

“Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

WEEK 1 MEMORY VERSE

“The LORD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory.” Psalm 118:14 NLT

WEEK 2 MEMORY VERSE

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,” Acts 3:19

WEEK 3 MEMORY VERSE

“But 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.’” Ruth 1:16

WEEK 4 MEMORY VERSE

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Deuteronomy 6:5

WEEK 5 MEMORY VERSE

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

WEEK 6 MEMORY VERSE

# Untold Bible Stories



## LESSON 5: JOSIAH , HUMBLE OBEDIENCE

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Kings 22-23

**BIG IDEA:** When we obey God humbly and keep his commands, he rewards us.

**LESSON:** Start with the Saddleback Kids Video Josiah (2 Kings 22)

Can you imagine becoming king at 8 years old? Having to take care of all the people and money of a country? That's crazy! Josiah was up for the task. He had ruled for 18 years when he sent his secretary to the temple. When his secretary was given the book of law from the high priest, he took it straight to King Josiah. When King Josiah heard what the book of Law said, he became sad and frustrated at the choices of his ancestors who had made bad choices. They had made statues and altars for other gods, and it made the one true God angry. He knew that God would punish them for their wrongdoings. So he sent his secretary to Huldah, a female prophet. When his secretary got there, she had a word from the Lord. Let's look at what she told the secretary to tell King Josiah. Open up your Bibles to 2 Kings 22:15-20. Ready?

*"She said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, <sup>16</sup> 'This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. <sup>17</sup> Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.' <sup>18</sup> Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: <sup>19</sup> Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. <sup>20</sup> Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.'" So they took her answer back to the king."*

Wow. Josiah humbled himself. That means that he when he learned that they were behaving badly, he saw the wrong in his actions and apologized to God for it, then obeyed God and all his commands without complaint. God was super angry with his people, but Josiah's obedience and humility prolonged God's wrath on the people. His response was rewarded with not having to deal with the consequences of the actions of the people. When King Josiah

### The Items:

- ◇ Find something Scarlet
- ◇ Find a Cup filled with water
- ◇ Find something that could be used as a scepter
- ◇ Find the Sword of the Spirit
- ◇ Find a colored pencil
- ◇ Find a flashlight
- ◇ Find an empty jar
- ◇ Find a crown or something that resembles a crown
- ◇ Find bread
- ◇ Find a map
- ◇ Find Hand Sanitizer
- ◇ Find a mask for every team member
- ◇ Find toilet Paper
- ◇ Find a single paper towel
- ◇ Find a lollipop
- ◇ Find a popsicle/Otterpop
- ◇ Find a Sharpie
- ◇ Find a Lysol Disinfectant Spray

# Photo Scavenger Hunt

## The Rules!

- Find as many of the listed items as you can in 20 minutes.
- Take a picture of you or your family with the items
- Send them to Miss Heather and Miss Sierra at [heather.winters@mvcramona.org](mailto:heather.winters@mvcramona.org) by 6/14/20
- If you find something

Special Note: You are playing against other kiddos from Sunday School, but you can play teams with your family too. It is meant to be fun.

## Team Rules:

\*if you are playing against family members, follow these rules in addition to the ones above\*

1. Split into teams of equal ability
2. Have someone set a timer for 20 minutes
3. Once the timer begins, search for all of the items on the list, taking pictures with them as you go
4. The team with the most items after the 20 minutes wins!
5. Send all of your pictures from both teams to Miss Heather and Miss Sierra. Explain them if necessary.

heard the words of God from his secretary, he went out to all of the places where his ancestors had put idols and made temples to other gods and destroyed them. He burned them and took what he could not completely destroy out of his country. Then he chose to follow God with all of his soul, mind, and strength, and got the rest of Judah to commit to the same. Let's look at 2 Kings 23:1-3.

*"Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant."*

Later in the chapter in 2 Kings 23:25 it says: "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses." We should be like King Josiah and turn to the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and strength. God wants us and our humble obedience and we can give it to him.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5

**CHALLENGE:** How can you remind yourself to love God this week? Where are some areas of your life where you need to trust God with and show him you love him? Talk about those areas with your family this week.

# King Josiah

humbly obedient

## Think about it...

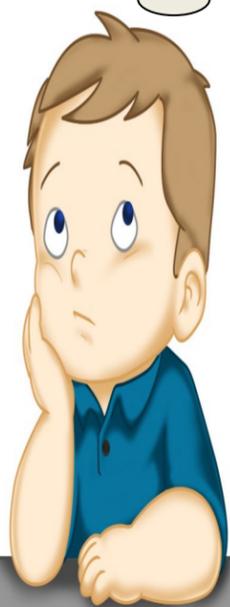
- Why didn't God punish Judah?
- Would you have acted like Josiah?
- Did the people deserve grace?
- Who also gives us grace when we don't deserve it?



