

HUMILITY

This month we will be learning about humility. Humility is the attitude we have when we value others above ourselves. When we are humble, we serve others, and we use our words and actions to glorify God rather than taking credit for what we are able to do.



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Israel's first king was Saul, but he did not obey God. Then God chose a humble shepherd named David who would be a good king and servant for his people. Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13, memorize the Words to Treasure verse (1 Samuel 16:7) and do the Live It! Activity. This passage tells us what God looks for in a person.

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1 Samuel 15-16

Words to Treasure

It is better to obey than to offer a sacrifice.

1 Samuel 15:22



me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”

“Tell me,” Saul replied.

¹⁷Samuel said, “There was a time when you didn’t think you were important. But you became the leader of the tribes of Israel. The LORD anointed you to be king over Israel. ¹⁸He sent you to do something for him. He said, ‘Go and set the Amalekites apart. Set those sinful people apart to me in a special way to be destroyed. Fight against them until you have wiped them out.’

¹⁹“Why didn’t you obey the LORD? Why did you grab what you had taken from your enemies? Why did you do what is evil in the sight of the LORD?”

²⁰“But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went to do what he sent me to do. I totally destroyed the Amalekites. I brought back Agag, their king.

²¹“The soldiers took sheep and cattle from what had been taken from our enemies. They took the best of what had been set apart to God. They wanted to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

²²But Samuel replied,

“What pleases the LORD more?

Burnt offerings and sacrifices, or obeying him?

It is better to obey than to offer a sacrifice.

It is better to do what he says than to offer the fat of rams.

²³ Refusing to obey him is as sinful as using evil magic.

Being proud is as evil as worshiping statues of gods.

You have refused to do what the LORD told you to do.

So he has refused to have you as king.”

²⁴Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I’ve broken the LORD’s command. I haven’t done what you directed me to do. I

was afraid of the people. So I did what they said I should do. ²⁵Now I beg you, forgive my sin. Come back into town with me so I can worship the LORD.”

²⁶But Samuel said to him, “I won’t go back with you. You have refused to do what the LORD told you to do. So he has refused to have you as king over Israel!”

²⁷Samuel turned to leave. But Saul grabbed hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore.

²⁸Samuel said to Saul, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel away from you today. He has given it to one of your neighbors. He has given it to someone who is better than you. ²⁹The One who is the Glory of Israel does not lie. He doesn’t change his mind. That’s because he isn’t a mere man. If he were, he might change his mind.”

³⁰Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honor me in front of the elders of my people and in front of Israel. Come back with me so I can worship the LORD your God.”

³¹So Samuel went back with Saul. And Saul worshiped the LORD.

³²Then Samuel said, “Bring me Agag, the king of the Amalekites.”

Agag wasn’t afraid when he came to Samuel. He thought, “The time for me to be put to death must have passed by now.”

³³But Samuel said,

“Your sword has killed the children of other women.

So the child of your mother will be killed.”

Samuel put Agag to death at Gilgal in the sight of the LORD.

³⁴Then Samuel left to go to Ramah. But Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵Until the day Samuel died, he didn’t go to see Saul again. Samuel was filled with sorrow because of Saul. And the LORD was very sorry he had made Saul king over Israel.

Samuel Anoints David to Be Israel’s King

16 The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you be filled with sorrow because of Saul? I have refused to have him as king over Israel. Fill your animal horn with olive oil and go on your way. I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

Start Reading Here

Words to Treasure

Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7



²But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it. Then he’ll kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a young cow with you. Tell the elders of Bethlehem, ‘I’ve come to offer a sacrifice to the LORD.’ ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice. Then I will show you what to do. You must anoint for me the one I point out to you.”

⁴Samuel did what the LORD said. He arrived at Bethlehem. The elders of the town met him. They were trembling with fear. They asked, “Have you come in peace?”

⁵Samuel replied, “Yes, I’ve come in peace. I’ve come to offer a sacrifice to the LORD. Set yourselves apart to him and come to the sacrifice with me.”

Then he set Jesse and his sons apart to the LORD. He invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab. He thought, “This has to be the one the LORD wants me to anoint for him.”

⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider how handsome or tall he is. I have

not chosen him. I do not look at the things people look at. Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I look at what is in the heart.”

⁸Then Jesse called for Abinadab. He had him walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD hasn’t chosen him either.”

⁹Then Jesse had Shammah walk by. But Samuel said, “The LORD hasn’t chosen him either.”

¹⁰Jesse had seven of his sons walk in front of Samuel. But Samuel said to him, “The LORD hasn’t chosen any of them.”

¹¹So he asked Jesse, “Are these the only sons you have?”

“No,” Jesse answered. “My youngest son is taking care of the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him. We won’t sit down to eat until he arrives.”

¹²So Jesse sent for his son and had him brought in. His skin was tanned. He had a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Get up and anoint him. He is the one.”

¹³So Samuel got the animal horn that was filled with olive oil. He anointed David in front of his brothers. From that day on, the Spirit of the LORD came on David with power. Samuel went back to Ramah.

