

Timeline of Israel



Prepared reading for the teacher

Acts 7: 1 – 55

Study the timeline poster in conjunction with the Bible and make sure that you are accustomed with all the judges, priests, kings and prophets that we are going to discuss.



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Timeline poster

Collectable cards and stickers (Odos 5)

A4 paper

Crayons



Lesson Content

Let's open up our timeline poster and follow the arrows from the beginning up till the end.

Creation: In the beginning, God was there. Only God existed. God created everything. He also created Adam and Eve, the first human beings.

Fall of mankind: Satan, disguised as a snake, tempted Adam and Eve to be disobedient and to ignore God's instructions. As punishment for their disobedience, Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden to inhabit the outside world.

The big Flood: A lot of people lived on the earth, but they were disobedient towards God. All but one man, Noah. God send a great flood to destroy the earth and all its inhabitants, all excepts Noah and his family. God gave the rainbow as a sign that never again would there be such a devastating flood.

Nations: Nations multiplied again and God realised that people lived selfish lives. He then made them speak different languages so that they would spread out over the face of the earth. New nations would be established and raised. God wanted the people to acknowledge His Almightyness. He chose one nation and one man, Abraham, to whom he promised many descendants. As many as there were stars in the sky. This nation would be called Israel. God further promised that salvation would one day come from Israel. God was faithful to his word and Abraham had a son called Izak, Izak had a son named Jacob and Jacob had a son, Joseph. Joseph was sold into slavery and taken to Egypt. All of Israel eventually ended up in Egypt, where they stayed for 400 years.

God called upon Moses to lead the Israelites from Egypt to the promised land of Canaan. At this time, the Israelites numbered almost 1 million souls. Joshua, Moses' successor, led the nation to conquer the "promised land" (1250 BC). Joshua divided Israel into 12 tribes. Eleven of these tribes were attributed land to settle on. The tribe of Levi (the priestly tribe of Israel) did not receive any land. For the next 180 years (1200 BC to 1020 BC) Israel had different leaders. This era was called the "Time of the Judges". God was the only king that Israel worshipped.

The Israelites started complaining. They compared themselves with the nations around them and they also wanted an earthly leader, a king. This saddened God and He warned them against this practice. Eventually God gave Samuel instructions to anoint Saul as Israel's first king. Saul was succeeded by David, the youngest son of Isai. God considered David to be a very special friend. After David's death, his son Solomon became Israel's next king.

Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem. Thirty years later, due to disobedience towards God, the nation of Israel became a divided nation. Ten tribes followed king Jeroboam. They became known as the Northern Kingdom, Israel. Samaria was their capital city. The remaining two tribes chose Rehoboam as their king. They were called Judah, or the Southern Kingdom. Their capital city was Jerusalem, where the temple was also situated.

The Northern Kingdom had 19 kings and was eventually conquered and scattered in 722 BC by the Assyrians. The Southern Kingdom had 20 kings and was exiled (abducted and taken away) in 586 BC to Babylon. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed.

The Persian king, Kores, conquered Babylon. Kores favoured the Israelites and made a law that any Israeli who wanted to, was allowed to return to Jerusalem. Some of the nation did return and started rebuilding the temple of Solomon. By 515 BC the temple was intact again. Nehemiah was the last prophet that we learn about in the Old Testament. He gave instruction that the walls around the old city be resurrected.

For a 400 year period we have no historical background or detail of events recorded in the Bible – and then Jesus was born. Jesus was the Messiah that came to earth to reconcile the relationship between God and mankind. Jesus was born and crucified so that our sins could be forgiven.



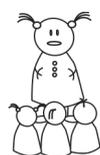
Questions for clever little ears

- Who was Israel's first king?
- * How many tribes were part of the Northern Kingdom and how many were part of the Southern Kingdom?
- * Which nation took the Southern Kingdom into exile?
- * Who build the first temple in Jerusalem?



Timeline of Israel

While the teacher speaks about the sequence of events, the friends can follow the arrows on their posters. Help them lead Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land and all the way to the birth of Jesus Christ.



Points for Discussion

- What punishment would you receive at home?
- * How are we disobedient towards God?
- * Who carried the punishment for our disobedience towards God?



Life Lesson

The same way that Israel journeyed towards the "promised land", we also journey with God and the Bible. At times we cross "deserts" and at other times we travel in the "land of milk and honey". The same way as Israel did, we have to learn what it entails to be obedient towards God and His word. We do not know what the future holds for us, but we do know that God is at our sides. The Israelites were led by the cloud and fire column, we are led by the Holy Spirit and the word of God (the Bible).



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, lead us on righteous paths. We are starting with a new Odos series and we beg you to be part of this journey. Please hold the hand of every child in our group.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Jelly sweets resembling feet. This can remind us that we will be walking along God's way through this Odos series.



Creative activity

We are going to draw a family tree to show who our ancestors were. The group leader can draw an example on the blackboard so that the children have an idea of where to start.



Bible verse of the week

Jeremiah 1: 5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

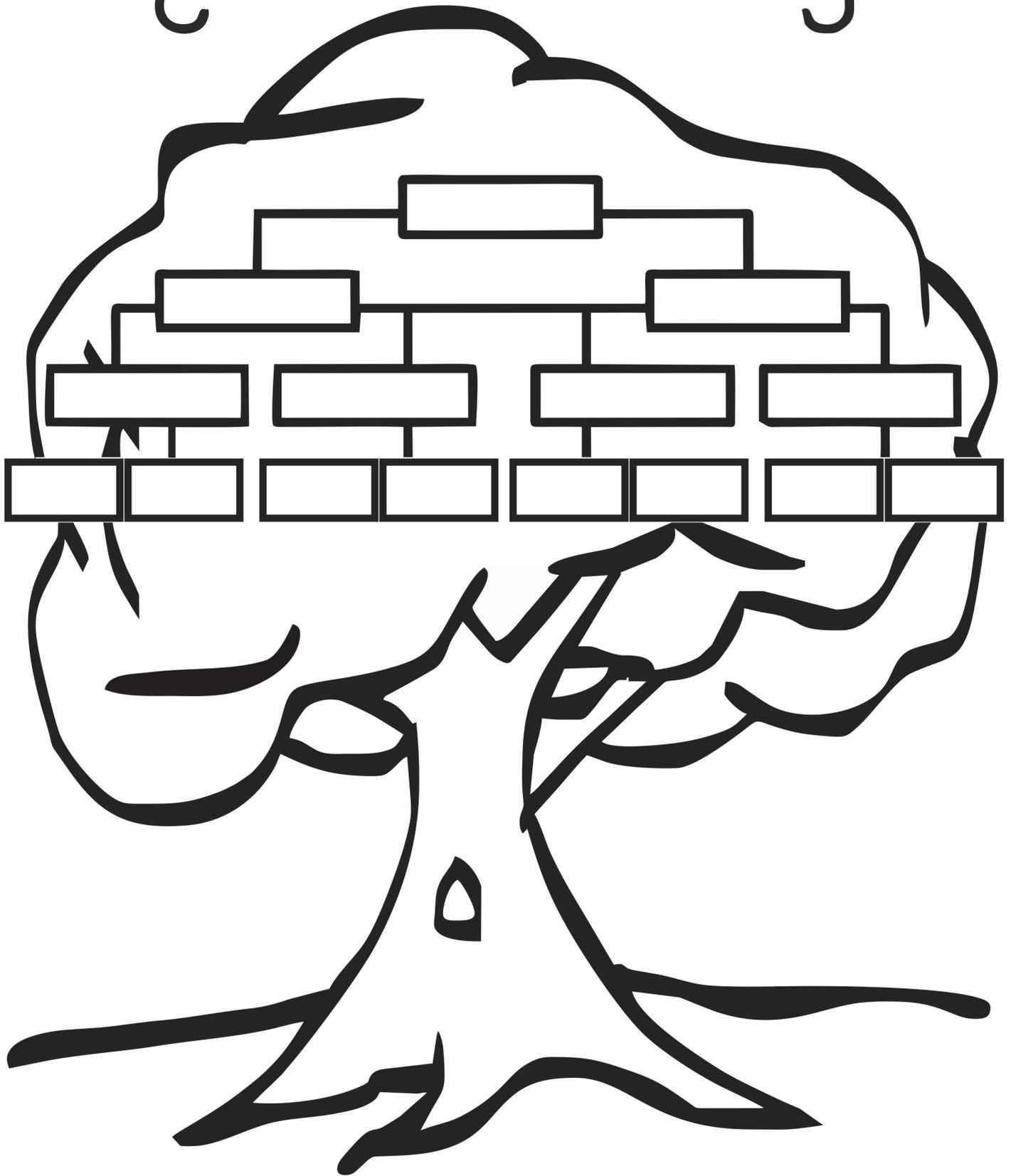


Just for fun!

We are having a Bible quiz today. Divide the class into groups of four. The first one to put up a hand, can answer the question. If you put up your hand and you answer wrong, you lose a mark.

- Who was the first king of Israel (Saul).
- Which prophet of Israel challenged the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel? (Elijah)
- What was the name of Moses' brother? (Aaron)
- In which book in the Old Testament do we find the laws of Moses? (Exodus)

My Family Tree





Aaron



Prepared reading for the teacher

Exodus 4:13 – 5: 2



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Scissors
Crayons
Milk bottle sweets
Balls of wool (one for each group)



Lesson Content

Moses had a brother named Aaron. He was a Levite, which means that he was from the priestly tribe of Israel. He was chosen to be the first priest of the Lord to the tribe of Israel. The Lord knew Aaron was good at speaking and He sent him with Moses to help him to talk to the leaders of Egypt on behalf of the Israelites. Aaron supported his brother during all the plagues in Egypt and he was there to help Moses with the great journey through the desert.

When Moses went up Mount Sinai in the desert to speak with the Lord, the Israelites became impatient and said to Aaron: "Make us a new god so that he can lead us." People thought Moses had died or had simply disappeared on the mountain, because he took so long to come back. Aaron was persuaded by the people's pleas and he told the Israelites to bring all their gold earrings to him. The earrings were melted and it was formed into a statue of a golden calf.

Aaron built an altar for the statue and declared that the next day the Israelites would have a big feast in honour of the calf-god. On the mountain the Lord told Moses what was happening and Moses was told to return as soon as he could. God was very angry about the Israelites worshiping an idol and he wanted to destroy the whole nation. However, Moses pleaded with God to forgive the Israelites.

When Moses came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, he became enraged and threw the two stone tablets with the 10 Commandments, which he was carrying, to the ground. After that Moses threw the golden calf into the fire. He burned it to dust, poured the dust into water and told the Israelites to drink the water.

Moses was infuriated (very cross) with Aaron. He stood at the entrance of the camp, and said: "Whoever is for the Lord, come with me!" All the Levites (Israel's priestly tribe), came back to Moses' side.

Israel was saved and they promised to be obedient to the Lord.



Questions for clever little ears

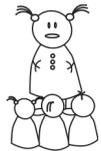
- What was the calf made of?
- Why did the Israelites want to have a new god?
- Who was Aaron's brother?



Timeline of Israel

Aaron, Moses' brother and Israel's first priest, helped lead Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. We find him on the timeline in 1225 BC.