2 Kings 22:15-20

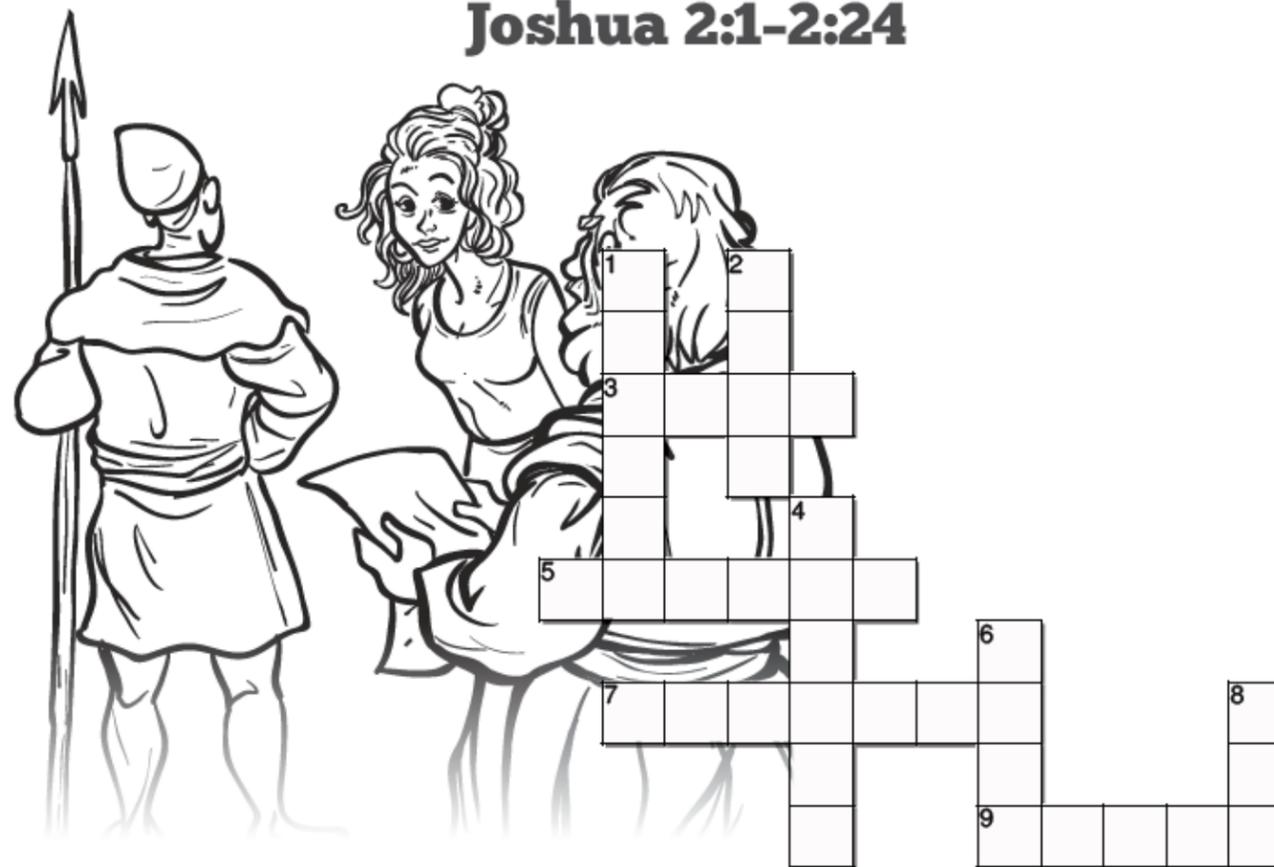
And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

—Deuteronomy 6:5



## RAHAB & THE SPIES

Joshua 2:1-2:24



### Across

- 3. The spies met a woman named Rahab and asked her for a place to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. After years of slavery it was time for Israel to capture the promised land of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Two spies were sent to the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. Rahab later became a direct ancestor of King \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

- 1. Who sent the spies into the city?
- 2. The spies hid under stalks of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Rahab asked the spies to spare her life and the lives of her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6. Rahab hung a scarlet \_\_\_\_\_ out of her window, as a sign for the spies.
- 8. Rahab \_\_\_\_\_ the spies on her roof

“The LORD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory.”  
Psalm 118:14 NLT

LIST 3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE THIS WEEK:

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Heroes look for ways to help others