David Serves Saul

¹⁴The Spirit of the LORD had left Saul. And an evil spirit that was sent by the LORD terrified him.

End Reading Here

What Is Important About You?

What is the first thing you notice when a new student comes to your school? Read 1 Samuel 16:1–13. Samuel was looking for a new king for Israel. When he saw Jesse’s tall, handsome son Eliab, he thought he had found the new king. But he was looking at the wrong thing. Samuel was looking at the outside. What part of a person is most important to God? That’s right. The inside!

Cut a heart from red paper. Make it about as large as your face. Now tape it to a mirror so that you see the heart instead of your face. On the heart write things that describe a child of God. Write things like “helpful,” “caring,” “honest” or “friendly.”

Put the heart where you will see it often. When you see it, remember that the kind of person you are inside is what really matters.

Live IT!

1 Samuel 16:1–13



Jesus set an example for us so that we know what it looks like in action to be humble. This story tells us about how he served his disciples.

New Testament

Jesus Humbles Himself in Front of His Disciples

John 13:1-17

A few days before Jesus died, he and his disciples ate supper together to celebrate the Feast of Passover. Jesus knew that his time on earth was almost over. He wanted his disciples to know how much he loved them. Before they started to eat, Jesus got up from the table. He poured water into a bowl and knelt down in front of Peter. Jesus began to wash Peter's dirty feet. Peter was confused. He didn't understand why Jesus was kneeling to do the humble job of a servant.

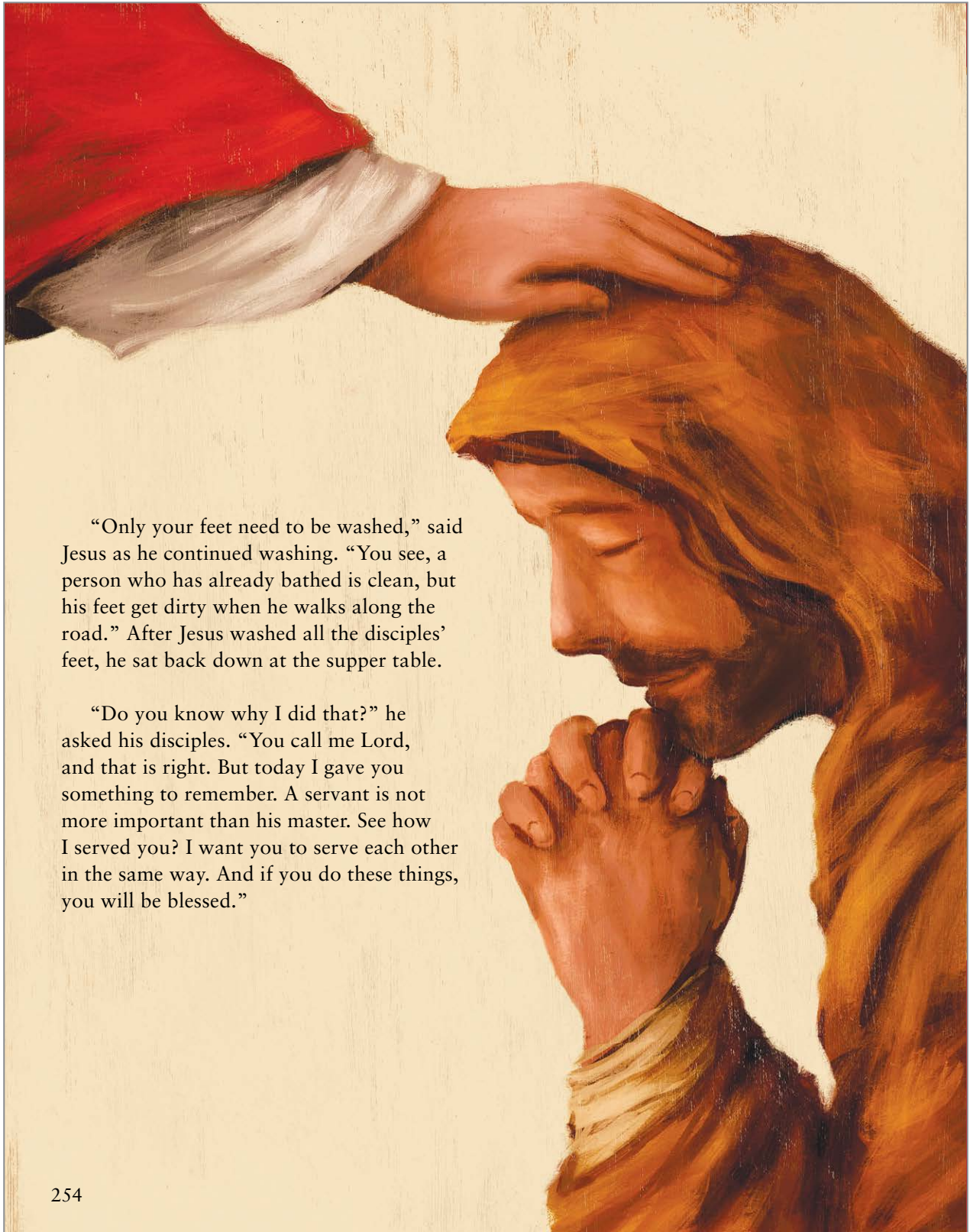
"No!" said Peter. "You can't wash my feet."