Let's find AARON's place in the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Why does it sometimes feel as if God isn't in our lives?
- Do we still worship idols? Like what? (Idols are things that keep you from God, like sport, shopping, money, etc.).



Life Lesson

An idol is anything that has become more important to us than Jesus. We are not allowed to have any idols in this life.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we sometimes let our friends persuade us to do bad things. Please make us stronger in our faith.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Milk bottle sweets (to remind us of the calf that Aaron made).



Creative activity

While Moses was on the mountain to receive the 10 commandments, Aaron led the nation. Let's stick the 10 commandments to Moses' hands. Cut out the pictures and glue it on to make it look like the final product.



Bible verse of the week

Exodus 4: 15(b)

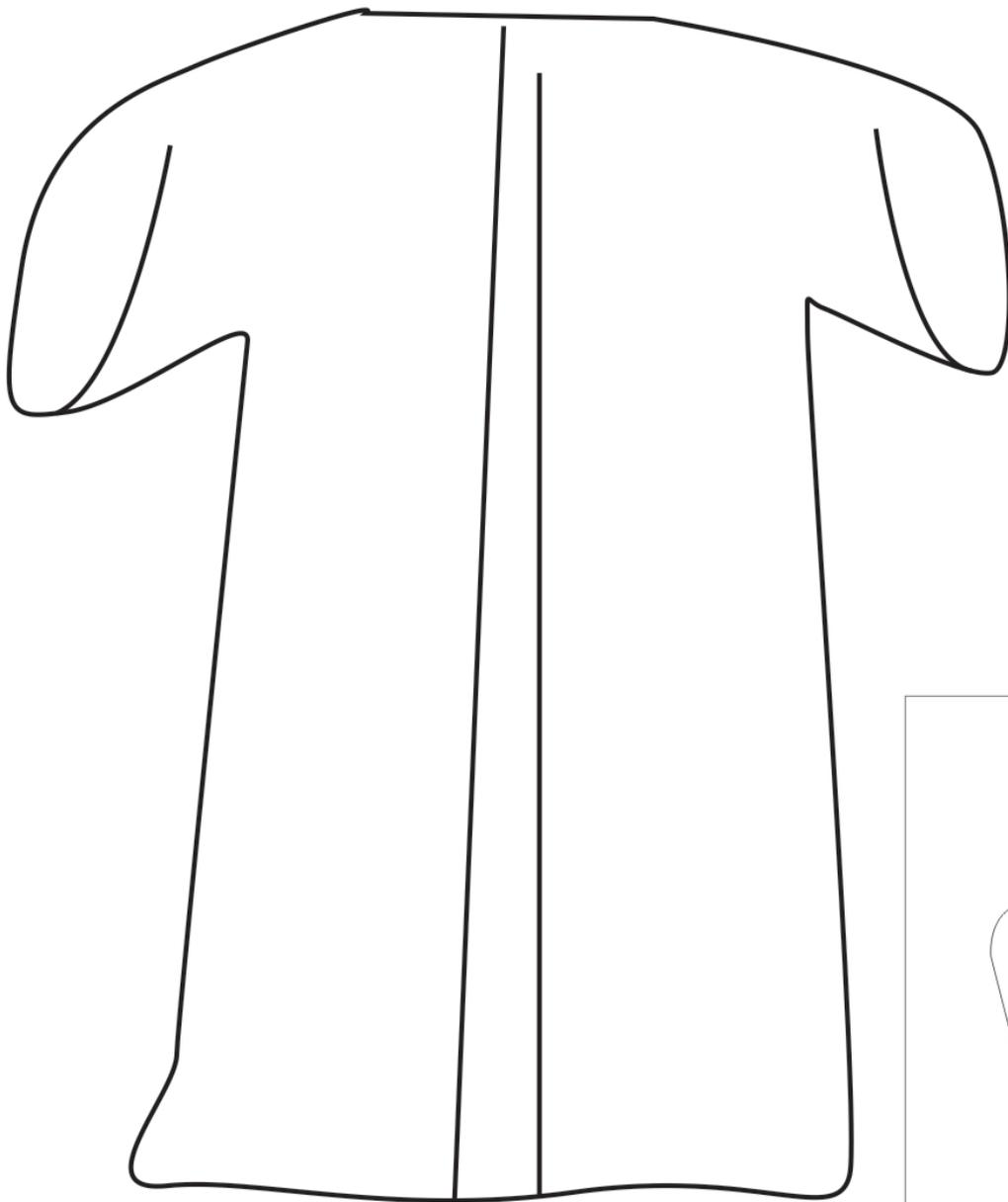
"You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do."



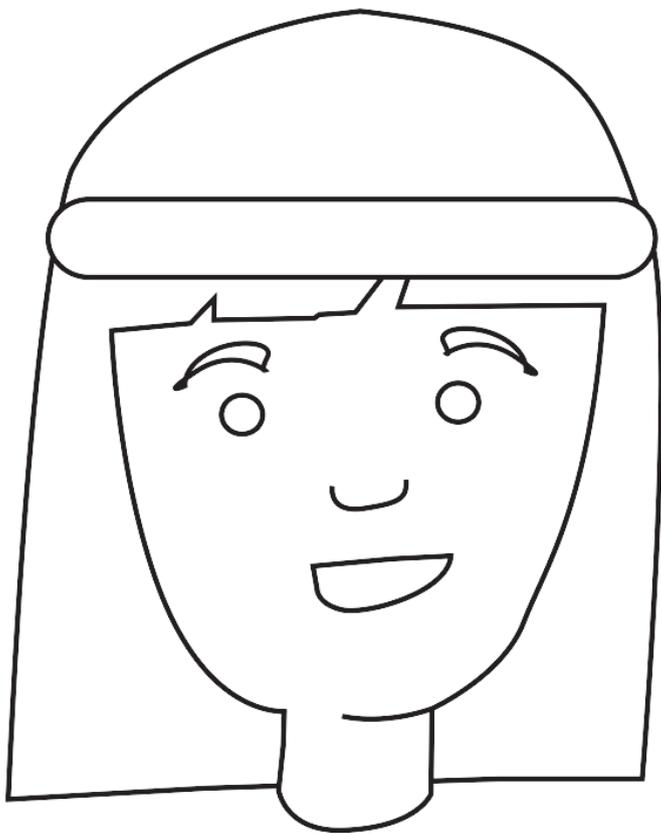
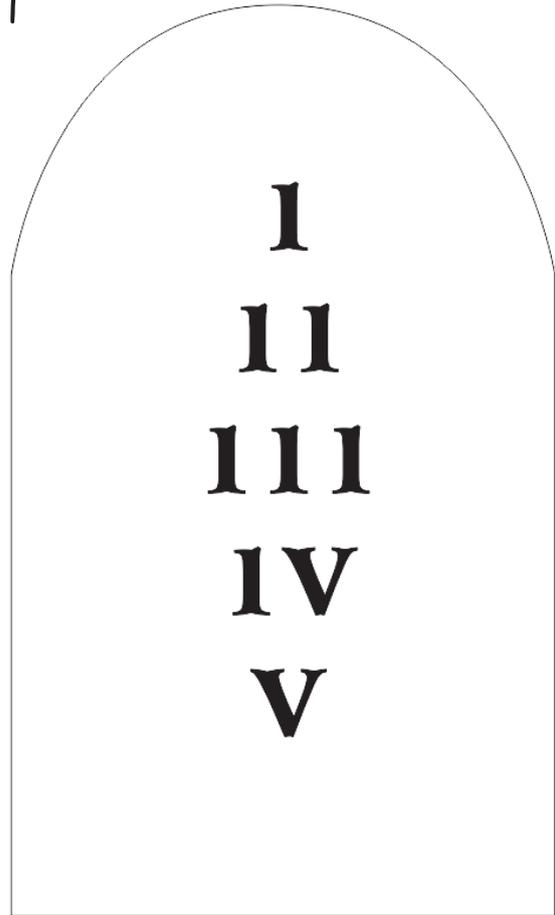
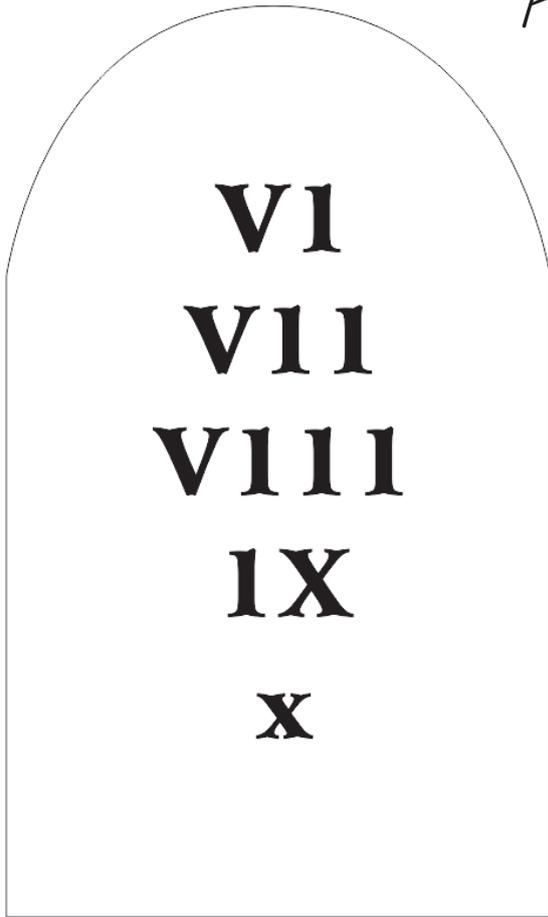
Just for fun!

Divide the class into teams. Distribute one ball of wool to each group. One guy should unroll the ball of wool and the second guy should roll it up again. Then it should be passed to the next pair. The action is repeated until the last player has rolled up the ball. The group who finishes first, wins.

Aaron



Aaron



Balaam



Prepared reading for the teacher

Numbers 22: 3 - Numbers 24



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Scissors

Glue

Crayons

Bell

Jelly sweets that look like lips



Lesson Content

Balaam was not an Israelite but was seen as a prophet (a professional seer) by the people of Israel.

The king of Moab, Balak, and his countrymen were terrified of the Israelite nation. Balak sent messengers to Balaam for help. He wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites so that his own soldiers could easily defeat them and drive them out of Moab. Balak believed that if Balaam blessed someone, that person would have good luck, and that if he cursed someone, that person would suffer. Balak believed Balaam was like a seer, and he promised to reward Balaam if he would do what he asked. When the leaders that Balak sent came to Balaam, he told them to stay over for the night and that he would know what the Lord wanted him to do by the next day. That night God told Balaam:

“Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed.”

Balaam relayed this message to the leaders of Moab, and they went back to their king. Balak, however, would not take no for an answer. He sent more important leaders to Balaam. But Balaam answered: “Even if Balak would give me his house filled with gold and silver - I listen to God.”

