

## **30 Day Bible Story Challenge**

### **Day 8 – David and Goliath**

**Bible Reference – 1 Samuel 17:1 – 18:5**

#### **David and Goliath**

by Sharla Guenther

Saul had been king, but he kept disobeying God so God asked Samuel to find a new king. God said to Samuel, "Go to Bethlehem and there is a man named Jesse with eight sons. One of them will be the next king."

When Samuel first met the sons he automatically thought that the oldest son named Eliab would be the king that God had chosen. But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at the way he looks or how big he is. Eliab is not the one I have chosen, the way he looks doesn't matter to me, I look at the heart."

Jesse brought more of his sons to meet Samuel but none of them God had chosen either. Samuel asked Jesse, "Have I met all your sons?" Jesse replied, "I have one son left named David, he's the youngest, and he's out looking after the sheep. I will bring him here to meet you."

As soon as Samuel saw him the Lord spoke to him and said, "He is the one." So Samuel anointed him with oil which was a special way of promising him that he would be the next king. And from that day on the power of the Lord was with David.

David continued to take care of his father's sheep in the fields. When he didn't have much to do in the field he played instruments, and wrote songs and poems that you can find in the book of Psalms in your Bible.

Meanwhile Saul was still king and he ruled people called Israelites. David and his family were Israelites too. The Israelites weren't getting along with people named the Philistines.

The problem with the Philistines was that they had many giants living in their land. One of the strongest and biggest giants was named Goliath. He was over nine feet tall, which is taller than any person recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records. He would've had to bend way down to get through a regular door.

Goliath was covered with armor to protect him and carried a big spear. Every morning and every evening for forty days he shouted to the Israelites in his big deep voice, "Hey, you guys! I dare you to find one man to fight me. If he can beat me we will become your servants, but if I win you will all become our servants."

When Saul and all his men heard this they were very afraid. Three of these men were David's three oldest brothers. They were the only ones in David's family that could go fight because they were old enough.

Now David's father Jesse heard about the giant and was worried for his sons. He called David out of the fields and asked him to take some food to his brothers and report back how they are doing.

So David set off to visit his brothers. As he approached them he heard Goliath shouting his challenge like he did every morning. "Isn't someone going to stand up to this man?" David asked the men in the army. "Then I will fight this giant Philistine."

One of the men overheard this and ran to Saul and told him what David said. Saul approached David and said, "You can't fight Goliath, you're only a boy and he has been fighting for many years." But David said to Saul, "I have had to fight lions and bears to protect my father's sheep. God helped keep me safe then and he will help keep me safe now."

It was too bad that Saul the king wasn't trusting in God to help him, he didn't know what to do to beat Goliath. Then this young boy named David came and he knew in one day exactly what to do, and trusted that God would help him. That's why God loved David's heart and wanted him to be king.

David and Goliath children's version Bible story So Saul dressed David in heavy armor to protect him from Goliath but David took it off. It was so heavy he could hardly walk and he knew that God would keep him from harm. Instead David went to a stream nearby and found five smooth stones, put them in a pouch around his waist, and with his sling he went to Goliath.

As David approached Goliath, Goliath looked at David and thought it was a joke. Goliath thought that he could easily beat David and it was funny that Saul would send a small boy to fight him. But David said to him without fear, "You fight with a sword and I come with God on my side and today everyone will know that there is one true God in this land."

Goliath didn't care what David said and he moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly to meet him. Reaching into his pouch he pulled out a stone, put it into his slingshot and shot it at Goliath. The stone had hit him right between his eyes and suddenly Goliath started to lose his balance.

He fell with a loud thud right on his face. David had done it, he beat the giant Philistine! When the rest of the Philistines saw this they ran away and David became a hero to all the people in Israel.

## **DLTK's Bible Crafts for Kids - David's Bag of Stones Craft**

Contributed by Leanne Guenther

Materials:

5 fairly flat rocks (the kind you'd use to skip rocks on the water) - you can purchase small bags of smooth river rocks at garden stores, Ikea, Walmart, etc. (people put them in vases)

1 more flat rock for Goliath if you're going to play the game

paints in various colors (this is a good project for using up left over bits of paint):

I prefer acrylic paint for this project, especially if I'm playing the game, but make sure the children wear smocks as it won't wash out of their clothes

if using tempera or poster paint, make sure they don't get wet (the paint will come off and make a mess on whatever is near by)

paintbrushes

water and paper towel for washing out brushes before switching colors

permanent black marker (if you don't have one, you can use paint, but you might have to help the children as it's tougher to print with paint than with a marker)

paper bag and markers

David and Goliath craftDirections - stones:

Have children paint 5 rocks however they like. Acrylic paint takes under an hour to dry (usually 15 min if you don't glob it on), so you can do a basecoat and then come back with different colors to decorate

Let dry

If you're going to play the game (next activity), glue a small piece of felt to the bottom of the rock.

With the permanent marker, print one of the letters of David's name on each rock (use one capital D and one small d) -- D a v i d

If you're going to play the game, put a G (for Goliath) on the largest rock.

Optional: decorate further with glitter glue, sequins or crystals.

For a paper bag:

allow the children to decorate their bags with markers

print a message on one side -- some ideas for messages include:

1 Samuel 17:47 And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

Fully Rely on God; Stay Close to God; Trust in the Lord

Once your rocks are dry, store them in your bag

## **DLTK's Bible Crafts for Kids - David and Goliath Game**

Contributed by Leanne Guenther

This is a simple game to play to go with a David and Goliath theme -- it's basically just a variation of a game of marbles.

Note: Test the surface of the floor yourself to see how difficult it is to slide the rocks (some surfaces are easier than others) and adjust the size of the square accordingly (smaller squares for harder to slide surfaces). An adult with some coordination should be able to knock Goliath out with 5 stones

Materials:

bag of stones craft David's Bag of stones (previous activity)--- or use 5 regular marbles

one large stone or three regular sized stones (the same size as in the bag) with the letter G printed on them with permanent marker --- or use 1 large marble

smooth floor (concrete sidewalk would work or cement/laminate/linoleum indoor floor

depending on your stones, it might scratch the floor

you can cover the stones with a coat of spray on varnish to prevent scratching

I suggest you glue a piece of felt to the bottom of each of your stones to prevent scratching (don't forget Goliath)

masking tape

### **Directions for the game:**

Use tape to mask off a large square on the floor with a small X in the center

Place the Goliath stone(s) or marble on the X in the center of the square

Have the children sit at the edge of the square and TAKE TURNS SLIDING their David rocks (or marbles) to knock Goliath out of the square.

don't let everyone slide their rocks at one time or someone will end up getting hurt

make sure you show the children how to slide their rocks (not throw them) before you get started)

test the surface of the floor yourself to see how difficult it is to slide the rocks (some surfaces are easier than others) and adjust the size of the square accordingly (smaller squares for harder to slide surfaces)

Alternately, let one child try to knock Goliath out and count how many tries it takes him/her before letting the next child have a turn

I find older children prefer this version especially if you get them all counting together

Don't forget to take your tape off the floor at the end of the game -- if you leave it on too long (days), it becomes difficult to remove.