"If I don't, you are not part of me," explained Jesus.

"Oh," said Peter. "Then wash all of me!"



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“Only your feet need to be washed,” said Jesus as he continued washing. “You see, a person who has already bathed is clean, but his feet get dirty when he walks along the road.” After Jesus washed all the disciples’ feet, he sat back down at the supper table.

“Do you know why I did that?” he asked his disciples. “You call me Lord, and that is right. But today I gave you something to remember. A servant is not more important than his master. See how I served you? I want you to serve each other in the same way. And if you do these things, you will be blessed.”



THE JESUS ANSWER

What a wonderful way for Jesus to show his disciples how much he loved them. Jesus, the King, was willing to become a servant and kneel before his friends to wash their dirty feet. Now if Jesus could be so humble and loving, don't you think we should be like that too? Learn from Jesus.

Be humble in all you do. Love others. Value them more than you value yourself. If you can do these things, then just like the disciples long ago, you will be blessed too.

Believe!



KEY IDEA:

I choose to value others more than myself.

KEY VERSE:

Think of others as better than yourselves.

—Philippians 2:3

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This devotional teaches us that we should put others before ourselves because God loves us all.

BE HUMBLE



Every single person in our world is valuable, precious, and made in God's image. Sometimes we forget that and think that we're more important than others.



And sometimes we believe certain people are more valuable than others.

But God wants us to see things differently.

Jesus spent a lot of time with people whom others disliked or thought were unimportant.

He saw people for exactly who they were. Each one of them was precious to him and he loved them all equally because we are all God's children. We should live that way too!



In fact, Jesus says we should always put others first—that's what it means to be humble (and it's one big way we share God's love).

When we treat others as valuable (and don't see ourselves as more important than anyone else), we are loving the way God wants us to.



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This devotional reminds us that we glorify God when we humbly use the gifts he has given us.

March 21

Humble Is

Rick stood on the theater stage looking a little nervous, but when he began to sing he completely forgot to be nervous. He remembered everything his singing teacher had said. He dropped his shoulders, relaxed, and had a good time just singing. He almost forgot he was singing in front of important people. When he finished, he waited for them to say something.

Words to Treasure

But he gives grace to those who are not proud.

Proverbs 3:34

“Rick, do you want to say anything?”

the director of the play asked, looking very serious.

Rick cleared his throat. “Thank you for letting me try out for your play. I hope my best was what you are looking for.”

The director sat back in his chair and smiled for the first time. “Well, Mr. Campbell, your best is exactly what we’re looking for. Welcome to our show. We would like you to sing in our play.”

Humble is not about bragging, trying to impress people, trying to get attention, or needing to be first. *Humble* is just being what God made you. And that’s impressive enough without you saying a thing. Let people discover the amazing person you are without big talk. God loves a humble heart. Humble looks very good on you, and it goes with everything.

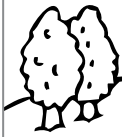
Did You Know?

Did you know that Moses was the most humble guy on the face of the earth? The guy just didn’t know how to be too proud. And God took that humble man and stood him before kings. Humility looked good on Moses too.



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Job was a righteous man that experienced pain and suffering. Despite the trials he faced, Job remained humble and faithful to God.



Week 5

The Story of Job

There was a man who lived in the land of Uz. His name was Job. He was honest. He did what was right. He had respect for God and avoided evil. One day angels came to the LORD. Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

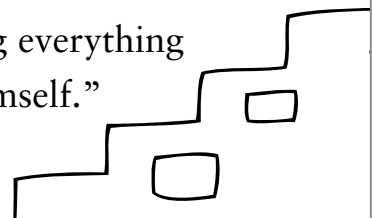
Satan answered, “From traveling all around the earth. I’ve been going from one end of it to the other.”

