

A black rectangular sign with rounded corners, hanging from a chain. The text "BIBLE FUN FACTORY" is written in large, colorful, block letters. "BIBLE" is in light blue, "FUN" is in pink, and "FACTORY" is in yellow. A yellow cross is positioned to the right of the word "FUN".

**BIBLE  
FUN  
FACTORY**

**BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS** | Volume 7



**RUTH, 1 SAMUEL,  
AND JOB**



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# BIBLE FUN FACTORY

## BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS

### RUTH, SAMUEL, DAVID, SOLOMON, AND JOB

Welcome to this series of Bible lessons for students age pre-school to sixth grade. You'll find these Bible lessons introduce children to characters of the Old Testament, making their lives very personal by putting their problems in a modern-day context. The characters introduce principles students can use every day in school, at home, and in the neighborhood, while growing in Christ.

In this series of five lessons, two lessons are provided on forming good friendships, based on **Ruth's friendship with Naomi**, found in the Book of Ruth. **Samuel grew to be like the company he kept**, which is a great lesson for children from 1 Samuel 1 & 2 in choosing friends wisely. We then move on to 1 Samuel 16 and **David and Goliath**, and we see that as with Gideon, God chooses the small things to show his might and glory. **Solomon's Wisdom** shows children to order their priorities—how to appreciate wisdom more than riches. And **Job** provides great lessons in how things can go badly for a while, but God comes to our rescue.

Covering various stories from The Book of Ruth through Job, these lessons provide variety and excitement while imparting spiritual truths.

The following lessons from the Old Testament are included herein:

- Ruth is a Loyal Friend
- Samuel Becomes Like the Company He kept
- David Kills Goliath
- Solomon Asks God for Wisdom
- Job Loves God Through His Trials

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# RUTH IS A LOYAL FRIEND

The story of Ruth is a great example of how loyalty pays off in the long run. It is tempting at times for children to slide away from a friend who has done nothing wrong, if everyone is choosing other friends, or if that friend has some special circumstances that might make her less fun for a while. Ruth gave up all she had because she was compassionate toward her older, poverty-stricken friend—her mother-in-law. God rewarded her in the end with something that lasted thousands of years: She is the great-grandmother of King David. Friendships come and go. But friendships built on loyalty make God happy, and he can bless them.

## MATERIALS LIST

### Lesson

- Pack of matches
- A pocketknife
- 5-pound bag of flour
- An old, worn-out shoe

### Intro Activity, Younger Children

- Cardboard piece in a dry-cleaner hanger, one for each child
- Roll of art paper, or wrapping paper if it has a white side. Cut banner pieces 6 inches across and 12 inches down, then cut a V into the bottom so it looks like a banner
- Stick glue

### Intro Activity, Older Children

- Index card with order of who wins for Fire! Flour! Knife! (see Activity)

### Activity, Younger Children

- Index cards with the following words printed out in big letters—one on each card: FRIENDS ARE... LOYAL, KIND, SHARING, CARING, TRUSTWORTHY, LISTENING, UNDERSTANDING, GIVING, GOOD INFLUENCES.
- Markers
- Glitter, glitter glue (other decorating materials; all optional)

### **Activity, Older Children**

- 5 index cards with the friendship scenarios glued or stapled to them

### **Game, Younger Children**

- No materials needed

### **Game, Older Children**

- Aluminum foil to make foil balls for juggling, or pairs of rolled-up socks, three for each child

## BIBLE READING / STORY: BOOK OF RUTH

### Chapters 1-4, Abbreviated for Children

<sup>3</sup> Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons, who also died. Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

<sup>14</sup> At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>16</sup> Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me."

<sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

<sup>1</sup> Now Naomi had a relative on her husband's side whose name was Boaz.

<sup>2</sup> And Ruth said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor."

Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." <sup>3</sup> So she went out and began to glean in the fields behind the harvesters. As it turned out, she found herself working in a field

<sup>5</sup> Boaz asked the foreman of his harvesters, "Whose young woman is that?"

<sup>6</sup> The foreman replied, "She came back with Naomi. She went into the field and has worked steadily from morning till now, except for a short rest in the shelter."

<sup>8</sup> So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with my servant girls. <sup>9</sup> Watch the field where the men are harvesting, and follow along after the girls. I have told the men not to touch you. And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled."

<sup>10</sup> At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, "Why have I found such favor in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?"



<sup>11</sup> Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. <sup>12</sup> May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be richly rewarded by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge."

<sup>13</sup> So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Then he went to her, and the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. <sup>14</sup> The women said to Naomi: "Praise be to the LORD, who this day has not left you without a kinsman-redeemer. May he become famous throughout Israel! <sup>15</sup> He will renew your life and sustain you in your old age. For your daughter-in-law, who loves you and who is better to you than seven sons, has given him birth."

<sup>16</sup> Then Naomi took the child, laid him in her lap and cared for him. <sup>17</sup> The women living there said, "Naomi has a son." And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

## LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): LOYALTY BROUGHT RUTH AN UNBELIEVABLE GIFT

**Let's pretend we live in a land where there was a great famine. There is no electricity, very little food, and somehow, we have to stay alive. We have only one penny. But the country is so poor that anyone with even a dollar is considered very rich indeed. You could buy a whole house with a dollar. We have all the water we need, and we can catch food in the wilderness like the pioneers did. We have our choice of what we can buy with this penny. What should it be?**

Put out a pack of matches, a pocketknife, a five-pound bag of flour, and an old discarded shoe without a mate.

**What could we do with a pack of matches?** We could light a fire and cook the meat. However, if someone knows how to rub two stones together, the matches would be unnecessary.

**What could we do with a pocketknife?** Kill animals to eat. Cut vines and wood to make a trap for trapping animals. You could cut open infected wounds and give a person a chance to live.

**What could we do with a five-pound bag of flour?** You could create instant food just by adding water, but the food might not last very long and then you've spent all your money.

**What could we do with an old shoe?** You could use it to walk farther to check your traps so your feet don't wear out. However, there is only one. And it would only fit a few people who have feet that size.

Lay all the items on the table.

**I want to show you how these items are like friends. A lot of people say that TRUE friends are hard to find. It's like we live in a world with a "friend famine" going on, because it's so hard to find a friend like Ruth. Her sister-in-law Orpah wanted to be with more interesting people than Naomi, find a hot husband, hang with people her own age who were popular. Even though it looked like there was nothing in this for Ruth except her love for Naomi, Ruth decided to be loyal.**

Hold up the matches.

**These matches are like some people. You've heard the expression, "Wow, he's hot," or "Wow, she's hot." That means they're beautiful...or popular, and other hot people hang**

**with them, and if you make friends with somebody because they're *hot*, it can mean lots of fun. For a short time.**

Light a match and hold it up with the flame lit.

**The problem is that *hot* burns out really fast. Friendships made for popularity or other self-centered reasons tend to burn out quickly. Or easily...**

Blow out the match with just a little breath.

Hold up the bag of flour.

**Some people you could hang out with are like this bag of flour. There's instant gratification in them. You can have your fun right away. Maybe...people have fat houses or "phat" trampolines in their back yards or a great big closet full of computer games. Problem: No matter how good a toy is, you get tired of it. The fun goes away, and then you're on to someone else if you pick your friends that way.**

Put the flour down.

Pick up the knife.

**Now, some friends look really useful to you. They have what you'd call a "sharp tongue." Nobody messes with them because they don't want to be bullied or be made a fool of. If you hang with them, nobody will mess with you either. The problem with "sharp tongued" people is that at some point, that sharp tongue will turn on you. Guaranteed. Have you ever heard one friend gossip about another? Be assured: That person will gossip about you, too.**

Lay down the knife.

