









## Alison Works Hard

by Adrienne Miklovic

Alison came home from school. She was tired! But Alison had special jobs to help around the  before she could rest.




First, Alison fed the . She did that every day after school. Then she picked up her . She put her  in her dresser.


Alison's dad came home from work. He took off his . With a sigh, he plopped onto the .

After Alison set the  for dinner, she climbed onto the  next to Dad. "What's wrong, Daddy?" asked Alison.

"I had a very hard day at work," said Dad.

"Then why don't you stay home tomorrow?" she asked.

Dad pulled Alison onto his lap. "God gave me this job, Alison. He uses my job to help our family pay for , , and a  to live in. Jobs aren't always fun, but we need to do them. God will help us if we ask Him to."

Dad looked around the . "It looks like you have worked hard today too. Thank you for doing your jobs."

Dad gave Alison a hug. She was glad God would give her and her dad strength to do their jobs again tomorrow.



Put an X on the animals that David did not see while he was working as a shepherd. Look at the names of the animals that are left. Match the colors of the circled letters to the circles in the sentence below.



Art by Dan Foote

G O d O O O O O d D O v O d .



# God Helps David Do His Jobs

Bible story from 1 Samuel 16:11, 18-21; 17:34-37



Art by Len Ebert

As a young man, David was a shepherd. He took care of his father's sheep.

David took the sheep out to find good grass to eat. He kept the sheep safe. David found water for the sheep to drink and shade for them to rest in.

One time, a lion carried off one of David's sheep. David struck the lion and killed it. The sheep was rescued!

Another time, a bear carried off one of David's sheep. David struck the bear and killed it. The sheep was rescued.

God gave David strength and courage to do his jobs.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Our help is in the  
name of the LORD,  
the Maker of  
heaven and earth.**

**Psalms 124:8**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Samuel 16:10, 11
- Monday ..... 1 Samuel 16:12, 13
- Tuesday ..... 1 Samuel 16:17, 18
- Wednesday ..... 1 Samuel 16:19, 20
- Thursday ..... 1 Samuel 16:21-23
- Friday ..... 1 Samuel 17:34, 35
- Saturday ..... 1 Samuel 17:36, 37

These verses review the Bible story, God Helps David Do His Jobs.



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

## TOGETHER TIME!

Everyone in the family has jobs to do. And God can give each person both strength and courage to do his or her jobs well. Talk about some of the jobs different family members have. Discuss which parts are easy or difficult, fun or boring. Then pray and ask God to help you with your jobs.



## FAMILY OUTING

If possible, schedule a "Go to Work with Mom/Dad Day." Have children who are old enough go to a parent's place of employment, if the parent works outside the home. Whether at the workplace or at home, explain some of the parent's responsibilities and, if possible, let the children help with some of the jobs. Talk about how each person needs God's help to do a job well.










# Weekly Bible Reader

Issue 2

## Luis and Grandpa

Luis was nervous. Tomorrow his class had Show and Tell.

Luis knew what he was going to take. His grandpa had given him a remote control .

After supper, Luis sat on the  with the  on his lap. Grandpa was sitting in a  and reading the .


After a few minutes, Grandpa said, "You are very quiet, Luis. Is anything wrong?"

"I have to do Show and Tell at school tomorrow, Grandpa. I do not want to," said Luis.

"Do you have something to show?" asked Grandpa.

"Sure," said Luis. "I have this


by Gary Thacker

neat  you gave me. But I'm scared to stand up in front of the whole class."

"You need to be brave. I know someone who can help you. Do you know who?"

"God can help me be brave," said Luis.

"That's right, Luis. Let's pray and ask God to help you."

The next day, Luis stood in front of the whole class and told about his remote control . He did not feel scared.

"You did a very good job, Luis," said his teacher.

"Thank you," said Luis. "I had some special help."



**D**avid was brave because he knew God would help him. Unscramble the words to finish the Bible verse. Who can help you be brave?

" \_\_\_\_\_ triumphed over the Philistine with a  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_; without a  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in his hand he struck \_\_\_\_\_  
 the Philistine and \_\_\_\_\_ him."

1 Samuel 17:50

### Word Box

viDda  
 Insgi  
 etosn  
 rwdos  
 wodn  
 illedk



Art by Len Ebert



# God Helps David Be Brave

Bible story from 1 Samuel 17:1-52



Art by Len Ebert

Goliath was a Philistine soldier. He was over 9 feet tall. Goliath shouted to the Israelite army, "Choose a soldier to fight me!" But no Israelite soldier was brave enough to fight Goliath.

David told King Saul that he would fight Goliath. David said, "God will help me."

David went to fight Goliath with only a staff in his hand, five smooth stones, and a sling. Goliath made fun of David because David was so young.

David ran to meet Goliath. He put a stone in his sling. He slung the stone, and it struck Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell down. David had killed Goliath with God's help!



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Our help is in the  
name of the LORD,  
the Maker of  
heaven and earth.**

**Psalm 124:8**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Samuel 17:3-7
- Monday ..... 1 Samuel 17:8, 9, 11
- Tuesday ..... 1 Samuel 17:16-19
- Wednesday ..... 1 Samuel 17:32, 33
- Thursday ..... 1 Samuel 17:37-40
- Friday ..... 1 Samuel 17:41, 43, 45
- Saturday ..... 1 Samuel 17:48-50

These verses review the Bible story, God Helps David Be Brave.

# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## TOGETHER TIME!



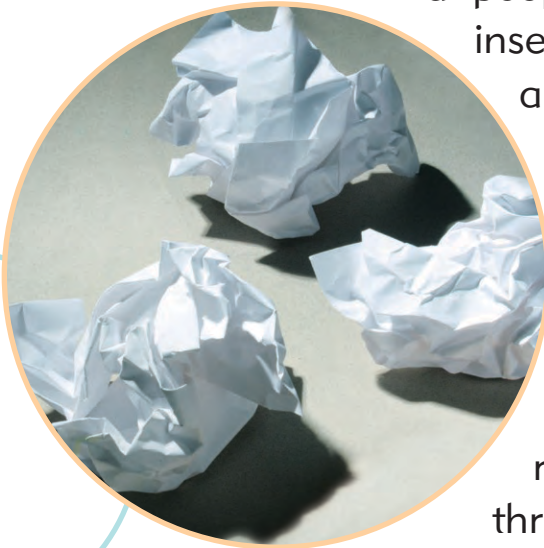
All of us would like to be brave like David and be able to face our “giant” fears. Talk about some of your fears. Encourage each family member to share some of his or her fears. Read from 1 Samuel 17 and act out the story of David. Together, pray to be brave like David.



## GAME TIME!



Tear pictures out of magazines or draw pictures of things that people might be afraid of, such as storms, insects, and big dogs. Mount the pictures on a piece of poster board and display the poster on the wall. Take turns throwing paper wads at the pictures of things people are afraid of, like David slung a stone at Goliath. If desired, keep score of who has defeated (hit) the most fears. At the end of the game time, remove the pictures from the poster and throw those fears away!



Answers to the word puzzle inside:  
David, sling, stone, sword, down, killed

Remember, **GOD CAN HELP US BE BRAVE.**



# Weekly Bible Reader

Issue 3

## Dante's Friend

by Kerry B. Kloth

It was a beautiful fall day. The



was shining bright.

Colorful



were falling from



in Dante's yard.

Dante's dad was outside raking

the



."Dante, please help me

rake the



," his dad said.

Dante started to rake the



into a big



. Then Dante saw

his friend Trevor. Trevor was riding

his



.

Trevor stopped at Dante's house.

"Dante, can you ride your



with me?" Trevor asked.

"Sorry, I can't ride my



now," Dante said. "I have to help my

dad finish raking these



."

Trevor knew God would want him to be a good friend. "I can help you rake



," Trevor said. "Then we can finish faster, and you can ride your



with me."

So Dante and Trevor raked



together. Then they helped Dante's dad stuff the



into big



"We are all done. You can ride your



now, Dante," Dad said.

"Thank you, boys, for helping me."

Dante and Trevor had fun riding their



together.

That night Trevor prayed. He thanked God for helping him be a good friend to Dante.

God gave David a friend named Jonathan. God gives us friends too. Look at the maze. Help the two friends find their way home from school. Then circle the pictures of things that you like to do with your friends.





