophet took the covering off his face, and Ahab saw he was a prophet. "Hear what the Lord says," the prophet said. "Because you let a king go that I wanted





and so one prophet sez to the other prophet.. "Hit Me!" He says no.. and is eaten by a lion! **1 Kings 20:35-36**

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Though we are small, with our Big God we can do anything
- ❖ God never stops trying to reach those he wants to call
- ❖ God requires all our heart, soul mind and strength, we must give him everything we have
- ❖ God requires us to obey ALL his word, not part or what we feel like or agree with but ALL

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What big new enemy rose up against Israel and who was their king?
- ❖ What was God's promise to Ahab? Why only 7000?
- ❖ Who won the battles?
- ❖ How many ways had God tried to help king Ahab to know him at this point?
- ❖ What can we say about God's grace to call those who keep refusing him?
- ❖ How did Ben-Hadad save himself?
- ❖ Why did Ahab disobey God who had helped him?
- ❖ What did one of the prophets ask of another?
- ❖ What happened to the man who didn't obey?
- ❖ What did the wounded prophet teach Ahab?
- ❖ Why must obedience to God be complete and exactly as God says it?
- ❖ Why can't we just obey what we understand or agree with or what seems humanly correct? (55:8-9)
- ❖ What does God require from us? (Dt 6:5)

Questions for Group Discussion

"You have set free a man / had determined should die."

- ❖ Has God ever had grace on you?
- ❖ Have you ever felt God calling you over and over?
- ❖ Do you fully obey the Bible or just stuff you like?
- ❖ Do you fully obey your parents?
- ❖ Is there a command of God that you can't or won't obey?
- ❖ Do you like to see your brother/sister bow down to you?
- ❖ Did you ever try to obey the Bible "your way"?
- ❖ Do you do your work just to get it done or all the way/the best?
 - ❖ Do you pray to do God's will?
- ❖ Do you pray to overcome disobedience?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

The Bloody Prophet

1 Kings 20:42

"He said to the king, 'This is what the LORD says: 'You have set free a man I had determined should die. Therefore it is your life for his life, your people for his people.'"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

1 Kings 20 Word Search

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

17 Words to find

SYRIA
 BENHADAD
 DISOBEY
 ELISHA
 BLOODY
 LORD
 HEAR
 KING
 PROPHET

AHAB
 RAGS
 ELIJAH
 LION
 ESCAPE
 LIFE
 OBEY
 FREE



Undeserved Mercy

1 Kings 21

Theme: God's Undeserved Mercy and Grace

Ahab lived in Samaria, the capital of his kingdom. But he also had a palace in Jezreel. Next to his palace there was a vineyard owned by a man named Naboth. Ahab wanted that vineyard for a vegetable garden, but Naboth would not sell it to him.

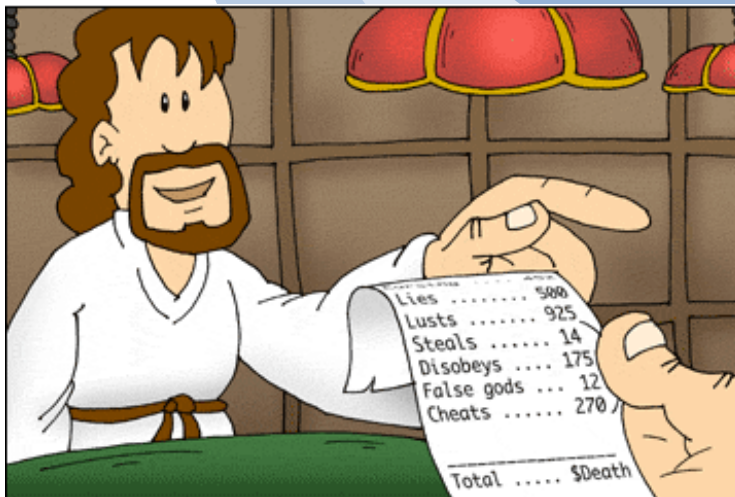
When Ahab saw that nothing would make Naboth give up his vineyard, he went back into his palace and pouted. He wouldn't eat or see anyone. He just stayed in bed and acted like a spoiled child.

Ahab's wife, Jezebel, said to him, "Who is the king here? You or Naboth? I'll get you the vineyard you want so badly." She sat down and wrote out an order in Ahab's name, then sealed the order with Ahab's royal seal. She ordered Naboth to appear in front of a meeting of all the people. Then she ordered her servants to find two men who would swear they heard Naboth curse God and the king. At the meeting the two "witnesses" lied, just the way Jezebel told them to. Because

1 Kings 21:29

"Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

the people thought he had cursed God and his king, Naboth was taken out and killed. Ahab took the vineyard over and made it his own.



I'LL GET THIS ONE

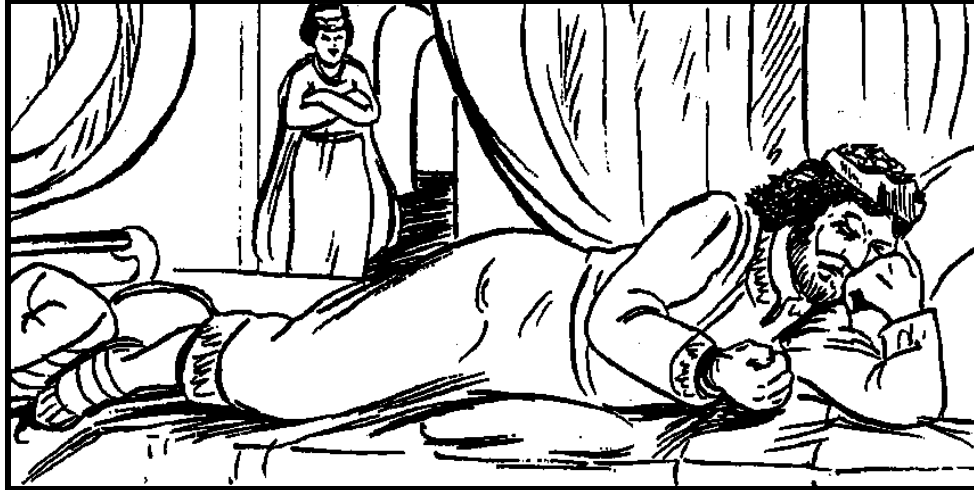
Some time later, Ahab was riding through his new garden when Elijah the prophet appeared before him. "So you found me, my old enemy," Ahab said.

"I found you because you have done evil in the sight of the Lord," Elijah told the king, "You and Jezebel will both die for

this, and so will all your sons."

Ahab knew he had done wrong, and he was sorry for what Jezebel had done and he had allowed to happen. He put on old clothing and did not eat and begged God to forgive him. God heard his prayers and said to Elijah, "He is sorry for his sin. Because of this, I will not punish him in his lifetime, but in the lifetime of his children."





THINK ABOUT IT

- ❖ If even those who don't deserve mercy receive it, then God will always forgive us
- ❖ The key to receiving God's forgiveness is to humble ourselves
- ❖ We must know that because of our sins we don't deserve anything but punishment but God gives us undeserved grace because of his love

TALK ABOUT IT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What did Ahab selfishly want from Naboth? ❖ Did Naboth give it to him? ❖ What did Ahab do when he said no? ❖ <u>Think about Ahab's childish behavior. What happens to people when they don't grow in God?</u> ❖ What did Jezebel say and do? ❖ Was Ahab upset about what happened to Naboth? ❖ What was Elijah's message to Ahab and Jezebel? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What really surprising thing did Ahab do? ❖ <u>If Ahab knew God exists and could punish him and knew he was wrong, why didn't he live God's way?</u> ❖ Did God punish Ahab, the most evil king in Israel's history? ❖ What made God change his mind? ❖ <u>Did Ahab deserve to be forgiven? What do we call this?</u> ❖ <u>What must we constantly do in order to live before God and in his mercy? What stops us?</u> |
|--|---|



Questions for Group Discussion

"Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster."

- ❖ Have you been fighting with someone?
- ❖ Are you able to humble yourself and forgive?
 - ❖ Do you talk back to your parents?
- ❖ Can you submit to your brother and sister?
- ❖ Do you have a sin you feel guilty about?
 - ❖ Have you gotten on your knees to apologize to God?
- ❖ Have you ever fasted to pray and overcome?
 - ❖ Has God forgiven you when you know you deserved punishment?
 - ❖ Have you shared your story of God's grace with someone?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Undeserved Mercy

1 Kings 21:29

"Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

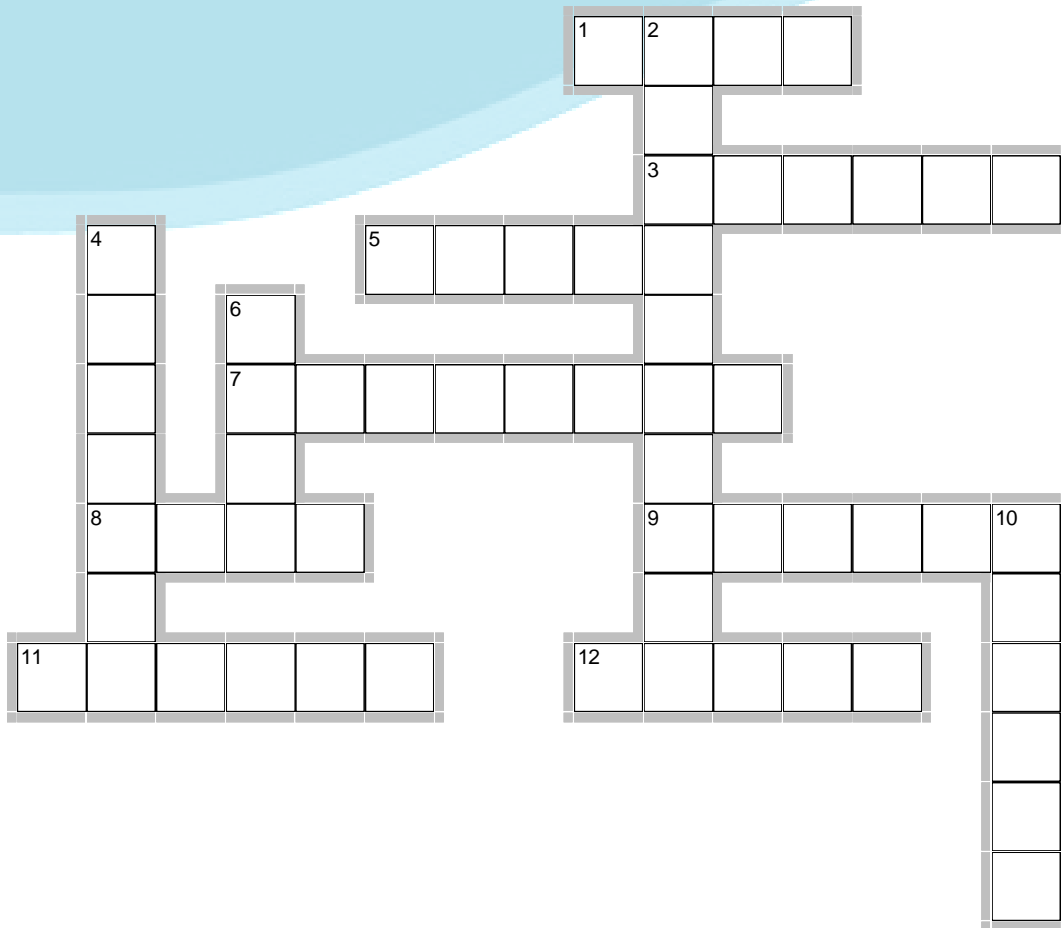
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

1. What happens when we put God's word into practice
3. Ahab an adult and king did this childish thing
5. Undeserved gift
7. Ahab fasted and prayed to show this
8. What we will be if we do not put God's word into practice
9. Victim of evil injustice
11. Messenger of God's truth
12. To receive forgiveness when we deserve punishment

Down

2. Ahab's amazing action
4. Wicked wife who pushed Ahab to do evil
6. Took what wasn't his
10. The key to God's forgiveness



you can't hide

1 Kings 22

Theme: Accepting God's Truth

After three years of peace the Syrians attacked Israel again, taking one of the cities on the east side of the Jordan River.

The two nations of Israel and Judah were at peace with each other, so Ahab asked the king of Judah to come and help him drive the Syrians out of the land.

Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, followed God; "Let's ask the prophets to tell us what God wants before we attack the Syrians," he said to Ahab. But Ahab followed idols, not God. He called 400 of his prophets together and these false prophets said, "go to war you will be victorious."

Jehoshaphat wasn't happy listening to the prophets of idols. "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord we could ask?" he said to Ahab.

"There is one named Micaiah, but I don't like him. He always brings me bad news," Ahab said.

"The king shouldn't say such things," he said. "Let's hear what he has to say," Jehoshaphat said.

When they asked Micaiah, he first told them, go and be victorious but he wasn't serious.

"How many times do I have to tell you to tell me the truth?" Ahab asked.

"The Lord says the people of Israel are like sheep without a shepherd, they have no leader, let them go home in peace."

1 Kings 22:38

"They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the LORD had declared."

"See he never says anything good about me," Ahab said to Jehoshaphat.

Micaiah went on, "The Lord was seated on his throne and he asked the spirits before him, who

will go down and get Ahab to go to battle, so he will die? One stepped forward and said he would make all Ahab's prophets lie to him and God gave him permission to do it. For God has decided you will be destroyed."

Ahab became so angry he had Micaiah locked in prison.

Because of what

Micaiah said, Ahab did not wear his royal clothing in the battle, the way Jehoshaphat did. He hoped the Syrians would think he was just an ordinary soldier. In those days armies would always try to kill a king in battle. If they did, all his army would run away. Even though he was not dressed like a king, Ahab was hit by a stray arrow, that is the only small place his armor didn't cover. By that night he had died from his wound.

Even though he tried to hide he could not avoid paying the consequences of his sins, God found him in the end.



COMING SOON TO A PLANET NEAR YOU





TODAY'S SERMON ENTITLED "SO YOU MAY HEAR" COMES COMPLETE WITH THESE RADICAL FOAM EARS

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Those who are in darkness hate the light because deep down they know it's true and shows them who they really are
- ❖ God is in control of everything in this world and in all things he works for his purpose
- ❖ We cannot hide from the truth of God, it will always catch up to us
- ❖ Especially, we cannot hide from the truth of God's judgment, our sins will always catch up

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ After several years of peace, who attacked again?
- ❖ Who did Ahab call to help him battle?
- ❖ What was Jehoshaphat's request before battle?
- ❖ Who did Ahab bring to prophecy for them?
- ❖ **Why didn't Ahab follow God after repenting in the last passage?**
- ❖ What did the Baal prophets tell him?
- ❖ What was Jehoshaphat's reaction?
- ❖ Why didn't Ahab want a prophet of God?
- ❖ **What does this show about those who are in darkness?**
- ❖ Why didn't Ahab believe Micaiah, when Micaiah told him what he wanted to hear?
- ❖ What was the Word of God?
- ❖ What shows that Ahab believed Micaiah even though he didn't like it?
- ❖ **What is stubborn sinful people's reaction to the obvious truth of God?** (Rom 1:20-21)
- ❖ What happened to him even though he tried to hide?
- ❖ **Is it possible to hide from or pretend God's truth isn't real?**
- ❖ **What must be our attitude toward God's truth?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"as the word of the LORD had declared."

- ❖ Is there a command in the Bible you are not following?
- ❖ Do you read the Bible to find what God wants you to do?
- ❖ Do you pray and struggle when you find your sin in the Bible?
- ❖ Do you hide your sin from your parents?
- ❖ Do you write your sins honestly in your testimony?
- ❖ Do you tell your Bible teacher your sins so they can help you?
- ❖ Have you found a Bible verse to hold onto and made a plan to overcome your sin problem?
- ❖ Have you ever been found out even though you tried to hide?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

You Can't Hide

1 Kings 22:38

"They washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria and the dogs licked up his blood, as the word of the LORD had declared."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

1 Kings 22 Word Search

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

22 Words to find

SYRIA
 JUDAH
 JEHOSEPHAT
 IDOLS
 VICTORIOUS
 MICAIAH
 TRUTH
 SHEPHERD
 DESTROYED
 DISGUISE
 WOUND

ISRAEL
 AHAB
 PROPHET
 WAR
 LORD
 KING
 SHEEP
 LIE
 PRISON
 ARROW
 DIED



Chariots of Fire

2 Kings 2:1-15

Theme: Loyalty to your mission, Eternal Hope, Big Vision

Elijah knew his work was almost done. He set out on what would be his final journey, and he told Elisha to stay behind.

“No,” Elisha said. “I will not leave you.”

They traveled from place to place, visiting the prophets that they had trained together. At each place the prophets told Elisha that Elijah was going to die soon. “I know,” he would answer. “Let’s not talk about it.” At each place Elijah told Elisha to let him go on alone. Every time Elisha said no and followed his master.

As they came to the Jordan River outside of Jericho, a group of fifty prophets from the area was following a distance behind them. At the banks of the river Elijah took off his robe of skin and hit the river with it. The river immediately dried up in front of them, and they walked across dry land to the other side. Then the river flowed by again.

“What can I do for you before I leave?” Elijah asked Elisha.

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha answered.

2 King 2:9
 “When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?’
 ‘Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,’ Elisha replied.”

“That is a big request,” Elijah said. “If you see me when I am taken away, you will have it. But if you don’t see me leave, you won’t.”



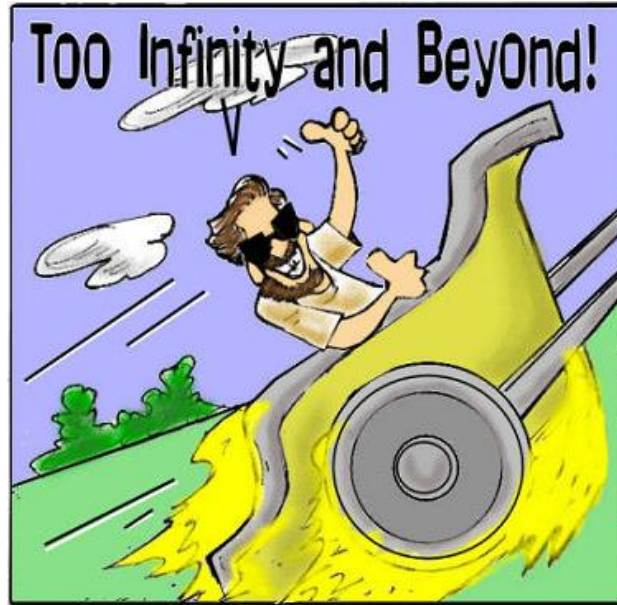
II Kings 2:11 and Elijah exits to Heaven

As they walked along together, suddenly Elisha saw a chariot of fire, pulled by horses that also seemed made of fire. The fiery chariot swooped down between the two prophets and carried Elijah up toward heaven. Elisha saw his master lifted up and taken away from him!

Elisha picked up the robe of skin that had been left behind and turned back to the river. He was very sad that his friend had left him.

“Where is the Lord God of Elijah?” he asked as he hit the river’s water with Elijah’s robe. As the robe hit the water, the water parted again, and Elisha walked across dry land, just as he had done before with Elijah.

The prophets who had been following the two men had not seen the fiery chariot and horses, but they did see what Elisha had done to the river. “The spirit of Elijah is with Elisha!” they cried. The great prophet of Israel was gone, but Elisha had the blessing he had requested.



THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ We should be loyal to the one who brought us to God to the end
- ❖ We should have a big vision for the future
- ❖ We should pray boldly, with bold prayer topics
- ❖ We must have an eternal hope in the Kingdom of God

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What was going to happen to Elijah?
- ❖ Was he scared? Why not?
- ❖ What did he tell Elisha to do? Did he?
- ❖ **What can we learn from Elisha about loyalty to God's servants and God's mission?**
- ❖ What did all the prophets keep telling Elisha?
- ❖ Was he sad that his master would be taken from him?
- ❖ Once Elisha had proven himself, what did Elijah ask him?
- ❖ What was Elisha's request?
- ❖ **Why was this such a good request?** Think about it, how would Elisha use this spiritual gift.
- ❖ **Why must we have a great vision for our future?**
- ❖ **What can we learn here about prayer?** Think about it, should we have wimpy prayer topics or bold prayer topics.
- ❖ What was Elijah's condition for granting this request?
- ❖ What suddenly happened? Did Elisha see it? Did he receive the spirit?
- ❖ **What is it like for believers when we die?** Think about it, this beautiful image is what it will be like when Jesus comes again to take us home to heaven.

Questions for Group Discussion

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit"

- ❖ Are you faithful to your friends?
 - ❖ Are you trustworthy in the jobs your parents give you?
- ❖ Do you finish your work to the end or do just enough?
- ❖ Do you respect your Bible teacher?
- ❖ Do you have a big plan for your future?
 - ❖ Do you pray for big prayer topics or wimpy ones?
 - ❖ Have you ever made sacrifices to get God's blessing?
 - ❖ What are some things you hope?
 - ❖ Do you ever think about heaven?
 - ❖ Do you have a prayer for your school, for one person?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Chariots of Fire

2 King 2:9

"When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' 'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

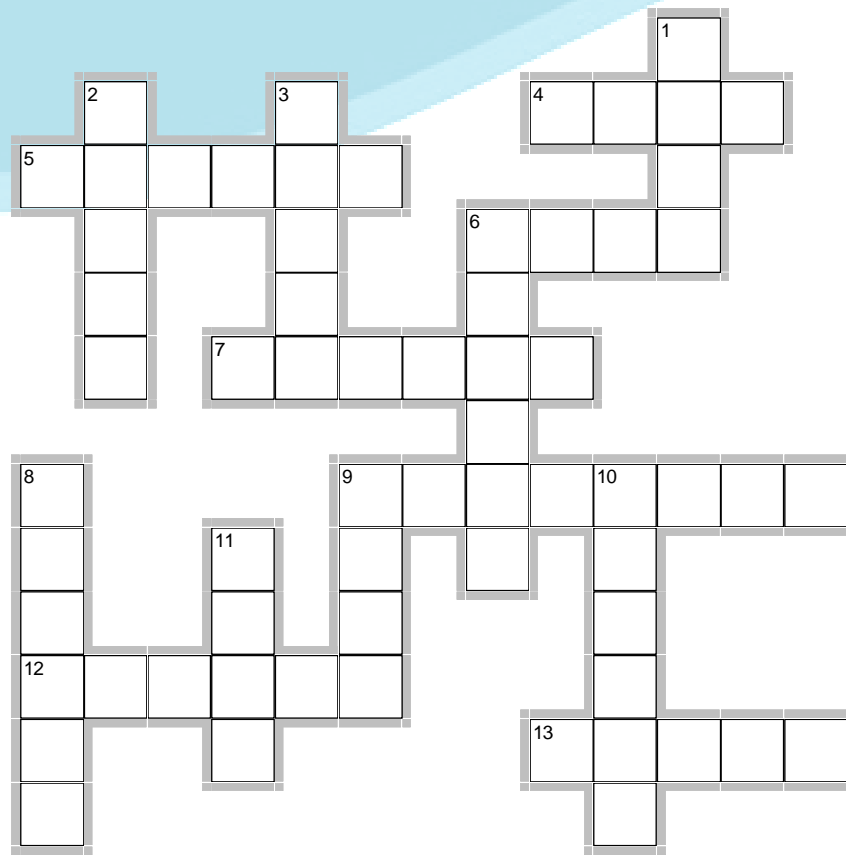
What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

4. Elijah hit the river with his robe of _____
5. We should have a big _____ for the future
6. We must have an eternal _____ in the Kingdom of God
7. _____ was carried up toward heaven
9. The great prophet of Israel was gone, but Elisha had the _____ he had requested
12. Elijah was not _____ when he was carried up to heaven
13. The _____ immediately dried up in front of them

Down

1. Elijah left on a chariot of _____
2. As they came to the Jordan river, a group of _____ prophets from the area was following behind them
3. We should be _____ to the one who brought us to God to the end
6. The fiery chariot carried Elijah up toward _____
8. The spirit of Elijah is with _____
9. We should pray boldly, with _____ prayer topics
10. Let me inherit a double portion of your _____
11. Elijah knew his _____ was almost done



Faith is the Victory

2 Kings 2:19-3:27

Theme: Faith overcomes everything

Elisha stayed in Jericho for a while after Elijah was taken up to heaven. Elijah had lived in the wilderness, but Elisha usually stayed in cities and helped people there.

One day the people of Jericho told Elisha they had trouble with their water. The spring they got their water from tasted bitter, and the land around the spring wouldn't grow food. Elisha took a bottle of salt and poured it into the spring. From that time the water was good and the land around grew all the crops the people wanted.

As Elisha was going up to Bethel, a gang of young people was making fun of him calling him "Baldy." Making fun of the prophet of God is like making fun of God. Elisha called down a curse on them and two bears came and ate them.

Since the time of David, the land of Moab had been under Israel's command. Moab had its own king, but every year he had to give Israel a huge gift. When Ahab died and his son Joram became king, the king of Moab tried to set his land free of Israel. King Joram of Israel and King Jehoshaphat of Judah, together with the king of Edom, marched south into the land of Moab to put down the rebellion.

On their way they found no water for themselves or their horses. It began to look like all

2 Kings 3:17-18

"For this is what the Lord says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord; he will also deliver Moab into your

three kings and their armies would die of thirst. "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord we can talk to?" Jehoshaphat asked. Of the three kings, he was still

the only one who worshiped God. When Elisha was brought to them, he said the only reason he would help the kings was because of Jehoshaphat's faith. Elisha told the kings to dig ditches in the valley where they were camping. "There will be no rain or wind, but the valley will be filled with water. And the Lord will let you defeat the Moabites."

So the armies dug ditches all over the valley. In the morning all

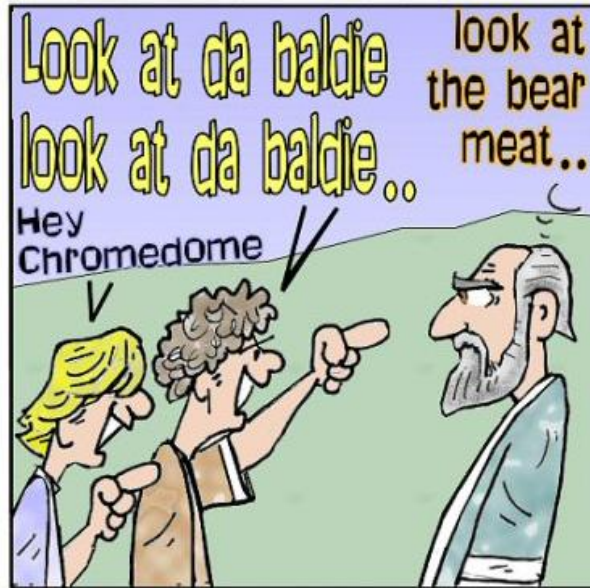
the ditches were filled with water and not one drop of rain had fallen.

The army of Moab could see the valley from their camp too. In the early morning sun the water seemed to be red. The Moabites thought the water was blood from a big battle among the three kings. Leaving their weapons behind, the foolish soldiers rushed into the valley to take all the things the three kings had brought with them into battle. The three armies killed all the unarmed soldiers of Moab and then went on to destroy the entire country of Moab.



Bitter Water Face





Safety Tip: Don't trash talk a prophet of God! **2 Kings 2:23-24**

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God's power cleanses and brings new life to anything
- ❖ We must respect God's servants like God
- ❖ We must have faith or God will not work
- ❖ With Faith our battles become easy victories

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ How was Elisha different from Elijah?
- ❖ **What is most important if we want God's help?**
- ❖ How did Elisha help the people of Jericho?
- ❖ What was Elisha's command to them?
- ❖ **What can God do to all the unclean things in us if he could heal the water of the whole land this easily?**
- ❖ Why might this have been hard for the tired, thirsty men to carry out?
- ❖ Who became the new king of Israel after the death of Ahab?
- ❖ What happened in the morning? How?
- ❖ What did the king of Moab try to do?
- ❖ What did the men of Moab think when they saw all the pools of water? and do?
- ❖ What big problem happened to the 3 armies?
- ❖ Why is obeying God the greatest secret to victory?
- ❖ How did Jehoshaphat show he had faith?
- ❖ **What do we learn through this story about the importance of faith?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"This is an easy thing in the eyes of the LORD"

- ❖ Do you like to help people?
- ❖ Do you help when someone has a problem?
- ❖ Have you ever tried to show Jesus to people by being kind?
- ❖ Do you pray for your friends?
- ❖ Do you respect your Bible teacher?
- ❖ Do you give your highest respect to elders in the church?
- ❖ Do you follow God's commands or do you try to find your own way?
- ❖ Have you ever obeyed even though it didn't make sense to you?
- ❖ Do you trust in God or yourself?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Faith is the Victory

2 Kings 3:17-18

"For this is what the LORD says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. This is an easy thing in the eyes of the LORD; he will also hand Moab over to you."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?


2 Kings 3:11-24 Word Search

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

26 Words to find

FAITH
ELISHA
HELPED
BITTER
SALT
BEAR
JORAM
EDOM
DIG
VALLEY
LORD
RED
ARMIES

VICTORY
JERICHO
PEOPLE
WATER
BETHEL
MOAB
JEHOSHAPHAT
PROPHET
DITCHES
WATER
MOABITES
BLOOD
UNARMED



Elisha the Evangelist

2 Kings 4:1-7, 38-44; 6:1-7

Theme: Faith and Obedience, Mission

Although many in Israel worshiped idols, there were also many who worshiped God. Elisha traveled through the country, meeting these people and teaching them. They were called “sons of the prophets,” and many of them became prophets.

One day the wife of one of the sons of the prophets came to Elisha. Her husband had died owing a man some money. If she could not pay the man, he would take her sons and make slaves out of them.

Elisha asked the woman what she had in her house.

“Only a little oil,” the woman answered.

“Go and borrow all the jars and bowls and bottles you can,” Elisha told her. “Then fill all the bottles and sell the oil. You will have enough to pay the debt.”

The woman did as she was told. Her one little pot of oil, filled every pot and pan she could find. She paid off her debt and had enough extra money to take care of herself and her sons for a long time.

Another time, one of the prophets had brought back some poisonous vegetables and tossed them in the stew for dinner. As the men ate, they realized they had been eating poisoned food and called for Elisha.

Elisha took a handful of grain and threw it into the pot and the stew was safe.

2 Kings 4:2a

“Elisha replied to her, ‘How can I help you?’”

Another day a man brought Elisha a few loaves of bread and some ears of corn. There were a hundred men with Elisha that day, and so Elisha told his servant, “Give this to the people for their dinner.”

“This little bit of food?” the servant asked. “How can this feed so many people?”

“The Lord says they shall eat and have enough. There will even be leftovers,” Elisha promised. When the servant passed out the food, he found there was more than enough.

Another time Elisha was helping some people build a house by the Jordan River. One of the men was cutting down a tree with an axe he had borrowed. As he swung the axe, the axe’s head flew off its handle and sank straight to the bottom of the river. The man was upset. Iron and steel were very expensive, and the axe was

not his. What could he do?

Elisha asked the man to show him where the axehead had gone into the river. He cut off a stick of wood and threw it into the water in the same place. The heavy axehead floated up to the top of the water, and the man rushed in and picked it up.

All these miracles showed the people that Elisha was a prophet of God and that what he said came from the Lord.



.. and Elisha makes the lost axhead float to the surface. I bet Elisha would be helpful for finding our lost keys **2 Kings 6:1-7**





Well let me tell ya a story bout a woman who's huband's dead.. Poor widow lady barely kept her family fed.. then one day she was huntin for some food.. and Elisha filled her jars with oil thatz real good!! Oil, that is.. desert gold, Jewish Tea..
Sung to the tune of The Beverly Hillsbillies
2 Kings 4



..so they they began to eat the stew, then shouted.. "It's not like my mom makes stew.." Or somethin' like that.
2 Kings 4:38-41 **THE MORAL OF THE STORY:**
Too many men in the kitchen ruin the stew?

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God does great miracles in people's lives so they will believe
- ❖ God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others
- ❖ God wants us to have a mission, especially to help others to believe in Him

TALK ABOUT IT



- What was Elisha's mission in Israel?
- How did God help him to do his mission?
- **What should we do with the blessings that God gives us?** Think about it, God told Abraham "I will bless you...and you will be a _____."
- **In a world of so many unbelievers what do we need?**
- What was the problem of the wife of one prophet?
- How did Elisha teach the woman to have faith?
- **What is most important if we want a blessing from God?** Hint: F ___ h & Ob _____ e
- When Elisha and the prophets were hungry what did one prophet accidentally do?
- What did Elisha do? What didn't he or the others do?
- **What was the real secret ingredient that saved them?** Hint F _____
- How did God provide for the hungry prophets one day? When did something else like this happen in the Bible?
- **What is more important, to understand God's commands or to obey them?**
- What other miracle did Elisha perform?
- **Who do you want to be a shepherd for and what gifts has God given you to do it?**



Questions for Group Discussion

"How can I help you?"

- ❖ Do you help your parents?
- ❖ Do you help your friends?
- ❖ Do you help your brothers and sisters?
- ❖ Have you ever shown kindness to your enemies?
- ❖ Do you ever just help random people who you see in need?
- ❖ Do people see the love of Jesus in you?
- ❖ Do you obey God's word absolutely or only what you like or what makes sense to you?
- ❖ Have you ever been challenged to live out your faith in a real way?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Elisha the Evangelist

2 Kings 4:2a

"Elisha replied to her, 'How can I help you?'"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

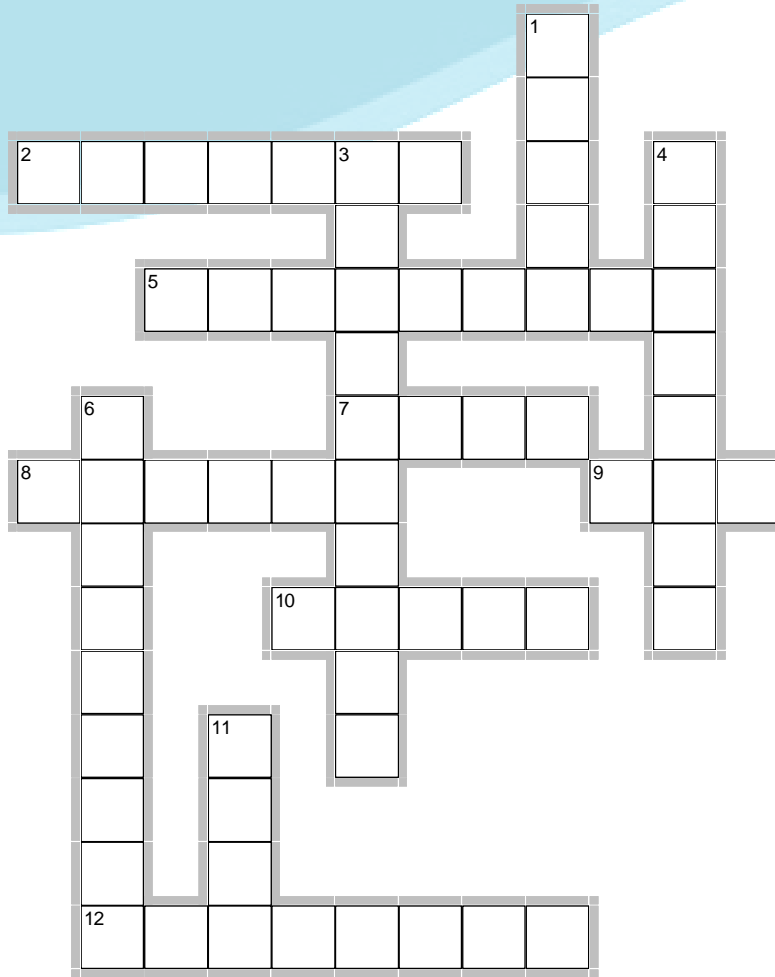
What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

2. Elisha was this in every problem big or small
5. The other ingredient to getting God's blessings
7. What the poor woman became through obedience
8. Elisha had faith to feed only a few of these to 100 hungry men
9. Elisha used just a tiny amount of this to save the poor woman.
10. One ingredient to getting God's blessings
12. Elisha was this for Israel

Down

1. The poisons cure by faith
3. We don't need this, we just need to obey by faith
4. We've been blessed to be this
6. The strange veggies in the stew
11. The way that we lead the unbelieving world to Jesus



NO TAKE-BACKS

2 Kings 4:8-37

Theme: Hospitality, faith, prayer

When Elisha traveled he often shared meals and stayed overnight in other people's homes. One woman he stayed with in Shunem had her husband build Elisha his own room, with a bed, table and stool, and candlestick. Elisha must have liked that little room of his own very much.

One day he said to the woman, "You have been good to me. Isn't there something I can do for you?"

"No, there is nothing I need," she told Elisha.

"Can I talk to the King for you? He can give you anything."

"No, your servant doesn't need anything." As Elisha had been Elijah's servant, now

Elisha himself had a servant and his name was Gehazi. At that moment Gehazi whispered to Elisha, "She has no son."

"A year from now," Elisha told the woman, "you will have a son."

"Don't joke with me," she said. Actually, the woman had always wanted a baby, and this pleased her very much. To her surprise, as Elisha said, a year later she had a baby boy. The boy grew up and became big enough to help his father in the field. One day, however, he became very

sick and died. Without telling anyone, his mother ran to Elisha for help.

When Elisha saw her coming, he knew something was wrong.

But the Lord did not tell him what it was until she spoke these words: "Did I ask you for a son? Didn't I tell you not to get my hopes up?"

Elisha sent Gehazi ahead to put his staff on the boy but nothing happened. Elisha ran after to the woman's house and went into the room where the dead boy lay. He held the boy's cold hands and put his face on the boy's

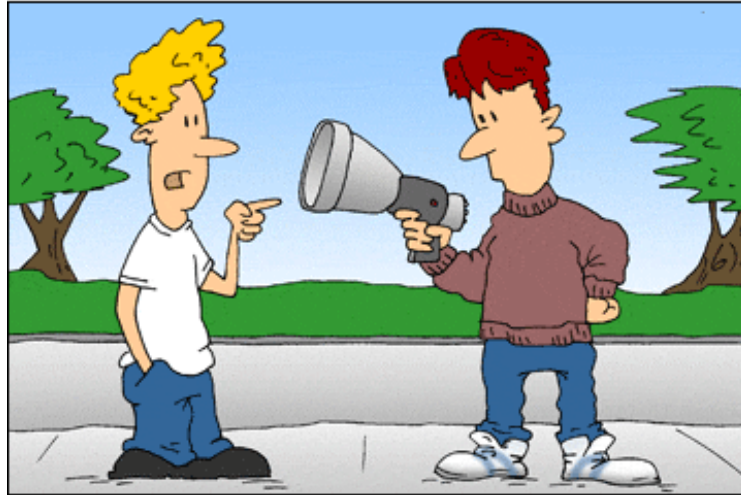
cold face, stretching himself out on top of him, while he prayed to God. Soon the boy's body began to warm up a little. Elisha cuddled the boy close to himself as he prayed some more. Suddenly, the boy sneezed seven times! He began to breathe again and his eyes opened.

Elisha called for the mother. "Pick up your son," he told her. The happy mother carried her son out of the room, thanking Elisha for saving him.

2 Kings 4:32-33

"When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD."





I REALLY DOUBT THAT MEGAPHONE IS GOING
TO GET YOUR PRAYERS ANSWERED ANY FASTER

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ We should learn to be hospitable towards others so they feel loved
- ❖ We should trust God in times of trouble
- ❖ We must learn to pray to God no matter how impossible the problem looks

TALK ABOUT IT



- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What did one woman do for Elisha? ❖ Why did she do this? ❖ <u>How can showing hospitality help people believe in God?</u> ❖ How did the woman answer when Elisha offered to give her great things? ❖ What did the woman secretly want? ❖ What did Elisha promise the Shunamite woman? ❖ What happened one year later? ❖ <u>How does God reward those who do good?</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What happened one day to the boy? ❖ What did the woman do? ❖ Why didn't she tell anyone? ❖ What did she say to Elisha? ❖ What did Elisha do? ❖ How did Elisha show that he cared about the woman's son? ❖ <u>How can bad things in our life help us to learn to pray?</u> ❖ <u>What do we need to do when everything looks impossible in our life?</u> |
|--|---|



Questions for Group Discussion

"He went in...and prayed to the Lord."