**Granted, we have all sorts of people we hang out with. There's nothing wrong with being pretty, being popular, having lots of stuff--if God gives you those gifts -- or having friends who are "sharp" enough to keep the bullies at bay. But in picking a true friend? It's important to look very, very carefully.**

Pick up the old shoe.

**Don't get carried away with people's looks, people's stuff, or people's cool behavior. You have look beneath all of that. Look around it. Look through it. And look at the kids nobody else would notice. You just might find the good kid who will last.**

Reach in the shoe and pull out a dollar. Hold it up.

**In a world where only a dollar would make you very, very rich, you might find wealth in the strangest places. In a world where lifelong friends are difficult to find and difficult to keep, look where others might not, and then be loyal. The paybacks can be surprising.**

## INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: GOOD FRIEND, LOYAL FRIEND

**Today we're going to be talking about Ruth in the Bible and how she was such a loyal friend. To honor her, we're going to make friendship banners. You can start your banner now.**

Give children the rolled-out paper and the cardboard stick. Show them how to fold a three-inch portion off the top of the banner. They should put the stick onto the fold, centering it so an equal amount of stick shows on either side. Run glue stick along the edge of the fold and along the length of the stick. Pat down, and after the glue dries, they should be able to hold the banner up by the stick.

Explain that you will decorate them after the lesson.

## INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: FIRE! FLOUR! KNIFE! (ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS)

**Today we're going to talk about friendships, how to find true friends and how to be one. Admittedly, picking your friends can seem like a totally random act, sort of like playing a game of chance. So we're starting off with such a game, Fire! Flour! Knife!**

Explain that the game is played like Rock! Paper! Scissors! You can print these out on index cards if students would find it confusing:

Two players say out loud, "Fire! Flour! Knife!" Then they quickly throw down one of three hand signs as follows:

- **Fire!**      Player throws down a hand with all fingers straight
- **Flour!**     Player throws down a clenched fist.
- **Knife!**     Player throws down two fingers making a V

Here's how to determine who wins:



- **Fire** melts the **knife**: *the fire wins.*
- **Flour** drowns the **fire**: *flour wins.*
- **Knife** cuts the **flour**: *knife wins.*

If both players throw down the same gesture, nobody wins the round. The first person to win ten rounds wins the game.

**Using the most common methods to pick your friends can feel like this—like you're just going around in circles!**

## ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: FRIENDSHIP BANNERS

**The purpose of a friendship banner is to remind us of what a good friend is. That way, we can practice being one, and we can be careful in choosing our closest friends. Let's make a banner, so we won't forget about the importance of having good friends.**

Place the words on the index cards down on the table, saying them aloud. Have the students take a couple of them and copy the words onto the banner. They can decorate around the words with flowers and rainbows and suns, etc. Next, if students have a good friend who has a lot of these qualities, have them write the person's name down and add a picture of that friend with himself.

## ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: WHAT MAKES KIDS MISBEHAVE?

Getting kids to feel empathy for those less fortunate is often not easy, as empathy is considered an emotion that grows stronger with maturity. But it's never too soon to provide exercises to help them stretch in that direction.

**We know there are many reasons why kids misbehave. We know that**

- 1. Kids often reflect how they have been made to feel.**
- 2. Kids will behave badly if they are not stopped.**
- 3. Kids will sometimes lie or cheat because they don't feel good about themselves.**
- 4. Kids can watch other kids misbehave on television or at school and pick up bad influences.**

**Today we're going to look at some more reasons. The goal today is to feel "compassion" for that person, while vowing not to pick up misbehavior ourselves.**

**Let's take turns pulling cards and talking about them.**

Have kids read the scenarios below off your screen. Tell them to think of experiences they may have had that would go with the card they're discussing. Try not to use names. The point is to discuss how your students might view the person differently and how they might handle a situation that arises in the future:

**#1 Kids can become violent because they are actually very nervous about life.**

They may live in a home with a lot of yelling and screaming. When they're younger, they can "take on" the behavior of superheroes (wanting to punch and chop everything) because it makes them feel stronger and less nervous for a while. As bigger kids, they can become bullies because they're living with stress. Think of a place you've been where there was a lot of yelling and screaming. How did it make you feel?

**#2 Kids gossip about others because it makes them feel better about themselves.**

But building yourself up by putting others down is a cheap way of feeling empowered, and we ought to resist it whenever possible. Think of a time you've heard one person say hurtful things about someone who wasn't there. Do you think that person was trying to make himself/herself feel better?

**#3 A friend will betray a secret you told for the same reason that you told it:**

It was too much for you to hang on to. If you felt like you were going to burst if you didn't tell, don't expect more of your friend. *Pick your confidantes wisely.* If you want the news to stay between you and one confidante, try a grown up, an older sibling who has no emotional involvement, or Jesus! Think of a situation where maybe you were in the line of a gossip trail. How might you stop it instead of adding to it?

**#4 Kids who don't eat right**

can become undernourished (even if their weight looks fine). and can become overly tired, which makes them cross, mean, or confused. If you know somebody prone to outbursts and mood swings, notice if they are also the ones who eat nothing but boxed macaroni and cheese, noodles with no sauce, or who never eat vegetables.

**#5 The number one reason kids get in with bad friends is that they are not getting enough attention from their families.**

Kids who feel a strong sense of support from Mom and Dad are less likely, statistically, to fall into bad crowds. Think of times you've seen rough kids, and try to imagine what

their homes are like. They may look tough and fearless, but can you see that they're really hurting inside?

**Think of a person this week who might be in one of these situations. Pray for that person all week. Next week, we will discuss what we can do if we find ourselves with hurting people who are making wrong choices.**

## GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: “BE A FRIEND” GAME

Have the children break off in pairs. Have them ask each other questions, such as their favorite game, color, cartoon, and sport. Have them ask about home, such as sisters, brothers, pets, and what their parents do.

Then have the pairs come back as one big group. Have one of each pair pretend he or she is introducing his partner to the group for the first time. He should recite what he learned about the other person. At the end of that, he should say one nice thing about the child.

If there are an odd number of children, be partners with one child.

Everyone should applaud everyone else.

## GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: JUGGLING: MANAGING A LOT OF BEHAVIORS & PEOPLE

**Especially in school, we can be faced with so many behaviors at once that we don't know how to respond. Situations can feel a bit awkward, like we do when we're trying to juggle. Let's try some juggling.**

Give each child either three foil balls or three pair of rolled-up socks. Show them how you

- toss one ball up with the left hand
- toss a second ball from the right to the left hand
- catch the ball in the air with the right hand that you threw with your left hand, and vice versa

Give them about 10 minutes to try to learn to juggle. Some may succeed, but others will get little more than a laugh out of it.