That night God told Balaam that he could go with the Moab-leaders, but that it was only the voice of God he could listen to. Balaam saddled up his donkey and went to Balak with the leaders. On the road to Moab, God’s angel suddenly appeared on the road. The angel had a sword in his hand. Balaam didn’t see the angel, but his donkey did and he veered off course and strolled into a field. Annoyed, Balaam struck his donkey so that it could go back to the road. Again the angel appeared before the donkey, who by now was getting really scared. The donkey tried to squeeze past this vision of an angel on a very narrow stretch of the road. This made Balaam’s foot press against a wall. Balaam struck the donkey so that he could move again. Now the angel stood in such a narrow part of the road that the poor donkey could not move past at all. The confused donkey finally just lay down in the road. Balaam was very upset and hit his donkey with a stick. Then the Lord made the donkey speak, and the donkey said to Balaam: “What have I done that you beat me three times?” Balaam was so angry that he just wanted to kill the donkey. The donkey resumed talking. “I have never refused to go, why do you think I’m stopping now?”

Suddenly Balaam's eyes were opened and he saw the angel. And Balaam bowed before the angel. The angel spoke: "Balaam, why did you hit your donkey? I saw you were on a dangerous path. The donkey saw me and turned away, otherwise you would've been dead." Balaam admitted that he was wrong and that he would return if God willed it. But the angel warned him to continue and reminded him to only listen to the voice of God.

Balak, king of Moab, was delighted to see Balaam. After they brought offerings to the Lord, Balaam told him what the Lord had said. God had told Balaam to bless the Israelites, not curse them. Balak was vexed to hear this, and he took Balaam to another place. "Curse Israel out of here!" He hoped that God would have a different message in a different place. But God said to Balaam: "I am not a man who changes my mind. If I promise something, I do it. I want to bless Israel. No divination or sorcery can do damage to Israel."

Balak would still not believe God's word. He took Balaam to a third place. But God remained firm: "Blessed are those who bless Israel and cursed are those who curse them." Balak was furious. Three times Balaam had blessed instead of cursed his enemies. He refused to even pay Balaam for his efforts. Balaam didn't want money anyway. He was going back to his house, but for the last time (the fourth time), he gave Balak a message from God. God said that Israel would not only defeat Moab, but many other nations as well. After this Balaam returned to his home.



Questions for clever little ears

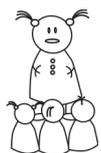
- Why did Balaam beat his donkey?
- How many times did Balaam bless the Israelites?
- What was the name of the king of Moab?



Timeline of Israel

Balaam was not an Israelite, but a professional seer. We'll find him on the timeline in 1210 BC, just before Israel takes possession of the Promised Land and Moses dies.

Let's find BALAAM's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you think if God promised something, there is a chance that he will not do it? Why not? (God never breaks His promises).
- What does it mean when God blesses you? (He is always with us, saves us from danger and allows good things happen to us).



Life Lesson

Isn't it wonderful to know that God loves us and that no one can ever harm us!



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we want to hear your voice. Help us not to be seduced by sweet talk, and to be true to Your Word.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Jelly sweets that look like lips. To remind us of the donkey that suddenly started talking.



Creative activity

Map of Balaam. Cut out the angel. Glue the wings onto his back. Write the verse of the week on the hem of his dress, and then decorate the angel as you please.



Bible verse of the week

Numbers 22:12

But God said to Balaam, "Do not go with them. You must not put a curse on those people, because they are blessed."



Just for fun!

Children all sit on the carpet with closed eyes. Teacher sneaks around them and quietly rings a bell. Children (without looking) should try to point in the direction the bell is ringing from. Balaam would not listen to God's voice, and we should also sometimes listen carefully to hear the "truthful" voice of the Holy Spirit.

Balaam



Deborah



Prepared reading for the teacher

Judges 4 and 5



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Deborah

Scissors

Crayons

Milk bottle sweeties

A tiny box that can be used as the "treasure"



Lesson Content

There was a time, long long ago, that Israel had a woman as a leader. Her name was Deborah and she was a prophetess. She saw to it that the king ruled Israel justly and fair.

One day she told Barak, the head of Israel's soldiers, that she had a message from God for him. Barak had to take 10 000 soldiers and lead them into battle against Sisera. Barak was uncertain of his army's abilities and he wanted Deborah to go into battle with him. She agreed, but predicted that Barak and his soldiers would then not receive the honour and the glory for this battle, but that that honour would go towards a woman.

During the fierce battle, the Lord put fear into the hearts of Sisera and his chariot army, and Sisera jumped from his chariot and fled from the battlefield on foot, while Barak and the Israelites attacked his men.

While he was fleeing, Sisera came upon the tent of Heber and his wife Jael. They were Israelites, but Jael invited Sisera inside and said: "Do not be afraid." She took him into her tent and hid him behind a curtain. When Sisera was thirsty, she gave him milk, and then hid him again. In this way she won his trust.

Sisera instructed Jael that she had to guard the tent door, and if someone asked for him, she had to deny that there was anyone there. Sisera was tired after his flight and fell asleep quickly. Now was the chance for Jael to show where her loyalty lay - she took a nail and a hammer, and quietly crept towards Sisera. Then, with great strength, she hit the tent peg into his head. And Sisera died on the spot.

Barak was still busy searching for the run-away Sisera, when Jael came to him and said: "I will show you the man you are looking for." And there was Sisera - dead. His army was destroyed by the Israelites. The people of Israel showered Barak and Deborah with praise, but the glory of the battle went to Jael.



Questions for clever little ears

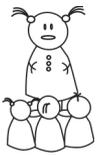
- What was the name of the female leader of Israel?
- What was the name of the woman who killed Sisera?
- Do you think she was scared when Sisera, out of the blue, arrived at her tent? Why?



Timeline of Israel

The time of the Judges was from 1200 BC to 1020 BC. A judge was a leader of Israel who saw to it that justice and fairness ruled in society. Deborah was a judge. We find her on the timeline in 1125 BC during the time of the Judges.

Let's find DEBORAH's place on the timeline of Israel



Points for Discussion

- Sometimes God uses people who seem weak, but who He knows are able to do their job. What other examples of this can we find in the Bible? (Samuel was a little boy, Gideon was poor and not brave at all, Moses was a stutterer etc)
- Why does God sometimes use these "weaklings" to do important jobs? (So that He may be glorified through them).
- Are there still places in the world where boys are thought to be better human beings than girls? Where? (Afghanistan, China, Arabia).



Life Lesson

In Biblical times, people thought women were weak. God shows us that He sees our character and intentions, not whether we are weak or strong.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, make us calm when the going gets tough. Thank you that we know that women, men, children and kings are equally important in your eyes.

Amen



Munchie fun!

We are going to eat milk bottle sweeties. This will remind us that Jael gave Sisera milk when he was thirsty.



Creative activity

We are going to make 3-D crosses to show that God never leaves our side – exactly as he did with Deborah. Cut out the worksheet crosses and fit them into each other. Deborah gave good advice to Barak because she listened to God's voice.



Bible verse of the week

Judges 4: 9

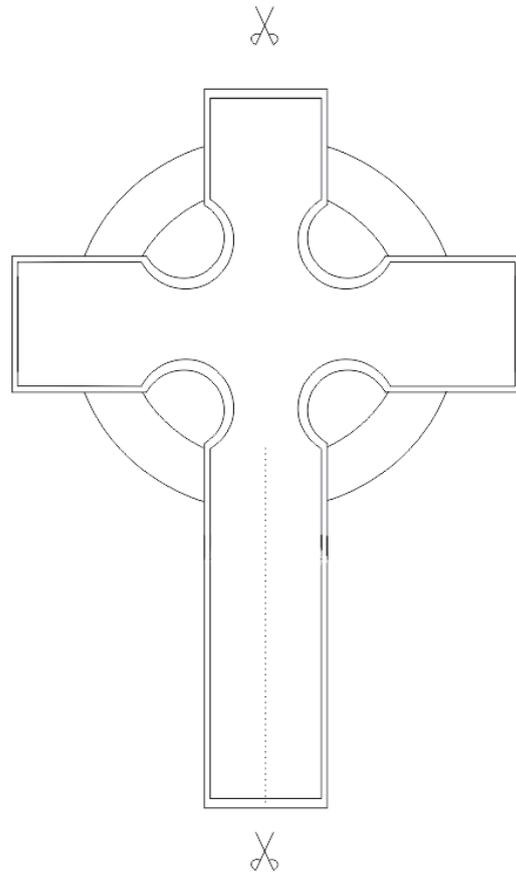
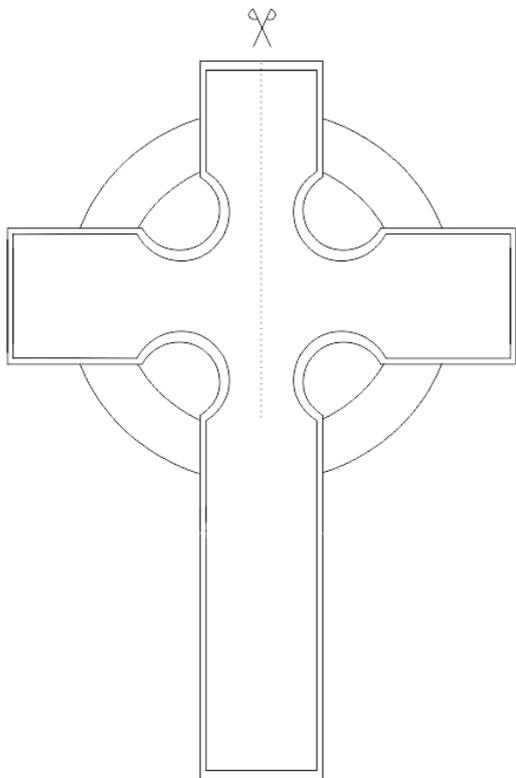
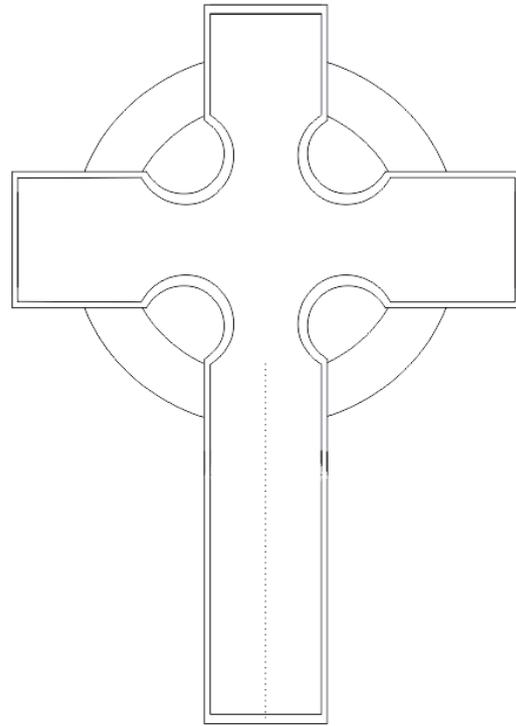
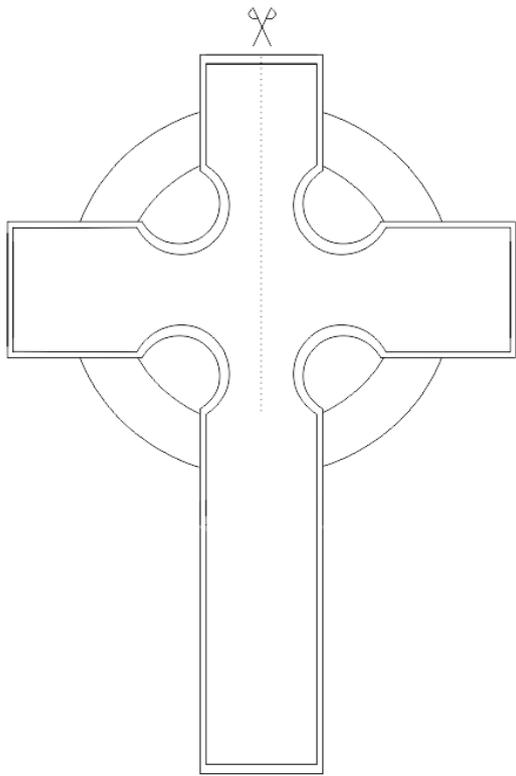
"Very well, Deborah said. I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honour will not be yours, for the Lord will hand Sisera over to a women."