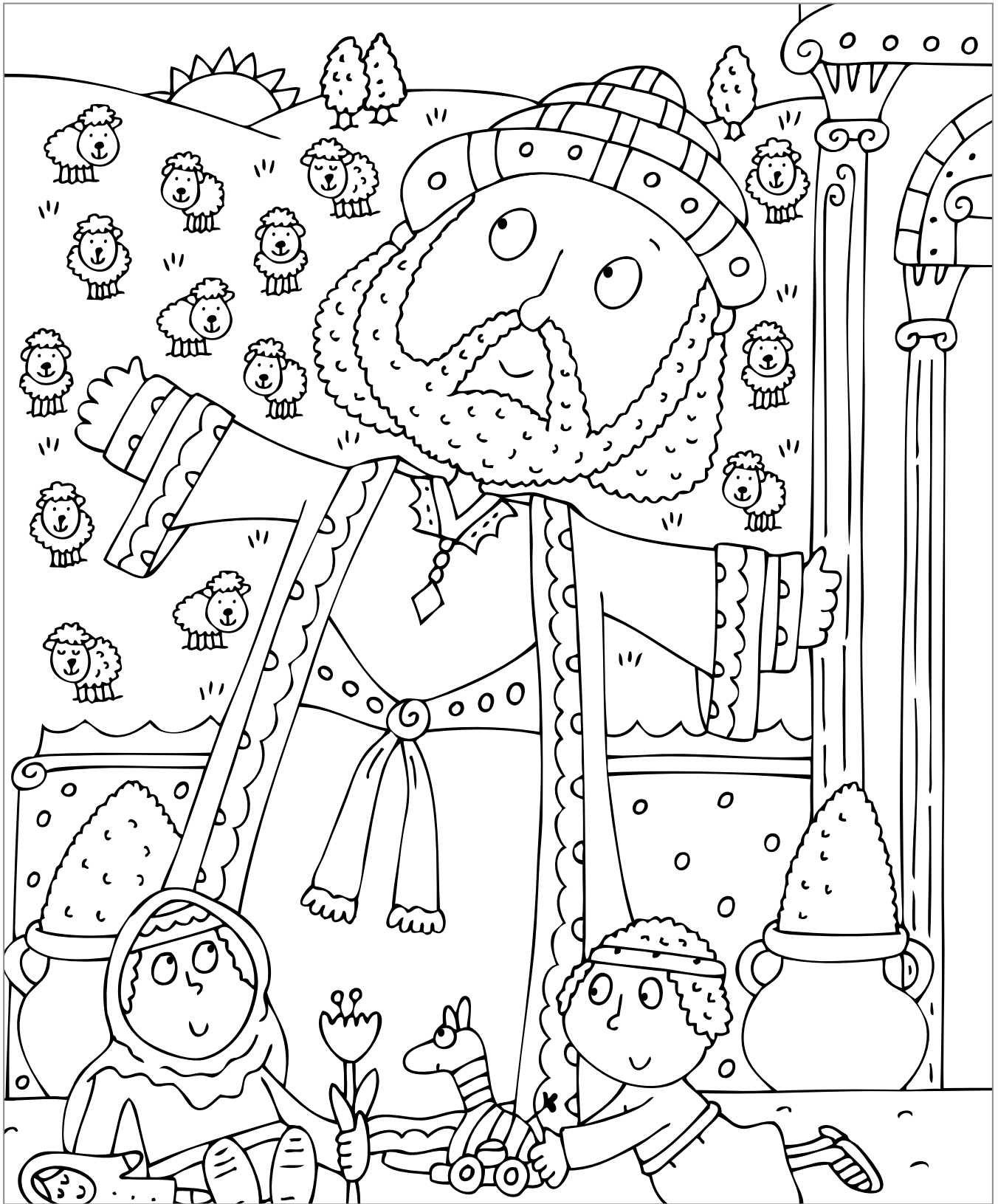
Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you thought about my servant Job? There isn’t anyone on earth like him. He is honest. He does what is right. He has respect for God and avoids evil.”

“You always give Job everything he needs,” Satan replied.

“That’s why he has respect for you. Haven’t you guarded him and his family? Haven’t you taken care of everything he has? You have blessed everything he does. His flocks and herds are spread all through the land. But now reach out your hand and strike down everything he has. Then I’m sure he will speak evil things against you. In fact, he’ll do it right in front of you.”

The LORD said to Satan, “All right. I am handing everything he has over to you. But do not touch the man himself.”