**While juggling is fun, it's not always the best way to handle our many challenges. The best way ... Have a kid throw you his balls one at a time; you catch them. ... is to give your problems to the Lord, one at a time. And that's something you can do anytime, anywhere, and then you don't have to worry about them anymore.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Father, thank you for sharing Ruth with us, great-grandmother to King David, who was such a special friend. Help us know that our attempts to be loyal and pick friends well will be rewarding to us and pleasing to you.**

**Amen.**



# SAMUEL BECAME LIKE THE COMPANY HE KEPT

The story of Samuel is a great lesson in keeping good company. It is not clear whether there were other children studying with the priests, whether sending a child to live among them was a tradition or not. But Samuel was sent to live with them, and he became the most perceptive prophet at a time in Israel when visions and prophecies were rare. **Samuel became like those with whom he associated.** Here we see that **the seeds of friendship start with great intentions, which Samuel's mother had, even when he was too young to take up that cause for himself.**

## MATERIALS LIST

### Lesson

- Play-Doh, one fist-sized glob for each child
- A real mug (or if you have the kind without the handle that's even better)
- 1 bottle of water

### Intro Activity, Younger Children

- Construction paper, one sheet for each child. Write "God will protect" at the top of each.
- Cotton balls, a dozen for each child
- Marker pens

### Intro Activity, Older Children

- Paint
- Brushes
- Water

### Activity, Younger Children

- M&Ms or animal crackers, enough for each child except one to have three— so that one of the children only gets two. (In other words, if you have ten kids, have 29 animal crackers)
- Basket for the animal crackers
- Paper towels or cups
- At least one handful of extra animal crackers (hide until the end)

### **Activity, Older Children**

- Four index cards; either glue or tape today's scenarios on them

### **Game, Younger Children**

- Coloring paper; one sheet for each child
- Markers and crayons

### **Game, Older Children**

- Aluminum foil for juggling balls or rolled-up balls of socks; three for each child

## BIBLE READING / STORY:

# 1 SAMUEL 1-2

### Hannah's Prayer

<sup>3</sup> Year after year a man named Elkanah went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty. He gave portions of his meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> But to his other wife, Hannah, he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. <sup>7</sup> This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup> Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

<sup>9</sup> Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. <sup>10</sup> In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. <sup>11</sup> And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

<sup>12</sup> As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard.

<sup>17</sup> Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

<sup>20</sup> So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

### Hannah Dedicates Samuel

<sup>21</sup> When the man Elkanah went up to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD, <sup>22</sup> Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always."

<sup>23</sup> "Do what seems best to you," Elkanah her husband told her. <sup>24</sup> After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. <sup>25</sup> They brought the boy to Eli the Priest, <sup>26</sup> and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. <sup>27</sup> I prayed for this child, and the LORD has

granted me what I asked of him.<sup>28</sup> So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.<sup>20</sup> Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD." Then they would go home.<sup>21</sup> And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.



# LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): HANNAH FOUND THE RIGHT “FRIENDS” FOR SAMUEL

Have your parents taught you the expression, “You become what your friends are?” Samuel’s mom wanted him to be a great prophet. At that time, there had not been many visions in Israel. But she wanted this greatness for him. So, she sent him to live with the priest.

Granted, today, parents don’t do that. They want their children to play with other children. However, some parents want their children to go to private schools that are small, or Christian schools, and some parents want to home school. They want their kids to have friends who don’t go to school. In nearly all these cases, the idea driving the parents is that kids become like those with whom they associate.

Give each child a glob of Play-Doh about the size of a golf ball. Ask them to squeeze it, roll it around, and make any shape they want to. Keep one glob for yourself

**This Play-Doh is a lot like us when we are children. We are soft or what we call “pliable.” “Pliable” means something can be made into any number of shapes.**

**Our hand is sort of like the people we come in contact with. They can shape us in different ways, depending on their own shapes. Let’s pretend you hang out with some really rough friends who enjoy putting pressure on people to do things they might not want to do.**

Squeeze the Play-Doh in your hands and have the children do the same.

**What happened to your shape? It got really thin and weak under the weight of all that pressure, didn’t it? Are tough people who enjoy putting peer pressure on us the best to hang out with? No.**

Roll the Play-Doh into a ball again and have them do the same.

**So let’s say your friends are “nice” but not necessarily “good.” Remember our lessons on the difference between “nice” and “good?” Even Mafia guys in jail think their friends are “nice;” do you understand? And let’s say these nice people really don’t care about being good. They’re funny and can be fun, but they don’t care about God or Jesus or**

**living right. They have great personalities, but underneath that little gleam, they really don't care about much. They're just...morally "limp."**

Pretend your hand is very weak, and it hardly makes an impression on the ball of dough. Encourage them to do the same.

**The friends we get closest to should want the same things for us that God wants for us. They should love us in a soft, but firm, way.**

Wrap your hand around the Play-Doh firmly, so it forms a cylinder but doesn't squeeze out the top or bottom. Encourage them to do the same.

**True friends want us to be "deep," to think about things. Like God, they want "depth of character," and they will encourage us to think about things before we do them... to consider the consequences for bad actions and rewards for good ones.**

Stick your thumb down into the clay so that you hollow it out. Encourage them to do the same. The end result should be that they have something resembling a cup without a handle.

**Friends should help us to mold ourselves the way that God would, so that someday, we can "hold" the fruit of the spirit inside of us.**

Have everyone put their cup down on the table in front of them once they've gotten it shaped like yours. Pick up a real cup. If you have one without a handle, all the better. Hold it out for all to see.

**Because what happens is that, as the years progress, you begin to harden like the clay. That is a good thing—if you are the right shape. If your spirit is "long and thin and weak," or if your spirit is "fat and round and has no depth," you will not be able to hold anything important to the Lord.**

**You are being shaped throughout your childhood, just like Samuel was being shaped by the priests he hung out with.**

**You want to love everyone, but you want to be careful who gets to help shape you, and everyone you hang out with will be a part of that "hand." When your clay hardens, you want to be like this.**

Hold out the cup again. Take the bottled water and pour some into the cup.

**If you don't have any depth, you won't be able to hold the fruits of the spirit. The book of Galatians, Chapter 5, verse 22, describes the fruit of the spirit as...**

Pour a little more into the cup as each fruit is recited:

...joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**King David described his joy as “my cup runneth over.”**

Fill the cup to the top and let a few drops spill over.

**It all starts with whom you let mold you and influence you now. Let’s make a vow today to choose our best friends wisely and to not let people mold us—with fun, peer pressure, or fear—so that eventually we will be able to hold lots of spirit from the Lord.**

## INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: GOD WILL PROTECT YOU

**We’ve been talking about how you can become like those you play with. At your age, you don’t often have a lot of choices about whom you play with. So you need to pray first thing every morning that God will protect you throughout the day, so you will be influenced by the kids who behave well.**

Give each child the piece of construction paper with a circle drawn in the middle and the words GOD WILL PROTECT at the top. Give them each a dozen cotton balls. Tell them to put the cotton balls along the line of the circle. Then draw themselves in the middle of the circle. At the bottom, they can write their names and the word AMEN.

## INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: RUSH OF THE WATERS

**Today we’ll be talking about how you become like those you hang out with.** To illustrate that principle, use the paintbrush to paint circles. **Water is like whatever influences us—good or bad. See if you can paint one circle without getting the next circle wet.**

Give each child the sheet of paper. Have them paint rings that connect to each other, like the Olympic Rings:



**Though that is a very challenging project, what is the best way to keep the water from running? Use very little of it; use more paint. The paint is like God’s spirit. It is bright and colorful and steadfast. Everybody needs friends and associates. But the secret is to have as few influences – except for the godly ones - as possible —the ones that will “water you down!”**

## ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: BEING A GOOD FRIEND

**The lessons lately have shown us how to choose good friends. But now we’re going to talk about *being* a good friend. It’s easy to be a good friend who would make God proud if you remember one thing: THE GOLDEN RULE:**

***Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.***

**That means to *treat others how you would want to be treated.***

**When you go to a friend’s house, how do you like to be greeted at the door? Let them discuss it.**

**So then, that’s how you’re going to treat others when they come to your house.**

**Here’s a harder one: When you have a friend over, and she wants to play one game and you want to play another, what should you try to do? If you’re treating others the way you want to be treated? You should try to let the friend have her way.**

**What if you’re doing something with a friend and she’s very excited and wants to go first, but so do you. What should you try to do? If you’re treating others the way you want to be treated? Try to let her go first.**

**What if there are three Matchbox cars and you have one friend over to play with them? Who gets to use two and who gets to use one?** You should try to let the other friend have two—or take turns with the third car but let the friend have two cars first.

Put a bowl of M&Ms or animal crackers down on the table. Have the number counted out so that everyone can have three, but the last person will only get two. Keep that part a secret. Give everyone a cup or a paper towel.