- ❖ Do you show hospitality?
- ❖ Is hospitality natural to you or is it very difficult?
- ❖ Have you ever invited someone to your house to show them Christian love and hospitality?
- ❖ Do you think about others before yourself?
- ❖ Do you serve guests in your house with love?
- ❖ Do people feel special when they come to your house?
- ❖ Do you pray for big prayer topics?
- ❖ Have you ever prayed for one thing for many times over a long period of time?
- ❖ Do you believe in God's power to do the impossible?
- ❖ Do you pray or complain?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

No Take Backs

2 Kings 4:32-33

"When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Kings 4:8-37 Word Search

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

25 Words to find

ELISHA
 FAITH
 BOY
 PRAYED
 WOMAN
 GEHAZI
 YEAR
 BABY
 SICK
 HOPES
 STRETCHING
 BREATHE
 THANKING

HOSPITALITY
 PRAYER
 DEAD
 SHUNEM
 SERVANT
 SON
 JOKE
 SURPRISE
 MOTHER
 STAFF
 WARMUP
 PICKUP



A Little Girl's Wish

2 Kings 5:1-27

Theme: Faith in God's word, Obedience

Once there was a general from Aram named Naaman, a very brave and great general whom God used to win a great victory for his country. He came down with a terrible disease called leprosy. A person with leprosy would develop ugly sores, his body parts would look deformed and might fall off, and eventually the person would die.

Naaman's wife had a captured little Israelite girl as her slave. "I wish he could meet Elisha," the little girl told Naaman's wife. "Elisha could cure him."

When Naaman heard this he told his king what the little girl had said. So, the king wrote a letter to the king of Israel. The letter said, "Please cure Naaman of his leprosy." The king of Israel was very upset. "How can I cure him, am I God? He's trying to pick a fight with me!"

When Elisha heard of this, he told the king to stop worrying and send Naaman to him. So Naaman rode right up to Elisha's door in his great chariot and with many horses. But Elisha sent a messenger out to him to tell him to go wash seven times in the Jordan river.

Naaman was insulted. He thought Elisha would wave his hand over him and make the disease go away. "Aren't my river's cleaner!" he shouted and went away angry.

Naaman's servants were wise though. "If the prophet had told you to do something hard, wouldn't

2Kings 5:13

"My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"

you do it? But washing in a river is easy. Why not try it?"

So Naaman rode down to the Jordan River and washed in it seven times. Sure enough, he was healed! Naaman offered Elisha anything he wanted in

payment. But Elisha refused all the gifts Naaman offered.

"May I take some soil from this land home with me then?" Naaman asked. "I will build an altar there for God and follow God as long as I live."

"Go ahead," Elisha told Naaman.

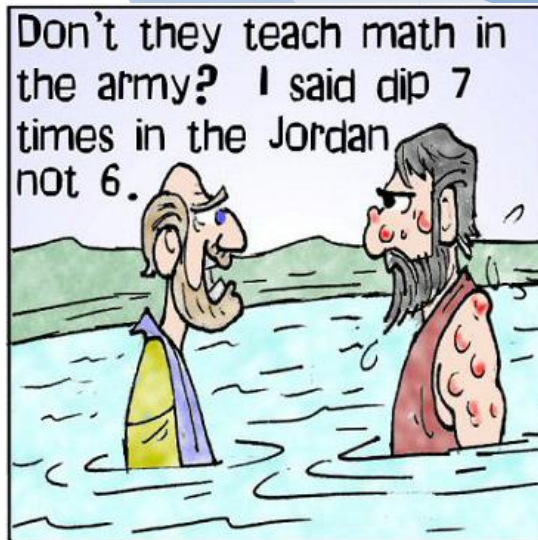
Gehazi, Elisha's servant, was not pleased that Elisha had refused Naaman's gifts. So he snuck after Naaman and lied that Elisha wanted him to give a gift to some guests. Naaman gave Gehazi two pieces of silver and two suits of clothing and Gehazi hid them.

"Where have you been?" Elisha asked Gehazi when he came back.

"Nowhere," Gehazi answered.

"I saw the man leave his chariot and give you a present," Elisha said. "Because you did this, you and your children will all suffer from Naaman's disease."

When Gehazi left Elisha, his skin was already white with leprosy.



2 Kings 5 - Naaman was wet and discouraged after his 6 dips in the Jordan. But.. just like in our lives.. 'Faith and Obedience' were the keys to his answered prayers/healing.





THINK ABOUT IT

- ❖ God wants us to love and help anyone we have a chance to, no matter how we feel
- ❖ It is most important to Obey if we want God to bless us
- ❖ God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
- ❖ We need to help people to see God is the one who loves and blesses them
- ❖ No matter how great we are, it is God who helps people not us

TALK ABOUT IT

- ❖ Who was Naaman what was his problem and who wanted to help him?
- ❖ **Do you think you would want to help your slave master?**
- ❖ What 2 things happened because of this little girl's wish?
- ❖ **How can loving people help bring them to Jesus?**
- ❖ Why did the King of Israel get so upset and what did Elisha do?
- ❖ Why did Naaman get so angry at Elisha?
- ❖ **Is it hard sometimes to do what God asks us to do? Should we get mad or be humble towards God at those times?**
- ❖ What words of wisdom did his servants give him?
- ❖ **What is most important if we want God to bless us?**
- ❖ What happened when he humbled himself and tried it?
- ❖ What was actually the greatest blessing he received? (it wasn't being cured)
- ❖ **How did Elisha's training to go to the river help him see God and not Elisha? Think about it, sometimes we need training to meet God.**
- ❖ Why didn't Elisha accept Naaman's gifts? *Think about it, was it really Elisha who helped him.*
- ❖ What bad thing did Gehazi do?
- ❖ **Why is it most important to trust and obey God?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"wash and be cleansed!"

- ❖ Have you ever loved an enemy?
- ❖ Have you ever prayed for someone who was mean to you?
- ❖ Do you have a bully problem?
- ❖ Have you ever tried to invite a bully to your house to change them with God's love?
 - ❖ Do you trust God?
 - ❖ Do you obey everything exactly as God tells you?
 - ❖ Do you try to get your own way or do your own thing with God?
 - ❖ Are you humble?
 - ❖ Do you get angry easily?
- ❖ Can you listen to instruction? rebukes?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

A Little Girl's Wish

2Kings 5:13

"My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

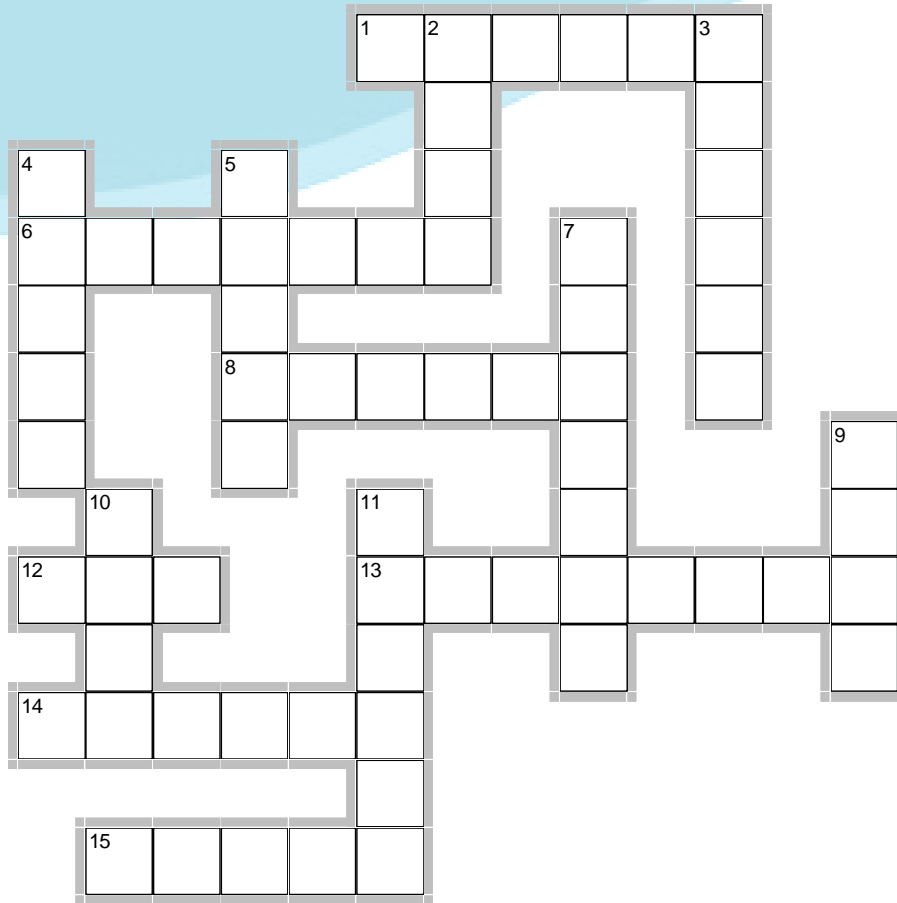
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

1. Elisha told Naaman to wash in the _____ river seven times
6. "Please cure Naaman of his _____"
8. Naaman gave Gehazi two pieces of _____ and two suits of clothing
12. Elisha's training to go to the river helped Naaman to see _____ and not Elisha
13. Naaman was _____ to God
14. When _____ left Elisha, his skin was already white with leprosy
15. No matter how _____ we are, it is God who helps them, not us

Down

2. It is most important to _____ if we want God to bless us
3. There was a general from Syria named _____
4. "I will build an _____ to God and follow God as long as I live"
5. It is most important _____ and obey God
7. The girl had been captured by the _____ but she liked Naaman and his wife
9. We need to _____ people to see God is the one who loves and blesses them
10. God wants us to _____ and help anyone we have a chance to, no matter how we feel
11. But the laws of Israel were very _____ about leprosy



Ours is Greater

2 Kings 6:8-23

Theme: Trust in God, Faith, Mercy

Israel and Syria were at war with each other all during Elisha's life. God allowed Elisha to be a great help to the king of Israel. Every time the Syrians planned an attack, God would tell Elisha about it, and Elisha would send word to the king. At last the king of Syria asked his nobles which of them was spying on him for the Israelites. There was no way the king of Israel could know all his plans without inside help! "It's not any of us," his nobles said. "Elisha tells the king of Israel everything you plan even in your bedroom."

"Then go and find this man so I can send an army to take him," the king demanded.

The Syrians learned that Elisha was staying in the town of Dothan. A great army was sent out to surround the town during the night. They were sure they had Elisha just where they wanted him.

In the morning a young servant of Elisha's looked out and saw all the horses and chariots and men with armor surrounding the town. "What will we do?" he cried to Elisha.

"Don't worry," Elisha said. "There are more men on our side than on theirs."

"Lord," Elisha prayed, "open this man's eyes so he can see."

The next time he looked, the young servant saw that the mountainside was covered with horses

2 Kings 6:16

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

and chariots of fire. No one but Elisha and his servant could see the army of God.

Again Elisha prayed to God. "Make these men blind for a little while," he asked. When his prayer was answered, no one in the Syrian army could see clearly.

Elisha walked out to the Syrian army. "You have the wrong town," he told them. "Follow me. I'll take you to the right place." Elisha led the Syrians from Dothan to Samaria, the capital of Israel. They walked right through the city gates as Israel's army gathered around them.

"Now open their eyes, Lord," Elisha prayed.

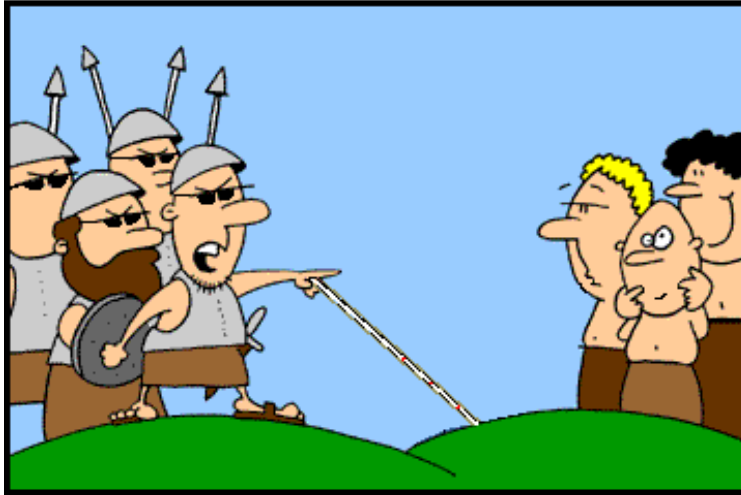
As soon as they could see, the Syrians realized they had been tricked and were in deep trouble. There was nothing they could do but surrender.

The king of Israel came out to Elisha. "What should I do to them, father?" he asked. "Should I kill them all?"

"Would you kill helpless prisoners?" Elisha asked the king. "Give them food and water and send them home to their king."

The king treated his prisoners well and sent them all back to their homes safely after a great feast. After that it was a long time before the Syrians sent an army into Israel again.





**As soon as we get some seeing-eye dogs
we're totally gonna beat you prophets up**

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God protects us when we pray to him
- ❖ God helps to know what to do when we come to him
- ❖ God is stronger than any problem we have
- ❖ We must not fear when we have problems but know those with us are greater than our problem

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What happened each time Syria planned an attack?
- ❖ What did the king of Syria think was happening?
- ❖ How could Elisha know the secrets of the King?
- ❖ **What do we learn about the power of prayer through this?**
- ❖ How did the king of Syria try to fight against God?
- ❖ What did Elisha's servant think when he saw the army?
- ❖ What did Elisha tell his servant?
- ❖ What did Elisha ask God to do for his servant?
- ❖ **What do we learn about faith in God when we have huge, very real problems?** (Key Verse)
- ❖ What did Elisha ask God to do to the Syrians?
- ❖ Where did Elisha lead them?
- ❖ What did the King of Israel want to do and what did Elisha convince him to do instead?
- ❖ **Why was Elisha merciful instead of taking this amazing chance to win easily?**
- ❖ **How can being nice to our enemies help us make friends with them?**
- ❖ **What can we learn from Elisha about faith and mercy?**

Questions for Group Discussion

*"Those who are with us are more
than those who are with them."*

- ❖ Do you have a huge problem you can't see the solution to?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced God's power to solve your problem?
 - ❖ Do you pray when you're in trouble?
- ❖ Are you afraid of something or someone?
- ❖ Have you ever confronted your problem believing God is bigger than it?
- ❖ Have you ever talked to the bully or kids you are afraid of believing God is bigger?
 - ❖ Do you show mercy or revenge?
- ❖ Have you ever practiced God's love to an enemy?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Ours is Greater

2 Kings 6:16

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Kings 6:8-23 Word Search

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

34 Words to find

GREATER
 FAITH
 PROPHET
 ISRAEL
 WAR
 KING
 PLANNED
 PLANS
 BEDROOM
 DOTHAN
 SERVANT
 CHARIOTS
 DONTWORRY
 OPEN
 FIRE
 BLIND
 SURRENDER

TRUST
 MERCY
 MORE
 SYRIA
 ELISHA
 HELP
 SPYING
 INSIDE
 ARMY
 SURROUND
 HORSES
 ARMOR
 LORD
 EYES
 GOD
 SAMARIA
 PRISONERS



FOUR LEPEERS HAVE A PROBLEM

2 Kings 6:24-7:20

Theme: Doubt, Creation Faith, God's Sovereignty

In time there was another great war between the Syrians and Israel. This time the Syrians surrounded the city of Samaria. No one could go in or out. Once the food inside the city was gone, the people of Israel began to starve.

The King thought it was Elisha's fault. So Elisha went to him and told the king not to give up the city. "Hear the word of the Lord," he said. "Tomorrow two gallons of flour will be sold for sixty cents, and two gallons of barley for sixty cents." This was a great bargain, especially since there was no flour or barley in the entire city!

One of the king's men laughed at Elisha. "Maybe," he said. "If God opens the heavens and rains food down. But that will never happen."

"It will happen," Elisha said. "You will see it too. But you will not eat any of the food."

Early the next morning four lepers stood outside the city. "Let's go to the camp of the Syrians," they said. "The most they can do is kill us. If we stay here any longer, we will die too." So they started off toward the enemy camp.

The four lepers found the camp empty. All their stuff was there but there were no soldiers. The

2 Kings 7:1
"Hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria."

men checked around carefully and then ate all they needed of the food they found.

"We have to tell the king about this," they said.



The entire Syrian army runs away from an imaginary enemy, proving hands down God had the best special effects sound

When they got back to Samaria they called the news up to the guards who then went to the king. He sent two men out to the camp, and sure enough, they reported back that the lepers were right. Not only was the camp full of food and treasure, so was the path along which the Syrians had run the night before.

What had happened? During the night God had sent the sound of a huge army to the Syrians. They heard chariots and horses and armor clanking. The

ground seemed to move from the marching of heavily armed men. They ran from their camp so fast that they left all their horses and donkeys tied up behind them.

Just as Elisha had said, grain was sold cheaply that day in Samaria. And what happened to the man who had laughed at Elisha? He was put in charge of all the food and was trampled to death by the starving people racing to collect food for their families.



THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ We should never doubt God's promises
- ❖ God will do amazing things if we have faith even and especially when it looks impossible
- ❖ When there is nothing we can do by ourself it isn't time to cry, it is time to pray
- ❖ Faith is not believing what seems possible or logical, it is just believing because God said it

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who attacked the Israelites and how did they attack?
- ❖ How bad did it get?
- ❖ What did Elisha tell the king?
- ❖ How did one of his men respond?
- ❖ What was Elisha's answer?
- ❖ **What must be our response to the promises of God?**
- ❖ **Why is it difficult to believe in the power of God?**
- ❖ **What happens when we have faith anyway?**
- ❖ What did four lepers decide to do?
- ❖ What did they find?
- ❖ What had God done?
- ❖ **Why is faith in God greater than anything we can do humanly?**
- ❖ How had everything Elisha said come true?
- ❖ What happened to the man who made fun of God?
- ❖ **What are some impossible things you want God to do for you?**
- ❖ **What is most important if we want God to answer our prayers and do amazing things in our life?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"Hear the word of the LORD."

- ❖ Do you take the Bible seriously?
- ❖ Do you search for answers in the Bible when you have problems?
- ❖ Do you challenge your problems by faith?
 - ❖ Do you or someone you know have a huge problem?
 - ❖ Do you pray?
- ❖ Have you ever held onto one promise of God?
 - ❖ Is there a verse that you are praying often?
 - ❖ Do you trust God with the big stuff or just the small stuff?
- ❖ Is there something that you don't believe God can do or something you don't think he can help you with?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Four Lepers Have a Problem

2 Kings 7:1

"Hear the word of the Lord. This is what the Lord says: About this time tomorrow, a seah of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

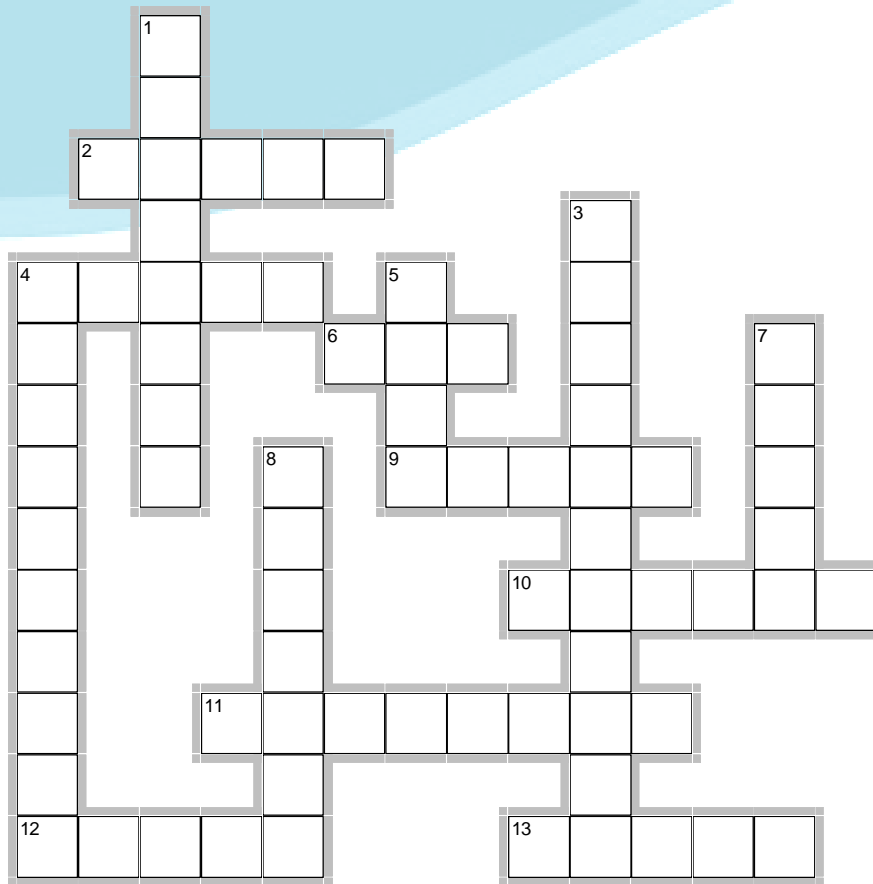
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

2. What the Syrians ran away from
4. Surround a city with an army
6. The one who fights for us when we have faith
9. When we think instead of believing this happens
10. Gave God's word
11. The fate of the mocker
12. Enemy of Israel
13. First to discover God's miracle

Down

1. Things God will never fail to do
3. We must do this no matter what we may think
4. The price of 2 Gallons of flour
5. None could be found in the city
7. Believing just because God said so
8. Capitol of Israel



Justice is served

2 Kings 8-10

Theme: God's Justice, God's Judgment

Years ago the Lord had told Elijah to anoint or crown a man named Hazael the king of Syria and Jehu king of Israel. But Elijah was taken away to heaven before he was allowed to complete the task. Now the time had come for these men to be anointed.

Elisha anointed Hazael who went to Syria and killed the king and then prepared to attack Israel. Elisha still had to make Jehu king of Israel. He sent one of his prophets to the battlefield with a little bottle of oil. "Get Jehu alone and anoint him king of Israel," he told the prophet. "Do it quietly and then come straight back here."

This had to be done secretly because Joram was still the king of Israel. When the prophet sent by Elisha had Jehu alone, he anointed him king. "You will destroy the family of Ahab because they killed the prophets of the Lord," he told Jehu.

Jehu jumped into his chariot and drove as fast as he could. He raced toward Jezreel where the king and his mother Jezebel were staying.

King Joram drove out to meet Jehu, thinking he was bringing news of the battle. Jehu killed him and the wicked king of Judah and immediately drove into town looking for Jezebel. Jezebel met Jehu like a queen, standing by a high window in her crown and royal robes and makeup.

2 Kings 9:7

"You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the Lord's servants shed by Jezebel."

"Who is on my side?" Jehu called to the people in the castle. "Throw her down!" he commanded.

So Jezebel, who had ordered all God's prophets killed, was thrown out of her palace window to her death.

Jehu went on to kill all the sons of Ahab and Jezebel and all their children's children until no one was left alive in that family. Their terrible influence was destroyed and all the innocent blood paid for.

King Jehu then ordered all the priests of the idol Baal to him, telling them he was a worshiper of their god.

Hundreds of them crowded into the temple of Baal. They thought they would be

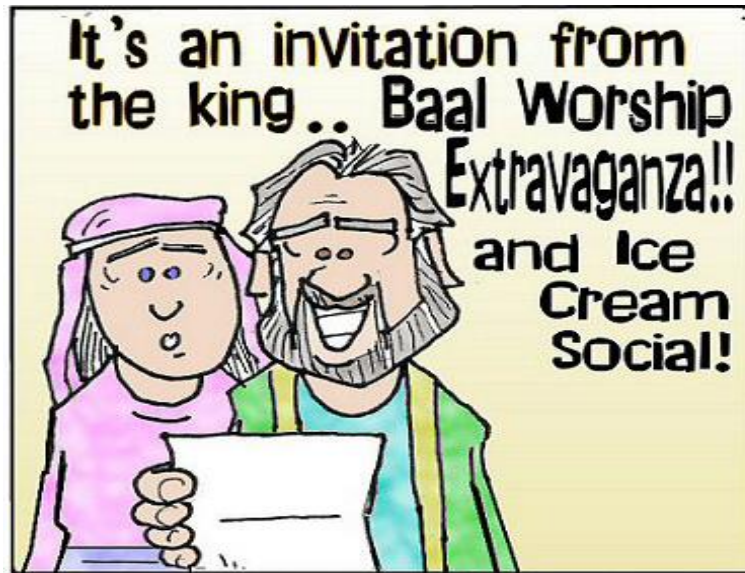
rewarded for their faithfulness to Jehu. Instead, Jehu surrounded the temple with his army and had every one of the priests of Baal killed.

God sent a prophet to Jehu. "You have killed Ahab's family as God wanted," the prophet told Jehu. "And you destroyed those who worshiped Baal. Because of this, your children will sit on the throne of Israel for four generations."



CONTRASTING EXITS TO ETERNITY
In stark contrast to Elijah's exit to Heaven on a chariot of fire, Jezebel takes a more 'SOUTHERN' route to eternity, when she is thrown from her window, trampled by horses, and eaten by dogs. **2 Kings 9:30-37**





King Jehu invites the Baal worshipers to temple with a little white lie.. **THERE WAS NO ICE CREAM!!** and oh yes, they were all killed!
2 Kings 10:18-27

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God's justice always wins in the end
- ❖ We will face judgment for the sins we commit if we do not repent
- ❖ We must be absolutely obedient to the command of God

TALK ABOUT IT



- | | |
|---|---|
| ❖ What command had God given to Elijah? | ❖ <u>Why did this family need to be completely removed?</u> |
| ❖ What problem would there be with anointing Jehu king? | ❖ Was he obedient to the command of God? |
| ❖ What kind of king was the king of Israel, Joram? | ❖ <u>What can we learn about God's judgment?</u> |
| ❖ What terrible things had his family done? | ❖ <u>About God's justice?</u> |
| ❖ What plan did Elisha make? | ❖ <u>Do we deserve to be judged? Why?</u> (Gen 6:5, 11-13) |
| ❖ What was God's command to Jehu? | ❖ <u>How would people live if there were no judgment?</u> |
| ❖ <u>How might this be very difficult?</u> | ❖ <u>What is the only way we can escape judgment?</u> |



Questions for Group Discussion

"concern for them because of his covenant"

- ❖ Do you get mad when you are bullied, or do you trust that God will take care of it?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked God what his plan for your life is?
 - ❖ Do you live before God, obeying your parents and teachers?
- ❖ Do you listen to those who are above you?
 - ❖ Can you pray every day this week to grow closer to God?
- ❖ Can you read the bible a few times this week?
 - ❖ Do you ask God's forgiveness?
 - ❖ Have you ever thanked God for all the good he has done in your life?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Justice is Served

2 Kings 9:7

"You are to destroy the house of Ahab your master, and I will avenge the blood of my servants the prophets and the blood of all the Lord's servants shed by Jezebel."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Kings 9 Word Search

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

32 Words to find

JUSTICE
 DESTROY
 AVENGE
 PROPHETS
 BLOOD
 HAZAEL
 JEHU
 ISRAEL
 ANOINTED
 OIL
 JORAM
 JEZREEL
 SIDE
 PALACE
 DEATH
 BAAL

JUDGMENT
 AHAB
 SERVANTS
 JEZEBEL
 ELIJAH
 SYRIA
 KING
 ELISHA
 BATTLEFIELD
 SECRETLY
 CHARIOT
 QUEEN
 THROW
 WINDOW
 PRIESTS
 KILLED



GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

2 Kings 13-14

Theme: God's Covenant

During the time that Jehu's son Jehoahaz ruled Israel, Hazael and his son, of Syria, gave Israel no peace. It was because Jehoahaz did evil and God would not let him win. He led the Israelites to worship the false God's Jeroboam had made for them and not worship the true God. God let almost his whole army be defeated. Finally, Jehoahaz prayed to God and wanted to please him, so God forgave him and the Israelites had peace again. Soon after Jehoahaz died and his son Jehoash became king but he also did evil in God's eyes.

By now Elisha was a very old, sick man. When Jehoash came to see Elisha, he cried to see him so sick and near death. Elisha had done more for his country than all its armies.

"Bring a bow and arrow and point it toward Syria," Elisha told Jehoash. When he did, Elisha touched the bow and Jehoash sent an arrow in the direction of Syria. "This is the Lord's arrow of victory over Syria," the old man said. Then he gave Jehoash a strange order. "Beat the ground with your arrows."

Jehoash took his arrows and hit them on the ground three times. Then he stopped.

"You should have hit them five or six times," Elisha said. "Then you would have won five or six battles with the Syrians. Now you will win only three."

Soon after this Elisha died and was buried in a cave. The next spring some raiding Moabites buried

2 Kings 13:23
 "But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To this day he has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from his presence."

one of their men in the same cave. When the body of this man touched the body of Elisha, the Moabite came back to life! Elisha was dead, but he was still powerful.

As Elisha had said, Jehoash defeated the Syrians three times. He took back all the cities that had been captured by the Syrians. After Jehoash died,

his son, Jeroboam the second, was made king. He also did evil in God's eyes. But because God saw no one else could help the people and because he remembered his covenant with Abraham, he sent the prophet Jonah to tell the people that Jeroboam the second would

conquer the Syrians. He was to be the greatest of all the kings of the northern kingdom of Israel. Under Jeroboam the second, the kingdom was rich and strong. He took over nearly all of Syria and made Israel's capital the greatest city in the area.

God was very angry with the Israelites for always turning away from him and doing evil but he always remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and he could not destroy them from the earth. They deserved to be destroyed but God kept his promise because he is God. It is only by the grace of God that the Israelites continued to be God's chosen people.





THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God doesn't keep His promises because we deserve it but because he is God. THANK GOD!!
- ❖ God loves His people even when they are wicked and He always wants to save them
- ❖ Wicked rulers can ruin an entire nation
- ❖ God uses even the wicked to accomplish his plans because He is in control of everything

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who became king after Jehu?
- ❖ What was he like?
- ❖ How did God punish the Israelites? Why did he stop?
- ❖ Who became king after Jehoahaz?
- ❖ What was he like?
- ❖ Who did he go to see? Why?
- ❖ What command did Elisha give to Jehoash?
- ❖ How did Jehoash show his lack of faith and obedience?
- ❖ What did Elisha prophecy? What happened?
- ❖ Who became king after Jehoash?
- ❖ What was he like?
- ❖ What was the one reason God kept putting up with the evil of the Israelites instead of destroying them? (13:23)
- ❖ What can we learn about God's promises?
- ❖ Why is it good news that God isn't like us in making promises?
- ❖ Who did God send and what was his prophecy?
- ❖ What did Jeroboam the second do?
- ❖ If God keeps His promises even when we don't deserve it, what should be our attitude toward His promises?

Questions for Group Discussion

"concern for them because of his covenant"

- ❖ Have you ever thanked God for loving you even though you sin?
- ❖ Do you love those who are rude to you?
- ❖ Do you put God's way before your own?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked God to help you with something?
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Can you think of More? List them Below:

God Keeps His Promises

2 Kings 13:23

"But the Lord was gracious to them and had compassion and showed concern for them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. To this day he has been unwilling to destroy them or banish them from his presence."

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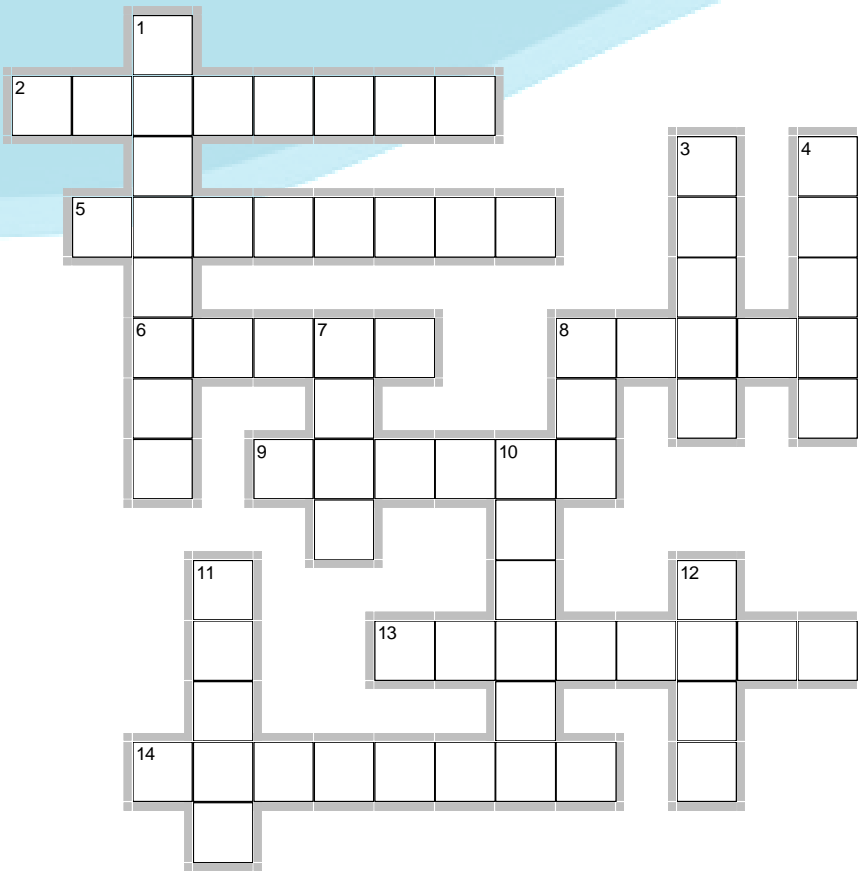
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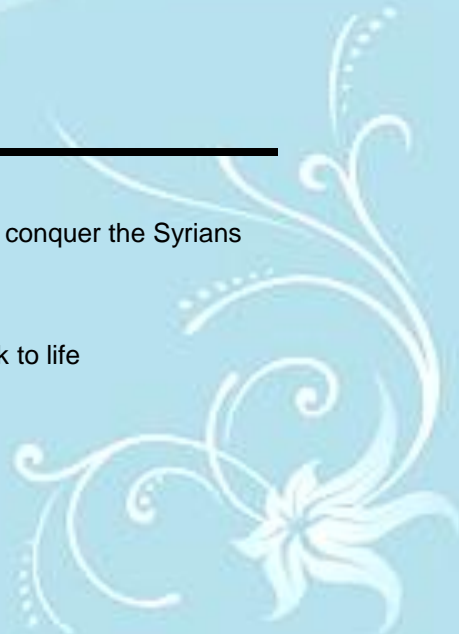


Across

2. God doesn't keep his _____ because we deserve it but because he is God
5. After Jehoash died, his son, _____ the second, was made king
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8. It is only by the _____ of God that the Israelites continued to be God's chosen people
9. God uses even the _____ to accomplish his plans
13. They _____ to be destroyed but God kept this promise because he is God
14. During the time that Jehu's son _____ did evil, God would not let him win

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GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

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- | | |
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God Keeps His Promises

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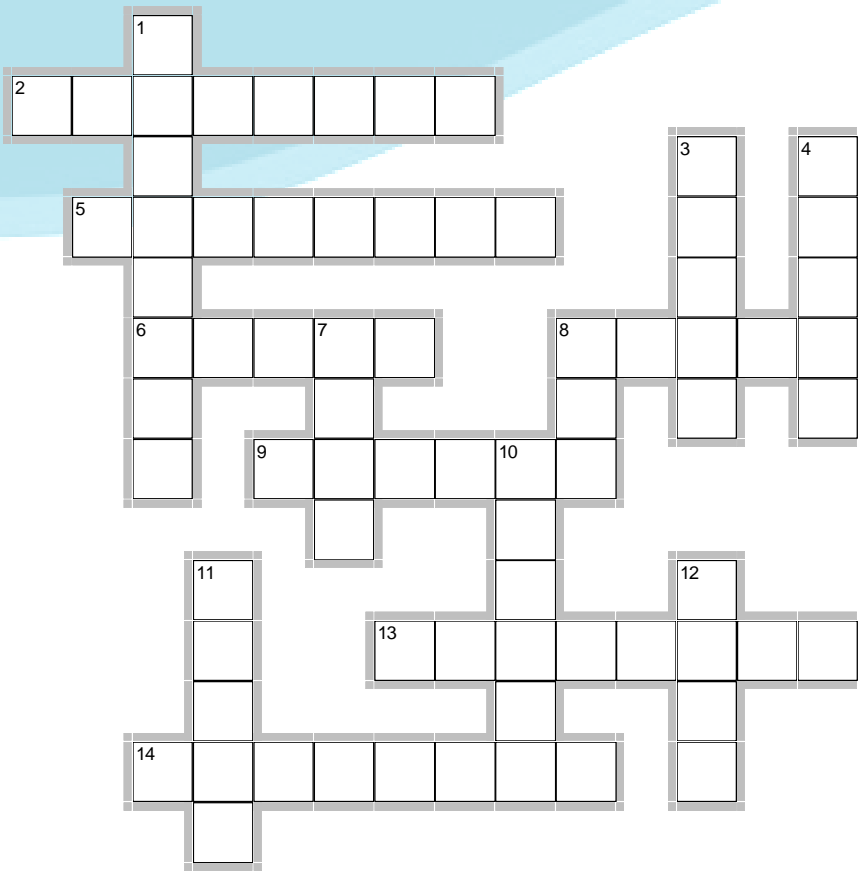
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How well do you know God's Word?

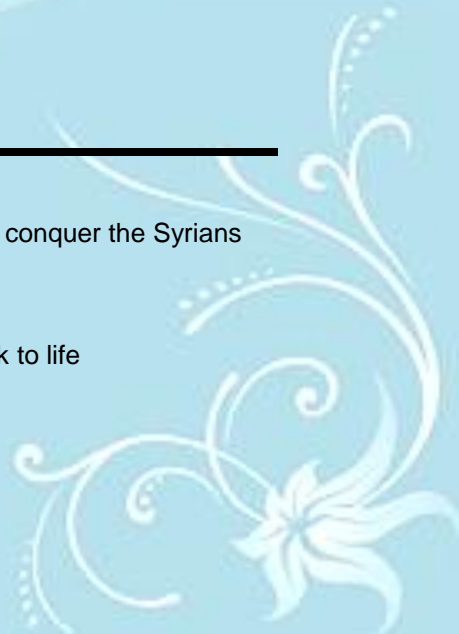


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Big Time Detention

2 Kings 15-17

Theme: Consequences of Disobedience, Judgment

All this time the people of Israel were worshipping idols and not the one true God. Because of this, their troubles grew worse and worse. One king ruled after another, and none of them was a good man. Most of them became king by killing the king before them. All in all, there were nineteen kings over the ten tribes of Israel.

The Assyrians grew stronger and stronger. They kept taking parts of Israel and making the Israelites their slaves.

The last king of Israel was a man named Hoshea. While he was king, the Assyrians surrounded the city of Samaria. No food or water or people could go in or out of the city for three whole years! At the end of the three years, king Shalmaneser of Assyria took Samaria, killed the king, and captured all the people of Israel. He took them far to the east of Israel and made them slaves in many different countries. The Israelites were no longer a united people living in one country. Because they were scattered they became weak and unable to break loose of Syria's rule.

In time the people of Israel forgot their God and worshiped the idols where they were living. They married people from these countries and spent their lives outside the land God had promised

2 Kings 17:20

"Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence."

their fathers. The ten tribes of Israel were lost forever. None of the people of the Northern Kingdom ever lived in the land of their fathers again.

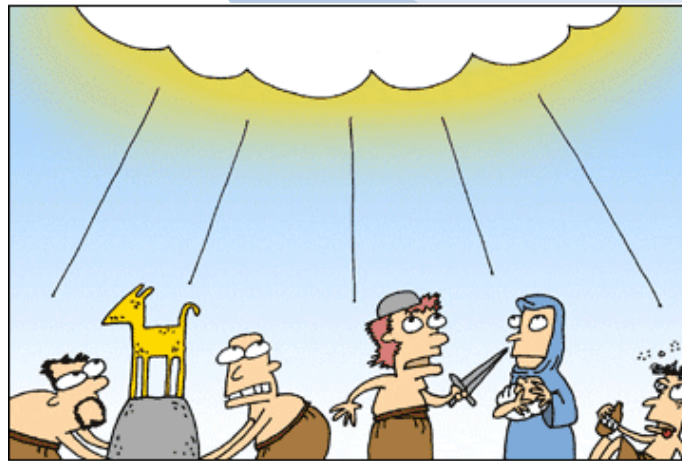
And what happened to the land of Israel?

