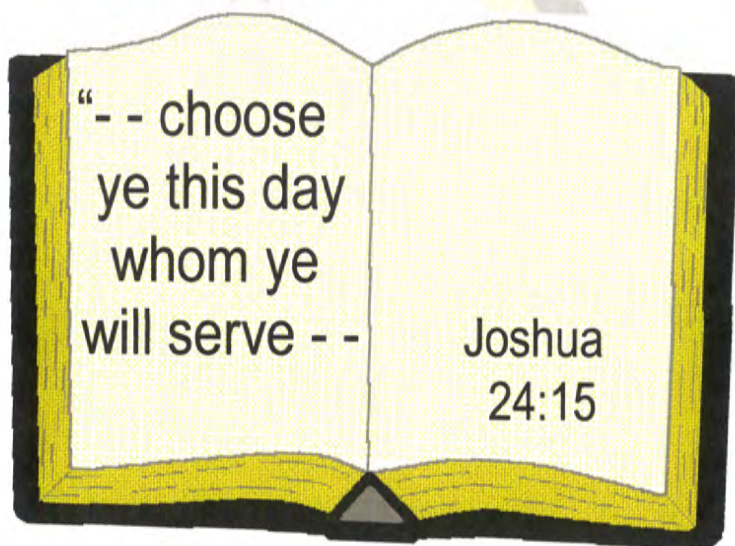


Making Choices

Vacation

Bible

School



A series of lessons for **Preschool 2 — 5 years**
Kindergarten

Table Of Contents

MAKING CHOICES

A series of lessons for Vacation Bible School

Lesson 1: Joash, The Boy Who Became King

Aim: to impress upon the student that it is important to listen when they are taught the Word of God, and determine in their youth that they will obey it. It is their responsibility to do what is right, and young people can make good decisions.

Lesson 2: Young Men Who Chose To Mock God's Servant

Aim: to impress upon the student that young people are responsible for their decisions and their actions, even when they are done foolishly. Being young is no excuse for doing wrong, and they will suffer the consequences for their own actions.

Lesson 3: Daniel Chose To Obey God's Commands

Aim: to teach that young people, even teen-agers, can make good choices in their lives, and no one can make their choices for them.

Lesson 4: Three Young Men Chose To Disobey the King

Aim: to impress upon the student that obedience to authority is important, but obeying God is more important than obeying man.

Lesson 5: A Slave Girl Chose To Help Her Master

Aim: to teach the student that even young people can be instrumental in directing someone to God or a man of God for help. No matter how young, we can help others.

Daniel, Daniel

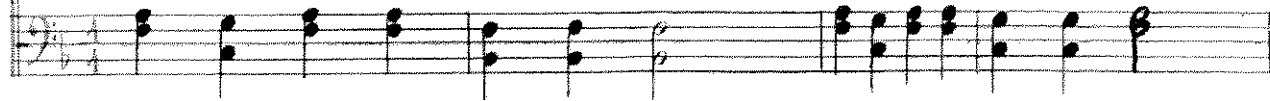
Betty Penn
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Chorus

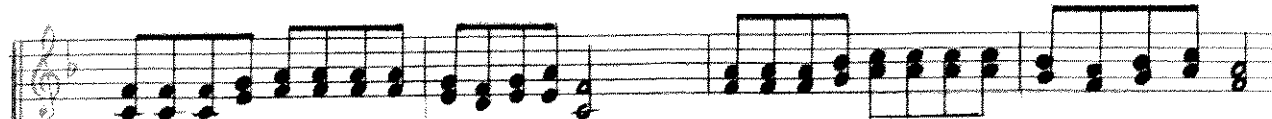


Dan - iel, Dan - iel, when he was ve - ry young, Went a - way to live in Ba - by - lon

2. The



5



1. Ne - bu-chad - nez - zar was a wick - ed king.

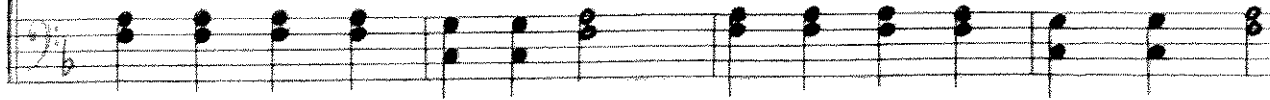
He came to Je - ru - sa - lem so that he could bring

ser-vant said to Dan - iel, "Eat the food I bring.

It has been sent to you from the ta - ble of the king

3. Dan - iel would not eat meat sa - ri - ficed to i - dol gods.

So he want - ed wa - ter, and on - ly veg - ta - bles;



9



all of the young men who were ve - ry strong.

Back to live with him in far off Ba-by- lon.

It will make you strong, and it will make you wise."

Dan - iel said to eat it. I must com-pro-mise."

And he grew up strong - er and smart-ter than the rest.

Neb - u - chad - nez - zar chose him for the best.



Note: Sing the chorus first and after each verse.

JOASH, THE BOY WHO BECAME KING

Scriptures: II Kings chapter 11 (1-3, 12-16, 17, 21) 12:2-14
II Chronicles 22:1-4 23:10-12

Aim: To impress upon the student that it is important to listen when they are taught the Word of God, and determine in their youth that they will obey it. It is their responsibility to do what is right, and young people can make good decisions.

Emphasis: Joash was crowned king of Judah when he was seven years old, but he was humble in the execution of his office. He did not exert his authority over adults, but realized that Jehoiada, the high priest, was an older man and knew more than he did. He listened to the instruction, the direction, and the teaching of Jehoiada.

Memory verse: II Kings 12:2, *“And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.”*

The following is a list of characters in today’s lesson.

Joash - son of **Ahaziah** (also called Jehoash)

Ahaziah - king of Judah - son of **Jehoram** and **Athaliah** - II Chronicles 22:1-2

Jehoram - wicked king of Judah - II Chronicles 21:5-6 - married **Athaliah**
son of **Jehoshaphat**

Athaliah - daughter of **Ahab** (and Jezebel) - wicked king of Israel - I Kings 16:30, 32,33
granddaughter of **Omri** (father of Ahab) - evil king of Israel - I Kings 16:25

Jehosheba - daughter of **Jehoram** and **Athaliah** - sister of **Ahaziah** - aunt of **Joash** -
wife of **Jehoiada**

Jehoiada - the high priest at the temple

Background of the Kingdom of Judah

At this time in the history of Israel the nation was divided into two kingdoms, the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of Judah. The northern ten tribes made up the **Kingdom of Israel** and was ruled from Samaria by a **wicked king, Ahab**, and his wife Jezebel, who was an idol worshiper. They taught the people of Israel to worship idols. The remaining two tribes of Israel made up the **Kingdom of Judah**, and was ruled from the city of Jerusalem by **Jehoshaphat**, who was a **good king**. He taught the people of Judah to put away their idols and worship God.

II Chronicles 20:32, "And he walked in the way of Asa his father, and departed not from it, doing that which was right in the sight of the Lord."

Jehoshaphat made a big mistake when he became friendly with Ahab, the king of Israel at Samaria, and arranged the marriage of his oldest son, Jehoram, to Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab was an evil king and he married an evil woman, Jezebel. Jezebel influenced Ahab to worship Baal, and taught the people of Israel to worship Baal.

I Kings 16:30-33, "And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him. - - - - he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshiped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria. - - - And Ahab did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him."

After several years Jehoshaphat died and his oldest son, **Jehoram**, became **king of Judah**. Jehoram was an **evil king**. He was so wicked he had his six brothers killed because he feared that one of them might try to overthrow the kingdom and become king in his place. His wife, **Athaliah**, (daughter of Ahab and Jezebel) influenced him to worship idols and encouraged the people to worship idols.

II Chronicles 21:6, "And he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, like as did the house of Ahab: for he had the daughter of Ahab to wife: and he wrought that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord."

The youngest son of Jehoram and Athaliah, **Ahaziah**, became king when his father died. Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, taught him the wickedness of her parents. Ahaziah was also a **wicked king**.

II Chronicles 22:3-4, "He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counselor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the Lord like the house of Ahab: for they were his counselors after the death of his father to his destruction."

Protection of Joash

Because of Ahaziah's wickedness God allowed him to be killed in battle. All of Ahaziah's brothers had been killed earlier by an enemy nation, so there were none to take over the throne except his sons. When Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, received news that her son was dead she wanted to be queen, so she rose up and killed all of his sons except an infant, Joash. She killed her own grandsons so she could become queen.

II Kings 11:1-3 and II Chronicles 22:10-12, "But when Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the seed royal of the house of Judah. But Jehoshabeath, the daughter of the king, took Joash the son of Ahaziah, and stole him from among the king's sons that were slain, and put him and his nurse in a bedchamber. So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of king Jehoram, the wife of Jehoiada the priest, (for she was the sister of Ahaziah,) hid him from Athaliah, so that she slew him not. And he was with them hid in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land."

The wicked queen Athaliah had a daughter named Jehoshabeath (or Jehosheba), a sister to Ahaziah, the father of Joash. She had not been influenced for evil by her mother. She was a good woman and she was married to Jehoiada, the high priest. When she saw that her mother was killing all of her nephews she secretly took the infant and his nurse from the palace so Athaliah could not find them. She took them to the temple and hid them in a bedroom. *"And he was with her hid in the house of the Lord six years."* During the six years that he was being raised in the temple by his aunt, his grandmother, Athaliah, ruled as queen of Judah.

Joash crowned king

Joash was seven years old when he was crowned king of Judah. He lived at the temple for six years hidden from his grandmother the wicked queen, and cared for by his aunt and the high priest. He was taught the ways of God by the high priest, Jehoiada. He was taught that the true God in heaven was the only god to worship.

After six years Jehoiada brought in five captains of the guard and made a secret agreement with them. He sent them to bring in the Levites from all the cities throughout the Kingdom of Judah. When the Levites (the priests) gathered he presented the child, Joash, to them and informed them that he was the son of the late king, Ahaziah, and should be crowned king of Judah. The Levites agreed.

Jehoiada set guard around the temple and around the boy. He armed them with the swords, spears, and shields that had belonged to King David and were stored at the temple. They were commanded to protect the child from anyone who came in to harm him. They were commanded to be with the child at all times. The guards were positioned and Joash was brought out before the people and the crown was placed on his head. Jehoiada and his sons, the priests, anointed him King of Judah, and said, "God save the king." As with any crowning

of a king there was a great celebration. Athaliah heard the noise of the celebration and came to the temple. She saw Joash standing in the place of the king at the entering in of the temple. She saw the princes with their trumpets, heard the trumpeters and the musicians with their instruments, and heard the singing and the shouts of "God Save the King". She was furious. She tore her clothing in anger, and shouted, "treason, treason." Jehoiada commanded the captains of the guard to take her outside the temple compound and have her slain.

Choosing to serve God

Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the new king that all of Judah should worship the true God in heaven. As a young child Joash chose to obey the leadership of Jehoiada, the high priest, the man of God. Joash chose to use his power as king and command the people to worship God. The people went to the house of Baal and tore it down. They broke the altars of Baal and his images. They killed Mattan, the priest of Baal who served in the false temple and worshiped the false god. Jehoiada appointed the priests who would be responsible for offering the burnt offerings at the house of the Lord.

While Joash reigned as king he followed the instruction and leadership of Jehoiada. He recognized him as a man of God to be revered and respected. Joash was seven years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for forty years.

II Kings 12:2-3, "And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the Lord all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him. But the high places (the false temples for idol worship) were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places."

A significant choice that Joash made as a young man was that the house of God should not be left in disrepair. He was displeased that the people continued their neglect of God. He called the priests and Levites together and commanded them to go out through the land of Judah and collect the temple tax that was commanded in the law of Moses, Exodus 30:12-13.

II Chronicles 24:4-5, "And it came to pass after this, that Joash was minded to repair the house of the Lord. And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from year to year, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not."

II Kings 12:5, "Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the breaches of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found."

The house of God was in disrepair because the evil queen Athaliah and her sons had destroyed much of the temple walls. Breaches were holes or broken places in the walls where they had been battered or knocked down. They had also taken the vessels, the bowls, spoons, silver and gold, dedicated to serving God and had placed them in service at the temple of Baal. They were being used to offer burnt incense and sacrifices to the idol Baal.

II Chronicles 24:7, "For the sons of Athaliah, that wicked woman, had broken up the house of God; and also all the dedicated things of the house of the Lord did they bestow upon Baalim."

Joash commanded the Levites to collect the money owed and use it to repair the broken down walls of the temple. After several years of ruling as king the temple still had not been repaired. He questioned Jehoiada about why the temple tax was not being collected as was commanded in the Law of Moses.

II Chronicles 24:8, "And at the king's commandment they made a chest, and set it without at the gate of the house of the Lord."

Jehoiada made a chest and cut a hole in the top. He placed it beside the altar on the right side as a person came in to the temple. The priests who kept the door took all of the money that was brought and placed it in the chest. When the chest was full it was emptied, then counted and placed in bags. This was done day by day until it was decided that there was enough. Then it was given to the carpenters and stone masons and the repair work was done. They took what was left to Jehoiada and he made vessels of gold and silver to be used in the sacrifices and burning of incense.

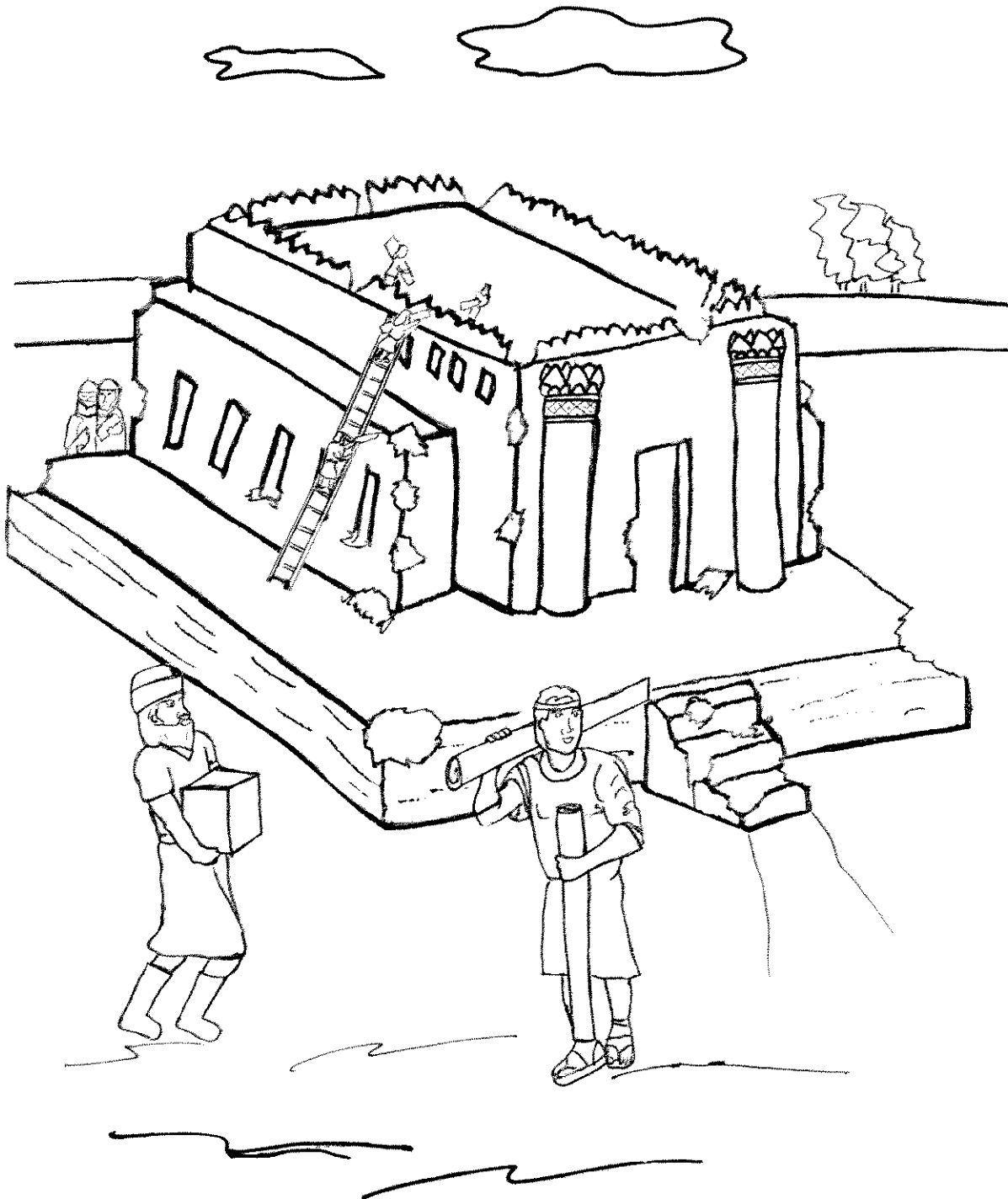
SUMMATION

Joash was only seven years old when he was crowned as king of Judah. As a child he made a good choice to listen to the instruction of the high priest, the man of God. He made a good choice to obey what he was taught. He made a good choice to instruct the people to worship God and not idols. He made a good choice to destroy the statues, the idol gods and the temples of Baal. He was not happy that the house of God was not maintained as it should be. He made a good choice when he commanded the priests to repair the temple to its place of splendor because it was the house of God. He thought it should be respected as such.