## **Day 8 Cont'd...**

**Challenge:** I challenge each of you to make a list of each of your Goliaths. Goliaths aren't necessarily giants, but rather anything that you may be trying to overcome. It may be a certain subject in school, a bully, or even a national pandemic! The important thing is to acknowledge what we are struggling with and lift it up in prayer to God.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this beautiful day. We know that even in the midst of everything going on you are always here for us, protecting us, and guiding us. We offer up to you all of the Goliaths that are on our hearts right now. We know that alone we may be weak, but with you we are strengthened and able to conquer our giants. Amen.

## Day 9 – The Story of Job

### Bible Reference - Book of Job

Taken from: [https://biblehub.com/childrens/The\\_Story\\_of\\_Job.htm](https://biblehub.com/childrens/The_Story_of_Job.htm) \*edited

In the land of Uz there lived a man named Job; and he was blameless and upright, one who revered God and avoided evil. He had seven sons and three daughters. He owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred asses; and he had many servants, so that he was the richest man among all the peoples of the East.

One day when the sons of God came before him, Satan came with them. God said to Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered, "From going back and forth on the earth, and walking up and down on it." And Jehovah said to Satan, "Have you seen my servant Job? For there is no man like him on the earth, blameless and upright, who reveres God and avoids evil." Satan answered, "But is it for nothing that Job reveres God? Have you not yourself made a hedge all about him, about his household, and about all that he has? You have blessed whatever he does, and his possessions have greatly increased. But just put out your hand now and take away all he has; he certainly will curse you to your face." Then Jehovah said to Satan, "See, everything that he has is in your power; only do not lay hands on Job himself." So Satan left the presence of Jehovah.

One day, as Job's sons and daughters were eating and drinking in the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were ploughing and the asses were grazing near them when Sabeans suddenly attacked and seized them; the servants were put to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Lightning has fallen from heaven and has completely burned up the sheep and the servants, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While this man was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans, attacking in three bands, raided the camels and drove them away; the servants were put to the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

While this one was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking in their oldest brother's house when a great wind came from across the wilderness, struck the four corners of the

house, and it fell upon the young men and killed them. I alone have escaped to tell you."

Then Job rose, tore his robe, shaved his head, threw himself on the ground and worshipped, saying:

"Jehovah gave, Jehovah has taken away; Blessed be the name of Jehovah!"

In all this Job did not sin nor blame God.

On another day when the sons of God came before Jehovah, Satan came with them. God said to Satan, "From where do you come?"

Satan answered, "From going back and forth on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." Jehovah said to Satan, "Have you seen my servant Job? For there is no man like him on the earth, blameless and upright, one who reveres God and avoids evil; he still is faithful, although you led me to ruin him without cause." Satan answered Jehovah, "Skin for skin, yes, a man will give all that he has for his life. But just put out your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he certainly will curse you to your face." Jehovah said to Satan, "See, he is in your power; only spare his life."

So Satan left the presence of Jehovah, and afflicted Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head with leprosy so terrible that Job took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself.

As he sat among the ashes, his wife said to him, "Are you still holding to your piety? Curse God and die." But he said to her, "You speak like a senseless woman. We accept prosperity from God, shall we not also accept misfortune?" In all this Job said nothing that was wrong.

When Job's three friends heard of all this trouble that had befallen him, they came each from his own home: Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite, for they had arranged to go together and show their sympathy for him and comfort him. But when they saw him in the distance, they did not at first know him. Then they all wept aloud and tore their robes and threw dust upon their heads. And they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights without any one saying a word to him, for they saw that he was in great trouble.

Through his many trials and tribulations, Job never found fault with God, and continued to praise him, despite adversity. Through all of this God was very pleased.

Then God gave back to Job, twice as much as he had before. And Jehovah blessed the last part of Job's life more than the first part; and he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand asses. He also had seven sons and three daughters. And after this Job lived an hundred and forty years.

### **Activity: Create Blessing Sticks**

Materials:

Popsicle Sticks or Pieces of Paper

Markers/Pens

A Jar

Directions:

1. On each stick or piece of paper write down a blessing in your life right now, try to think of as many as possible.
2. Place each stick or piece of paper in the blessings jar (which you can decorate if you choose)
3. Each day take one of the blessing sticks out of the jar and give thanks to God for all the blessings you have in your life.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for all of your many blessings you have given to us. We know that in bad times, it is easy to forget all of these blessings, but we humbly ask you to help us remember the good with the bad. To remember to praise you, no matter the circumstances. Amen.

## Day 10 – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

### Bible Reference – Daniel 3

#### The Three Faithful Men

by Sharla Guenther

This is a story about a King and three brave men, all with really strange names. The king's name is Nebuchadnezzar and the three men were known as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They lived in a place called Babylon and the three men worked for the king and had important jobs for the province of Babylon.

One day the king decided to build a huge image made of gold that stood 90 feet high. To understand how tall this is, imagine 15 men all standing one on top of the other to make a tall tower. It sure was big!

King Nebuchadnezzar then made an announcement. "People of all languages, when you hear the music, you must bow down and worship the statue because I have said so. Whoever does not obey and worship the statue will immediately be thrown into a fiery furnace."

The problem with this is God does not want us to worship anything or anyone other than Him. After all, he is God, He made us, and He loves us so much. He came to earth and died for us and cares about every little thing in our lives.

Why would we want to pray or worship something that isn't real, something that can't answer our prayers or help us? To worship a big pile of gold like the one that king Nebuchadnezzar set up is silly. The gold can't hear, see, or care about anything or anyone.

So the next time the music played everyone stopped what they were doing and they bowed down to worship this idol. Everyone that is, except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Some of the king's workers (that were jealous that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had such good jobs) saw that they would not bow down to the image so they immediately ran to tell the king.

When king Nebuchadnezzar heard the news he was very angry. He immediately ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought to him to explain their actions.