# Jonathan Is a Good Friend to David

Bible story from 1 Samuel 18:1-15; 19:1-10; 20:42



Art by Len Ebert

Jonathan was King Saul's son. Jonathan said to David, "Let's be friends." Jonathan gave David a robe and tunic, a sword, a bow, and a belt.

All the people loved David. That made King Saul jealous of David. One day David was playing the harp for King Saul. Saul threw his spear at David, but David jumped aside.

Jonathan said, "David, my father is trying to kill you." Jonathan asked his father not to kill David. But King Saul again tried to kill David with a spear. David ran away.

Jonathan was still David's friend. They said, "We promise to always be friends." And they were.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Our help is in the  
name of the LORD,  
the Maker of  
heaven and earth.**

**Psalms 124:8**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Samuel 18:1-4
- Monday ..... 1 Samuel 18:5, 6, 9
- Tuesday ..... 1 Samuel 18:10, 11, 13
- Wednesday ..... 1 Samuel 18:14, 15
- Thursday ..... 1 Samuel 19:1-3
- Friday ..... 1 Samuel 19:4, 6, 7
- Saturday ..... 1 Samuel 19:9, 10; 20:42

These verses review the Bible story, Jonathan Is a Good Friend to David.



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## TOGETHER TIME!



Friends are special gifts from God! As a family, discuss what makes a good friend; make a list of those qualities and actions. Plan to invite a few friends for dinner or for a day of fun. Before the friends arrive, look at the list again and remind family members of ways they can be good friends to others. Pray for any needs your friends may have.



## FAMILY CREATIONS



Plan a Friendship Day, a day when each member of your family will share a homemade gift with a friend.

Have each family member choose a friend and write a simple poem about that person.

Purchase colorful card stock and cut it to fit a homemade or purchased picture frame. Print the friendship poems on the card stock and decorate as desired. Slip finished poems inside frames and wrap the gifts. On your designated Friendship Day, have family members deliver their gifts. Pray together and thank God for your friends.



Remember, **GOD CAN HELP US BE GOOD FRIENDS.**



# Weekly Bible Reader®

Issue 4

## Ryan Does Right

Ryan hated to ride the .

A big kid named Chad sat in the



behind him. Chad was

mean. Chad pulled on Ryan's




and made fun of him.

Chad tripped kids as they walked

to their  .

Ryan told his mom about Chad.

"He's a big bully, Mom. I would

like to put rocks in his .

Then he would be stuck in his .

"Is that the right thing to do?"


Mom asked. Ryan frowned.

The next morning at breakfast,

Ryan prayed, "Dear God, help me


to do the right thing on the .


by Adrienne Miklovic

When Chad got on the ,


Ryan smiled at him and said, "Hi!"

Chad looked surprised.

Ryan pulled a bag of  out

of his  and offered them to

Chad. "My mom packed me two

bags of  today for a snack.


Do you want one?"

Chad grinned. "Thanks. I am kind

of hungry." He took the  and

sat in the  behind Ryan. He

did not do anything mean all the

way to .

Ryan was glad he had done the

right thing. He knew that God had

helped him!



Fill in the blanks with words from the Word Box. Write the circled letters in order in the box below to finish the sentence.

1. David played his \_\_\_\_ \_      \_\_\_\_  
for the king.
2. King Saul was trying to kill  
\_\_\_\_ \_      \_\_\_\_.
3. Saul and his army were  
\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_      \_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_      \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_  
wanted to kill Saul.
5. David took Saul's \_\_\_\_ \_      \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_  
jug and spear.
6. Saul said, "I have been  
\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ ."

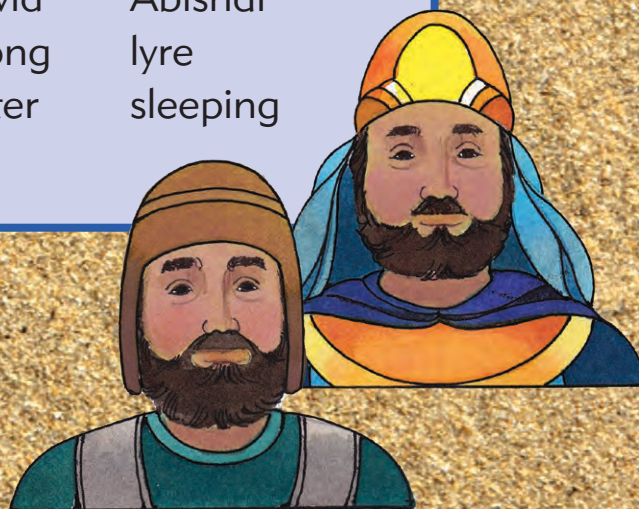


God can help us treat  
others

\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ .

### Word Box

David	Abishai
wrong	lyre
water	sleeping





# David Chooses God's Way

Bible story from 1 Samuel 26



Art by Len Ebert

King Saul and his soldiers chased David to kill him.

David and Abishai crept into Saul's camp while Saul and his army were sleeping.

Abishai whispered to David, "Let me kill Saul."

"No," David said, "God chose Saul to be king. Get his spear and water jug and let's go."

David and Abishai stood a distance from the camp. David called out, "I have the king's spear and water jug. Why are you trying to kill me?"

Saul said, "I have been wrong. You could have killed me, but you did not."

God helped David show respect to King Saul.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Our help is in the  
name of the LORD,  
the Maker of  
heaven and earth.**

**Psalms 124:8**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Samuel 26:2-4
- Monday ..... 1 Samuel 26:5, 7, 8
- Tuesday ..... 1 Samuel 26:9-12
- Wednesday ..... 1 Samuel 26:13-16
- Thursday ..... 1 Samuel 26:17, 18
- Friday ..... 1 Samuel 26:21, 22
- Saturday ..... 1 Samuel 26:23-25

These verses review the Bible story, David Chooses God's Way.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## FAMILY OUTING



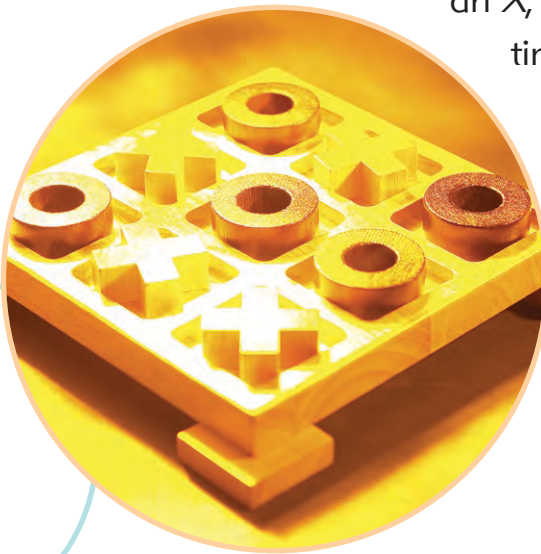
Take the family out to dinner. (A smorgasbord would be perfect for this activity.) Look at the menu and talk about all the food choices. As you enjoy the meal, discuss how we can choose to treat others in right or wrong ways. Talk about times when it's hard to treat someone right. Pray together and ask God to help family members as they choose to treat others right.



## GAME TIME!



Play some family games of tic-tac-toe. Each time someone draws an X, name a wrong way to treat others. Each time someone draws an O, name a right way to treat others. Did the Xs win? Discuss consequences that can take place when we treat others in wrong ways. Celebrate the victory when the Os win!



Answers to the word puzzle inside:  
lyre, David, sleeping, Abishai, water, wrong, right

Remember, **GOD CAN HELP US TREAT OTHERS RIGHT.**

# Weekly Bible Reader®

Issue 5

## Change of Seasons

by Brian J. Waldrop



Hannah watched as her dad raked leaves. Her eyes were puffy. She had been crying. "Why did Megan have to move?" she asked.

"Uncle Bill got a new job," Dad said. "I know you miss your cousin. You will still see Megan on holidays."

Hannah flopped down into a pile of leaves. She dreamed of Thanksgiving. She and Megan would be able to see each other again. Hannah thought of other holidays. She was surprised when a pile of leaves fell on her.

"Dad, stop that!" Hannah shouted.

Hannah's father grinned. "I like the change of seasons. Winter, spring, summer, and fall. Each one is different."

"Why did God make different seasons?" Hannah asked.