**If we're trying to treat others the way we want to be treated, how should we divide up these M&M's (animal crackers)? Should we just let everyone grab and get as much as they can for themselves?** No.

**Let's send the basket around, and everybody take one at a time. Keep sending the basket around until the snack runs out. Does that sound fair? Are we treating everyone so no one gets hurt by doing that?** Yes. Send the basket around the table three times until the last person comes up short.

**Uh-oh. [Child's name] only has two. Is that fair?** No.

**What can we do, here? Who is going to treat others the way they want to be treated? Who's going to give one cookie away and be the one to only have two?**

See if anyone will do it. If nobody wants to, keep reminding them that this child waited until last, which wasn't easy in the first place, and now she ends up with only two. Keep asking who will give up a cookie until somebody does it.

**You know that God loves a cheerful giver. And God rewards people who make sacrifices for others. He doesn't always do it right away, but the saying goes, "You can't out-give God." And today, he will reward right away.**

Get out the animal cracker big box and put a small handful in front of the child who gave away his cookie.

Enjoy your snack.

## ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: WHAT MAKES A GOOD FRIEND?

**We're going to talk about how to find our closest friends among everyone in school. We are also going to look at how to *be* a good friend.**

**Who knows what the Golden Rule is?**

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**Does anyone know what Jesus called "the fulfillment of the law and the prophets?"**

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

**So if you love your neighbor as yourself, how do you be a good friend?** Let the other person have his or her way sometimes.

**This means making sacrifices for others, and for some personality types, this comes rather easily. Some kids are easygoing and want to do whatever you're doing. But say you're not one of those kids. Or you're not with one of those kids? You're still required to make sacrifices for the other person.**

**Some examples:**

**If you're walking home from school, and you have an iPod and your friend doesn't, do you listen to it? What are some options?** Letting the other person listen the whole way, since he doesn't have one, or letting the other person listen half the time while you listen have the time.

**And who should get to listen first? If you're doing unto others?** Your friend.

**If your friend comes over and his eyes bug out because your mom buys Drake's cakes and his mom never does...however there's only one Drake's cake left, and it's your favorite. What do you do?** Offer it to the other guy or offer to split it in half.

**And who gets to choose which half?** Let your friend choose.

**You want to watch one TV show and your friend wants to watch another?** Let the friend choose.

**Of course, there are times when you *don't* make a sacrifice for a friend. When might that be?** If the friend wants to do something that you and/or your parents would not approve of.

**I'm going to present you with some scenarios. Let's discuss what a good friend would do in these circumstances, especially when there's a chance to do unto others:**

#1 On the way home from school, Jeremiah sees a cat out in the street. When it comes right up to him, he realizes the cat belongs to Tristin's family. Jeremiah knows from being over at Tristin's house that the cat is declawed and is not supposed to be outside; it simply escaped. However, you also know from being in Tristin's house that Tristin can be really mean sometimes, and he would not bother bringing your cat home if he found it. In fact, he might be mean to the cat. What should Jeremiah do?

*This should bring up reminders of "turn the other cheek" and to think of what you would want if your cat wandered off. It could be a nice opportunity to make lasting peace with someone who has been antagonistic.*

#2 Sara is walking home from school, and Lucy, a six-year-old who lives next door, comes bounding up to her. Lucy worships Sara, who is a big kid in her eyes. "Sara, please play with me today!" she begs. "Please, please, please!" Sara is excited because three girls are coming over to do homework and hang out. What should she say or do with Lucy?

*This is an opportunity to bring up "being balanced" and how chronically making sacrifices can make you tired and grumpy. Look for some solutions that require a partial sacrifice, like asking Lucy in for twenty minutes or so while Sara gets ready for her friends, and a promise to introduce Lucy to the big girls if she promises to leave right after the introduction.*

#3 Mike is a great athlete, and Trevor enjoys being on track team with him. After school one day, Mike asks Trevor over to his house. Along the way, they see a house with the window open a couple of inches. Mike nudges Trevor and says, "The lady who lives alone there is visiting her family in Florida this week. No one's looking. Let's go in there and see what she's got." What should Trevor do?

*Obviously, this is not a time to give the other person his way in order to be a good friend. The tricky issue is what to say. You shouldn't lie, i.e. "I just remembered I have to be somewhere." And to say you're too scared might inflame the situation. This is a good time to discuss how saying things with confidence, i.e. "I would not ever do something like that," can win the day. It's not always what's said but the confidence with which a person says something. If Trevor lets Mike know his personal boundaries with confidence, it's likely Mike will neither nag nor tease Trevor.*

#4 Your friend Jana comes over one day, and when she sees all your clothes, her eyes bug out of her head. "Wow, you're lucky," she says. "My dad is out of work right now, and I'm



getting by with two pairs of jeans and maybe six shirts.” Jana is just about your size, so you can’t offer her things that don’t fit you anymore.

*This is a tall order for many kids, as they should offer some clothes to a friend less fortunate, so long as it is all right with their parents. Say the parents encourage Golden Rule sharing, and let them discuss what clothes Jana should be given. We wouldn’t expect kids this age to part with a favorite shirt, but they should be made aware that they can do better than offer Jana their worst or least-favorite stuff. A good friend would put herself in Jana’s shoes and try to give her a couple of nice things.*

## GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: DO UNTO OTHERS ART CONTEST

**Today, instead of making art to take home with you, you’re going to make art to give to the child sitting next to you to take home. Draw a picture of him or her, but “Do Unto Others” while you’re doing it.**

**Ask that person: What are your favorite colors? What do you like to do? Draw the person doing the thing he likes to do and in the colors he likes to see.**

Let each child draw the child sitting next to him, using favorite colors and favorite scenarios and then explain it to the class afterwards. Then they should present their picture to the child they drew.

Put stars on, and winners can be in categories: Best Likeness, Best Color Scheme, Most Original, Best Background, Best Effort. If you have fewer than 10 children, try to make sure everyone gets a star:

**I’m trying to “Do Unto Others,” and everyone would like to win. Hence, I’m making sure everyone does!**

## GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: JUGGLING II

If you taught our lesson on Ruth last week, your kids started juggling, as the game. Hence this will be your students' second lesson in juggling. If you did not use that lesson, let your students have their first great fun now trying to juggle! Give out the foil balls or the balled-up socks from the Materials List.

**We often have to consider the feelings of others. If we have two or three friends feeling bad about something—or two needy siblings or parents telling you to do things—you can feel like “you have many balls in the air!” Let’s practice juggling a lot of people’s emotional needs.**

Set the group up in pairs. If there is an extra child, pair up with them. Two-man juggling involves four balls, one in each hand of each person. Show them how to toss both balls at once and catch both their partner’s balls a split second later. See how many can get it.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Father, thank you for the example Samuel’s mother set in making sacrifices, finding the best friends for Samuel, and for making him a great prophet. Help us become great friends while we’re choosing great friends.**

**Amen.**

# DAVID KILLS GOLIATH

One of the greatest Bible stories for children is David defeating Goliath in the Valley of Elah. It shows them that God is willing to use the small and the young to stand as his most important servants and come out victorious over giants. This lesson will teach how **God gave David training for killing Goliath by making him a shepherd. Sometimes our lives don't make sense, but it's all a part of God's training and God's plan.**

## MATERIALS LIST

### Lesson

- Four or five brown-paper grocery bags. Make one double-bagged and filled with heavy groceries. The rest are extras in case the kids tear them trying to pick them up. (If you can't find authentic grocery bags, use a cardboard box.)
- Canned goods from home or the church pantry—enough to fill the double bag and make it very heavy
- List of your own chores or a copy of the list provided in the lesson
- Tin of cookies (place under all the groceries in bag)