Strangers from other countries were placed in Israel. But there were not enough people to fill the land as in years before. Wild animals began to roam the countryside and lions were known to kill people often. Life in Israel was very hard.

In those days people thought that each country had its

own gods. The people who had moved into the land of Israel decided they needed to worship the god of that country to be safe. Although priests were sent, to teach the strangers about Israel's God, the new settlers continued to worship other idols in addition to worshipping God. It was because even the priests didn't know how to worship God but had worshipped calf idols for many years.

These settlers mixed with the Israelites and came to be called Samaritans. They put their temple of God on Mount Gerizim, near the city of Shechem. Many Samaritans still live there today.



DON'T MAKE ME COME DOWN THERE!



THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God has an amazing amount of patience because he has an amazing amount of love
- ❖ Disobedience makes God have to punish us for our own good
- ❖ God punishes us sometimes to bring us back to our senses
- ❖ God's love endures forever, no matter how much we mess up, he loves us
- ❖ God always has a vision to bring us back and make us better

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What was the pattern of all the kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel?
- ❖ **What does God's great patience teach us about his love?** (Ps 136)
- ❖ Who did God send against them?
- ❖ **Why was it necessary for them to be punished?**
- ❖ What did God do to them?
- ❖ What could they learn through this time?
- ❖ When had they been slaves before?
- ❖ What did Assyria do with the land of Israel?
- ❖ Why did God return them to slavery again?
- ❖ **What shows that God still had hope to bring the people back?**
- ❖ What went wrong with the nation of Israel even though they were God's treasured possession?
- ❖ **How can we remember God's word and keep a thankful heart, so we don't become like the Israelites?**
- ❖ Why didn't God just kill them?

Questions for Group Discussion

"Therefore the LORD rejected all the people of Israel"

- ❖ Have you ever asked someone to come to church?
- ❖ Have you ever been patient out of love?
- ❖ Are you obedient to your parents?
- ❖ Do you listen to your teachers?
- ❖ Do you ever thank God for all the love he has for you?
 - ❖ Do you pray daily?
- ❖ Is God most important to you?
- ❖ Do you accept God's rebuke?
- ❖ Do you repent for your sins regularly?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Big Time Detention

2 Kings 17:20

"Therefore the Lord rejected all the people of Israel; he afflicted them and gave them into the hands of plunderers, until he thrust them from his presence."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

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What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

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Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Kings 17:7-20 Word Search

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

26 Words to find

CONSEQUENCES
 JUDGEMENT
 ISRAEL
 PLUNDERERS
 IDOLS
 KINGS
 ASSYRIANS
 SHALMANESER
 SCATTERED
 TENTRIBES
 STRANGERS
 PRIESTS
 GERIZIM

DISOBEDIENCE
 REJECTED
 AFFLICTED
 THRUST
 GOD
 EVIL
 HOSHEA
 SLAVES
 WEAK
 NORTHERN
 LIONS
 SAMARITANS
 SHECHEM



The Missing Prophet

Jonah 1-4

Theme: Loving sinners, Obedience, God's Will

Now the Israelites had conquered the Assyrians but they were still a real threat. The capital of this country was a city called Nineveh.

A prophet named Jonah was living in Israel at this time. The Lord came to him and said, "Go to the wicked city of Nineveh and preach there."

Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh. Nineveh was, after all, an enemy city and should suffer, not be saved. Instead of going there, Jonah went to the seacoast and boarded a ship going in the opposite direction.

Of course, the Lord knew where Jonah was and what he was doing. God sent a great storm that tossed the ship around. All the people on board were sure they were going to die. While everyone prayed to their own gods to save them, Jonah slept soundly. "Get up and pray to your God!" the sailors told Jonah.

As the storm grew worse and worse, Jonah told the people his story. "I am the one causing your problems," he said. "Throw me overboard and you will be safe."

But the people on the ship would not throw Jonah overboard. Although they worshiped idols, they were not murderers. Instead, they prayed to God and asked Him to save them. But this did not

Jonah 4:11

"And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

work, either. Finally, they had no choice. Jonah was thrown overboard to save the ship. As soon as he was in the water, the storm stopped. Everyone thanked God for saving them and promised to serve Him.

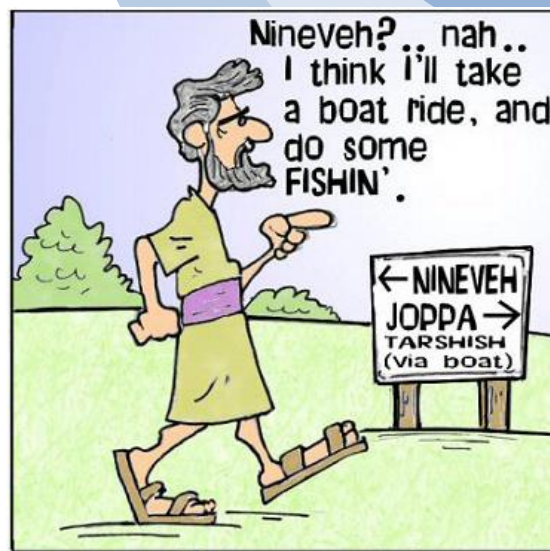
And what happened to Jonah? While he was in the water, a huge fish came along and swallowed him whole. Jonah lived inside the great fish for three days before the fish spit him out on dry land.

Now Jonah did as he was told. He walked through Nineveh and called out, "In forty days Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people there believed Jonah. They stopped sinning and worshiped God. The people of Nineveh begged

God not to destroy their city.

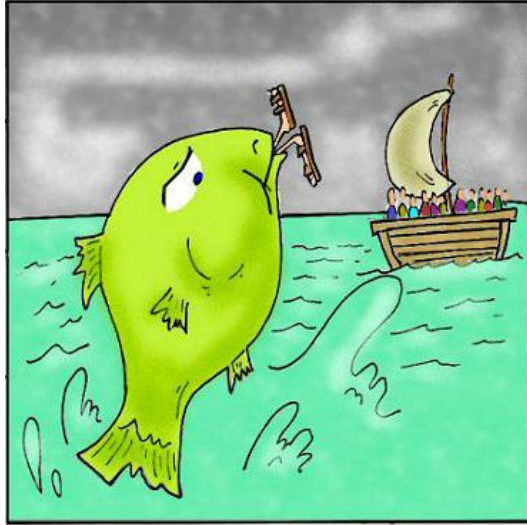
When God saw that the people were really sorry for their sins, He forgave them and did not destroy their city. This made Jonah angry, he only wanted God to bless the Israelites not their enemy. He couldn't understand God's heart. "You might as well kill me," he said to God.

But God would not do that. "Why shouldn't I have pity on a city with more than a hundred thousand children in it?" the Lord asked Jonah.



God calls Jonah to travel to Nineveh and preach. Jonah goes with plan B. **Jonah 1:1-3**
BAD PLAN!! When God says go.. you best be goin'.





Fish Bait.. **Jonah 1:17**



Jonah preaches, then pouts. God gives him a plant for shade, but Jonah still pouts.. so God sends a worm to eat the plant. **Jonah 4:7**

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God loves sinners and wants to save them
- ❖ God wants all people on earth to repent and be saved
- ❖ We have to obey God and go to all the world with the gospel
- ❖ We have to be careful not to let ourselves hate a country or people because God loves them too

TALK ABOUT IT



- Who were the Assyrians?
- What did God want to do for them?
- What did Jonah think about this? What did he do?
- How did God help Jonah to repent?
- What did Jonah do after this?
- What was the reaction of the people of Nineveh?
- What does this show about unbelievers?
- What do we learn about God's heart for sinners?
- What did Jonah think about this?
- How did God try to teach him?
- What was Jonah's final answer to God?
- Why couldn't Jonah love the people of Nineveh?
- Why must we love others not condemn them?
- How can we love sinners like God?



Questions for Group Discussion

"Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

- ❖ Have you ever asked God what his mission for your life was?
- ❖ Do you love those who are rude to you?
 - ❖ Do you ever judge others?
 - ❖ Do you complain when things don't go your way?
 - ❖ Do you obey your parents?
- ❖ When you are scared, do you pray?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked God to help you love others?
 - ❖ Have you ever denied yourself to follow God's plan?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

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Application:

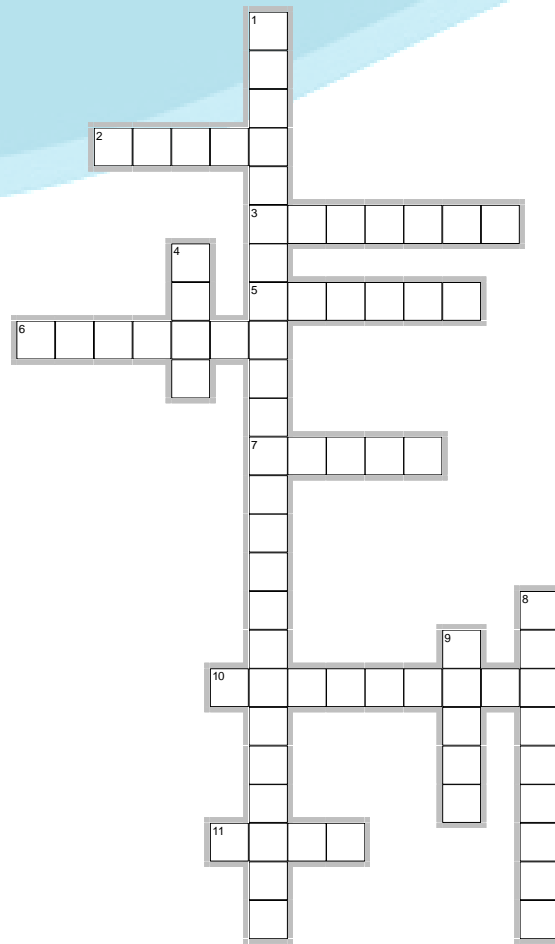
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

2. Runaway prophet
3. Capitol of Assyrian Empire
5. God does not delight in destroying sinners, he wants them to _____
6. Jonah knew God would do this if the Assyrians repented
7. Swallowed Jonah
10. Time Jonah was inside the whale
11. God's heart is to _____ the whole world

Down

1. Population of Nineveh (roughly)
4. Instead of doing his mission, Jonah took this in the opposite direction
8. God's judgment upon the Assyrian Capitol
9. Jonah _____ his mission because he didn't have God's heart



JONAH

Chapter

1



The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai

Arise go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness has come before Me.



So Jonah went up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.



So he went down to Joppa,



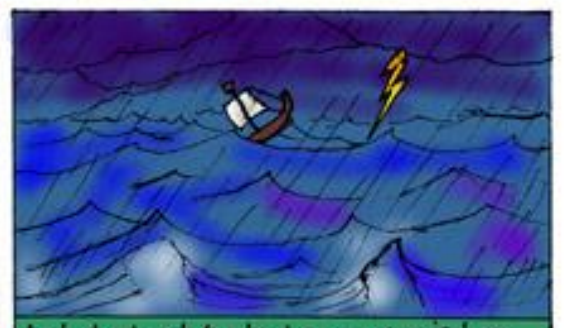
found a ship which was going to Tarshish.



Paid the fare,



and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish to flee from the presence of the Lord.



And the Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.

Then the sailors became afraid,



and every man cried to his god,



and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them.

but Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down, and fallen sound asleep.



So the captain approached him.

How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.



And each man said to his mate...

Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.



So they cast lots...

and the lot fell on Jonah.





Chapter 2

Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish.



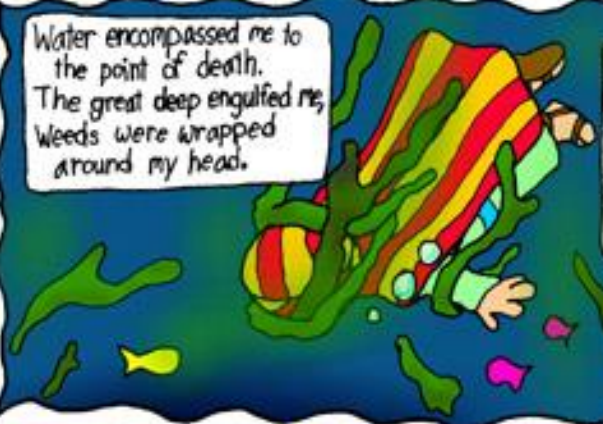
I called out of my distress to the Lord, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; Thou didst hear my voice.



For Thou hast cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. And the breakers and billows passed over me.



So I said, "I have been expelled from Thy Sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Thy Holy temple."



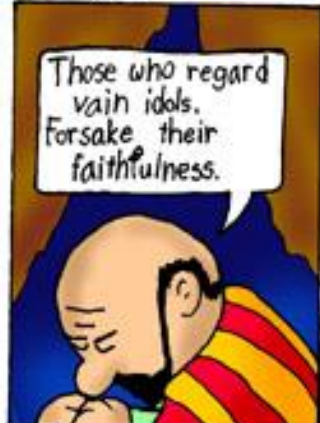
Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.



I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with it's bars was around me forever; But Thou hast brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.



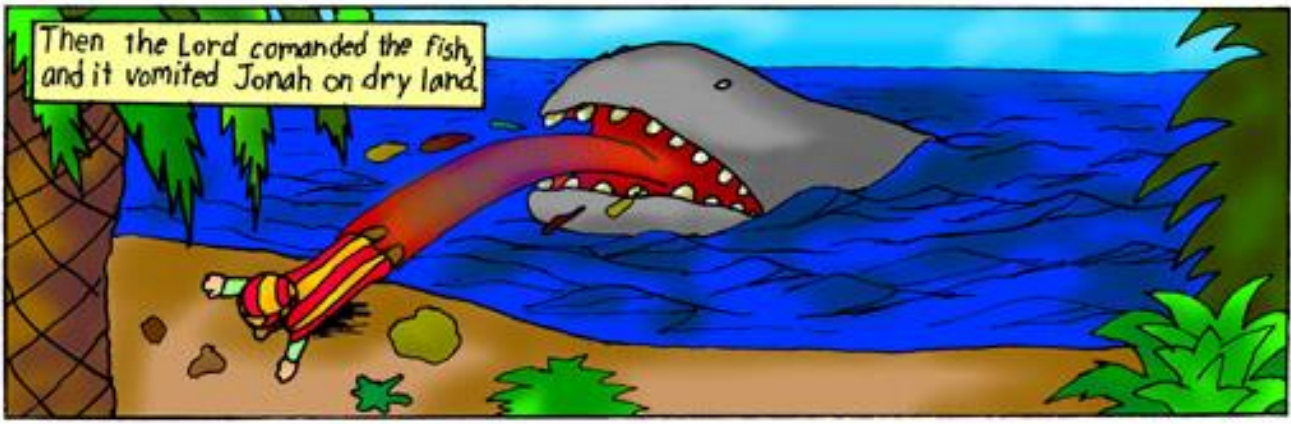
While I was fainting away, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer came to Thee, Into Thy holy temple.



Those who regard vain idols, Forsake their faithfulness.



But I will sacrifice to Thee, With the voice of Thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.



Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah on dry land.

Chapter 3

Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time



Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.

So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days walk.



Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out.



Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.

Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

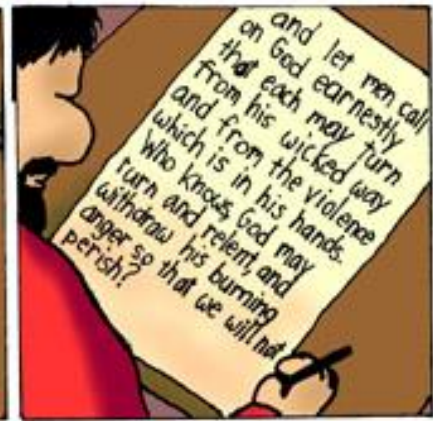


When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.



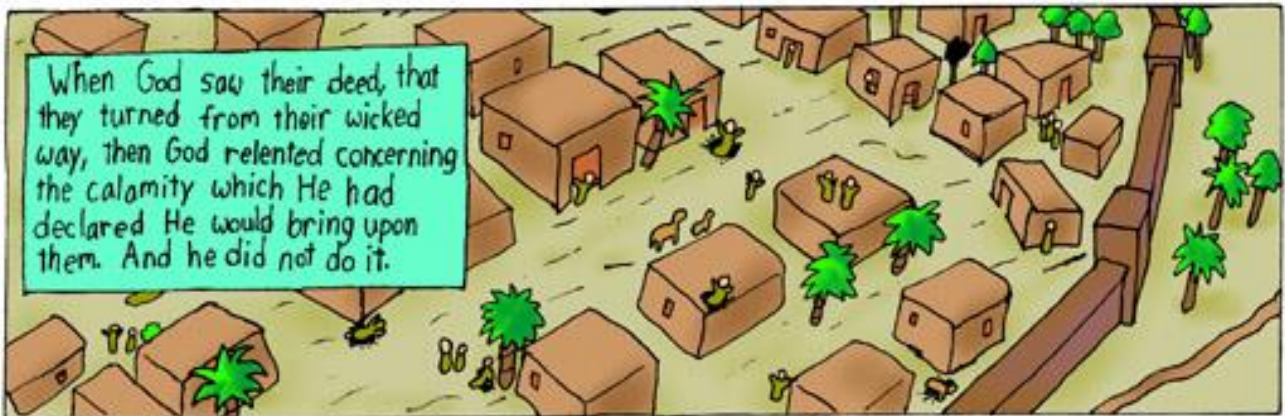
And he issued a proclamation

In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth;



and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. Who knows, God may turn and relent, and withdraw his burning anger so that we will not perish?

When God saw their deed, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And he did not do it.



Chapter 4

But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.



Please Lord, was this not what I said while I was in my own country?



Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish for I knew that Thou art a gracious and compassionate God,



slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness and one who relents concerning calamity.



Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.



Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it.



There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.



So the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort.



And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

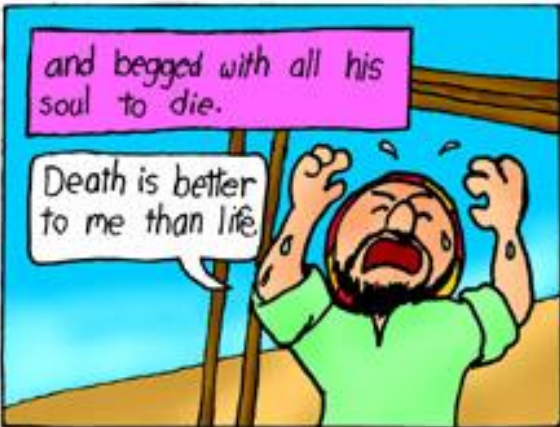


And God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant



And it came about when the sun came up that God appointed a scorching east wind, and it beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint...





and begged with all his soul to die.

Death is better to me than life.

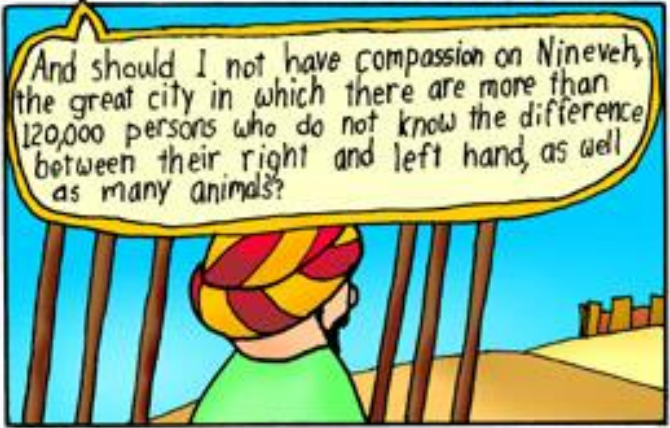


Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?

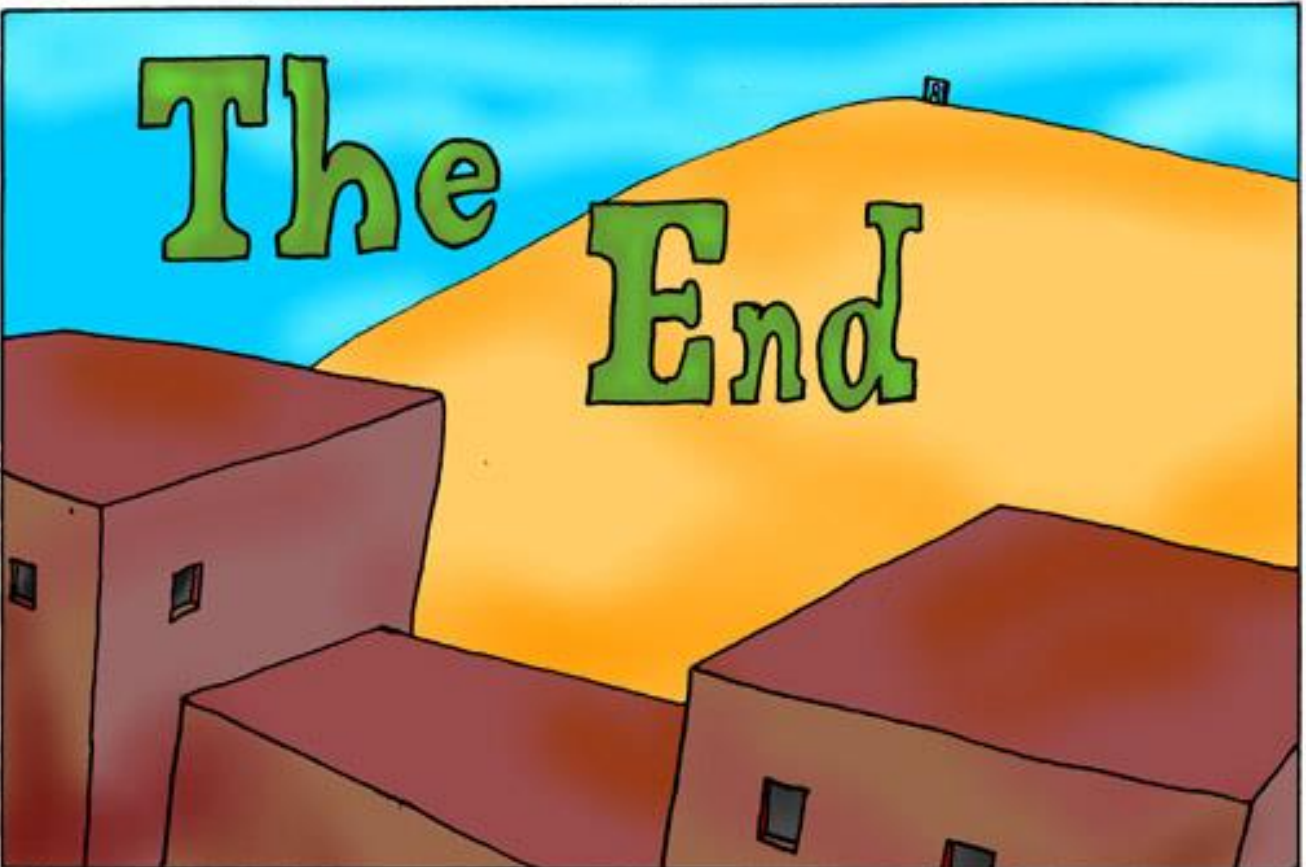
I have good reason to be angry, even to death.



You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work, and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

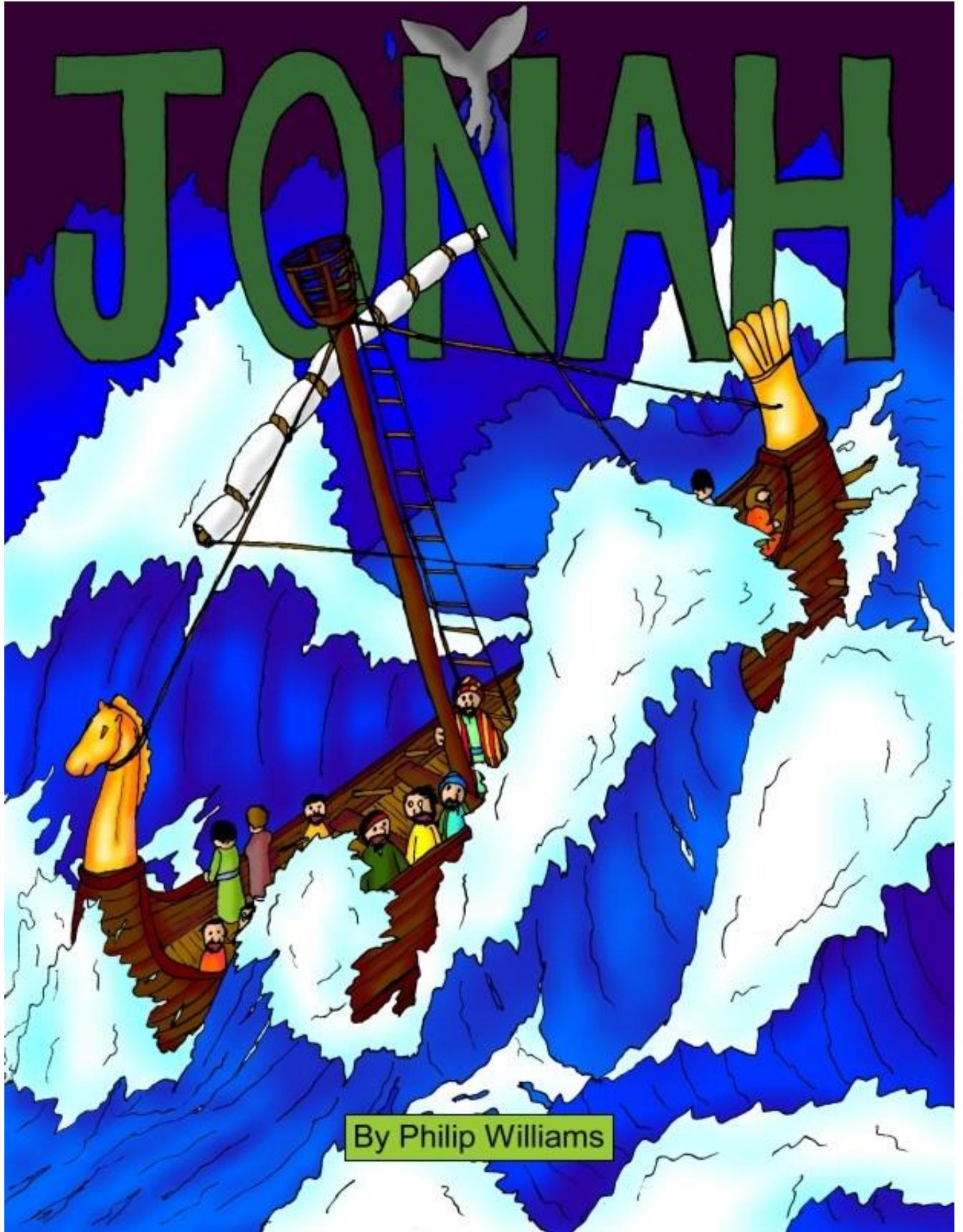


And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?



The End

JONAH



By Philip Williams

The wee kingdom of Judah

2 Chronicles 12-20

Theme: Faith is Strength, Cutting away Sin

You remember that God's people were divided into two kingdoms when Rehoboam became king. Ten tribes formed the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the remaining tribes were the Southern Kingdom of Judah. So now we need to go back and look at what had been happening all this time in Judah.

Rehoboam was cruel to the people, so they hated him and worshipped idols. Then Egypt attacked Jerusalem and took all the gold from the temple that Solomon had collected.

When Rehoboam died, his son Abijah became king of Judah. During Abijah's rule, the northern kingdom of Israel attacked and even though Abijah's army was small, God gave him victory because he prayed to God.

Abijah only ruled for three years, and his son Asa became the next king.

The Lord sent a prophet to Asa. "The Lord will be with you as long as you are with Him," the prophet said. "But if you leave Him, He will leave you."

Asa rebuilt the altar of the temple and called his people to worship God. Then he went through the land and destroyed every idol he could find. When he saw his own mother worshiping an idol, he would not allow her to be the queen any longer.

Asa served the Lord until he was old and sick. But then he allowed people who worshiped idols to try and heal him. Before Asa died, there were idols in the land again.

2 Chronicles 15:8

"When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage. He removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the towns he had captured in the hills of Ephraim. He repaired the altar of the Lord that was in front of the portico of the Lord's temple."

Asa's son, Jehoshaphat, became the wisest and strongest king of Judah. Jehoshaphat served the Lord with all his heart, and he ordered his people to serve

God as well. So the people of Judah would know more about God Jehoshaphat sent priests all over the country. They read the laws of God and taught people how to serve Him.

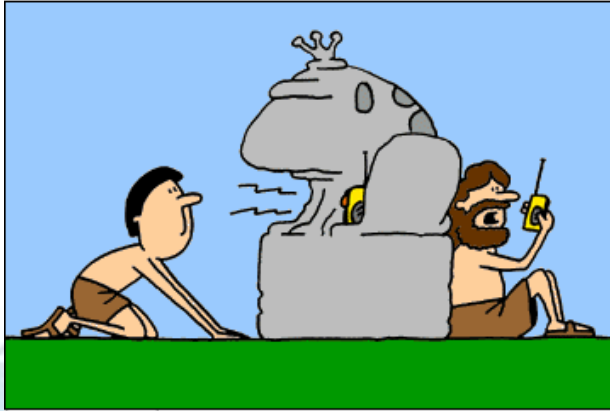
One time the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites all attacked Judah. There was no way Jehoshaphat could defeat three strong armies working together but he was willing to try. Before sending his army out, the king and his soldiers all went to the temple to pray and ask God for His help in the battle.

One of the priests, at the temple was filled with God's

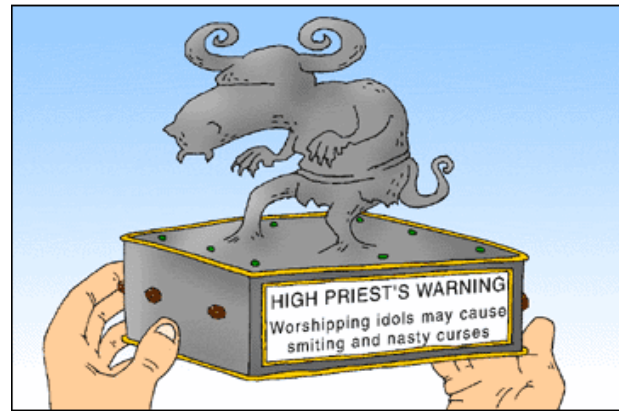
Spirit and gave Jehoshaphat a message from God. "Don't be afraid," God told them. "This is My battle, not yours. Go out to fight. You will see Me win the victory for you."

When the army reached the camp of their enemies, they found there was no one to fight! The three armies had destroyed each other and the army of Judah won without losing any lives.





LISTEN TO ME FAITHFUL WORSHIPPER, I WANT YOU TO GO AND WORSHIP THIS GOD OF THE ISRAELITES ... HE IS COOL, I AM WORTHLESS AND UGLY



THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Our faith is our great strength
- ❖ When we pray God does amazing things
- ❖ When we are in trouble or have big problems we must come to God who is strong

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who was the first king of Judah?
- ❖ How did God punish Rehoboam? Why?
- ❖ Who was king after Rehoboam?
- ❖ How did God help Abijah? Why?
- ❖ **Why is prayer our most powerful weapon as Christians?**
- ❖ Who was king after Abijah?
- ❖ What great change did Asa make in the land?
- ❖ When Asa made a mistake in his old age what immediately happened?
- ❖ **What happens to us when we get lazy and don't pray?**
- ❖ Who was king after Asa?
- ❖ How did Jehoshaphat help the people know God?
- ❖ What terrifying army came against Jehoshaphat?
- ❖ What did he do in this impossible situation?
- ❖ How did God fight for Jehoshaphat?
- ❖ **What happens when we trust in God's strength when we are weak?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"she hid him for three months"

- ❖ Do you pray when you're in trouble?
- ❖ Do you have a zero-tolerance for sin and temptation in your life?
- ❖ Do you have idols in your life?
- ❖ Have you ever smashed any idols in your life?
- ❖ Do you finish what you start, are you faithful no matter what happens?
- ❖ Do you think others would say you're a strong Christian?
- ❖ Do you believe that Bible study is the best way to help others?
- ❖ Has God ever won a victory for you without

Can you think of More? List them Below:

The Wee Kingdom of Judah

2 Chronicles

"When Asa heard these words and the prophecy of Azariah son of Oded the prophet, he took courage. He removed the detestable idols from the whole land of Judah and Benjamin and from the towns he had captured in the hills of Ephraim. He repaired the altar of the Lord that was in front of the portico of the Lord's temple."

How I put God's Word into Practice

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Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

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What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
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...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Chronicles 15:1-12 Word Search

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

34 Words to find

JUDAH
 STRENGTH
 SIN
 PROPHECY
 ODED
 REMOVED
 DETESTABLE
 LORD
 DIVIDED
 TENTRIBES
 SOUTHERN
 SOLOMON
 VICTORY
 LEAVE
 JEHOSHAPHAT
 HEART
 AFRAID

FAITH
 CUTTING
 ASA
 AZARIAH
 PROPHET
 IDOLS
 ALTAR
 TEMPLE
 REHOBOAM
 NORTHERN
 EGYPT
 ABIJAH
 PRAYED
 MOTHER
 SERVED
 LAWS
 BATTLE



Bad Move Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 21-24

Theme: Bad influence, Making good decisions

Jehoshaphat was a good man and wise king, but he did make mistakes. He allowed his son Jehoram to marry Athaliah, a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, the wicked king and queen of Israel.

Athaliah led all the people in worshipping her idols and made them forget their God. Then, to prevent anyone from taking away his throne, Jehoram killed all his brothers. The prophet Elijah was living in Israel at this time. He

wrote a letter to Jehoram in which he gave this message from God:

“You have led your people to worship idols. You have killed your own brothers who were good men. The Lord will punish you and your people. Furthermore, you will have a terrible disease no one can cure.”

The Philistines and the Arabs made war against Jehoram. They broke into his palace and took away all his treasures. Then they killed almost all of his children, leaving only the youngest one alive.

As God had promised, Jehoram came down with a very painful disease. No one could find a way to cure him, and after years of pain, Jehoram died. Everyone in Judah hated him so much that he was not buried with the other kings.

2 Chronicles 21:7

“Nevertheless, because of the covenant the Lord had made with David, the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David. He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants forever.”

Then Athaliah had every living prince from the family of David killed and made herself queen of Judah. She shut up the temple of God and led the people to worship Baal for the next six years.

One baby from David’s family survived and was brought up worshipping God. When he was seven

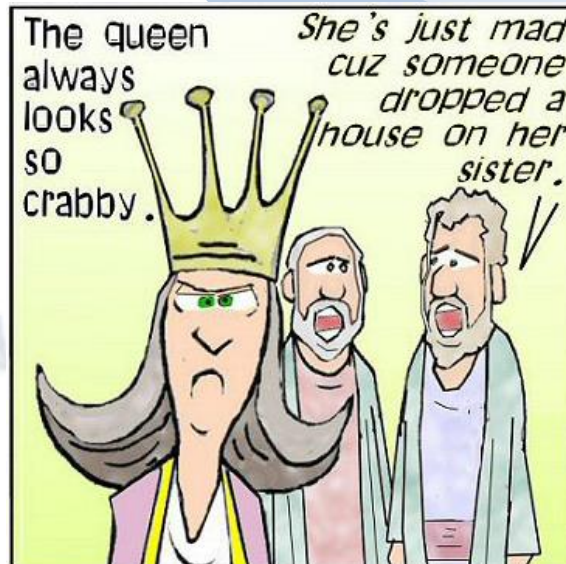
years old, this child, Joash, was brought out of the temple and crowned king by the priest. The people were so happy to see this relative of the great king David that they shouted, “Long live the king!”

Athaliah’s own soldiers killed her. Then the priest and the people promised to follow God. They tore down the temple of Baal and broke up all the idols.

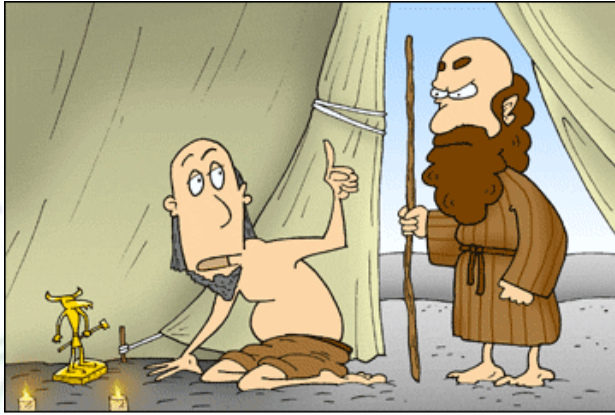
Everyone was glad to have someone from the house of David as their ruler again.

As long as the old priest who raised him lived,

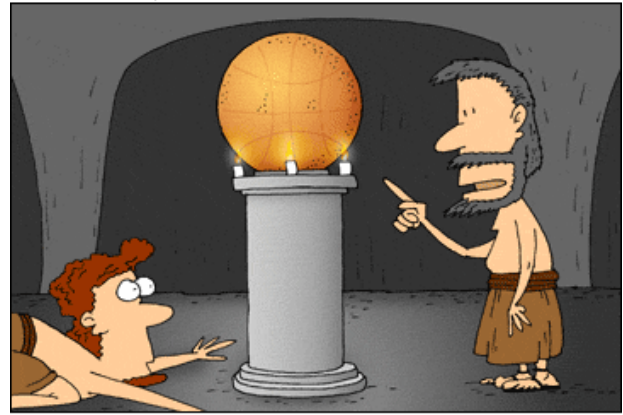
Joash ruled well, and his people worshiped God. But after the old priest died, others led King Joash into worshipping idols, and God was unhappy with him. The Syrians came into Judah, robbing the cities and leaving Joash sick and poor. Soon his own servants killed him and made his son Amaziah the new king.



The palace servants had their own theory on why Queen Athaliah was so mean.
(hint: think OZ)



AH, THE KEY HERE IS THAT I'M "PRACTICING" IDOLATRY ... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ACTUALLY IDOLATRYING



B-A-A-L ... IT'S SPELLED B-A-A-L

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ It is very important for those who worship God to marry those who worship God
- ❖ We cannot be faithful to God part of life but to the very end
- ❖ One person's bad influence can ruin many around them
- ❖ People are happy to have a good shepherd who loves God

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What mistake did the good Jehoshaphat make in the end of his life?
- ❖ Who was Athaliah and what did she do?
- ❖ Was Jehoram a good or bad king?
- ❖ What terrible thing did Jehoram do?
- ❖ What was Elijah's prophecy against him?
- ❖ How did this come true?
- ❖ How did Athaliah take over the country?
- ❖ **How did Jehoshaphat's one mistake turn into a great tragedy for his nation?**
- ❖ **What should we do when we need to make important decisions?**
- ❖ Who survived of David's family and what happened to him?
- ❖ How was Athaliah finally killed?
- ❖ What did the people do when Joash no longer followed God?
- ❖ **What do we learn about the importance of making and keeping good decisions?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"the LORD was not willing to destroy the house of David."

- ❖ Are there some things that you don't want to ask God about and would rather do your own thing?
 - ❖ Do you ask God for his direction when making important decisions?
 - ❖ Are your friends a good influence or a bad influence on you?
- ❖ Do you think about your influence on others?
- ❖ Has one of your friends ever influenced you to do something wrong that you felt bad about later?
- ❖ Have you ever made a bad decision that led to a much bigger problem later?
- ❖ Have you ever destroyed your idols—what was causing you to sin or be lazy?
 - ❖ Have you ever turned back to God?
- ❖ Do people know you as a faithful person?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Bad Move Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 21:7

“Nevertheless, because of the covenant the Lord had made with David, the Lord was not willing to destroy the house of David. He had promised to maintain a lamp for him and his descendants forever.”