"Maybe God made seasons to teach us a lesson. God can be trusted no matter what changes come," Dad said. "You need to trust God. He will take care of Megan, and He will take care of you."

Hannah was happy. She knew that each change of season meant she would see Megan again. She also knew God would be with her and with Megan.



Use the code to find out the special message.



D



G



I



L



O



R



S



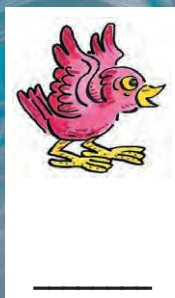
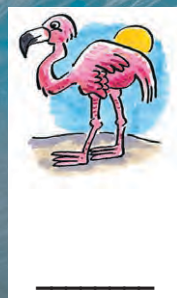
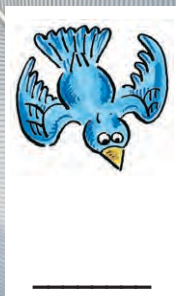
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U



W





# Elijah Trusts and Obeys God

Bible story from 1 Kings 16:29–17:6



Art by Len Ebert

Ahab was a bad king. He worshipped idols instead of God. He tried to get the people to worship idols. Ahab did many wrong things.

Elijah was a prophet of God. Elijah said to King Ahab, "I have a message from God. You are not a good king. There will be no rain for the next few years."

Then God told Elijah to hide near the Kerith Ravine. He showed Elijah a brook where he could get water. God sent ravens to bring Elijah food. The birds brought bread and meat every morning and evening. God cared for Elijah.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**The LORD your God  
is God of gods and  
Lord of lords, the  
great God, mighty  
and awesome.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Kings 16:29-31
- Monday ..... 1 Kings 16:32, 33
- Tuesday ..... 1 Kings 17:1
- Wednesday ..... 1 Kings 17:2-4
- Thursday ..... 1 Kings 17:5, 6
- Friday ..... James 5:17, 18
- Saturday ..... Nahum 1:7

These verses review the Bible story, Elijah Trusts and Obeys God.



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## FAMILY CREATIONS



Provide paper, paint, colored chalk, markers, and so on. Ask each family member to choose a different letter of the alphabet and draw a way God shows His care that begins with that letter. (Example: A—God gives us apples.) See how many different letters you can draw pictures for. Display the pictures in alphabetical order! Pray and thank God because He cares and is with you.



## CARE & SHARE



In a Bible, read 1 Kings 16:29–17:6. Talk about how God cared for Elijah and provided food for him. Name some people you know who might need some food—an elderly neighbor, someone who is sick, people in a homeless shelter. Discuss how you can show your care for these people. Can you prepare some food and deliver it to someone? Can you go shopping and take food items to a local shelter? Pick one idea and carry out your act of caring.



Answer to the word puzzle inside:  
I WILL TRUST GOD.


Remember, **WE CAN TRUST GOD TO BE WITH US.**

# Weekly Bible Reader®




Issue 6


## Burgers and Fries



by Angela Smith



"I lost my job," Michael's mom told him. "We don't have much  to buy food."



Michael wanted  for dinner.




"I am sorry, Michael," his mom said. "We do not have  for . I will make some soup from ."


Michael was tired of eating soup made from , but he did not tell his mom. That night Michael prayed, "Dear God, please let my mom find a new job so we can have

 to buy food. And could we have ? In Jesus' name, amen."

The next day Michael bought lunch at . Lunch was ! "Thank You, God!" Michael prayed.

When Michael got off the  his mom was waiting. "I got a job at the Burger House!" his mom said. She handed Michael a bag. "I will be making ." Michael laughed and ate the fries in the bag. "Thank You, God!" he prayed.

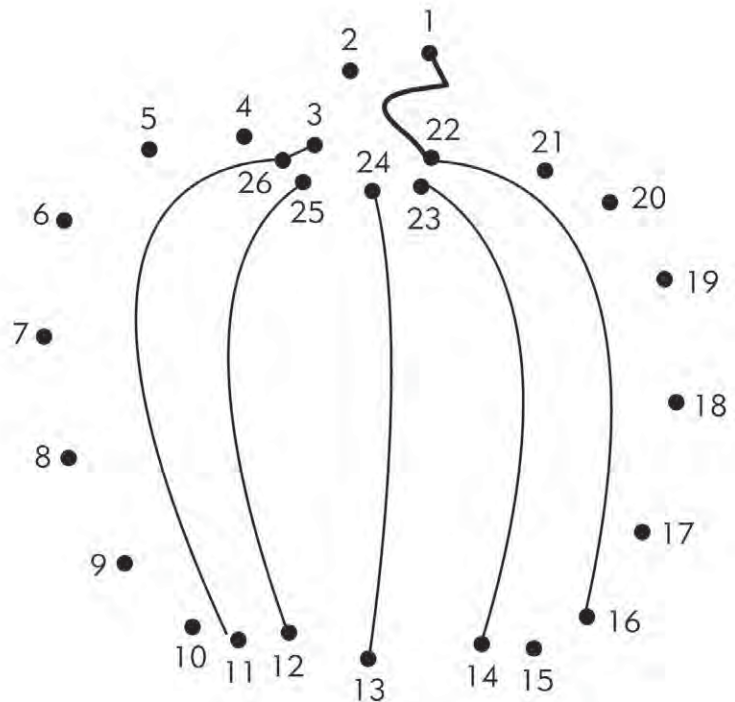
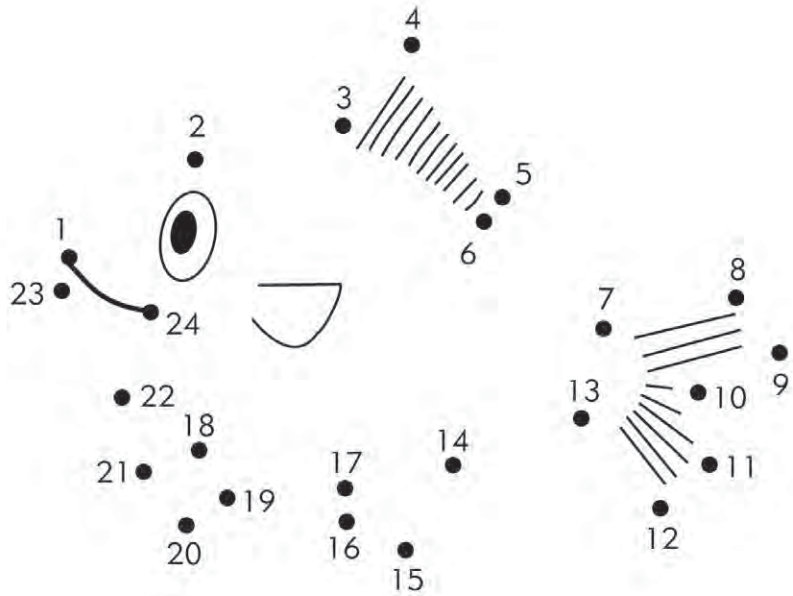
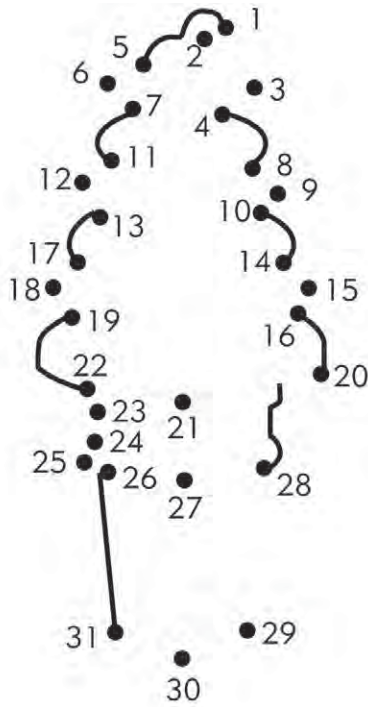
When they got to their home, a lady from their church family was waiting for them. She was holding a big  of food. Michael saw bread, hamburger, and . Michael's mom smiled. "With these groceries, I can make ."

Michael laughed. "Soup made from  sounds good too!"

As they walked inside, Michael whispered, "Thank You, God!"



Connect the dots to find some foods that God has given us. Then draw your favorite food in the box.