### Intro Activity, Younger Children

- Coloring paper
- Crayons or markers

### Intro Activity for Older Children

- 27 scraps of paper, large enough to write one word on each (see lesson for words)
- 27 squares of aluminum foil
- Bible

### Activity, Younger Children

- Strip of gaffer's or electrical tape (very sticky), about two feet long

- Construction paper, cut lengthwise in strips, about four inches wide, two for each child
- Different colors of construction paper, cut in smaller strips, about 6-by-2 inches
- Stapler

### **Activity, Older Children**

- Further use of materials from Intro Activity

### **Game, Younger Children**

- A big ugly “Goliath” face drawn on a large piece of paper or brown-bag material
- “tacky stones,” made out of rolled-up balls of duct tape or masking tape, sticky side out
- Blindfold

### **Game, Older Children**

- A big ugly “Goliath” face drawn on a large piece of paper or brown-bag material
- “Tacky stones,” made out of rolled-up balls of duct tape or masking tape, sticky side out

# 1 SAMUEL 17

## David and Goliath

<sup>1</sup> Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Socoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Socoh and Azekah. <sup>2</sup> Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. <sup>3</sup> The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them.

<sup>4</sup> A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. <sup>5</sup> He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; <sup>6</sup> on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. <sup>7</sup> His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him.

<sup>8</sup> Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. <sup>9</sup> If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." <sup>10</sup> Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." <sup>11</sup> On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.

<sup>12</sup> Now David was the son of an Ephrathite named Jesse, who was from Bethlehem in Judah. Jesse had eight sons, and in Saul's time he was old and well advanced in years. <sup>13</sup> Jesse's three oldest sons had followed Saul to the war: The firstborn was Eliab; the second, Abinadab; and the third, Shammah. <sup>14</sup> David was the youngest. The three oldest followed Saul, <sup>15</sup> but David went back and forth from Saul to tend his father's sheep at Bethlehem.

<sup>16</sup> For forty days the Philistine came forward every morning and evening and took his stand.

<sup>17</sup> Now Jesse said to his son David, "Take this ephah of roasted grain and these ten loaves of bread for your brothers and hurry to their camp. <sup>18</sup> Take along these ten cheeses to the commander of their unit. See how your brothers are and bring back some assurance from them. <sup>19</sup> They are with Saul and all the men of Israel in the Valley of Elah, fighting against the Philistines."

<sup>20</sup> Early in the morning David left the flock with a shepherd, loaded up and set out, as Jesse had directed. He reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions, shouting the war cry. <sup>21</sup> Israel and the Philistines were drawing up their lines facing each other. <sup>22</sup> David left his things with the keeper of supplies, ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers. <sup>23</sup> As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual defiance, and David heard it. <sup>24</sup> When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear.

<sup>25</sup> Now the Israelites had been saying, "Do you see how this man keeps coming out? He comes out to defy Israel. The king will give great wealth to the man who kills him. He will also give him his daughter in marriage and will exempt his father's family from taxes in Israel."

<sup>26</sup> David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

<sup>27</sup> They repeated to him what they had been saying and told him, "This is what will be done for the man who kills him."

<sup>28</sup> When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the desert? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle."

<sup>29</sup> "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" <sup>30</sup> He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before. <sup>31</sup> What David said was overheard and reported to Saul, and Saul sent for him.

<sup>32</sup> David said to Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him."

<sup>33</sup> Saul replied, "You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a boy, and he has been a fighting man from his youth."

<sup>34</sup> But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, <sup>35</sup> I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. <sup>36</sup> Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. <sup>37</sup> The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you."

<sup>38</sup> Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. <sup>39</sup> David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them.

"I cannot go in these," he said to Saul, "because I am not used to them." So he took them off.

<sup>40</sup> Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

<sup>41</sup> Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept coming closer to David.

<sup>42</sup> He looked David over and saw that he was only a boy, ruddy and handsome, and he despised him. <sup>43</sup> He said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. <sup>44</sup> "Come here," he said, "and I'll give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

<sup>45</sup> David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. <sup>46</sup> This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

<sup>48</sup> As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. <sup>49</sup> Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

<sup>50</sup> So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

<sup>51</sup> David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword.

When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. <sup>52</sup> Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and to the gates of Ekron. Their dead were strewn along the Shaaraim road to Gath and Ekron. <sup>53</sup> When the Israelites returned from chasing the Philistines, they plundered their camp.

<sup>54</sup> David took the Philistine's head and brought it to Jerusalem, and he put the Philistine's weapons in his own tent.



<sup>55</sup> As Saul watched David going out to meet the Philistine, he said to Abner, commander of the army, "Abner, whose son is that young man?"

Abner replied, "As surely as you live, O king, I don't know."

<sup>56</sup> The king said, "Find out whose son this young man is."

<sup>57</sup> As soon as David returned from killing the Philistine, Abner took him and brought him before Saul, with David still holding the Philistine's head.

<sup>58</sup> "Whose son are you, young man?" Saul asked him.

David said, "I am the son of your servant Jesse of Bethlehem."

## LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): DAVID DEFEATS GOLIATH

**God gave David the power to do something very brave, something not even the biggest and bravest soldier in the Israelite army could do. God gave him power to kill Goliath, a man who stood over nine feet tall.**

**But God gave him some special training as well. Who can remember what that training was? He got this training because he was a shepherd, and when he was watching over the sheep, what would happen sometimes?**

A lion or a bear would come after the sheep, and David would kill them.

**David killed at least one lion and one bear with his bare hands to protect the sheep. The story goes that David would knock out the huge lion or bear with stones flung from his slingshot. But who would have ever thought that protecting sheep would be training to kill a huge bully like Goliath?**

**How would you feel, staring down a huge, hungry lion or bear? Scared.**

**Wouldn't you rather not?? Let's talk about your family for a minute. How many of you get asked to do chores? What are they?**

Have children discuss chores or times their parents have asked them to help out.

**Have you ever thought, "I don't want to do this chore. I'd rather keep playing or watching TV"? Yes.**

**When I was small, my parents used to make me help carry in the groceries from the car. Back then, they used to have very big grocery bags. Take everyone over to the grocery bag you have made up on the floor. They were like this. They had no handles. And the grocery clerks used to pile the stuff in. You had to grip the bag from underneath and lift it. Who wants to try?**

Let the children try, and have extra bags on hand in case they tear it. If anyone can lift it, ask him how far he thinks he could carry it. It shouldn't be far. Help him put it down again.

**Sometimes back then, kids' parents would take some groceries out of the big bag and put them into a smaller bag, just so the kids could help.**

Take some of the groceries out, put them in a smaller bag, and hand it to the child. Let him walk about with it, and ask if it's easier to carry.

**Why do you think parents did that? They were able to lift the big grocery bags. Why go to all the trouble just to get kids to help?**

Let them discuss how it's good to help parents, or maybe the parents wanted company.

**We kids would watch the grown-ups take extra time, just so we could help them, when it would have been easier for the grown-ups to do it themselves. Do you think we wanted to help?** No.

**Do you think David really wanted to kill lions and bears when he was just a kid or just a teenager?** No.

**If God can do anything, why didn't he just kill the lion or bear himself? Why did God set it up so David had to kill the lion or bear?** Because he wanted David to be strong and responsible and not lazy.