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Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

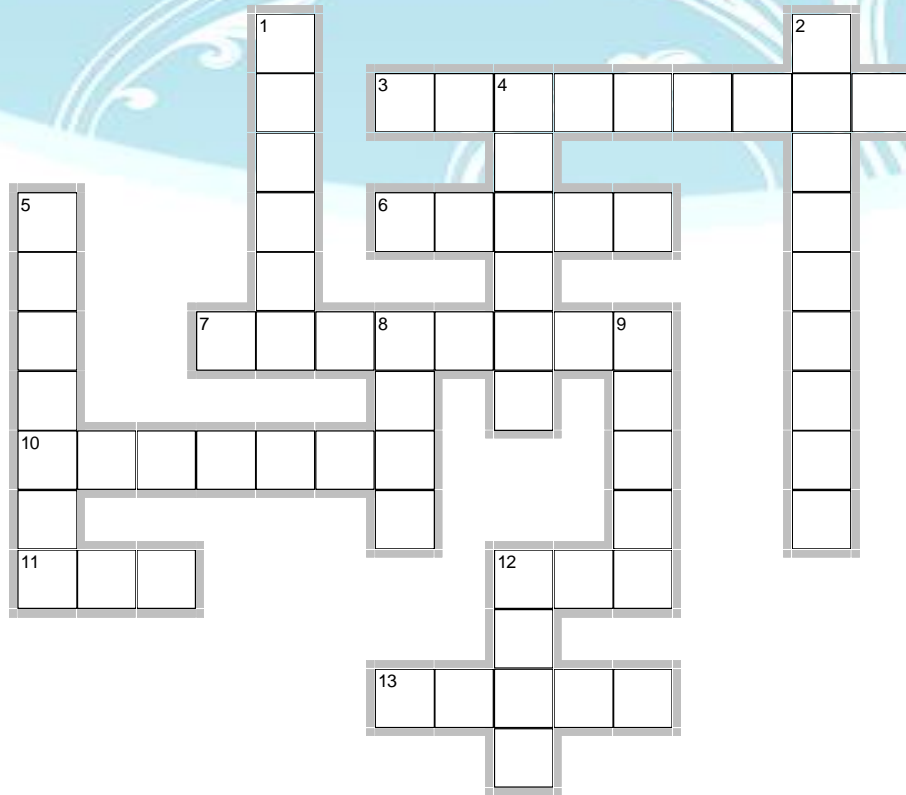
Application:

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Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...

How well do you know God's Word?



Across

3. Our _____ will either bless or destroy those around us
6. Those who worship God should _____ those who worship God
7. People are happy to have a good _____
10. _____ was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel
11. We must be faithful to God to the _____
12. Jehoshaphat made a very _____ choice for his son's wife
13. _____ was the only surviving member of David's family

Down

1. _____ prophesied against the king
2. One person's bad _____ can ruin many
4. The king was _____ by God
5. The king got an incurable _____
8. We must _____ when it is time to make big decisions
9. The Queen took over by killing all the descendants of _____
12. The queen led the whole nation to _____ worship

Finish what you start

2 Chronicles 25-28

Theme: God's discipline, faithfulness to the end

Amaziah was the ninth king of Judah. He gathered an army of 300,000 men to bring Edom back under the rule of Judah, and the Lord gave him a great victory. But when he came back to Judah, Amaziah brought back idols from Edom and began to worship them. He became very proud and decided to attack Israel. When a prophet warned him, Amaziah chased him away.

Israel attacked Judah and took Amaziah prisoner. The soldiers broke into the temple and stole all the treasures. Eventually, Amaziah was killed by his own men.

His son Uzziah (or Azaria) was the tenth king of Judah. Anointed as king when he was sixteen years old, he ruled for fifty-two years. Uzziah learned to fear God from Zechariah the priest. Uzziah made the kingdom of Judah strong again by winning back the land from their enemies.

But Uzziah became very proud as he got older. One day he went into the Holy of Holies, in the temple, to offer incense. This could only be done by the high priest once a year, never by a king.

Suddenly, Uzziah's forehead became white with leprosy! For the rest of his life Uzziah lived as a

leper. His son Jotham became the king and Uzziah lived in a little house all alone.

Jotham was king for sixteen years. He served the Lord and learned from his father's mistake but he let the people worship idols. God was pleased with most of what Jotham did and helped him rule the people well.

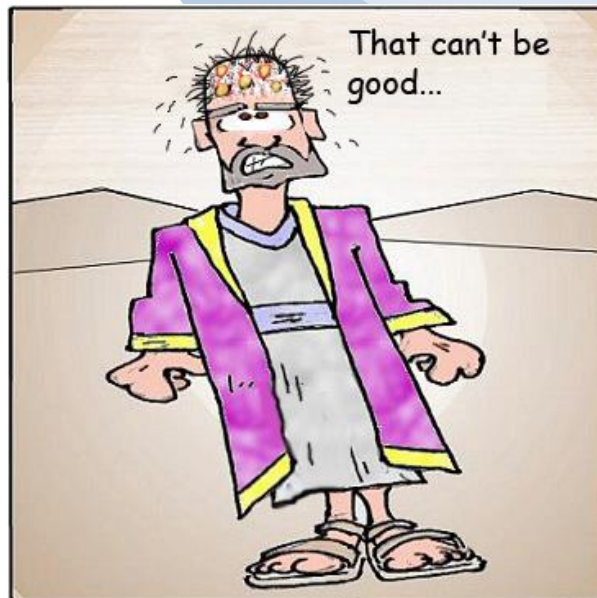
The next king was Ahaz, the most wicked of all the kings of Judah. He worshiped Baal and even sacrificed his own children. During his rule, the king of Israel teamed up with the king of Aram and defeated Judah killing 120,000 people, including Ahaz's own son. The Israelites captured many people of Judah in this war and took them home as slaves. But later they let

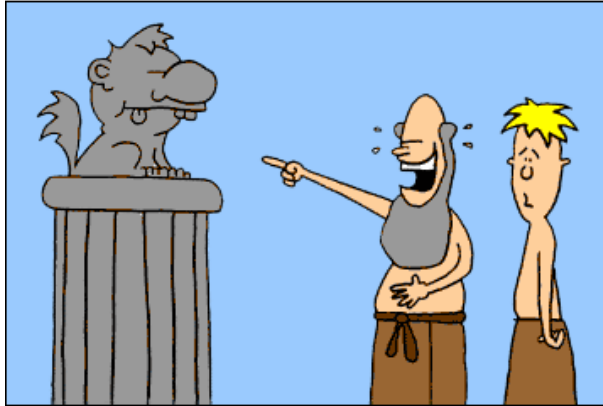
them free because they were their own brothers.

When the Edomites attacked Judah, King Ahaz asked the Assyrians to come and help him. They came, but not to help. Instead, they made themselves the rulers of Judah and took everything they could find. But Ahaz didn't repent, he made an altar for worshipping the god of Aram, thinking his enemies god was more powerful. When Ahaz died, his people were still worshipping idols and under the power of the king of Assyria.

2 Chronicles 25:8

"Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow."





When the prophets came across the newest idol "doofus" they decided to take a new approach to discouraging idol worship

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God's blessing and protection come as much as we honor God
- ❖ God's discipline comes as much as we do not honor God
- ❖ Troubles in our life, are God's love to make us repent before we go to the worst trouble
- ❖ If we start well and live by faith we must do it till the end of our life or face judgment

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What great victory did God give Amaziah?
- ❖ What foolish thing did he do?
- ❖ **How could he win with God and then turn to idols?**
- ❖ How did he make his sin worse?
- ❖ **How does a good man turn so evil?**
- ❖ What made Uzziah a good king?
- ❖ What made Uzziah turn bad?
- ❖ **How could he become so foolish?**
- ❖ Why was the rule of Jotham totally different than the others?
- ❖ **What does Jotham teach us about why God disciplines?**
- ❖ How is Ahaz described?
- ❖ What terrible things happened to Judah?
- ❖ What happened when Ahaz tried to get help from his Assyria?
- ❖ When every nation around him became his enemy, did Ahaz repent?
- ❖ **Why does God discipline us?**
- ❖ **What should be our view of troubles in life? (Heb 12:11) What do we need to do?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"God has the power to help or to overthrow."

- ❖ Do you keep the repentance you make or go back?
 - ❖ When you make a decision to do a good thing do you keep your decision?
- ❖ Are you faithful to reading the Bible or testimony writing or other spiritual disciplines every time, no matter what?
 - ❖ Are you really trying to learn how to fear God from your Bible teacher?
 - ❖ Do you become proud and think you don't need to listen to God?
 - ❖ Have you ever felt that God rebuked you for your good?
 - ❖ Do you learn from your mistakes?
- ❖ Do you do your own thing or listen to your parents/teachers who have experience?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Finish What You Start

2 Chronicles 25:8

"Even if you go and fight courageously in battle, God will overthrow you before the enemy, for God has the power to help or to overthrow."

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Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Chronicles 25:1-16

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

32 Words to find

DISCIPLINE
 AMAZIAH
 ARMY
 LORD
 IDOLS
 PROPHET
 TEMPLE
 UZZIAH
 SIXTEEN
 PROUD
 INCENSE
 KING
 ALONE
 AHAZ
 BAAL
 SLAVES

FAITHFULNESS
 JUDAH
 EDOM
 VICTORY
 ISRAEL
 PRISONER
 TREASURES
 AZARIA
 FEAR
 HOLY
 PRIEST
 LEPER
 JOTHAM
 WICKED
 SACRIFICED
 ASSYRIANS



Finally, a Good One

2 Chronicles 28:1-32:33; 2 Kings 18:1-21:21;
Isaiah 35:1-38:22
Theme: Trusting God, Repentance

If Ahaz was the worst king of Judah, Hezekiah was the best. He listened to what the prophet Isaiah said and obeyed the commands of God. In the first month of his reign Hezekiah had the temple cleaned and reopened.

Then he decided the people should celebrate the Feast of the Passover, as they had years ago and he even sent messengers into Israel to invite the people to come and worship in the temple in Jerusalem.

Hezekiah helped the people rededicate themselves to God. His men broke every idol they could find in the land and the people turned back to God.

When Hezekiah became king, Judah and all the lands around it were under the power of the Assyrians. They each had their own kings but every year they had to send a large amount of money to the Assyrians. Hezekiah refused to pay these taxes and the Assyrian army came in and threatened to take Jerusalem. Hezekiah saw he could not win this battle and begged the Assyrians to forgive him.

In return for their forgiveness, the Assyrians asked for even more money. Hezekiah sent them

2 Chronicles 30:18b-20
“But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, ‘May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone who sets their heart on seeking God—the Lord, the God of their ancestors—even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.’ And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people.”

everything he had. He sent all the gold and silver from the temple. He sent everything he could get from the people. He sent everything he owned himself.

“Not enough,” said a letter from the Assyrians. “We are going to make you slaves and send you away. Give up and go willingly wherever we send you. Your God cannot save you, no god can save anyone from us.”

Hezekiah took this letter to the temple and laid it out on the altar before God. He prayed to God for help. Then he sent for Isaiah, to hear God’s answer.

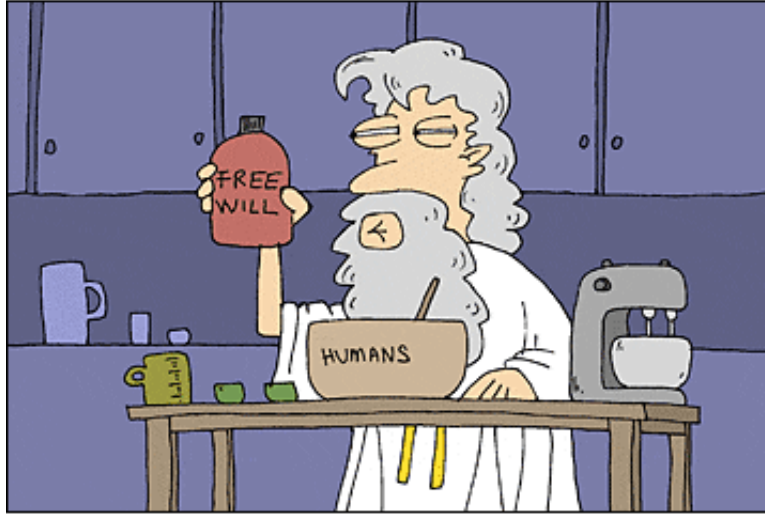
“The king of Assyria will not come here or shoot one arrow against this city, God will fight this king who has blasphemed against him.” Isaiah told the king.

That night, the Lord sent an angel to the Assyrian camp that killed 185,000 of them in one night. When the king of Assyria ran home, he was killed by his own sons. God won the battle on his own when Hezekiah prayed.



Like an Old Testament Terminator
That night the Angel of the Lord went out and killed 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp.





EVER WONDER IF GOD HAD ANY SECOND THOUGHTS?

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ To really come to God, we must clean out the temple of our heart, smash every idol and worship God
- ❖ We have to be clear and not compromise to help people to come to God
- ❖ When we pray, God fights for us, when we reach the end of our strength and ideas, it's time to pray
- ❖ When we put our life in God's hands and trust Him, he will protect us and guide us

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What is said about Hezekiah?
- ❖ What did he do when it didn't work?
- ❖ What did he first do to bring God back into the country?
- ❖ **What must we do when we reach the end of our strength?**
- ❖ How did he help the Israelites come back to God?
- ❖ How did God protect Jerusalem?
- ❖ **What kind of difficulties might we encounter in trying to bring people to God?**
- ❖ **Why should we always put our trust in God?**
- ❖ What problem arose in Judah?
- ❖ **What do we learn about the blessing and struggle of living as God's servant?**
- ❖ How did Hezekiah try to solve it?



Questions for Group Discussion

"The glory has departed from Israel"

- ❖ Have you ever rededicated yourself to God making a decision to seek him more?
- ❖ Have you ever written down everything you have to thank God for?
- ❖ Do you thank God everyday in prayer?
 - ❖ Do you bring your problems to God in prayer?
 - ❖ Is there something taking your heart away from God?
 - ❖ Can you destroy the idols in your life to put God first?
 - ❖ Have you ever made a bad mistake that cost you a lot?
 - ❖ What do you do when you can't solve a problem?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Finally a Good One

2 Chronicles 30:18b-20

"But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, 'May the Lord, who is good, pardon everyone who sets their heart on seeking God—the Lord, the God of their ancestors—even if they are not clean according to the rules of the sanctuary.' And the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

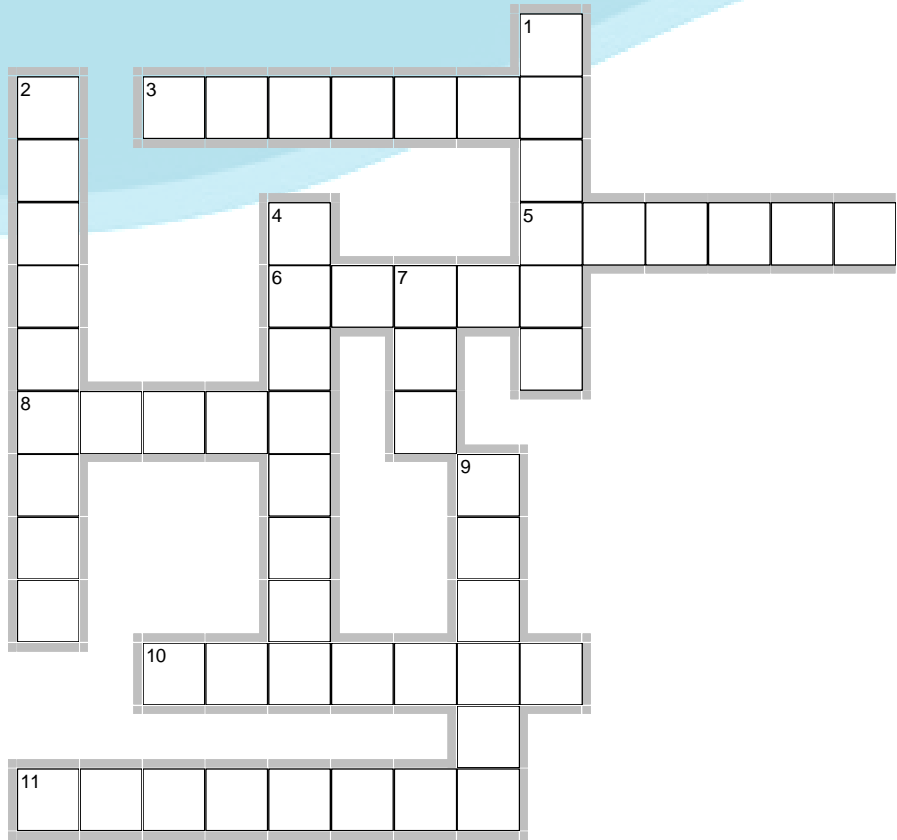
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What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

3. Israel stopped sending this by faith
5. Hezekiah's strategy to beat Assyria
6. Defeated the army alone in one night
8. Every single one in the land was destroyed
10. Hezekiah sent messengers inviting people to this
11. Good king of Israel

Down

1. Hezekiah ordered this cleansed and reopened
2. Enemies of Israel in Hezekiah's time
4. Most important feast in the Jewish tradition
7. Was insulted by the king of Assyria
9. Prophet of God to Hezekiah



The Law? What's That?

2 Chronicles 33-35

Theme: Repentance before the Bible

Manasseh was the fourteenth king of Judah. He was more like his wicked grandfather Ahaz than his good father Hezekiah. He turned away from God and worshiped Baal and other false gods. He would not listen to God's prophets. He even rebuilt every Baal altar and Ashera pole his father Hezekiah had destroyed.

God was angered by Manasseh's acts and sent the Assyrians back into Judah. They captured Manasseh and kept him as a prisoner for some time. This was a good thing, because while he was a prisoner, Manasseh began to worship God again.

When he was set free and sent home, Manasseh stayed faithful to God for the rest of his life but he couldn't change the people.

Manasseh's son Amon ruled for two years after him, worshiping idols and living sinfully, so the people replaced him.

The sixteenth king of Judah was Josiah. He was only eight years old when he was made king! By the time Josiah was sixteen, he decided to worship the Lord. When he was twenty Josiah began to clear away the idols, and in a short time not one idol could be found anywhere in Judah.

2 Chronicles 34:27

"Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the Lord."

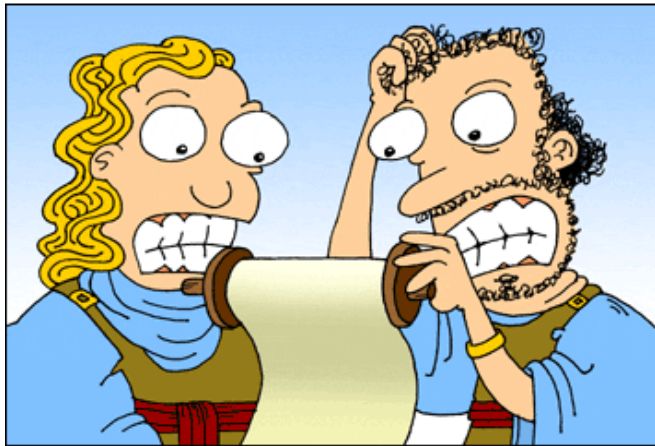
While Josiah's men were at work in the temple in Jerusalem, taking away idols and making the

place holy, they found an old book written on rolls of leather. This was the book of the law that Moses had written years ago! The book of the law had been hidden away so long that everyone had forgotten about it. Josiah had the book read to him and he became very frightened. He knew the people had

broken every one of God's laws and would suffer for it.

Josiah searched for a prophet and found a woman named Huldah who was living in Jerusalem. She told them that God was very angry at Judah and would surely punish the people. But because Josiah prayed to God and did God's will, nothing would happen until he died.

Josiah called all the people to the temple and read the laws to them so they would know them. They promised to obey God and not to worship any idols, and they did this until Josiah died.



When Josiah read how many don'ts in God's law were on the top 10 must do's in Judah he knew they were in big trouble!





THINK ABOUT IT

- ❖ In God even the worst person can become the best and work for Him
- ❖ The Word of God has the power to change anything even a whole nation
- ❖ When the Word of God disappears people become wicked, selfish and full of idols

TALK ABOUT IT

- ❖ Who was king after Hezekiah?
- ❖ What kind of King was he?
- ❖ What did God do because of his evil?
- ❖ What change happened when God rebuked him?
- ❖ How does this teach us to have hope for wicked people as Christians?
- ❖ Why was Amon such a bad king?
- ❖ Who was the replacement king?
- ❖ What was his decision when he was sixteen?
- ❖ How did Josiah put his faith to work?
- ❖ What was found in the temple?
- ❖ What did Josiah know after reading it? What did he do?
- ❖ Why was it so important that he read it to all the people? Why must we read and teach the Bible?
- ❖ Think about the difference one Bible teacher can make in one nation. Think if that is YOU!

Questions for Group Discussion

"because you humbled yourself before me"

- ❖ Have you ever told God all the bad things you've done and asked for his forgiveness?
- ❖ Have you ever humbled yourself, even shed tears over your sins?
- ❖ Have you ever denied yourself fun-time so that you could spend time with God?
- ❖ Do you value the Bible more than your other stuff?
- ❖ Do you ever talk about the Bible to others?
 - ❖ Do you try to learn what the Bible says so you can follow it?
 - ❖ Have you ever changed your behavior because of what you read in the Bible?
 - ❖ Have you ever experienced that God's word helped you to change?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Winning With Prayer

1 Samuel 7:3

"Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what he spoke against this place and its people, and because you humbled yourself before me and tore your robes and wept in my presence, I have heard you, declares the Lord."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

2 Chronicles 34:19-33

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

33 Words to find

REPENTANCE
 HEART
 HUMBLED
 TORE
 HEARD
 WICKED
 GOD
 ASSYRIANS
 CAPTURED
 WORSHIP
 AMON
 JOSIAH
 LORD
 LAW
 READ
 HULDAH
 OBEY

BIBLE
 RESPONSIVE
 HEARD
 WEPT
 MANASSEH
 BAAL
 ANGERED
 JUDAH
 PRISONER
 FAITHFUL
 SINFUL
 EIGHT
 CLEARAWAY
 MOSES
 PROPHET
 TEMPLE



Jeremiah the Sad Prophet

2 Kings 23-25; 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah
Theme: Courage to tell the truth

After Josiah died his son Jehoahaz became king. Egypt was ruling Judah, and the Egyptian king did not trust the new king of Judah. So, the king of Egypt put Jehoahaz's brother, Jehoiakim, in charge of Judah, and he turned the people back to worshipping idols. The prophet Jeremiah tried to warn the king, but this only made Jehoiakim very angry. Jeremiah had to run away and hide when the king tried to have him killed.

The Egyptians ruled the country for only a few years and then lost control of Judah to the powerful Babylonians. When King Jehoiakim of Judah tried to rebel against them, he lost his kingdom and his life. His young son was made king, but the Babylonians captured him and took him away.

God gave a message to the prophet Jeremiah, who sent a letter to the captives in Babylon. "Live there peacefully," God told the people. "Have children, and let them marry there. You and your children will stay there for seventy years, but then you will come home again. Call on Me, and I will hear you. I will be with you there."

The last king of Judah, who continued to rule from Jerusalem, was named Zedekiah. He promised to be faithful to Babylon, but he soon changed his mind. Jeremiah warned him not to

Jeremiah 25:8 & 11
"Therefore the LORD Almighty says this:
"Because you have not listened to my words...This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

rebel but Zedekiah would not listen. Jeremiah was captured and thrown into a deep, dark dungeon to die.

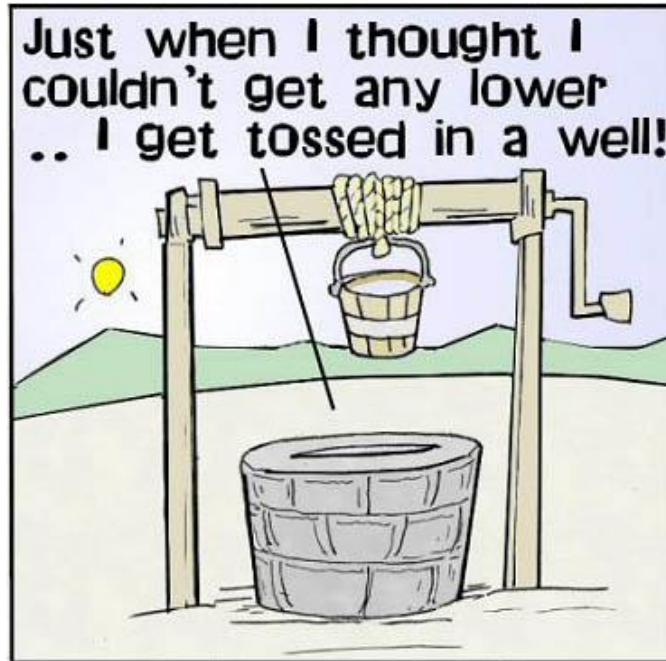
By now the army of Babylon had surrounded Jerusalem. Soon they captured the city and took the king and all his family to the king of Babylon, just as Jeremiah had said they would. While the king watched, they killed every one of his sons. Then they blinded Zedekiah and dragged him off to Babylon along with everyone in the land.

Jeremiah was set loose. He could go to Babylon or stay behind. He chose to stay behind with the poor people. But soon he was captured by enemies of Babylon and taken to Egypt, where he would die. Jeremiah is known as the sad or weeping prophet because all his life he had seen nothing but evil come to Judah. The messages from God that Jeremiah gave the people of Judah were filled with sadness and terrible news.

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians carried away all the riches of Jerusalem and then burned the city to the ground. All that was left of the temple was a heap of ashes and black stones.



A scene that takes place somewhere shortly after **Jeremiah 15:10**.. maybe



Jeremiah is thrown into a well to die.
Jeremiah 38

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ To do God's work we must be faithful even when it seems no one listens or believes
- ❖ We must say the truth as God's servants even if it will put us in danger or make us uncool
- ❖ Even when God has to punish us he still loves us and gives us hope so we can get better

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who was king of Judah after Josiah? Why was he replaced?
- ❖ How did Jehoiakim destroy all the work of his father?
- ❖ Who was Jeremiah? What does it mean to be a prophet?
- ❖ Why is it difficult to tell people the truth?
- ❖ What did the king try to do to Jeremiah and what happened to the king?
- ❖ What do we learn about those who try to get rid of the truth?
- ❖ Who was the last king and what did he do?
- ❖ What did Jeremiah tell him and what happened?
- ❖ What was the nickname of Jeremiah?
- ❖ Why did all these terrible things happen to Judah?
- ❖ What was God's promise to them?
- ❖ What can we learn about doing God's will in a dark world.?



Questions for Group Discussion

"This whole country will become a desolate wasteland"

- ❖ Do you treat God as God with a proper respect and fear?
- ❖ Does God's role as Judge make you careful in what you do?
- ❖ Do you pray for your school and the people who don't know God and the bad things that happen there?
- ❖ Do you listen to the advice of your Bible teacher?
- ❖ Do you take God's words more seriously than your own?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced God's judgment?
- ❖ Does God's rebuke help you to change or do you become more rebellious?
- ❖ Is your attitude toward repentance humble or do you get angry?
- ❖ What do you think about God's judgment?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Jeremiah the Sad Prophet

Jeremiah 25:11-12

"This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 'But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,' declares the LORD, 'and will make it desolate forever.'"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

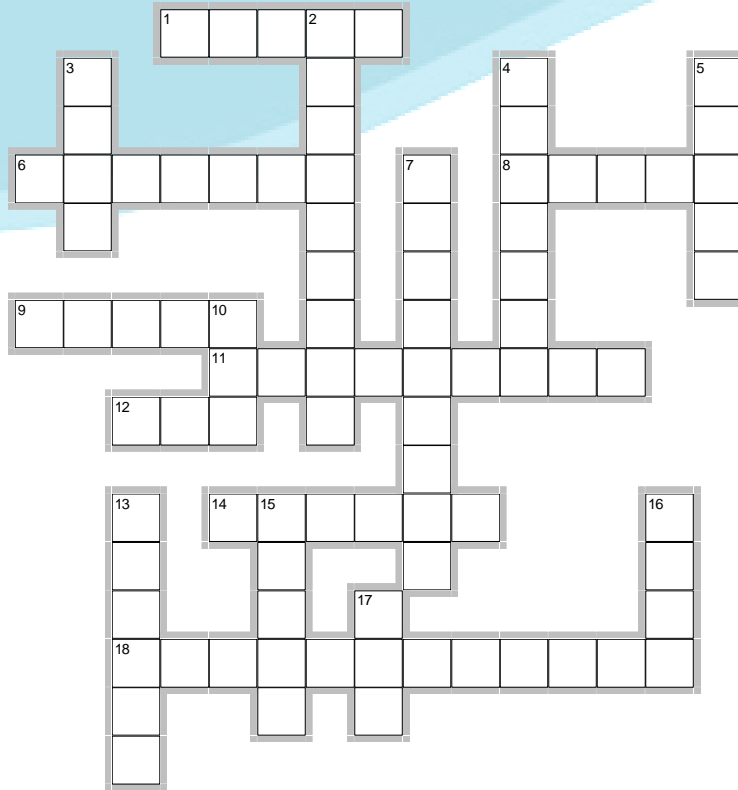
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What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

1. "In his time ____ will be saved"
6. "I will ____ them for the wicked things they did"
8. God made this new covenant because he ____ us
9. "I will put my teachings in their ____"
11. A covenant is an _____ between two people
12. "I will be their ____, and they will be my people"
14. "A voice was heard in Ramah of painful _____ and deep sadness"
18. "This will be his name: The Lord Our _____"

Down

2. "It will not be like the agreement I made with their _____"
3. "I will raise a ____ branch in David's family"
4. Those who ____ in Jesus will have their sins forgotten forever
5. Under the new covenant, ____ would pay for their sins forever if only they believed
7. God gave us a new _____ that was not just rules
10. Jeremiah was known as the ____ or weeping prophet
13. God wants us to have the word of God in our ____
15. We cannot be ____ before God
16. "I will not remember their ____ anymore"
17. God wants us to live by the new covenant out of ____ and thankfulness



Dry Bones Live

Ezekiel 37

Theme: God's Hope, God's Mercy

The people of Judah were marched almost a thousand miles to Babylon, not knowing what would happen to them there. Would King Nebuchadnezzar be kind to them or kill them all?

The people of Babylon treated the captives from Judah very well. They were given land to farm, and the land was good. They raised all the food they needed and built houses for themselves. Some went into the cities and became rich. Others worked for the king and became important nobles and princes.

Suddenly in Babylon, the people of Judah became faithful to God. They taught their children to love and serve the Lord. They sang songs about their land, so they would remember their homeland while they were away and not forget their God.

God provided for the Jews in Babylon. He sent them prophets to teach them about God. One of these was Daniel, a young man who lived in the court of the king. Another was a priest named Ezekiel, who saw wonderful visions and heard what God had planned for His people in the future.

One day the Lord brought Ezekiel to a great valley. When Ezekiel looked around him, he saw dried bones filling the valley, as if a huge battle had been fought there a long time ago. "Son of man," the Lord said to Ezekiel, "can these bones live again?"

Ezekiel 37:12b-14a

"My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land."

"Only You know that, Lord," Ezekiel answered.

"Preach to these bones," the Lord told Ezekiel. "Say I will make them live and put flesh on them, and cover them with skin. They will live, and know I am the Lord."

Ezekiel spoke to the dry bones. While he did, he heard the sound of rolling thunder. All over the

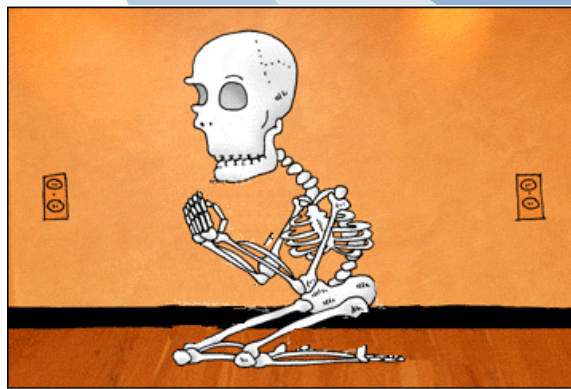
valley, bones began to come together until they formed human skeletons. Then flesh began to grow on the bones, until they lay like an army of dead men on the valley floor.

The Lord said to Ezekiel, "Call the wind, son of man. Tell it to breathe on these dead men and make them alive."

As Ezekiel called the wind, the dead bodies began to breathe. They stood on their feet, an army of living men filling the whole valley!

Then the Lord said to Ezekiel, "These bones are like the people of Israel. They seem to be lost, dead, and without hope. But they will live again. I will put life into them. They will go back to their own land and live together again."

When Ezekiel told the people of Judah about this, they had hope they would go home again one day.





GOOD MORNING ... THIS IS GOD ... I'LL BE HANDLING ALL YOUR PROBLEMS TODAY

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Even when God punishes us he never forgets about us, he always loves us
- ❖ God punishes us to grow us not to make us feel bad—he is always waiting to bring us back
- ❖ God always gives us hope and his promises to encourage us when we are weak
- ❖ No matter how dark things look, God has a good plan he is working out

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What happened to the Israelites before this? Why?
- ❖ **How did God show them great mercy in Babylon?**
- ❖ What shows the people had repented?
- ❖ Who was Ezekiel?
- ❖ **What does it mean to be a prophet?**
- ❖ Where did God take Ezekiel?
- ❖ What did God ask? How did Ezekiel answer?
- ❖ Why was it hard to believe?
- ❖ **How were the Israelites like dead, scattered bones?**
- ❖ **What mission did God give him to the bones and to the Jews?**
- ❖ What happened to the bones ?
- ❖ **What was God teaching Ezekiel?**
- ❖ **Is there anyone God cannot help? Is anyone hopeless?**
- ❖ **What can we learn about God's love and his hope?**



Questions for Group Discussion

"But Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD"

- ❖ Have you ever experienced God's mercy when you expected his punishment?
- ❖ Have you ever felt that God does not give you what your sins deserve?
- ❖ Have you ever felt like dead, dry bones?
- ❖ Has God ever given you new life, joy and energy?
 - ❖ Do you have vision for your school?
 - ❖ Do you have vision that God can change the bad kids in your school?
- ❖ Do you pray for anyone in your school?
 - ❖ Have you tried to help the kids in your school to know God?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Dry Bones Live

Ezekiel 37:12b-14a

"My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land."

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Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Word Search

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

26 Words to find

DRYBONES
GRAVES
LORD
JUDAH
NEBUCHADNEZZAR
NOBLES
GOD
DANIEL
LIVE
SKIN
WIND
ALIVE
HOPE

EZEKIEL
ISRAEL
SPIRIT
BABYLON
CAPTIVES
FAITHFUL
PROPHETS
VALLEY
PREACH
FLESH
BREATHE
ARMY
HOME



I won't be Unclean!

Daniel 1-2
Theme: Purity

When the Jews were captured, King Nebuchadnezzar had all the noble young men brought to the palace to be educated to become the king's advisers.

Four of these young men—Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were brought to the king's palace. They were treated as honored guests and food from the king's table was given to them to eat. But the Jews had strict laws about how food was to be cooked. Very politely, the four young men refused to eat the food.

"You must eat," the chief official told them. "If the king sees that you are not looking well he will be angry with me for not taking better care of you. The king may have me killed!"

Daniel said, "Just give us vegetables and water. See if we don't look healthier than the others at the end of ten days."

At the end of the ten days, the four men looked much healthier than all the other young men. When their training was done King Nebuchadnezzar was very pleased with them and could find no one as good as them, they were ten times better than everyone else.

Daniel 1:8

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."

One night the king had a dream that disturbed him greatly. It was a message from God but he didn't know the meaning and he couldn't remember it.

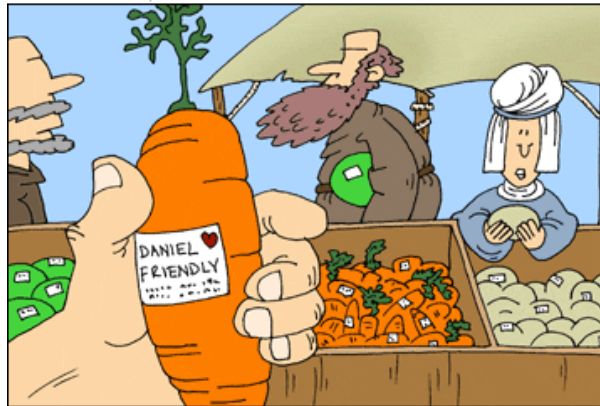
Nebuchadnezzar called all his wise men. "Tell me what I dreamed and tell me its meaning or I will

kill all the wise men in the country." Daniel and the other three men would have been killed too but wisely Daniel asked for a little more time.

"Let me call to my God. I know He will help me tell the king his dream and its meaning." Daniel's

request was granted and the four men prayed to God.

In the morning Daniel knew the answer. He was brought back to the king. "Idols can do nothing," he said. "But there is a God in heaven who knows all things." Then Daniel told the king exactly what his dream had been and what it meant! The king was amazed and worshipped God. He gave Daniel many gifts and he and his friends the highest positions in the kingdom.





DANIEL REALLY, REALLY HOPED THAT THE KING WOULD NOT ASK TO HAVE THIS DREAM INTERPRETED

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ No matter how much anyone pressures us we must do what is right before God
- ❖ We should never make ourselves unclean to please others, we must hold to our faith
- ❖ We should not be quick to speak our mind but go and pray about all things
- ❖ Through God makes the impossible possible, because with God ALL things are possible

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Why were the Israelites taken to Babylon?
- ❖ Why were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego living in the palace?
- ❖ What special privileges did they receive?
- ❖ What was their decision of faith?
- ❖ What challenge did Daniel make to the chief official?
- ❖ Who was healthier at the end of 10 days?
- ❖ **What happens when we decide to challenge worldly ways by faith?**
- ❖ **Think of some times when we are pressured to do worldly things instead of what God commands.**
- ❖ **What must we do when others pressure us to be unclean?**
- ❖ What happened to king Nebuchadnezzar one night?
- ❖ What command did he make of all his wise men?
- ❖ What did Daniel say by faith?
- ❖ How did Daniel get the answer?
- ❖ What did Daniel teach the king?
- ❖ **How can we be pure and blessed children of God like Daniel and his friends?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"Daniel resolved not to defile himself"

- ❖ How can you keep your Christian identity in a worldly environment?
- ❖ Are you making decisions of faith or blending in?
 - ❖ Purity or Popularity?
 - ❖ Am I living up to my full potential as a child of God?
- ❖ Are you using all the gifts God has given you?
- ❖ Do you go to God first when you have a problem?
 - ❖ Do you thank God first when you get out of a problem?
 - ❖ Where do you go for help when faced with impossible tasks?
- ❖ Is God first in your mind and do you glorify God?
 - ❖ Are you living a pure Christian life?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

I Won't Be Unclean

Daniel 1:8

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

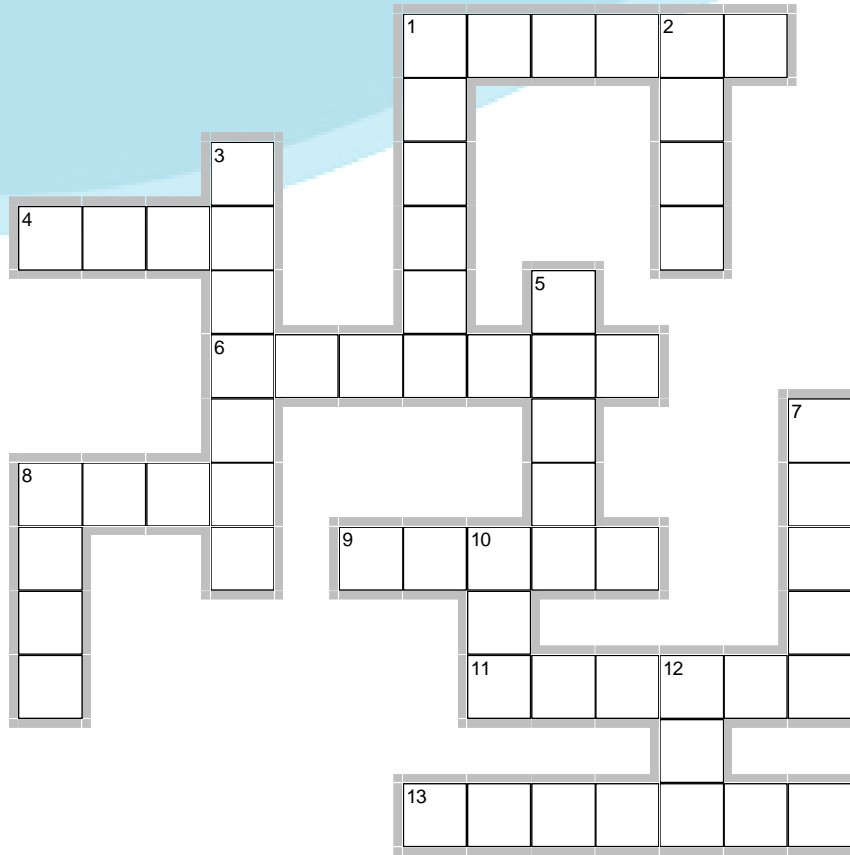
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

1. "But Daniel resolved not to _____ himself with the royal food and wine"
4. The king wanted Jewish men to be chosen to be the king's _____ men
6. We should never make ourselves unclean to please others
8. We should be _____ and blessed children of God like Daniel and his friends
9. No matter how much anyone pressures us we must do what is _____ before God
11. Daniel was a prophet of God who could understand _____
13. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of _____

Down

1. Four men: _____, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought to the king's palace
2. The Jews had strict _____ about how the food was to be cooked
3. The four young men _____ to eat the unclean food
5. We must always hold to our _____
7. _____ can do nothing, but God knows all things
8. We should not be quick to speak our mind but go and _____ about all things
10. Daniel could interpret the dream because he prayed to _____
12. With God _____ things are possible



Purify yourself:

1. Get one piece of paper for every person in your class
2. Fold them all in half
3. Cut out half of a person along the fold, so when you unfold it you have as many full stick figure people as you have in your class
4. Cut the people like puzzle in a way that they can put it back together
5. Give a pile of pieces to each student
6. See who can put their person together the fastest

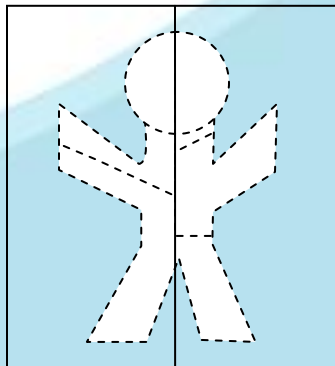
*Explain how sometimes it is hard to find our pure identity and put ourselves together.