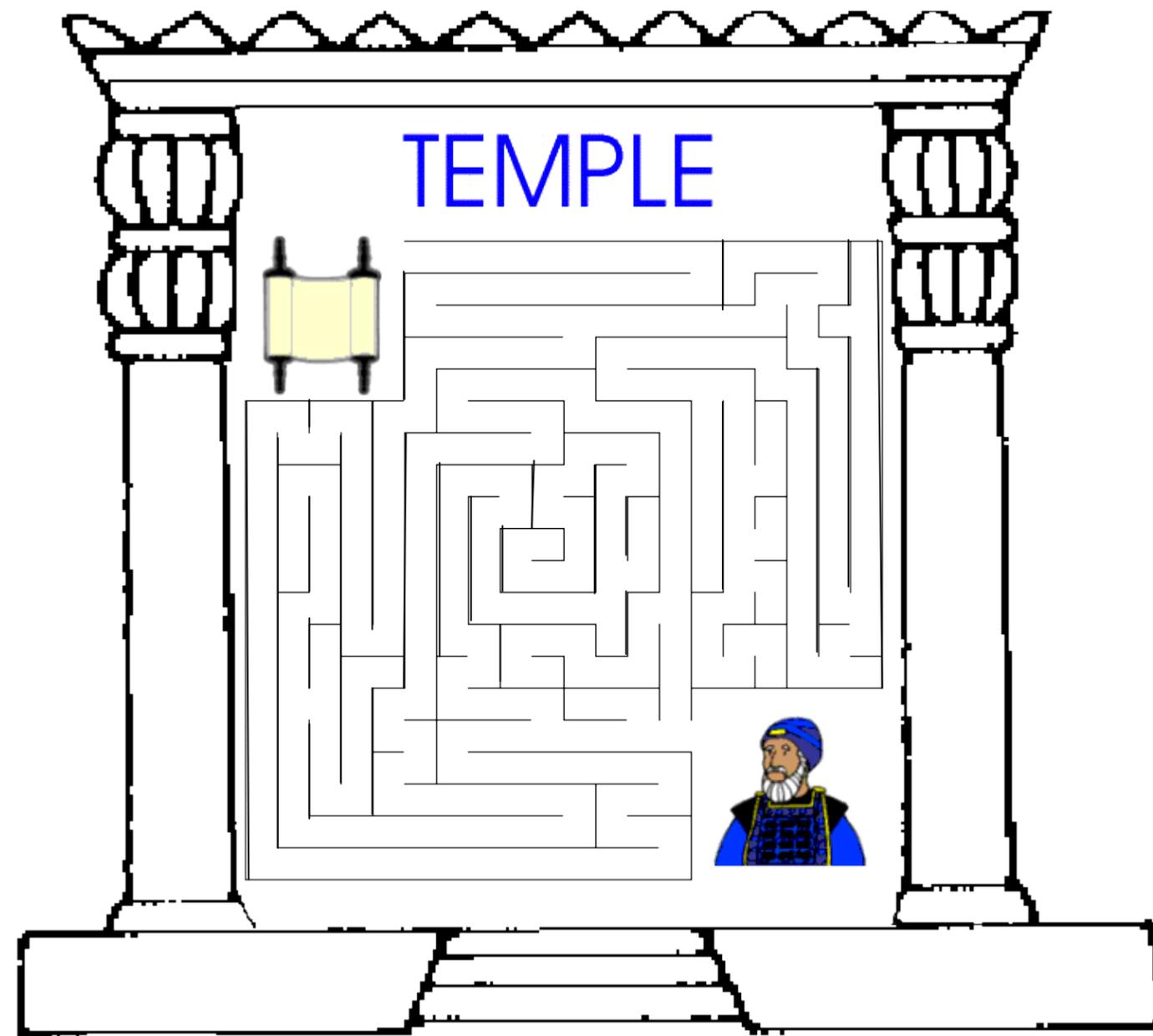
# Rahab the Shield

**Sword Drill**  
*Joshua 2:2-16*

Has anyone ever randomly helped you out with something? Draw a picture below of that moment and how you felt.



Why did Joshua send spies into Jericho?  
What was God's promise to Joshua?  
Why do you think Rahab is called "the shield"?  
What conditions did Rahab follow to not be destroyed?



Josiah humbly followed God with all his heart, soul and strength

List some ways that you can be obedient to God this week:

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## LESSON 2: Zacchaeus, Repentant Heart

**Bible Passage:** Luke 19:1-10

**BIG IDEA:** Those who have a repentant heart will be saved by God.

**LESSON:** Start by watching the Saddleback Kids Zacchaeus video.

What a cool moment with Jesus! Today we are going to focus our study on Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector, and tax collectors weren't always the nicest people and sometimes took extra money from people that wasn't required for their taxes to keep for themselves. They were greedy, so people did not like them. As a result, like we saw in the video, people did not want to let him through the crowd to get where he could see Jesus. Zacchaeus was short and could not see over the crowds, so he climbed up in a tree so he could get a look at Jesus. Jesus was walking in the direction of the tree. Let's look at what happened when Jesus got to the tree. Let's turn in our Bibles to Luke 19:5-6. Ready? Go! Alright, is everyone there? Let's read then!

*"<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."<sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly."*

Jesus noticed him! Have you ever been in a group of really tall adults in a store and try to get seen above them all? Zacchaeus must have felt a lot like that at first, but then, Jesus saw him! That is so special to be seen by Jesus. Then not only did Jesus say hello, but he chose to spend time in Zacchaeus' home. That's a big deal! Notice how Zacchaeus responds. In verse 6, it says that he came to him gladly. He was excited that Jesus noticed him. I would be too! Let's look at what the response of the people who witnessed this was. Let's go back to our Bibles in Luke 19:7.

*"All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."*

What the people did not understand was that they were all sinners. They thought that you weren't a sinner if you kept the 10 commandments. What they did not understand is that we are all sinners and Jesus came for sinners to make them whole. Let's look at Matthew 9:13. When Jesus is asked why he hangs out with sinners, he says this:

*"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."*

So, Joshua sent two spies into Jericho. He wanted them to find out anything they could about the land and the people. The spies Joshua had sent to Jericho were found out by the king, so they were in danger of being killed. How would you feel as one of the spies? I'd be terrified. But God provided a very non-traditional way to protect them. A woman named Rahab hid them on her roof under the flax to keep them safe. Even though Rahab did not live a life pleasing to God, she knew who the Israelites were and who their God was, and she feared them. She wanted to turn and change her ways, so she asked the spies to not let the destruction of Jericho take her or her family. Let's look at how the spies responded to that. Turn your Bibles to Joshua 2:17-18.

*"Now the men had said to her, "This oath you made us swear will not be binding on us unless, when we enter the land, you have tied this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you have brought your father and mother, your brothers and all your family into your house."*

When the Israelites came, she did just that. She shielded her family from the fall of Jericho and shielded the Israelites from the authorities of Jericho. She could have looked away from God, but she chose to obey him, and she and her family were saved.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did Joshua send spies into Jericho?
- What was God's promise to Joshua?
- Why do you think Rahab is called "the shield"?
- What conditions did Rahab follow to not be destroyed?
- How does this lesson apply to our lives today?

**REVIEW MEMORY VERSE:** Joshua 1:9 *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*

**CHALLENGE:** Rahab helped people and we can too! What are some ways you can help someone this week? How can you be more aware of people around you, and how they might need your help?