Just for fun!

The leader hides a small gift somewhere in the class. Each child has a turn to ask a question. Am I warm or cold? Meaning: am I close to the gift. Luke-warm will mean that you are moving in the right direction. As soon as a friend finds the gift, the rest have to close their eyes or leave the room, so that the gift can be hid again. The last one to find the gift may keep it, or share it with the class.

Deborah



4

Eli



Prepared reading for the teacher

1 Samuel 2:12 - 36



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Eli

Crayons

Jerky/Biltong

Scent Bags - lavender, cinnamon, pepper, lemon etc.



Lesson Content

Eli was the high priest of Israel during the time of the judges, but his sons were wicked.

At that time it was custom that when any one offered a sacrifice in the temple, the priest's servant had to hold up a trident (a three-pronged) fork. When the sacrificial meat was cooked, he would put the fork into the pot. Whatever the fork picked up, the priest could eat. But Eli's sons sent their slave to choose even raw sacrificial meat for their table. And when people complained about this practise, the sons threatened them. The Lord was very disappointed and cross with them, and because of the behaviour of Eli's sons' many people didn't want to make offerings anymore.

Eli was very old and people often told him about the bad things his sons were up to. When he spoke to his sons about it, they did not listen to him and they did not change their behaviour. On a day a man of God came to Eli and brought him a message from God. It was not good news for Eli. God had decided to take the priesthood away from him. God said that no one in Eli's family would become old and that Hophni and Phinehas, the two delinquent sons, would die on the same day. God himself would appoint a new priest.

God also told Samuel, Eli's helper in the temple, that Eli's family would be punished. Eli never punished his sons for bad behaviour, and this was not right in God's eyes. After Eli prompted him, Samuel told Eli about God's message of bad news. Eli just said: "He is the Lord, let Him do as he pleases."

During that time, Israel was at war against the Philistines, and they were defeated in a battle. The leaders of Israel were despondent and decided to fetch the Ark of the Covenant from the temple and bring it to their camp as they hoped that God would then guard them against further attacks. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there too. When the Ark arrived in the camp, the Israelites cried very hard. The Philistines heard the cries and were afraid but their leaders said: "Be men and fight!" When Israel attacked, they were once again defeated by the Philistines. A total of 30 000 Israeli soldiers were killed, the Ark was taken and Eli's two sons were killed during the battle. What a tragedy!

A messenger ran back from the battlefield to inform those at home what had happened. Because he was worried about the safety of the Ark of God, Eli was sitting in a chair by the roadside, waiting for news. He was 98 years old, and blind. When Eli heard the bad news, he fell backwards off his chair, broke his neck and died on the spot.



Questions for clever little ears

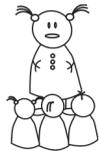
- What were the names of Eli's two sons?
- Did Eli ever punish them for their evil deeds?
- Do you think God also punished Eli?



Timeline of Israel

Eli was a high priest of Israel. We find him on the timeline in 1125 BC during the time of the Judges.

Let's find ELI's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Are you sometimes naughty?
- Do you always listen when someone scolds you?
- Do you think God told Moms and Dads to be strict with children?
- What kind of punishment do you get?



Life Lesson

God gave us moms and dads to teach us the difference between right and wrong and we should listen to them when they reprimand us.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, it is sometimes very difficult for us to listen to advice. Please open our hearts to good advice and guidance.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Give the kids biltong, to remind them of the raw meat Eli's sons chose.



Creative activity

Write down on the worksheet one rule that is unnegotiable in your house. Decorate the frame and put it on your fridge.



Bible verse of the week

1 Samuel 2: 30 (b)

"Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained.'"



Just for fun!

Use bags/sachets with a few different flavours/smells. Small fabric gift bags work well. Divide the class into groups. Each group gets a chance to smell the bags and then write down what they smelled. The group that guesses the fragrances correctly wins. Ideas for scent sachets are, for example: Lavender, pepper, lemon, vanilla pods, petrol/diesel, cinnamon, chocolate, garlic or any other thing that has a definite smell.

Eli



Absalom



5



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Samuel 13 - 2 Samuel 19: 8



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Absalom
Wool (brown/black/yellow)
Scissors
Crayons
Glue
Liquorice strings



Lesson Content

David had a son with Bathsheba and his name was Absalom. He was a very handsome man, with a beautiful mane of hair.

Absalom secretly wanted to take over David's kingdom. He was very friendly with all the Israelites but had cunning plans to dethrone David. Absalom convinced many of the Israelites to support him. David, however, found out about this revolt and Absalom and his men had to flee from the palace. The Lord was not pleased with Absalom's plans. God does not approve of conflict between a father and his son!

Absalom was David's son, and no matter what, David still loved him, and so he implored his officers before the battle:

"Please don't be too hard on my son Absalom." (2 Samuel 18:5 b)

During the battle, David's men found Absalom riding a mule. They gave chase and the mule ran under thick branches of a large oak tree and Absalom's hair got stuck in the tree. The mule kept on running and Absalom was left hanging by his hair! The soldier who saw Absalom hanging in the tree, would not kill him, because he had heard David's words to the officers. He told Joab, the commander of king David's army, what he had seen. Joab did not waste any time. He grabbed three spears and plunged them through Absalom's heart. Absalom's body was thrown into a deep hole in the woods and David's soldiers covered up his 'grave' with rocks. Two messengers were dispatched to send news of the end of the battle, and Absalom's death, to David. This was a bitter victory and a day of tears for David. He was very sad about the death of his son Absalom.

David was now the undisputed king of Israel.



Questions for clever little ears

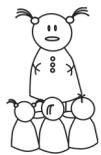
- What was the name of king David's first son with Batsheba?
- How did he die?
- How did David feel about Absalom's death?



Timeline of Israel

Absalom was the son of King David and his wife Bathsheba. We find him on the timeline in 1000 BC, during King David's reign.

Let's find ABSALOM's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you think David loved his son?
- Do you think Absalom knew this?
- How do you think King David felt when he heard that Absalom plotted behind his back, planning a rebellion against him?



Life Lesson

The Lord does not want his children to gossip about other people.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for our earthly parents that love us so much. Thank you that we know our Heavenly Father's love for us is beyond all understanding.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Liquorice strings to remind us of Absalom's long hair.



Creative activity

Worksheet of a face.

Use wool and paste on long hair. Draw in Absalom's face.



Bible verse of the week

2 Samuel 19:4

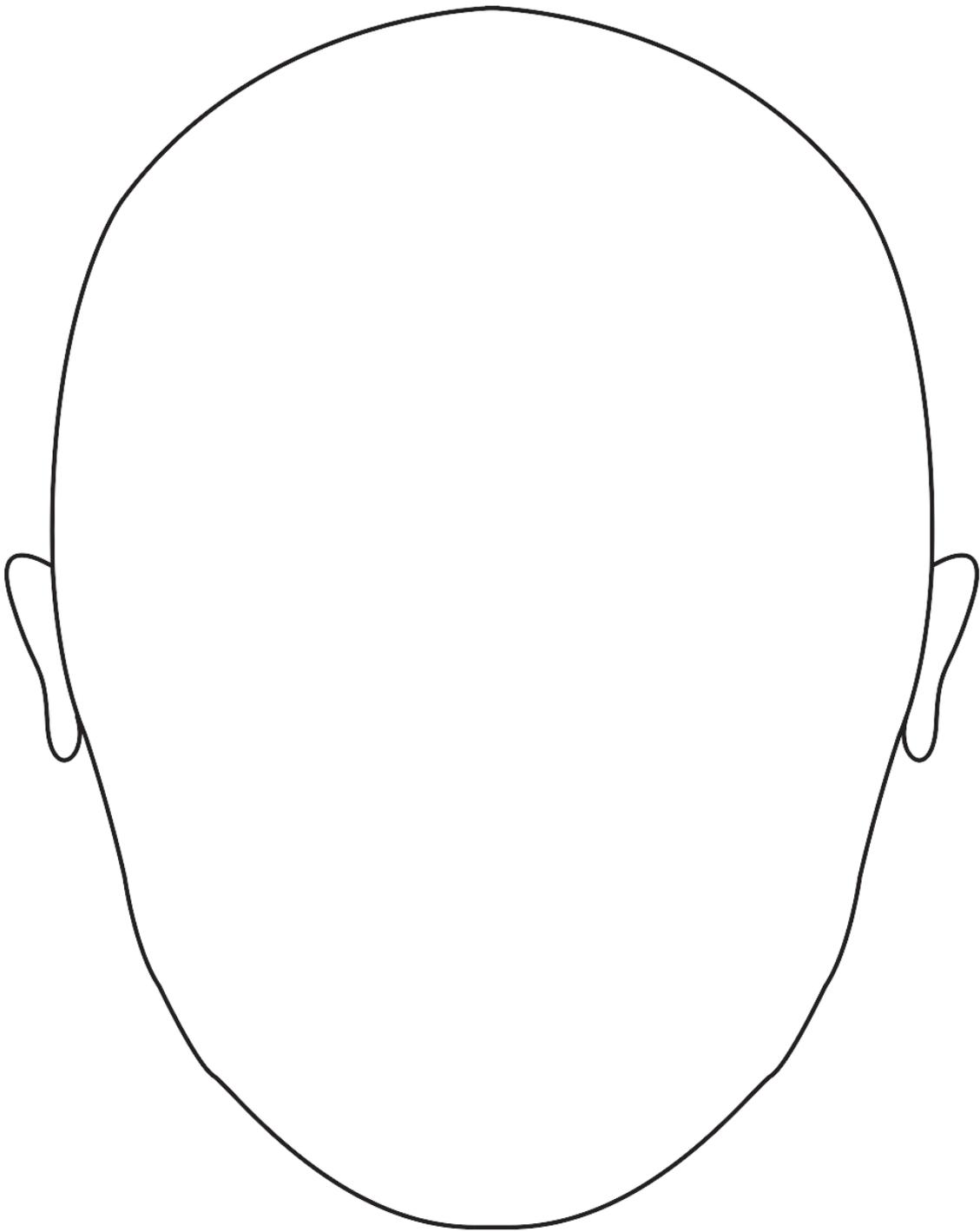
The king covered his face and cried aloud, "O my son Absalom! O Absalom, my son, my son!"