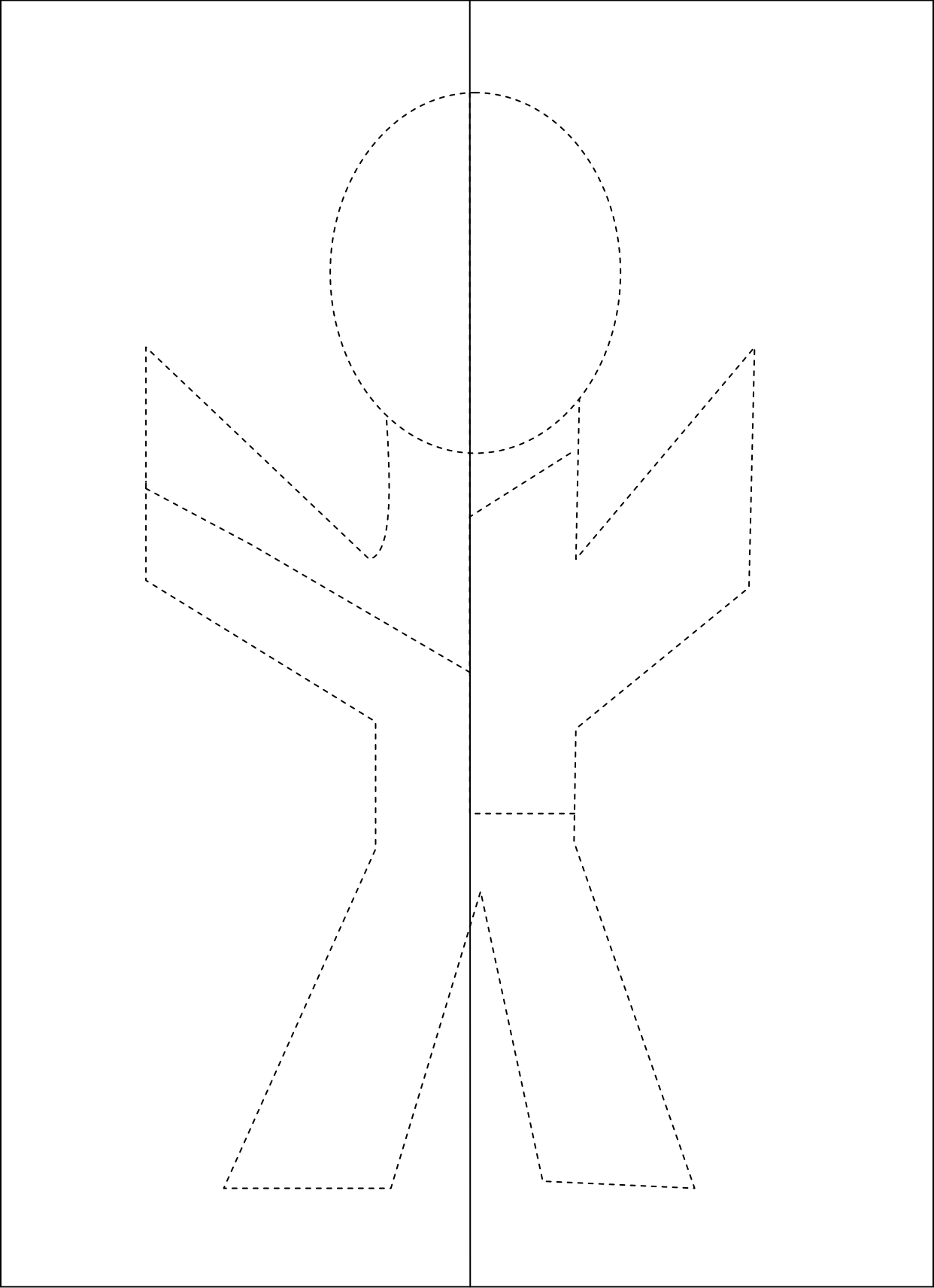
7. Take a few sheets and fold them up 4 or 8 times and cut out a bunch of little scraps.
8. Now mix up each students pile with a bunch of random scraps
9. Play the game again to see who can do it the fastest

*Ask them what was the key to winning? Of course it is to separate the right pieces from the wrong. Explain how also to find our pure identity we must separate ourselves from all sin.

10. If there's time have them put a mark on all the scraps to quickly identify them.
11. Play a third time

*Explain how if we train ourselves to quickly identify sin, how it is much easier to keep our pure identity and not become bad.





Can You Take the Heat?

Daniel 3

Theme: Courage, Faithfulness

Nebuchadnezzar had been good to the Jews but he did not worship God. Once he had a great statue made and covered with gold.

The king called all his people together to worship this new idol, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. At the sound of the trumpets and beating drums and other instruments, everyone was to bow down before this idol and worship it. If anyone didn't, the king would have them killed.

When the instruments were played, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were the only ones who didn't bow down. They would only bow down to God.

Many of the men in the king's castle were jealous of Daniel and his three friends. Some of these men told the king that the three had not bowed down before the golden statue.

Nebuchadnezzar had the three men brought to him. "I will have the music played again," he said to the three men. "if you bow down now, you will be saved. If not, you will be thrown into a fiery furnace to die."

"Sir," the men replied, "we have a God who is able to save us from the furnace. But if it is God's will that we die, we still will not serve your gods."

Soldiers took the three men to the huge furnace. Others fed the fire and made it as hot as possible.

Daniel 3:17-18

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."



Daniel 3 – THE FIERY FURNACE

As the king's men opened the furnace doors, the fire was so hot that flames rushed out and burned them to a crisp as they pushed the three Jews into the flames.

When the fire cooled off a little, the king peeked into the flames. "Didn't we throw three men in here?" he asked his soldiers. "Why do I see four?" The fourth man was the angel of the Lord who was protecting the three Jews from the fire.

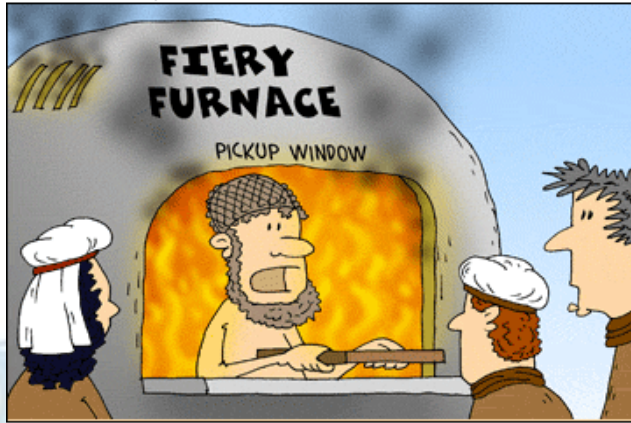
The king called out, "Shadrach, Meshach, and

Abednego, come out!"

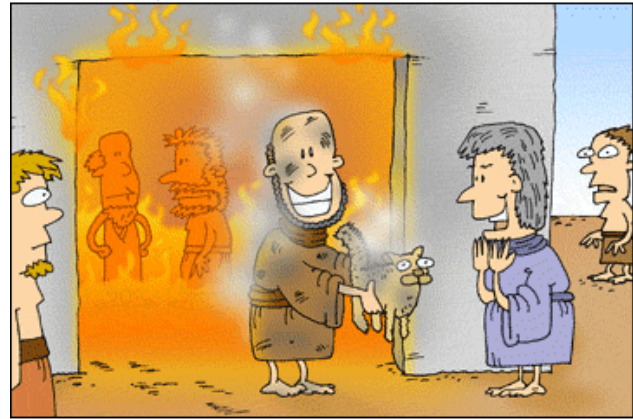
The three men walked out of the furnace and stood before the king. Not one hair on their heads was burned!

"The God of these men has saved them!" the king called out. "I am making a new law today. No man in my kingdom can say a word against the God of these men. If anyone speaks badly of this God, I will have them killed."

Then the king gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego even more important jobs than they had had before.



WHO HAD PEPPERONI AND ANCHOVIES?



SHADRACH, MESHACH, AND ABEDNEGO
MOONLIGHTING WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God wants us to stand up for what we believe in and never give in
- ❖ If we feel weak we should remember Jesus who endured the cross for us, so we can be pure
- ❖ We must have faith in God's goodness if he gives us what we want or if he doesn't
- ❖ We must be ready to face the heat and be ready to give everything to be faithful to God

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What did Nebuchadnezzar make and what was his command?
- ❖ What did the 3 Jewish men do?
- ❖ **What commandment were they following?**
- ❖ What did some jealous officials do?
- ❖ What was Nebuchadnezzar's command and threat?
- ❖ What was the testimony of the 3 friends?
- ❖ **How far should we go to be obedient to God's command? (Rev 2:10b)**
- ❖ **How could they believe in God's goodness if he saves them or if he doesn't?**
- ❖ What happened to the 3 friends?
- ❖ What was Nebuchadnezzar's testimony? His Command?
- ❖ **What happens when we stand strong as Christians and don't give in to the pressures around us?**
- ❖ **Can you take the heat, even if it means losing something valuable to you or even your life?**



Questions for Group Discussion

"we will not serve your gods"

- ❖ Do you sometimes feel uncontrolled anger like Nebuchadnezzar?
- ❖ Why does bad stuff happen to good people?
 - ❖ Do you know some people who have stood up for their faith?
 - ❖ How are people blessed when they stand up for their faith?
- ❖ Do you ever feel tempted to worship idols?
 - ❖ Why should we not worship an idol?
 - ❖ How does God save you?
- ❖ What is the difference between talking about God and having personal faith?
 - ❖ Do you have personal faith?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Can You Take the Heat?

Daniel 3:17-18

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Daniel 3 Word Search

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

30 Words to find

COURAGE
 THROWN
 BLAZING
 IMAGE
 NEBUCHADNEZZAR
 STATUE
 WORSHIP
 MESHACH
 TRUMPET
 INSTRUMENTS
 GOD
 SAVE
 THREE
 ANGEL
 KING

FAITHFULNESS
 FURNACE
 DELIVER
 GOLD
 JEWS
 IDOL
 SHADRACH
 ABEDNEGO
 DRUMS
 BOW
 JEALOUS
 HOT
 FOUR
 LAW
 DANIEL



Can You take the Heat?

Materials: popsicle sticks 2 per student, or cardboard; red and green construction paper, or paper colored red and green.

Preparation: Cut out 2 red circles, write "NO" on them and tape or glue them to the popsicle stick. Cut out 2 green circles, write "YES" on them and tape or glue them to the popsicle stick. The bigger and more fun the signs the better. If you have time let them customize their sign with a shape other than a circle or different designs.

Instructions: You will give students scenarios and they will respond if they would say "YES" or "NO" by holding up their signs. If you get mixed responses, take time to discuss. The objective is: God will help me say No to people who try to get me to disobey. **questions are a great chance to discuss.

Scenarios (feel free to add/replace with your own):

- Your friend asks you to lie to the teacher about something they did.
- You're visiting some friends of your mom and dad and they want you to watch something you aren't allowed at home.
- Some kids have asked you to go see a movie with them and you know Jesus wouldn't like what happens in the movie.
- Your brother wants you to sneak some cookies from the kitchen without your mom knowing.
- Your friends want you to make an innocent prank call with them.
- Your friends dare you to take a candy bar from the store.
- A person says they love Jesus to the teacher and the teacher says "we don't talk about religion in school and sends them to the office," then she asks "does anyone else in here believe in Jesus?" **
- You see some bullies beating up on a small kid and they ask you "you got a problem with this?" **
- You invite a classmate to church and they say "yeah I'll worship at your church if you worship at my Hindu temple next week." **
- A bully pushes you down in the hall but the teachers don't see, all your friends tell you, you should beat him up after school. **
- You forgot there's a test today and the nice girl next to you moves her paper so you can see all her answers.
- You have a sports game during worship time and your parents tell you it's ok to miss worship this week. **
- All your friends are making fun of a kid who's wearing really weird looking clothes and they invite you over.
- Your school says you are not allowed to do anything religious and it's time to pray at lunchtime. **
- Your teacher tells you evolution is true and you must write a paper on why evolution is true.
- A bully beats you up and bullies you all semester but one day asks you to forgive him.
- You think worship is boring today and your friend wants to talk to you.
- You have a lot of homework and your friend calls you to go play.
- Your friend says, "my mom says Christians are stupid are you a Christian?"
- Boys: All your friends are going to play a violent video game at their house and invite you over.**
- Girls: All your friends are going to their house to talk about the boys they like.**

****Good chance for discussion**

Animal Man

Daniel 4

Theme: Humility, Realistic View of God

One day King Nebuchadnezzar sent a message to all his people that began like this: "How great are God's works! How mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is without end, and His rule is forever!"

What had happened to this worshiper of idols to make him speak this way?

One night Nebuchadnezzar had another dream. Again he sent for Daniel, whom he knew had God's Spirit, and asked the meaning of his dream.

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream a great tree gave fruit for everyone to eat. Animals rested in its shade and birds lived in its branches. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and ordered this great tree cut down. For seven years everyone would see the stump of this great tree and know that God rules over men and women and does as He wants.

When he told Daniel about this dream, Daniel became sad and worried. "Sir," Daniel said, "you are that tree. You will be driven away from men and live in the field with the animals. You will eat grass like the animals. Seven years will go by before you know that God rules your kingdom and

Daniel 4:37

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble."

gives it to whomever He wants. When you know this, you will have your kingdom back."

Then Daniel told the king that if he humbled himself and ruled properly, perhaps this would not happen to him. Twelve months went by and

nothing bad happened. But one day the king looked over his great city and felt proud of himself. "I built all this," he said. "I did it alone. I am a great man."

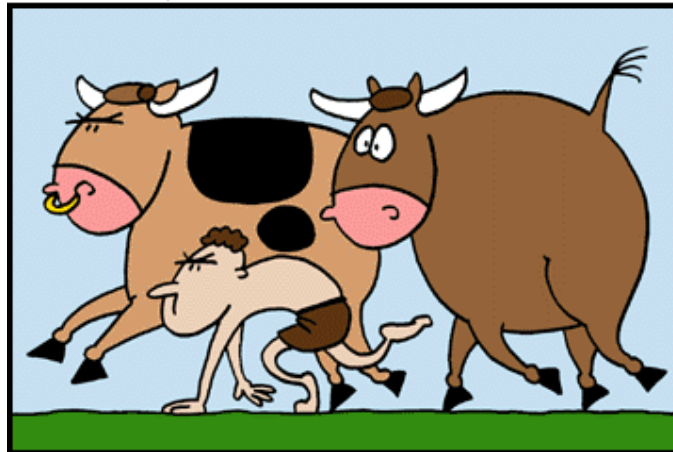
As soon as he said this, a voice came down from heaven. "Your kingdom is gone!"

Nebuchadnezzar was suddenly changed.

His mind left him and he became like an animal. For seven years he lived with the animals and ate like an animal. His hair grew long and his fingernails looked like bird claws.

At the end of the seven years, his mind returned. He blessed God and praised Him, and God gave him back his kingdom.

The letter ended like this: "Now I praise and honor the king of heaven. His words are truth and His works are right. Those who walk in pride He is able to make humble."



NEBUCHADNEZZAR AT THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS



... AND NEBUCHADNEZZAR WASN'T INVITED
BACK TO DINNER FOR MANY YEARS

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God is in control of all things and does what he pleases, we must submit to him
- ❖ Those who are proud God is able to humble
- ❖ If we trust in God, God will make us great but if we trust in ourselves we are sure to fail

TALK ABOUT IT



- Who did Nebuchadnezzar ask about his dream?
- What was the meaning of the dream?
- **Why was Daniel worried about this wicked king who destroyed his country?**
- What was his advice?
- Why did King Nebuchadnezzar forget this advice?
- **What happens when we become proud?**
- What happened to Nebuchadnezzar?
- **What was God teaching him?**
- What did Nebuchadnezzar learn?
- What did he write after this?
- What was the main point of his letter?
- **God it seems is only the God of the Israelites in the Bible. But what important truth do we learn about God through this passage?**



Questions for Group Discussion

"those who walk in pride he is able to humble"

- ❖ Are you proud?
- ❖ Are you afraid for what will happen to others because of their sin?
 - ❖ Do you believe that mediums and psychics have any power?
 - ❖ Do you treat God as God?
- ❖ Do you believe that God is always right?
 - ❖ Do you have the courage to tell your friends the full truth of the Bible?
 - ❖ Did God ever humble you?
How did you react to that?
- ❖ Who do you write your testimony for?
 - ❖ Did you ever think that testimony writing was boring?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Animal Man

Daniel 4:37

"Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

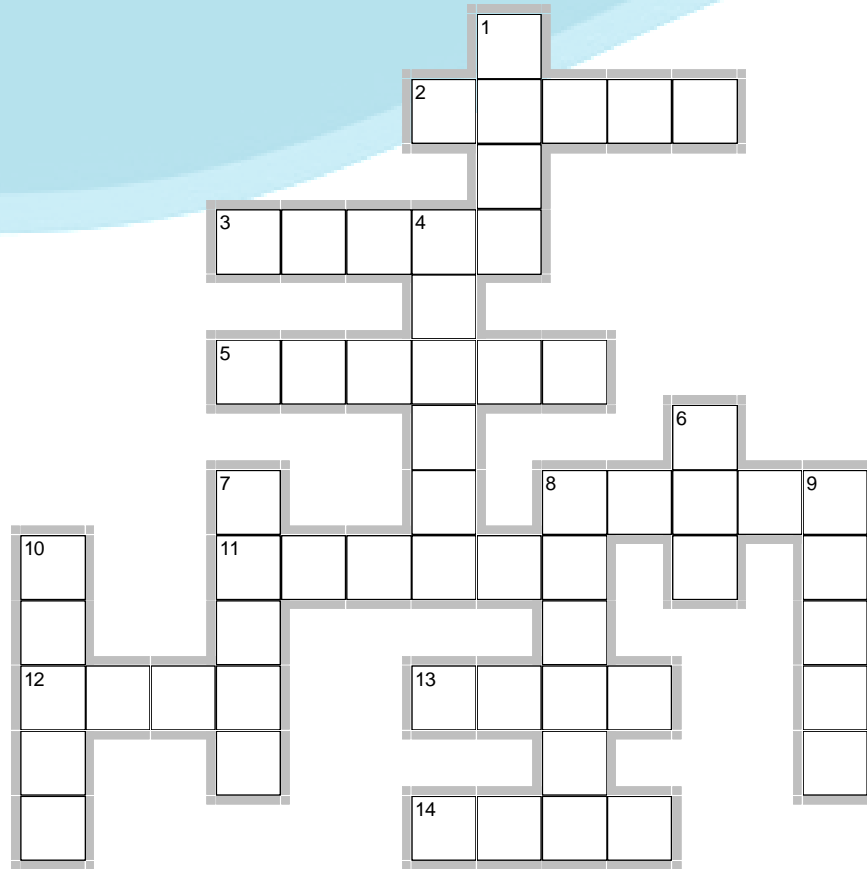
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

2. Know that God _____ over men and women and does what he wants
3. If we _____ in God, God will make us great
5. Those who are proud God is able to _____
8. Nebuchadnezzar was made like an animal because he was _____
11. The king praised God in a _____
12. We must have a realistic _____ of God
13. If we trust in ourselves we are sure to _____
14. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was about a _____

Down

1. ..."everything he does is right and all his ways are _____"
4. God is in control of all things and does what he pleases, we must _____ to him
6. _____ is great, not us
7. Nebuchadnezzar's fingernails grew like bird _____
8. "Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, _____ and exalt and glorify the king of heaven"
9. When he told Daniel about his _____, Daniel became upset
10. " _____ years will go by before you know that God rules your kingdom"






Give it to God

Nebuchadnezzar had too many I, my, me's. God wasn't pleased with him. We must learn to give what we have to God especially the glory. In this game when we give to God we get more in return. By faith we don't hold onto our glory in this world and brag but give it to God and become triple blessed.

Materials:

1. About 20-30 cups
2. 9 little pieces of paper wadded up in balls (small enough to fit under the cups)

Instructions:

1. Have students divide into 2 teams or if there are few students, each play individually
 2. Students turn around, close their eyes and cover their eyes
 3. Turn over all the cups and put them in a group
 4. Put 3 of the balls under 3 of the cups, students can now turn around
 5. The team whose turn it is, gets 3 tries to guess where a ball is
 6. If the team finds a ball they can hold onto it and get one point, 2balls=2points, etc
 7. Or they can give it back, everyone turns around again, and you put 3 more balls in play
 8. On the second turn they guess 3 times, and again they can hold what they've got or give it back and get the last 3 in play, it is now very easy to get the maximum points
 9. Students can only get a max of 3 points in one turn, so if at any point they find all 3 balls, there is no point in going again
 10. Play for a time limit, letting the second team have the last turn, most points wins
- 

The Writing on the Wall

Daniel 5

Theme: Having a Humble Learning Mind

After Nebuchadnezzar died his son Belshazzar became King. Belshazzar did not remember what God did for his father and worshipped idols. Because of this, the kingdom became weak. During this time the countries of Media and Persia joined together under a man named Cyrus and made war on Babylon.

They surrounded the city, looking for a way to capture it. Inside Babylon many people did not like Belshazzar, the new king. One night they opened the gates of the city and let the Persian army surround the palace.

Inside the palace Belshazzar was having a great feast. All his nobles were with him, eating and getting drunk using the gold and silver cups and plates that had once been in God's temple.

They did not even know that they were surrounded.

Suddenly, everyone at the feast saw a huge hand writing words on the wall of the room. No one could read the words, but everyone saw the hand. "Find me someone who can read this message!"

Daniel 5:22

"But you his son, O Belshazzar, have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this."

Belshazzar called out. The queen remembered Daniel and sent for him.

Since King Nebuchadnezzar died, Daniel was no longer the chief adviser of the king. The king wanted to offer him many gifts if he interpreted

the message but Daniel absolutely refused.

"You did not learn to worship God from your father even though you heard everything. You didn't humble yourself," Daniel said. "That is why this message comes to you."

"What does it say?" the king asked Daniel.

"It says 'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin.' God has counted the years of your kingdom and brought it to an end. You have been weighed and found wanting. Your kingdom will be divided

and given to the Medes and the Persians."

Almost immediately, the Persians and the Medes broke into the palace. They found the king and killed him in front of everyone at the feast. The kingdom of Babylon was no more.



King Belshazzare is white with fear after reading the writing on the wall! **Daniel 5:6**
It was more than being a clean freak.





THE EMAIL ON THE WALL

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ A humble learning mind is the key to greatness but pride leads to foolishness and sin
- ❖ When God is forgotten in a country that nation will always fall and become weak
- ❖ When a person forgets about God they become a loser and fall into all sorts of sins

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Did King Belshazzar learn from his father?
- ❖ Who did they send for?
- ❖ What happened to the kingdom of Babylon?
- ❖ How did Daniel rebuke the king?
- ❖ **What happens to a country that forgets about God?**
- ❖ What was the meaning? And what happened?
- ❖ What enemy attacked their city?
- ❖ What lesson should Belshazzar have learned from his father?
- ❖ What terrible thing was Belshazzar doing while his enemies surrounded them?
- ❖ **What can we learn about God's power to raise up and bring down kings and kingdoms?**
- ❖ **What happens to a person that forgets about God?**
- ❖ **What surprising truth do we learn about how to be great?**
- ❖ What frightening message did God give to the king?



Questions for Group Discussion

"You have not humbled yourself, though you knew all this."

- ❖ Have you ever learned anything from another person's testimony?
- ❖ Do you have a healthy fear of God?
- ❖ Did you ever hear someone's testimony but then commit the same sin?
 - ❖ If you were weighed, would you be "found wanting"?
- ❖ Would you compromise your principles for a prize (like Belshazzar's offer to Daniel)?
 - ❖ Do you see God as holding your life in His hands?
 - ❖ Do you believe God directs all your ways?
- ❖ What is the difference between being smart and having a learning mind?
- ❖ Practically, how can you have a humble learning mind?

Can You Think of More? List Them Below:



How well do you know God's Word?

Daniel 5 Word Search

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

39 Words to find

HUMBLE
 BELSHAZZAR
 NEBUCHADNEZZAR
 KING
 WORSHIPPED
 KINGDOM
 MEDIA
 CYRUS
 SURROUNDED
 GATES
 FEAST
 GOLD
 TEMPLE
 GOD
 READ
 DANIEL
 TEKEL
 COUNTED
 WEIGHED
 DIVIDED

WRITING
 LEARNING
 SON
 REMEMBER
 IDOLS
 WEAK
 PERSIA
 BABYLON
 OPENED
 PALACE
 NOBLES
 SILVER
 DRUNK
 HAND
 MESSAGE
 MENE
 PARSIN
 END
 WANTING





Memory Verse on the Wall

Preparation: Print out 2 sets of the Memory Verse in very large letters (multiple sheets of paper) and cut out each word & make two piles of the words.

Instructions:

1. Divide the class into 2 teams
2. Give each team a pile of the memory verse
3. Give each team a roll of tape
4. Students compete to assemble the words into the memory verse taping up each word to a surface such as a board or wooden surface (don't tape to the wall it will rip the paint) first one to get it wins.
5. Play several times until everyone has the verse memorized.



Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6

Theme: Courageous Faith

Darius, the King of the Medo-Persian empire that took over, was very fond of Daniel. He gave this very old prophet a position of honor and power in his kingdom. In fact, next to Darius, Daniel was the most powerful ruler in the land.

There were some people in the palace who were jealous of Daniel's power and looked for a way to get rid of him. One day some of them went to the king.

"We would like to see a new law made," they told Darius.

"For thirty days no one can pray to any god or ask favors from any other person. They must all come to you when they want something. If anyone disobeys this law, they will be eaten by lions."

This law pleased Darius because it gave him great honor. Darius would be more powerful than any god. Without asking Daniel for his opinion, Darius signed the law.

When Daniel heard the law he went up to his room, opened the window that faced toward Jerusalem and prayed three times a day as he had always done.

The men who made up this law knew that Daniel prayed three times a day and would not stop doing it. Soon they went back to Darius and told him that Daniel was breaking the new law.

Daniel 6:10

"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

In the Persian Empire once a law was made even the king could not change it. Darius had to punish Daniel. All day Darius tried to think of a way to save Daniel. In the evening the men came back

and Darius had no choice. He ordered Daniel thrown into a den of hungry lions. "Maybe your God will save you," he said to Daniel as he was tossed into the den.

That night Darius could not eat or sleep. He knew he had done a very wicked thing. In the morning he rushed to the den and called out, "Daniel, has your God saved you from the lions?"

"My Lord sent an angel to save me, sir!" Daniel called out to the king. "God saw I had done no wrong and closed the mouths of the lions."

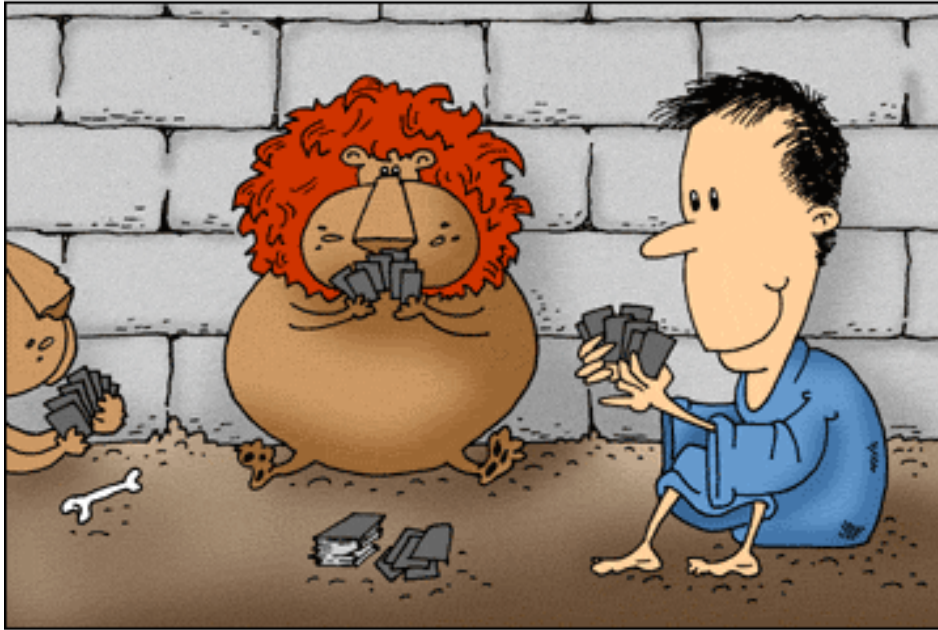
Although Darius was happy to see Daniel alive, he grew angry with the men who had tricked him. Darius ordered these men thrown into the den with the lions.

Darius then wrote to all the people under his rule: "May peace be given to you all! I make a law that everywhere in my kingdom men should worship the Lord of Daniel for He is the only God who can save you."



OH WOULDN'T YOU JUST KNOW IT ... AS SOON AS WE START OUR FAST THEY THROW US THIS TASTY LOOKING GUY





DANIEL FOUND OUT THAT THE LIONS WERE
ACTUALLY PRETTY COOL

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Through prayer we grow in wisdom and strength and can be a blessing to others
- ❖ We must pray a lot and not be afraid to pray anywhere, God is in control not men
- ❖ When the world tries to stop us from worshipping God we must trust in him and say no

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What kind of king was Darius?
- ❖ How did God bless Daniel during this time?
- ❖ What did some of the people in the palace think about him?
- ❖ How did they try to trap Daniel?
- ❖ When Daniel heard the law, what did he do?
- ❖ What can learn about Daniel's prayer life?
- ❖ How can we become so fearless and faithful and show ourselves to be Christians?
- ❖ What must we do when the world tries to force us to stop worshipping God?
- ❖ What was Darius forced to do?
- ❖ How did he feel about what he had done?
- ❖ What happened to Daniel? To his enemies?
- ❖ How does one become a truly great man of influence and blessing to many?



Questions for Group Discussion

"Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

- ❖ Were you ever told you couldn't do something because it was "too Christian"?
- ❖ Do you always pray openly at lunch?
 - ❖ What should we pray about?
 - ❖ Are you always thankful in prayer?
- ❖ Has God ever delivered you out of a dangerous situation? If so when?
- ❖ What do you do first when you are afraid?
- ❖ Do you have enemies because you are a Christian? How do you deal with them?
- ❖ Would you have courage to do what's right before God instead of giving in to people?

Can you think of more? List them below:

Daniel in the Lion's Den

Daniel 6:10

"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

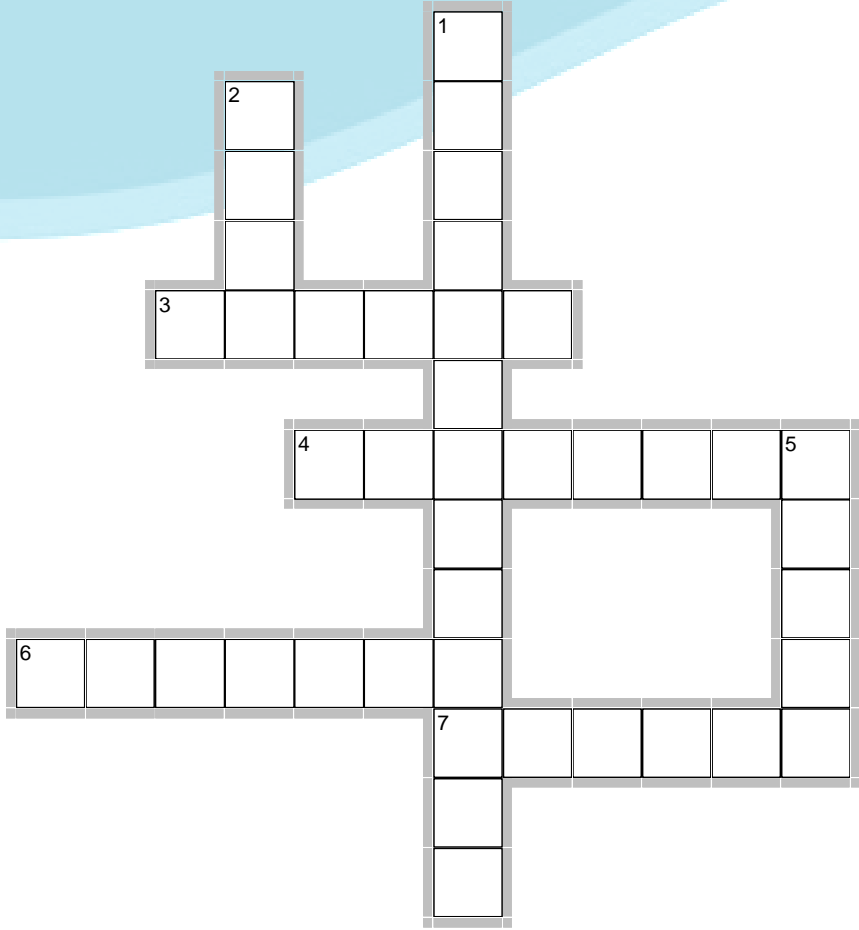
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How Well Do You Know God's Word?



Across

- 3. When we are in trouble the first thing we need is _____.
- 4. God is with us when we are _____ to the end
- 6. When God greatly blesses us, enemies of God will become _____.
- 7. Even in bad times, God's people must give _____.

Down

- 1. Daniel was made the p_____ m_____ because of his wisdom as God's servant.
- 2. We can overcome _____ with faith!
- 5. God protected Daniel from the _____ because of his faith.



RAISED UP FOR GOD'S PURPOSE pt 1

Esther 1-4

Theme: Following God's Plan

When Darius died, his son Xerxes took his place on the throne of Persia. The new king wanted to choose a queen and he commanded that all the beautiful women from his kingdom be brought to his palace. He would choose a queen from these women.

One who was brought to the palace was a beautiful Jewish woman named Esther. She lived with her cousin Mordecai. As soon as the king saw Esther, he fell in love with her, and soon they were married.

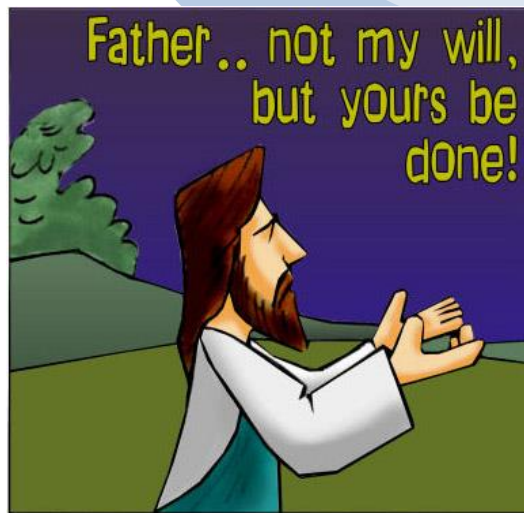
Mordecai could not visit Esther at the palace but Esther could send messages back and forth through her servants. Every day, Mordecai would sit by the palace gate in case Esther wanted to send him message.

Mordecai heard many things while he sat by the palace gate. One day he heard two men planning to kill the king. He sent a message about this to Esther. She told the king and the two men were, captured.

A man named Haman soon became very powerful in the palace. Haman was given more power than other princes and the king asked his advice on everything. People would always bow to Haman as a sign of respect when he walked by. But Mordecai would not bow down to anyone but God and that made Haman angry at Mordecai and at all Jews.

Haman went to the king and told him that there was a certain group of people in the kingdom that

should not be allowed to live. He said these people followed different rules and not the laws of the king. This was not true, of course, but the king, who almost never left the palace believed what Haman said. He told him to do whatever he wanted.



her to go to the king and stop the murders that would soon occur.

Esther wrote back to Mordecai. "No one can go to the king without being called. I would be killed."

"You will not be safe either," Mordecai reminded her. "Maybe you have been put in the palace by God just for this reason."

Esther asked all the Jews to pray for her and fast for the next three days. She and her servants in the palace did the same. "Then I will go," she said "even though it is against the law, and if I die I die."

Esther 4:14

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Haman made a new law and sent it to every city in Persia. It said that on a certain day all the Jews would be killed. Anyone who killed a Jew could take everything the Jew owned for himself. No one could understand why this was happening. Here was a chance to get rich and obey the law at the same time!

Mordecai heard about this law too. He sent a message to Esther, telling



PLEASE DON'T MESS WITH THE RADIO

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God used Esther's beauty for his purpose, he can also use any talent we have for his glory
- ❖ We must have the courage to follow God's plan when it comes—think of Jesus
- ❖ God has a great purpose for our life maybe even to change history like Esther
- ❖ Each person has the potential to be great but we must have faith and courage to the end

TALK ABOUT IT



- | | |
|--|--|
| ❖ Who did Xerxes choose as his queen? | ❖ What did Mordecai do? |
| ❖ Who were Esther and Mordecai? | ❖ Why was Esther afraid to go to the king? |
| ❖ What did Mordecai overhear one day and what did he do? | ❖ What was Mordecai's reply (our key verse)? |
| ❖ Who was Haman? | ❖ <u>What does it mean that God has raised us up for a specific purpose? (Eph2:10)</u> |
| ❖ Why did Haman become angry with Mordecai? | ❖ <u>How can we find God's purpose for our life?</u> |
| ❖ Why wouldn't Mordecai bow down? | ❖ What was her reply? |
| ❖ How did Haman trick the king? | ❖ <u>What must we do to follow God's plan in our life when it is really hard? (think about Jesus)</u> |



Questions for Group Discussion

"You have come to royal position for such a time as this."