**Why did our parents make us help with the groceries?** To make us strong and responsible.

**What did David's training enable him to do?** Kill a giant bully.

**Just to show you what your life will be like as a grown-up, I've brought in a week of my life. Here are all the chores I did this week:**

Use your own list, or default to this one:

- **Eight loads of wash**
- **Nine pots of coffee**
- **Unloaded the dishwasher seven times**
- **Reloaded the dishwasher seven times**
- **Cleaned 21 pots and pans from dinner**
- **Made 14 lunches**
- **Folded loads of wash and put them away**
- **Attended four meetings**
- **Made three trips to the supermarket**
- **Dusted the whole house**
- **Vacuumed the house twice**
- **Cleaned all three bathrooms**
- **Walked my dog 14 times**
- **Cleaned the coffeepot nine times**
- **Turned off the television 30 times**
- **Dropped my kids off to school five times**
- **Picked them up five times**
- **Dropped each of them off at four clubs**
- **Picked each of them up from four clubs**
- **Helped with 21 homework assignments**

**Now let me ask you again. What if my parents had never asked me to help with any chores?** You would be lazy and disorganized.

**What if the Lord had not asked David to kill wild animals to protect his sheep?**

He could not have killed Goliath.

**Sometimes our parents ask us to do things that seem bothersome, and we don't understand. However, all responsibility we take now is great training for becoming a hero to others. Let's all unpack the groceries and see what's at the bottom of the bag.**

Have a tin of cookies for all to enjoy.

## INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: MY CHORES

**Today we're going to talk about responsibility and how God trains us. Think of a chore that your parents ask you to do for them. Draw a picture of yourself doing that chore.**

Have crayons and paper out, and after the children have drawn their picture, ask them to share its meaning with the other children.

## INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: DECODE THE TREASURE MESSAGE

**Today we'll be learning how God trained David to do important things. And to illustrate, I'll be training you.**

Have children go around the room and find "treasure," which are the balled-up pieces of aluminum foil with a scrap with one word on each. The words are:

"The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

The last one should read: CLUE--1 Samuel 17:37.

The children should have no clue what order these words go in until they find the CLUE. Then you can spread the Bible out, point out the verse, and they can put the words in order.

Leave the words in order on the table for the Activity following the lesson: "Training Seems Goofy" Game.

## ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: TACKY ROCKS & A SLING SHOT

Show the children how to make “tacky rocks” similar to the rocks David used. Give each child a strip of electrical or gaffer’s tape, about a foot long. Have them hold the tape out straight, twist it one half of a turn, then stick the ends together to make a loop with a twist. Then they should pinch the middle together so they have two loops. At the pinch, the sticky side should stick to the non-sticky side. Twist the loops so that the sticky side is out on both sides. Students should then ball the tape up without pressing too much (don’t want to remove all the stickiness.)

For the belt, give each child the long strip of construction paper and fit it around their waists. Staple it in place. Staple the short strip so it points straight down from the waist band. Sticky tape should stick to it, but don’t let them stick it too much until after the game.

## ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: “TRAINING SEEMS GOOFY” LESSON

Open the Bible again to the scripture verse 1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." Take it back to the table where the words are still laid out from the Intro Activity.

**Sometimes our training can seem kind of goofy. We can’t always make sense of why our parents make us clean bathrooms (Ew!) or make our beds when we’re just going to get in them again the following night. Sometimes we can’t make sense of the things God asks us to do either.**

Repeat the scripture three times without explanation:

**1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

**1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

**1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

Blow the words off the table until they are all scattered.

**Pick them up. Put them back in order.** If they ask to hear the scripture verse again, oblige this request. Keep telling them to **hurry! Hurry!**

This time repeat the scripture only two times:

**1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

**1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

Blow the pieces around until they are all over the floor. **Put it back together! Hurry! Hurry!**

If they ask for the scripture verse this time, be obliging once, but say, **Come on! Your memory ought to be better than that! Which scripture is it, and what does it say?**

Get them to work together to remember the whole thing until it is put together.

Repeat the scripture only once this time:

**1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."**

Blow the scriptures away onto the floor. **Hurry! Get it put back together in less than a minute, and there's a prize at the end.**

They should be very annoyed at this point but obliging. Once they have it all together, don't touch the puzzle this time. Ask them:

**Without looking, what does the scripture say?** Have them all repeat it aloud.

**My goofy training just got you all to memorize one of the most important scripture lessons you may ever learn: GOD WILL DELIVER YOU FROM VERY, VERY BIG PROBLEMS IF YOU HAVE FAITH. SAY IT ONE LAST TIME!**

They should repeat rather easily at this point: 1 Samuel 17:37: The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

**Remember as you go your way this week that your worst days are probably your best training for becoming a strong Christian. Do your chores, and don't argue with your parents!**

## GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: PIN THE TAIL ON GOLIATH

This version of Pin the Tail on the Donkey should give them the idea of David's courage.

Spin the blindfolded child around and tell him to aim for Goliath's forehead in your brown bag rendition of the Philistine. Have the other children make barking, snapping, growling noises of intimidation as the child proceeds to put the "rock" on Goliath's forehead. The "rock" is the sticky-tape ball made in the Activity.

Prizes optional.

## GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: TACKY TAPE GAME

Tape a paper bag portrait of Goliath's face up to the wall. Roll up wads of gaffer's or electrical tape with the sticky side out to make tacky tape balls. Balls should be about as big as a baseball. Have the children stand behind a marked line, six feet away, and try to get the tape to stick on Goliath's forehead.

To complicate things: **David had to work with a sling shot.** Have them try tossing the tacky ball up in the air and hitting it with the palm of their hands as if it were a tennis racket. The places where the tacky balls end up can be very amusing.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Father, thank you for showing us how you work *with us*, even when we're working *for you*. Help us make choices in our lives that make you happy, choices make you want to pick us for your team.**

**Amen.**



# SOLOMON ASKS GOD FOR WISDOM

Solomon, David’s son, has been known in Judeo Christian circles as the wisest man in the world. This story from 1 Kings 3 shows how Solomon became king, with a request to God for wisdom. Kids ask for a lot of things—toys, games, play time, popularity, and fashion are at the top of the list. This is a lesson about keeping priorities straight. **Solomon asked for wisdom, and God was so pleased with his request that he gave him riches and long life as well. Solomon got all because he had his priorities straight.**

## MATERIALS LIST

### Lesson

- Two tubes of regular Pringles

### Intro Activity, Younger Children

- Coloring paper
- Crayons or markers

### Intro Activity for Older Children

- White paper
- Pencils

### Activity, Younger Children

- Card stock, two pieces for each child
- Scissors
- Stick glue
- Marker pens & crayons
- Optional: craft-store jewels, glitter, glitter glue
- Stapler

### Activity, Older Children

- Costume box with pieces used for Biblical skits

### Game, Younger Children

- “Throne,” which can be a chair decorated with streamers, balloons, etc.

### Game, Older Children

- No materials needed

## BIBLE READING/STORY:

# 1 KINGS 3

### David's son, Solomon

David was made King of Israel after King Saul, and he had many sons. Among them was Solomon, who would be king after David died.

### 1 Kings 3

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

<sup>6</sup> Solomon answered, "You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

<sup>7</sup> "Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. <sup>8</sup> Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. <sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. <sup>11</sup> So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, <sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be. <sup>13</sup> Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both riches and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings. <sup>14</sup> And if you walk in my ways and obey my statutes and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life." <sup>15</sup> Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the ark of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

## LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): SOLOMON GETS A WHOLE LOT OF STUFF

Tell the children to all wash their hands before starting. Bring a tube of Pringles to the table and open it. Put the lid in your pocket.

**Today, we're going to pretend we're a king like Solomon. God said that he would make Solomon rich, right? It's kind of important for a king to have lots of stuff and lots of money to buy stuff with. Let's pretend we're a king, too, and let's pretend that each of the Pringles in this tube is a solid gold piece worth a million dollars.**

Hand the jar to the first child at the table.