# God Provides for Elijah and a Woman in Zarephath

Bible story from 1 Kings 17:7-16



Art by Len Ebert

There had been no rain for so long that all the brooks dried up. God told Elijah to go to a city and meet a woman there. Elijah saw the woman gathering sticks. Elijah asked her for water and bread.

The woman said, "I only have a little flour and oil to make a last meal for my son and me."

Elijah told her, "Don't worry. Go home. Make me some bread. Then make some for yourself. God will provide."

The woman did what Elijah told her. There was plenty of flour and oil! God gave Elijah, the woman, and her son the food they needed.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**The LORD your God  
is God of gods and  
Lord of lords, the  
great God, mighty  
and awesome.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Kings 17:7-9
- Monday ..... 1 Kings 17:10, 11
- Tuesday ..... 1 Kings 17:12
- Wednesday ..... 1 Kings 17:13, 14
- Thursday ..... 1 Kings 17:15, 16
- Friday ..... Luke 4:25, 26
- Saturday ..... Psalm 146:7

These verses review the Bible story, God Provides for Elijah and a Woman in Zarephath.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## FAMILY OUTING



We are so blessed by God to have so much food from which to choose and to be well fed! Take a trip to a local supermarket. As you go through the grocery aisles, name foods by categories (such as fruits, vegetables, and meats) or by flavors (like salty and sweet). Look at the variety of colors and shapes. Thank God for all the wonderful food He gives us to eat.



## FAMILY CREATIONS



Read 1 Kings 17:7-16. Talk about the food God gave to the woman—flour and oil. Use flour to make some modeling dough. Combine 4 cups of flour,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup powdered tempera paint, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup salt. Mix together  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups water and 1 tablespoon oil; then gradually stir the water and oil mixture into the flour mix. Knead the dough as you add the liquid. Add more water if too stiff, more flour if sticky. Then have fun forming food shapes from the dough you have prepared. (Note: For an edible dough, you can mix together 1 cup peanut butter, 1 cup powdered milk, 1 cup honey, and 1 cup oatmeal!)



Remember, **WE CAN TRUST GOD TO PROVIDE WHAT WE NEED.**



# Weekly Bible Reader®

Issue 7

## Kimi's Prayer

by Adrienne Miklovic



Kimi and her mom talked on the way home from the church service. Mom asked Kimi why she kept her eyes open during prayer.

"I wait to pray until everyone else is done," said Kimi. "Then God can hear my prayer better."

Mom was surprised. "God can pay attention to everyone's prayers," she said.

"How can He do that?" asked Kimi. "I cannot hear two people at once."

"God isn't like us," said Mom. "He is so powerful that He can hear everyone at once. In fact, God can

do many things that we cannot do."

Kimi's eyes grew wide. She thought about her Sunday school class. Kimi said, "We learned in Sunday school that God sent a fire that burned up a wet altar. We have been learning about a lot of things God can do."

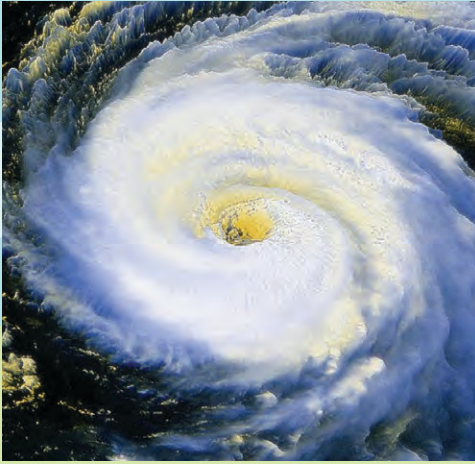
"There are many stories of powerful things God has done. I'm glad God is so powerful," said Mom.

"Me too," said Kimi. "I'm going to pray and thank God for being so powerful."

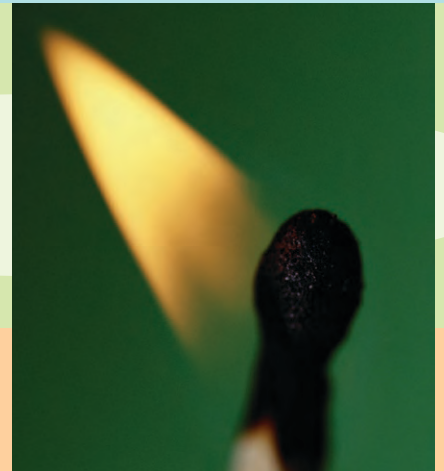
"I will pray too," said Mom.

"He will hear both of us!" Kimi said excitedly.

Name these powerful things. Use the Word Box for help.



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

Who is all-powerful?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Word Box

fire  
God

lion  
hurricane

lightning



# God Shows His Power

Bible story from 1 Kings 18:18-39



Art by Len Ebert

Elijah said to King Ahab and the people, "Let's have a contest between your god, Baal, and the true God."

The 450 prophets of Baal made an altar and put an animal sacrifice on it. They prayed and cried and shouted to Baal. There was no answer.

Then Elijah built an altar to God. He put the animal sacrifice on it. He dug a ditch around the altar. Elijah said, "Pour water over everything."

Elijah prayed, "God, let people know You are the true God." God sent down powerful fire that burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the water, and the stones! The people cried, "The LORD—he is God!"



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**The LORD your God  
is God of gods and  
Lord of lords, the  
great God, mighty  
and awesome.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Kings 18:19-21
- Monday ..... 1 Kings 18:22-24
- Tuesday ..... 1 Kings 18:25, 26
- Wednesday ..... 1 Kings 18:27-29
- Thursday ..... 1 Kings 18:31, 32
- Friday ..... 1 Kings 18:33-35
- Saturday ..... 1 Kings 18:36-39

These verses review the Bible story, God Shows His Power.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## TOGETHER TIME!



Look through a picture Bible or Bible storybooks. Read and discuss Bible events in which God showed His great power—creation, Noah and the ark, the Red Sea crossing, the walls of Jericho, the miracles and resurrection of Jesus. Pray and worship together as you finish the sentence, “God, You are so powerful that You \_\_\_\_\_ (insert Bible account).”



## GAME TIME!



Name things that can be powerful—water, fire, a storm, a muscular person, and so on. Write each powerful thing on a separate slip of paper. Play a game of power charades or draw pictures of the powerful things. Have one person choose a slip of paper and try to act out or draw the powerful thing named on the paper. The first person to guess correctly what is being acted out or drawn can choose the next slip of paper and continue the game. Emphasize that our powerful God created and is in control of all these things.



Remember, **WE CAN TRUST AN ALL-POWERFUL GOD.**


# Weekly Bible Reader




Issue 8


## An Airplane Ride



by Angela Smith

"Please make sure your seat belts are fastened," the flight attendant announced.




Devani and Destiny were flying in an  for the first time. They were going to visit their grandparents.


Devani grabbed Destiny's  as the  started to move. The  went faster and faster.

"Please help, God!" Devani whispered, as she squeezed her  shut.




Suddenly the big  was in the air! "Wow! Look down there!" Destiny was looking out the window. Everything was getting smaller and smaller. The  looked like toys. The buildings


looked like block houses.

Devani opened her . The  was flying above the . "It is pretty," the twins said together.

"This  is bigger and faster than anything!" Destiny said.

Devani said, "But it is not bigger than God. Only He can do anything!"

Destiny turned her head. "That's true. God made the whole , with  and . Nobody else could do that."

The sisters praised God right then. They thanked Him for the big  and for keeping them safe. They praised God because He can do anything!



# God Can Do Anything!

Finish the rhymes. Use the Word Box for help.  
Find out some things God can do.

God made



so \_ \_ \_ \_ .

God made



so \_ \_ \_ \_ .

God made



in the sky so \_ \_ \_ \_ .

God made



and



\_ \_ \_ .

God kept Noah in the



safe and \_ \_ \_ .

God put a



in the \_ \_ \_ .

God can do anything.

It is \_ \_ \_ \_ .

God can do anything.

We praise Him too!

## Word Box

dry

tall

too

sky

true

blue

small

# God Helps Elisha and a Family in Shunem

Bible story from 2 Kings 4:8-37



Art by Len Ebert

Elisha was a prophet of God. Whenever Elisha went to the city of Shunem, a woman invited him to stay at her house. She and her husband built a room for Elisha.

The woman and her husband had no son. Elisha knew what to do. "You will have a son," he said. Soon the woman did have a son.