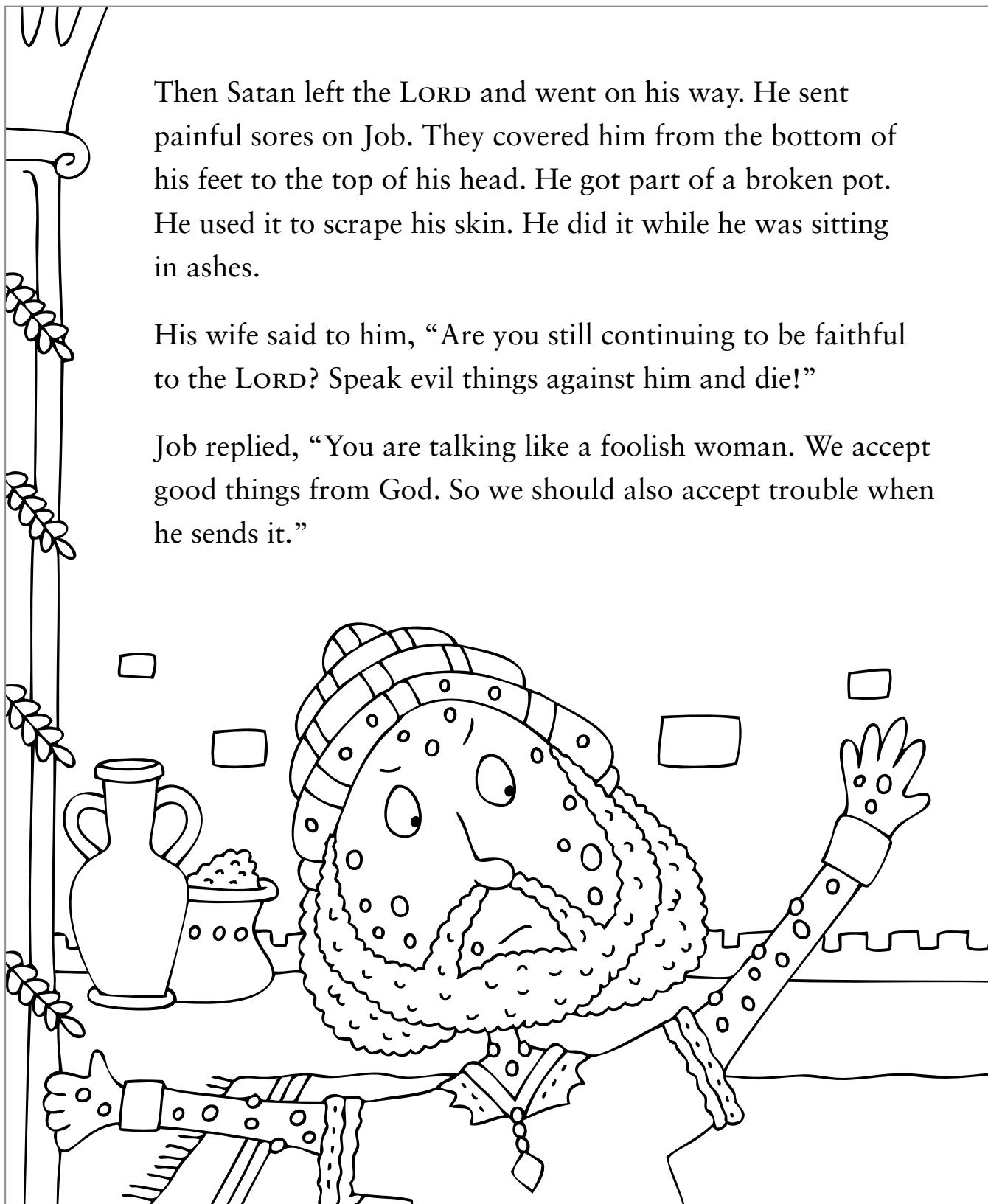




Then Satan left the LORD and went on his way. He sent painful sores on Job. They covered him from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. He got part of a broken pot. He used it to scrape his skin. He did it while he was sitting in ashes.

His wife said to him, “Are you still continuing to be faithful to the LORD? Speak evil things against him and die!”

Job replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. We accept good things from God. So we should also accept trouble when he sends it.”



In spite of everything, Job didn't say anything that was sinful. After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him successful again. He gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came to see him. They ate with him in his house. They showed their concern for him. They comforted him because of all the troubles the LORD had brought on him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and a gold ring.

The LORD blessed the last part of Job's life even more than the first part.



We can learn about the importance of being humble in 1 and 2 Samuel. The king of Israel needed to depend on God to protect his people rather than relying on his own strength or knowledge. This section includes a devotion and many fun exercises to learn about humility.

1 & 2 SAMUEL

Week 9, Day 1
Read About It

God gives honor to humble people but he makes proud people humble.



Did you ever think that something was good only to find out it was bad? Maybe you bit into an apple and found a worm inside! Yuck! In 1 & 2 Samuel, the Israelites thought it would be good to have a king like all the other nations had. They had to learn for themselves that what they thought would be good could really be bad!

The kings of other nations depended on their own wisdom and strength. They were proud. But the king of Israel was not supposed to be like those kings! The kings of Israel were supposed to depend on the wisdom and strength of God. They were supposed to be humble. Saul was the first king of Israel. But Saul became like the kings of other nations. He became proud of himself and his authority. So, God made Saul humble by choosing someone else to be king!

God chose David to be the next king of his people. David was humble and depended on God. So, God gave David great honor. Sometimes David disobeyed God. But when he did, David admitted he had sinned and he returned to God. So, God promised to provide a king from David's family line. God said that this king would rule forever!

David did wrong things but later told the truth about them. Can you think of a time when you did something wrong? You either lied or disobeyed? What happened after that?

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Week 9, Day 2

Think About It



1 & 2 SAMUEL

David wrote a song of praise to God near the end of 1 & 2 Samuel. In this song David says something very important about proud people and humble people. Use the code below to figure out what the verse says. Find the letters for each word in the top row of the code. Then replace them with the letters under them. When you're done, you will be able to read the verse.