The men were brought before the king and Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you will not bow down and worship the image of gold that I have made? Just in case there was a mistake I will give you another chance. When the music plays again you will be ready and bow down to the image, and if you don't this time you will be thrown into a fiery furnace. Then what god will be able to save you?"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego looked at each other and replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we did not make a mistake nor will we apologize for not bowing down. If we are thrown into the furnace, the God we worship will save us, and he will rescue us. But even if he doesn't, we want you to know, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

That made Nebuchadnezzar even more mad. Right away he ordered the furnace to be heated way hotter than it usually was and commanded some of the strongest soldiers to take Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to throw them in the fire.

The soldiers took the three men just as they were straight to the furnace. The men were wearing all their clothes including robes, their shirts and pants underneath that, and turbans on their heads. These things would catch fire very easily in the fire.

As the soldiers were pushing the men into the furnace the flames of the fire killed the soldiers, because the fire was so hot and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego fell into the hot, hot furnace.

Then king Nebuchadnezzar jumped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisors, "Weren't there only three men thrown into the fire?" They replied, "O, yes king." He said, "Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, untied and unhurt, and the fourth looks like some kind of angel!"

Nebuchadnezzar then came as close as he could to the furnace and shouted in the doorway, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, follower of the Most High God, come out! Come here!"

So the three men walked out of the furnace without any burns, no hairs on their head burned, all their clothes perfectly fine, and no smell of fire on them at all.

At that moment Nebuchadnezzar knew that they worshipped a real God not some fake statue. God had sent an angel to protect them from harm, and even more importantly he realized that they truly believed and trusted in God. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

So from that day on the king made an announcement that all the people, people of all languages could not say anything bad about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's God or they would be badly punished.

The king then gave the three men even better jobs than they already had for the province of Babylon.

## **DLTK's Bible Crafts for Kids - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Paper Craft**

Contributed by Leanne Guenther

### **Materials:**

Printer, paper, scissors, glue

something to color with (B&W version)

option 1: red, orange and yellow construction paper

option 2: red or orange tissue paper

## Directions - Basic Paper Craft:

Print out the templates

Color the pieces (as appropriate) and cut them out.

use markers to color some flames inside the furnace (the large shape) or see the OPTIONS section for different ideas for making flames (in the photo above, I used the construction paper option)

glue the belts onto the bodies

glue the heads onto the bodies

glue the people into the furnace

glue the rock border on top of the whole thing (line the bottom edge of the rocks up with the bottom edge of the furnace.

Options - Construction Paper fire:

tear pieces of red, orange and yellow into various sizes of "flame shapes" (rough triangles)

Basic paper craft

glue the larger pieces onto the fiery furnace before assembly

glue the smaller pieces on top of the people before gluing on the rock border

Options - Tissue Paper fire:

tear pieces of red and/or orange tissue paper into various sizes of "flame shapes" (rough triangles) -- really bright yellow can be used too, but a pastel yellow isn't colorful enough to work. Make sure you aren't using faded tissue paper.

print the B&W version of template 1

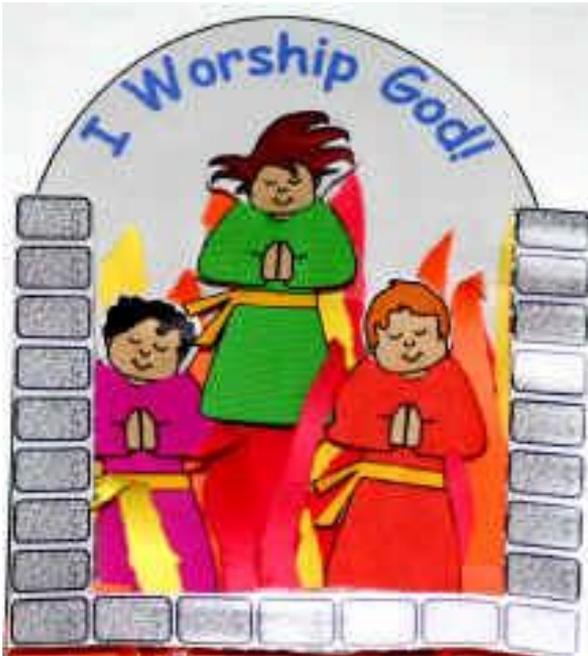
before you start gluing things together, lay the pieces of tissue paper all over the furnace and spritz with water with a spritz bottle or dab water on with a sponge

set aside and let dry completely

remove the dried pieces of tissue paper and throw away

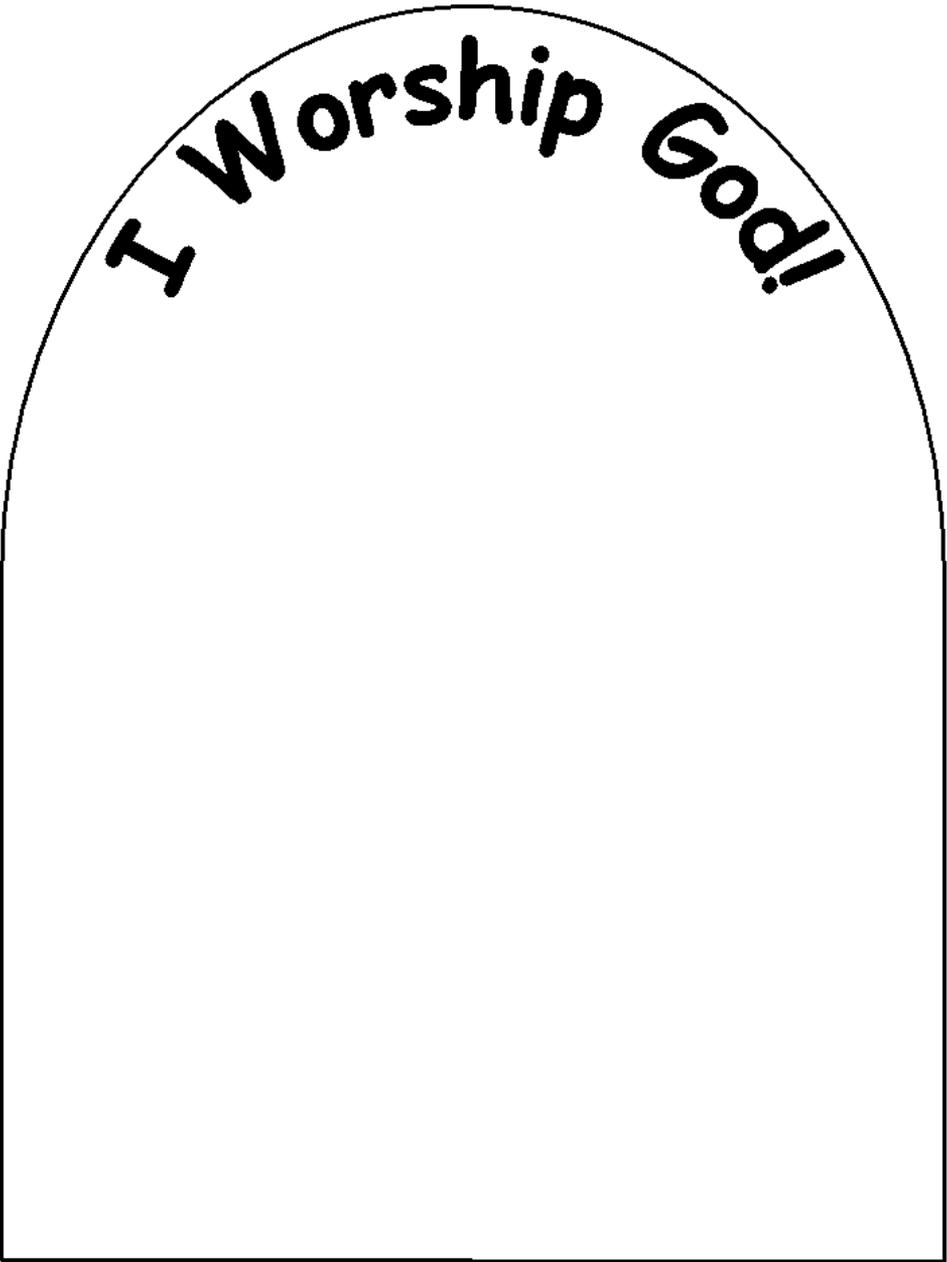
You should have dried remnants of the tissue paper showing inside your furnace (the tissue paper coloring should have stained the white paper).