However, Joash did not always make good choices. After Jehoiada died, Joash made a bad choice when he began to listen to the princes of Judah. He made a bad choice when he forsook the worship of God and began to worship idols. As a result of his unfaithfulness God allowed the Syrian army to come in and destroy Judah and Jerusalem and eventually Joash was killed by his own servants as he lay on his sick bed.

The choices we make are important. They are important to us and important to others.

JOASH, THE BOY WHO BECAME KING



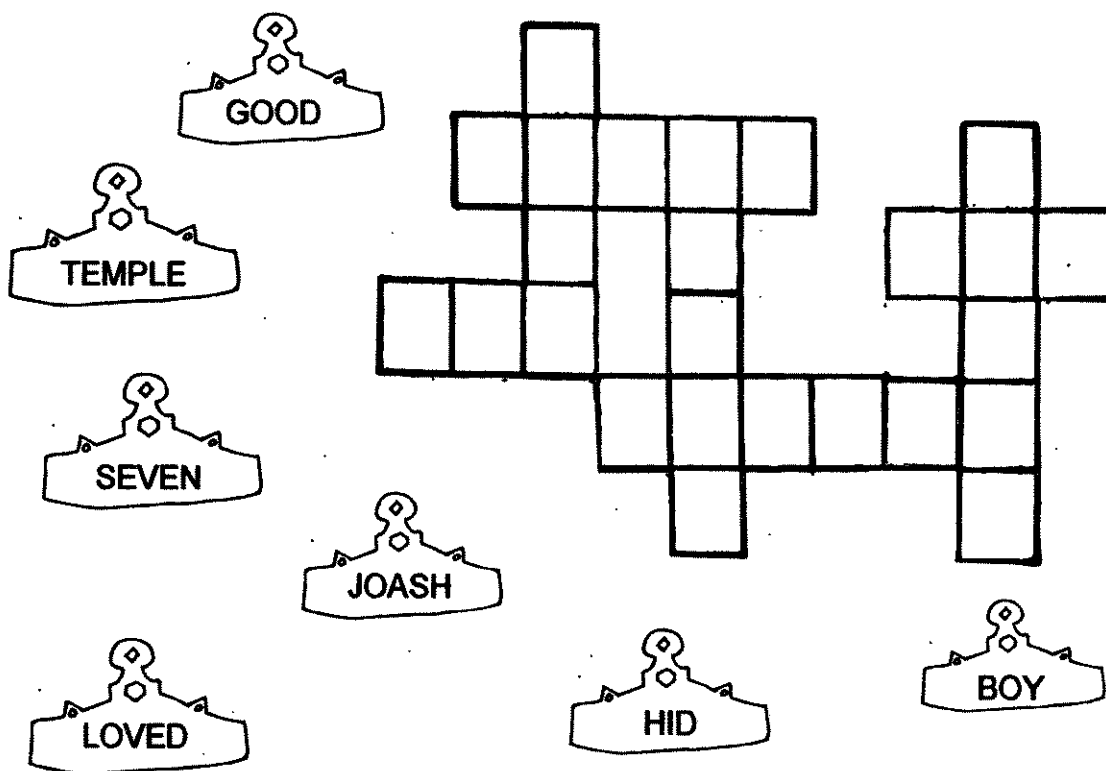
Joash commanded the priests to collect the temple tax and use the money to repair the broken down walls of the temple.

Kindergarten Worksheet 1

(Use the words at the bottom for your answers.)

1. _____ was a king.
3. His aunt _____ him at the temple.
5. He became king when he was a _____.
7. Joash repaired the _____.

2. Joash was a _____ king.
4. Joash was crowned king when he was _____ years old.
6. Joash _____ God.



Fill in the blanks, then put the answers in the puzzle.

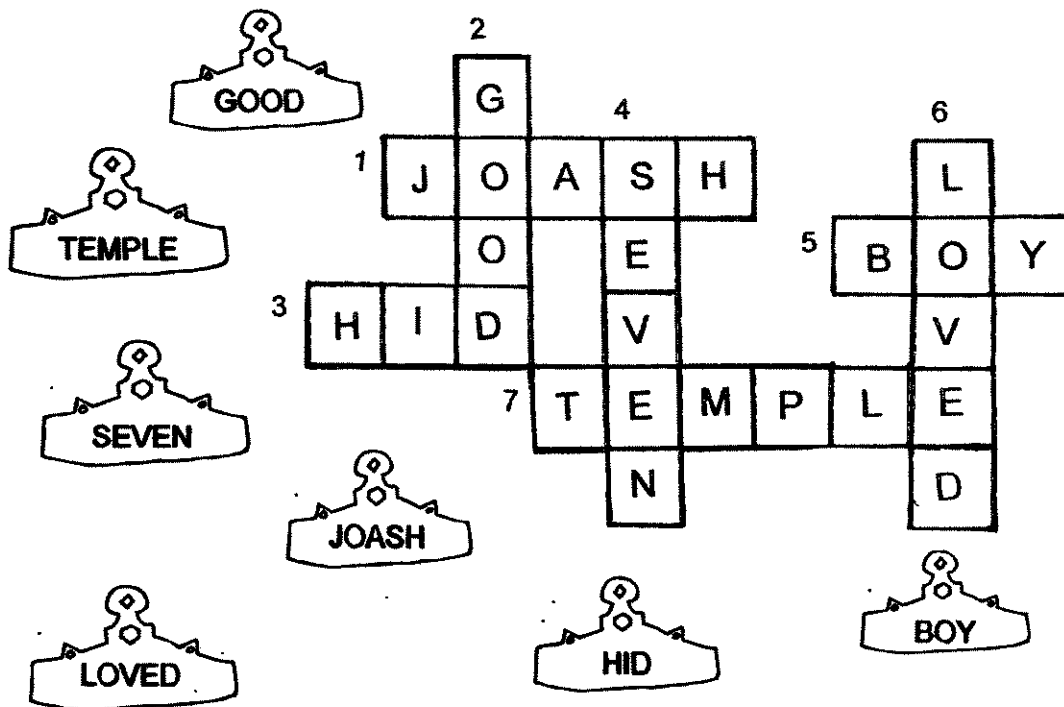
(Use the words at the bottom for your answers.)

ACROSS

1. _____ was a king.
3. His aunt _____ him at the temple.
5. He became king when he was a _____.
7. Joash repaired the _____.

DOWN

2. Joash was a _____ king.
4. Joash was crowned king when he was _____ years old.
6. Joash _____ God.

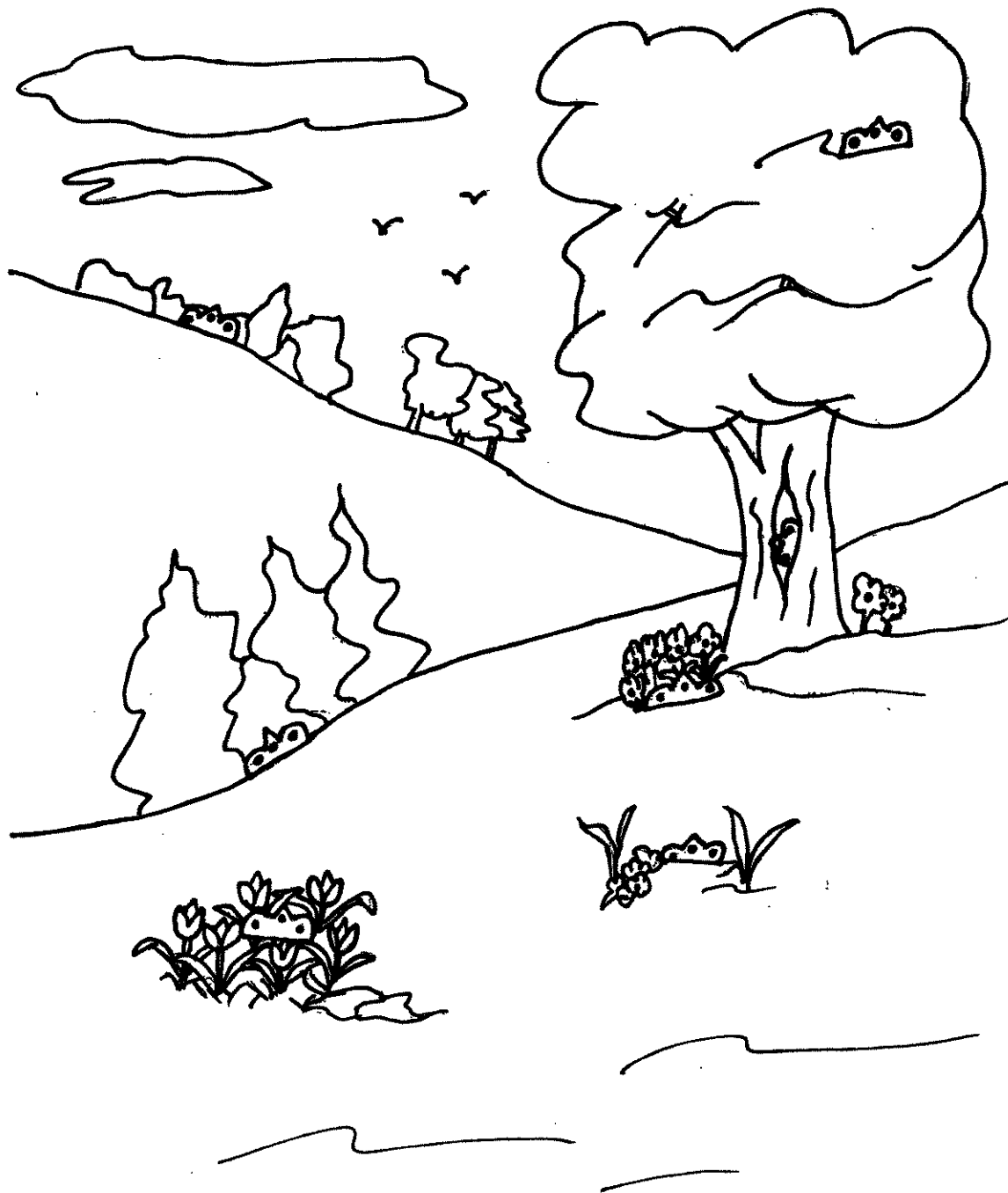


JOASH, THE BOY WHO BECAME KING

Kindergarten Worksheet 2

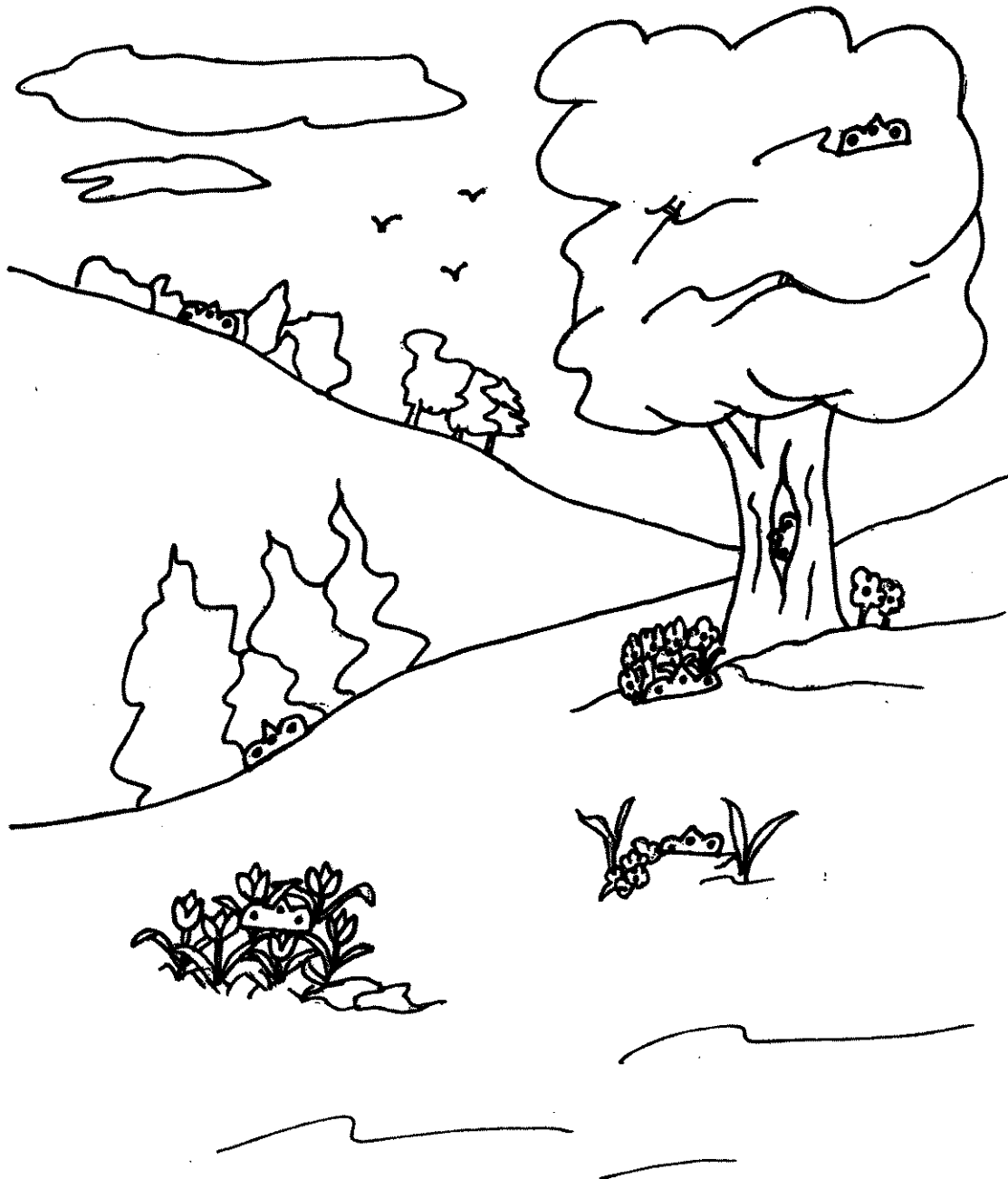
How many crowns can you find hidden in the picture? _____