The Code

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
z	y	x	w	v	u	t	s	r	q	p	o	n	m	l	k	j	i	h	g	f	e	d	c	b	a

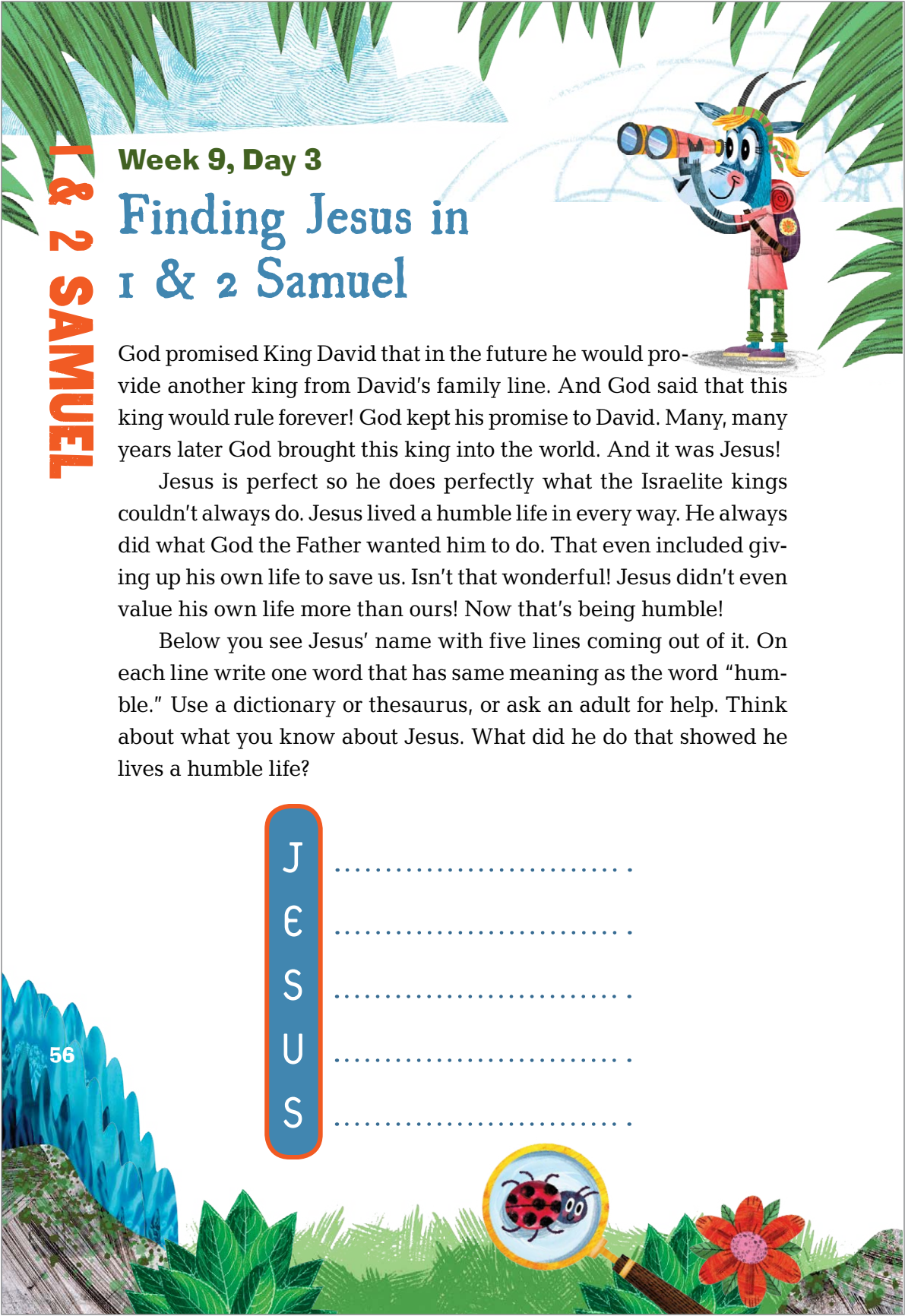
The Verse

b l f h z e v g s l h v d s l z i v m g
 k i l f w y f g b l f d z g x s g s v
 k i l f w g l y i r m t g s v n w l d m

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ANSWER KEY You save those who aren't proud. But you watch the proud to bring them down. (2 Samuel 22: 28)



1 & 2 SAMUEL

Week 9, Day 3

**Finding Jesus in
1 & 2 Samuel**

God promised King David that in the future he would provide another king from David's family line. And God said that this king would rule forever! God kept his promise to David. Many, many years later God brought this king into the world. And it was Jesus!

Jesus is perfect so he does perfectly what the Israelite kings couldn't always do. Jesus lived a humble life in every way. He always did what God the Father wanted him to do. That even included giving up his own life to save us. Isn't that wonderful! Jesus didn't even value his own life more than ours! Now that's being humble!

Below you see Jesus' name with five lines coming out of it. On each line write one word that has same meaning as the word "humble." Use a dictionary or thesaurus, or ask an adult for help. Think about what you know about Jesus. What did he do that showed he lives a humble life?

J
E
S
U
S





Week 9, Day 4

Write About It

1 & 2 SAMUEL

David was a humble shepherd. He knew it was important to obey God's commands. He trusted that God would be with him all the time. So, when David faced the giant Goliath, he was not afraid. He knew God would be with him. You can trust that God will be with you, too, when you face scary things. Write how that makes you feel.

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God wants you to be humble as you live your life. When you believe in Jesus, his Holy Spirit helps you to be humble. Write how that makes you feel.