Assemble the craft as instructed in the directions

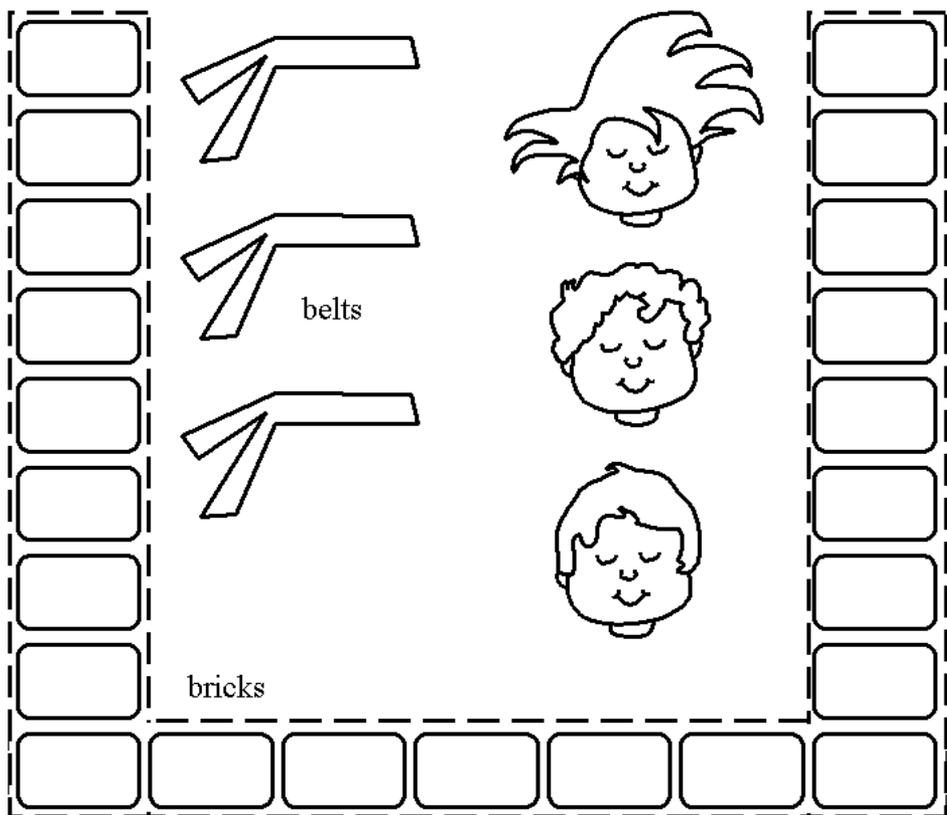
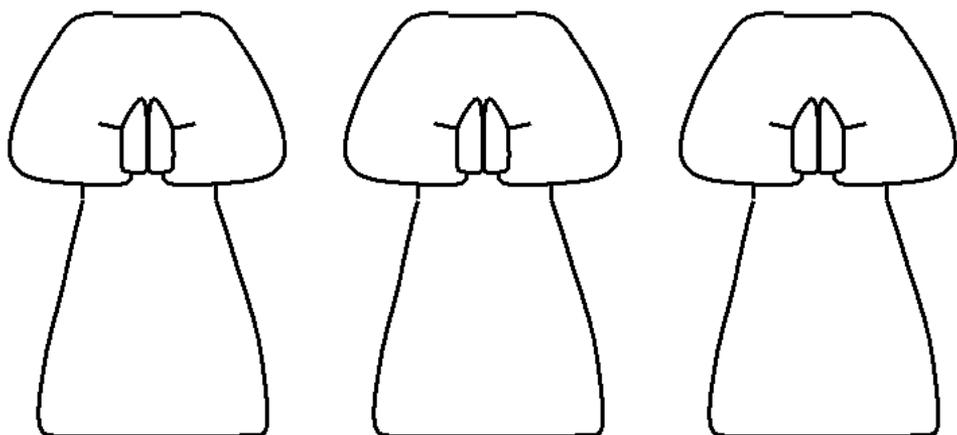


**Prayer:** Thank you God for giving us this day. Today and always help us to remember to put you above all else and not worship other Gods. Help us to be Fearless like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, when it comes to living our faith. Amen.

**I Worship God!**



Template 2 –Paper Craft



## Day 11 – Daniel and the Lions Den

### Bible Reference – Daniel 6

by Sharla Guenther

This is a story about Daniel. He actually came to Babylon with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and each king that came and went liked these men because they were honest and hard workers. They were always given the most important jobs which made the other workers of the king jealous.

This time the king's name was Darius and he also liked Daniel. He knew that Daniel was a good worker so he decided to put Daniel in charge of the whole country. The other servants of the king were very jealous of Daniel and they tried to find something that would get Daniel in trouble. They were trying to get him fired, but Daniel obeyed God so they couldn't find anything.