Just for fun!

Players stand together two by two and say: "Hello, Absalom!" You have to try not to laugh. Try and make funny faces and use funny voices while saying: "Hello Absalom!" Make new friends until everyone has had a turn.

Absalom



Bathsheba



6



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Samuel 11:3 - 12: 24



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Sunlight Liquid
Small bowls (1 per group)
Straws
Jelly guns



Lesson Content

One day, after he had a nice nap, King David walked onto the roof of his house. From the roof he saw a very beautiful woman having a bath. David asked around the palace about who the woman was. Someone said: "That is Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam. She is the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

David found out that Uriah was one of his soldiers, and that he was busy fighting against Israel's enemies at that moment. David invited Bathsheba to come to the palace. David fell in love with Bathsheba and she became pregnant.

Now David was very worried because he knew Bathsheba was another man's wife. He sent a letter to the commanding officer of his soldiers: "Give Uriah a place at the very front of the battle lines where the fighting is worst. Leave him alone for a while so that he will be killed in the battle. "

Everything happened exactly as David requested. Uriah died. Bathsheba was sad about the death of her husband. After she had mourned, as was the norm in that time, David asked her to come to the palace, and she became his wife. A boy was born to them. But what David had done had displeased the Lord.

The Lord sent the prophet Nathan to reprimand David about these evil deeds. In fact, David had had Uriah killed and had also taken his wife! David confessed to Nathan: "I have sinned." He was very sorry for his sins.

David's punishment was that their child would die. The boy became seriously ill. David prayed nonstop and wept. He fasted (stopped eating), didn't bath and lay on the ground, filled with grief. All his officials tried to persuade him to get up, but he wouldn't. On the seventh day the boy died. King David's officials were scared to tell him of the boy's death. David was already so grief-stricken because of the child's illness, what would he do now that the child was dead? In his grieved state, David heard someone whisper: "Is the child dead?" And the reply was: "Yes."

David stood up, took a bath, got dressed and worshipped God. When he then came to the palace, he asked for food. His officials were stunned. When the child was still alive, David cried. Now that the child was dead, he went on with his life. He answered:

"But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I make him return to me? I can only go to him; he cannot come back to me." (2 Samuel 12: 23).

Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba. A while later she had another boy.



Questions for clever little ears

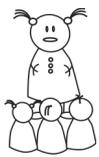
- What was the beautiful woman's name?
- Did David really kill her husband?
- What kind of work did Bathsheba's husband do?



Timeline of Israel

Bathsheba was King David's wife. we find her on the timeline in 1000 BC.

Let's find BATHSHEBA's spot on the timeline of Israel



Points for Discussion

We cannot hide from God.

- Can we do good works in secret?
- How can we do this?
- Can God see all our secrets?
- Does God even know our thoughts?
- Can God forgive big things like murder?



Life Lesson

God can forgive any sin, no matter how big or how small.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, You can see all our sins. Please help us to be honest and sincere when we repent of our sins.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Jelly guns (Uriah was killed in battle, though not with guns).



Creative activity

Worksheet of Bathsheba's bathtub. Mix blue food colouring, water and dishwashing liquid in paint containers. Each child gets a straw. Blow into the containers with straws until bubbles form on top. Put your paper over the container to make a bubble print on your bathtub. Repeat a few times. Refill paint containers as needed. Make sure the kids blow into the straws.



Bible verse of the week

2 Samuel 12:23

"But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me."

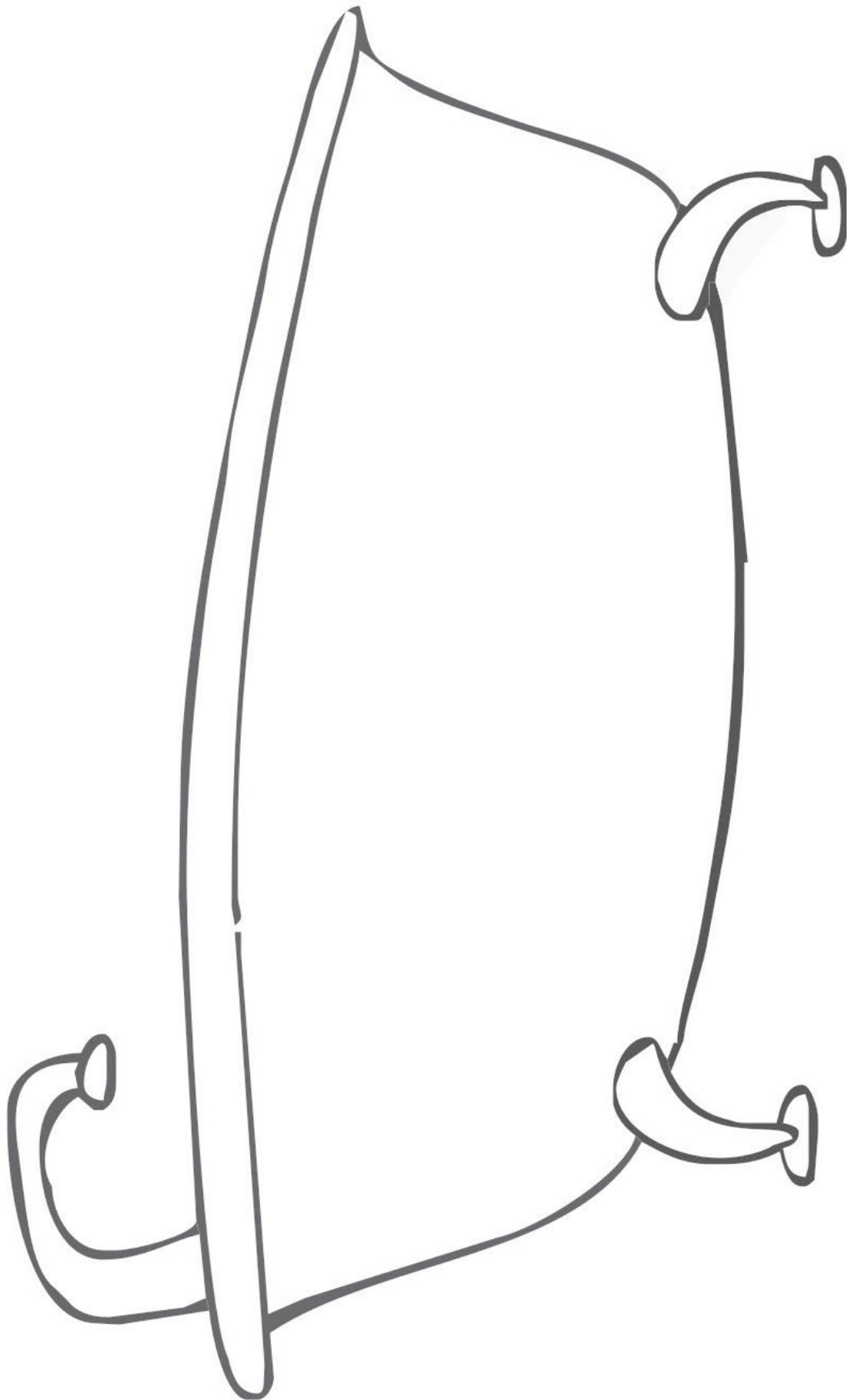


Just for fun!

This is a game where the teacher uses three movements: flapping motions like a bird, jumping movements like an animal or swimming motions (with your hands) like a fish.

The teacher then asks one of the children: "His name is ... and then makes one of the above movements." And then the child answers with the name of a type of bird, a type of animal or a type of fish. If the player hesitates, or gives the wrong name, he is out of the game. You cannot repeat what a player before you has already said.

Bathsheba



Solomon



Prepared reading for the teacher

1 Kings 3 - 4: 3



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Solomon
Cardboard to make crowns with
Glitter
Crayons, Scissors and Glue
Jelly baby sweets
A ball of wool



Lesson Content

Solomon was King David and his wife Bathsheba's son and the king of Israel after his father. Solomon obediently did everything his father, David, taught him to do. In Gideon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, "What do you want Me to give you?" asked God (1 Kings 3:5). Solomon replied that he was still young and inexperienced and he asked God for wisdom.

God was proud of what Solomon had requested. He had not asked for a long life or riches or the death of his enemies – so God made his wish come true. Insight and wisdom was given to Solomon, but also wealth and prestige. And if he obeyed God, he would also have a long life.

One day, two women came before the king with a problem. They lived in the same house, and had each given birth to babies – the babies' births were only three days apart. One night one of the woman's baby died (she layed on him and he smothered). The mother awoke in the night, took the other mommy's baby while she was sleeping, and swapped the two babies. The next morning the one mother woke up to a dead baby. She looked closer, and realised that it was not her baby. But the other woman said: "No, the living one is mine. Your son is the one that died." They could not resolve the issue and so the two came to the king to find out who was in the right.

King Solomon ordered: "Bring me a sword! Cut the living child in two pieces and give each of them half-a-child! "One of the moms started pleading: "Please, give the child to the other woman then. Do not kill him!" But the other woman said: "No, cut it in half!" Solomon made his decision: "Do not kill the child, give him to this woman (the one who wanted the baby alive). This is his real mother!" What a clever King!

Everyone could see that king Solomon of Israel received wisdom from God. He wrote 3,000 proverbs, and composed 1005 songs. He also wrote poems about animals, birds, reptiles and fish. People came from everywhere to listen to his wisdom.



Questions for clever little ears

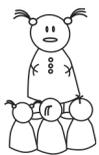
- What did Solomon ask God for?
- How did Solomon know who the mother of the baby was?
- Do you know any proverbs of Solomon? (Read a few).



Timeline of Israel

Solomon was David and Bathsheba's son, and David's successor as king. Solomon was the king who built the first temple and finished it in 945 BC. We'll find him on the timeline in 965 BC before the kingdom of Israel split into two.

Let's find SOLOMON's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- If God gives you a wish, what would you wish for?
- What do you think most people would wish for? Why?
- Do you think rich people are always happy? Why not?



Life Lesson

People sometimes think life is about how much you can gather. Solomon teaches us that to serve the Lord and to love others are the most important issues in our lives.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the wonderful people in our lives that can keep us on the right path. Please give our leaders wisdom to rule.
Amen



Munchie fun!

Jelly babies that you can cut in two.



Creative activity

Solomon was a very wise king. Cut out the crown, decorate it and stick it on a piece of cardboard to make a crown for yourself. It can remind us to always think before we talk and to act wisely!