### CLOSING PRAYER

## LESSON 6: RAHAB, THE SHIELD

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Joshua 2:2-16

**BIG IDEA:** Heroes are always looking to help others

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will learn that true heroes look for ways to help those in need, even in scary situations.

**LESSON:** Has anyone ever randomly helped you out with something? How did that make you feel? Today we're talking about helping others, not always in ways they might think they need it.

Do you guys remember Moses? Think of some things he is known for like rescuing the Israelites, parting the Red Sea, getting the 10 Commandments from God. Moses led the Israelites through the desert for a long time. Even though he was a faithful follower of God, he still struggled with disobedience. And because of that, God told Moses that he wouldn't make it to the Promised Land. After Moses died, Joshua took over as leader of the Israelites. Joshua was scared. He didn't know how to lead such a large group of people, but God promised him that He would always be with him and gave him specific instructions for battle. Let's read them! Get your Bibles out and turn to Joshua 1:1-9.

*"After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup> Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. <sup>7</sup> "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

We are all sinners. Jesus wanted to show the world that sinners need a savior and that they are loved by their God as much as those who follow the law exactly. Let's look at Zacchaeus and how he responded when he was told that he was a sinner. Let's look back in Luke 19:8-10.

*"But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

Now Zacchaeus giving away half of his possessions to the poor was no small amount of money. The Bible tells us that he was very wealthy. He gave half of his money to the poor and then he said that if he has taken more money than he should have from someone he will give them back 4 times how much he took. That's a lot! That is like him taking an extra 5\$ from someone and him paying them back \$20. That is a lot of money that he would be giving away! Many people who have lots of money struggle to give it away, but Zacchaeus just gave it freely after being told he was a sinner. He was repentant, or sorry. He wanted to make it right. And what happened when he repented? Jesus said that he was saved. We can all be saved if we repent and invite Jesus into our lives.

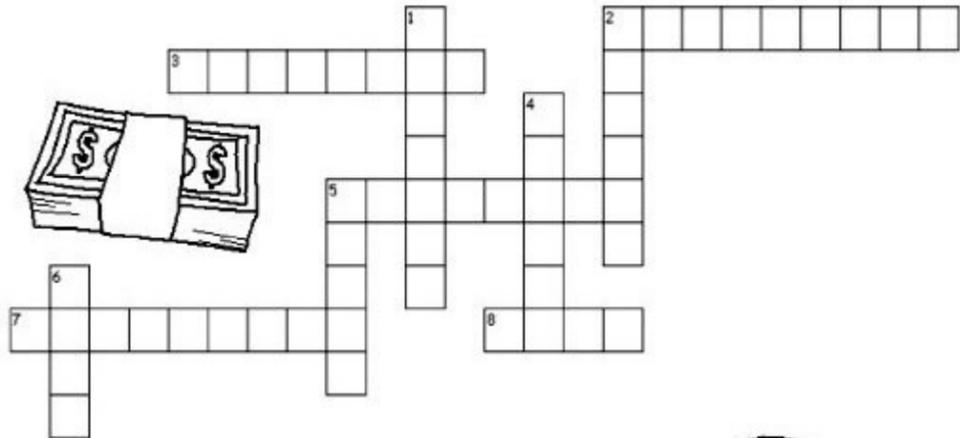
**MEMORY VERSE:** "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," Acts 3:19

**CHALLENGE:** Maybe you know someone who doesn't know Jesus and doesn't know that all they have to do is repent and invite Jesus into their hearts. Tell them about Jesus this week. Maybe you need to repent. Maybe you need to talk to God and tell him you need him. Do that today. Have a parent pray with you and help you talk to God. Use the ABCs of Salvation to help you through it. Let's pray.

# Zacchaeus

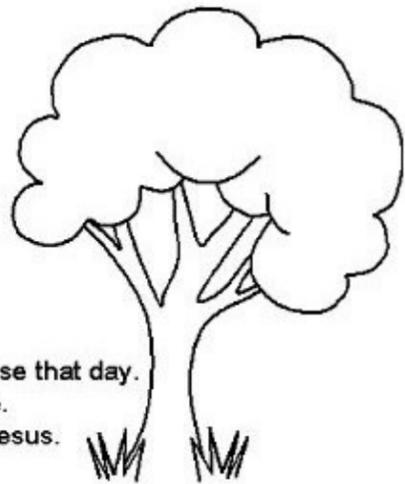
## Repentant heart

Zacchaeus repented when he was told he was a sinner



**Word list:**

welcomed	short
salvation	four
collector	sinner
Jericho	people
sycamore	seek



**Across**

- 2. Jesus said this had come to Zacchaeus' house that day.
- 3. Jesus was \_\_\_ to come to Zacchaeus' house.
- 5. Zacchaeus climbed this type of tree to see Jesus.
- 7. This was Zacchaeus' occupation: tax \_\_\_.
- 8. Jesus came to \_\_\_ and to save the lost.