How old was Joash when he was crowned king? _____

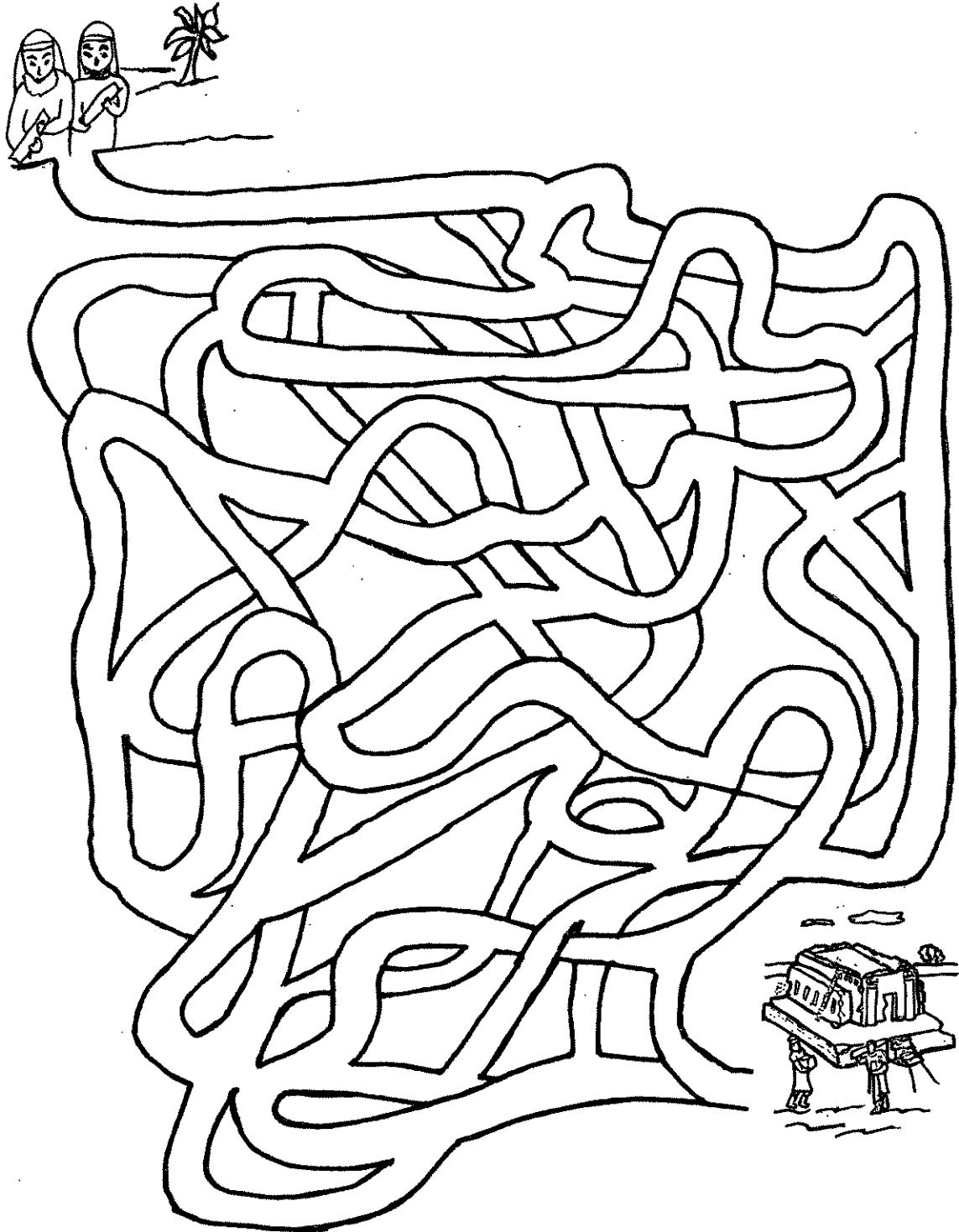


How many crowns can you find hidden in the picture? 7

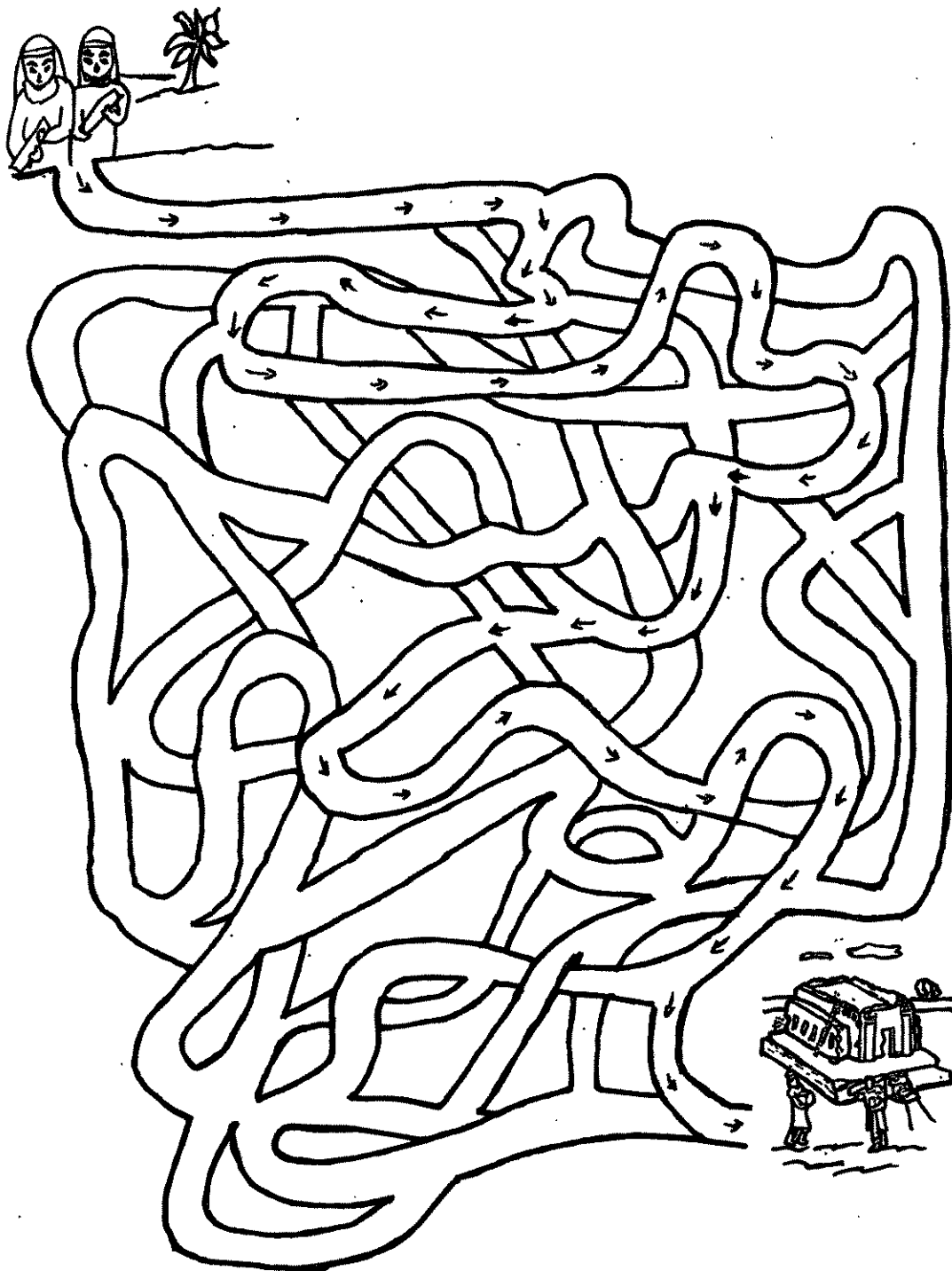
How old was Joash when he was crowned king? 7



Help the workers find their way to the temple.

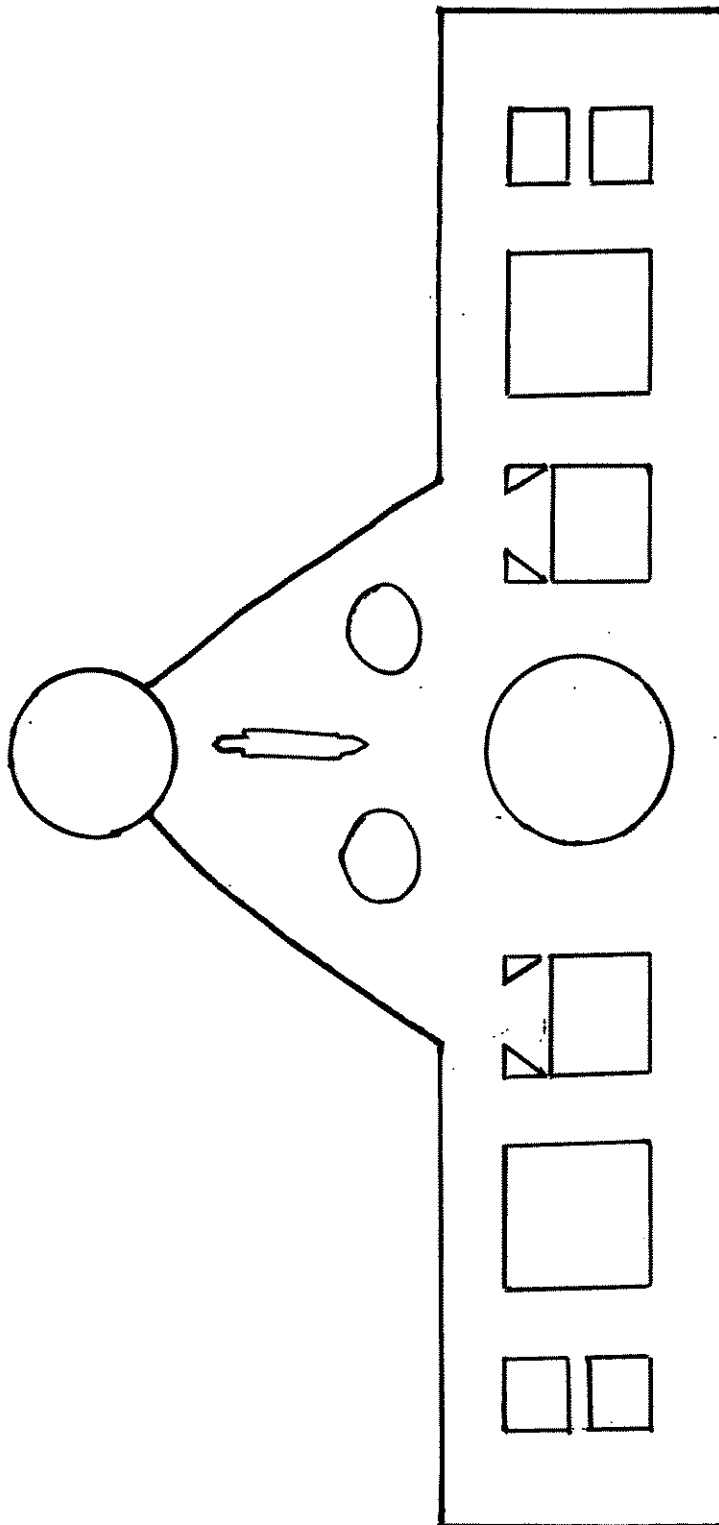


Help the workers find their way to the temple.



JOASH, THE BOY WHO BECAME KING

Craft Project 1



Copy on construction paper, color, and cut out.

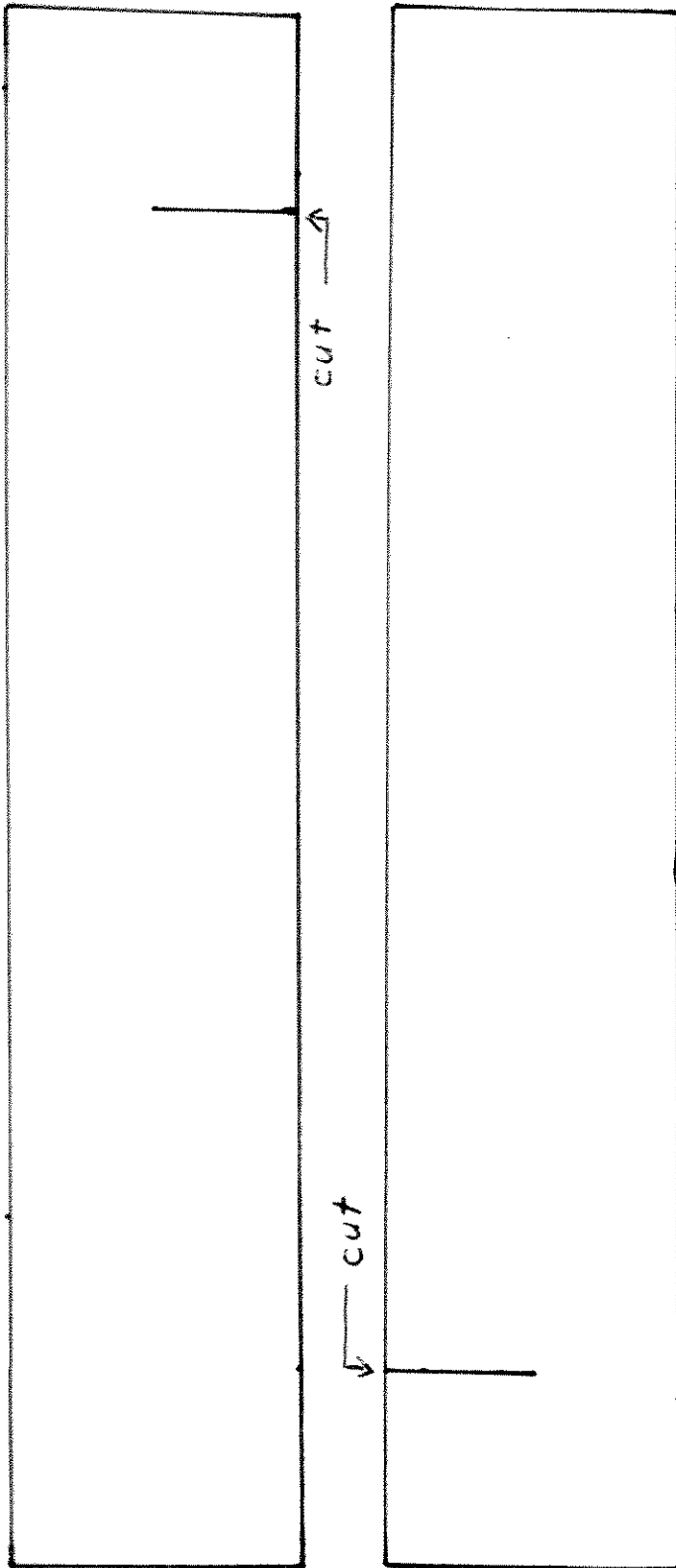
Cut two strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 8 inches from next pattern page.

Glue strips to each end of crown.

Fasten by connecting slits and adjust size to fit child's head.

JOASH, THE BOY WHO BECAME KING

Craft Project 1 - Page 2



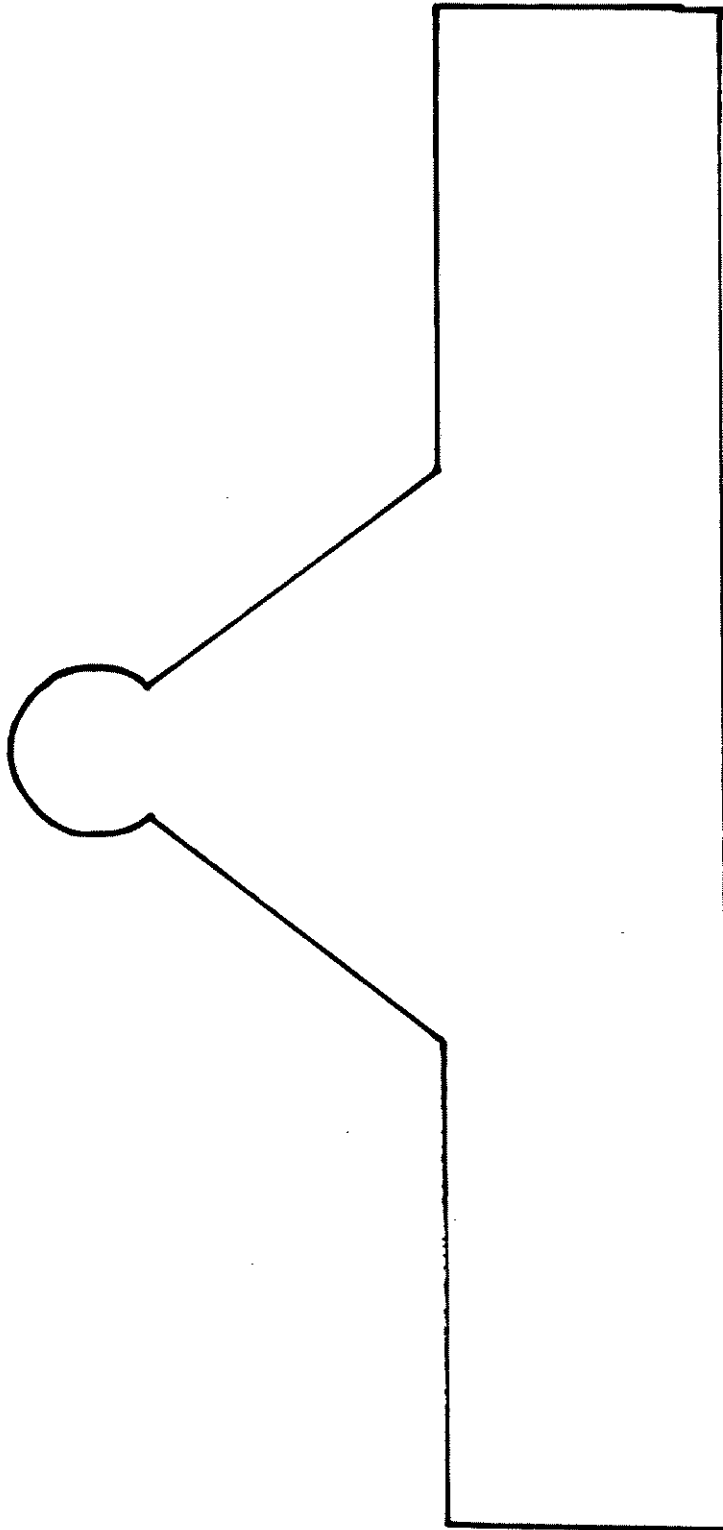
Glue to each end of crown and fasten by hooking slits together in back.