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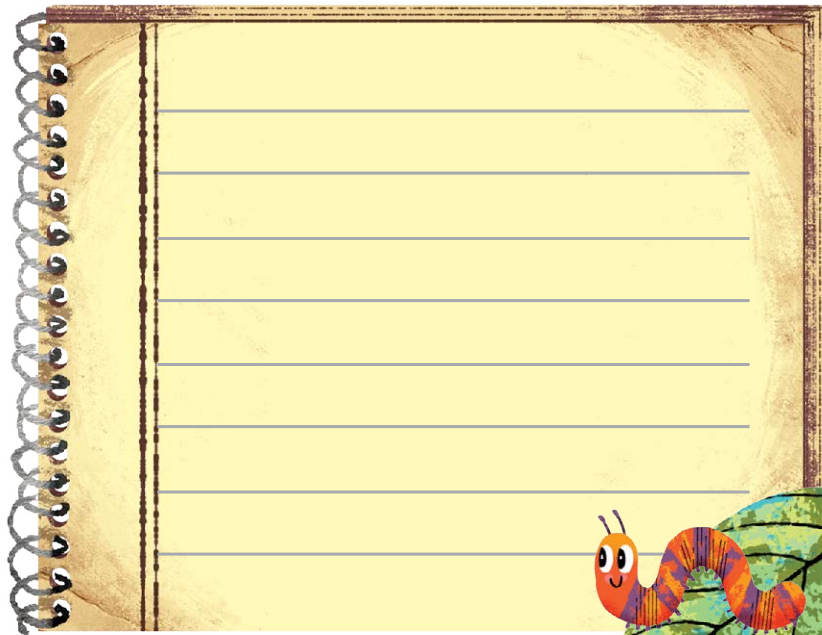
1 & 2 SAMUEL

Week 9, Day 5
Pray About It

Dear heavenly Father,

You have always loved your people. You want them to love and trust you. You want them to be humble. Please help me to be humble. You deserve all my praise and thanks for the gifts you have given me. Never let me become proud of myself and forget about you. I will praise you when I have success. And I will praise you when things don't go well for me. No matter what happens, I will honor and praise you. I pray this because I believe in Jesus. Amen.

Think of some specific ways you can be humble in your everyday life. Write them on the notebook below. Use the list of words you brainstormed on Day 3.