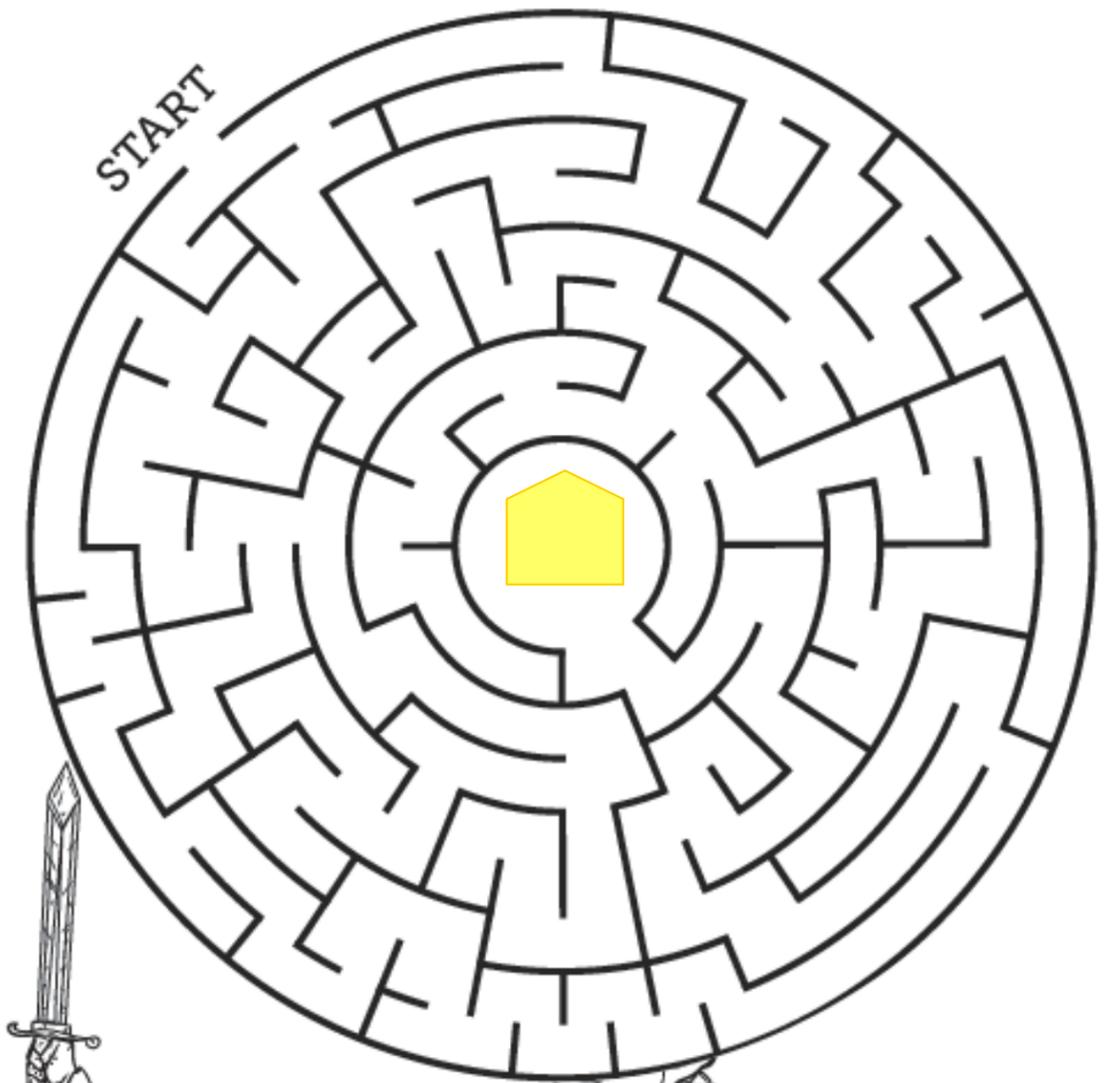
**Down**

- 1. This was the city where the story took place.
- 2. The crowd was surprised Jesus would go to a house of this type of person.
- 4. There were a lot of these surrounding Jesus.
- 5. Zacchaeus wasn't tall but this.
- 6. Zacchaeus didn't just pay people back but gave them \_\_\_ times more.



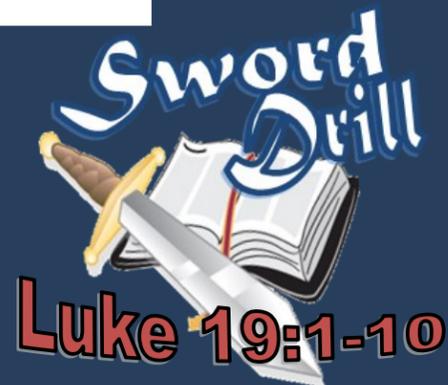
God can do anything in us and through us. Don't doubt Him!

Lead Gideon and his army to the Midianite camp. 



“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,”

Acts 3:19



Gideon: The Battle

"<sup>26</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."  
Matthew 19:26