Suggestion:

Glue strips to crown. Cut slit in one end, then adjust to fit child's head and cut the other slit where needed.

or

Fasten with slits and adjust size by gluing ends to crown.



Optional Crown

Cut from
construction paper
or foam sheets.

Let child decorate by
gluing pieces of
colored paper cut in
geometric shapes,

or

glue foam shapes to
crown to decorate.

Use back strips from
previous pattern
page.

Young Men Who Chose To Mock God's Servant

Scripture: II Kings 2:1-24 I Kings 12:26-33

Aim: to impress upon the student that young people are responsible for their decisions and their actions, even when they are done foolishly. Being young is no excuse for doing wrong, and they will suffer the consequences for their own actions.

Emphasis: These teen-agers drew strength in their wrong doing from each other. It is better to be a loner and do what is right than to be one of a crowd and do wrong. They were each responsible for his own actions and each one suffered the consequences of his choice to be disrespectful.

Memory verse: Jos 24:15, "*----- choose you this day whom ye will serve; ----- but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*"

Background study for the teacher:

Elijah was a prophet of God for many, many years. When he realized his time of service would soon come to an end God instructed him to anoint Elisha to take his place after he was gone. Elisha traveled with Elijah for about ten years, learning from him and observing his actions as a prophet of God. He considered Elijah a great prophet controlled and led by the spirit of God. His desire was to be equally pleasing in the eyes of God.

At this time in the history of Israel the nation was divided into two kingdoms. The Kingdom of Israel was made up of the ten northern tribes and their capitol city was at Samaria. The southern two tribes were the Kingdom of Judah which encompassed the city of Jerusalem. The kings from the time of David had lived in the palace at Jerusalem. The temple where the Jewish people assembled to worship God and offer sacrifices several times a year was at Jerusalem. People from all over Israel came to the temple at Jerusalem for the Passover Feast and other feast days throughout each year.

After the death of King Solomon the kingdom divided. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, was king of Judah and Jeroboam was king of Israel. Jeroboam did not want his people to return to the temple to worship God. He was afraid they would decide to rejoin the kingdoms and his life would be in danger.

I Kings 12:26-27, "*And Jeroboam said in his heart, now shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem, then shall the heart of this people turn again unto their lord, even unto Rehoboam king of Judah, and they shall kill me, and go again to Rehoboam king of Judah.*"

Jeroboam told the people it was too much for them to travel to Jerusalem each year to worship, so he established two places of worship in his kingdom. One was at Dan and the other was at Bethel. He built an altar at each place. He made two calves of gold and told the people these were their gods that had brought their forefathers out of Egypt. He set one at Bethel and one at Dan and instructed the people to worship them. He ordained false priests to imitate the priests of God at the temple and serve in his two false temples where he placed the golden calves. The people came here and offered sacrifices and burnt offerings to the golden calves. Under his rule they were an idolatrous nation. However, not everyone worshiped idols.

Schools of the prophets

There were schools where young men studied the law of Moses and the Old Testament writings from the scrolls. They were called “schools of the prophets”. Evidently these young men chose to live and train at these schools to serve as prophets to inform the people of Israel concerning the will of God in their lives. There are three of these schools mentioned in the Bible. One was at Gilgal, one at Jericho, and one at Bethel. Elijah traveled from one school to another teaching these young men.

The time came for Elijah to leave this life. God would take him to heaven in a whirlwind, and Elisha would take his place as prophet. Elijah knew the time had come for him to depart and he wanted to visit the young prophets at the schools for one last time. Elisha accompanied him everywhere he went. Elijah knew the time had come for him to go to heaven, and Elisha knew that the time had come for Elijah to go to heaven, but Elijah did not know that Elisha knew. They were at Gilgal, and Elijah told Elisha, “You stay here, because God has sent me to Bethel.” Elisha refused to stay behind. He said, “*As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.*” So they both went down to Bethel.

God had revealed to the prophets at the school at Bethel that Elijah was soon going away. When Elijah and Elisha came, they secretly asked Elisha, “Did you know that God is going to take away your master today?” Elisha told them, yes, he knew, but not to say anything to Elijah about it. Elijah did not know that anyone else knew.

Elijah told Elisha to stay at Bethel while he went on to Jericho, and Elisha refused. As before he said, “*As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee.*” So they both went to Jericho. When the sons of the prophets at Jericho saw Elisha coming they asked, “Did you know that God is going to take away your master today?” Elisha told them, yes, he knew, but not to say anything about it. Elijah still did not know that anyone else knew.

Elijah told Elisha to stay at Jericho because the Lord was sending him to Jordan, and again Elisha refused. As they went to the Jordan River, fifty of the prophets from the school followed them, staying quite a distance behind, to watch what would happen. They knew God would take him, but did not know how. They wanted to see this spectacular event.

Usually the people crossed the Jordan at a shallow place where they could wade across, but Elijah took his mantle (the cloak or outer garment that he wore about his shoulders) and rolled it up. He struck the water and the River divided each direction so that they walked

across on dry land. The prophets watched as they went out of sight. By now Elijah probably knew why Elisha would not leave him, so he asked, "Is there anything you want me to do for you before I am taken?" Elisha requested a double portion of the spirit of God that Elijah had. This was not for Elijah to give, so he said, *"Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."*

As they walked on, talking, a chariot and horses of fire suddenly separated them and Elijah was caught up into heaven by a whirlwind. As he went his mantle fell to the earth. Elisha cried after him, *"My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof."* He knew God had sent the chariot to get Elijah. He took his own cloak and tore it in two pieces. He picked up the mantle of Elijah. It was his now. He returned to the Jordan River and as Elijah had done he struck the water and it parted. He knew God had granted his request for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. The prophets were waiting on the other side for them to return. When Elisha returned alone they insisted on going to look for Elijah. Elisha refused because he knew they would not find him. They continued to beg until he allowed them to go. He waited for them at Jericho? They returned after three days without finding him, and Elisha said, *"Did I not say unto you, Go not?"*

Elisha told how God had sent a chariot and horses of fire and swept Elijah away into heaven. The prophets told how they had gone to look for him and did not find him, proving Elisha's story to be true. Word spread rapidly about this spectacular event. The prophets wanted Elisha to stay with them at the school in Jericho, but Elisha wanted to go back to Bethel. The water at Jericho was bad. The people could not drink it and no crops would grow that were watered with it. Elisha took a cruse of salt and cast it into the spring where the water bubbled up from the earth and purified the water. They now had plenty of pure, clean water to drink and raise their food. This proved that Elisha had the power of Elijah and was indeed chosen by God to take Elijah's place. He was God's chosen prophet.

Elisha returned to Bethel

As well as having a school for prophets in Bethel, the city had been a center of calf-worship for many years. Jeroboam had taught the people that the golden calf he erected in the temple of false worship that he built at Bethel was the god that had brought their forefathers out of Egypt. All of the kings since Jeroboam had also taught the people to worship idols. The young people in Bethel grew up under the influence of idol worship and had no respect for God. The calf had been worshiped for many generations. The young people had been taught by their parents to worship idols. They had also seen God's prophets persecuted and heard their parents make fun of the true prophets.

Elisha was apparently a bald-headed man, so he was easily identified. The people of Bethel knew him when they saw him. They knew he was the prophet of God chosen to take the place of Elijah. News of the ascent of Elijah had reached Bethel. They had heard how Elisha had reported that Elijah was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire by a whirlwind. As Elisha neared the city of Bethel he was met by a group of forty-two young men.

I Kings 2:32, "And he went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head."

The "little children" were not small innocent children playing games. They were a gang of young men, probably teen-agers, who intended to make fun of God's prophet. They intended to taunt and mock him for being bald-headed and for being a man of God. They laughed at him for believing in the supernatural powers of a God in heaven. If he was a man of God, they wanted to see him go up as Elijah had. They said, "Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head." In other words, "You crazy bald-headed old man, if Elijah was really caught up in a chariot of fire, as you said, let us see you go up the same way." They wanted to see the spectacular. They wanted some excitement. They wanted to see something that had not been seen before. They did not want to see proof that the God in heaven was a powerful God and the only God to be worshiped, but they wanted excitement. They were not just making fun of Elisha, they were making fun of God.

Elisha turned to this group of young men and placed a curse of God upon them. He pronounced the judgment of God to come upon them for their evil actions.

II Kings 2:24, "And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them."

Elisha pronounced God's punishment upon them, and watched as God caused two she bears to come out of the nearby woods and claw them until many or all of them died. She bears or mother bears with small cubs nearby are very dangerous. They will fight anything that comes close to their babies. They fight to kill in order to protect their young cubs. God sent these bears out of the woods to destroy the young men who mocked God and made fun of His prophet. Elisha did not call out the bears. He pronounced the curse or punishment of God upon them and God sent the bears. The people of Bethel would soon know that Elisha had the power to bring the wrath of God down on those who did not worship or serve Him.

Even though the young men were probably only teen-agers, they were old enough to know what they were doing. They were old enough to answer for their own actions. Their parents did not answer for them. Their friends did not answer for them. When they chose to be disrespectful to the man of God, they suffered the consequences of their actions. God did not excuse them for being young and foolish. When they chose to be disrespectful to the man of God, they brought the punishment upon themselves. They had no one but themselves to blame.

We make our own decisions. We will answer for our own actions. We will not answer for the actions of others, but we will answer for what we do or say. When a person is old enough to understand that there is a God in heaven, he or she is old enough to decide that they will worship and serve Him. If we choose not to serve God, we will be punished for our decision. If we choose to be respectful to the church, christian people, our pastor, we will be blessed by God. If we choose to be disrespectful to God and His church we will be punished.

SUMMATION

If we are disrespectful to God, we will be punished.

If we are disrespectful to the true church of God, we will be punished.

If we are disrespectful to God's preachers, we will be punished.

If we are disrespectful to older people because they believe in God, we will be punished.

If we choose to serve God, we will be blessed.

If we are respectful of the true church of God, we will be blessed.

If we are respectful of God's preachers, we will be blessed.

If we are respectful to older people because they believe in God, we will be blessed.

The young people who chose to mock Elisha made a bad choice and they were held responsible for their actions and were punished by God.

The young people made a bad choice when they chose to run in gangs.

The young people made a bad choice when they chose to associate with other disrespectful young people.

The young people made a bad choice when they chose to listen to the ridicule of God's people by their parents.

The young people made a bad choice when they wanted the excitement of something spectacular rather than the quietness of true worship.

Not all young people choose to disobey God's Word.

Not all young people choose to make fun of Christians because they believe in God.

The young men at the school of the prophets made a good choice when they chose to be there.

The young men made a good choice when they chose to study and learn the commands of God.

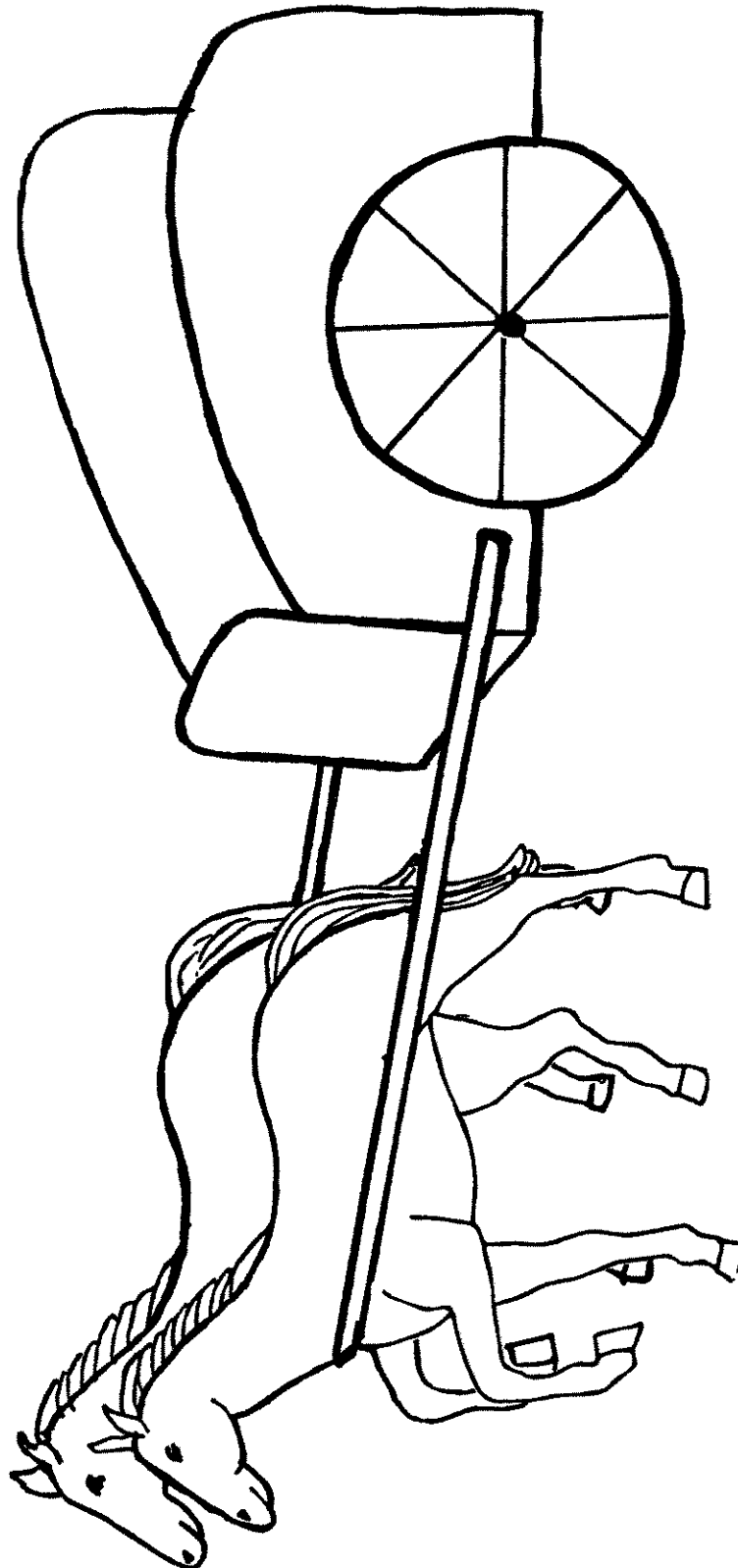
The young men made a good choice when they chose to obey God.

The young men made a good choice when they chose to use their lives in service to God.