Bible verse of the week

1 Kings 3:9

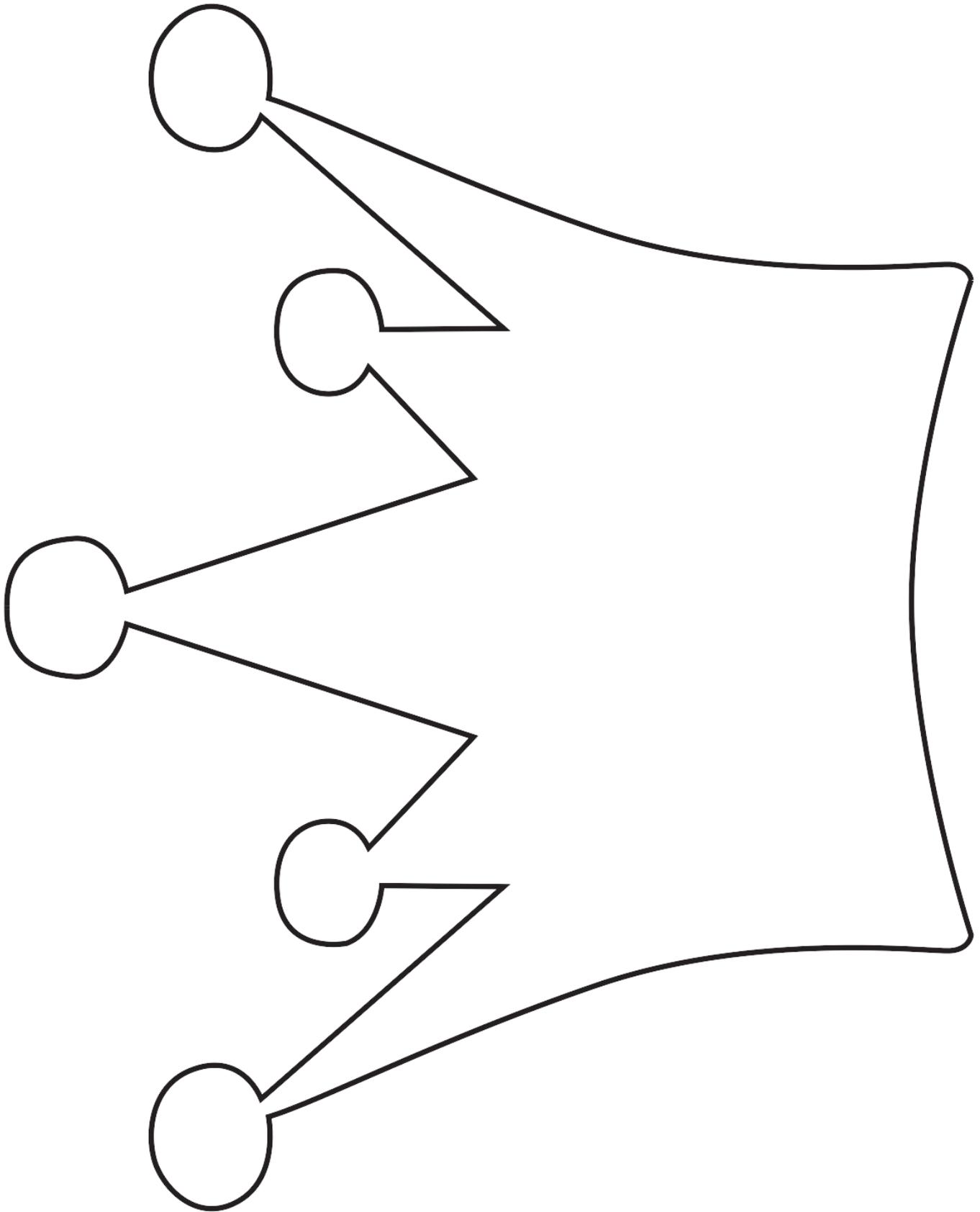
So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"



Just for fun!

Take a ball of wool. We are going to measure something. Each child must cut off as long or short a piece as he/she thinks will be necessary. When everybody has their pieces, let the children measure the width of their friend's wrists with the wool. Whoever has the piece of wool that is closest to the right measurement, wins.

Solomon



Jeroboam



Prepared reading for the teacher

1 Kings 11: 26 - 12: 10



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of a calf
Yellow / gold paint
Brushes and paintholders
A piece of cloth that tears easily
Jellybeans



Lesson Content

Jeroboam was the first king of Israel after the split of the nation into a North and a South region.

Jeroboam was an important underling of king Solomon's who rebelled against the king. He desperately wanted to be the new king of Israel. God sent a prophet with a message to Jeroboam.

The Prophet (Ahijah) was wearing a new mantle (coat.) and in front of Jeroboam he tore the mantle into 12 pieces and told Jeroboam: "The Lord says you should take your 10 pieces of material, because he is going to split Israel. Two tribes will stay with Solomon to become Judah, but 10 tribes will go to you (Jeroboam). "

God planned it this way, because Solomon had began to worship false idols, including the god Ashtoreth. When Solomon heard about this meeting with the prophet, he wanted to kill Jeroboam. But God promised Jeroboam that if he did what was right, God would protect him. Jeroboam fled to Egypt and stayed there until he heard that Solomon had died, and that his son Rehoboam was now king.

Rehoboam consulted with the elders on how to govern the people of Israel - but he would not heed the elders' advice. He followed the advice of his friends and said to the nation: "I will put a heavier yoke on you than my father, I'll treat you even worse."

After these harsh words, 10 of the clans of Israel decided to choose Jeroboam as leader. Just as the prophet had predicted! But Rehoboam wasn't pleased. He wanted to fight against Jeroboam and be king of all of Israel. God sent a message to him: "Do not fight against your brothers, I chose Jeroboam." Thank goodness, Rehoboam listened to God's voice!

Jeroboam (king of the 10 tribes) was not that confident as king, he was afraid that the Israelites would eventually choose King Rehoboam (Solomon's son) to rule over all of Israel, because the people still went to Jerusalem (Judah's capital) to worship in the temple. Jeroboam made a plan, he commissioned two golden calf statues so that the sraelites could worship without going to Jerusalem- but these images led to idolatry and sin.

A man of God went to speak with Jeroboam near the two altars. He brought a message from God: "These altars will fall apart and shatter on the ground!" Jeroboam was not impressed and tried to grab the man, but the hand he stretched out, dried up and froze. And then the altars collapsed! What a fright Jeroboam must have had!

Jeroboam begged the man to pray to God to heal his hand. And guess what, after the man prayed, Jeroboam's hand was healed. Even after this miracle, Jeroboam still didn't completely turn from his evil ways. He was still disobedient to God.



Questions for clever little ears

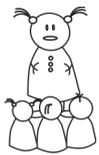
- Who were the 2 kings that ruled over Israel and Judah after Solomon died?
- How did the prophet Ahijah show Jeroboam the tribes that God would give him?
- What happened to Jeroboam's hand?



Timeline of Israel

Jeroboam was a servant of Solomon, and he later became king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. We find him on the timeline in 965 BC.

Let's find JEROBOAM's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you always listen to older people? Do you listen to your teacher, Mom and Dad?
- Do you think your friends' advice is sometimes better than older people's?
- What advice did you get from your grandparents about life?



Life Lesson

Proverbs says it is a wise man who listen to the counsel of wise men but a fool follows his own head. Do not be foolish, listen to the advice of other people, including your parents.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to have respect for older people's advice and wisdom.
Amen



Munchie fun!

Tear a rag into 12 pieces for the children. They can count with you until there are 12 pieces. Each child may get a piece of cloth to keep in their Bibles if there are enough for the whole class. It can remind them of the split in the empire of Israel. A division is never nice for God, He wants us to completely belong to him.

Give each child 12 jellybeans. The people were now no longer a unity; they were divided.



Creative activity

Worksheet of a calf. Paint the calf yellow / gold to look like the golden calf that Jeroboam made for the people. God does not like it when we worship idols.



Bible verse of the week

1 Kings 11: 37

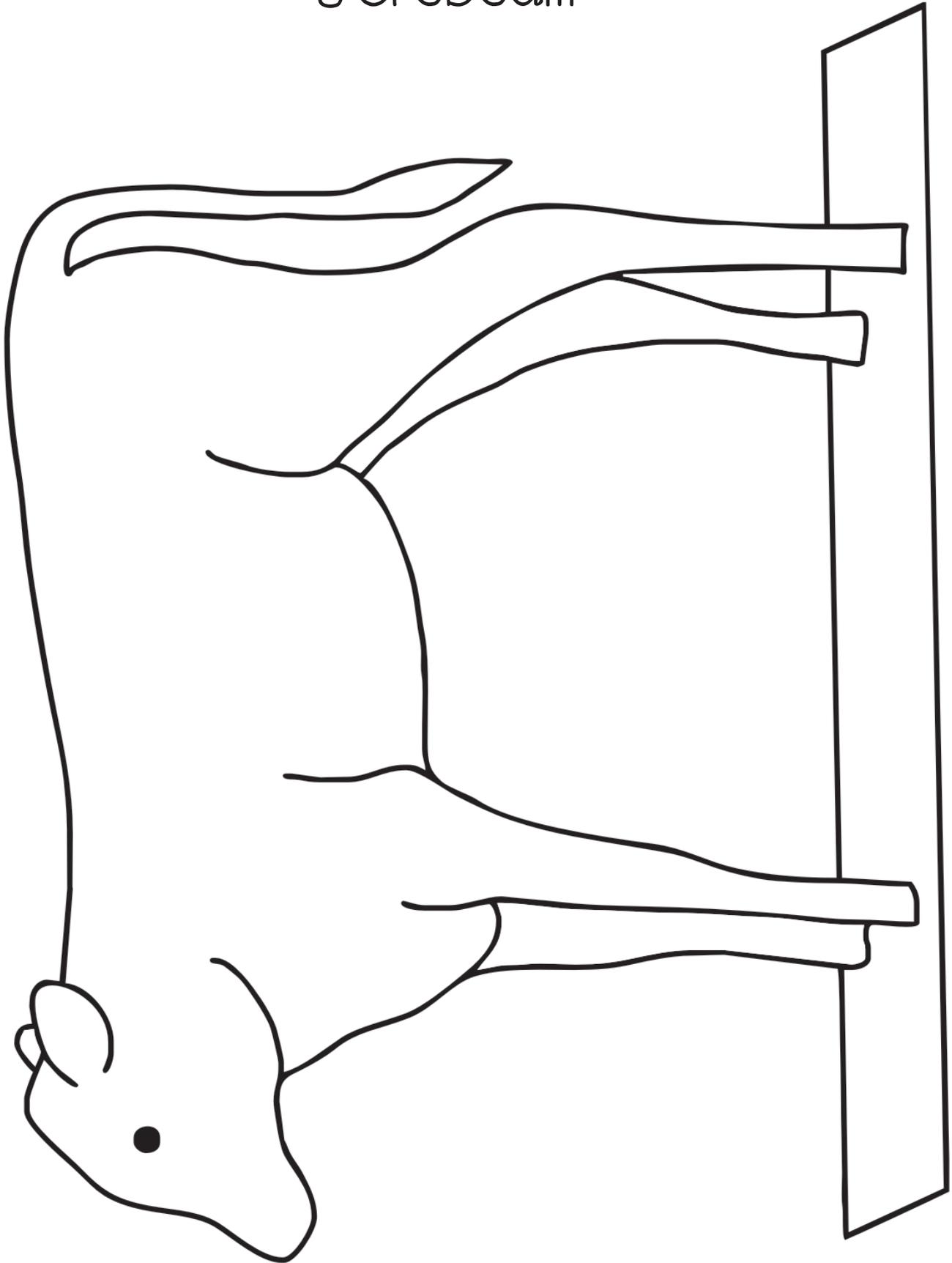
"However, as for you, I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel."