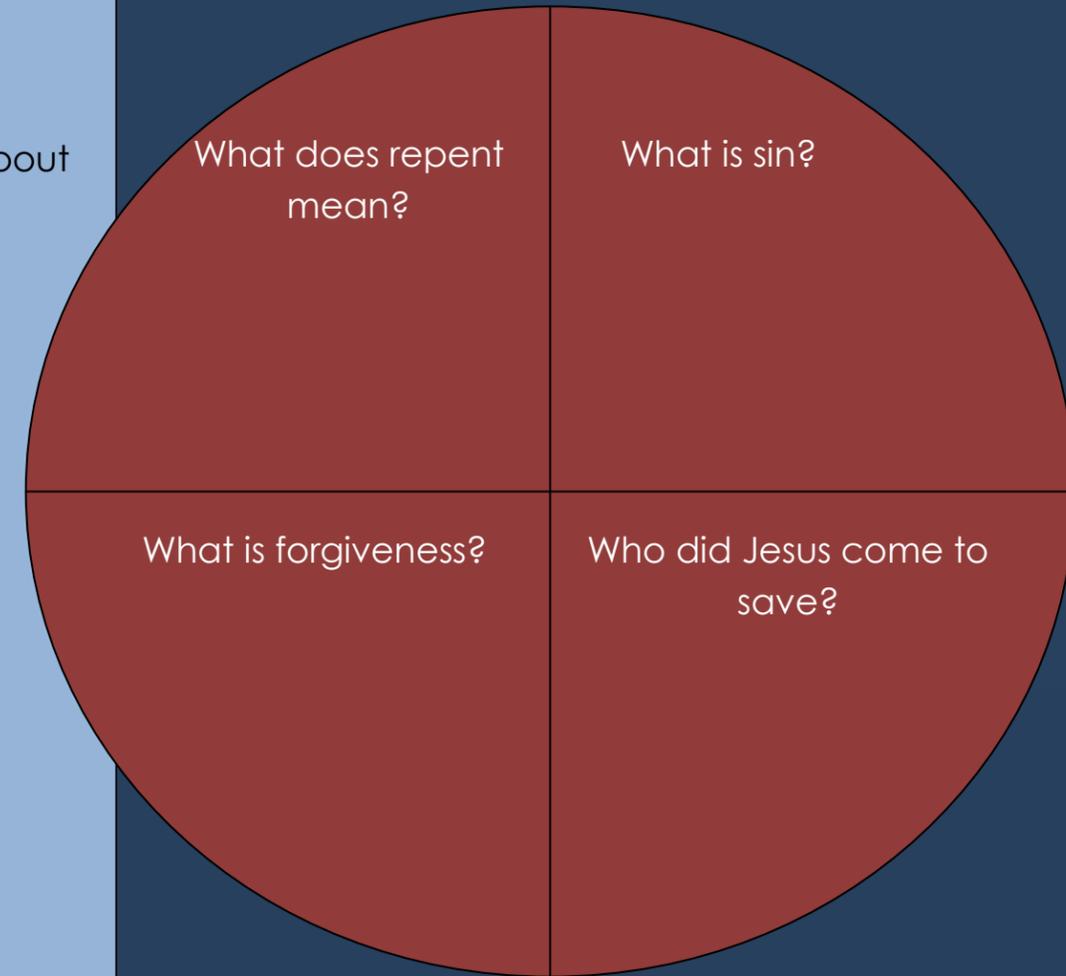


Retell the story from Judges 7:9-22 in your own words, based off of the pictures:



Who do you know that needs to know about Jesus?

How will you tell them about Jesus?



# ABCs of Salvation

How do I say "YES" to Jesus or help others to do so?

Saying "YES" to Jesus is as easy as A,B,C!



**A**

**Admit** that you have sinned and turn to God. The Bible says...  
*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* 1 John 1:9

**B**

**Believe** with faith that Jesus died for you on the cross for your sins and rose again. The Bible instructs us to...  
*"Say with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Then you will be saved."* Romans 10:9

**C**

**Call** on Jesus and say "YES" to Him. Ask Him to come into your life, wash away your sins, take charge of your life and help you become the person He wants you to be. The Bible promises us that...  
*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die, but will have eternal life."* John 3:16

### LESSON 3: ESTHER

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Esther 4:8-17, 5:1-3, 7:1-8

**BIG IDEA:** Heroes have the courage to make the right decisions even when it's hard

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will learn how to ask God for help making tough choices in their lives

**LESSON:** What does courage look like? Do you think courageous people are ever afraid? Why, or why not? Do you consider yourself to be courageous? Why, or why not? The dictionary defines courage as "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." Does this change your idea on what courage is? Just because someone does courageous things or does things that might scare the rest of us, doesn't mean that they aren't afraid. It simply means that they are able to pull it together and say "even though I'm terrified, I know this is what I need to do." Our hero today was courageous. She found out that someone was planning on hurting her family. She also knew that God wanted her to help them. Remember Haman from the video? Well, Haman did not like the Jews. He hated them so much that he was putting together a plan to destroy them all. Haman did not know that Esther was a Jew herself. Esther didn't know about any of this until her cousin, Mordecai, told her. He encouraged her to tell the king, since he was the only one powerful enough to stop Haman from going through with his evil plan. Let's look at the passage together! Open up your Bibles to Esther chapter 4. We're going to read the whole chapter, to see what type of situation Esther was in.

*"When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. <sup>2</sup>But he went only as far as the king's gate, because no one clothed in sackcloth was allowed to enter it. <sup>3</sup>In every province to which the edict and order of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing. Many lay in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>4</sup>When Esther's eunuchs and female attendants came and told her about Mordecai, she was in great distress. She sent clothes for him to put on instead of his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. <sup>5</sup>Then Esther summoned Hathak, one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her, and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. <sup>6</sup>So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. <sup>7</sup>Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. <sup>8</sup>He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. <sup>9</sup>Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. <sup>10</sup>Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, <sup>11</sup>"All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them*

*<sup>15</sup>When Gideon heard the dream and its interpretation, he bowed down and worshiped. He returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands." <sup>16</sup>Dividing the three hundred men into three companies, he placed trumpets and empty jars in the hands of all of them, with torches inside.*

*<sup>17</sup>"Watch me," he told them. "Follow my lead. When I get to the edge of the camp, do exactly as I do. <sup>18</sup>When I and all who are with me blow our trumpets, then from all around the camp blow yours and shout, 'For the LORD and for Gideon.'"*

Seems kind of silly, doesn't it? Lanterns and trumpets to defeat an army? But Gideon was so sure that his plan would work, because he knew God was on their side. How encouraging that is! God is on our side, too! Every day. Let's read verses 19-22 to see what happened when Gideon and his army went through with his plan.