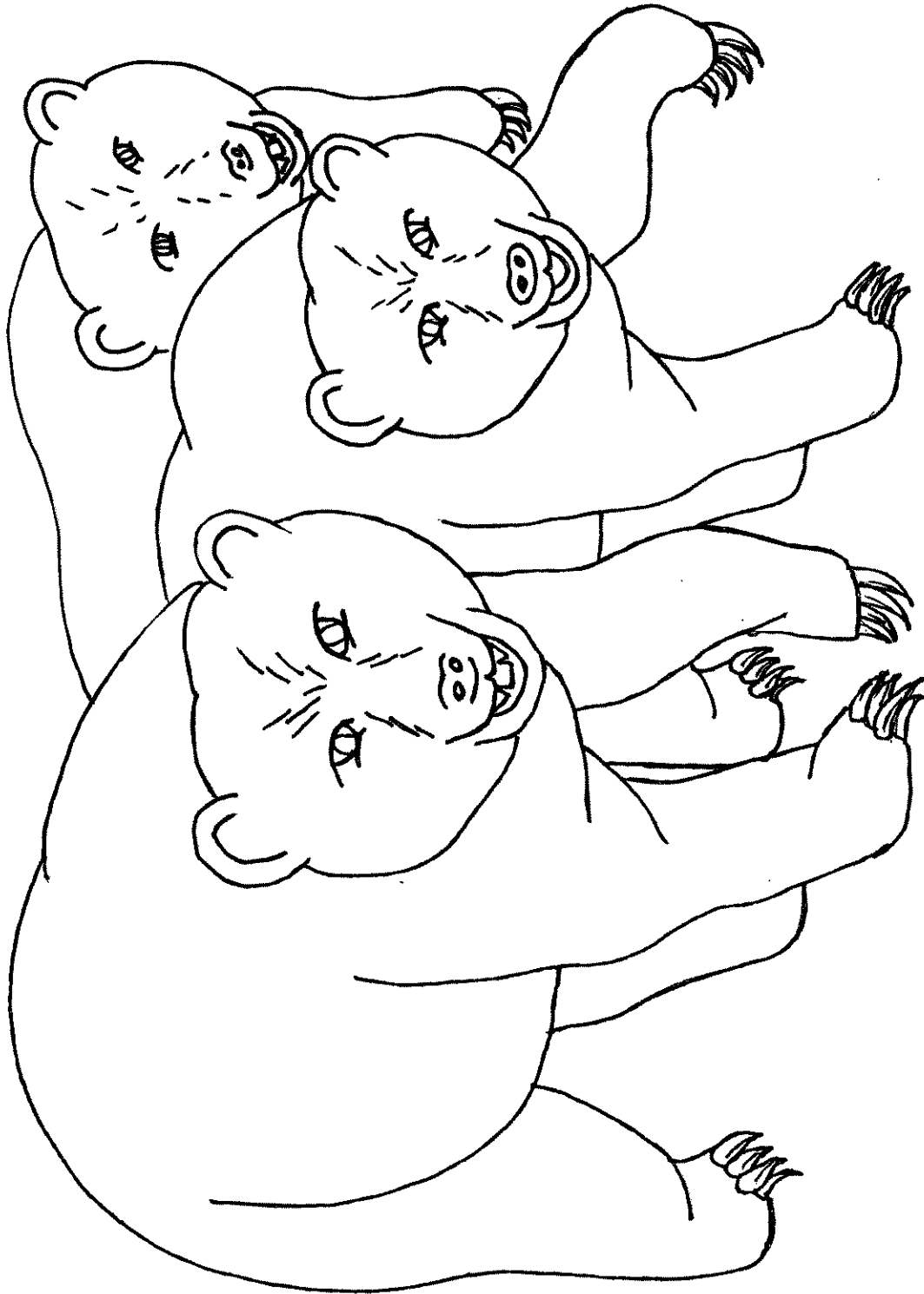
They made good choices and they were blessed by God.



God sent
a chariot and
horses of fire
to get Elijah. He
took him to heaven
in a whirlwind.

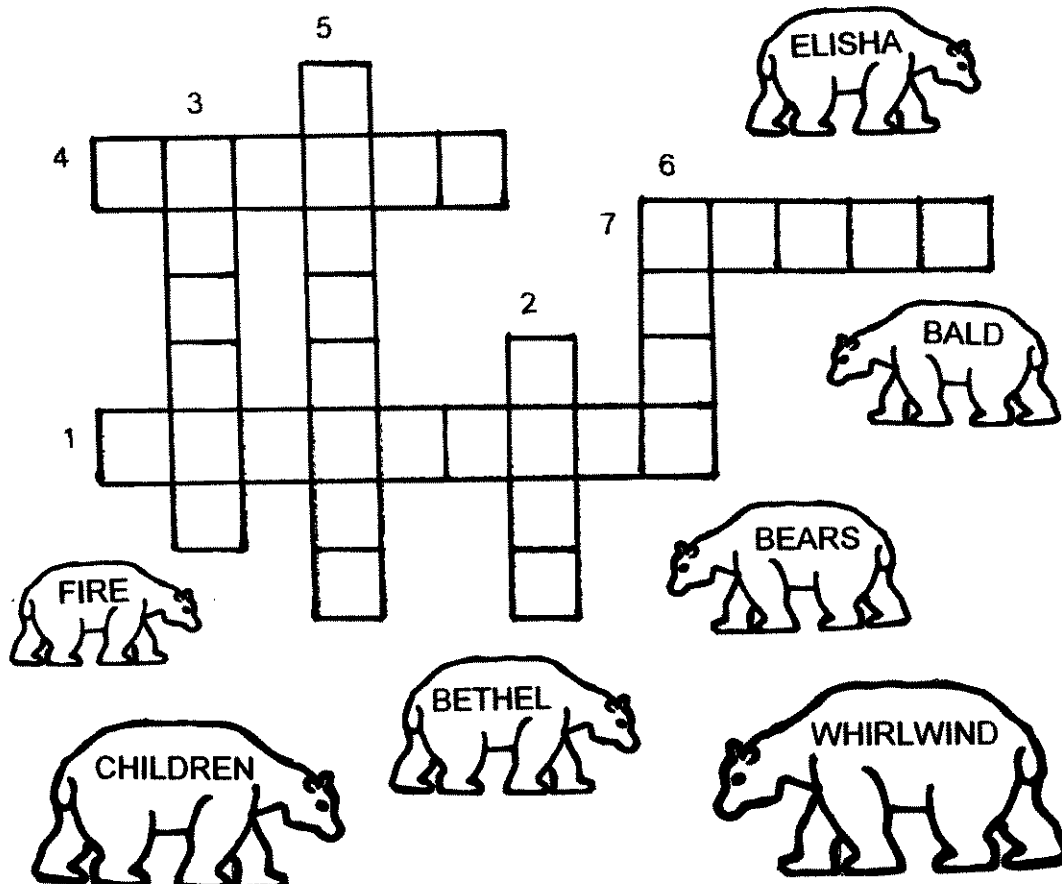


Draw Elijah in the chariot.



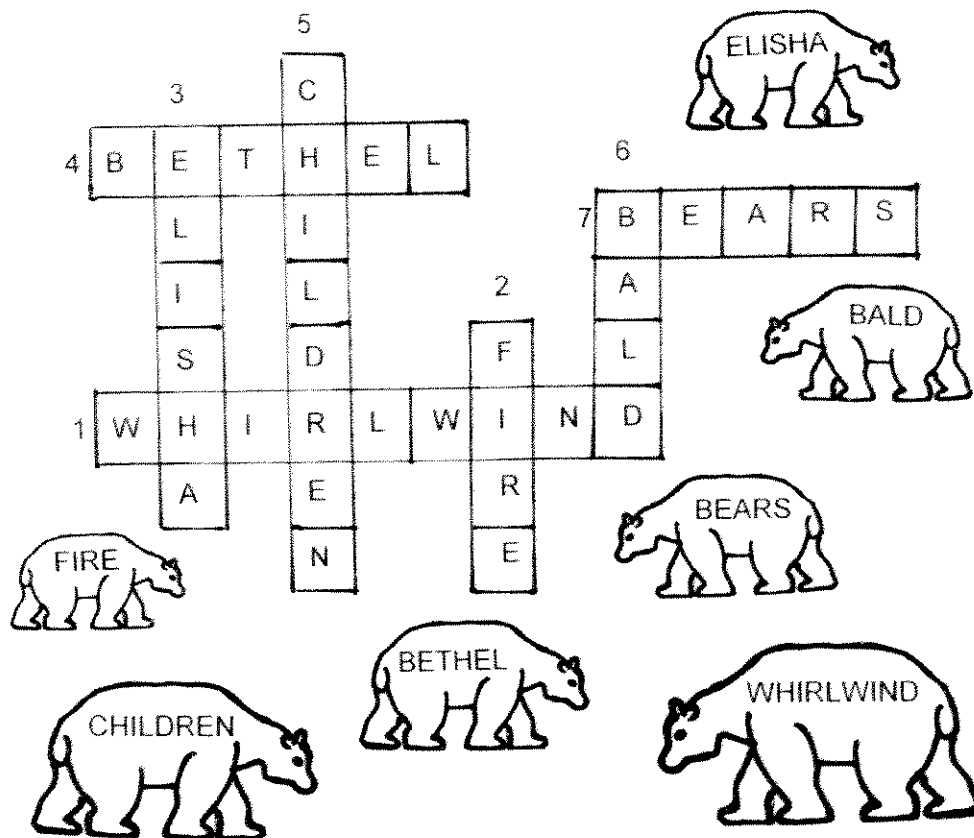
Answer the questions and fill in the puzzle:

1. A _____ took Elijah to heaven.
2. Elijah went up in a chariot of _____.
3. _____ took Elijah's place.
4. A school for prophets was at _____.
5. _____ came out of Bethel and met Elisha.
6. The children said, "Go up, thou _____ head."
7. _____ came out of the woods.



Answer the questions and fill in the puzzle:

1. A whirlwind took Elijah to heaven.
2. Elijah went up in a chariot of fire.
3. Elisha took Elijah's place.
4. A school for prophets was at Bethel.
5. Children came out of Bethel and met Elisha.
6. The children said, "Go up, thou bald head."
7. Bears came out of the woods.



Learn to spell

Write the spelling words 2 times each.















Use the code to solve the puzzle.

□	!	Ⓒ	◻	◊	∩	⊞	⊞	⊞	⊙	◁	◻	◊	◊	⊖
A	D	E	G	H	I	L	M	N	O	R	S	T	U	Y

◊	◊	Ⓒ	⊖	⊙	◊	⊞	◻	⊞	Ⓒ	⊞
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!	⊙	!	⊞	⊙	◊	◊	⊙	⊞	⊙	◁
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Ⓒ	⊞	⊙	◻	◊	◻
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Use the code to solve the puzzle.

□ | © □ ◆ ∩ ▢ ▣ ⊗ ◁ ▢ ◆ ▢ ⊖
A D E G H I L M N O R S T U Y

◆ ◆ © ⊖ ⊙ ◆ ▣ ▢ ▢ © ▣

T H E

Y O U N G

M E N

| ⊙ | ▣ ⊙ ◆ ◆ ⊙ ▣ ⊙ ◁

D I D

N O T

H O N O R

© ▢ ⊙ ▢ ◆ ▢

E L I S H A





**God sent bears out of the woods to destroy the young men
who made fun of Elisha, the prophet of God.**

DANIEL CHOSE TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS

Scriptures: Daniel 1:1-21 II Kings 24:10-16 II Chronicles 36:6-7

Aim: The aim of the lesson is to teach that young people, even teen-agers, can make good choices in their lives, and no one can make their choices for them.

Emphasis: Emphasize that Daniel remembered what he had been taught as a child and trusted God to help him in making the right choices that would not only affect his life but the life of others. Daniel was not bitter toward God because he was taken away from his home as a captive. He used his life wherever he was to serve God.

Memory verse: Acts 5:29 *"We ought to obey God rather than men."*

Background Study

Daniel was a young boy who lived in the nation of Israel. He was a member of the tribe (family) of Judah., one of Jacob's twelve sons. God had promised Abraham, then Isaac, and then Jacob that the area we know as the land of Canaan would belong to them and their descendants forever. Each of Jacob's twelve sons became the head of a tribe made up of their family members. The land of Canaan was divided up among the tribes according to each family group, and each portion was named for one of the sons and inhabited by their descendants.

For hundreds of years God had dealt with the nation of Israel in a special way. He was their God. He blessed them and made their nation great when they were ruled by King David. They conquered many nations around them and became a powerful and wealthy nation. All that God asked in return for blessing and protecting them was that they love Him and worship Him. They were forbidden to make images and bow down and worship idol gods like the nations around them. Israel did not always worship God. When they disobeyed and married people from other nations, they began to worship the gods of other nations. When they disobeyed God and worshiped idols, God punished them in different ways. Sometimes disease would strike and many people died. Sometimes God sent drought on the land which resulted in famine because the food could not grow without rain. Sometimes God allowed enemy nations to come in and conquer Israel. This was what happened in the days of Daniel when they were conquered by Babylon under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar.

Many years before Daniel's birth God had allowed Israel to be divided into two kingdoms. The ten northern tribes became the Kingdom of Israel, and Judah and Benjamin became the southern kingdom, called the Kingdom of Judah. God protected the tribe of Judah, and maintained His kingdom there because of the city of Jerusalem, where the temple and David's palace were located. God kept His promise to David that his descendants would forever sit on the throne in Jerusalem by allowing the other ten tribes to pull away and select

their own kings. The descendants of David continued to rule from Jerusalem. However, for hundreds of years the kings who ruled in Jerusalem were idolatrous. During the reign of Jehoiakim God allowed them to be carried away as captives into Babylon.

Jehoiakim was king in 605 B. C. when Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldeans invaded the land of Israel. He had two main purposes, wealth and power. He carried away all of the wealth of Jerusalem, especially the vessels of gold and silver and things of value from the temple. Daniel 1:2, Nebuchadnezzar carried away the vessels of the temple and took them to the land of Shinar to the house of his god. He placed the treasures of the temple of God in the treasure house of his idol god. Nebuchadnezzar invaded and utterly destroyed Jerusalem. He tore down the temple and burned the city. There was nothing left of this once grand and magnificent city.

King Nebuchadnezzar's Invasion

In 605 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar and his army invaded Israel. He destroyed the city of Jerusalem, tore down the temple of God, and carried away the vessels from the temple and took them to the temple he had built in Babylon for the purpose of idol worship. The people of Israel were also carried away captive. From among the children who were taken captive Nebuchadnezzar sent his chief servant, Ashpenaz, to search for all of the strong, healthy, and intelligent young men of Israel and bring them to the palace so they could be taught and trained to become officers in his kingdom. He commanded his servant in Daniel 1:3-4

" - - - that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. "

Among those chosen was a young boy named Daniel. He, along with three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were brought to the king's palace. They were taught the Chaldean language, and trained by the best instructors, the scientists, astrologers, and astronomers in Babylon. To change their Jewish identity, their names were changed to Chaldean names. Daniel's name was changed to Belteshazzar; however we continue to know him as Daniel. Hananiah became Shadrach, Mishael's name was changed to Meshach, and Azariah was known as Abednego.

Life in Babylon

Daniel was about 15 years old when he was carried away from his home and his family and taken to a strange land. He was taken from the protection and the influence of his family. Daniel arrived in Babylon along with many other young boys, and was taken to the king's palace. They were told what would be expected of them. King Nebuchadnezzar had his servant choose the ones who were strong, handsome, and seemed intelligent. There should be no physical or mental defects among them.

The young boys would be housed in the palace and taught by the best scholars and scientists in Babylon. They would learn the customs and the language of the Chaldeans. The king intended to use them as his personal servants and in places of leadership in his kingdom. While they were in training Nebuchadnezzar commanded that they be given food from his own table. He wanted them to be well nourished so that they would be healthy and their minds would develop to be superior in their knowledge. At the end of three years the young men would be brought before the king to be examined. They would have to pass the king's test or they would not be used in places of leadership.

Daniel was on his own. He could not go to his parents for advice. He had no one to ask, "Is this what I should be doing?" He had to rely on what he was taught as a Jewish boy in Judah. He was taught to worship the true God in heaven. He learned the laws of God for His people. Under the law there were certain foods the Jewish people were forbidden to eat. There were animals considered "unclean" and some were "clean". Daniel knew that he could not eat meat from an "unclean" animal. When the people used "clean" animals and made sacrifices to God, some of the meat could be eaten. For instance when they left Egypt, they were commanded to kill the Passover lamb as a sacrifice, place the blood over the door of their houses, roast the meat and eat it in preparation for their long trip. It was not wrong to eat meat. It was not wrong to eat some of the meat that was used in sacrifices if it was done according to God's instructions. However there were certain kinds of meat the people were forbidden to eat, and they were forbidden to eat meat sacrificed to idol gods.

Daniel's choice

When Ashpenaz, the officer of the king, brought food to Daniel and his friends he told them it was from the king's own table - the meat and wine that the king ate. This should have been an honor. They were fifteen year-old boys, captives, but they were being served the king's own food. Daniel knew that the king worshiped idol gods. He knew that the meat had been used in sacrifice to his idols and then brought to the king to be eaten by him and his family. The wine may have been used in sacrificial worship to his idols. Some of the meat could also have been from what the Jews considered "unclean" animals.

What was Daniel to do? He could not go to his father and ask advice. He had to make his own choice. He had to decide whether to do what he knew was right or what the king commanded them to do. This was a big decision for a fifteen year-old boy and no one could make the decision for him. Daniel was faced with disobeying the king or violating his conscience. He decided he would refuse the king's food, although it was very tempting, well prepared, and looked delicious. Daniel thought it was more important to not commit a sin against God by disobeying Him. It was more important to obey God than to obey the king.