Finally these men said to each other, "We can't find any reason for the king to fire Daniel. The only way we could get him to disobey the king is if we made a law against his god." So they went to king Darius and said, "O great king, you are so wonderful that no one should pray to anyone but you."

The king said, "That sounds like a great idea!" Then the men continued, "All of your workers have agreed that this should be done and that anyone that prays to any other god should be thrown into the lions den."

The workers lied and said that everyone who worked for the king agreed, but of course they never talked to Daniel because they knew he wouldn't agree. The king didn't know this, so he made the law and it couldn't be changed.

When Daniel heard about the new law he did what he always did. He went home to a room upstairs and opened the windows that looked out over the city. Three times that day he went down on his knees and prayed to God just like he always had.

These men went as a group to Daniel's house and found him praying and asking God for help. So they ran straight to the king and told him, "Your worker Daniel is ignoring your command. We have seen him praying to his God three times today."

When the king heard this he was very sad. He really liked Daniel and he didn't want him to die. He tried everything to get the law changed to stop Daniel from being thrown in the lions' den, but the men came to him and reminded him that the law could not be changed and Daniel would have to be punished.

So at the end of the day the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "I hope your God who you serve and pray to will rescue you!"

A large, heavy stone was rolled in front of the den and the king went back to his palace with tears in his eyes. That night King Darius couldn't eat or sleep he was so worried for Daniel.

The next day, as soon as the sun came up the king got up and ran to the lions' den. As he got closer he shouted, "Daniel, has your God who you serve and pray to rescued you from the lions?" The king waited quietly for a response.

Then all of a sudden Daniel said, "O king, live forever! My God sent an angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me because I have done nothing wrong."

The king jumped with joy and immediately ordered that Daniel be removed from the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, there wasn't even a scratch on him because he trusted in God.

The king knew that the men had tricked him into punishing Daniel so he punished them.

After that the king made a new law and he said, "Daniel's God is great, and I order that everyone in my kingdom must respect the Lord God, who rescued Daniel from the hungry lions."

## DLTK's Holiday Crafts for Kids - Lion Mask Craft

contributed by Leanne Guenther

### **Materials:**

a paper plate or a circle of cardboard (see the turkey wreath for how to make a circle of cardboard)

construction paper (brown, yellow and/or orange)

pencil, glue,

popsicle stick, Tongue Depressorcrafts or unsharpened pencil

**Directions:**

Cut rectangles out of construction paper. I make them about 4 inches long and an inch or two wide..

You can decorate the rectangles with markers or sparkles to make the craft a bit more complicated.

Have an adult cut the center out of the paper plate so the child's head becomes the center of the mask.

lion maskRoll one of the rectangles of construction paper around a pencil to make it curly.

Glue the curled rectangles all the way around the edge - we alternated making a pattern -- patterning is a good exercise for young children).

Optional: Cut a couple of triangles for ears out of construction paper.

Glue on a popsicle stick or unsharpened pencil as a handle (you might want to add a bit of tape to reinforce).

Now the child can peek through the lion mask!

**Daniel and the Lions Den Game (like freeze tag):**

Choose one person to be the guard and the rest are Christians. When the guard tags you, you must report to the lions den (a designated zone). While in the Lions Den you must kneel, fold your hands, and bow your head to imitate praying to God for protection. When a fellow Christian comes by and taps your shoulder you can return to the game. After 5 minutes, switch who is the guard. (For larger groups, you can have more than one guard.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for delivering Daniel from the Lion's Den. Through this story we are shown that you are with us even in the scary times, and that through you we should be Fearless in our Faith, as you are always with us. Amen.

## Day 12 – Jonah and the Whale

### Bible Reference – Book of Jonah

One day God asked a man named Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell the people living there to stop being bad. The only problem was that Jonah didn't want to help the people there. He knew they were bad and he wanted them to be punished for their mistakes.

So instead of listening to God, Jonah thought he would run away from Nineveh and not do what God asked him. He ran to the sea where he found a ship that was going to another city. He paid the captain, went in the lower part of the boat and went to sleep.

Shortly after the boat left the shore, a very bad storm came up and started tossing the boat around. All the men were very afraid so they started to throw all their packages and bags overboard in hopes that they wouldn't drown.

The captain soon went to find Jonah who was still sound asleep in the boat. He said to Jonah, "How can you sleep? Get up and pray to your god, maybe he can help us!" The captain didn't realize that Jonah didn't just believe in any God but the one true God and that He could help them.

Meanwhile, the other sailors decided that the storm was Jonah's fault. He must have done something wrong to make his god so angry. So they asked Jonah, "What have you done? What god do you believe in? What can we do to make this storm stop?"

Jonah told them, "I believe in the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land and I am running away from something God asked me to do. It is my fault this is happening. If you throw me into the sea the storm will stop."

The men didn't want to hurt Jonah by throwing him off the boat so they tried to row the best they could, but the storm just got worse. So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. The storm immediately calmed and the sea became still. The men on the boat realized that Jonah believed in the one true God and prayed to Him.

Then the captain and the crew looked out to sea as a huge fish came and swallowed up Jonah. God actually sent the fish to keep Jonah from drowning. Jonah stayed in the fish for three days and three nights.

Just think for a second what it would be like to be inside a fish. There are no windows, and lots of strange things floating around that you can't see because it's so dark. Other than that I'm not sure what it would be like, but Jonah probably didn't know if he would ever see daylight again.

While Jonah was trapped inside the fish he did a lot of praying to God. He asked God to forgive him for running away. He also thanked God for not allowing him to drown.

After the third day God told the fish to spit Jonah out onto dry land. And the fish did just that. Jonah was happy to be out of the dark belly of the fish, but boy, did he need a shower. He was slimy and smelly.

Then the Lord told Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh and tell the people there to stop being bad. This time Jonah obeyed God and left for Nineveh right away.

When Jonah got there he told the people what had happened to him. He warned them that God said that they should stop doing bad things or in forty days the city and everything in it would be destroyed. To Jonah's surprise the people listened to him and they prayed to God and they said sorry for all the bad things they had done.

Soon the king of Nineveh heard what was going on and he ordered that everyone to listen to God and to stop doing bad things. And when God saw that they were trying to good instead of bad He felt love for them and did not destroy their city.

That could be the end of the story except Jonah left the city very angry. He was mad that God didn't punish the people. He knew that God was a loving God and didn't want to destroy anything if he doesn't have to.