*"<sup>19</sup>Gideon and the hundred men with him reached the edge of the camp at the beginning of the middle watch, just after they had changed the guard. They blew their trumpets and broke the jars that were in their hands. <sup>20</sup>The three companies blew the trumpets and smashed the jars. Grasping the torches in their left hands and holding in their right hands the trumpets they were to blow, they shouted, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" <sup>21</sup>While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled.*

*<sup>22</sup>When the three hundred trumpets sounded, the LORD caused the men throughout the camp to turn on each other with their swords. The army fled to Beth Shittah toward Zererah as far as the border of Abel Meholah near Tabbath."*

God is so good. He always comes through for us, even when things are hard or frustrating or scary, and we don't know what's going to happen. While we can't fix everything, and we can't fight the big battles on our own, God is always with us and will help us fight the good fight.

#### **CHALLENGE:**

**Memory Verse:** *"<sup>26</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26*

## LESSON ONE: Gideon

**Bible Passage:** Judges 6:11–8:27; Teachers should read the whole passage on their time to help prepare, and be ready to paraphrase as there are lots of words that the kiddos will struggle reading in the passage.

**Big Idea:** With God, all things are possible.

**Lesson:** Start by watching the Saddleback Kids video Gideon's 300.

God used a very strange way to make His ideal army. Gideon's army ended up being 300 men. Do you know how big the Midianite army was? 32,000! How would you feel being a part of the 300 group? Now remember, this group of 300 wasn't like the Spartan warriors. Most of them were probably like Gideon—farmers or carpenters or other “simple” folk. But the Midianite army were actual soldiers. I don't know about you, but 300 farmers against 32,000 soldiers doesn't sound fun or like it'll end well. But we know that God has plans for our lives and knows what He is doing.

Do you think God had a reason for making Gideon's army so small? Of course! Gideon surely didn't know what that reason was. He was scared. And God knew that. In Judges 7:9-11 God tells Gideon to go spy on the enemy camp to help with his fear. Let's read Judges 7:12-14 to find out what Gideon heard when he went down there.

*<sup>12</sup>The Midianites, the Amalekites and all the other eastern peoples had settled in the valley, thick as locusts. Their camels could no more be counted than the sand on the seashore.*

*<sup>13</sup>Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying. “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”*

*<sup>14</sup>His friend responded, “This can be nothing other than the sword of Gideon son of Joash, the Israelite. God has given the Midianites and the whole camp into his hands.”*

Wow! How encouraging that must've been for Gideon to hear. The Midianites were scared of Gideon and his army, because they had heard of the things God had done in the past. This little bit of information was just what Gideon needed to hear. He went back to the Israelites, his small army, and told them his plan. Read Judges 7:15-18 to find out what Gideon's battle plan was.

*and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”*

*<sup>12</sup>When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup>he sent back this answer: “Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup>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?” <sup>15</sup>Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup>“Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.”<sup>17</sup>So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.”*

Esther knew that anyone who came to the king without him asking could die, but Mordecai trusted that God wouldn't allow such an evil thing to happen, and he knew Esther was queen to save the Jews from being killed. I don't know how you would feel in her position, but I would definitely not feel qualified, capable, smart enough, or brave enough to do such a big thing. What are some things you do when you're scared? Cry, focus on breathing, talk to someone... There's someone who will ALWAYS be there for us. Someone who will always listen to what we have to say, someone who will always provide us with an answer, or a way to find the answer. Any clue who that might be? God! God is always there for us, and He will gladly help us through any scary situations or make any tough choices in our lives. How can we do that? By praying and reading His Word.

### CLOSING PRAYER

**CHALLENGE:** What is a scary/difficult situation in your life right now? How can you seek God's help TODAY to get you through it? Write down a prayer or a way to find the help you need in the space provided in your books.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “The LORD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory. “ Psalm 118:14 NLT

# Esther

the brave queen

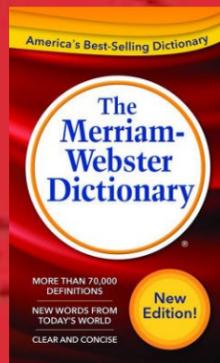
Heroes have the courage to make the right decisions even when it's hard



## Courage?

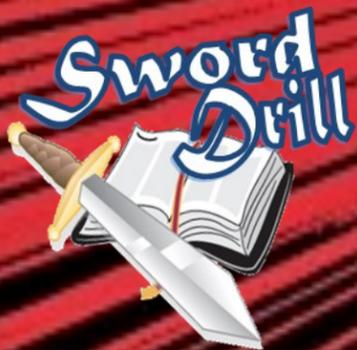
Your definition:

Blank yellow box for writing a personal definition.



Dictionary definition:

Blank yellow box for writing a dictionary definition.



# Esther 4, 7:1-3

How can you seek God's help TODAY to get you through your scary situation?