He asked Ashpenaz if he would permit them to not eat what the king sent. Instead he asked for only common vegetables to eat and water to drink. Ashpenaz was concerned for their health. He said, "But the king wants you to eat this meat and drink this wine so that you will grow up to be strong and healthy, and a healthy diet will help your mind develop so you will be superior in your knowledge." Ashpenaz said, "You are putting me in a dangerous situation. The king has commanded me to bring this food to you and see that you eat it. At the end of

three years when you stand before him and are pale and sickly, and do not look as good as the other young men, he will hold me responsible and my life will be in danger.”

Results of Daniel's choice

Daniel convinced Ashpenaz to let them try it for ten days. They would eat only vegetables and drink only pure, clean water. Daniel trusted God to take care of them. For ten days they ate vegetables and drank water. Ashpenaz did not let the king know they had refused his food.

Daniel 1:15, *“And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.”*

At the end of the ten day trial period they had proven that their God would bless them for being faithful to his commands. They looked healthier than all the others who had eaten the king's meat. *“God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.”*

For three years they were taught the language and customs of the Chaldeans. They were taught the advanced courses of science, astrology and astronomy. At the end of three years Nebuchadnezzar asked that all of the young men be brought before him so he might question them. They proved strong and healthy. As teen-agers their wisdom and knowledge surpassed even the magicians and scholars in Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. They had correct answers to all of the questions the king asked. They by far outshone the king's wise men.

Daniel 1:19-20, *“And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.”*

Daniel was only fifteen years old when he was placed in a position of having to make a choice between doing what the king commanded or doing what he knew God would have him do. Daniel had a choice to make. No one could make it for him. Daniel knew what was right. He knew it was wrong to eat “unclean” animals and meat sacrificed to idols. But everyone else was doing it. Everyone else who had been brought to the king's palace ate what the king sent. It was good food, looked good, tasted good, and was healthy food, but its purpose was not good. Daniel's conscience would not let him be a partaker in idolatry.

Daniel chose to trust God in the face of death

When Daniel was only 17 years old King Nebuchadnezzar had a nightmare. It was such a terrible and troubling dream that he could not sleep, but when he woke up he could not remember what the dream was. He called all of his magicians, astrologers and sorcerers to come and tell him what his dream meant. They asked him to tell them the dream so they could

tell him the meaning, and he could not. He demanded they tell him the dream and the meaning or they would be killed and their houses destroyed. If they could tell him the dream and the meaning they would receive gifts, rewards, and great honor.

When they insisted he tell them the dream first he accused them of stalling for time so they could make up a lie to tell him. Since he could not remember the dream anyway, he would not know if they were telling him the truth. If they did not reveal the dream he would not believe the interpretation. They reasoned with him that it was impossible. Only the gods could do this and they were not gods. In his anger he commanded that all the wise men of his kingdom be killed. This included Daniel and his companions.

Arioch, the king's captain came to get Daniel and his friends to take them to be slain, and Daniel asked, "Why?" He explained the reason and Daniel chose to trust God to protect him in the face of an angry king. Daniel convinced the man who came to execute them to let him go talk to the king. This took a lot of faith for a 17 year old boy who was not even a citizen of Babylon, but was a captive. Daniel asked Nebuchadnezzar to give him a little time and he would tell him his dream and the interpretation of it. He returned to his friends to pray with him that God would reveal this matter to him so he might tell the king. When Daniel returned and told the king what his dream meant he was proclaimed the wisest man in the kingdom, although he was only about 17 years old.

Daniel 2:27-28, "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, the secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days."

Even though Daniel was young he made wise choices because he depended on God for help and guidance. The Chaldeans believed that their gods were more powerful than any other god because they had been able to capture other nations. They believed their idols were greater than the God in heaven that the Israelites worshiped because they had been able to capture the Israelites and destroy their nation. Daniel wanted to prove that his God was indeed the true God. Daniel did not claim his own wisdom. He told the king that his God in heaven had revealed the dream to him.

Daniel 2:47-48, "The king answered unto Daniel, and said, of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon."

SUMMATION

Daniel made a good choice as a child when he chose to listen when he was taught about God.
He made a good choice when he chose to be faithful to what he believed even in a strange land.

He made a good choice when he chose to refuse the king's food because it violated his conscience to eat things sacrificed to idols.

He made a good choice when he chose to trust God in the face of death.

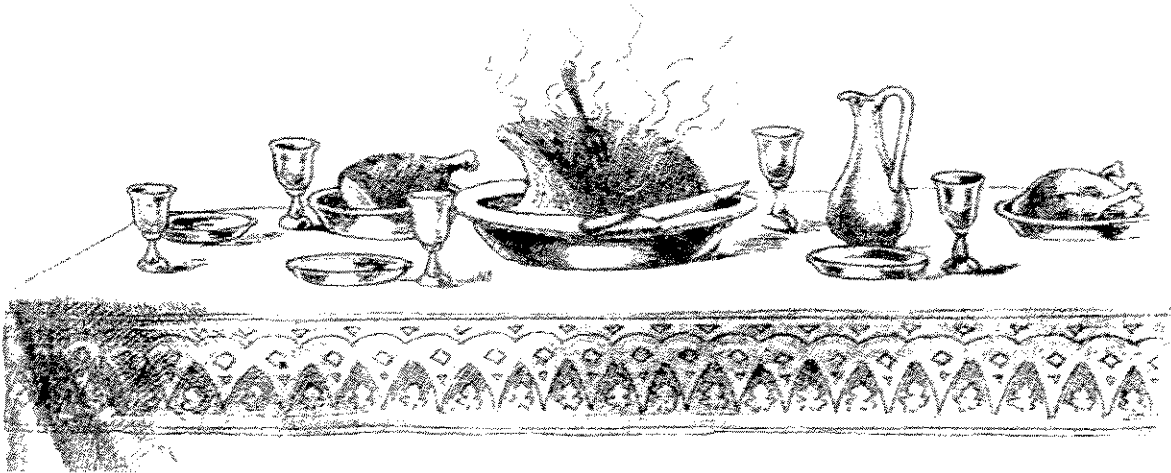
He made a good choice when he chose to tell the king who worshiped idols that he could by the grace of the God of heaven interpret his dream.

DANIEL CHOSE TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 1

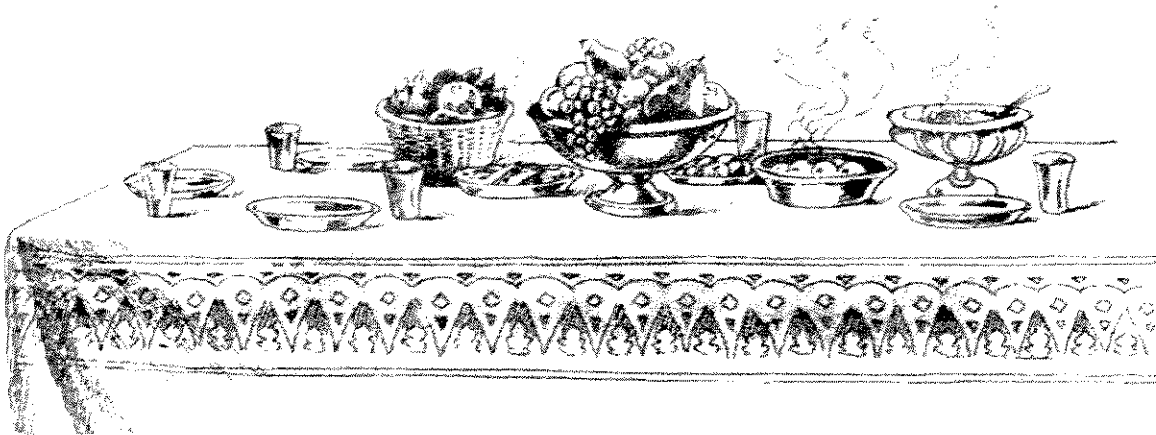


King Nebuchadnezzar declared Daniel to be the smartest
and healthiest young man in Babylon.

DANIEL CHOSE TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 2



Daniel would not eat this food that was brought

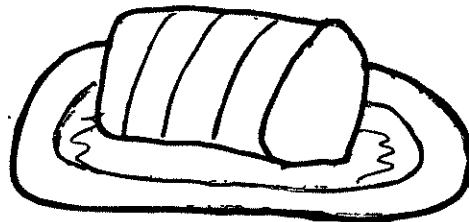
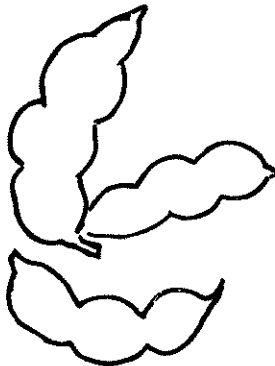
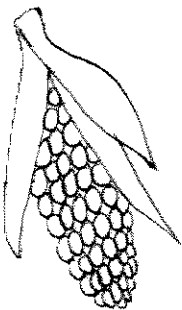
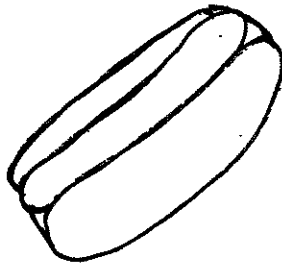
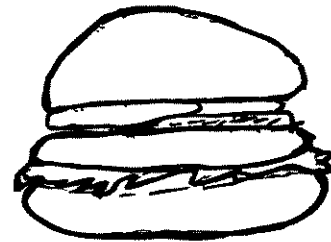
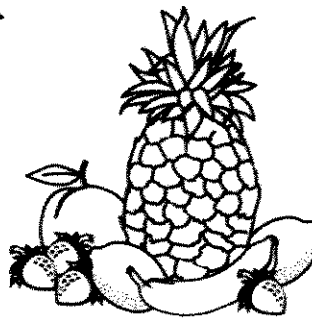
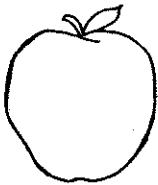
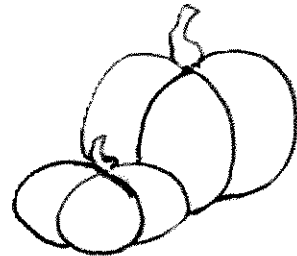
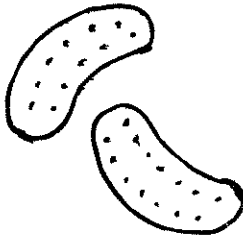
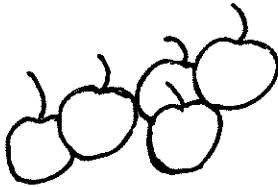
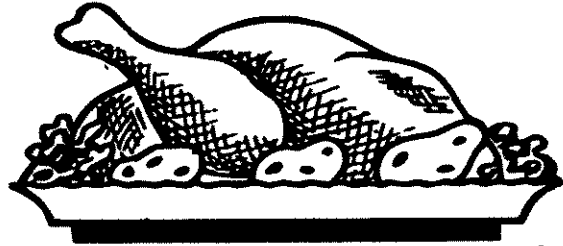
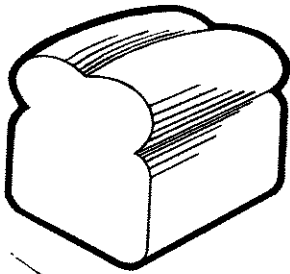


from the king's table.

Daniel to only eat vegetables and drink only water.

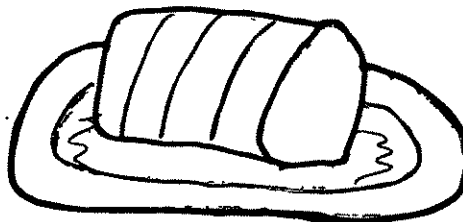
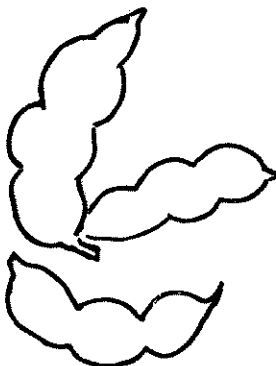
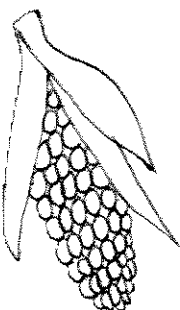
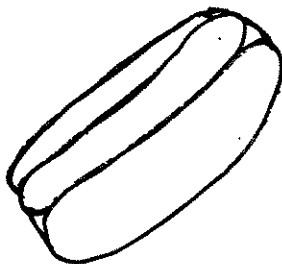
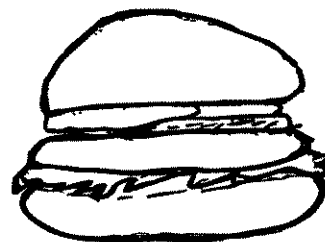
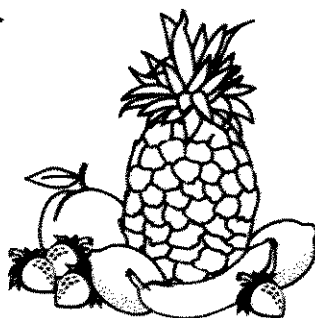
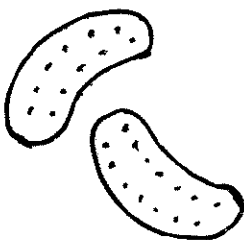
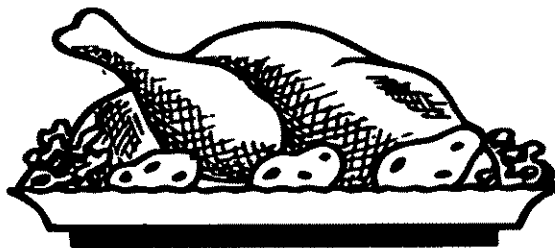
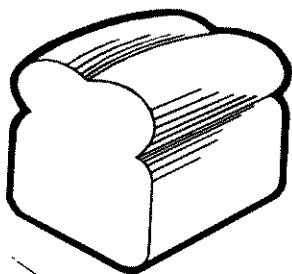
DANIEL CHOSE TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 3

Circle the kinds of food that Daniel chose to eat.
Put an X on the kinds of food that Daniel refused to eat.



DANIEL CHOSE TO OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 3 Answer Page

Circle the kinds of food that Daniel chose to eat.
Put an X on the kinds of food that Daniel refused to eat.



WORD SEARCH

Find these
words in the
puzzle:

BABYLON

BEANS

DANIEL

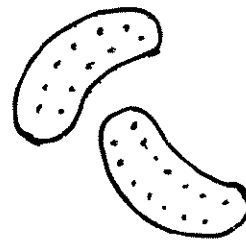
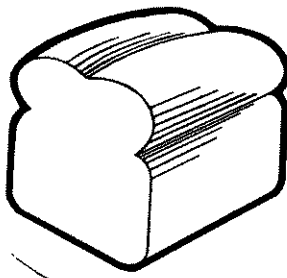
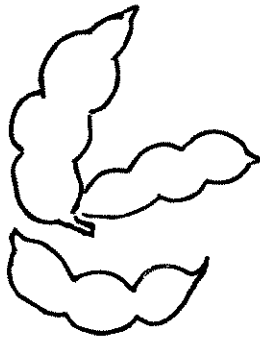
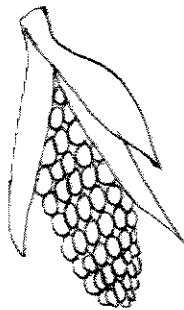
FOOD

KING

MEAT

TABLE

D	A	N	I	E	L	X
Y	Z	T	A	B	L	E
X	Y	F	O	O	D	Z
K	I	N	G	X	Y	Z
B	E	A	N	S	X	Y
X	Y	Z	M	E	A	T
B	A	B	Y	L	O	N



WORD SEARCH

Find these
words in the
puzzle:

BABYLON

BEANS

DANIEL

FOOD

KING

MEAT

TABLE

D A N I E L X

Y Z T A B L E

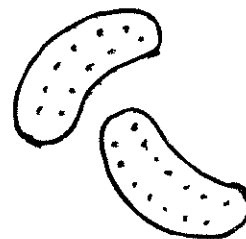
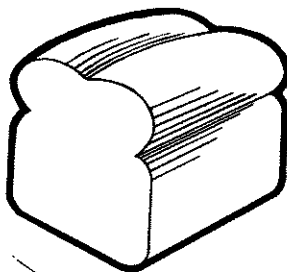
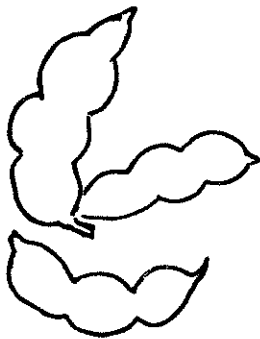
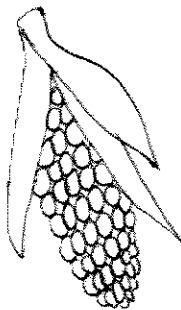
X Y F O O D Z

K I N G X Y Z

B E A N S X Y

X Y Z M E A T

B A B Y L O N



THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING

Scriptures: Daniel 1:1, 3-7 2:17-18, 49 3:1-30

Aim: to impress upon the student that obedience to authority is important, but obeying God is more important than obeying man.