So Jonah went on a hill and sulked. God saw Jonah and knew how he was feeling so he explained to Jonah that He loves everyone (after all He made us). He doesn't like to destroy people who are doing things bad, God would rather see us turn from our bad ways and do good again.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, we know that the right thing to do is to follow you, but even when we don't we thank you for still loving us and giving us second chances. Amen.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Jonah Anagram



ehinnv \_\_\_\_\_

hips \_\_\_\_\_

morst \_\_\_\_\_

adellosww \_\_\_\_\_

hnortw \_\_\_\_\_

aehlw \_\_\_\_\_

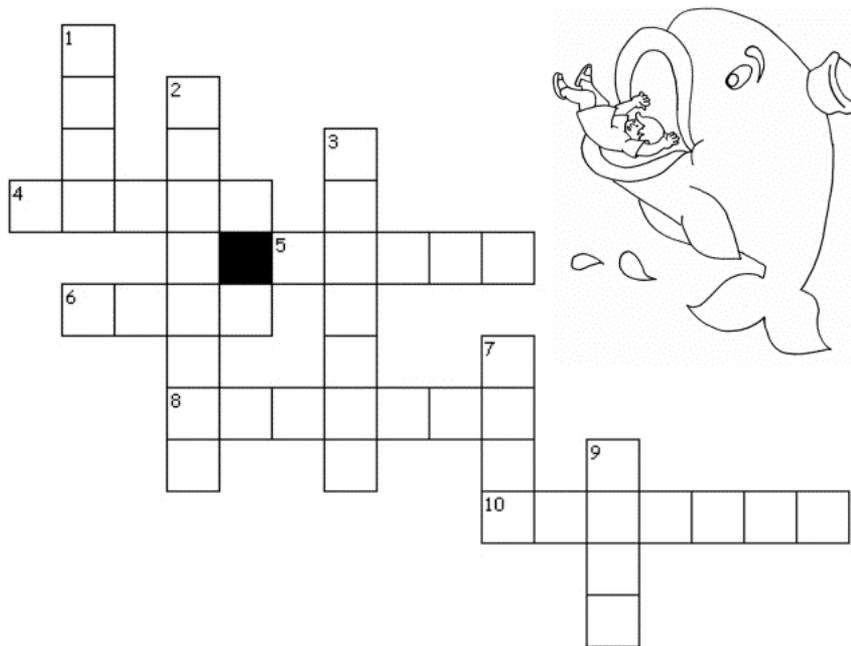
ipst \_\_\_\_\_

aeprry \_\_\_\_\_

eenprt \_\_\_\_\_

efginorv \_\_\_\_\_

# Jonah Crossword



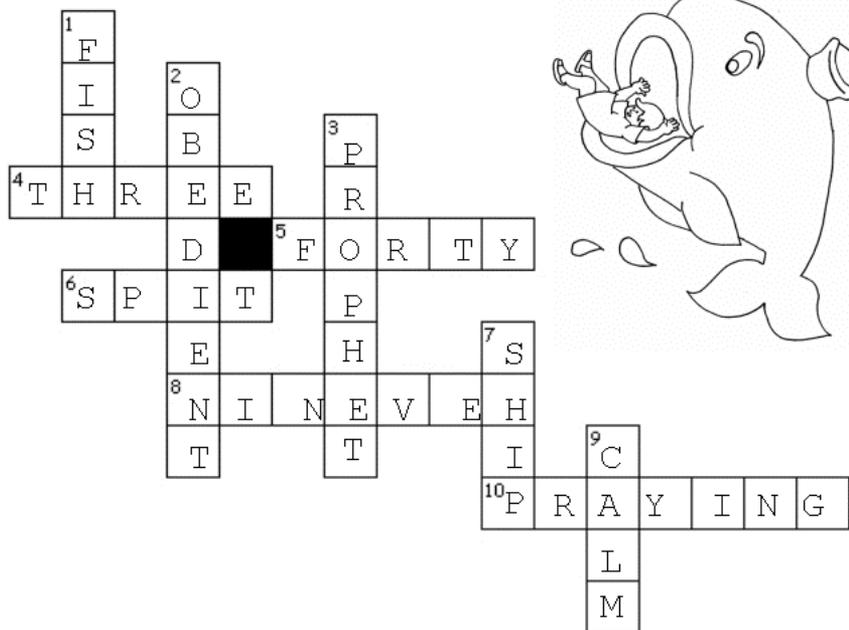
## Across

- Jonah lived inside the belly of a fish for this number of days.
- This is the number of days the people of Nineveh had to change and repent.
- The fish did this to Jonah to get rid of him.
- This is the name of the city Jonah was to send a message to.
- Jonah spent most of his time inside the fish doing this.

## Down

- Jonah was swallowed by a very large \_\_\_\_.
- It's better to be \_\_\_\_ to God then not to listen and go your own way.
- Jonah was called this because he gave messages from the Lord.
- Instead of going to Nineveh Jonah ran away on this instead.
- The water became \_\_\_\_ as soon as Jonah was thrown overboard.

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## Day 13 – Armor of God

by Sharla Guenther

In biblical times soldiers would wear very heavy armor. In fact, when David went to fight the giant Goliath he couldn't wear the armor because it was too heavy. These days, soldiers don't wear armor, but you might find it interesting to know that many Christians wear armor everyday and it would be a good idea if you did too.

How can you wear armor? This armor is so neat; it's like having special powers that are invisible! When you imagine yourself putting on the armor of God each day it will help you against the devil as well as the things you shouldn't do. However, the only way this armor will work is if Jesus lives inside you.

The devil wants us to mess up and do things God doesn't want us to do. He might try to do that by getting you interested in violent video games, shows on TV or movies that show people doing things that are sinful and try to make them look like fun. You might also be pressured by other kids to do things that we know God wouldn't want us to do.

These are some of the ways that the devil tries to trick you into doing things you shouldn't (this is called sin). By putting on the armor of God, you will be able to stand up to these things and do what is right. The armor will give you God's help to fight against the bad in the world.

Armor of God children's version Bible story We are going to start with the Belt of Truth. We need to put this on first to be truthful and remember the truth we know about God. We can know the truth by reading the Bible, the Spirit telling us (giving us a conscience), or learning from other people who believe in God the same as us.

Next is the Breastplate of Righteousness. If you play hockey you probably have something that protects the part between your neck and tummy. This piece also protects your heart. We can protect our heart by confessing any sin we have, or saying sorry to God for things we've done wrong.

Now we put on the Sandals of Peace. First, we need to protect our feet and go where God would want us to go. Our feet would get sore if we walked around with no shoes on, so we need to avoid places we know we shouldn't go to keep our protective sandals on. Second, we need to be peaceful with others. If there is someone you're fighting with or if you've hurt someone's feelings you need to go ask for their forgiveness, or forgive those who have wronged you. Third, if you find things are a little hectic God is the peacemaker, and if you ask He can give you all the peace you need.