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Week 9, Day 6

Do Something About It

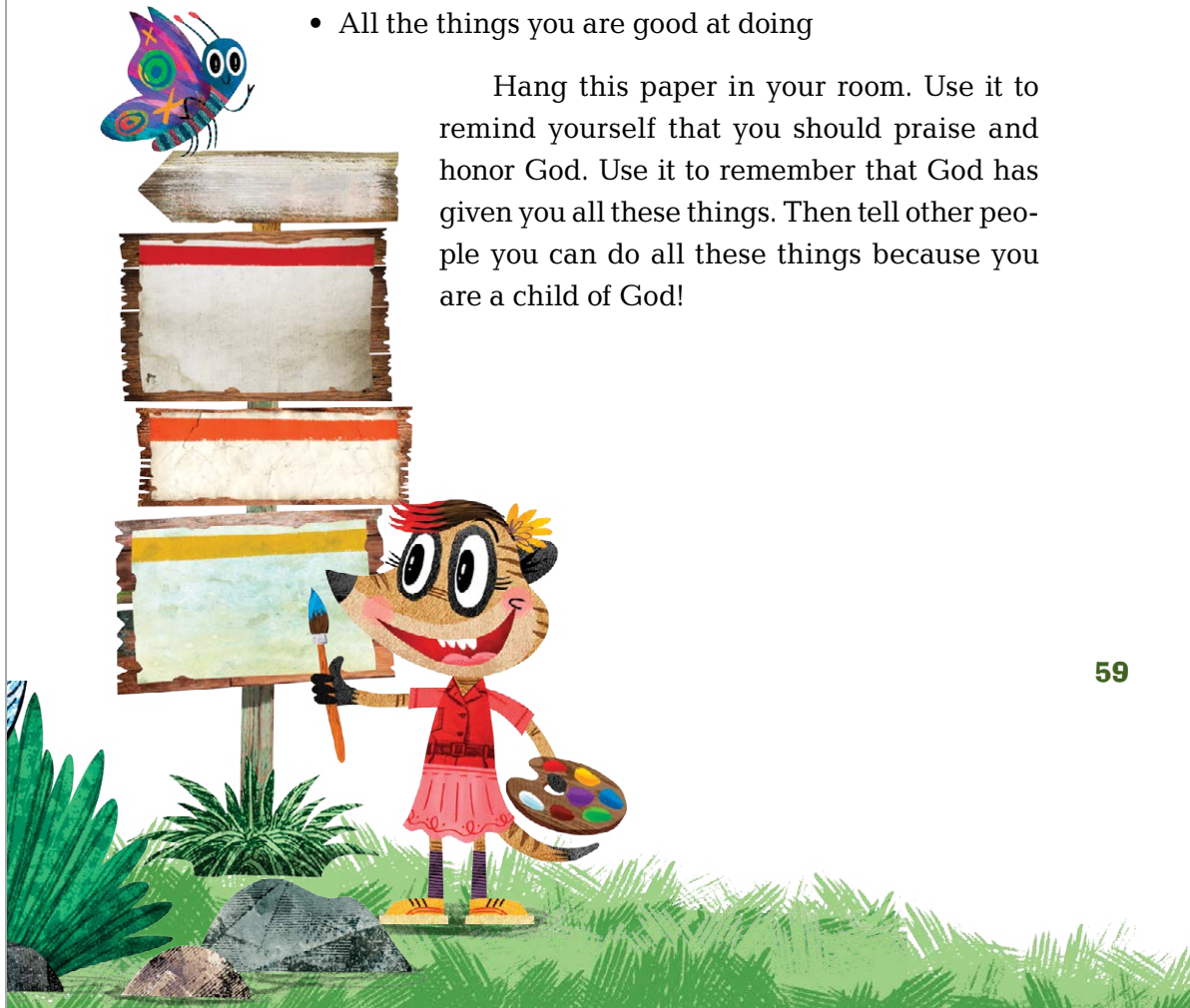
1 & 2 SAMUEL

It's time to do some art! You'll need crayons or markers, and a sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 or larger paper. Write HONOR GOD in the middle of the paper.

Using the crayons or markers write words in every direction around this sentence that remind you to praise and honor God. Here are some ideas to help you think of words to write.

- All the things you do that make you happy
- All the things you feel good about
- All the things you are good at doing

Hang this paper in your room. Use it to remind yourself that you should praise and honor God. Use it to remember that God has given you all these things. Then tell other people you can do all these things because you are a child of God!



This activity reminds us what it feels like to be humble and ask others for help when we need it.

HUMBLE PUZZLES

STUFF YOU NEED:

- Blindfolds (one for every two people doing the activity)
- Hair elastics (one for every two people doing the activity)
- Simple wooden puzzles (1 for every two people doing the activity or the same puzzle can be used by each two-person group)

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Show the children a simple wooden puzzle.
- Ask, How many of you think you could complete this puzzle easily? This looks like an easy puzzle that might be challenging only for a young baby or toddler, right?
- Ask for a volunteer who is willing to have the leader place a hair elastic around their hands behind their back. Be sure the elastic is loose enough so that it does not cut off circulation. If the elastic is too tight on a child, that child may simply hold their hands behind their back.
- Give the volunteer a simple wooden puzzle to complete. The children will quickly realize that the volunteer cannot complete the puzzle.
- Ask, Do you feel a little silly or embarrassed because you can't complete this puzzle that a little toddler could do? Do you think you need to ask for help to complete this puzzle? Pretty humbling, isn't it?
- Ask for another volunteer who is willing to wear a blindfold.
- Give that volunteer a chance to attempt the puzzle. Although they might be able to assemble a few pieces, it will be difficult.
- Say, Everyone has limitations. We have different strengths and weaknesses. When we work together, we can overcome our own weaknesses and limitations. However, having limitations means that we must practice humility. We have to be humble and ask for help and recognize that we can honor others for their gifts, even gifts that are above our own abilities.
- Assign each child a partner. One partner will wear the blindfold and the other will place a hair elastic around their hands behind their back or simply hold their hands behind their back. Help children place the elastics on their wrists and place blindfolds, if necessary.
- Give each pair a wooden puzzle to complete together, with one partner directing and the other partner assembling.
- Switch roles and allow them to assemble the puzzle again. (As an option, you could also do this as a family activity rather than with partners. Have one child put the puzzle together blindfolded and ask the rest of the group to give directions.

This activity reminds us about the importance of putting others before ourselves.

PRIDE AND HUMILITY

STUFF YOU NEED:

- Pride and Humility sheet (one per child)
- Crayons or markers

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Explain that there are many opportunities to show humility by putting others first.
- Say, When I get on the school bus, I could race to the front and snatch the best seat. That would be putting myself first. When I put others first, I wait my turn to board the bus. I say, "Excuse me," if I bump someone. I even look around to see if others need a good seat and I let them have mine.
- Allow the child to choose from situations like the ones below:
 - Waiting in the lunch line at school
 - Playing on a playground
 - Taking a long car ride
 - Going to a movie
 - Choosing a partner for a game
- Give each child a Pride and Humility sheet.
- Instruct the child to choose a situation and write it on their paper. They can then use the two columns of the paper to write about and illustrate the different responses.
- Allow time for the child to write about and illustrate each scenario. Remind them to include words, actions, and feelings in their descriptions. When they are finished, encourage the child to discuss their situations and responses with you.

Pride and Humility


Name: _____

Situation: _____

Putting Myself First

Putting Others First

This activity will help you memorize Mark 10:45, which reminds us that Jesus humbly gave his life for us.



Week 38, Day 3

Finding Jesus in Mark

Mark reminds believers that if anyone didn't deserve to suffer, it was Jesus. But Mark reminds believers that God used Jesus' suffering to accomplish some truly wonderful things. Here is what Jesus says in Mark 10:45. "Even the Son of Man did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free."

Mark 10:45 is a great verse to memorize. Look at how this verse is broken up below. Draw a picture in the box for each line to help you remember this verse.

Even the Son of Man

did not come to be served.

Instead,

he came to serve others.

He came to give his life

as the price for setting many people free.

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