One day the boy became sick and died. His mother laid him on Elisha's bed. Elisha went in and shut the door. He prayed to God. As Elisha touched the boy, the boy became alive again! Elisha said to the woman, "Take your son." And she did!



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**The LORD your God  
is God of gods and  
Lord of lords, the  
great God, mighty  
and awesome.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 2 Kings 4:8-10
- Monday ..... 2 Kings 4:14-17
- Tuesday ..... 2 Kings 4:18-21
- Wednesday ..... 2 Kings 4:22, 27, 28
- Thursday ..... 2 Kings 4:29-31
- Friday ..... 2 Kings 4:32-35
- Saturday ..... 2 Kings 4:36, 37

These verses review the Bible story, God Helps Elisha and a Family in Shunem.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## GAME TIME!



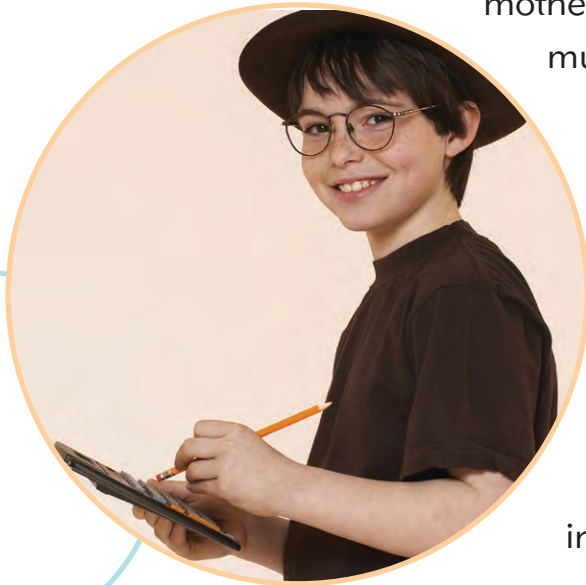
Play a game that will help you remember that God can do anything. The first person should say, "God can \_\_\_\_\_," and name something God does. (Example: "God can make the sun come up each day.") The second person can repeat what the first person said and then add something else God can do. Continue repeating and adding to the list. Try to name things that are impossible for people to do. Thank God that He can do anything.



## CARE & SHARE



Read the Bible story from 2 Kings 4:8-37. Elisha showed the mother in Shunem how powerful God is and how much God cared for her and her family. Put on your thinking hats and be detectives. Look around your neighborhood. Ask about people in your congregation. Who needs to be reminded of God's power? Make a list of names. Pray for each person on the list. Call, e-mail, or send a card to at least one person named on the list. Let that person know you care about and are praying for him or her.



Answers to the word puzzle inside:  
tall, small, blue, too, dry, sky, true

Remember, **GOD SOMETIMES PROVIDES IN SURPRISING WAYS.**

# Weekly Bible Reader®

Issue 9


## God Is Watching

by Brian J. Waldrop



"How about some hide-and-seek?" Heather asked. Heather was Jamal's babysitter.


"I want to watch ,



," Jamal replied.






"I will fix some ,

," Heather said.


Jamal plopped onto the . He found the . He began flipping through the channels. Jamal stopped on a show that he was not allowed to watch.

His friends had been talking about the show on the . They said it was funny. He wanted to watch it. His mom and dad already had told him they did not want him to watch it.

Jamal looked around. He could hear the *pop, pop, pop* of the . Heather was still in the kitchen. She could not see the  from where she was standing.

Jamal thought about watching the show. Who would ever know? He put the  down on the . Something caught his eye. It was the family . Jamal remembered a  verse. God wants us to obey His Word. The  says to obey your parents.

"Help me obey," Jamal prayed. "In Jesus' name, amen."

Jamal changed the  channel. He knew that God and his parents would be happy.



Use the words in the Word Box to finish the clues. Then fill in the puzzle.

Across

3. I am the prophet who told Naaman to dip in the Jordan River. Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. I am the place Naaman went to be healed. He dipped in me seven times. What am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Word Box**

- |          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| ☆ Elisha | ☆ king         |
| ☆ God    | ☆ servant girl |
| ☆ Naaman | ☆ Jordan River |

Down

1. I am commander of the army. I wanted to be healed of my skin disease. Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

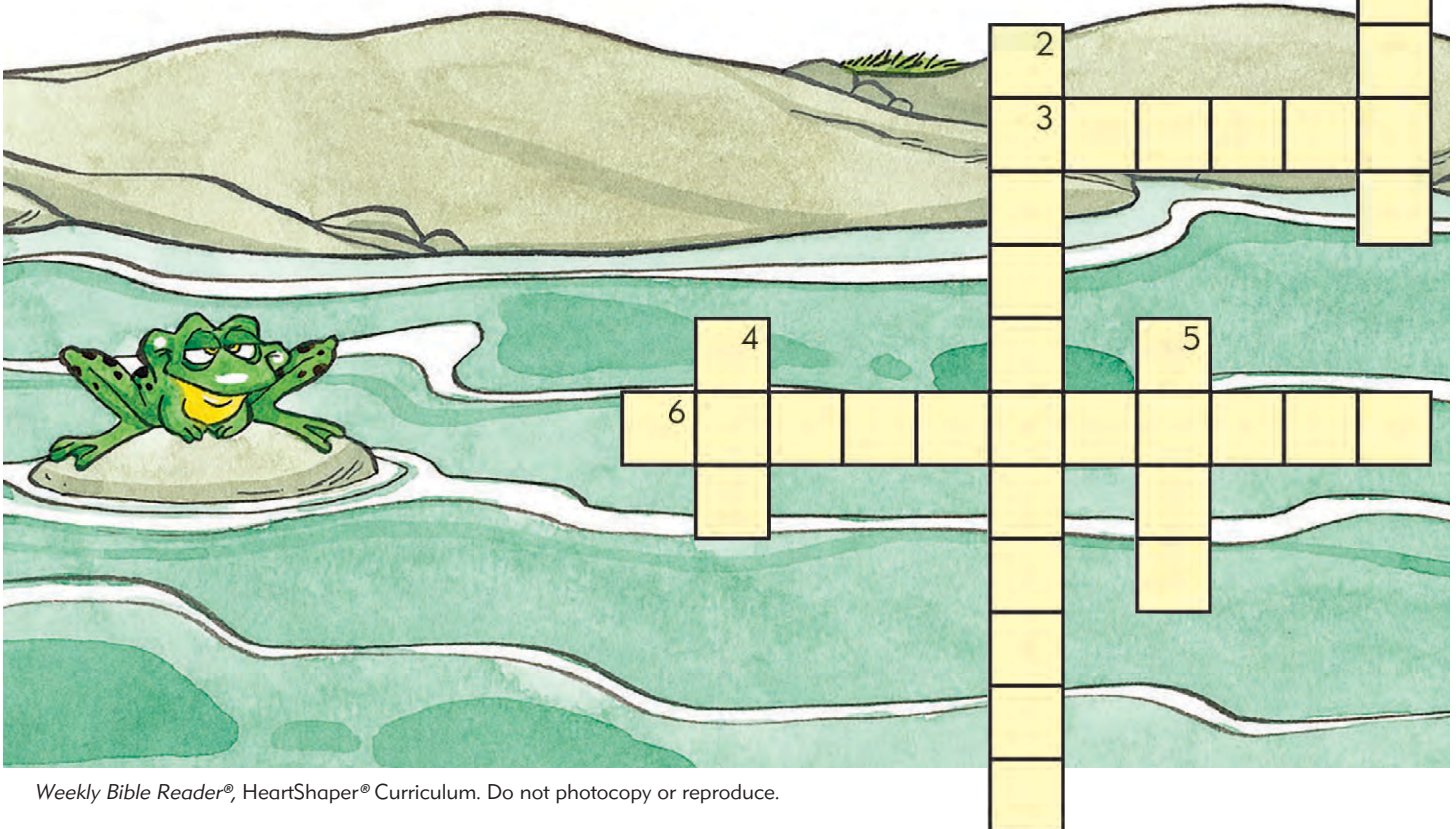
2. I told Naaman about the prophet who could heal him. Who am I?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. I healed Naaman of his leprosy. I told the prophet what to tell Naaman. Who am I?