- ❖ Have you ever done something for God, even if it was hard?
- ❖ Do you obey your parents and teachers?
- ❖ When you are upset or scared, do you pray?
- ❖ Have you ever invited someone to church?
- ❖ Have you ever done the right thing, even if you didn't want to at first?
- ❖ Have you ever used one of your talents for God?
- ❖ Has there ever been a time when you decided to put God first?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Raised Up for God's Purpose P#1

Esther 4:14

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

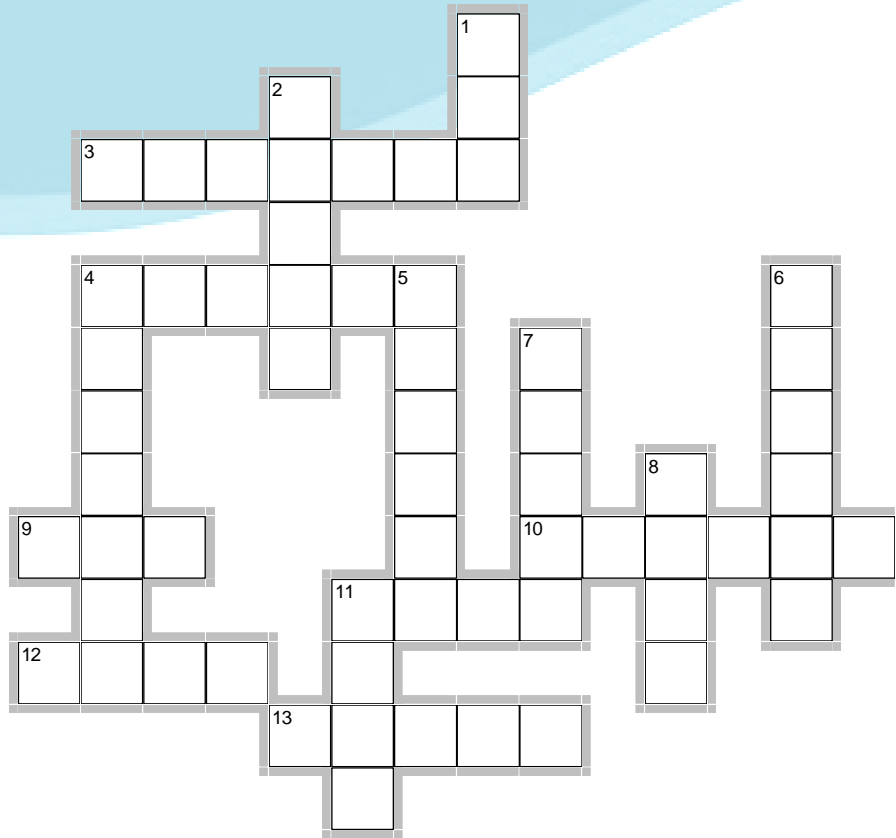
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

3. We must have the _____ to follow God's plan when it comes
4. "Maybe you have been put in the _____ by God just for this reason"
9. Mordecai would not bow down to anyone but ____
10. God _____ us up for a specific purpose
11. Esther asked the Jews to _____ and fast
12. Haman wanted to kill the _____
13. We must have _____ and courage to the end

Down

1. "Then I will go, even though it is against the law, and if I die, I ____"
2. Each person has the potential to be _____
4. God used Esther's beauty for his _____
5. Xerxes chose _____ as his queen
6. The king of Persia was _____
7. God can use any talent we have for his _____
8. Once, Mordecai heard two men planning to _____ the king
11. We must follow God's _____ no matter how hard it is



RAISED UP FOR GOD'S PURPOSE Pt 2

Esther 5-10

Theme: God's Justice, Courage

On the third day Esther entered the throne room of the king. The guards moved toward her. Would she be killed? When the king looked at her and saw how lovely she was, he told his guards to leave her alone. "What do you want?" the king asked Esther. "I would give you half my kingdom if you asked for it."

"I only wanted to invite you and Haman to dinner, sir," she said. The two men came and ate with Esther. When they were done, the king asked if he could give Esther anything in return. "No," she said. "But I would be happy if you both came back again tomorrow for dinner."

Haman was very pleased to eat with the king and queen but when he saw Mordecai he was angry. That day he had a gallows built, or a wooden platform on which someone would die by hanging. At dinner that night Haman was going to ask the king for permission to hang Mordecai.

Before the second dinner the king remembered he had not rewarded Mordecai for saving his life some time ago. He asked Haman how a man should be honored, and when Haman told him, the king ordered him to go honor Mordecai in that way. Haman was furious at having to honor a man

Esther 7:3

"If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life—this is my petition. And spare my people—this is my request."

who would not bow down to him, but he did as he was told.

At dinner that night the king asked Esther what he could do to make her happy. "If you love me, sir,"

"you will save my life and the lives of my people. An enemy is going to kill us all."

"Who would dare to kill the queen?" he asked.

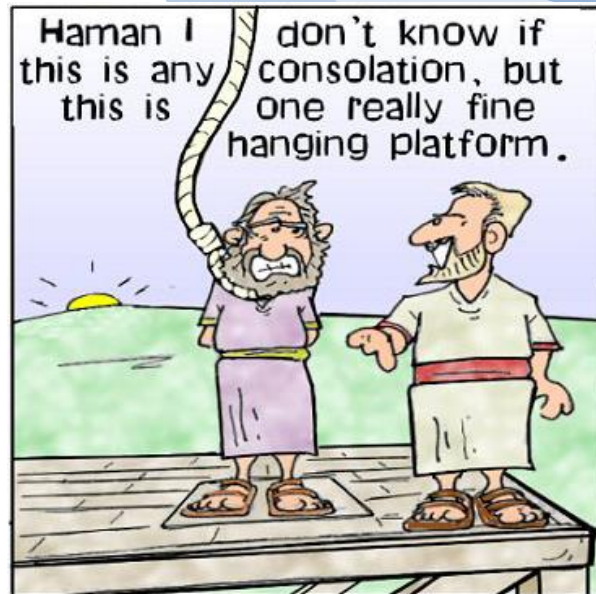
"Our enemy is Haman," Esther said quietly.

The king was so angry with Haman that he had him hanged on the very gallows Haman had built for Mordecai. Then he gave Mordecai Haman's job, setting him over, the princes.

The terrible law was still legal though. Remember, Persian law could not be changed

once it was signed by the king. The king sent out one more law. This new law allowed the Jews to defend themselves if they were attacked on that day. Because everyone knew the king was a friend of the Jews, few people tried to kill the Jews. Those who did were killed by the Jews themselves.

Jewish people today still celebrate God's mercy and the bravery of beautiful Queen Esther during the holiday Purim.



Old Testament Irony: Haman is hung on the hanging platform he built for Mordecai. Esther 7:9-10





THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Through prayer, God gives us wisdom for any situation
- ❖ Through prayer, God begins to work in ways we do not even know
- ❖ God always works for the good of those he loves
- ❖ God is in control and works things to his good end for those who pray and do his will

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What did Esther do after 3 days of prayer?
- ❖ How did this ruin Haman's plan?
- ❖ What happened to her?
- ❖ **What can we see about the hand of God through these events?**
- ❖ What was her request of King Xerxes?
- ❖ **How is God sometimes working in ways we don't even know?**
- ❖ **How was this clearly the wisdom of God through prayer?**
- ❖ What ruined Haman's mood?
- ❖ What was Esther's request at the second banquet?
- ❖ What did he do?
- ❖ What was the second ironic thing that happened to Haman?
- ❖ What did King Xerxes remember?
- ❖ **What shows that this was really God's control of history?**
- ❖ What did he do?
- ❖ **How did this great victory come about?**
- ❖ What ironic thing happened to Haman?



Questions for Group Discussion

"You have come to royal position for such a time as this."

- ❖ Has God ever given you special wisdom through prayer?
- ❖ Do you pray when you don't know what to do?
- ❖ Have you ever had a prayer topic where God worked in ways you didn't even know till later?
 - ❖ Have you seen God working in your life through prayer?
- ❖ Do you believe that God is always doing everything for good?
- ❖ Has something bad ever happened that was hard to accept?
- ❖ Can you thank God this week for everything he has done for you?
 - ❖ Do you live before God?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Raised Up for God's Purpose Pt2

Esther 7:3

"If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life —this is my petition. And spare my people —this is my request."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Esther 5-10 Word Search

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

34 Words to find

GOD
COURAGE
FAVOR
PLEASES
GRANT
PETITION
PEOPLE
ESTHER
GUARDS
KINGDOM
DINNER
MORDECAI
HANGING
HONORED
LAW
JEWS
KILLED

JUSTICE
PURPOSE
KING
MAJESTY
LIFE
SPARE
REQUEST
THRONEROOM
HALF
HAMAN
QUEEN
GALLOWS
PERMISSION
FURIOUS
PERSIAN
DEFEND
PURIM



A Happy Journey

Ezra 1-3

Theme: God's Grace and Mercy

Seventy years had passed since the Jewish people were taken away from their homes and brought to Babylon. Cyrus, the Persian king, treated them very well. In fact, they were no longer thought of as outsiders. They had their own land and homes and lived in peace. Many of them had become rich, while others were important people in the government.

Do you remember what the sad prophet Jeremiah had said would happen to the Jews in Babylon? After seventy years the Jews were to return to their own land of Judah. Although many of the Jews who had come from Judah were dead, their children and grandchildren still loved the land of their ancestors, even though it was far away.

Right on time, the Lord caused Cyrus to decide to allow the people to go back home if they wanted. He wanted the temple in Jerusalem rebuilt and the country made rich again. Cyrus would still be in charge of the land of Judah, so it made sense for him to make it a better, richer place.

But Cyrus knew that not everyone would want to go back, and he didn't force them to go. He did ask those who stayed to give money to those who went. This money would be used to rebuild the temple. The people were happy to give their

Ezra 1:2-3

"The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them."

money for this. Cyrus also gave those who were leaving all the treasures that had been taken from the temple fifty years earlier.



Soon 42,000 Jews and all their servants left for Jerusalem. It was a long but happy trip. When they arrived, their first task was to rebuild the altar of the old temple. That completed, the daily services began again.

From that time, there were two branches of the Jewish race. Those Jews who went back and rebuilt their homes in Jerusalem and Judah would be called Hebrews. Those who did not go home but spread out over the rest of the world would be known as the Jews of the Dispersion or the Diaspora. Some went to Africa and Europe. Some were in business for themselves. Others were great scholars. A great number of them would visit Jerusalem during their lives to pray in the temple and many would send money to help with the rebuilding. No matter where they lived, they knew they were still one people serving the same God.





SORRY ... NO REST AREA FOR THE WICKED,
MR. SPEEDY

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God is always completely faithful to keep his promises exactly as he says he will
- ❖ God uses authorities in the world to do his will exactly as he pleases
- ❖ It doesn't matter where we are we still serve one God who is control of the whole earth
- ❖ In his grace and mercy God is always waiting to call us back to Him

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What time is mentioned at the beginning of this story?
- ❖ What prophet had prophesied about this time?
- ❖ What was life like for the Israelites in Babylon?
- ❖ What did King Cyrus suddenly decide in the seventieth year?
- ❖ **What do all these things teach us about God's promises?**
- ❖ **What do we learn about God's control over world powers and history?**
- ❖ **What should it mean to our life that we can depend on God's promises?**
- ❖ What especially did Cyrus want them to do in Jerusalem?
- ❖ How did he provide for this work?
- ❖ **Why did God let some return and some move away if they wanted?**
- ❖ What must they remember wherever they go in the world?
- ❖ **What does it mean to you that God wants to call you back from the land of slavery?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple"

- ❖ Have you ever experienced that God kept his promise to you, even if you forgot about it?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced that God gave you a promise in your heart when you prayed?
- ❖ Have you ever held onto one verse of the Bible when you were having a tough time?
 - ❖ Do you search the Bible when you need answers?
- ❖ Do you have a sin problem or a life problem that you need God's help to overcome?
 - ❖ Do you ever have trouble trusting God's promise?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced that God did exactly what he said he would?
 - ❖ When you pray do you believe God will do what you asked?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

A Happy Journey

Ezra 1:2-3

"The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Ezra 1-3 Word Search

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

29 Words to find

GRACE
 GOD
 KINGDOMS
 APPOINTED
 TEMPLE
 JUDAH
 ISRAEL
 JEWISH
 CYRUS
 JEREMIAH
 REBUILT
 TREASURES
 ALTAR
 HEBREWS
 DIASPORA

MERCY
 HEAVEN
 EARTH
 BUILD
 JERUSALEM
 LORD
 SEVENTY
 BABYLON
 PERSIA
 RETURN
 MONEY
 FORTYTWOTHOUSAND
 SERVICES
 DISPERSION



The New Temple

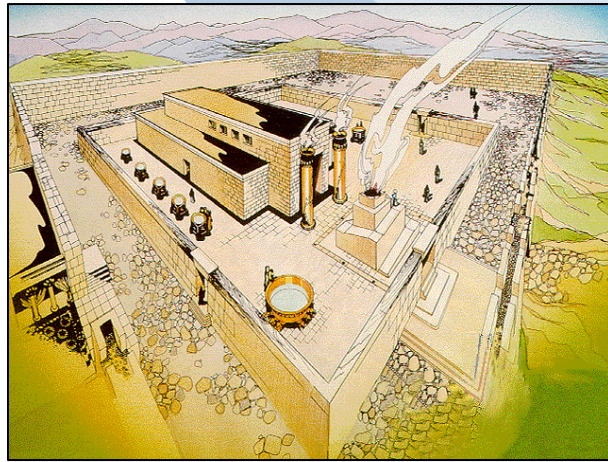
Ezra 3-6

Theme: Seeking God in troubles

The man that Cyrus put in charge of Judah, or Judea as it would now be called, was named Zerubbabel. Together with the priest Jeshua, the two men worked to rebuild the temple. When the first stone was laid, many cried tears of joy. Others who remembered the old temple and those who had died cried tears of sadness.

But soon the builders ran into trouble. Do you remember the Samaritans? These people worshiped God but they also worshiped idols. Some of the Samaritans were Jews from the old ten tribes who married foreigners and worshipped their gods. Others were Assyrians who had been brought in long ago to settle in the country and who worshipped idols and God. When they heard the temple was being rebuilt, they wanted to help.

Zerubbabel and Jeshua did not want the help of people who worshiped idols and told them to go away. The Samaritans became very angry and made trouble for them with Cyrus. They hired people to talk to the king and argue about the Jews in before the king. "They are a rebellious people who will fight against you if their city is rebuilt," they said.



Ezra 3:11

"With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid."

After a while two prophets began speaking God's Word to the people. One was named Haggai and the other was Zechariah. The prophets said it was God's will that the temple be finished.

Zerubbabel and Jeshua went back to work.

Soon a new king took over the Persian Empire. He was a wise man named Darius, and he wanted the temple to be built. He told the Samaritans to leave the Jewish people alone. Twenty-one years after the work started, the temple was done. The new temple was larger

than Solomon's temple, but not as beautiful or as richly decorated. Further, there was no Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies because the golden chest had been lost forever. But at least the people had a temple again where they could serve God.

However, the Samaritans didn't give up. They continued to make trouble for the Jews with the next two kings so that they could not rebuild their city. When they decided to do what is right, it had a high cost but God was with them and they had victory every time.



THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ We must cast out all other things that become God in our heart so we can serve God alone
- ❖ We must give first importance to seek God
- ❖ We must overcome obstacles to worship God by faith
- ❖ When we decide to seek God first, God makes a way for us to come to him

TALK ABOUT IT



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What work did the Israelites decide to begin? ❖ <u>What did the rebuilding of the temple symbolize for them?</u> ❖ Who were the Samaritans? ❖ Why didn't the Jews want their help? ❖ <u>Why is compromise so dangerous in serving God?</u> ❖ What trouble did the Samaritans start? ❖ What was Xerxes's command? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ What was the message of Haggai and Zechariah? ❖ How did God make a way for them to begin building again? ❖ <u>What can happen when we decide to seek God first?</u> ❖ What was missing in the temple? ❖ <u>How does this represent the broken relationship they had with God because of their sin?</u> ❖ <u>What can we learn about overcoming obstacles and compromise to seek God?</u> |
|--|--|



Questions for Group Discussion

"He is good; his love to Israel endures forever"

- ❖ Do you have love and respect for God's house?
- ❖ Do you try to keep God's house as a holy place of prayer or do you treat it like a playground?
- ❖ Do you compromise about your faith because you think kids will laugh at you?
- ❖ Do you respect other people's views about other god's or do you tell them the truth?
- ❖ Do you compromise in the music you listen to clothes you wear, shows you watch?
- ❖ Do you compromise trying to live a double life being popular and being Christian?
- ❖ Do you have a clear attitude about not doing sinful things or do you play with fire?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

The New Temple

"With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: 'He is good; his love to Israel endures forever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

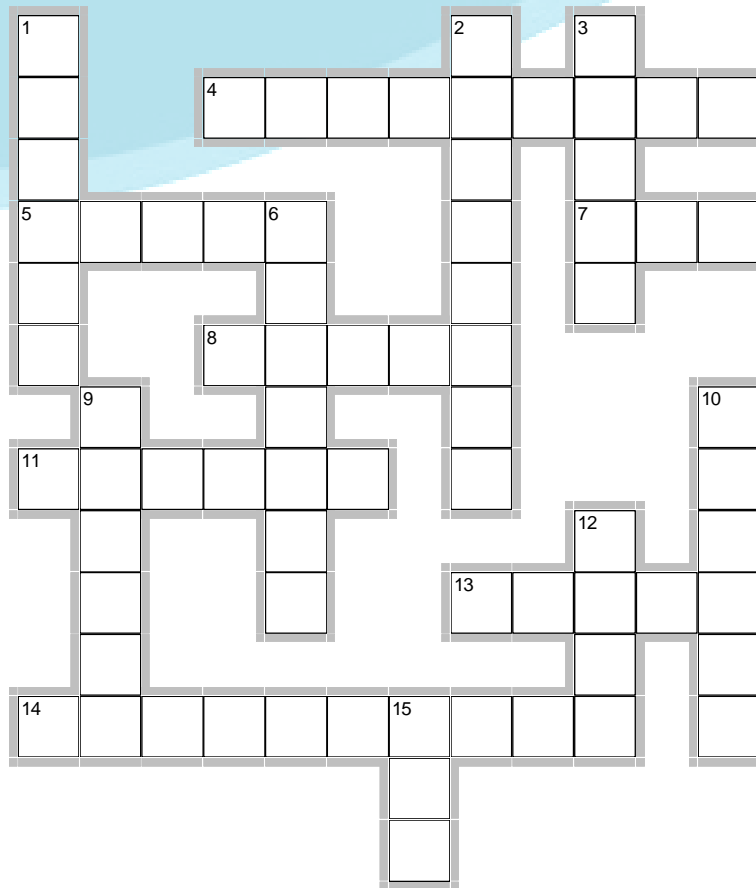
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

4. We must seek God in _____
5. The Samaritans worshiped God and _____
7. The missing ark represents the broken relationship they had with God because of their _____
8. We must cast out all things that become God in our heart to _____ God
11. King Cyrus, Xerxes and Darius were all kings of _____
13. We must overcome obstacles to worship God by _____
14. _____ was the governor of Judea

Down

1. We must first _____ ourselves before we can serve God
2. Haggai and Zachariah were _____
3. We must decide to seek God _____
6. We must give first importance to _____ God
9. The _____ was a place where they could serve God
10. Zerubbabel and _____ rebuilt the temple
12. It was God's _____ that the temple be finished
15. The _____ of the Covenant was missing in the temple



Ezra, Bible Teacher of Israel

Ezra 7-10

Theme: Bible-centered Faith

Things did not go well for the Jews who returned to Judea. Ninety years after their return, Jerusalem was still only a small town. There was no wall around the city to protect it from robbers who came from the desert and took what they wanted. Their children were marrying people from other races who worshiped idols. Their grandchildren were not following the laws of God, even though they built a beautiful temple.

God raised up two men to help His people. The first was Ezra. Ezra led the people back to God and God's Word. The second man was Nehemiah. Nehemiah led the people in building a wall around the city.

Ezra was a scribe, so he wrote things of the king, copied documents, and translated. Ezra was also an expert in the Law of Moses, the Bible at that time.

When Ezra came to Jerusalem and heard that the Israelites had been marrying women from the from the evil nations around them and worshipping their idols, he tore his clothes and fell down in repentance all day before God. After a whole day of prayer, he came to the people and told them to send away their wicked wives. It seems harsh but he realized that if Israel turned

again to idol worship after God gave them a second chance, they would be terrible sinners.

Ezra's mission through his life was to teach the people the Bible and raise up others who could teach them after him.

Ezra trained scribes to copy the law and become experts at teaching the law. They eventually became the Pharisees. He also built small places in every city where the people could study the Bible, called synagogues. Eventually every place of worship had its own copy of the laws. This kept the law from ever being lost or forgotten.

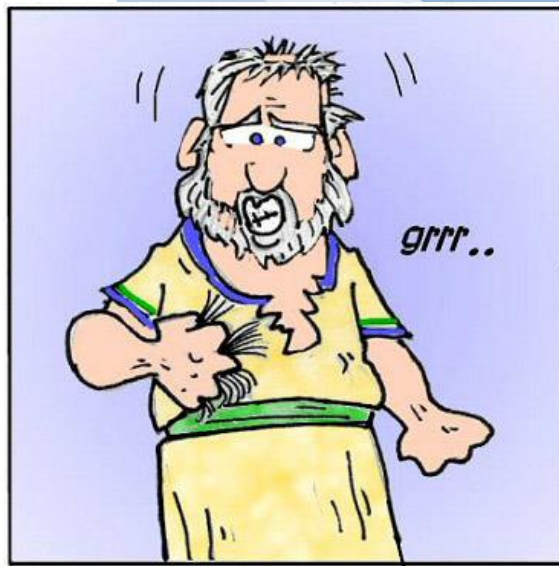
Synagogues were built as places where people could meet to hear the Word of God, to study the Book of the Law, to

worship God, and to sing psalms together.

Ezra was more than a scribe; he was a man of God. Ezra reminded the people that they were a special people. They had been chosen by God and protected by God and they must live apart from other nations and bad influences. Ezra did not try to solve their physical problems but taught the Bible to them. Because of Ezra, the people never again turned to idols for the rest of their history.

Ezra 7:10

"For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel."



After Ezra learned the people were doing wrong.. He angrily tore his robe, pulled out hair from his head and beard. It was a HOLY TANTRUM. **Ezra 9:1-4**



Thanks to Julie Seeto

11-14-2002

WHY DON'T YOU STOP WONDERING WHAT'S
WRONG WITH THE WORLD AND READ THE MANUAL

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ At times of difficulty what we need most is Bible study
- ❖ We must seek God's word with all our heart, soul, mind and strength to know him
- ❖ We should become great Bible teachers so we can help many to come to know God

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What problems were there when the Israelites came back to Jerusalem?
- ❖ What had happened to the people?
- ❖ In this time of national distress what did Ezra think was most important?
- ❖ How did Ezra use his skills to glorify God?
- ❖ Why is the Bible so important?
- ❖ What can we learn from God's word?
- ❖ What were the buildings that Ezra helped to build and what were they for?
- ❖ Why did Ezra concentrate on Bible study instead of helping people humanly or on building up their city?
- ❖ What can we learn about the importance of Bible study?
- ❖ What can we do to help God's word to grow in America?

Questions for Group Discussion

*"Ezra had devoted himself to the study
and observance of the Law"*

- ❖ Have you ever told someone about Jesus?
 - ❖ Do you accept rebuke?
 - ❖ Do you ask God for forgiveness?
- ❖ Can you remember the last time you repented?
 - ❖ Can you try to read the bible this week?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked God what his mission for your life was?
- ❖ Have you ever used your talents to serve God? (ex: singing, instrument, sports)
- ❖ Have you ever invited a friend to church?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Ezra, Bible Teacher of Israel

Ezra 7:10

"For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?


Ezra 7-10 Word Search

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

38 Words to find

EZRA
TEACHER
DEVOTED
OBSERVANCE
LORD
DECREES
JEWS
MARRYING
IDOLS
TEMPLE
WALL
SCRIBE
MOSES
CLOTHES
PRAYER
WIVES
MISSION
PHARISEES
WORSHIP

BIBLE
ISRAEL
STUDY
LAW
TEACHING
ISRAEL
JUDEA
WORSHIPED
FOLLOWING
NEHEMIAH
JERUSALEM
EXPERT
TORE
REPENTANCE
SEND
SINNERS
TRAINED
SYNAGOGUES
PSALMS



Rebuilding the wall

Nehemiah 1-7

Theme: Rebuilding Our Walls

Nehemiah served Artaxerxes, the king of Persia after King Xerxes. As the king's cup bearer, Nehemiah poured wine for the king and saw that no one poisoned him. A king always chose a trusted friend for this job.

One day Nehemiah received terrible news of his beloved city Jerusalem. He heard that Jerusalem was still a struggling town with no walls. Life was dangerous in an unwalled city and the people living there were very poor.

Do you remember the Samaritans? They didn't give up after the temple was completed. They wrote a letter to king Artaxerxes saying that if the wall of Jerusalem was completed the people would rebel. So, the king ordered the building to stop.

But now it was many years later. Nehemiah became so sad that the king was concerned. When he asked what was the matter, Nehemiah told him about Jerusalem and then he asked the king if he could go there and rebuild the city walls.

Because the king liked Nehemiah so much, King Artaxerxes agreed that Nehemiah could go. He gave him letters that said he could have all the building materials he needed. He even sent a company of horsemen and guards to protect Nehemiah and help him with his work. In this way God made a way for the building to start again.

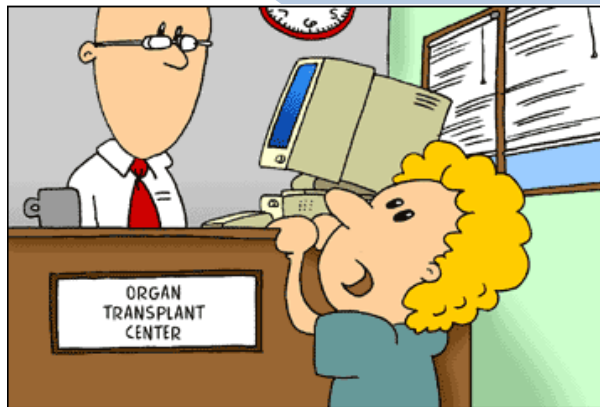
Nehemiah 6:15-16

"So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he convinced the people to rebuild the city's walls. Each family in the city was in charge of one section of wall. Some built large pieces of the wall while others only built right in front of their own houses. Slowly, the wall began to grow.

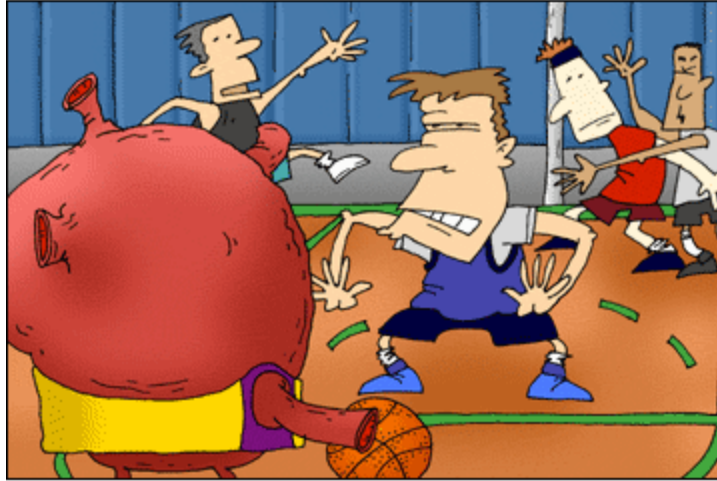
Building the wall was not safe work. The Samaritans teamed up with the Ammonites and Arabs. They put the work to a stop by attacking the workers. So Nehemiah had them carry swords while they worked and Nehemiah set guards all around the wall. Many attempts were made to kill

Nehemiah, but God gave him wisdom to avoid all of them. No matter what their enemies tried to do, nothing worked because God was with Nehemiah. Nehemiah and his crew worked so hard and so fast that the wall was done in only fifty-two days! The gates were hung and guards took their places inside the wall. Now that Jerusalem was safe from its enemies, the once proud city could become strong again.



IS THIS WHERE I GO TO GIVE MY HEART TO JESUS?





AFTER A ROUGH BOUT OF TEAM-PICKING, ZEKE FOUND HIMSELF GUARDING HIS HEART

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Jeremiah said we must guard our heart above all things for it is the wellspring of life
- ❖ When we do not guard our heart and mind we lose our faith and our strength, our very life
- ❖ We must keep walls in our heart against sinful ideas, through studying the Bible and prayer
- ❖ When we rebuild our walls Satan will attack, so we must use our sword—the Bible
- ❖ When we live a pure life repelling worldly ways and sin we will be strong and victorious

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who was Nehemiah?
- ❖ What terrible news did he receive?
- ❖ How did God make a way for the Jews to finish building the wall?
- ❖ **Imagine that Jerusalem with no wall, is your heart and your mind. Why do we need a wall around these places?**
- ❖ **What happens when we have no wall to guard what we believe and feel?**
- ❖ What was Nehemiah's plan to rebuild the wall?
- ❖ How did enemies try to stop the work?
- ❖ **When we try to rebuild the walls in our heart and mind what does Satan immediately do?**
- ❖ How did Nehemiah help them fight their enemies?
- ❖ **What must we do when Satan tries to attack us and stop us from rebuilding our walls?**
- ❖ What happened to the wall construction and Jerusalem?
- ❖ **What happens to us when we rebuild our walls to protect us from worldly influences?**



Questions for Group Discussion

"this work had been done with the help of our God."

- ❖ Do you guard your heart?
- ❖ Do you pray every day?
- ❖ When you are scared or upset, do you pray?
- ❖ Do you read the bible every week?
- ❖ Do you follow others, or God?
- ❖ Are you a good influence to those around you?
- ❖ Has God ever helped you with something?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Rebuilding the Wall

Nehemiah 6:15-16

"So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

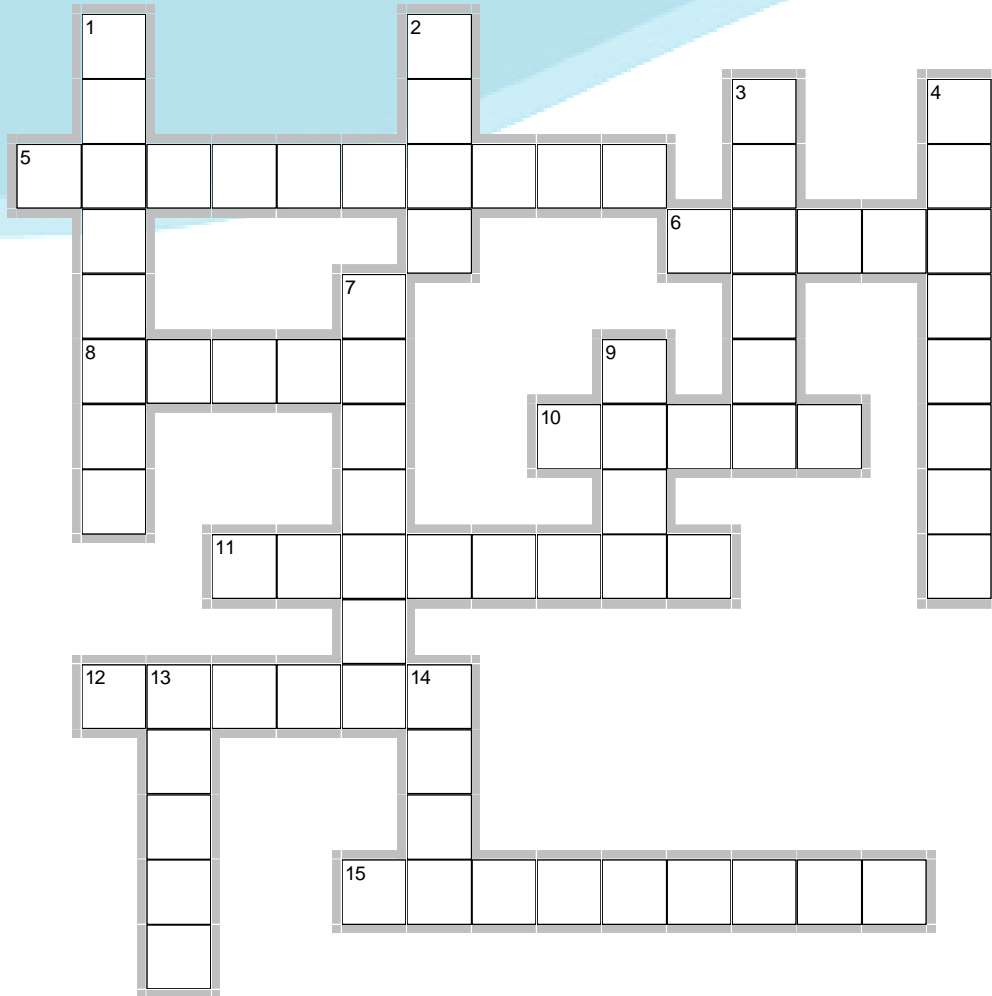
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

5. Nehemiah served _____ the king
6. When we do not guard our heart and mind we lose our _____ and our strength
8. Satan will attack our walls, so we must use our sword- the _____
10. We must _____ our heart above all things
11. Nehemiah poured wine for the king and saw that no one _____ him
12. So Nehemiah had them carry _____ while they worked
15. Now that _____ was safe from its enemies, the once proud city could become strong again

Down

1. One day Nehemiah received _____ news of his beloved city Jerusalem
2. The king sent guards to protect Nehemiah and help him with his _____
3. We can keep walls in our heart through studying the Bible and _____
4. _____ was the king's cupbearer
7. We have to _____ our walls to protect us from worldly influences
9. When we live a _____ life, repelling worldly ways and sin we will be strong and victorious
13. We must keep _____ in our heart against sinful ideas
14. Building the wall was not _____ work





Rebuilding the Walls

(Can be played after the Bible study or during when thinking about the walls we need to rebuild around our heart and mind)

Materials Needed:

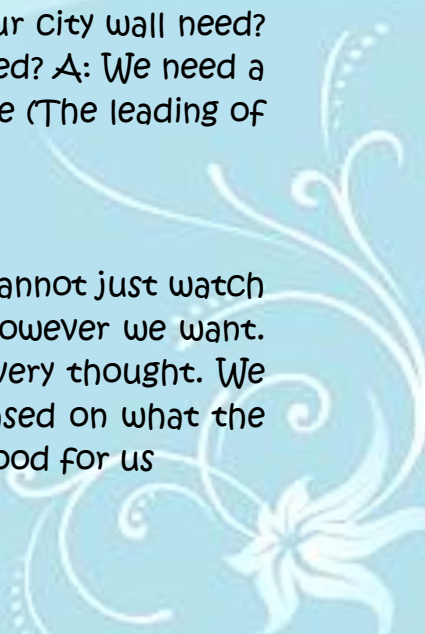
1. Hymn books or any even square objects to use as bricks of your wall
2. Something to represent your heart
3. Something to represent your mind
4. Something to represent enemies

What to do

1. Put the heart and mind in the center of the table. Put the enemies in encircling and closing in on the heart and mind.
2. Dialogue: “These represent your heart and mind and these bad guys on the outside represent temptations that want to destroy your heart and mind. Q: What is going to happen to your heart and mind if these enemies keep coming and nothing stops them? A: They are going to be destroyed! Q: What do we need? A: We need a good wall.
3. Now give them each a book or block (whatever you chose as wall pieces) and tell them that each piece of wall represents something that will keep you from being captured by a enemy (temptation)—ie a good habit such as daily Bible reading, prayer, or a discipline like discretion, self control etc.
4. Each student must think of what their brick will be and then lay it down. When they get stuck, name each enemy after a specific temptation kids would have at school (swearing, hiding their faith, bullying) and ask them what is the specific thing that will protect them from that.
5. Keep going around until they’ve made a nice high wall. Then ask them but what is the problem with our city? Nothing bad can get but... ...NOTHING GOOD can get in either! Q: What does our city wall need? A: A gate. Q: But how will the gate be raised and lowered? A: We need a gatekeeper or guard? Q: What is our guard? A: The Bible (The leading of the Holy Spirit—but little harder for kids).

Conclusion

We must not let just any junk into our hearts and minds. We cannot just watch any movie or TV show, talk about anything we want, or act however we want. The Bible says we must guard our hearts, and take captive every thought. We must rebuild the walls and learn to test if things are good based on what the Bible says. We must learn to say “NO!!!” To things that are no good for us



SO THAT EVERYONE MAY UNDERSTAND

Nehemiah 8-13, Malachi 1-4

Theme: The Importance of God's Word

While the wall was being built, Nehemiah was appointed as the governor of Judea. He saw that the rich people in Jerusalem had made the poor people slaves because they couldn't pay back the money they owed.

Nehemiah was very angry, and said to them, "You were slaves and God set you free and now you're making your brothers slaves!? You must live in fear of God and give a good example to the Gentiles. Give back their houses and fields right now!"

"We will give it back," they said.

When the wall was finished, Nehemiah called all the Jews in the land to Jerusalem and asked Ezra to read the Book of the Law to them. The people spoke many different languages, and most of them could not understand what was being spoken.

Realizing the problem, Ezra had men stand next to him who spoke many languages. He would read a part of the law and they would translate it into another language. This way everyone understood what had been read.

After the reading everyone went home and had a great feast. They were happy they could hear God's Word and learn the laws He had given them.

The next day, all the Jews met again. They confessed their sins and the sins of their fathers

Nehemiah 8:8

"They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read."

who had worshiped idols. Then they made a promise that they would always keep God's law. They wrote this promise down, and all the rulers signed it for the people.

Jerusalem grew large and strong. Jews living in

other countries came to live and work in Judea. Soon the land was filled with people. The hills were covered with vineyards and olive groves and the plains with fields of grain. And they continued to worship God and follow the Bible from now on after this.

As the Old Testament ends, the prophet

Malachi writes these words: "Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me." Who was Malachi speaking about?

In each of the books of the Prophets, there is a prophecy of the coming of what they called the "Meshiac" or the Messiah. Between 400-1000 years before Jesus was born each of the Prophets told of his coming. This had been revealed to them by God through his words or through visions. Even in those times the word of God led the people who listened to it to Jesus. The rest of our study of the Old Testament will cover the prophecies about the coming of Jesus.



READ THIS TWICE AND CALL ME IN THE MORNING



COMING SOON TO A PLANET NEAR YOU

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ The word of God is the way we can be blessed and safe spiritually our whole life
- ❖ In the time of God's blessing we must reaffirm our commitment to God
- ❖ We must do whatever it takes to bring the good news to the whole world
- ❖ We must repent daily so that we may honor God as our lord and be his servants
- ❖ We must keep a humble attitude not fall into pride like Satan or it is impossible to repent
- ❖ We must make a promise and life commitment to live by God's word not our own way

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ How did Ezra help the poor?
- ❖ What did Ezra do when the wall was completed and the city restored?
- ❖ **What must we do at the time of God's blessing?**
- ❖ What problem came up during their Bible study? What did Ezra do?
- ❖ **Why is hearing the word of God the most important part of our life?**
- ❖ How could the Israelites be sure to keep their city strong and keep themselves from further punishment from God?
- ❖ **What does Ezra's Bible study teach us about the attitude we must have in bringing God's story to all people of all nations?**
- ❖ What did they do after the Bible study?
- ❖ **Why is repentance next most important to Bible study?**
- ❖ What did all the leaders do after confessing their sins?
- ❖ **Why is it important to make a promise to God?**
- ❖ **What must be the center and guide of our life?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"They read from the Book of the Law of God"

- ❖ Do you read your bible every week?
- ❖ Do you study the Bible to really know God?
- ❖ Do you think Bible study is the most important thing you do?
- ❖ Do you teach others what the Bible says?
(Do you clearly know what it says?)
- ❖ Have you ever confessed your sins to God?
 - ❖ Have you made a promise to God to overcome your idols?
- ❖ Do you feel strengthened from studying the Bible?
(If not, do you think you need to change the way you study?)
 - ❖ Do you read the Bible for yourself in your personal time?
 - ❖ Do you have a relationship with God?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

So Everyone May Understand

Nehemiah 8:8

"They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

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What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...

How well do you know God's Word?

Nehemiah 8-13 Word Search

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

45 Words to find

READ
BOOK
LAW
GOD
CLEAR
MEANING
EVERYONE
UNDERSTOOD
BIBLE
WALL
NEHEMIAH
GOVERNOR
JUDEA
SLAVES
RICH
FREE

BROTHERS
FEAR
EXAMPLE
GENTILES
FINISHED
EZRA
LANGUAGES
TRANSLATE
FEAST
HAPPY
CONFESSED
SINS
WORSHIPPED
IDOLS
PROMISE
RULERS

SIGNED
JERUSALEM
STRONG
MALACHI
LORD
BEHOLD
MESSENGER
PREPARE
WAY
BEFORE
MESSIAH
PROPHETS
JESUS

King David Meets Jesus

Psalm 2, 22, 35, 41, 68, 69, 118, 132

Theme: Jesus was rejected and glorified

In each of the books of the Prophets, there is a prophecy of the coming of what they called the “Meshiac” or the Messiah. Between 400-1000 years before Jesus was born each of the Prophets told of his coming. This had been revealed to them by God through his words or through visions. The Messiah was their highest king and highest priest who would bring God’s kingdom to earth.

King David, who wrote most of Psalms, was the greatest king in all the history of Israel. He reigned from 1010-970B.C. about 1000 years before the birth of Jesus. God promised David that the Messiah would be born through his line. David loved to write songs for God or Psalms and he wrote down the visions God gave him of the Messiah in his Psalms.

Psalm 2 says, That God would put his own king in Jerusalem to rule forever.