**Open the tube and take out as many million-dollar pieces as you think you want so that you can buy all the stuff you want as king. You can't eat them yet! Take as many as you want — first come, first served — and don't break any! Any broken Pringles have to be swept away, and can't be used or eaten!**

Let each child reach in the jar and take as many Pringles as he wishes. The tube may be empty before all the children have gotten some. Encourage the children who were first to share with their classmates and not be greedy. If one child has none, ask others what they want to do about it. Let them decide. If some children snatch, discourage it. If some children don't have as many, whisper to them, **"Don't worry! It will all work out!"**

**Everyone count your million-dollar pieces. We're going to go around the table and see how many each person has.**

Ask children how many million dollars they have and what they want to buy with all that money. Don't let them eat yet. To the child who has the least amount of Pringles, say, **You don't have as many. You have the least amount. You were close to the end, and you're not the type to grab, huh? Would you like to have the empty tube as your reward?**

The child should be ambivalent, but encourage him. Remove the lid from your pocket, put it back on top, and hand the tube to him.

**I think there's a secret message in the lid especially for you.**

Have the child peel off the lid and read the message. If he or she is too young, read the message on the lid for him:

**Congratulations. God often chooses the youngest or smallest or the one who has the least to be his special wise servant. You didn't snatch, and you were wise. Therefore, God will reward you with more wisdom and with riches, too.**

Give the child the prize, which is a second tube of Pringles. Use the tube to fill in so that every child has the same number of Pringles, and give the remainder of the tube to the child to take home for later.

*Note: In rare cases, you will have a group mature enough and diplomatic enough to enact a splitting of the chips in equal ways. In this case, the second tube belongs to everyone.*

**Everybody eat your Pringles!**

## INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: WISH LISTS FOR GOD

**Today, we're going to hear about King David's son, Solomon, who became King after David. He is still known as the richest man in the world. Think of something you don't have now, and draw a picture of it.**

After children draw, have them discuss their wish and how much they want it.

## INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: WISH LIST

**Today, we're going to talk about King Solomon, who was King David's son. He was and is still known as the richest man in the world. We're going to spend time asking the Lord for things Solomon might have had. Think of things that you either don't have or don't have enough of, and make up a wish list, sort of like you do before the holidays.**

Have the kids share their lists and discuss what's on them and why.

## ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: WISDOM CROWNS

**Someday, you will be coming into your adulthood like Solomon. If you ask God for wisdom, the book of James says, “<sup>5</sup>If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.” Let’s make crowns of wisdom, so we can remember to pray for the wisdom of God as we grow.**

- Give each child a piece of card stock, cut in half lengthwise.
- Have them use scissors to create a jagged edge on one of the longer sides.
- Have them line up their pieces of card stock side-by-side with the straight edge closest to them. Staple the two sheets together in the center with about an inch of overlay.
- Depending on their ages, they or you should write on the crown, KING SOLOMON’S WISDOM CROWN.
- Allow them to decorate their crown with whatever you have: Crayons, markers, craft-store jewels, buttons, glitter, glitter glue, various colored hole punches, paper scraps.
- When they are finished decorating, fit the crown to each child’s head and staple the ends together so it makes the circle of a crown.

## ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: WISDOM BOOKMARKS



**Solomon became known as the wisest man in the world after praying for wisdom from God. In fact, he wrote many of the Proverbs. Let’s make bookmarks, which are symbols of wisdom, and put our favorite Proverbs on them.**

Cut construction paper into four strips widthwise. Punch a hole in one end and thread three pieces of yarn through. If the yarn pieces are about eight inches long, you can fold them in half, push the loop through the hole, then loop the ends through the loop to make an easy tassel.

Have students either root through your Bible for favorite Proverbs or put this list below on your screen and let them choose. They can write the Proverb out on the bookmark and decorate it how they wish and depending on what decorative touches you have available.

### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

### **Proverbs 9:8**

Do not instruct a mocker or he will hate you; instruct a wise man and he will love you.

### **Proverbs 13:3**

He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.

### **Proverbs 14:15**

A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.

### **Proverbs 28:27**

He who gives to the poor will lack nothing, but he who closes his eyes to them receives many curses.

## GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: BRING YOUR REQUESTS BEFORE THE KING

Bring out a chair to use as a throne. You can decorate it with streamers or construction paper. If you have a decorative cape that can be used for a robe, use that also. Let the kids take turns putting on their crowns, sitting on the throne, and role-playing as king.

Have the children approach the king one at a time with a request such as the following:

1. Your Highness, I had the toy first, and she won't give it back. Can you solve this for me?
2. Your Highness, my mom told me I have to eat broccoli, and I can't stand it. Can I get out of this somehow?

3. Your Highness, I want to go to my friend's house, and my mom says I can't cross the street. How can I get to my friend's house?
4. Your Highness, my teacher at school picks everyone but me when we raise our hands. May I please have some ideas on how to get the teacher to call on me?
5. Your Highness, everyone is taller than I am. So nobody picks me for their team. How can I get picked first?
6. Your Highness, I'm the oldest, and whenever my brother and I fight, my parents say I should know better. But sometimes he drives me crazy. What can I do?
7. Your Highness, when my friend comes over, she wants to watch TV and I want to play with toys. She refuses to do anything but stare at the TV. How can I get her to play?
8. Your Highness, I saw a kid on my street being really mean to his dog. He told me if I tell my mom what I saw, he'll beat me up. Should I be afraid of him?
9. Your Highness, my mom wants me to give a bunch of my toys to the poor, and I don't want to. I might use them again sometime. What should I do?
10. Your Highness, my Christmas list is three pages long. My parents say that's too much. But I want all this stuff. Should I really have to make my list shorter?

While it might be tempting to do a whole lot of prompting, often these games go better once the kids realize the adults are not there to put ideas in their heads and they are free to think of answers themselves. Only prompt when kids are king who are prone to one-liners. You can say, "Take some time to think about it, Your Highness," and praise all answers.

## GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: GOD'S WISDOM RELAY

**God's wisdom is always available, but sometimes it isn't easy to follow. Sometimes we want to do things our own way and in our own time, but we need to learn to get on God's pace. In the following relay, we'll pretend the person in front is the Lord, and the person behind is a human being.**

Have students get up in front of the group two at a time. One student should stand in front, and the one standing behind should put her toes right against the front child's heels. Time them as they try to walk from one end of the room to the other without the heels of the child in front separating from the toes of the child in back. The other children should observe and



make a “bong!” noise every time their toes and heels come apart. The first couple to receive the least amount of “bongs!” while moving from one end of the room to the other wins.

**When we’re trying to follow God’s wisdom, it’s best if we go slowly and not to be devastated if we mess up at first!**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Father, thank you for giving us your wisdom...exactly when we need it. Help us to remember that knowing stuff is better than having stuff.**

**Amen.**

# TRIALS OF JOB

Everyone faces hardship in life, and it is a good lesson for children to learn early on that **hardship is normal while we are on earth**. But like with Job, we ought to be steadfast in our belief that God is in charge through all. All sorts of wonderful answers have been provided for why bad things happen to good people. It is important for children to understand, through servants like Job, that hardship doesn't mean that God is unhappy with us. **He allows things to happen for a season but is more than capable of restoring our happiness in due time.**

## MATERIALS LIST

### Lesson

- Marshmallows
- M&Ms in little bags

### Intro Activity, Younger Children

- White card stock with the following written on it: "Good Days, Bad Days, by \_\_\_\_\_" (line for student's name); one for each child
- Crayons
- Marker pens

### Intro Activity, Older Children

- Two graphic novels, such as *Captain Underwear* or some of the more serious ones
- Sheet of white paper
- Pencils, colored pencils, and crayons

### Activity, Younger Children

- Three more sheets of white paper in addition to the one for the Intro Activity.
  - Write on sheet one: "I Remember My Bad Days..."
  - Write on sheet two: "I Remember My Good Days."
  - Write on sheet three: "I know God loves me on both bad and good days!"