The next piece of armor you don't have to wear; instead, you hold it. It's the Shield of Faith. Just think of what you could do with a real shield. If someone throws a snowball at you, you can lift the shield so it doesn't hit you at all. We can use the shield in the same way when bad things come our way like temptations or doubt.

Sometimes the devil will try to make us think that there isn't a God, or that he doesn't love us because we've done something wrong. We need to hold up our shield and stop these thoughts when this happens and remember that God loves us no matter what.

The Helmet of Salvation is the next piece. This is what we use to protect our minds. Sometimes we need to remember that we're God's children and He loves us and will help us. We also need to remember what we've read in the Bible and learned from our parents and church about God. That will help us make the right decisions.

The next piece of armor that we hold is the Sword of the Spirit. The sword is both the Bible and having the Spirit of God work in us. We can cut anything off that isn't good in our lives. By remembering God's word (the Bible) we will be able to tell what is good and what is bad.

Prayer is the last piece of armor. This isn't a particular piece of armor but kind of holds all our armor together. By talking to God we can do amazing things. Nothing is too big or impossible with prayer because God can do anything that He wants to. That doesn't mean that he will always answer the way we want him to, but he will answer the way He knows is best.

When we pray, we need to remember that we don't always need to ask for things. God also wants us to pray for others (for people that don't know Him, for people we don't like, for people that are sick, etc.). He also wants us to thank Him for whatever we are thankful for (being good at something, family, friends, toys, etc.) He blesses us with these things so we should thank Him.

A good way to help you remember the armor is to put it on each day when you get out of bed or before you go to school. Pray that God will help you remember that the armor is there and what it's used for so you can fight the bad with the good.

## DLTK's Bible Activities for Kids - Belt of Truth Craft

*Contributed by Leanne Guenther*

The Belt of Truth Craft is a wearable craft intended to be made in conjunction with the song ["Armor of God"](#).

### Simple Version



Materials:

- fun foam or thin cardstock/posterboard (12" x 4")
- wool, string or ribbon
- markers or gel pens
- hole punch

- scissors
- OPTIONAL: stickers

## Directions

- Have an adult cut a piece of fun foam or thin cardstock about 12 inches long and 4 inches wide (you can make it a bit shorter if you're doing this for preschoolers or toddlers).
- Punch a hole on either of the long ends of the fun foam
 
- Tie a piece of string to each end of the foam. The strings should be long enough to tie in a bow behind the child when they're wearing their belt.
- OPTIONAL: An adult can outline the word TRUTH in bubble letters in the center of the belt for younger children to color in.
- Use markers or gel pens to print the word TRUTH in the center of the belt
- Use markers or gel pens or even stickers to decorate the remainder of the belt. You can add a border, draw a cross or a dove or just some geometric designs.
- To wear, tie the strings in a bow behind the child's back.



## Hard(er) Version:

### Materials:

- thick wool (preferably macrame cord) - 3 pieces each about 5 feet long
  - for beginner braiders, use three different colors
  - if you only have thin wool, take 4 to 10 pieces and knot them together every 6 inches or so. Your pieces should be

about 6 feet long to start to make up for all the extra knots.

- OPTIONAL: large holed beads
- Short (about 12") piece of string, ribbon or thin wool
- Optional: Beads with letters on them (you need the letters for TRUTH)
  - you can purchase these at the craft store
  - OR
  - Make your own or have an adult make them for the class using
    - white sculpy clay
    - OR
    - our home made [bead clay](#)
    - AND
    - black marker

Make 5 beads (cube shaped are best, but round will work too) per student and let them print the letters TRUTH (one letter per bead)

## Directions

- The directions are simple, but it will take awhile to teach the "art" of braiding to the children
- Line up all 3 pieces of cord and tie it so there's an end about 10 inches long.
- Braid! until you have a belt long enough to go around the waist. Tie another knot and trim the ends so there's about 10 inches of free cord again
- OPTIONAL: Add a large holed beads to as many of the "free cords" as you like tying a knot at the end so the bead doesn't fall off
- This is a good "mentoring" project. Older children or adults can hold the cord while the younger children braid. If you don't have someone to hold the cord, use masking tape to tape the knotted end to the floor or table.
- Thread your lettered beads onto a separate, thin piece of string or wool and tie it to the front of your belt (beside one of the finishing knots).

- Tie a loose knot to wear your belt.

### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS:**

- Before you start, sit back and figure out exactly how much time you have to do the project.
  - Set aside 5 minutes at the beginning for "teaching" and 5 minutes at the end for clean up
  - Now split your remaining time into 3 equal portions (let's say each portion is 10 minutes).
    - at the end of the first 10 minutes, go to each belt and tie it off. Now tie a second knot at where they "should be" at 1/3rd of the way through the project. Keep in mind you want about 10 inches of free cord at the end of the project. Let the kids start braiding again from there.
    - At the end of the second 10 minutes, repeat the process, tying off where the children have reached and a second time where they should be (2/3rds through).
    - At the end of the last 10 minutes, tie off the project and tie off where it needs to be to go around their waist.
  - This will give you a belt with a BRAID, STRAIGHT, BRAID, STRAIGHT, etc pattern and will ensure everyone gets done in the time allotted.

## **Activity: Create your Own Super Hero Cape or Personal Battle Flag**

### **Materials:**

- a Light piece of Fabric about the size of a towel or Old Towel
- Markers, buttons, feathers, Sequins

**Directions:** Design your own super hero cape or battle flag to remind you to be strong in battle, because God is by your side. Highlight the strengths and skills God has gifted to you.

**Prayer:** Thank you God for giving us all of these tools (Armor of God) to be better Christians on a daily basis. We ask that you help us to remember that you are with us, through every battle, through every storm, and through every uncertainty. We love you. Amen.

## Day 14 – Fruits of the Spirit

by Sharla Guenther

Today we are going to talk about fruit. Do you like fruit? What is your favorite fruit? All fruit is different. It tastes different, it looks different and it feels different in your mouth (sometimes fruit is crunchy, sometimes soft, sometimes juicy, etc.)

The Bible talks about fruit but its a different kind of fruit, it's called the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is a little like real fruit because they are each special and different too.

It's really neat because when we ask Jesus to live in us his Spirit stays with us and He will give us some of this special fruit. As we grow and learn more about Jesus, the Spirit will give us more and more fruit and become more Christ-like.