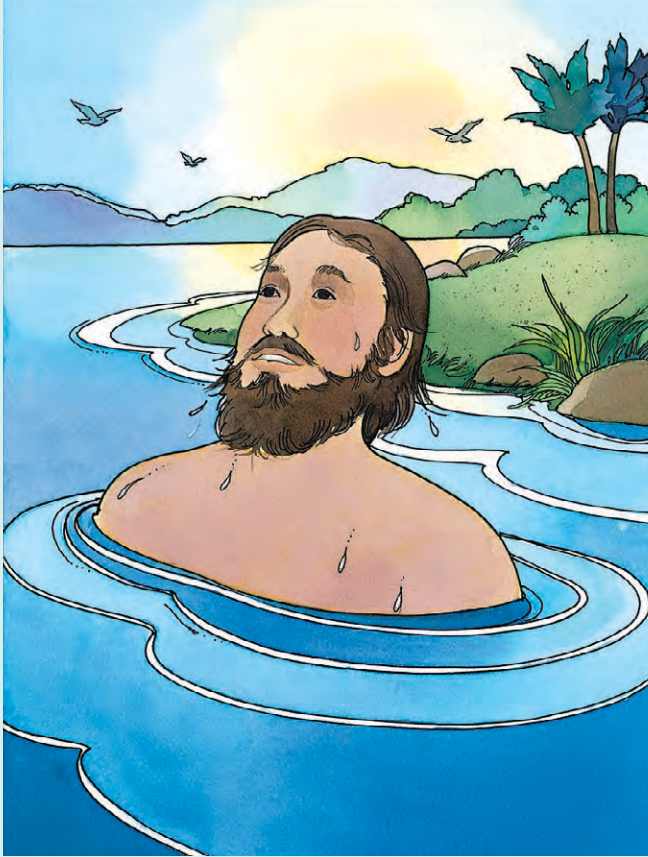
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Naaman sent me a letter about the prophet. I was afraid his army wanted to fight my army. Who am I? \_\_\_\_\_



# Naaman Learns to Obey God

Bible story from 2 Kings 5:1-15



Art by Len Ebert

Naaman was an army commander. He had a skin disease. Naaman heard of a prophet in Israel who could cure the disease. So Naaman's king sent him to the king of Israel. The king of Israel didn't know what to do, but Elisha the prophet did. He said, "Go wash in the Jordan River seven times."

Naaman became angry. He didn't want to dip in the river.

Naaman's servants helped Naaman obey Elisha's instructions. Naaman dipped himself seven times in the Jordan River. His skin became clean and healthy again. God healed Naaman when he obeyed God.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**The LORD your God  
is God of gods and  
Lord of lords, the  
great God, mighty  
and awesome.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 2 Kings 5:1
- Monday ..... 2 Kings 5:2, 3
- Tuesday ..... 2 Kings 5:4-6
- Wednesday ..... 2 Kings 5:7, 8
- Thursday ..... 2 Kings 5:9, 10
- Friday ..... 2 Kings 5:11, 12
- Saturday ..... 2 Kings 5:13-15

These verses review the Bible story, Naaman Learns to Obey God.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## FAMILY OUTING



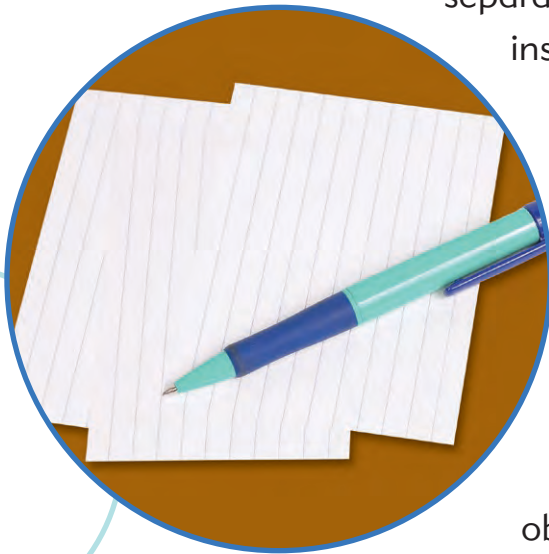
Plan a family walk that leads you through the neighborhood and past specific landmarks. At the end of the path, hide a treat or prize (or carry it with you, hidden from view). Create a treasure map that your family can follow to get to the prize. As your family follows the map, talk about the importance of following directions. Talk about why it is important to obey God's instructions written in the Bible. Enjoy the treat or prize together!



## TOGETHER TIME!



Think of simple tasks that can be done in your house. On separate index cards, write out simple step-by-step instructions for completing each task. Have someone choose a card and follow the instructions. If desired, family members can choose partners to help them complete their tasks. Be sure everyone gets involved. (Kids love watching parents follow instructions too!) Thank God that He has given us instructions for right living. Ask Him to help your family as you try to obey God's Word.



Remember, **WE SHOULD OBEY THE ONE TRUE GOD.**

# Weekly Bible Reader®

Issue 10

## Birthday Money

"Mom! Dad! I got a birthday



from Grandma and

Grandpa!" shouted Luke as he

ran into the



from the



.

It was almost Luke's birthday. He

was happy that his grandparents

remembered. He opened the



and



fluttered into

his lap. "Wow! Twenty dollars!" he

called out.

"That is a lot of



," said

Mom. "Be sure to write them a

thank-you note."

"OK, Mom," said Luke.

Luke thought about the things

he would like to buy. He wanted a

new



. Maybe he would buy

by Adrienne Miklovic

some new



. Maybe he

would buy some



.

"When we needed to buy a



, what did we do before we

went shopping?" asked Dad.

Luke thought. "You prayed

together about what



you

should buy."

"That is right," said Dad. "And

you should do the same thing.

Thank God for the



, and then

ask Him for wisdom in spending it."

"Does He care about how I spend

my



?" asked Luke.

"Of course He does," Dad said.

"God cares about the things in your

life. And He will help you make right

choices if you ask Him."



1. Cross out all the blue crowns.
2. Cross out all the green crowns.
3. Cross out all the red crowns.

4. Write the letters from the rest of the crowns in order on the blanks below to finish the sentence.



King Solomon prayed for \_\_\_\_\_ .

# Solomon Asks God for Wisdom

Bible story from 1 Kings 3:4-14; 4:29-34



Art by Len Ebert

King Solomon went to Gibeon to worship God. God spoke to him in a dream. "Ask for whatever you want. I will give it to you."

Solomon answered God, "I ask for wisdom to rule your people in the right way."

God was pleased and said, "I will give you wisdom to make right choices. And I will give you riches and honor and a long life too."

God made Solomon wiser than anyone in the world. He wrote 3,000 wise sayings like those in the book of Proverbs. He taught about plants, animals, birds, and fish. People came from all over the world to hear Solomon.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Devote yourselves  
to prayer, being  
watchful and  
thankful.**

**Colossians 4:2**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 1 Kings 3:4, 5
- Monday ..... 1 Kings 3:6-9
- Tuesday ..... 1 Kings 3:10-12
- Wednesday ..... 1 Kings 3:13, 14
- Thursday ..... 1 Kings 4:29-31
- Friday ..... 1 Kings 4:32-34
- Saturday ..... Psalm 66:19, 20

These verses review the Bible story, Solomon Asks God for Wisdom.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES

## TOGETHER TIME!

Purchase some fortune cookies and read the sayings inside. Talk about how people sometimes believe these are wise sayings. Challenge each family member to write a "wise saying" that could be followed in your home. The sayings might be silly, such as "Sleep in your clothes so you'll be dressed in the morning" or "Never trust a dog to watch your food." Share your sayings. Then talk about the true wisdom found in God's Word.



## FAMILY CREATIONS


Create "wise owl" cupcakes. Bake and frost cupcakes with chocolate frosting. On each cupcake, place side by side two butterscotch-flavored Life Savers® "eyes." Fill each eye with a dab of white frosting and a chocolate chip "pupil." Cut two 1" lengths from a black licorice stick and push them into the frosting above the eyes as eyebrows. Finish each owl by adding a cashew "beak." As you enjoy eating these fun creations, talk about why owls are perceived to be wise. (They can see in the dark.) Thank God that He gives us His wisdom when we need to make tough choices in "dark" or hard times.






Answer to the word puzzle inside:  
wisdom



Remember, **GOD HEARS US AND CAN HELP US KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG.**


## A Sick Neighbor

One Sunday morning, Clare knocked on Mrs. Howard's . Mrs. Howard liked to go to the worship service with Clare's family.