Just for fun!

Everyone stands on two sides of the class in two groups, with their eyes closed. When the teacher says so, slowly begin to walk towards each other. When you crash into someone begin to ask each other questions until you know whom you crashed into. You can disguise your voice, but you have to give the correct answer.

Jeroboam



Rehoboam

9



Prepared reading for the teacher

1 Kings 11: 42 - 14: 31



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Rehoboam

Crayons

Old-fashioned sweets or treats

A roll of toilet paper (1 roll per group)



Lesson Content

After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam succeeded him as king. Jeroboam (who had fled to Egypt) heard of Solomon's death and he immediately contacted Rehoboam and asked to be his friend (he wanted to maintain a good relationship with him).

Rehoboam did not know how to respond to the request and he asked advice from the older people who had worked for Solomon. They said: "If you're good to Jeroboam and his people, they will acknowledge you as king." (We learnt a little about this last week.)

But Rehoboam did not heed the advice of the older people on the council and asked for his younger friends' opinions. "No, you have to be very strict with Jeroboam and his people, and treat them worse than your dad ever did," his friends advised. King Rehoboam ignored the council of the elders and followed his friends' advice. Ten of the 12 tribes of Israel (Jeroboam's tribes) then decided to rebel against the house of David, because they were treated so badly.

The 10 tribes were furious with King Rehoboam. The chief of his slaves was stoned to death and king Rehoboam barely escaped with his life. Jeroboam was crowned king of Israel (10 tribes) and Rehoboam reigned over Judah (2 tribes). Rehoboam was very eager to declare war, but God warned him not to fight against his own brothers.

Rehoboam was 41 years old when he became king, and he reigned for 17 years in Jerusalem. The country of Judah prospered, but God was upset because the country was littered with false idols everywhere – an idol stood on every hill or vantage point. Judah was committing the same horrible sins as the people who had been driven out of the country.

Rehoboam was not a king after God's heart, and therefore God sent the Egyptians to attack the country.

The king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and plundered the temple's treasures. They even stole the golden shields that Solomon had made for the temple guards. Rehoboam replaced these with bronze shields. And all the time there was enmity between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. When Rehoboam died, his son, Abia, succeeded him.



Questions for clever little ears

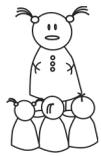
- What were the names of the two kings of the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom?
- What was the advice of the elder council?
- What was the young people's advice?
- Which of the two's advice did the king follow?



Timeline of Israel

Rehoboam was Solomon's son and king of the Southern Kingdom, Judah. We find him on the timeline in 900 BC.

Let's find REHOBOAM's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

Read Romans 12: 20 for background

- What were the consequences when Rehoboam treated people badly?
- Have you ever been mistreated by someone?
- How did it make you feel?
- What did you do about it?



Life Lesson

Ask the Lord for advice, not your friends. The Lord expects that we treat all people fairly.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, our friends' opinion is sometimes very important to us. We would like to please You alone. Help us to ask You for advice with everything in our lives, and to follow your will.

Amen



Munchie fun!

What sweets does your grandma and grandpa like? Let's eat something the older, wiser people would enjoy – like Hedgehogs or jam tarts or some "old fashioned" delicacy.



Creative activity

Discuss any advice which you received from your grandfather and grandmother with your friend. Everyone must write down some good advice from grandpas or grandmas. Decorate the worksheet and then stick it somewhere in your room. If kids can't think of any advice, they should take it home and ask their grandpa or grandma for advice.



Bible verse of the week

1 Kings 12: 8

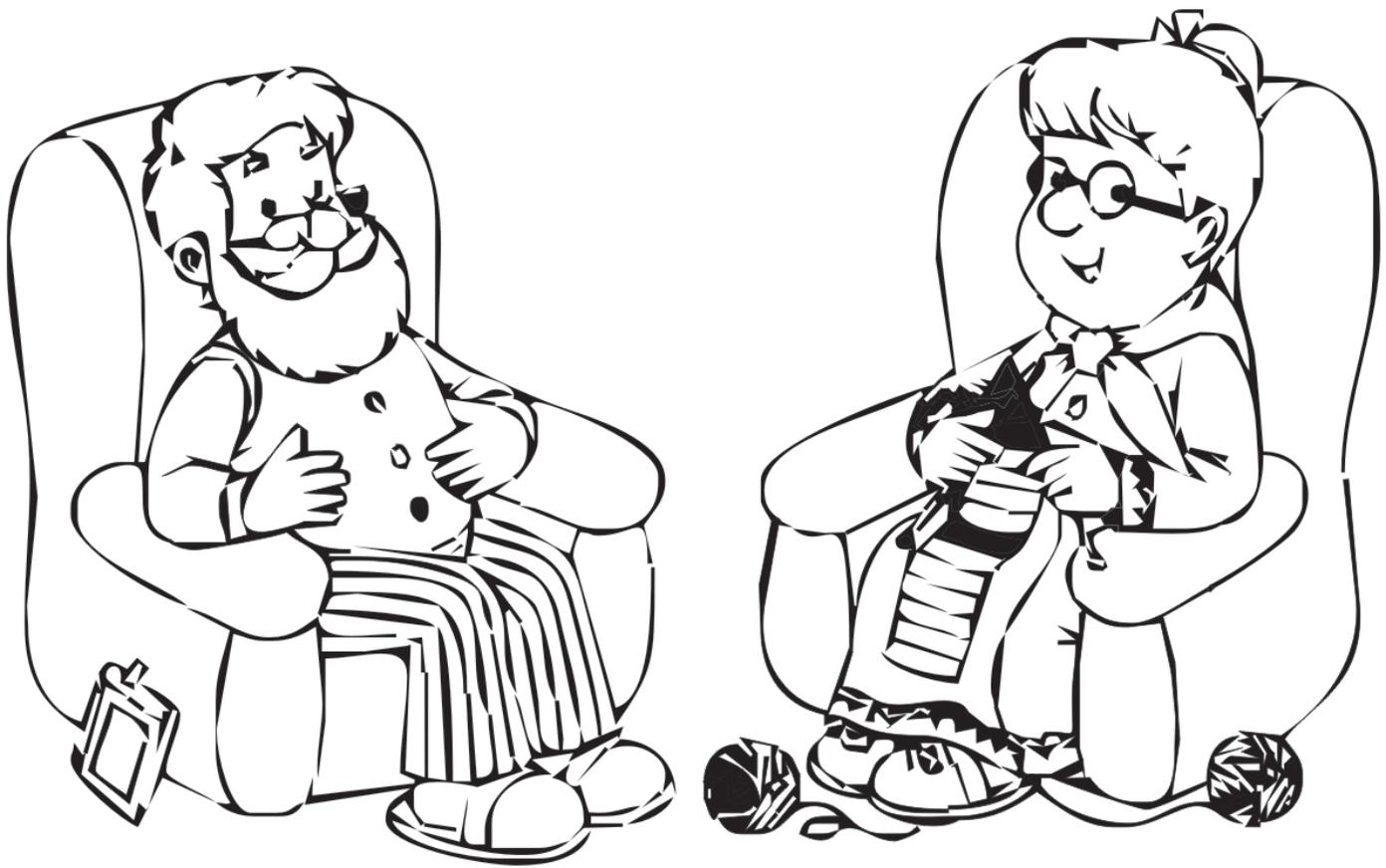
"But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him."



Just for fun!

Divide the children into groups of five to six. Each group gets a roll of toilet paper. One child is an Egyptian mummy and the others should try to wrap her/him up with toilet paper as quickly as possible, until he/she looks like a mummy. Try to completely cover the mummy. It was the Egyptians who stole from the temple in Jerusalem when Rehoboam was king of Judah. The group that finishes first is the winner!

Rehoboam



The best advice from my granny and grandpa is:

Jehoshaphat



10



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Chronicles 20:1-30



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Jehoshaphat

Chalk or a sponge with some paint

Prestik

A4 paper

Lolly pops (with a surprise inside, like chewing gum or sherbet)



Lesson Content

Jehoshaphat was a king in the Southern Kingdom of Israel , the region called Judah. And this is his story:

Many nations wanted to go to war against Jehoshaphat and the tribes of Judah. Jehoshaphat was already an elderly king and many of the surrounding nations were no longer afraid of him and Judah. But he was scared and sought help from the Lord. He involved the whole of Judah and the people fasted for a day and prayed very hard for an outcome to their dilemma. After the fast, Jehoshaphat went to the temple, and prayed to God for the right answer. His prayer was from his heart and one of his men got a message from God:

This was the message:

2 Chronicles 20:15 (b)

“Do not be afraid; do not be afraid of this great multitude, for the battle is not an issue for you, but for God.”

God said that they should go to meet their enemies. They would not be fighting; they would just stand and watch the defeat of God’s enemies. Jehoshaphat encouraged his people to be brave and to trust in God. They went into battle with the singers and worshippers of God walking in front of the soldiers, loudly praising and singing to God.

Suddenly, before their eyes, Israel’s enemies were attacked by other nations - and when there was no one to fight, the attackers started fighting with one another. When the Israelites arrived at the lookout point, where the enemy would see them, there were corpses everywhere! On the battlefield there were only dead soldiers!

The Jews collected all the treasure on the battlefield (as well as weapons and jewellery and clothes), there was so much of it that it took them three days - they could barely carry it!

All the men returned to Jerusalem with joy in their hearts. The other kingdoms were dismayed and greatly afraid because God had made war against them. The rest of Jehoshaphat’s reign was peaceful. God gave him the gift of peace in his kingdom.



Questions for clever little ears

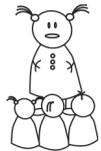
- What was the name of the king of Judah in this story?
- Who fought against Judah's enemies?
- Was there little treasure to loot, or a lot? How do you know this?



Timeline of Israel

Jehoshaphat was king of the Southern Kingdom, Judah. We can find him on the timeline in 874 BC as one of the kings of the Southern Kingdom.

Let's find JEHOSHAPHAT's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Has there been anything in your life that seemed very difficult for you?
- And what happened with that difficult moment?
- Are there other places in the Bible where believers praise God while things are not going well for them? (Acts 16: 25, where Peter and John are in prison. Read Proverbs 3: 6)



Life Lesson

We should never underestimate what can happen when we pray. God listens to His children when they talk to him. God wants his children to trust Him and not to rely on their own strength.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you that we know You are fighting on our side against all that is bad and evil in this world.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Lollypop with something inside (yogurt or gum). Yes, it's almost like a small miracle! We are surprised by something small; just think how Jehoshaphat was surprised when God triumphed over his enemies.



Creative activity

Worksheet with the outline of a man praying. Cut out the outline. Stick it lightly onto a paper (with prestik) so the edges do not move. Use chalk to rub the form off on the paper. You can also use sponges dipped in a small amount of paint. When you remove the mold, the shadow of the man praying will be on your paper. Kids can write the Bible verse of the week below their pictures.



Bible verse of the week

2 Chronicles 20:15 (b)

He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.



Just for fun!

Jehoshaphat was a king who prayed very earnestly. Let the children sit in a circle. Teacher mentions different categories such as food, pets, friends, toys, family, teachers etc.