- Crayons
- Marker Pens

### Activity, Older Children

- Another sheet of white paper in addition to the one for the Intro activity
- Glue sticks
- Pencils, colored pencils, and crayons

### Game, Younger Children

- No materials needed

### Game, Older Children

- Mirror, no smaller than 6 x 6 inches
- Index cards with your favorite Bible verses printed neatly on each; enough so that each child can read from a different one. Pick verses that are about the same length—maybe ten words long.

## BIBLE READING/STORY:

# JOB 1

<sup>1</sup> In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. <sup>2</sup> He had seven sons and three daughters, <sup>3</sup> and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

<sup>4</sup> His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. <sup>5</sup> When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

### Job's First Test

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

<sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

<sup>9</sup> "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup> "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

<sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>17</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked I will depart.

The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;  
may the name of the LORD be praised."

<sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

## LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): JOB ENDURES THROUGH HARDSHIP

Put a handful of cookies or marshmallows down in front of each child and tell them not to touch or eat them.

**Oftentimes, the characters of the Bible are helpful to us because we get in similar situations to ones they were in, and we can learn lessons from how they acted. Job lost everything. He lost**

(take the first child's marshmallows back) **his children**

(take the next child's marshmallows back) **his children's husbands and wives**

(take the next child's marshmallows back) **his fortune,**

(take the next child's marshmallows back), **his wife's loyalty,**

(take the next child's marshmallows back), **to his health.**

**And then...the friends who came to comfort him were no help at all.** (Take every other child's marshmallows back). **While he lay there, covered in sore scabs, they asked him what he had done to deserve this, and to not stupidly say he was innocent! He obviously had done something, they said!**

Put the marshmallows back in the bag and put it away. **Job thought he was going to enjoy the riches he had honestly earned, and have many grandchildren, and he would live out his days in comfort and peace. But that isn't what happened. Job ended up** (point to the empty places in front of the children where the snack had laid) **with nothing. Do you think he was disappointed?**

Yes.

**Are you disappointed, too? Did you think we were going to have a snack together?** Yes.

**Sometimes we don't get what we want. Sometimes we are surprised when a bad thing happens. We think something good is coming, and it turns out that we get something very bad instead. Does that mean that God doesn't love us?** No.

**Does that mean that God *caused* the bad thing to happen?** No.

**God knows about our hard times and he cares very much. And when a hard time ends, he brings us into happiness again and again.**

**When Job went into his bad time, did he say anything bad about God? No**

**He was not very happy, but he did not say that God was unfair. Let's talk about some things in our life that have made us unhappy.**

Let the children discuss things—deaths of loved ones, having to move, parents separating, pets dying, anything they feel is a bad thing.

Ask each time: **Does that thing mean God doesn't love you? No. God still loves you. It isn't about that.**

**Did you ever have something bad happen and you thought your friends would be there for you? And maybe they were mean, or maybe they just didn't care?**

Ask each time: **Does that thing mean God doesn't love you? No. God still loves you. It isn't about that.**

*Note: If some of the older/wiser children want to get into a discussion about why bad things happen to good people, encourage it, and don't be afraid if you don't have all the answers. They are most interested in sensing your empathy.*

**So, what do you think happened to Job at the end of the story? Job 42:12 says, "The LORD blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. <sup>13</sup> And he also had seven sons and three daughters. <sup>14</sup> The first daughter he named Jemimah, the second Keziah and the third Keren-Happuch. <sup>15</sup> Nowhere in all the land were there found women as beautiful as Job's daughters, and their father granted them an inheritance along with their brothers.**

**<sup>16</sup> After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. <sup>17</sup> And so he died, old and full of years.**

**God was very happy with Job when he didn't blame God for the bad things that happened. Job trusted and relied on God to do the right thing, and so God restored his fortune.**

**Sometimes God lets us be unhappy and disappointed for a season...**

Bring out some better snack than marshmallows, such as little bags of M&Ms. **But he restores our happiness even better than before.**

## INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

**Today we're going to talk about God's servant, Job, who had a bunch of bad things happen to him. We'll talk about how he kept believing in God anyway. We're going to make little books, and right now you can make your cover.**

Give every child a sheet of card stock that says, "Good Days, Bad Days," by \_\_\_\_\_, where you can write their name in. To prepare: Using a glass or compass, draw a circle on one side of the sheet that is the sun. Make little rays coming off of it. Freehand, draw raindrops and a cloud on the other side. Have the children color in the rest of the picture.

## INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: WORST DAY OF MY LIFE GRAPHIC NOVEL PAGE

**Today we're going to talk about God's servant, Job, who had a bunch of bad things happen to him. We'll talk about how he kept believing in God anyway.**

Pass out sheets to the kids that say at the top: "The Worst Day of My Life." Have a few graphic novels lying about on the tables for them to look at. Ask them to start a graphic novel page about the worst day of their lives. They can use the books as style samples.

## ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: INSIDE OF THEIR BOOK

Give the children two sheets of paper each, one with the heading, "I Remember my Good Days..." They can draw some things they remember as being very good times. Prompts: Won my sport, had a special party, went on vacation. If they're old enough, or if you have time to do it for everyone, you can label the illustrations.

Go to the next sheet. "I Remember my Bad Days..." They can draw some things they remember as being very bad times. Prompts: Got sick on Christmas or a field trip, been picked on by a bully, lost my favorite toy. Label these illustrations as well or have them do it.

Finally, give them a sheet that says, "I know God loves me on both bad and good days!"

They can color around the saying. Staple the pages together in a saddle stitch (staple at top, center and bottom of left margin)



## ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: GRAPHIC NOVEL PAGE BECOMES POSTER

Give each child another sheet of paper that matches the one from the Intro Activity on which they had started a graphic novel illustration of the “Worst Day of My Life.”

Have them glue the two sheets together side by side. Have them write somewhere on the second sheet, “God Loves Me on Bad Days, Too.” Using the books as examples, have them draw and finish what is now a graphic “poster” (two pages instead of a novel) in graphic-novel style of drawing and blurb-writing.

*Suggestion: If you are using graphic novels that don't need to be returned, you can allow the kids to cut out the books' characters and blurb statements to illustrate their poster.*

## GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: GOOD DAYS / BAD DAYS

Have all the children stand in a line in the center of the room. Stand in the front of the line without looking at the children. Explain that when you say “Good Day!” they will take a step to the left. When you say “Bad Day!” they will take a step to the right. Keep mixing it up, so that, for example you're saying three “Good days!” then two “Bad Days!” The object is for them to reach the wall eventually.

**Did you start to think we would never reach that wall together? That's what it's like when we have three or four bad days in a row. We think we will never be happy again! But if we stick with the Lord and believe in his might, we get back to our happiness after a time!**

## GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: THE MIRROR GAME

Bring in a mirror no smaller than 6 x 6 inches. Prop it up with some books at the edge of the table so that it doesn't move or wiggle. Have one child at a time come and kneel in front of the mirror. Hold an index card with a scripture verse up to the mirror so that it appears backward to the child. Ask him to read it. The child who gets the verse before him the quickest and reads without any mistakes is the winner. An assistant can time.

**How did it feel reading the scriptures backwards in the mirror?** Strange.

**And yet the scriptures stay the same whether they're shown backwards or frontwards, right?** Yes.

**Sometimes on our bad days, it's hard to feel God and figure out what he's saying to us, isn't it?** Yes.

**And yet, he's always the same—He always loves us, whether we're feeling good or bad, whether we're having trouble “reading him” or not!**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Father, thank you for always being there for us, in the good times and the bad times. Help us to remember in the bad times that you will bring good times around to us again!**

**Amen.**