Emphasis: Decisions are ours to make, whether young or old, and whether right or wrong. No one can make our choices for us, and we must answer for our own choices. We will be blessed or punished according to the choices we make.

Memory Verse: Daniel 3:17 *"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace."*

Background Study

The background study for this lesson is the same as the previous one. It is set in the same time frame, preceded by the same events. In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Israel and took captive its people, tore down the temple of God and destroyed the city. He carried away all of the temple vessels and placed them in use in his temple of idol worship in Babylon. Among the children carried away into captivity were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who were given Chaldean names of Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

All of the kings of the northern kingdom, the Kingdom of Israel, were idolatrous. For several years the kings of Judah were also idolatrous. Consequently God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to conquer the nation and carry the people away captive.

Captured by Nebuchadnezzar

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were young Jewish boys who lived in the Kingdom of Judah. They grew up as other Jewish boys, attending the schools where they were taught the Law of Moses (the laws God gave for the Israelites to live by). They believed there was one true God who lived in heaven and they were taught to worship Him and Him only. Many of the Jewish people worshiped idols like the nations around them. As punishment God allowed Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to conquer them. In the process Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were taken to Babylon as captives when they were only mid-teens in age.

Nebuchadnezzar commanded his chief servant, Ashpenaz, to search for all of the strong, healthy, and intelligent young boys of Israel and bring them to the palace so they could be taught and trained to become officers in his kingdom. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were taken to the king's palace. They were taught by the greatest scholars among the Chaldeans. For three years they were well trained and well educated. They learned the Chaldean language and customs.

The king sent food from his own table to feed the young Israelites because he wanted them to grow into strong, healthy young men. He wanted their minds to be well nourished so they could be educated, be brilliant intellectually, and serve among the rulers in his kingdom.

Their first choice to disobey the king

Along with Daniel, the three friends Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused the king's food. They knew it had been offered to idols, and they would not eat it. Daniel made a request to the officer of the king to allow them to eat only vegetables and drink only pure water. After a ten day trial period the officer was convinced that they were healthier looking than the other young boys, so he allowed them to refuse the king's food.

They chose to refuse the king's food because it would cause them to do things God had forbidden them to do. They would not partake in any way in idol worship which included eating food sacrificed to idols. They were young, but they felt responsible for their own actions. They were away from home. They were away from the influence of their parents. They could not go to their fathers and ask, "Is it okay for me to eat this food?" They had to decide for themselves. The food was good, it would nourish their bodies and make them grow up strong and healthy, but it probably contained things that were forbidden by their laws. They would not sin by eating things forbidden by law or sacrificed to idols.

They had to decide for themselves, and they made the choice not to disobey God. At the end of the three years of training in the king's palace they were brought before the king to be evaluated. The king questioned them and they knew all the answers. The king determined they, along with Daniel, far surpassed the others in appearance and intelligence.

Daniel 1:19-20, "And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm."

Daniel was given a high position in the kingdom of Babylon. He was not selfish in his accomplishments. Because of his good standing with the king Nebuchadnezzar, he was in a position to make requests of the king. He requested that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego also be placed in high positions of authority in Babylon. They served under Daniel, but with high positions, possibly as governors.

Daniel 2:49, "Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were only teen-agers when they were taken away from their homes to a new land, taught a new language and a new culture, and given the responsibilities of leadership because they were faithful to what they believed and would not disobey the commands of God. They soon had to make another choice that endangered their

lives. Although they were in places of leadership, their friendship with the right people was important to them. They gained strength from remaining friends with one another and not choosing to go with the crowd, and do what was popular in the land of Babylon.

Their second choice to disobey the king

Just a few years after they arrived in Babylon they were servants to the king in high places of leadership. They were well known even though they were young. Just a few years after arriving, when they were probably in their early twenties, they were called upon to make a decision between obeying the king or obeying God.

Nebuchadnezzar continued to increase in power and might as he conquered nation after nation. He was feared in every land. He was proud of his accomplishments and he was proud of himself. He worshiped many gods for which idols or images were made by the hands of men. The Babylonians worshiped gods of the heavens - the sun, moon, stars, gods of the elements - wind and rain, as well as gods of nature - trees, rocks, the earth, animals, anything they could imagine and fashion an image for. In his attempt to have the largest and greatest god, he ordered his craftsmen to fashion a large image made of gold. It stood ninety feet tall and was nine feet wide. He placed this huge statue out in the plains of Dura where it could be seen from a great distance. This was Nebuchadnezzar's god, the greatest of all idol gods.

Daniel 3:2, "Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up."

When the image was finished Nebuchadnezzar sent for all of the officials of his kingdom to come and worship his god. All of the ruling dignitaries from all over his kingdom, not just the Babylonians, but all of the people he had conquered were commanded to come to the image he had set up in the plains. As they stood before the image a herald informed them the king had issued a command that when they heard the sound of the musical instruments begin to play they were to bow down to the ground and worship the idol the king had set up. If they did not bow down and worship the image they would be taken and cast into the burning fiery furnace.

All of the officials, including Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego gathered before the idol. The music sounded and all fell to their knees and bowed before this great image and worshiped it. All except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. When all of the others bowed down, the three Hebrews remained standing. They chose to defy the king and obey God. The laws of the Hebrews stated,

Exodus 20: 3-5, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them:"

Personal results of their choice

Certain Chaldeans were watching Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to see what they would do. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had been placed in high positions of authority over the Chaldeans which probably created envy among those who were overlooked for this honor. They reported to the king that his orders had not been obeyed.

Daniel 3:12, *"There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

The king was furious. In his rage he commanded the three Hebrews be brought before him. He asked if it was true that they do not serve his gods, and did not worship the image that he set up. He made a bargain with them that they would have one more chance to bow down and worship the image, but if they did not, they would be cast into the burning fiery furnace. Then he asked them, *"And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?"* Who was the God that was greater than Nebuchadnezzar? What god could possibly have more power than his god of fire? Among their gods, the Chaldeans worshiped the god of fire. Anyone who refused to worship the image the king had set up would be destroyed by the god of fire. Nebuchadnezzar believed the god of fire had more power than the God of heaven that the Hebrews worshiped. He threatened Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with his god of fire as opposed to their God in heaven.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego bravely faced the king and the possibility of death. They informed him that their decision was not made in haste, but with a lot of thought. They did not intend to serve idols no matter what the punishment. They declared to the king they would not bow down and worship his idol, and if they were cast into the fire, their God was greater than the god of fire and would protect them. *"But if not"* — even if He chose not to save them from the fire, they still would not worship the idol.

Daniel 3:17-18, *"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

In his anger the attitude of the king was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He was so well pleased with their intelligence and their prospects to be great rulers that he placed them in high places of authority. How dare they defy his order and refuse to worship his god. He ordered the furnace to be made much hotter than usual and the three Hebrews be bound and cast into the fire immediately. They chose to obey God in the face of death by fire. They stood bravely as the strongest men of the king's army bound them, fully clothed, and cast them into the fire.

Because the furnace had been heated so much hotter than usual, the men who carried them to be thrown into the fire were killed by the intense heat. Nebuchadnezzar came to observe and glory in his destruction of these young men. To his astonishment they were not

lying on the bottom of the furnace with their clothing in flames. They were walking around unhurt in the flames, and a fourth figure had joined them. He called the counselors and asked, "Did we not throw three men bound into the flame? Why are there 4 men walking around unhurt in the midst of the fire?" He observed, *"and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."*

Nebuchadnezzar came to the opening of the furnace and called to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to come forth from the flames. He addresses them as, *"ye servants of the most high God."* He recognized that the most high God in heaven whom they worshiped and trusted was more powerful than his god of fire. They walked out of the fire. All of the princes, governors, captains, and the king's counselors gathered to observe these men who were unhurt when those who cast them into the fire were killed by the heat from just being near the furnace. They were all amazed that their hair was not singed, their clothes were not scorched, and they did not even have the smell of smoke on them.

Spiritual results of their choice

Nebuchadnezzar declared their God to be the true God.

Daniel 3:28, *"Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent His angel, and delivered His servants that trusted in Him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."*

In his fear of God, Nebuchadnezzar issued the following decree that anyone who even spoke against the God they worshiped would be killed and their houses destroyed.

Daniel 3:29, *"That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort."*

"Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young men, but they remained faithful to God even though they were in a strange land and faced with commands from the king to worship idol gods. They were taught the laws of God as children, and they chose to be faithful to what they believed. They were commanded by the king to do wrong, and they chose to disobey his authority even in the face of being killed.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were only teen-agers, but they made good choices. They chose to obey what they had been taught regarding God and His will in their lives even when it meant disobeying the highest authoritative power in the land, the king. They put their trust in God.

SUMMATION

The three Hebrew young men made a good choice when they chose to remain faithful to what they were taught as children.

They made a good choice when they refused to eat the king's food because it had been sacrificed to idols.

They made a good choice when they refused to bow down to the king's idol and worship it.

They made a good choice when they trusted God to protect them from the fiery furnace.

They made a good choice when they chose to go into the fire even if God did not protect them from the flames.

THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING

Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 1



There were four men walking in the fire.
God protected them from the flames.

THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING

Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 2

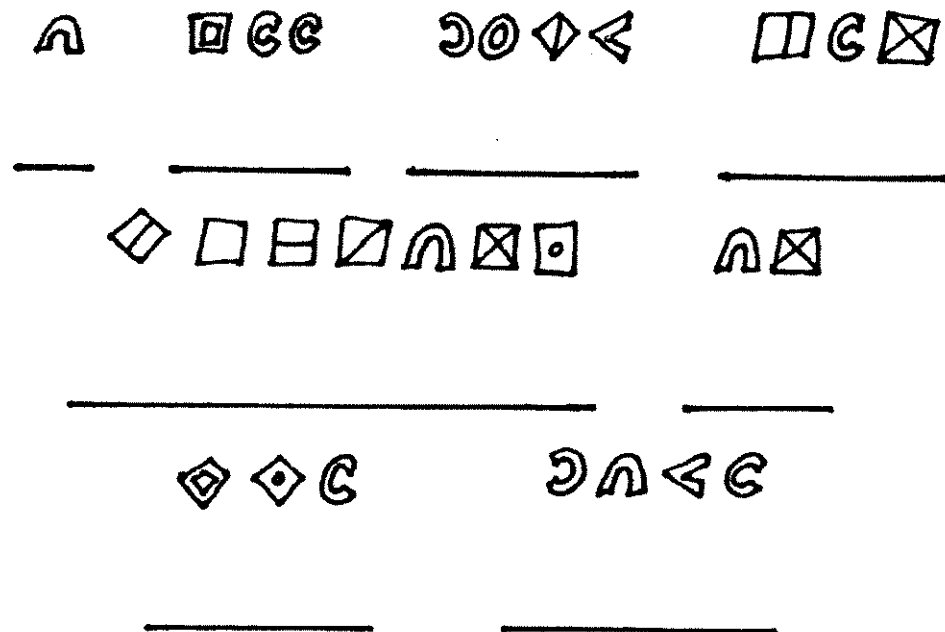
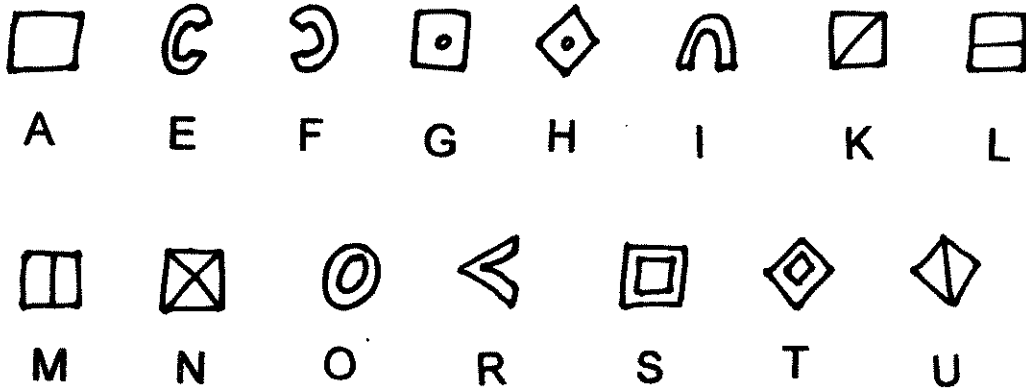


Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow
down and worship the idol the king made.

THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING

Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 3

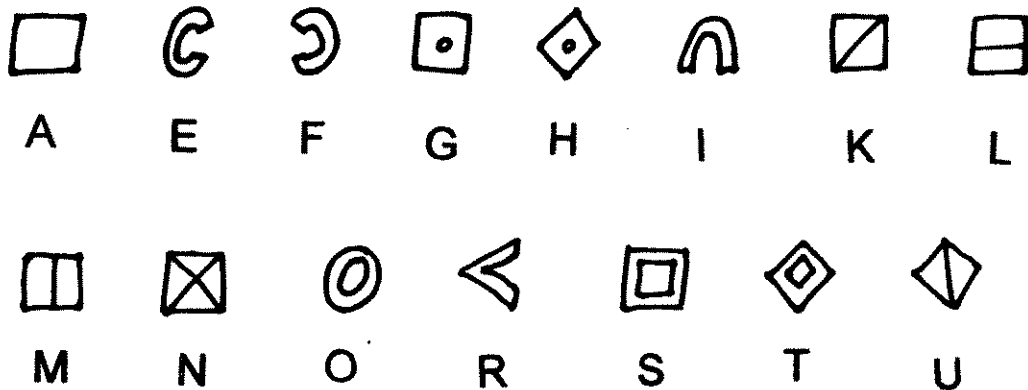
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THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING



Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 3
Answer Page

Use the code to solve the puzzle:



										
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THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING

Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 4

WORD SEARCH

Find the words 1 time across and 1 time down:

ABEDNEGO	S	H	A	D	R	A	C	H	Y
BABYLON	H	X	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N
FIRE	A	M	E	S	H	A	C	H	M
KING	D	B	D	Z	K	X	Y	Z	E
MESHACH	R	A	N	X	I	Y	Z	X	S
SHADRACH	A	B	E	D	N	E	G	O	H
	C	Y	G	Y	G	F	Z	X	A
	H	L	O	Y	K	I	N	G	C
	Z	O	X	F	I	R	E	Y	H
	Z	N	X	Y	Z	E	X	Y	Z

THREE YOUNG MEN CHOSE TO DISOBEY THE KING

Preschool / Kindergarten
Worksheet 4
Answer Page

WORD SEARCH

Find the words 1 time across and 1 time down:

ABEDNEGO

BABYLON

FIRE

KING

MESHACH

SHADRACH



A SLAVE GIRL CHOSE TO HELP HER MASTER

Scripture: II Kings 5:1-27

Aim: to teach the student that even young people can be instrumental in directing someone to God or a man of God for help. No matter how young, we can help others.

Emphasis: If the young girl had not spoken out in the midst of idol worship and told her master about the prophet in Israel who worshiped the true God in heaven, he would not have been healed of his terrible disease. As a result of what she did, he, too, became a believer in God.

Memory Verse: II Kings 5:3 *“And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.”*

Background setting

The Bible does not give us a name for the little girl in today’s lesson. It calls her, “a little maid” from Israel. She apparently was not a young child, but was an older girl. She was old enough to do housework and serve as a slave in the home of a wealthy family. The little girl lived with her family in the land of Israel. Many of the people in Israel worshiped false gods like the nations around them, but this little girl was taught by her parents to trust in the true God in heaven. She was familiar with the prophet of God, Elisha, who lived in Samaria, the capital of the kingdom of Israel.

The Syrians lived in a country north of Israel. They did not worship the true God in heaven. Damascus was a principle city in Syria. This was where King Ben-Hadad lived in his palace. The people of Syria worshiped idol gods, particularly a god called Rimmon, which means ‘pomegranate’. In the city of Damascus there was a temple for the purpose of worshiping Rimmon. The supreme deity of Syria was Hadad the sun-god. The people believed it was he who made the pomegranates ripen. They believed if they prayed to Hadad-Rimmon that they would be blessed with a bountiful harvest of pomegranates and other fruits in the summer and fall. Ben-Hadad means “son of the god Hadad”. It was not uncommon for the kings to take the name of the false gods they worshiped. The king of Syria, worshiped at the temple of Rimmon.