I will tell you in a minute what this special fruit is but first I want to explain how God can be God, Jesus (His son) and the Spirit all at the same time.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. All of these fruits are good to have and the Spirit wants to give them to us.

God wants us to try to be good and have the fruit of the spirit in us. We can try to have love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control but the Spirit will give us the kind of gifts he wants us to have. It's hard to do it on our own, we need the Spirit to help us with each of these things.

Just in case you don't know what each of the fruit of the spirit means I'm going to try to explain them. I think the easiest fruit of the spirit to explain is love. Think of someone that loves you no matter what. You can make mistakes and it doesn't matter what you look like, but they still love you. God loves us too, no matter what, he even loves you more than your parents! He can help us love others the way we should.

The next fruit is joy. Joy is like being very, very happy, it's being happy inside even when things aren't going great. Again, we can try to be joyful but only God can give us the kind of happiness that makes us joyful, we can't just be joyful on our own.

When we think of peace, we usually think of no more fighting or war. That is right, but the peace of the spirit is a bit different. This is the peace we get when we get to know God really well (by reading the Bible, praying, asking questions, etc). If we have this peace we will feel a calmness inside and know that all our sins are confessed and that God forgives us.

Patience is the next one and I'm sure we know what this means. Have you ever been told to have patience? The patience God is talking about is for those little things like waiting to open your Christmas presents or being patient to go to the park. But it also means to be patient for answers to prayer that might take years to be answered.

Next is kindness and it should be easy although sometimes it's not. Is it easy to be kind to someone who has been mean to you or to a beggar on the street? When God gives us this gift, it's more than just being kind to others. He might help us be kind to someone who really needs it and we're not even aware of it. For example, maybe you feel like you should write a letter or call a grandparent. God might be urging you to do that because they are having a bad day and that's exactly what they need to cheer them up. Sometimes your kind deed to someone else is all they need to remember that someone special loves them.

Being good or goodness is the next fruit of the spirit. Having the gift of goodness means God can depend on me to be honest, repent of my sins, and turn away from bad things. We also need to try to act this way towards others through our actions so they can see the fruit in us. The only true goodness we have is the goodness of God living in us.

Children's Version Bible Stories: The Fruits of the Spirit Faithfulness is next and this one might be a little trickier to understand. Being faithful is keeping your promises, being a loyal friend even when times get tough, being trustworthy and doing the things you said you would do. When I think of faithfulness I think of my grandma who prayed for me every

single day of her life. She was faithful in praying for me, which also meant that she prayed everyday.

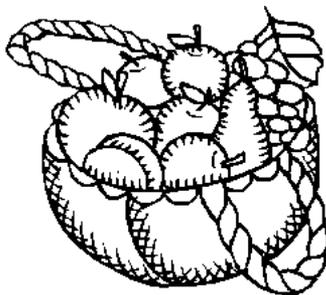
When I think of gentleness I think of holding a brand new baby. For some reason we think they might break if we don't hold them so carefully. The kind of gentleness God is talking about is similar to this. No matter what situation comes up we are supposed to be gentle. That doesn't mean we shouldn't stick up for ourselves, if someone is doing something you know is wrong you should still tell an adult or tell them to stop. Just do it in a gentle way like Jesus would do it.

The last fruit is self control and is a very important one, it means to be in control of what we say and do. Without self control we can't do the things we should. To be able to live the way God wants we have to be in control of the things we do. Just like when a brother or sister bugs you so much you just want to hit them, we know that we have to control ourselves and not hit them. We know we just can't do whatever we feel like sometimes because its not right and we'd be punished.

Just remember that with all these gifts we need help from God to be able to use the gifts properly. We need to remember that God made us and he is perfect. If you want the fruit of the spirit first you need to ask God to live in you, and then the more you get to know him the more fruit or gifts he will help you have.

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

# Fruit of the Spirit Anagram



aceeinpt \_\_\_\_\_

deiknss \_\_\_\_\_

eeeglmsst \_\_\_\_\_

fgist \_\_\_\_\_

aelnr \_\_\_\_\_

cefnoos \_\_\_\_\_

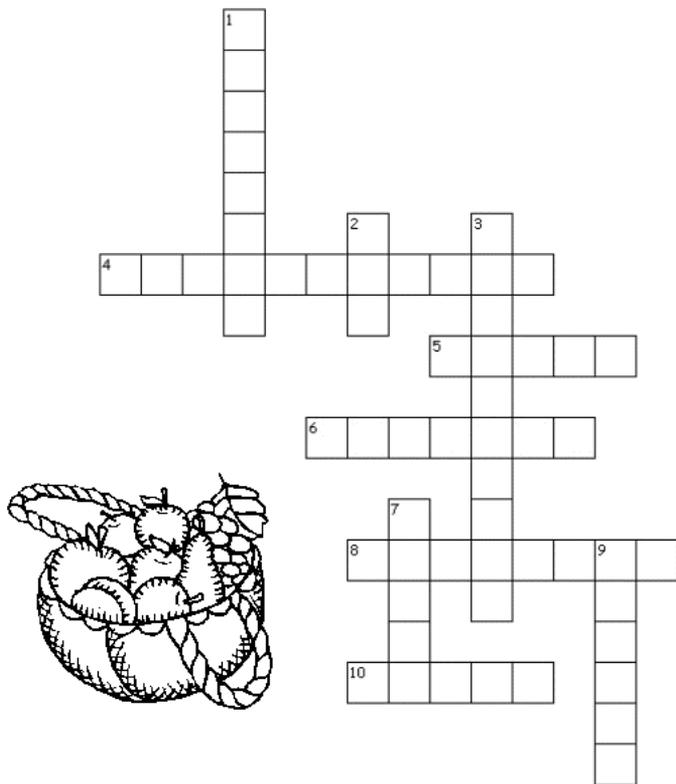
ehnost \_\_\_\_\_

horrstttuwy \_\_\_\_\_

chirst-eikl \_\_\_\_\_

aehhlty \_\_\_\_\_

# Fruit of the Spirit Crossword



## Across

4. This fruit of the spirit is a bit like faithfulness or being dependable.
5. God will give us these fruit or \_\_\_\_ if we ask and work on it.
6. Just like real fruit, the fruit of the Spirit also makes us this inside.
8. This is another word for gentleness.
10. If we try to \_\_\_\_ by reading the Bible we will understand how to become more fruitful.

## Down

1. Having this fruit means you will turn away from bad choices.
2. This fruit of the Spirit is about being more than just happy.
3. When we have more fruit of the Spirit we become more \_\_\_\_.
7. Being full of this means that you don't worry but believe God to take care of things.
9. This part of God helps us develop the different fruit in our lives.