He said, You are my son, today I have become your father. This king would be the son of God and he would rule over all the nations. All kings and nations should fear him because he would have total power. We could imagine some great warrior with a huge army who destroys everyone.

But as we read on, we learn that is not the kind of king he was. Psalm 35 says, “Do not let my enemies laugh at me; they hate me for no reason. Do not let them make fun of me; they have no cause to hate me.” (NCV) Psalm 69 says, “There are more people who hate me for no reason than hairs on my head; powerful enemies want to destroy me for no reason. They make me pay back what I did not steal.” (NCV)

Why would God’s great king be hated by most people? Psalm 41 says, “My best and truest friend, who

Psalm 118:22-23

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

ate at my table, has even turned against me.” (NCV) Even one of his closest friends would betray him. What kind of king would let this happen to him?

Psalm 22 says, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? You seem far from saving me, far away from my groans...But I am like a worm instead of a man. People make fun of me and hate me. Those who look at me laugh. They stick out their tongues and

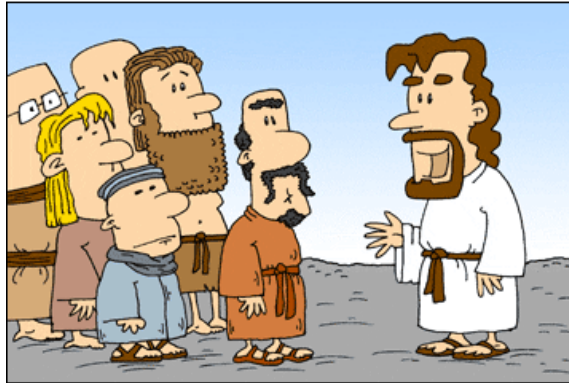
shake their heads. They say, ‘He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. If he likes him, maybe he will save him.’...Evil people have surrounded me... They have pierced my hands and feet. I can count all my bones; people look and stare at me. They divided my clothes among them, and they threw dice for my clothing

What kind of king lets himself be killed? That is defeat, what kind of great king was this?

Psalm 118 says, “The stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone the most important stone in the whole building. God made him the most important stone on which all things are built. Finally it says in Psalm 16, you will not let your holy one die.

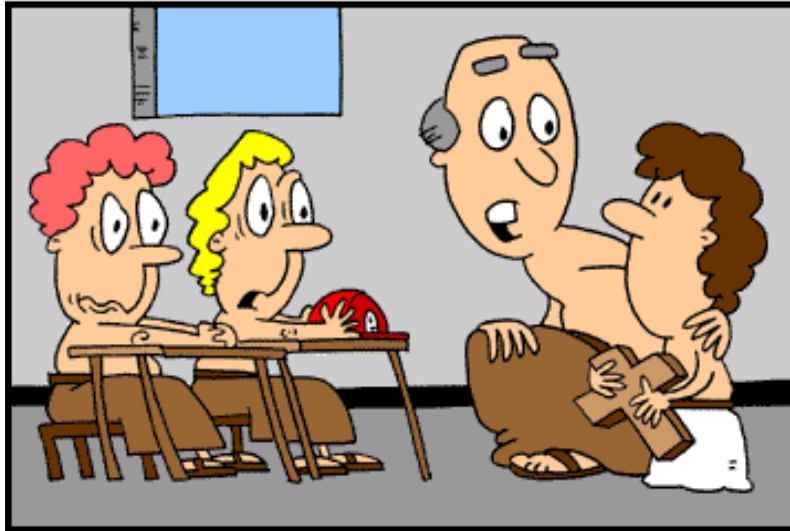
Though he was rejected, and killed God raised his king to life and made him the most important and powerful king in all history. Because of what he suffered, the Messiah became the most important person in all of history.

Who was this king? His name is Jesus. He didn’t die for no reason, he was killed to pay for our sins and he was raised to life so that we could live forever. Because of what he did he deserves all honor and praise and love forever. He is the greatest king who ever lived.



THE WINNER OF "THE DISCIPLE" WILL GET TO GIVE UP ALL EARTHLY POSSESSIONS AND FOLLOW ME THROUGH ALL LEVELS OF HARDSHIPS





UMMM JESUS, ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A FIREMAN OR PHARAOH WHEN YOU GROW UP? ... 'CRUCIFIED, DEAD AND BURIED' IS A BIT TOO SPOOKY FOR THE OTHER KIDS

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ The sinful world hates and rejects Jesus because they want to sin, but those who love truth come to Jesus
- ❖ It was God's plan for Jesus to suffer in the extreme but also to exalt him to the highest place
- ❖ Though people reject Jesus now, he is and always will be the King and Judge of all the earth

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What did God's promise to David?
- ❖ What was God's king like?
- ❖ Why did so many people hate the Messiah?
- ❖ Who was the friend that betrayed the Messiah?
- ❖ Why do unrepentant sinners refuse to accept the truth? (Jn 3:19-21)
- ❖ What did sinful men do in the end to the Messiah?
- ❖ Though sinful men tried to reject the Messiah what happened?
- ❖ Was the Messiah defeated by death?
- ❖ What does it mean that the Messiah is the cornerstone?
- ❖ What did Jesus' sacrifice and victory become the foundation of? (1 Pe 2:7-9)
- ❖ What does it mean to you that Jesus is your victorious king, savior, cornerstone and Messiah?

Questions for Group Discussion

"Nations will come to your light"

- ❖ Have you ever invited someone to church or bible club?
- ❖ Can you tell someone about Jesus this week?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked Jesus to help you?
 - ❖ Do you ever thank Jesus for dying on the cross for your sins?
- ❖ Do you believe that Jesus is always with you?
- ❖ Can you read the bible three times this week?
 - ❖ What does Jesus mean to you?
 - ❖ Have you prayed in a tough time?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

King David Meets Jesus

Psalm 118:22-23

"The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

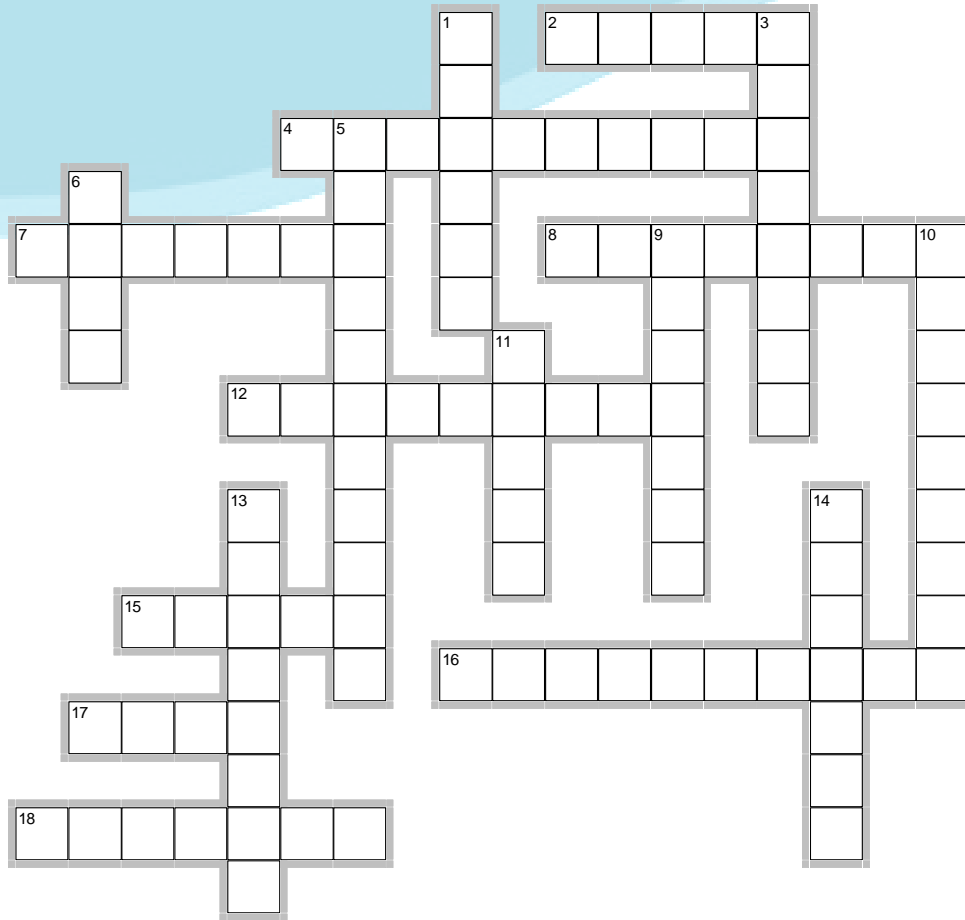
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

2. King ____ and others were writing songs to God
4. The Roman soldiers fulfilled ____ without even knowing it
7. Psalm 69 says, "They put gall in my food and gave me ____ to drink"
8. Psalm 68 says, "When you went up to the heights, you led a parade of ____"
12. "The Lord had chosen ____; he wants it for his home"
15. "I will clothe his enemies with shame, but he will wear a magnificent ____"
16. Jesus became the ____ for all the work of the world salvation
17. "I am going to lay a rock in ____, a precious cornerstone"
18. All throughout Jesus' ministry the religious ____ hated him

Down

1. "My best and truest ____, who ate at my table, has even turned against me"
3. Jesus' own ____ betrayed him
5. Psalm 118 says, "The stone that the builders rejected became the ____"
6. Jesus will always be the ____ and judge of all the earth
9. In Psalm 132, the Lord makes a ____ to David
10. "I will cover her priests with ____, and those who worship me will really sing for joy"
11. Psalm 35 says, "Do not let my enemies ____ at me"
13. "I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my ____ one"
14. The most important decision in life is to ____ in Jesus



Hail The King!

Psalms 72, 110, 132

Theme: The Messiah's Kingship

Messiah. The name Messiah means "Anointed one." Those anointed in the Old Testament were the kings and the priests. Much of the time, the Messiah was written about in Psalms as a great and mighty king. He was victorious, he crushed his enemies, he reigned over the whole earth. So, the Jews were expecting a different kind of king from humble Jesus with no army or majesty.

They didn't understand that their greatest enemies were sin and death. These Jesus crushed. In this way Jesus was totally victorious and gave all true peace.

Psalms 72, says, "Give your king justice, your son righteousness. His rule will last forever. He will defend the sick and needy and crush the oppressor. He will deliver all who cry out and take pity on the weak and needy. And the whole earth will worship him."

Mostly, kings are selfish. They want power for their own glory and pleasure. The Messiah would be a perfect king, one who ruled for the sake of blessing and defending his people. He hears the needy and crushes the one oppressing them.

Psalms 110, says, "God told the Messiah, 'Sit at my right hand until I make all your enemies your footstool.' God will extend the rule of the Messiah to the whole earth. He will be the highest priest in the order of Melchizedek. He will be judge and he will judge all nations. He will crush all the rulers of the earth." The Messiah had many titles: King, High Priest, Judge. The Messiah will rule, both physically as a king and spiritually as High Priest. Never was a king allowed to be a priest in history. But the Messiah is. Not only that but he will be a judge in

Psalms 2:7-8

"I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father.⁸ Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

God's court, judging all sin. His judgment is that all people are sinners, therefore we must repent. As Judge he has the power to punish sin now and put us

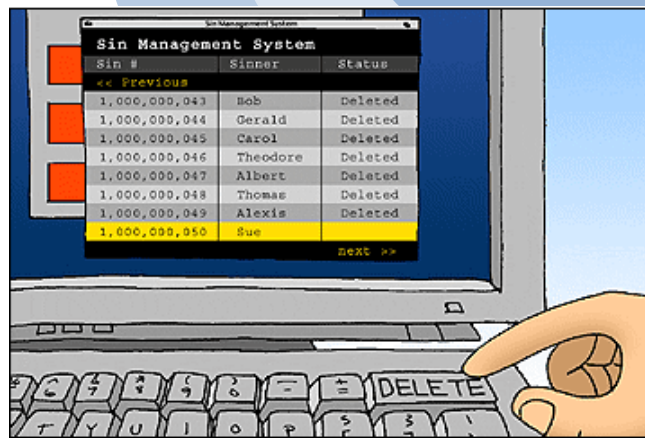
in hell forever at the final judgment. We must never forget that though the king is merciful and caring, we will be judged for our sin.

Psalms 132 says, "I have chosen Zion to be my resting place forever. I will cover her priests with salvation and those who worship me will

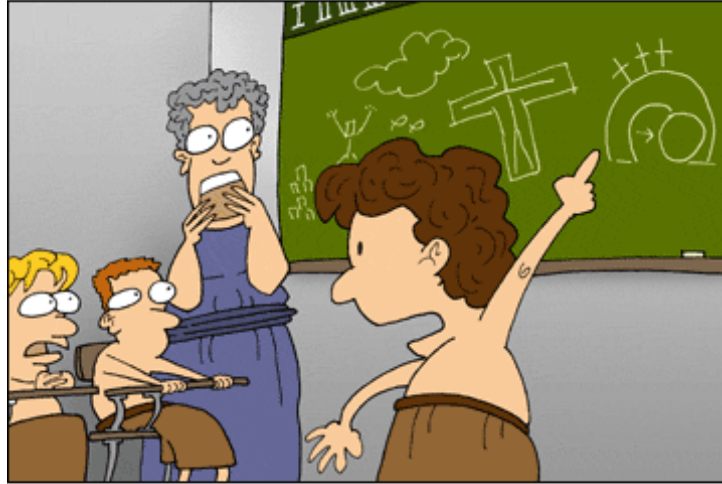
really sing for joy. I will put my there Messiah with the strength of salvation, to be lamp a guide for all people. I will clothe his enemies with shame but he will wear a magnificent crown."

God would choose Zion, that is the place where the temple was located in Jerusalem. Where the people worship God, God would dwell forever, and there the Messiah would be raised up with strength to save all people and to be a lamp guiding them to God. There people would no longer worship as a duty, but would do so from their heart and with great joy.

We must remember that the Messiah is our king. King means that he is in charge and we must obey and submit to him. As our king we must honor him and respect his power and authority. We must fear him and hate sin. We should be filled with joy to have such a king who loves us and saves us and rules us with justice and mercy.



THE MASTER PROGRAMMER AT WORK



JESUS BLOWS SOME MINDS ON "WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP" DAY

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Jesus is the Almighty Judge of all people because he defeated sin and death and is King
- ❖ Jesus also loved us so much that he became a lowly man and died to be our Savior
- ❖ Jesus saved everyone, so we must go out and spread the good news
- ❖ Jesus is our Lord so we must each bow down before him and honor him as our Lord

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What does Messiah mean?
- ❖ Psalm 132. What is Zion? Where is Zion now, for us?
- ❖ Read Psalm 72. How would the Messiah be different from worldly kings?
- ❖ How would people worship the Messiah there?
- ❖ Psalm 110. What are three of the Messiah's titles?
- ❖ What did God give the Messiah strength to do?
- ❖ How can the Messiah be both king and priest?
- ❖ **What does it mean that the Messiah is King, not just Friend or Helper or Savior?**
- ❖ Why does the Messiah judge the world?
- ❖ **How does that change our attitude toward him if he is our King if we believe he will judge us?**
- ❖ How does the Messiah punish sin? (now and forever)
- ❖ **Are you living with the Messiah as your King or your Buddy?**
- ❖ **Why must we fear and honor Jesus?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"I will make the nations your inheritance"

- ❖ Do you have fear of God?
- ❖ Is Jesus your king ruling your life?
- ❖ Have you defeated your sin problem?
- ❖ Have you ever endured suffering?
- ❖ Have you ever suffered for doing good?
- ❖ Have you been forgiven of your sins?
- ❖ Have you asked Jesus to help you?
- ❖ Have you applied the resurrection to your life and overcome?
- ❖ Have you shared what Jesus has done with anyone?
- ❖ Have you helped anyone overcome their sin?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

Hail the King!

Psalm 2:7-8

"I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

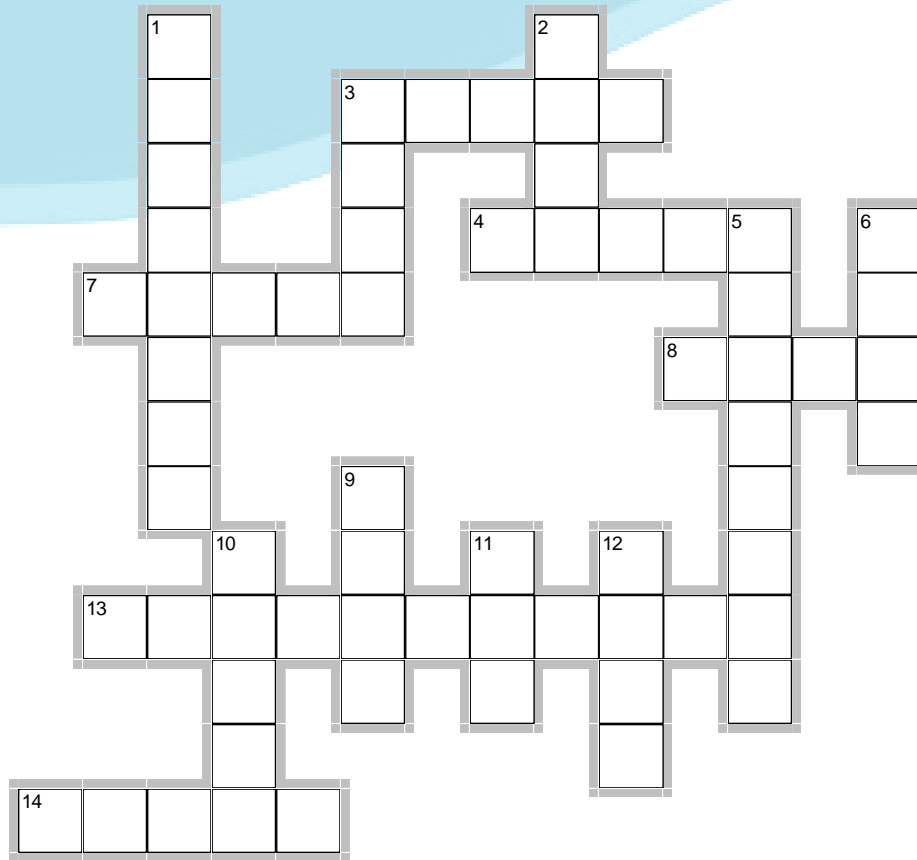
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

3. Jesus _____ us so much that he became a lowly man and decided to be our Savior
4. "But happy are those who _____ him for protection"
7. King _____ was the greatest king of all Israel
8. Jesus gave us _____ to be raised from the dead
13. This Psalm tells the story of Jesus' _____ exactly as it happened
14. Jesus _____ everyone so we must go out and spread the good news

Down

1. Psalm 22 says, "My God, my God, why have you _____ me?"
2. "People who are not yet born will _____ what God has done"
3. Jesus is our _____ so we must each bow down before him and honor him
5. God revealed these things to David one _____ years before the birth of Jesus
6. "_____ the Lord with great fear, be happy but tremble"
9. David prophesied that they would _____ his hands and feet to the cross
10. Psalm 2 talks about how Jesus would be the _____ of all the earth
11. Jesus paid for all our _____ and now we are totally free
12. Psalm 2 says "I have appointed my own _____ to rule Jerusalem"



Isaiah Jesus' Messenger

Isaiah 7,9,40

Theme: Jesus is our loving Savior

Isaiah was the prophet of God in the times of Hezekiah from 715-686 B.C. about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. He was told to go preach all his life to a people who would never listen to what he said. His book of prophecy is the longest in the Bible. God told him the most, of any of the prophets, about Jesus.

The first vision God gave Isaiah is in Isaiah 7, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and she will name him Immanuel."

Immanuel means "God with us." Jesus would be born from a girl named Mary. By a great miracle Jesus would be born through Mary and the Holy Spirit, with no earthly father. God became a mere man, to be fully with us to know us, love us and forgive us.

So Isaiah 9 rejoices, "A child has been born to us; God has given a son to us...His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Power and peace will be in his kingdom...He will rule as king on David's throne...forever."

Jesus is Wonderful Counselor who tells us exactly what to do and comforts us. He is Mighty God, whose word has power over nature, spirits, sickness and even our soul. Jesus is our Everlasting Father, caring for us and raising us better than any father

Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

could. Finally, he is the Prince of Peace, who made peace between us and God by his death on the cross, and who brings peace between all people. Isaiah says his kingdom would last forever, as each new believer accepts Jesus his kingdom.

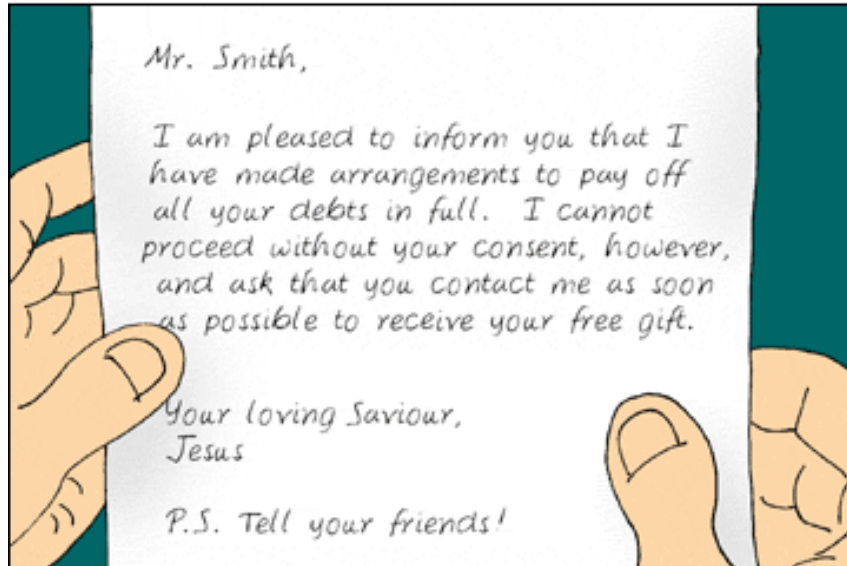


A CHILD IS BORN

Isaiah 40 says, "Your God says, 'Comfort, comfort my people. Speak kindly to the people of Jerusalem and tell them that their time of service is finished, that they have paid for their sins'...Jerusalem, you have good news to tell. Shout out loud the good news...Say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your

God.'...He takes care of his people like a shepherd. He gathers them like lambs in his arms and carries them close to him."

Especially, Jesus came to comfort all those who suffer from their sin and the cruel slavery of Satan. At that time Jesus would come as the true shepherd and gather all his lambs to him. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Thank God for Jesus who is Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and Good Shepherd.



THINK ABOUT IT

- ❖ Jesus was born as a humble baby so all people could come to him?
- ❖ Jesus is Counselor, Mighty, Father, Peace, he is God's love given to save us and restore us
- ❖ God's kingdom spreads in the hearts of every new believer so Jesus' kingdom never ends
- ❖ Jesus is God and he is our good shepherd, who loves all people and wants to save them

TALK ABOUT IT

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Who was Isaiah? ❖ What was his mission? ❖ What is unique about his book of prophecy? ❖ What was the first prophecy God gave him? ❖ How did this happen? ❖ <u>What does Immanuel mean?</u> ❖ <u>What does it mean Jesus is Wonderful Counselor?</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <u>That he is Mighty God?</u> ❖ <u>That he is Everlasting Father?</u> ❖ <u>That he is Prince of Peace?</u> ❖ <u>What do all these names of Jesus show about God's love and care for us?</u> ❖ What kind of Shepherd is the messiah in Isaiah 40? ❖ <u>Which name of Jesus is most meaningful to you? Why?</u> |
|--|--|



Questions for Group Discussion

*“Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”*

- ❖ What does it mean to you that God is with you?
- ❖ Have you ever wanted or needed a Counselor?
 - ❖ Are there things in your life that you need strength to overcome?
- ❖ Do you need or long for a father or a good father?
 - ❖ What are some things you need peace in?
 - ❖ Do you feel that Jesus is everything to you or is there something lacking?

Write on one of the 3 major themes below. Be specific and share honestly, don't write for others but as if you are writing to God. Especially share what you want to repent of or change based on what you learned.

- ❖ Write about which name of the Messiah is most meaningful to you. Immanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Good Shepherd. Why is that meaningful to you? What problem do you have right now? How can Jesus who is everything to everybody help you?
- ❖ Write about how God is with you (Immanuel). How have you experienced that Jesus is with you personally? When has Jesus helped you, comforted you, guided you? What is your personal relationship with Jesus like?
- ❖ Write about how God is your everything. How have you experienced that Jesus was there for you when you needed him? Have you ever been in an impossible situation where God has helped you? Has God ever given you direction, his command, good advice, love or special care?

Isaiah Jesus' Messenger

Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Isaiah 7,9,40 Word Search

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

30 Words to find

CHILD
 GOVERNMENT
 WONDERFUL
 MIGHTY
 EVERLASTING
 PRINCE
 ISAIAH
 SEVENHUNDRED
 PROPHET
 PREGNANT
 MARY
 BORN
 DAVID
 FOREVER
 GOODNEWS

SON
 SHOULDERS
 COUNSELOR
 GOD
 FATHER
 PEACE
 HEZEKIAH
 JESUS
 VIRGIN
 IMMANUEL
 SPIRIT
 KINGDOM
 THRONE
 COMFORT
 SHEPHERD



The Mission of the Messiah

Isaiah 35,42,59

Theme: Jesus came to Heal and Intercede

God revealed through Isaiah many details about what the Messiah would do to give the Jews hope and so they would recognize him when he came.

Isaiah 35 says, the Messiah would heal blind people so they could see, deaf people so they could hear, and crippled people so they could jump like deer. These are impossible things for doctors to heal and so when the Messiah did them it would be obvious that he is the Messiah. However, when Jesus came, and did these miracles, many people didn't believe even though it's in the Bible.

Isaiah 35 also says, the Messiah would call people to walk a road called "the Road to Being Holy." Evil people can't walk this road, only the people God has saved. More importantly than healing their bodies the Messiah would save people's souls and teach how to live the way God wants. This should also have been a sign to the people to recognize the Messiah.

Isaiah 42 says, God chose the Messiah and put his spirit on him to bring justice to all people. The Messiah would not break a bruised reed or put out even a weak flame. It means weak people who look like a useless broken plant or a dying weak flame, the Messiah would love and help such people. People usually ignore weak people, the religious leaders in Jesus' day, judged and condemned the weak. Jesus didn't come be mean to sinners but heal them, and help them to know God. He would not

Isaiah 42:1

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations."

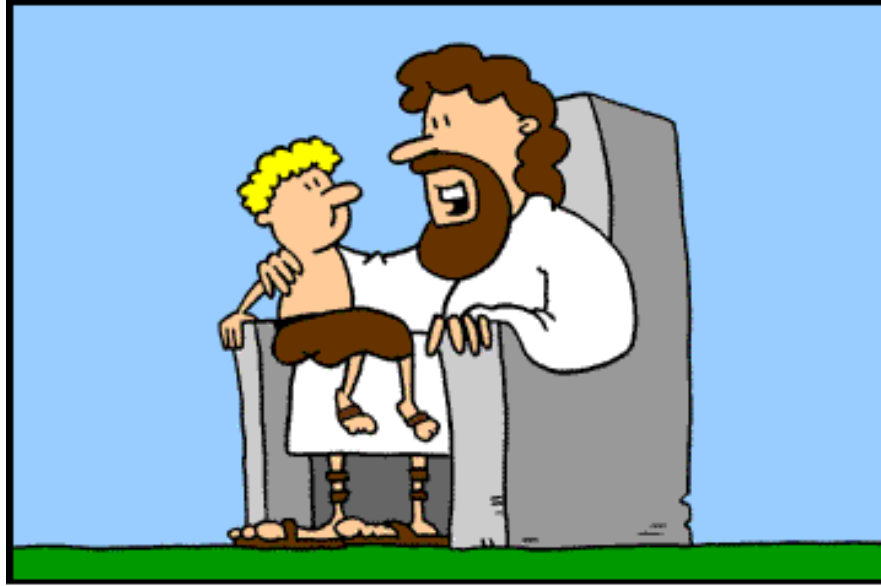
give up till he brings real justice. He would lead those who are in prison out of their darkness. Jesus was so different than others because he wanted to make people right with God not criticize them.

Isaiah 59 says, that God looked and could find no

justice in the earth, no one who could help the people and he was unhappy and surprised that there is no one who does right. It was surprising that all the people who knew God did not care about others, did not really know how God wanted them to treat others



and that they did not teach what was right. The religious leaders of Jesus' day, made fun of sinners, they made sinners feel really bad and punished them, but they never ever helped them. It seemed no one could help them. So God used his own power to save the people. He covered himself in goodness like armor, put on the helmet of salvation, his clothes for punishing and his coat of strong love. Jesus came to bring real justice. Jesus doesn't smash people or tell them how bad they are, he loves people and shows them who God is, how much God loves them, and makes them really want to follow God and know God and do what is right. Jesus helps all people to live the right way and really be right with God. Thank God who doesn't destroy weak, helpless, sinners but wants to help them to know him and be changed and saved.



HOW ABOUT IF INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU THINK YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS I GIVE YOU WHAT YOU NEED?

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Jesus accepts us just as we are not because we do great things or because we're important
- ❖ Jesus brought justice on the cross the meeting place of God's perfect justice and perfect love
- ❖ Jesus is just because he doesn't proudly condemn people but actually helps them to change
- ❖ Real justice is having God's heart; God takes no delight in destroying but rather saving

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What were the signs only the Messiah could do?
- ❖ How is Jesus' justice different from worldly justice
- ❖ What did these signs clearly prove?
- ❖ Why couldn't God find justice among his people?
- ❖ Why didn't people believe when they saw these?
- ❖ Who did God send to help his people?
- ❖ What is "The Road to Being Holy" the Messiah shows us?
- ❖ How does Jesus help us?
- ❖ According to ch42 what was Jesus chosen for?
- ❖ What is God's and Jesus' deep hearts desire for his people?
- ❖ What would Jesus not do? Why?
- ❖ How can we practice God's justice in this world? In our schools?
- ❖ Why is it so important that Jesus accepts us as we are?

Questions for Group Discussion

"he will bring justice to the nations"

- ❖ Do you ask God to forgive all your sins?
- ❖ Has Jesus ever done something for you?
 - ❖ Do you pray every day?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked God to help you with something?
- ❖ Do you love others like Jesus loves you?
 - ❖ Do you ever ask your friends to come to church?
- ❖ Have you ever told someone about Jesus?
- ❖ What is something God has helped you with?

Write on one of the 3 major themes below. Be specific and share honestly, don't write for others but as if you are writing to God. Especially share what you want to repent of or change based on what you learned.

1 Write about how you experienced God's grace. When was there a time God didn't give you what you deserve? When did you experience that others forgave you so that you would do better next time? Have you experienced that God's love changed you? Do you feel like you want God's grace?

2 Write about Jesus' care for bruised reeds and weak flames. Have you ever felt like a failure? Have you ever experienced that God helped you in your weakness? Do you feel like a loser now? Are you trusting God in this tough time?

3 Write about God's Justice. Do you judge and make fun of others? Do you dislike "bad kids" and gossip about them? Do you point your fingers or look down on others? Or do you practice God's justice and try to understand them? Do you accept others and help them?

The Mission of the Messiah

Isaiah 42:1

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

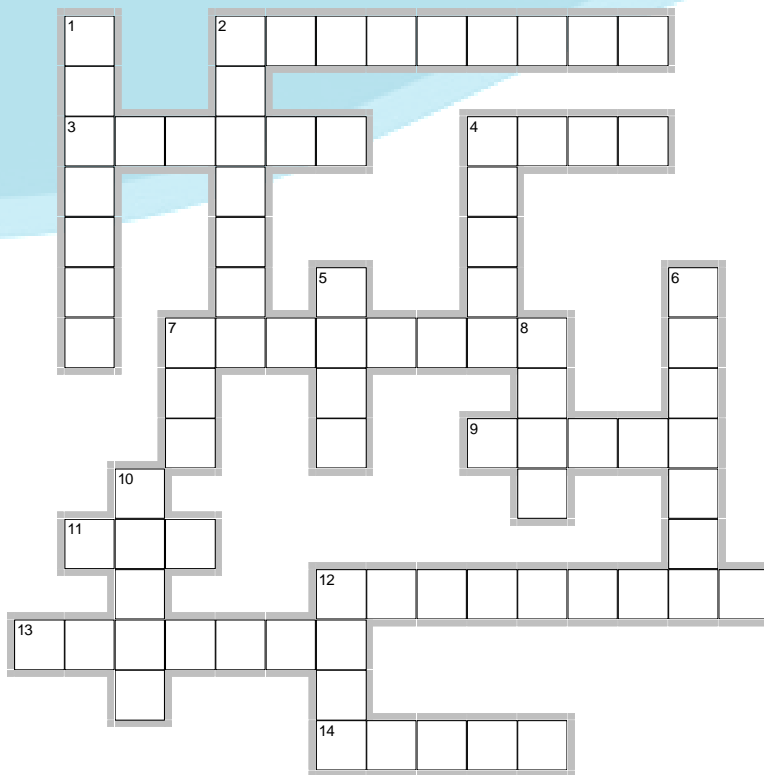
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

2. "He put the helmet of _____ on his head"
3. "I have put my _____ on him, and he will bring justice"
4. "He will not break a crushed _____"
7. "He used his own goodness to give him _____"
9. "He will not put out even a weak _____"
11. "Those who are mute will shout with _____"
12. "They will enter Jerusalem with joy, and they _____ will last forever"
13. Jesus lovingly urges all people to _____
14. "You will be a _____ to shine for all people"

Down


1. Isaiah 42 says, "He will truly bring _____"
2. "He is my _____, the one I support"
4. "I, the Lord, called you to do _____"
5. "He could not find anyone to _____ the people"
6. Jesus _____ us just as we are not because we do great things
7. "The blind people will _____ again"
8. This highway will be called 'The Road to Being _____'
10. Jesus healed people's _____ and taught them to follow him
12. Jesus came to teach, to _____, to rescue and to save



By His Wounds We are Healed

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

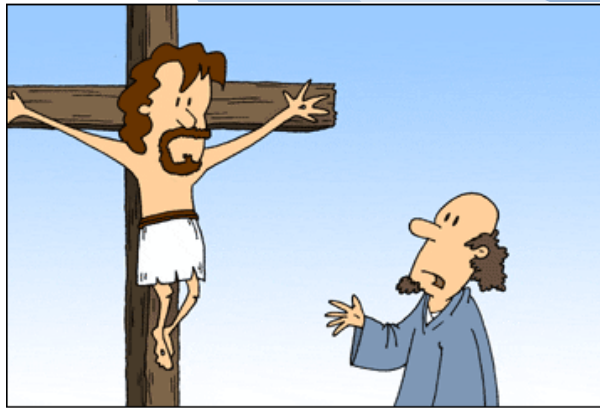
Theme: Jesus' Suffered and Died for Your Sins

 *Isaiah 52&53 could be called the Gospel according to Isaiah. God gave Isaiah the clearest vision of what would happen to the Messiah in his death and resurrection.*

The Lord says, "See, my servant will act wisely. People will greatly honor and respect him. But he didn't begin that way. At first everyone was shocked. He didn't even look human—a ruined face, so messed up you couldn't even recognize it. Nations all over the world will be in awe, taken aback, kings shocked into silence when they see him. For what was unheard of they'll see with their own eyes, what was unthinkable they'll have right before them.

Who could believe what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this? The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field.

There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But he took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. We saw his suffering and thought God was punishing him. But he was pierced for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds. We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way.



**I ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT KIND OF SAVIOUR
WOULD LET BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD
PEOPLE ... I GUESS NOW I KNOW**

And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him.

He was beaten, he was tortured, but he didn't say a word. Like a lamb taken to be killed and like a sheep quiet while its wool is being cut; he never opened his mouth. Men took him away roughly and unfairly. He

died without children to continue his family. He was put to death; he was punished for the sins of my people. He was buried with wicked men, and he died with the rich, even though he had done nothing wrong, and he had never lied.

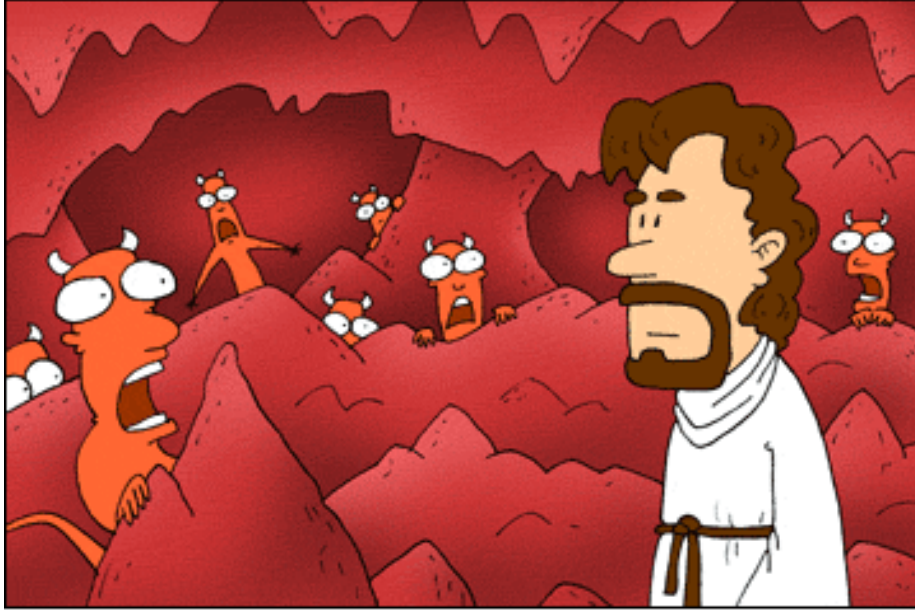
Still, it's what God had in mind all along, to crush him with pain. The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin so that

he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life. And God's plan will deeply prosper through him. After all the terrible things his soul will suffer, he'll see that it's worth it and be glad he did it. Through what he experienced, my righteous one, my servant, will make many "righteous ones," as he himself carries the burden of their sins. Therefore I'll reward him extravagantly—the best of everything, the highest honors—because he looked death in the face and didn't flinch, because he embraced the company of the lowest. He took on his own shoulders the sin of the many, he asked forgiveness for those who sinned."

Jesus suffered, was crushed, pierced and wounded for what we did. He silently bore our punishment. Let's thank God for his great love to save us from our sins.

Isaiah 53:5
"But he was pierced for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds."





... HE DESCENDED INTO HELL ... AND
REALLY FREAKED OUT THE LOCALS

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ We deserved to be crushed, pierced, and wounded but Jesus was for us
- ❖ Because of how terrible our sin was Jesus was not only crushed but also despised and rejected
- ❖ We should always give our full love and thanks to God because of what he did for us

TALK ABOUT IT



Take time to discuss each of these questions in detail.

- ❖ What does Isaiah say is "unheard of", and "unthinkable"?
- ❖ Why is the message that the Messiah would suffer and die, so hard to believe?
- ❖ Describe God's servant.
- ❖ How does Jesus fit this description?
- ❖ Why did God want the Messiah to be a looked down upon, made fun of, and suffer?
- ❖ What does it mean to you that Jesus was crushed, pierced and wounded for your sins? (think about "the wrong you did", "the evil you did", how you "were made well," and how "you were healed".)
- ❖ What does Jesus' silence reveal about him?
- ❖ What did Jesus' death do for us? His resurrection?





Questions for Group Discussion

“and we are healed because of his wounds”

- ❖ Do you thank Jesus for dying on the cross for your sin?
- ❖ Can you remember all the things God has done for you?
- ❖ Can you love someone like Jesus loves you?
- ❖ Has there ever been a time when you put God first?
- ❖ Have you ever done something for Jesus?
- ❖ Do you serve others like Jesus served us?
- ❖ Has God ever helped you?
- ❖ Do you worship God each week?

Testimony: Write on the main point below. Be specific and share honestly, don't write for others but as if you are writing to God. Especially share what you want to repent of or change based on what you learned.

- ❖ Write about your sins and wounds that have been healed by Jesus or how you would like him to take away your sins and heal your wounds. Can you list all your sins? Can you think of something Jesus has helped you overcome? Is there some area where you feel weak or wounded, something people make fun of or you are embarrassed about? Do you know that Jesus loves you? Do you love Jesus? Have you ever said “Thank You” to Jesus? Have you asked Jesus to be your personal Savior and Lord? Do you want to know Jesus?

By His Wounds We are Healed

Isaiah 53:5

"But he was pierced for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?

What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?

What changes should I personally make in my life?