Naaman, Captain of the Syrian army

II Kings 5:1 tells us Naaman was captain of the host of the king of Syria, he was a great man in the eyes of the king, and was honorable. “Honorable” means “worthy of honor, commendable, honest and well respected.” He was one who was entitled to having honor bestowed upon him because of the way in which he served the king.

Many times during the time of Elisha the prophet of God in Samaria, the Syrian army went out by companies and attacked cities throughout Israel. The soldiers would invade the cities and take anything they wanted, gold, silver, precious stones, beautiful and expensive clothing and fabrics. Sometimes they even took the people captive and returned to Syria with them as slaves. On one of these invasions the little girl in today's lesson was captured. She was taken away from her family, and along with other young girls she was taken to Damascus to be sold as a slave. Naaman, captain of the king's army, saw this little girl and bought her. He took her to his house to work for his wife. She proved to be a good worker. She learned what to do to wait on Naaman's wife. She wanted to do the things expected of her. She was apparently treated well and became fond of Naaman and his wife. After a while she probably thought of them as her own family.

Naaman's illness

Naaman was a great man. He was strong and healthy, the ideal soldier. He was a mighty man in valor. "Valor" means "a strength of mind that enables a man to be brave in times of danger." He was a great warrior, and because of his character, many times God protected the Syrians and allowed them to have victory over those they conquered.

One day a terrible thing happened in Naaman's life. He discovered he had the dreaded disease of leprosy. As white spots began to develop on his body, he knew that he was a leper. Leprosy was incurable. As his skin began to decay, he knew that eventually his fingers and toes would drop off. Skin from other parts of his bodies would actually rot away. Finally he would die. As it progressed it was very painful and he would be isolated from the rest of his family.

Sadness filled their home. The young maid observed that something was wrong. She learned that the sadness on Naaman's face was because of the dreaded disease he had acquired. She remembered a prophet in Israel. Although it may have been quite a while since she had been taken from her home as a captive, she remembered her life in Israel. She remembered being taught to worship the true God in heaven rather than the idol gods that many even of her own people worshiped. She knew who Elisha was. He was the prophet of God who lived at Samaria. He had power from God to do many things, including heal diseases that doctors could not cure. As captain of the army Naaman had access to the best medical care available in Syria, but leprosy was something for which there was no cure.

The slave girl's solution

II Kings 5:3, *"And she said unto her mistress, would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy."*

Even though she was captured, taken away from her home and family, and made to serve as a slave, the young maid had respect and love for the family for whom she worked. She told her mistress, "I wish my master would go to Samaria. There is a prophet of God there who can heal him of his leprosy." Naaman's wife was excited and sent word to Naaman that the

little slave girl from Israel knew a prophet in Samaria who could make him well. Naaman went to the king to ask permission to go to Samaria. King Ben-Hadad was particularly fond of Naaman. He was the trusted captain in the army that served the king. He was the one chosen for the high position of accompanying the Ben-Hadad to the house of Rimmon and supporting him as he knelt before the idol sun-god of the pomegranate to worship.

King Ben-Hadad was upset when he heard the news that Naaman suffered from leprosy. He, too, became excited when Naaman told him of the possibility that a man in Samaria could heal him of his disease. The king said, "Go at once. I will send a letter to King Jehoram of Israel." Many times the kings were worshiped as gods. King Ben-Hadad supposed the king of Israel was the most powerful man in the kingdom, so he was surely the one to whom the little girl referred. He wanted Naaman to go at once.

The journey to Samaria

King Ben-Hadad sent Naaman to Samaria with gifts for the king in return for healing his leprosy. He left with ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Ben-Hadad sent a letter to King Jehoram saying, "*Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy.*" Ben-Hadad wanted Jehoram to know how much this man meant to him. He wanted Jehoram to know he had been sent by the king with the special request that he heal him of this dreaded disease. "I have sent this man. He is my personal servant. I want you to heal him."

When King Jehoram read the letter he was very upset. "*He rent his clothes.*" To tear his cloak from his body was a sign of great anguish. He observed this as a plot against his kingdom. He said, "*Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy?*" Jehoram knew he could not heal Naaman. He said, "*Consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me.*" Jehoram came to the conclusion that this was an evil plot by Ben-Hadad to make war against Israel. He said, "When I cannot heal this man of his leprosy, the Syrian army will again invade Israel." His state of anguish was soon known throughout Samaria. Elisha heard of the situation. He sent word to Jehoram, "Why are you so upset? Send this man to me and I will heal him. I will confirm to him that there is a prophet of God in Israel." "*Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel.*"

The visit to Elisha

Naaman came with his horses and his chariot, and the servants who accompanied him on the trip to the house where Elisha lived. Elisha did not come out to greet him. Instead he sent his servant, Gehazi. Elisha sent word to Naaman to go down to the Jordan River and bathe seven times and the sores on his flesh would go away and he would be healed. It was that simple. "*But Naaman was wroth, and went away.*" Naaman was very, very angry. He was an important man. He was the captain in the Syrian army. He had been sent by the king of Syria, and Elisha did not even extend the courtesy of coming out to greet him!

Naaman said, *"Behold, I thought, he will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper."* Naaman expected a great spectacle. He wanted Elisha to place his hands on him and call upon the name of God before those around him, and the disease to miraculously disappear. It was without fanfare to just go down to the Jordan River and bathe. He was insulted. Besides feeling ignored, he said there were better rivers in Damascus. *"Are not the Abana and Pharpar Rivers in Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage."*

His servants began to reason with him. They asked, "If the prophet had told you to do some great and difficult thing, would you not have done it? Why, then, not do something so simple as to go to the river and wash and you will be healed?"

Seven baths in the Jordan River

Naaman reconsidered and went down to the Jordan and obeyed the instructions of Elisha. *"Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."* His attitude changed. He was no longer angry. He was elated that he was healed.

He returned to the home of Elisha rejoicing at what God had done for him. Elisha came out and stood before him, and Naaman said, *"Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel."* He was convinced that there was only one true God, and He was the God the Israelites worshiped. He knew it was by the power of God in heaven that he was healed. Since Elisha was God's prophet, he offered him the gifts that he had brought with him. Elisha refused. He said, "As I stand in the presence of God, I will not take any gifts from you." Elisha would not take credit for healing Naaman, and he would not take pay for something God did. Naaman insisted, and Elisha continued to refuse.

Forgiveness assured

Naaman made one more request of Elisha. He wanted to take some dirt from Israel back to Syria. *"And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the Lord."* He asked for as much dirt from the ground in Israel as two mules could haul. He determined that he would no longer worship idols. He would no longer offer burnt offerings and sacrifices to Rimmon. He apparently wanted to build an altar from the dirt of Israel on which to offer sacrifices to God in heaven.

Naaman had one more request before he departed for home. He wanted the forgiveness of God. Naaman explained that when he went back to Syria he would be required to go into the house of Rimmon with King Ben-Hadad and bow down before the idol so that the king could rest on his hand as he bowed down to worship the false god. Naaman wanted Elisha to know that he would not be doing it in worship to the idol, but because it was his responsibility as the king's servant, and he wanted God's forgiveness.

"When I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the Lord pardon thy servant in this thing."

Elisha assured him of God's forgiveness when he said, *"Go in peace."*

Gehazi's dishonesty

Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was a greedy man. He said, "Naaman not only came here and was cured of his leprosy, but he is now going home with all of the gifts he brought to give in return for his healing. He brought these gifts to give to the man who healed him, and he gets to keep them for himself. He is going home with all of this silver, all of this gold, and all of these changes of raiment. Just because Elisha would not accept anything from him does not mean that I won't. I will go after him, and I will take whatever he will give me." Gehazi followed Naaman.

When Naaman saw Gehazi running down the road after him, he thought something bad had happened. He stopped his horses, got down from his chariot, and asked, *"Is all well?"* "Is everything alright?" He was concerned for Elisha. Gehazi answered, *"All is well."* But little did he know that all was not well. He was about to tell a lie that would have serious consequences.

Gehazi said that Elisha had sent him to tell Naaman about two young men who were sons of prophets and had come to him for help. They were in need, and Elisha wondered if Naaman would be so kind as to give them a talent of silver and two changes of garments. Naaman was so thankful to Elisha that he was healed, that he was more than willing to give him some things for the young men. He insisted that Gehazi take two talents of silver in two bags, and two changes of garments. He gave them to his servants to carry back for Gehazi. As they neared the home of Elisha, Gehazi took the gifts and sent the servants away. He did not want Elisha to see them. He hid the things in the house, and then went in before Elisha as if nothing had happened. Elisha asked, "Where have you been, Gehazi?" and Gehazi said, "I haven't been anywhere."

Elisha knew. He said to Gehazi, "Then why did my heart go with you when the man turned and stepped down from his chariot to meet you?" Gehazi knew he had been caught in his lies and deception. Elisha asked, *"Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?"*

Elisha pronounced punishment upon Gehazi for his evil choice. *"The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow."* Gehazi lived the rest of his life in pain and suffering from the leprosy that had been Naaman's.

SUMMATION

Choices, good or bad

Many choices are taught in this lesson:

The little maid from Israel made a good choice when she honored and respected her captors.
She made a good choice when she obeyed her mistress.
She made a good choice when she wanted to help Naaman.
She made a good choice when she told Naaman's wife about the prophet in Israel.

Naaman made a good choice when he had faith the prophet could help him.
He made a bad choice when he did not want to go to the Jordan River and it nearly cost him his health.
He made a good choice when he chose to obey Elisha and do exactly what he was told, and regained his health as a result.
He made a good choice when he chose to worship God rather than idols.

Elisha made a good choice when he refused to take credit for healing Naaman.
He made a good choice when he refused to be paid for something God did.

Gehazi made a bad choice when he wanted something he did not deserve.
He made a bad choice when he lied to Naaman about Elisha sending him.
He made a bad choice when he took the gifts under false pretenses.
He made a bad choice when he lied to Elisha about his actions, and suffered the rest of his life for being deceitful.

ELISHA

NAAMAN

GEHAZI

A SLAVE GIRL CHOSE TO HELP HER MASTER Preschool / Kindergarten

Craft Project

Needed materials:

brown chenille wire or
small soda straw or
wooden skewer
broom straws or tan yarn
brown yarn (for sandals)

Cut several 2 to 2½ inch lengths of broom straws. Bundle and tie to end of chenille wire, soda straw, or skewer to make broom.

(a little glue helps hold)

OR

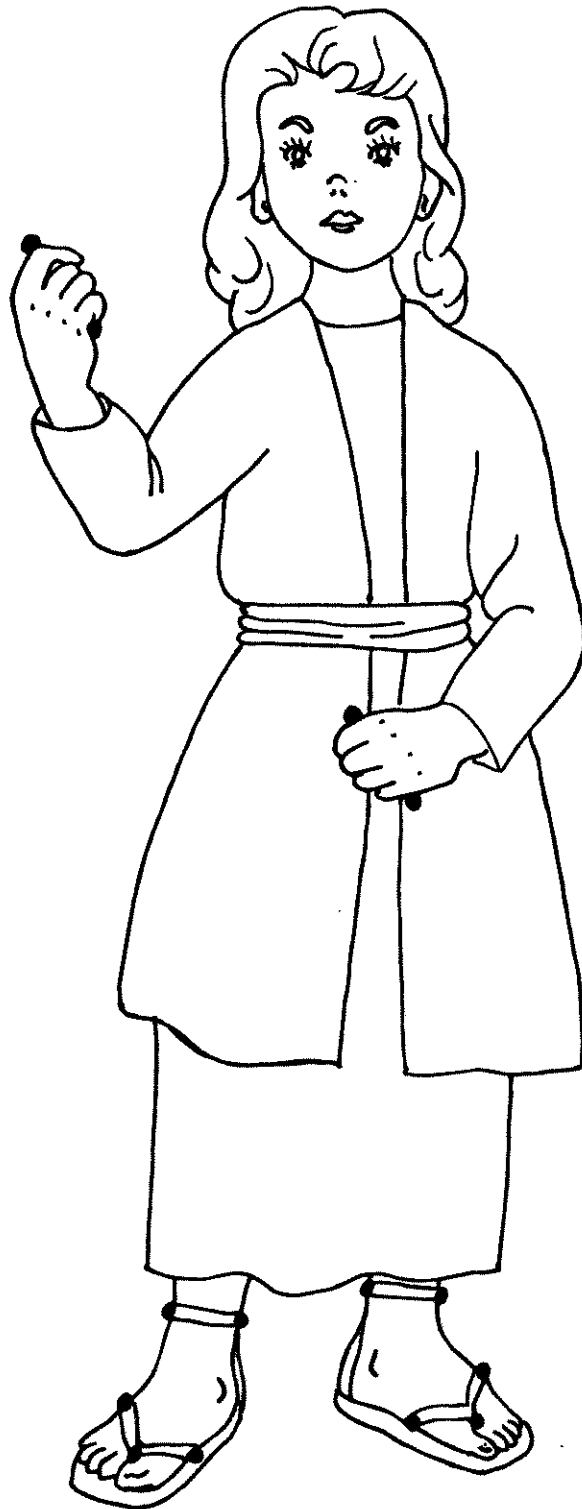
Use short pieces of tan yarn to make mop.

Punch small holes at the dots on either side of both hands. Insert handle of broom or mop through holes to make it appear the girl is holding broom or mop.

Punch small holes at dots on sandals. Lace and tie yarn around ankles. (crisscross under feet.)

OR

Use large needle to thread yarn through dots.



Optional: Paste girl on heavy

paper or cardboard and cut out.

A SLAVE GIRL CHOSE TO HELP HER MASTER

Kindergarten
Worksheet 2

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle:

ARMY	X	N	A	A	M	A	N	Y	Z
ELISHA	Y	Z	W	G	I	R	L	W	X
GEHAZI	X	Y	E	L	I	S	H	A	Z
GIRL	S	A	M	A	R	I	A	X	W
HEALED	X	Y	Z	G	E	H	A	Z	I
NAAMAN	W	X	Y	A	R	M	Y	Z	W
SAMARIA	X	S	Y	R	I	A	Y	Z	W
SYRIA	X	Y	H	E	A	L	E	D	Z

A SLAVE GIRL CHOSE TO HELP HER MASTER

Kindergarten
Worksheet 2
Answer Page

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in the puzzle:

ARMY									
	X	N	A	A	M	A	N	Y	Z
ELISHA									
	Y	Z	W	G	I	R	L	W	X
GEHAZI									
	X	Y	E	L	I	S	H	A	Z
GIRL									
	S	A	M	A	R	I	A	X	W
HEALED									
	X	Y	Z	G	E	H	A	Z	I
NAAMAN									
	W	X	Y	A	R	M	Y	Z	W
SAMARIA									
	X	S	Y	R	I	A	Y	Z	W
SYRIA									
	X	Y	H	E	A	L	E	D	Z

A SLAVE GIRL CHOSE TO HELP HER MASTER

Kindergarten
Worksheet 3

Use the code to find words in the lesson:



A D E G H I L M



N O P R S Y Z





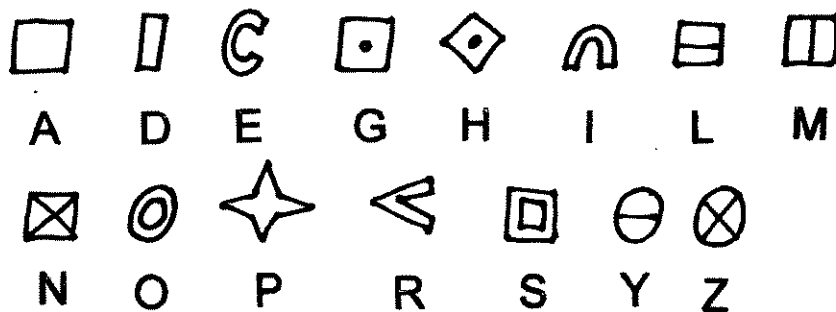




A SLAVE GIRL CHOSE TO HELP HER MASTER

Kindergarten
Worksheet 3
Answer Page

Use the code to find words in the lesson:



N A A M A N



M A I D



E L I S H A



A R M Y



G E H A Z I



L E P R O S Y



H E A L E D



S A M A R I A