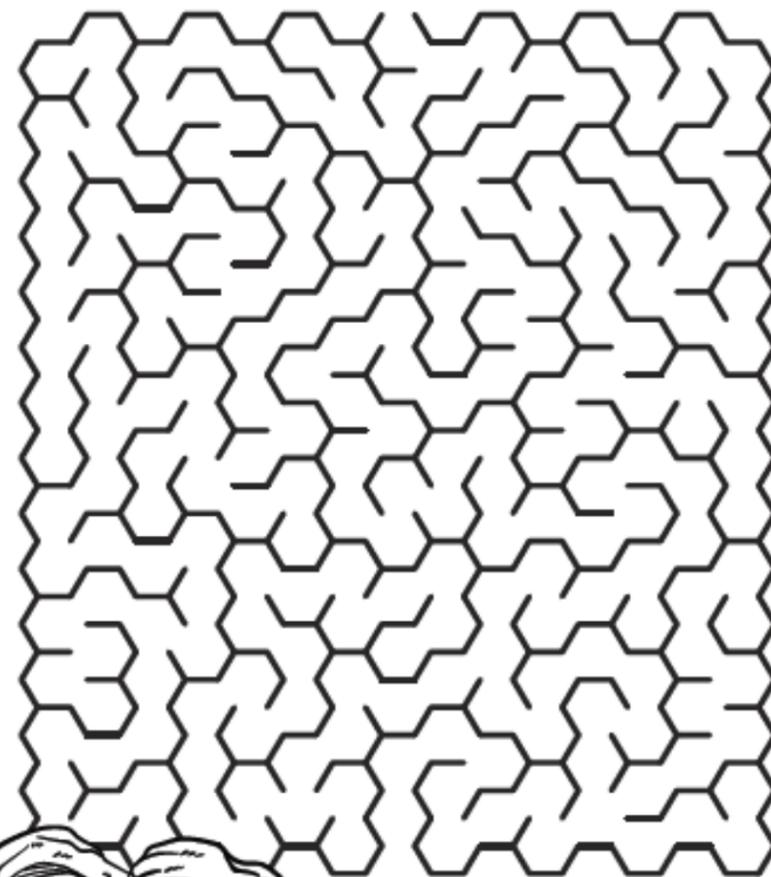
Five horizontal lines for writing an answer.

**"GOD PLUS NOTHING EQUALS EVERYTHING;"**

## RUTH & NAOMI

Show Ruth and Naomi the way to Israel.

FINISH



START



*"The LORD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory."*  
Psalm 118:14 NLT

# RUTH

## COURAGEOUSLY COMMITTED

Heroes follow God's plan



What do you do when life gets hard?

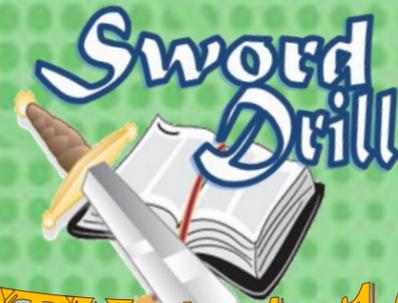
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What do you do when directions are hard/complicated to follow?

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Who do you turn to when you don't know what to do?

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## RUTH 1:1-16

### Talk about it:

What was the reason Naomi & her family left Bethlehem?

Who was Ruth?

What made Naomi leave Moab & go back to her hometown, Bethlehem?

Who insisted on going with Naomi?

What did Ruth say to her mother-in-law (verse 16)?

Ruth had no idea what the future held, but she had faith that God would continue to be there for her and would provide

# ESTHER

## THE QUEEN OF PERSIA



Discover the hidden words.

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

### Word Bank

- |         |          |           |
|---------|----------|-----------|
| PERSIA  | KING     | JEWISH    |
| ESTHER  | BANISHED | ATTACKERS |
| UNCLE   | KINGDOM  | DEFENSE   |
| FURIOUS | BANQUET  | QUEEN     |

"The LORD is my strength and my song; He has given me victory."

## LESSON 4: RUTH, COURAGEOUSLY COMMITTED

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Ruth 1:1-22

**BIG IDEA:** Heroes follow God's plan

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will learn that heroes stay faithfully committed to following God and loving others.

**LESSON:** Do you have a favorite sports team? Are you committed to your team? What if they started losing all the time, would you still be fully committed? Some people say they're a "fan" of something, but that doesn't always last. Often times, people get bored or annoyed or tired of something and instead of staying committed, they find something "better". Today we are going to talk about a woman named Ruth, and she was so committed to her husband's family, that even when he died, Ruth continued to live with her husband's mother, helping her out in whatever way she could. Let's read Ruth 1:1-7.

*"In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. <sup>2</sup>The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there. <sup>3</sup>Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. <sup>6</sup>When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup>With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah."*

Naomi and her family were in Moab for 10 years. Elimelek and his sons died and Naomi planned to go back to Bethlehem. Now let's read Ruth 1:8-18.

*"<sup>8</sup>Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup>May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband." Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup>and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people." <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, "Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— <sup>13</sup>would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!" <sup>14</sup>At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.*

*<sup>15</sup>"Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." <sup>16</sup>But 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 even death separates you and me." <sup>18</sup>When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her."*

Naomi told her daughters-in-law to go back to their homes. Orpah initially refused, but after further insisting on Naomi's part, eventually obeyed. Ruth refused, and stayed faithfully committed to her mother-in-law. Ruth constantly had faith in God. Even after the death of her husband and moving to a foreign town with her mother-in-law, she still trusted in God. She had no idea what the future held, but she had faith that God would continue to be there for her and would provide whatever she and Naomi needed.

Just like Ruth, we need to learn not to forsake God when times get hard. I know it's difficult to keep trusting in God when everything seems to be working against you, but remember the things He has done for you in the past. Even when it seems like our circumstances can be too intense for us to handle, keep trusting in and relying on God to get you through it all. On our own, we can't do anything, but with God on our side we can do everything!

### CLOSING PRAYER

**CHALLENGE:** Spend some time with your parents today and think of some things you can do to help when life gets hard. Does prayer help you? Maybe listening to worship music? Talk out some ideas with your parents, and try one out this week when life gets hard in the midst of this stay-home order.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Ruth 1:16: *"But 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.'"*

May this verse serve you as a reminder to stay faithfully committed to God, no matter what.