When Clare opened the , she saw Mrs. Howard lying on the . She was covered with a .

"I am sorry, Clare." Mrs. Howard coughed. "I cannot go today because I am sick."

Clare felt bad for Mrs. Howard. She lived by herself except for her . And  cannot take care of you when you are sick!



After the worship service, Clare and her mom went to Mrs. Howard's . Clare fed Mrs.

by Angela Smith

Howard's  and filled their . Then Clare carried the trash to the , while her mom helped Mrs. Howard get into .

Before they left, Clare prayed, "Dear God, please help Mrs. Howard to feel better. In Jesus' name, amen."

Clare and her mom took care of Mrs. Howard all week long. They prayed with her every day.

The next Sunday, Clare knocked on Mrs. Howard's . Mrs. Howard opened the . She had a big smile on her face. "I can go to the worship service today, Clare. Thank you for praying for me." God had made Mrs. Howard better!

Match the feelings words to the faces. Using the Word Box, write the feelings words on the blank lines.

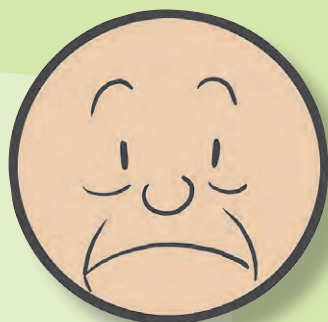
I need God's help when I am



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

### Word Box

angry  
afraid

happy  
sad

sick  
confused

Art by Craig Boldman



# Hezekiah Asks for God's Help

Bible story from 2 Kings 19:14-19; 20:1-7; 2 Chronicles 29, 30



Art by Len Ebert

King Hezekiah became very sick. The prophet Isaiah told Hezekiah, "God says you are going to die."

Hezekiah prayed to God. He said, "Lord, please remember that I have obeyed you." Hezekiah cried. He did not want to die.

God spoke to Isaiah. "Go back and tell Hezekiah that I heard his prayer. I will heal him and add 15 years to his life."

Hezekiah asked how he could know that God would heal him. Isaiah called to God, and God made a shadow go back 10 steps! Then God healed King Hezekiah.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Devote yourselves  
to prayer, being  
watchful and  
thankful.**

**Colossians 4:2**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 2 Kings 20:1
- Monday ..... 2 Kings 20:2, 3
- Tuesday ..... 2 Kings 20:4-6
- Wednesday ..... 2 Kings 20:7, 8
- Thursday ..... 2 Kings 20:9, 10
- Friday ..... 2 Kings 20:11
- Saturday ..... Psalm 28:6

These verses review the Bible story, Hezekiah Asks for God's Help.



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## TOGETHER TIME!



One of the best things you can do for a person who is sick is to pray. Make a family prayer notebook. Draw a line down the middle of each page. Label one half of the page "Requests" and the other half "Answers." Write down the date and names of people you want to pray for. Use the notebook to pray daily for the people listed. When God answers a prayer, write down the date and the answer.



## CARE & SHARE



A simple card or gift can mean a lot to someone who is sick or disabled. Prepare care packages and have them on hand for times when you hear of friends or neighbors who are sick. Each package might include a small package of tissues, a travel-size container of hand lotion or sanitizer, a puzzle book and pen or pencil, and a homemade card. The items can be placed in paper lunch bags that have been decorated by members of your family. As you give away these simple gift bags, people will be encouraged and God's love will be shared.



Remember, **GOD HAS THE POWER TO ANSWER OUR PRAYERS.**

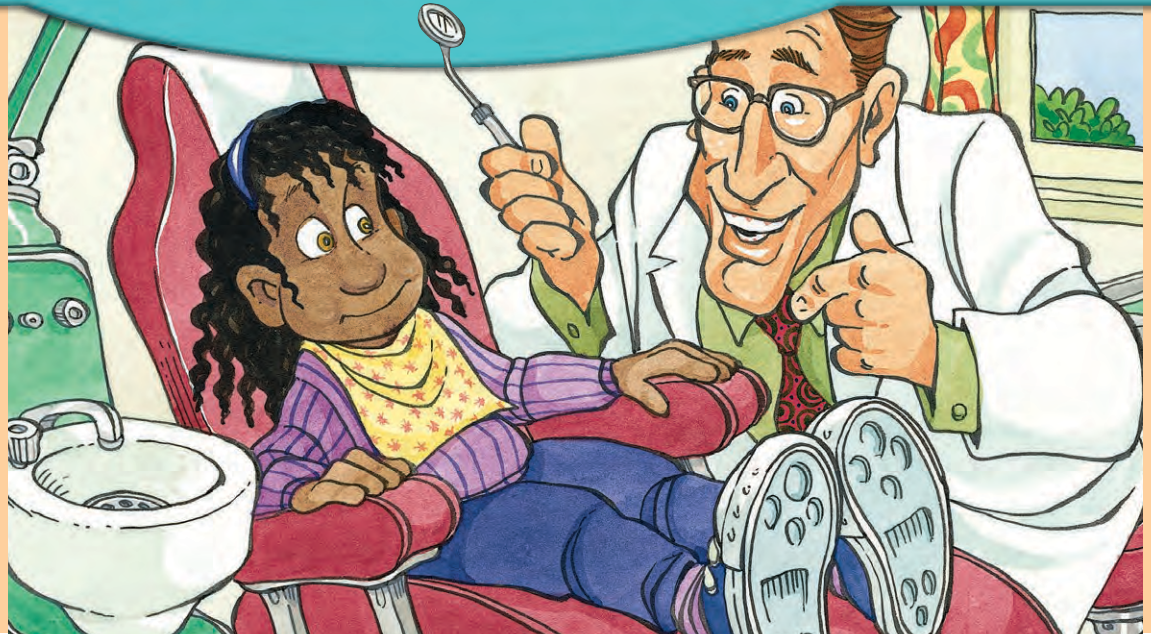


# Weekly Bible Reader®

Issue 12

## Tamira

by Kerry B. Kloth



Art by Dan Foote

Tamira sat in the dentist's chair. The dentist looked at her teeth with his special tools.

"Your teeth look great, Tamira, except you have one tiny cavity," the dentist said. "I need to put a filling in that cavity before it gets worse."

Tamira's mom made an appointment for them to come back to the dentist's office. When they got home, Tamira told her mom she felt afraid. "I don't want the dentist to fill the cavity in my tooth," Tamira said.

"Sometimes when we are afraid, it helps to remember God's power and praise Him," her mom said.

Tamira prayed, "Dear God, you are strong. You have power over everything. In Jesus' name, amen." Tamira smiled. She felt a lot better.

When Tamira went to the dentist the next week, she felt only a little bit scared. While the dentist worked on her tooth, she thought about how wonderful God is.

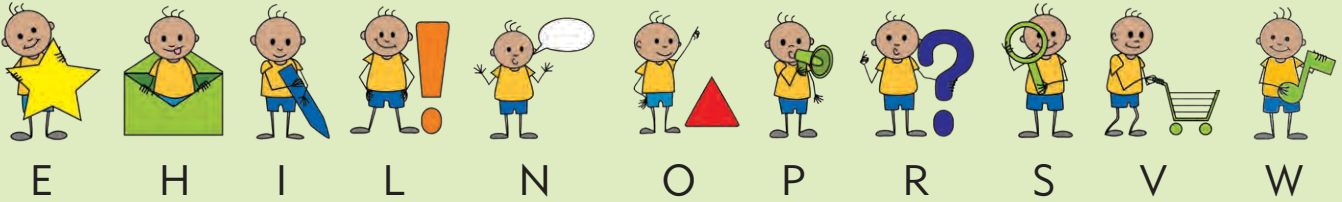
After the dentist was finished, Tamira got to choose a prize from the box. The dentist also gave her a new toothbrush.

Tamira's tooth felt better. She was glad she had remembered to praise God. She knew God had helped her. What a great God!



# God Hears

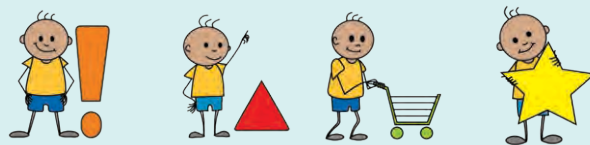
Use the code below to discover an important definition.



is giving \_\_\_\_\_ to God.