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Isaiah 53 Word Search

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

28 Words to find

PIERCED
 PUNISHMENT
 WOUNDS
 ISAIAH
 DEATH
 SERVANT
 PAIN
 SHEEP
 SINS
 TORTURED
 DIED
 PLAN
 RIGHTEOUS
 HONOR

CRUSHED
 HEALED
 GOSPEL
 MESSIAH
 RESURRECTION
 SUFFERED
 TURNEDAWAY
 OWNWAY
 BEATEN
 QUIET
 BURIED
 OFFERING
 REWARD
 FORGIVENESS



A Light for the Gentiles

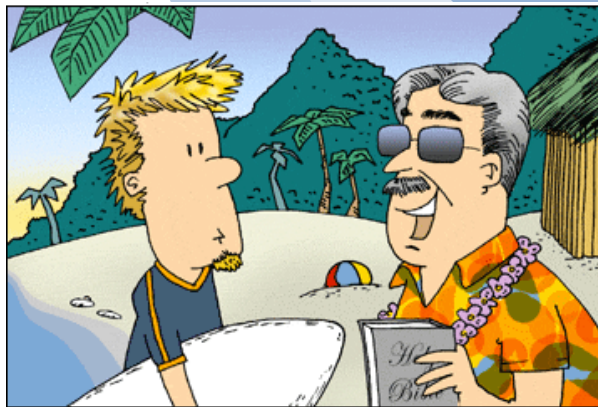
Isaiah 49,55,60
Theme: World Salvation

In these passages, God told Isaiah his world mission plan. It was not to save only Israel, but to spread the good news to the whole world and save all people.

In Isaiah 49, God said that it is too small a task for the Messiah to only save Jewish people but God would make him a light for all nations, to show all people the way to be saved. God loves the whole world. He is not the God of just the Jews. God loves the world so much that he gave his one and only son to save everyone.

Isaiah says, that kings will honor the one who was hated by the people and great leaders will bow down before him, because the Lord who is faithful has chosen him. To this day even the greatest leaders bow before Jesus because they know that Jesus saved them from their sins.

In Isaiah 55, God says that he would make a new agreement with the people, the promise made to David, that the Messiah would rule forever over Israel. The Messiah would also call people from nations they had never heard of and these nations would run them because they want to know God. God made the Messiah king of a never ending kingdom that would take over the whole world. The Messiah didn't rule them to crush them, but to save all people. So God says people should look for him while there is time. They should stop doing wrong and thinking bad thoughts and come to God because he will have mercy on them. They should come to God because he will freely forgive them. It is so joyful, that God says the mountains will sing and the trees clap their hands before the Messiah.



FORTUNATELY, GO YE INTO "ALL THE WORLD" INCLUDES HERE

Isaiah 60:3

"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

In Isaiah 60, God says "Jerusalem get up and shine because your light has come, and the glory of the Lord shines on you." The darkness of sin, and war, and sadness, had made the world a very dark place where no one knew what to do or how to live or

even why to live. But God was shining on Israel, his light was shining on one place and the dark world would be drawn to them. Just as a small light in a dark house will draw all the insects to it, so the light of Jesus would draw nations to the light and kings to the brightness. It is because being in darkness is not fun at all. Sin is not fun, it makes us

feel lonely and bad about ourselves. People want Jesus who is like a bright and beautiful light showing them how to really live, how to really change, how to really be happy, how to have eternal life!

After reading these prophecies, you would think the Jews would be so excited, "God made us the most blessed nation in the world! Let's work together with the Messiah to save every single person in the whole world! What a joyful and wonderful job!" Sadly, they never liked this mission. So, God forced them to go into the world by scattering them. God also scattered the Christians. But wherever the Christians went, they told people about Jesus. They didn't care if they were persecuted or killed, they joyfully spread the good news. From the remotest island to the most barren wasteland the gospel and God's kingdom has been spreading to this day.



POPPLETON VOWED TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO
THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE EARTH ...
BUT WHEN HE FOUND NOBODY THERE HE
REMAINED DETERMINED TO SHARE ANYWAY

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God's Kingdom spreads as each new believer repents and turns to Jesus as their Savior
- ❖ People from every nation come to Jesus because his light leads them out of their dark, sad lives
- ❖ God's hope is that each of us may accept his call to go to the ends of the earth with the Gospel

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What was too small a thing for the Messiah to do?
- ❖ How did Jesus bring salvation to all people?
- ❖ What was the Covenant or promise God made to David?
- ❖ Where is Jesus' Kingdom?
- ❖ Who does God want to be members of his kingdom?
- ❖ What do you need to do to be part of this kingdom?
- ❖ Why does God call us to spread his kingdom to all nations?
- ❖ Why is Jesus called a light?
- ❖ How are people without Jesus in darkness?
- ❖ How does Jesus drive away the darkness?
- ❖ Why have peoples and nations from all over the world come to the light of Jesus?
- ❖ What is our joyful and super-important job as members of God's kingdom? Do you want to do it?



Questions for Group Discussion

"Nations will come to your light"

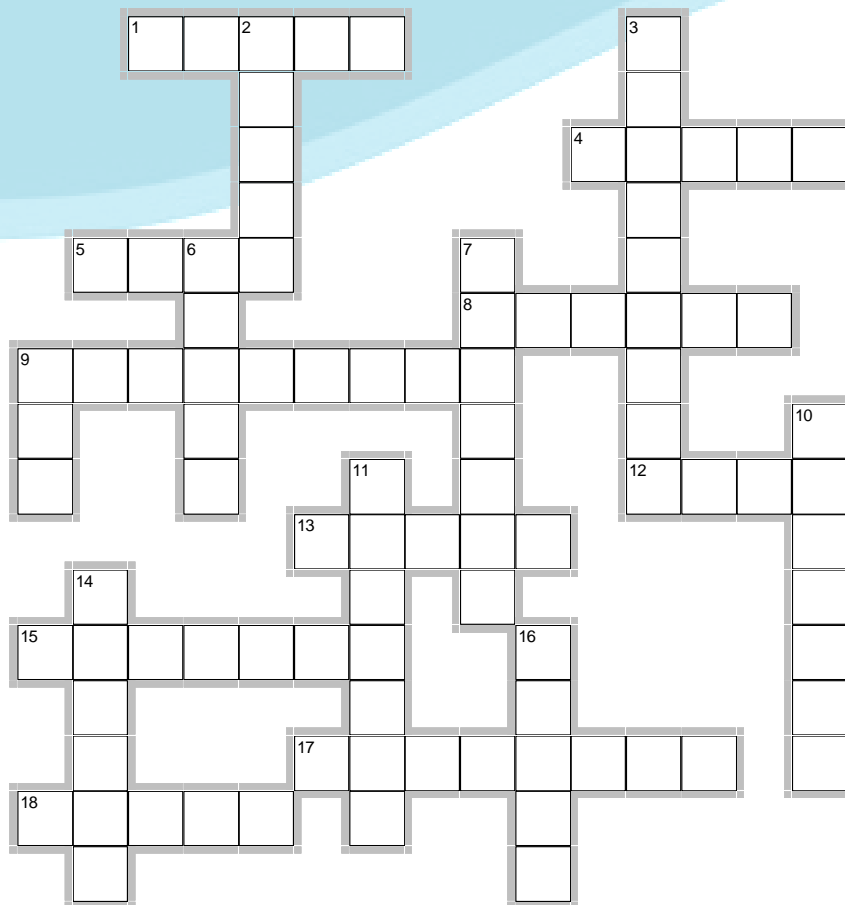
- ❖ Have you ever shared about Jesus with a friend?
 - ❖ Have you ever invited someone to church or bible club?
 - ❖ Have you ever done something God wanted you to do?
 - ❖ Do you thank Jesus daily?
 - ❖ Do you read your bible?
- ❖ How many times do you pray each day?
 - ❖ Can you ask God what his mission for your life is?
 - ❖ What can you do to serve Jesus?

Testimony:

Write about how you have or want to respond to God's world mission command.



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

1. Isaiah 49 says, "I will make you a ____ for all nations"
4. "They should return to the Lord so he may have ____ on them"
5. "He is the ____ One of Israel who has chosen you"
8. God told ____ the greatest mission of the Messiah
9. Jesus brought _____ to all people
12. Not only would Jesus come for the Jews, but would ____ all people on earth
13. "Kings will see you and stand to ____ you"
15. "They should come to our God, because he will freely _____ them"
17. God's hope was that all the _____ would come to his light
18. People from every nation come to see ____

Down

2. "But the Lord shines on you, and people see his ____ around you"
3. "I will give you the _____ I promised to David"
6. God ____ the world so much that he gave his one and only son to save everyone
7. God wants us to be members of his _____
9. Jesus is the light that drives away the darkness of ____
10. God's kingdom spreads as each new believer _____
11. "I will make an agreement with you that will last _____"
14. God's hope is that each of us may accept his call to go to the ends of the earth with the _____
16. Isaiah 60 says, "Jerusalem, get up and ____"



The Kingdom of God Now and Forever

Isaiah 65

Theme: God's mission to the Gentiles

In this final prophecy, we see God's broken heart for the Jews. God gave everything for them but they rejected him. Therefore, God went to those who want him.

In Isaiah 65, God says, that he showed himself to people who did not ask for him and was found by those who did not seek him. God meant the Gentiles, non-Jewish, people who had no idea about him. It was a prophecy of the time after Jesus came. Originally God called the Jews to teach the whole world about God but they never accepted God's mission. And many Jews rejected Jesus when he came.

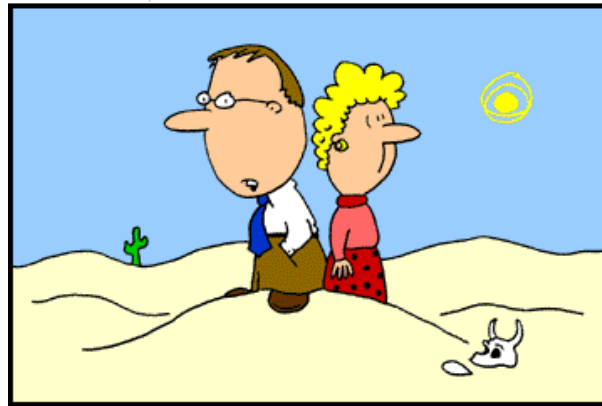
God said, "All day long I have held out my hands to a stubborn people, who do bad things, and follow their own imagination, a people who always provoke me to my face, who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too holy for you!'" Because they did not want to accept the Messiah, the precious gift God had given them and because they did not want to accept their calling as God's people, God went to the Gentiles instead.

God told them that still he would choose some of the Jews who really wanted to serve him. His real servants would be blessed but the Jews who wanted to sin, and follow idols, would be put to shame and cut off. As God said, when Jesus came he called 12 disciples from among the Jews. These

Isaiah 65:1

"I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'"

12 disciples went out and told all the Jews that Jesus died for their sins, but still many rejected, especially the religious leaders. So, God sent the



WELL WE FINALLY BROUGHT THE GOSPEL TO A PLACE IT HAS NEVER BEEN ... BUT WE SHOULD'VE CHECKED TO SEE IF THERE WERE PEOPLE HERE FIRST

Romans to destroy Jerusalem and scatter all the Jews. Then his disciples went to the Gentiles, who happily accepted and spread the good news everywhere. They became his true servants.

Even better, they received the greatest reward. Isaiah 65 goes on, "Behold, I will create a new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be

remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more...Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,' says the LORD."

In the end when we serve God, we will go to paradise. It is like the garden of Eden restored. It is beautiful beyond our imagination and God will meet all our needs before we even ask. Praise God who loves us and rewards us when we serve him.



THE LAMB WASN'T CRAZY ABOUT THIS NEW SLEEPING ARRANGEMENT, BUT AT LEAST IT WAS AN IMPROVEMENT

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God chooses us, but without a humble attitude we will become like the Jews and reject him
- ❖ Jesus' real servants are those who do God's mission, not those who are believers in name only
- ❖ God doesn't use us like slaves, he has prepared a great reward for us, it is a great joy to serve God

TALK ABOUT IT



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ According to Isaiah 65, who was Jesus found by? ❖ Why did God's chosen people, the Jews, reject Jesus? ❖ What did God want them to do? ❖ <u>Is it possible that we could become like them even after accepting Jesus? What should we watch out for?</u> ❖ Who did God choose out of the Jews? ❖ Did they do God's mission? Who did they go to? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ <u>What made the Gentiles different from the Jews?</u> ❖ What is the reward for God's servants? ❖ What will not be heard in heaven? Why? ❖ What will our relationship with God be like in heaven? ❖ How is peace restored? ❖ <u>How can we have this reward? What is our horrible other choice?</u> |
|--|--|



Questions for Group Discussion

"I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me"

- ❖ Do you love your enemies?
- ❖ When your brother or sister is rude to you, are you still nice to them?
- ❖ Do you ask God to be with you?
- ❖ Have you ever shared about Jesus with a friend?
- ❖ Have you ever invited someone to church or Bible club?
- ❖ Have you ever done something God wanted you to do?
- ❖ Do you obey God, your parents, and your teachers?
- ❖ Can you ask God what his mission for your life is?

Testimony: Write about living as God's servant. Do you care about what God cares about? Do you love others or judge them? Have you tried to find what is God's mission for you? How do you do God's mission? Do you want to please God with your life? How do you (can you) please God with your life? Are you humble like the Gentiles or proud like the Jews? Have you accepted that Jesus died for you personally?

The Kingdom of God Now and Forever

Isaiah 65:1

"I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Isaiah 65 Word Search

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

38 Words to find

MISSION
 REVEALED
 SEEK
 PROPHECY
 GOD
 JESUS
 WORLD
 PROVOKE
 CALLING
 IDOLS
 TWELVE
 DESTROY
 SCATTER
 SPREAD
 NEWHEAVENS
 GLAD
 FOREVER
 HEAR
 SERVE

GENTILES
 FOUND
 NATION
 JEWS
 REJECTED
 ISAIAH
 STUBBORN
 MESSIAH
 SIN
 SHAME
 ROMANS
 JERUSALEM
 ACCEPTED
 GOODNEWS
 NEWEARTH
 REJOICE
 ANSWER
 HOLY
 PARADISE



The New Covenant

Jeremiah 23, 31

Theme: Jesus our righteousness

Jeremiah was known as the sad or weeping prophet. God revealed his punishment upon Judah to him. God also blessed him with a vision of the new covenant God would establish with his people. No longer would God judge them by what they did but would show them grace.

God says in Jeremiah 23, "Look a time is coming when I will raise up a good king from the line of David. He will be a king who will rule in a wise way; he will do what is fair and right. This will be his name: The Lord Our Righteousness."

Actually, none of us can be righteous, that is right with God. We can never be good enough. But God promises that in Jesus we don't have to try to be perfect, because when Jesus covers us God only sees Jesus and not our sin. In Jesus we are righteous.

God goes on in Jeremiah 31, "Look, the time is coming, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It will not be like the agreement I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of Egypt. I was a husband to them, but they broke that agreement. This is the agreement I will make with them: I will put my teachings in their minds, and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. People will no longer have to teach their

Jeremiah 31:34

"No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'"

neighbors and relatives to know the Lord, because all people will know me, from the least to the most important,' says the Lord. 'I will forgive them for the

wicked things they did, and I will not remember their sins anymore."

A covenant is an agreement between two people, like a contract, or a legal promise. The old covenant was the 10 commandments, full of many difficult rules. The people were never able to keep these. No matter how hard they tried they could never be good

enough. But the new covenant is not about what we do, it's about what Jesus has already done. He has already made us perfectly righteous, as if we perfectly kept all the law, because he covers all the sins we did. When we believe in Jesus he gives us the Holy Spirit that begins to do an amazing work in our heart. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the Bible and want to do good things naturally. Because of Jesus we become righteous children of God! God is our God and we are his people and all our sins are forgotten forever. Thank you Jesus for making us righteous.



THESE "ON-FIRE CHRISTIANS" SURE COME IN HANDY AT THESE BARBECUES





Thanks to David Betz

11-18-2005

JUST LOOK AT HIM ... HE TOTALLY THINKS
HE'S GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ We cannot be right before God, so Jesus is our righteousness for us
- ❖ God wants us to have the word of God in our hearts and living in our lives
- ❖ God gave us a new covenant that was not just rules but that was good news of great joy to all people
- ❖ God wants us to live by this new covenant out of joy and thankfulness

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who was Jeremiah?
- ❖ Why is Messiah's name "the Lord Our Righteousness"?
- ❖ Is anyone righteous enough to go to heaven on their own?
- ❖ What was the old covenant?
- ❖ Did the Israelites obey this covenant?
- ❖ What was the new covenant?
- ❖ What was the difference between the old and new?
- ❖ How is God's word written on our heart?
- ❖ When we have the Holy Spirit how do we feel about Bible study and living a holy life?
- ❖ Why must we enter into this new covenant?
- ❖ What does it mean to you that you don't have to be perfect and that God forgives you just as you are?

Questions for Group Discussion

"I will remember their sins no more"

- ❖ Do you think that you are good enough?
- ❖ Have you ever bragged about being better than others?
- ❖ Have you ever done something really bad?
 - ❖ Have you ever felt really ashamed?
 - ❖ Is there something that you feel really bad about you can't forget?
- ❖ Have you ever experienced that God forgave you?
 - ❖ Have you accepted Jesus' forgiveness?
 - ❖ Do you feel free from your sin?

Testimony: Write about what God's grace means to you. Do you ever feel burdened that you have to do more, be better, try harder to be right with God? Do you ever feel you are pretty good and brag before others or judge your classmates? Have you ever stopped to think that we are all the same sinners, no matter how good or bad we are? Have you ever experienced personally how God forgave your sins? Did you ever experience that God forgave you when you couldn't even forgive yourself? Have you ever thanked God for his love and grace upon your life?

The New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:34

"No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'"

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

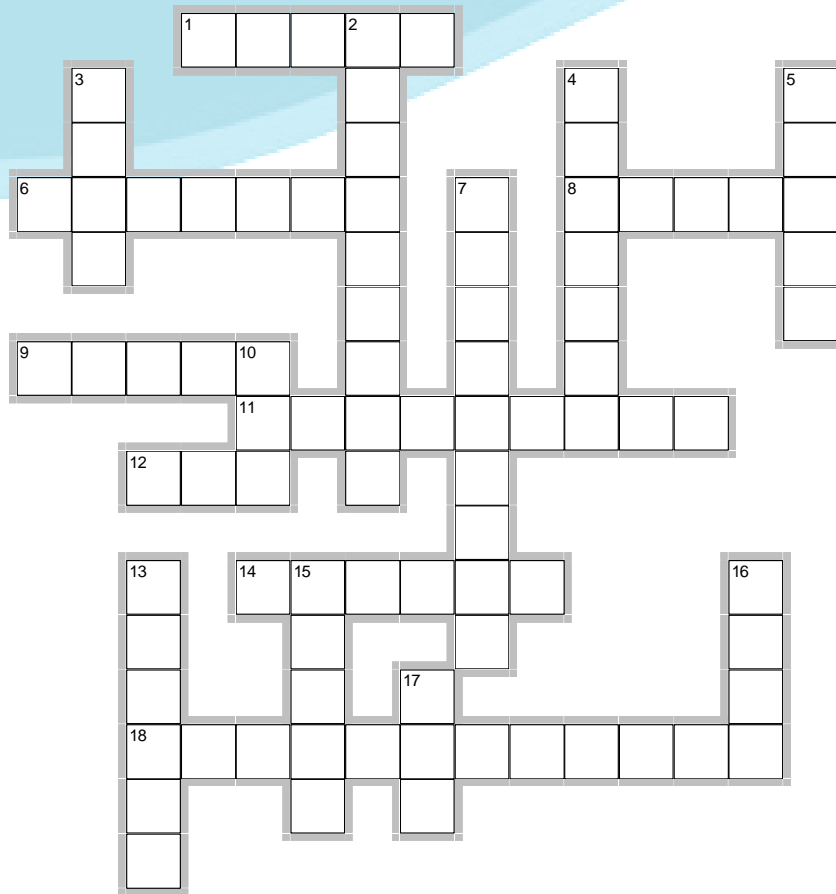
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



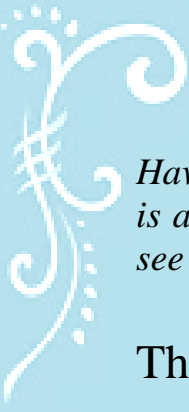
Across

1. "In his time ____ will be saved"
6. "I will ____ them for the wicked things they did"
8. God made this new covenant because he ____ us
9. "I will put my teachings in their ____"
11. A covenant is an _____ between two people
12. "I will be their ____, and they will be my people"
14. "A voice was heard in Ramah of painful _____ and deep sadness"
18. "This will be his name: The Lord Our _____"

Down

2. "It will not be like the agreement I made with their _____"
3. "I will raise a ____ branch in David's family"
4. Those who ____ in Jesus will have their sins forgotten forever
5. Under the new covenant, ____ would pay for their sins forever if only they believed
7. God gave us a new _____ that was not just rules
10. Jeremiah was known as the ____ or weeping prophet
13. God wants us to have the word of God in our _____
15. We cannot be ____ before God
16. "I will not remember their ____ anymore"
17. God wants us to live by the new covenant out of ____ and thankfulness





Have students try to complete the following exercise with way too many rules that is almost impossible to complete, to illustrate the Old Covenant which leads us to see our need for Jesus and the New Covenant.

The 10 Commandments of Sentence Writing

1. Write 4 sentences.
2. Each sentence must have 6 words.
3. Sentences 1 & 3 must have the letter “a” 5 times each.
4. Sentences 2 & 4 must have the letter “o” 4 times each.
5. Sentence 1 & 3 must be questions.
6. Sentences 2 & 4 must answer the questions.
7. Sentences 1 & 3 must end in the letter “n”.
8. Sentences 2 & 4 must end in the letter “s”.
9. There must be exactly 8 of the letter “t” in all 4 sentences total.
10. There must be exactly 87 letters in all 4 sentences including periods and question marks.

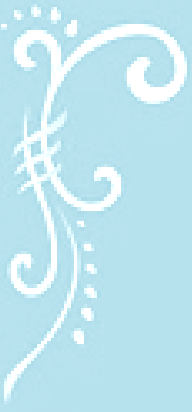
1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____





4. Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

3. What can make me whole again?

2. Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

1. What can wash away my sin?

Answer:



FOR GOD'S GLORY

Ezekiel 11,17,36

Theme: The Work of the Holy Spirit

Ezekiel was a priest in the time of Israel's exile to Babylon. God gave him many visions about how Israel would be restored and how they would once again be a great nation. God revealed to him the story before the beginning of time of Satan's fall. God also gave him great visions about how the Messiah would bring glory to God by revealing God's power.

In Ezekiel 17 God says, "I will cut off a branch from a great cedar tree and plant it on a high mountain. It will grow many branches and give fruit and become a great cedar tree. Birds of every kind will build nests in it and live in the shelter of the tree's branches. Then the whole world will know that I bring down the high tree and I take the low tree and make it tall."

The branch planted on a high mountain is Jesus. In Ezekiel's day it seemed that everyone was beating and destroying the Jews and Satan's kingdom was ruling. But God promised that he brings down the high tree and God's kingdom that seems like a low tree would become the greatest and defeat Satan's kingdom. And Jesus himself, becomes a shelter for every kind of people who believe in him. Thank God for Jesus our shelter.

But not only is he a shelter for us when we are oppressed by Satan, but Ezekiel 29 says, "I will make a horn grow for the house of Israel, and I will open your mouth among them. Then they will know that I am the LORD." God describes Jesus as a horn, it means he has great power. Especially, his power was to open his mouth to tell people the Word of God.

Ezekiel 36:26

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

But even though we know God's word and hear it how can we obey it? Israel had always failed, how would the next time be different? God says in Ezekiel 11, "When they come back to Judah, they will remove all the evil idols. I will give them a desire to respect me completely, and I will put inside of them a new way of thinking. I will take out the stubborn heart of stone and I will give them an obedient heart of flesh. Then they will live by my rules and obey my laws and keep them."

Actually, no matter how much we try to keep God's laws we can't, we are sinners. But God said he himself would put something in us that would make us WANT to obey God's law and do good things. It is a free gift. What is it?

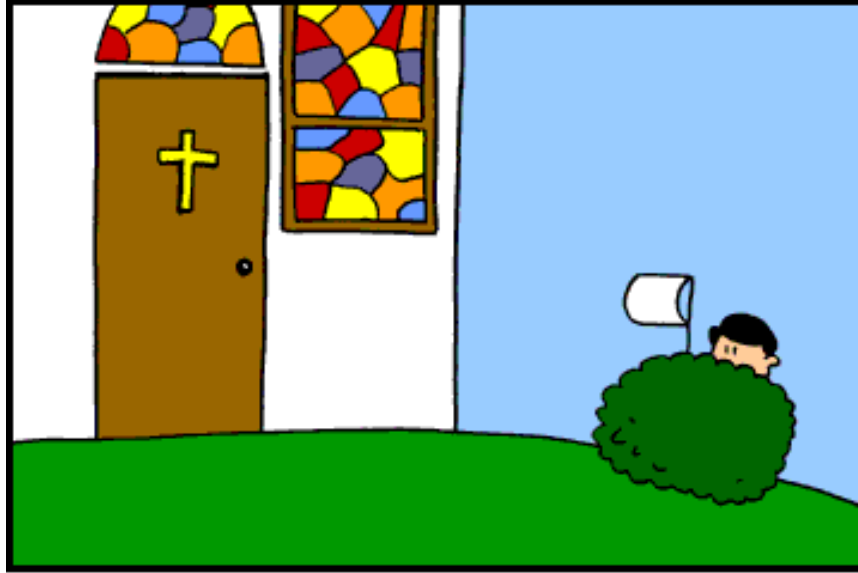
Ezekiel 36 says, "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."

When Jesus takes away our sin we are clean and God gives us his great gift. God puts his Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit teaches us what we are doing wrong and how to do right. It helps us and guides us and instructs us. Because of how Jesus died to cleanse us and because of the gift of the Holy Spirit, we don't feel burdened to obey God, it is what we really want most. Thank God for the best gifts that God has given us.



NEED A LIFT?





JOE FINALLY DECIDED TO SURRENDER HIS
HEART TO GOD

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God wants to give us a heart of flesh and remove our heart of stone
- ❖ God wants us to not obey out of duty but to truly love him and want to obey him
- ❖ The greatest power of the Messiah is his word, we must put the word of God in our heart
- ❖ We must seek to obey and love Jesus and the Bible more than anything else in this world

TALK ABOUT IT



- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Who was Ezekiel? ❖ What did God mean by "birds of every kind" will enjoy the tree he would make? ❖ <u>How is Jesus a shelter for us from persecution?</u> ❖ What are the high tree and low tree? ❖ Why did God call the Messiah his horn? ❖ What especially was the power of Jesus? ❖ <u>Why is God's word so important?</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How does God want us to follow his word? ❖ <u>How does our relationship with God change because of the work of the Holy Spirit?</u> ❖ <u>How does God cleanse us?</u> ❖ What does it mean that he would give them a heart of flesh and take away their heart of stone? ❖ How does the Holy Spirit of God do this? ❖ <u>Even though we are weak sinners unable to follow God's word, how can we be good and grow?</u> |
|--|---|

Questions for Group Discussion

"I will give you a new heart"

- ❖ Do you love God more than anything else?
 - ❖ Do you glorify God?
- ❖ Have you ever done something for God?
 - ❖ Do you pray daily?
- ❖ Do you try to read your bible each week?
 - ❖ Do you ask for God's forgiveness?
 - ❖ Have you ever asked yourself
"What Would Jesus Do"
- ❖ Do you ask God to be with you always?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

For God's Glory

Ezekiel 36:26

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?

Ezekiel 7, 11, 36 Word Search

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

37 Words to find

EZEKIEL
 NEWSPIRIT
 HEARTOFFLESH
 ISRAEL
 GOD
 RESTORED
 SATAN
 BRANCH
 MOUNTAIN
 FRUIT
 SHELTER
 WORLD
 MOUTH
 WORD
 REMOVE
 DESIRE
 STUBBORN
 LAWS
 HOLYSPIRIT

NEWHEART
 HEARTOFSTONE
 PRIEST
 BABYLON
 VISIOINS
 NATION
 POWER
 PLANT
 BRANCHES
 BIRDS
 BRANCHES
 HORN
 LORD
 JUDAH
 IDOLS
 RESPECT
 OBEDIENT
 CLEAN



God is in control

Daniel 2, 9

Theme: God's control of History

Daniel was one of the exiles in Babylon after the Babylonians captured Judah. God helped Daniel interpret dreams and see visions because of his absolute attitude to be pure and pray three times a day.

In Daniel 2, Daniel interpreted a dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel 2:31-35 say, "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth."

Daniel then interpreted the dream. The head represented king Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom and after him would come 3 others: the Medo-Persians, Greeks and Romans, and finally a great rock would smash all these kingdoms. What is it?

Verse 44 says about that rock, "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

Daniel 2:44

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

God's kingdom is the great rock and Jesus is the king ruling in the hearts of every person who believes. It's a kingdom that can't be destroyed or taken over. As we help each new person believe in Jesus, God's kingdom gets bigger and bigger and becomes the most powerful awesome kingdom in all of history!

Daniel 9 says, "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After

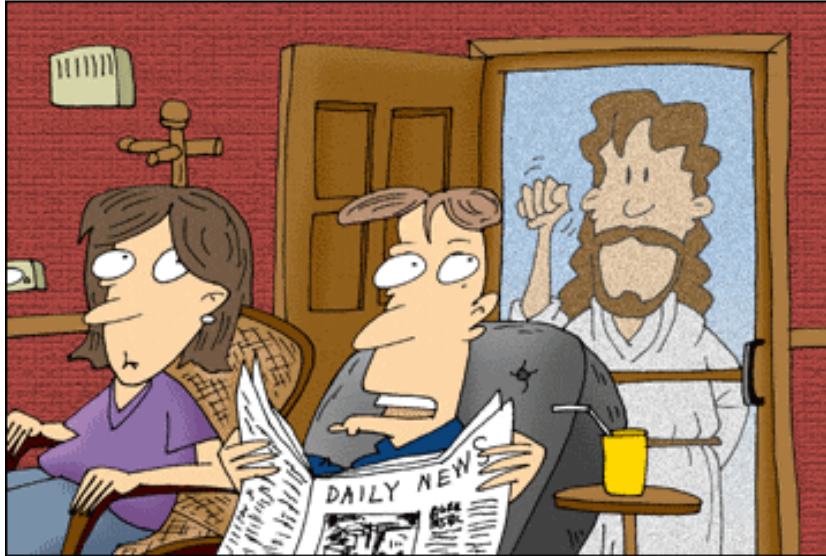
the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the temple. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed."

Daniel was also given a vision about the rebuilding of Jerusalem after their exile, the rejection of the Messiah and the destruction of Jerusalem after the crucifixion. In Daniel 7 and 8 God tells us all the terrible things that would happen in the end times but it says when Jesus comes again, he will destroy all the evil ones and conquer the whole earth. Even though these bad things would happen in the end Jesus will come again and God is the winner in the end of the story. In the end it is God's kingdom that will be the strongest. God's kingdom will take over the whole earth.



WE JUST ADDED IT





HOW LONG DO YOU SUPPOSE HE WILL KEEP KNOCKING?

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ God is in control of history and raises up kings and kingdoms but God's Kingdom lasts forever
- ❖ God's kingdom is the only thing eternal, the only thing that will last, so it is our only hope
- ❖ All things are part of God's plan, so we must study the Bible to know what God wants us to do

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Who was Daniel?
- ❖ What was Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning?
- ❖ What was the stone that smashed the statue?
- ❖ **How did God establish his kingdom on earth?**
- ❖ **How does God's Kingdom spread to the whole earth?**
- ❖ How is God's Kingdom an everlasting kingdom?
- ❖ Like the statue what happens to everything in this world?
- ❖ **What can be our only lasting hope? Why?**
- ❖ What 2 important things were prophesied in chapter 9?
- ❖ What did this prophecy say would happen to the temple in Jerusalem?
- ❖ **What did the destruction of the temple represent?**
- ❖ **Do you believe that God is in control of all things? (Even when bad things happen?)**
- ❖ **How can we be a part of God's great kingdom? How can we live as subjects of this great kingdom?**



Questions for Group Discussion

"it will itself endure forever"

- ❖ Have you ever been proud?
- ❖ Do you put God's will before your own?
- ❖ Can you read the bible this week?
- ❖ Can you ask God what his plan for your life is?
 - ❖ Have you ever trusted God?
 - ❖ Have you ever had faith that God would help you with something?
 - ❖ Do you ask God to help you before a big test or project?
 - ❖ Do you repent when you sin?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

God is in Control

Daniel 2:44

"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

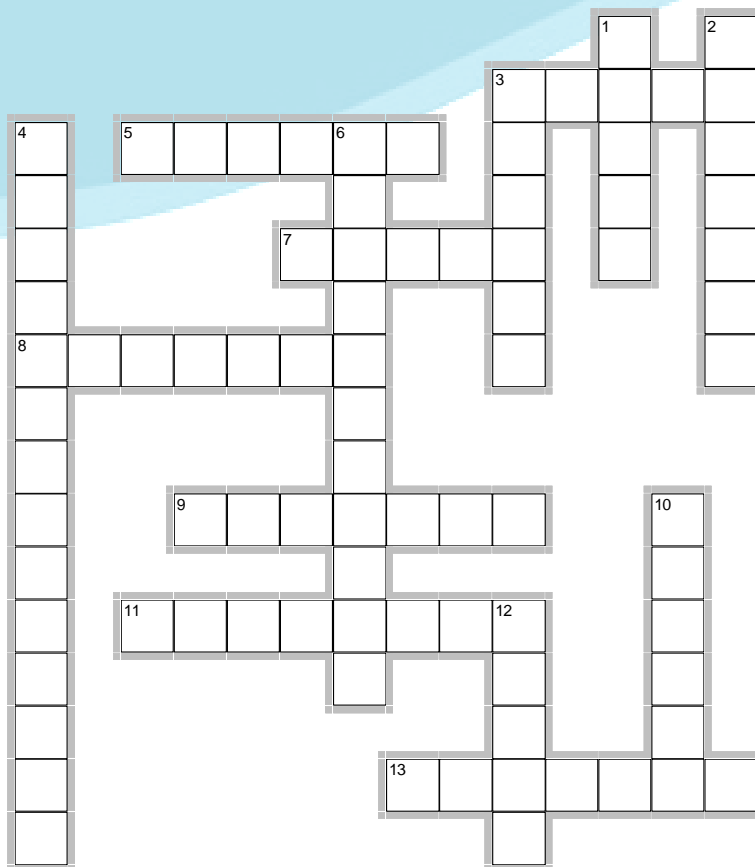
*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
What truths should I believe and keep in my heart?
What changes should I personally make in my life?*

Prayer Topics:

...so that you may be blameless and pure children of God in a crooked and lawless generation in which you shine like stars in the universe...



How well do you know God's Word?



Across

3. In the vision God's kingdom was a _____
5. Exile promoted to royal adviser given the ability to interpret dreams
7. God's kingdom is in our _____
8. God is in _____ of history
9. _____ is in God's hands
11. The destruction of the Temple represented the destruction of the old _____
13. God's kingdom _____ all the kingdoms of the vision

Down

1. God's kingdom spread to the whole _____
2. We become part of the kingdom of God when we _____
3. Represented the kingdoms that would follow Babylon
4. King of the Babylonian empire
6. God's kingdom never ends
10. Would be destroyed after the crucifixion
12. The temple was destroyed by _____ of Rome in 70 AD



The Day of the Lord

Joel 2, Malachi 3

Theme: God's Judgment and Forgiveness

Joel is a kind of mysterious prophet, it is not clear who he was or where he came from. In his book of prophecy, he talks about the great judgment that was coming upon Israel. In the midst of this, God gives us a vision of the day of final judgment.

Joel 2:28-32 says, "After this, I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. At that time I will pour out my Spirit also on male slaves

and female slaves. I will show miracles in the sky and on the earth: blood, fire, and thick smoke. The sun will become dark, the moon red as blood, before the overwhelming and terrible day of the Lord comes. Then anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved, because on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be people who will be saved, just as the Lord has said. Those left alive after the day of punishment are the people whom the Lord called." (NCV)

After Jesus went to heaven the Holy Spirit came upon his disciples, they were filled with power and could speak many languages, they had no fear, they went out boldly preaching the gospel. Paul says that the Holy Spirit is a sign before God that we are saved and going to his kingdom.

Though God judges the world we need only ask for his forgiveness and receive the Holy Spirit that enables us to live before him in righteousness.

Malachi 3 says, "The Lord All-Powerful says, 'I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way for me. Suddenly, the Lord you are looking for will

Joel 2:28

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

come to his Temple; the messenger of the agreement, whom you want, will come.' No one can live through that time; no one can survive



READY OR NOT, HERE I COME

when he comes. He will be like a purifying fire and like laundry soap. Like someone who heats and purifies silver, he will purify the Levites and make them pure like gold and silver. Then they will bring offerings to the Lord in the right way. And the Lord will accept the offerings from Judah and Jerusalem, as it was in

the past. The Lord All-Powerful says, 'Then I will come to you and judge you. I will be quick to testify against those who take part in evil magic, adultery, and lying under oath, those who cheat workers of their pay and who cheat widows and orphans, those who are unfair to foreigners, and those who do not respect me.'" (NCV)

Malachi was another mysterious prophet, his name meaning "my messenger" may only have been a title. He lived in the time when the Jews returned from their exile in Persia. Cyrus ordered temple worship to be resumed and the law of Moses to be obeyed but people quickly became corrupt, the Sabbath was broken and the tithe forgotten. Malachi rebukes their doubt of God's love and their unfaithfulness. He reminds them that "great and dreadful Day of the Lord" is coming and that it will "burn like a furnace". The righteous will rejoice in it, but the wicked will be trampled down.



I JUST FOUND A PLACE WHERE THERE ARE
NONE OF THOSE ANNOYING CHRISTIANS

THINK ABOUT IT



- ❖ Jesus is our Savior and he is also our Judge
- ❖ We unfortunately need judgment or we will continue to sin without restraint
- ❖ Even though we are sinners God made an easy way for us to be saved through the blood of Jesus

TALK ABOUT IT



- ❖ What was Joel's book of prophecy mainly about?
- ❖ In addition to being our savior what also is Jesus?
- ❖ What will happen to every person at the Judgment?
- ❖ Why must God judge all people?
- ❖ **What would happen to the world if there were not a day of Judgment?**
- ❖ What way has God made for us to escape judgment?
- ❖ **If judgment is so easy to escape, why doesn't everyone do it?**
- ❖ What did God mean by "I will pour out my spirit?"
- ❖ What happens when the Holy Spirit comes upon us?
- ❖ **Why do we need the Holy Spirit?**
- ❖ What must we do to have the Holy Spirit?
- ❖ What was the purpose of Malachi's book of Prophecy?
- ❖ How does Malachi say Jesus will come?
- ❖ Why does he compare Jesus to a purifying fire?
- ❖ What happens to those who refuse to be purified by him?
- ❖ **What must be our daily mission in this world based on what we've learned?**

Questions for Group Discussion

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people"

- ❖ Do you accept rebuke?
- ❖ Have you ever asked God for the Holy Spirit?
 - ❖ Do you daily ask for God's forgiveness?
 - ❖ Have you ever forgiven someone?
- ❖ Can you try to repent of one sin this week?
- ❖ Do you try to do what's right before God?
 - ❖ Do you believe God is our judge?
- ❖ Has God ever done something for you?

Can you think of More? List them Below:

The Day of the Lord

Joel 2:28

"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

How I put God's Word into Practice

Summary: What is this passage about?

Observation: What did I learn about God in this passage?

Application:

*How does the meaning of this passage apply to my life?
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How well do you know God's Word?

Joel 2, Malachi 3 Word Search

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

35 Words to find

DAY
 POUROUT
 SONS
 PROPHECY
 DREAM
 VISIONS
 PROPHET
 MIRACLES
 EARTH
 FIRE
 SUN
 CALLS
 SAVED
 JERUSALEM
 MESSENGER
 TEMPLE
 SOAP
 SILVER

LORD
 SPIRIT
 DAUGHTERS
 OLDMEN
 YOUNGMEN
 JOEL
 JUDGMENT
 SKY
 BLOOD
 SMOKE
 MOON
 LORD
 ZION
 PUNISHMENT
 PREPARE
 PURIFYING
 GOLD