It is showing great \_\_\_\_\_ to God.



What will God hear you say or see you do today?

# Jehoshaphat and God's People Pray and Worship God

Bible story from 2 Chronicles 20:1-30



Art by Len Ebert

One day some friends came to warn King Jehoshaphat. "A huge army is coming!"

Jehoshaphat was afraid. He told everyone in Judah that they would have a special time of prayer. Jehoshaphat prayed, "Lord, You are powerful. Will You help us?"

God heard Jehoshaphat's prayer. God told Jahaziel to say, "God says, 'Do not be afraid. You won't have to fight. The Lord will be with you.'"

Jehoshaphat and the people worshipped and thanked God.

The next morning, Jehoshaphat's army went to God's battle. Singers marched in front of the army to praise God. God won the battle that day!



Say this  
Bible  
Memory

**Devote yourselves  
to prayer, being  
watchful and  
thankful.**

**Colossians 4:2**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:1-3
- Monday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:4-6
- Tuesday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:7-9
- Wednesday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:10-12
- Thursday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:13-15
- Friday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:16-19
- Saturday ..... 2 Chronicles 20:20-22

These verses review the Bible story, Jehoshaphat and God's People Pray and Worship God.



# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## TOGETHER TIME!



In a family Bible, read 2 Chronicles 20:1-22, 30. Point out how the appointed men marched and sang praises to God. Appoint a family member to lead in a favorite worship song. Everyone should sing along. Then have the leader appoint another person to lead in a song. The appointed leaders can ask family members to march as they sing too!



## FAMILY CREATIONS



Using roll paper, make a time line of each family member's life. For younger children, you may want to mark individual years on their time lines. For older children or adults, you can mark 5- or 10-year intervals. Have each family member select photos or draw pictures of significant events in their lives and attach the pictures to their time lines. Display the completed time lines. Recall situations when God gave the help that was needed to each person. Together, thank God for the help He has given your family through the years.



Answer for coded words inside:  
Worship, honor, love

Remember, **GOD HEARS OUR PRAISE AND WORSHIP.**



## A Sneaky Snack

by Adrienne Miklovic



"Hi, Mom! I'm home," called Jenna. Mom was in the kitchen. Jenna gave Mom a hug. "May I please have a snack?" Jenna asked. "I'm hungry."

"Sorry, Jenna, not right now," Mom said. "Dad is coming home early tonight. If you eat something now, you won't be hungry for dinner."

Jenna went to her room to play. Her stomach growled. She walked downstairs. Mom was not in the kitchen. Jenna got a box of crackers from the cabinet. She ran to her room.

She leaned against her door and grabbed a handful of crackers. As

she chewed them, they seemed to stick in her mouth. She thought about what Mom had said. Jenna felt bad. She opened her door and walked back to the kitchen.

"Mom, I took these crackers even though you said not to eat anything," said Jenna as her eyes filled with tears. "I'm sorry."

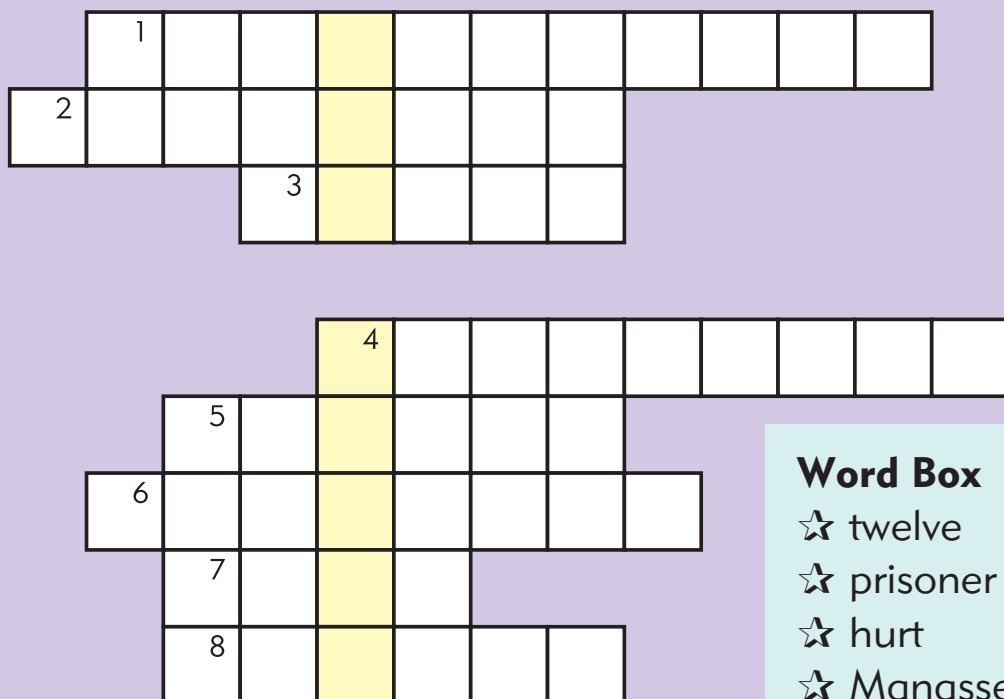
Mom looked sad but hugged Jenna. "Thank you for telling me. I forgive you because you're sorry for what you did. Now, Jenna, you need to ask God to forgive you. When you disobeyed me, you disobeyed Him."

"Will He forgive me too?" asked Jenna.

"Of course He will," Mom said.

Use the words in the Word Box to finish the sentences. The numbers tell where to write the words in the puzzle. What words are in the yellow boxes?

Manasseh was (5)\_\_\_\_\_ years old when he became king. Manasseh was King (4)\_\_\_\_\_ son. (6)\_\_\_\_\_ was a bad king who led his people away from God. Manasseh built and worshipped (3)\_\_\_\_\_. Manasseh did many things that (7)\_\_\_\_\_ God. God wanted Manasseh and the people to (8)\_\_\_\_\_ to Him, but they would not. Manasseh's enemies made him a (2)\_\_\_\_\_. Manasseh prayed for (1)\_\_\_\_\_.



### Word Box

- ☆ twelve
- ☆ prisoner
- ☆ hurt
- ☆ Manasseh
- ☆ idols
- ☆ listen
- ☆ forgiveness
- ☆ Hezekiah's

# Manasseh Asks God for Forgiveness

Bible story from 2 Chronicles 33:1-20



Art by Len Ebert

King Manasseh did bad things that hurt God. He built idols. He worshipped the stars. Manasseh even had some of his sons killed.

Manasseh and the people would not listen to God. Some enemies made King Manasseh a prisoner. Manasseh was scared and lonely.

Then Manasseh began to pray. He asked God for help. Manasseh told God how sorry he was for all the bad things he had done.

God heard Manasseh's prayer. He let him be king again. Manasseh and the people began to worship and serve God.



**Say this  
Bible  
Memory**

**Devote yourselves  
to prayer, being  
watchful and  
thankful.**

**Colossians 4:2**

## Daily Family Devotional Readings

- Sunday ..... 2 Chronicles 33:1-3
- Monday ..... 2 Chronicles 33:4-6
- Tuesday ..... 2 Chronicles 33:7-9
- Wednesday ..... 2 Chronicles 33:10-13
- Thursday ..... 2 Chronicles 33:14-16
- Friday ..... 2 Chronicles 33:17-20
- Saturday ..... Psalm 27:7, 8

These verses review the Bible story, Manasseh Asks God for Forgiveness.





# FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES



## GAME TIME!



Talk about the importance of forgiving others. Then gather the family outdoors and get out a jump rope or length of clothesline. Have family members take turns jumping the rope (adults too!). Count the number of successful jumps. For younger children, see how many times they can jump or step back and forth over a rope held a few inches off the ground. Thank God that He is willing to forgive us even more times than we can count.



## TOGETHER TIME!



Using a pencil, make a list of times when members of your family might need to forgive others, such as when others are mean to you, when people laugh at you, when a friend doesn't share, and so forth. Then, using small pieces of rye bread, take turns rubbing over the words to erase them! This fun experiment can remind family members that when we forgive others, we should also give up bad feelings about them. The bad things they have done are simply erased!



Answer to the word puzzle inside:  
God hears

Remember, **GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS FOR FORGIVENESS.**