Examples of questions: What food are you thankful for? What friend makes you thankful to God? Which teacher makes you thankful to God?

Jehoshaphat



Ahab

11



Prepared reading for the teacher

1 Kings 20: 1 - 20: 43



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Ahab
Small pieces of fabric - any colour
Scissors
Glue
Blindfold to cover eyes
Jelly gun sweeties



Lesson Content

Ahab was one of the kings of Israel (the ten tribes of the Northern Kingdom).

The King of Syria, Ben-Hadad, decided to attack Israel. Ben-Hadad was very self important and confident and sent messengers to Israel to say: "Your silver and gold mines are mine. Your prettiest women and children are mine!" King Ahab was humble and quiet in response to this threat- "It is okay, Ben- Hadad, fine, take it." But that was not enough! Ben-Hadad decided that his people would take whatever they wanted from Israel. "Everything our eyes desire will be taken!" The leaders of Israel felt this was not right and implored Ahab: "Do not give in to Ben-Hadad's claims!"

Ben-Hadad wasn't impressed by this new development. He was furious that Ahab opposed him, and decided to attack Israel immediately. In the meantime, a prophet of the Lord came to King Ahab, saying that Ben-Hadad and his soldiers would surrender to Israel. Ahab's soldiers must have drawn encouragement from this message!

While Ben-Hadad and the 32 kings who came with him to help fight against Israel, were sitting in his tent and drinking, Israel's army attacked! The prophet had predicted the outcome and the Syrians were defeated and fled. Ben-Hadad managed to escape with his life, but he wasn't satisfied and again wanted to go into battle against Israel. His advisers told him: "Israel's God is a mountain god. Let's fight against Israel in the valley and then we will win." The prophets of God went to Ahab and said: "Because Ben- Hadad thinks God is just a mountain god, he will surely be defeated again. Our God is almighty!" And sure enough, Ben-Hadad and the Syrians were defeated in battle for the second time.

This time around Ben-Hadad was very scared that King Ahab would not show mercy and would kill him. He went out wearing mourning clothes and pretended he was very sorry for his war against Israel. And his sly plan worked! King Ahab felt sorry for him and spared his life.

Ben-Hadad and King Ahab made peace. But God was unhappy because Ahab had spared Ben-Hadad's life. He sent a prophet to wait for the king (Ahab) along the road. The King could not see that it was a prophet, because the person had tied a cloth over his face to disguise himself. The Prophet said to Ahab: "Because you have given him (Ben-Hadad) liberty, your life will be taken in the place of his life, and your people for his people." Ahab was very angry about this bad news. But he had to accept that those who ignore God's word and instructions, will be punished.



Questions for clever little ears

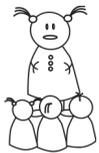
- What did Ben-Hadad do to Israel?
- What did the prophet say to King Ahab?
- What happens if you ignore God's word?



Timeline of Israel

Ahab, king of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. We find him on the timeline in 873 BC.

Let's find AHAB's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Explain the meaning of the proverb: "Do not count your chickens before they're hatched." (See our verse for the week.)
- Do you think God is only a God of certain places, such as a church-God or a Rock God?
- Can we build the "house of the Lord"? (We often speak of churches, but the Lord's house is in our hearts.)



Life Lesson

Many times we think that God only work on Sundays, or that he lives in a building that people have made. God can do anything, anywhere!



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, make us humble. Let us please seek your voice, advice and words every day of our lives.
Amen



Munchie fun!

Jelly guns. Ben-Hadad always wanted to make war against Israel.



Creative activity

Worksheet of a mask. Let's stick small pieces of cloth on the mask to look like the prophet in this story, with a cloth covering his face. This is how the prophet disguised himself to deceive Ahab.



Bible verse of the week

1 Kings 20:11

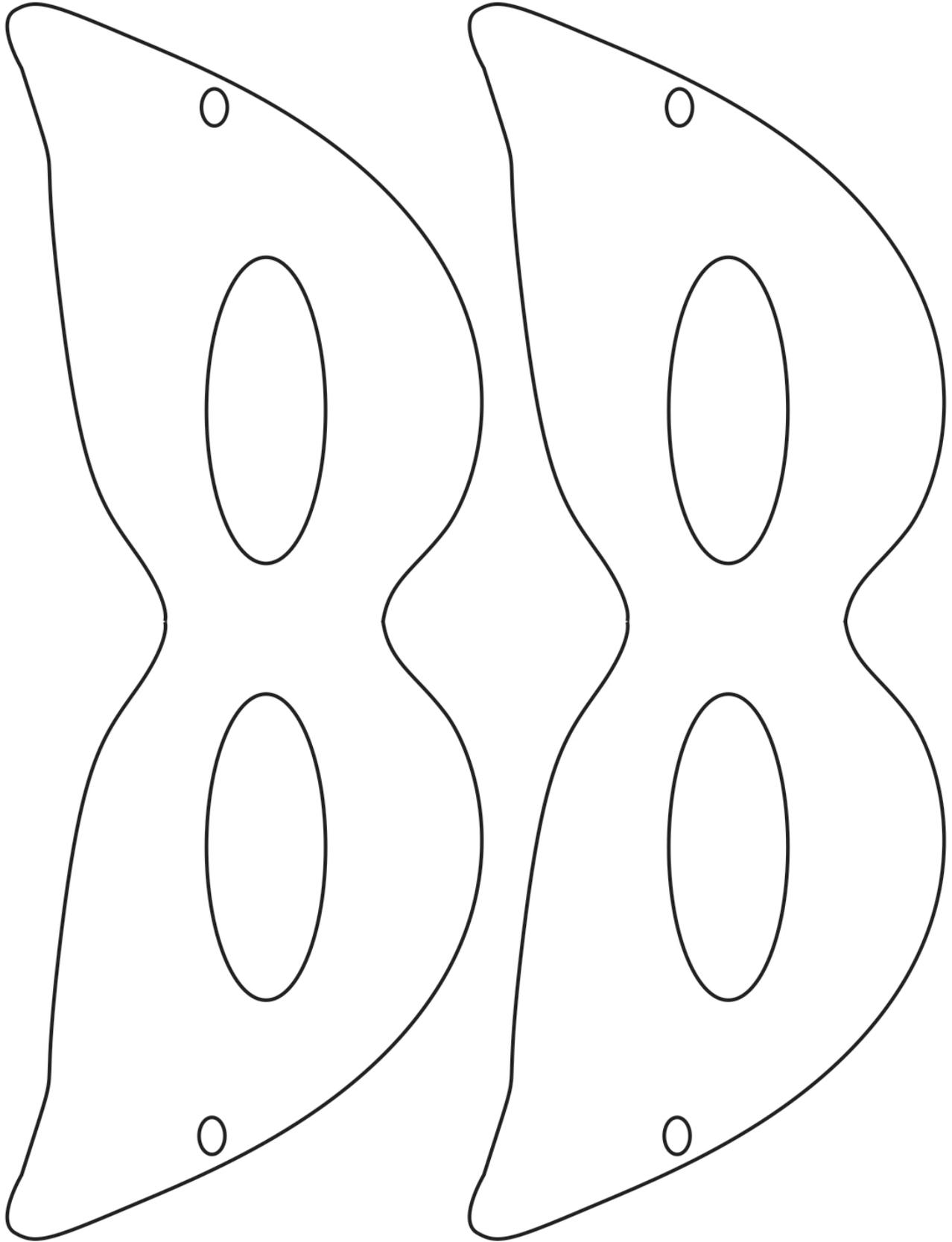
The king of Israel answered, "Tell him: 'One who puts on his armour should not boast like one who takes it off.'"



Just for fun!

Divide the class into groups of 6 -10 friends. Give a word to each group, such as "love", "baby", and "girl". Each group then has to sing a song that has that word in it.

Ahab



Elijah



12



Prepared reading for the teacher

1 Kings 17 – 18: 45



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Elijah
Crayons
Unleavened bread like Naan bread
Berries
Funnel



Lesson Content

Elijah was one of the most important prophets of the Northern Kingdom, Israel.

One day he brought a message to King Ahab that God would send a big drought to Israel, not even dew would form and no rain would fall. The drought would only be over after Elijah received another message from God about this issue. Ahab was angry about this news and Elijah was a little frightened of Ahab's reaction. He cautiously went to hide in the Kerith Ravine, where the king could not find him. He could drink water from the brook and God would send ravens to him in the mornings and evenings to bring him bread and meat. After his stayed here for a while, Elijah left to go to Sidan. God assured him that a widow there would take care of him.

As Elijah approached the gates of Sidan, he saw a woman picking up wood and he asked her for a piece of bread and some water. The woman told Elijah that she had nothing left to eat, only a handful of flour and a little bit of oil in a can. She was busy gathering wood for a fire for her and her son's last meal. After this, they would die of hunger.

Elijah had good news for her: "Thus says the Lord: the flour in the bottle will not run out and the oil will not become less, until the Lord sends rain to the country." Just as Elijah had said, the widow's food (her oil and flour) did not run out, never mind how often she baked bread. She was so grateful.

On a day this widow's son became ill and he died. She was so distraught! Elijah said to her: "Give me the child." He laid the boy on a bed and prayed to God and God answered Elijah's prayer and bought the child back to life!

About three years later God told Elijah to go back to King Ahab. God said that all of Israel had to gather at Mount Carmel. Ahab had to bring along the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah (2 false idols). Elijah also instructed that two bulls should be brought there. The prophets could choose any of the two bulls as a sacrifice. They were then instructed to cut up the bull and to place it on an altar with wood. They were however not allowed to light a fire on this altar. Elijah would do the same. Then both groups had to pray to their god. The god who answered with fire, would be the true god.

All of the people thought it was a good plan. The Baal prophets began to pray to Baal.

From that morning till noon they prayed, begged, cried and danced. But there was no sound from Baal, not even a squeak. Elijah mocked them: "Call louder. Maybe Baal is deep in thought; he might be travelling or perhaps he is sleeping!" The frantic Baal prophets began cutting themselves; the blood was streaming down them. By late afternoon Elijah said to the people: "Come." Then he dug a trench around the altar of the Lord. He asked for four jars to be filled with water. The urns were filled three times and the water was poured over the altar. Even the ditch around the altar was filled with water. Then Elijah began to pray to God.

1 Kings 18:36 (Bible verse of the week)

The Lord answered with fire, and the burnt offering, the wood, the stones and the soil were set ablaze. The flames licked up even the water in the ditch. When the people saw it, they fell on their knees and praised God. They seized Baal's prophets and killed them.

Elijah sent his servant to go to a vantage point high up to look for a sign of rain. The seventh time that the slave was sent to the look out, he saw a small cloud over the sea. While Elijah and the slave were still talking, the sky became dark and abundant rain clouds rolled over the lands. The drought was over and all the people in Israel knew that God was the true God!



Questions for clever little ears

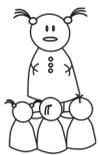
- How did Elijah manage to stay alive when living in the Kerith Ravine?
- What miracle happened in the widow's house?
- What happened at Mount Carmel?



Timeline of Israel

Elijah was one of the major prophets of the Northern Kingdom, Israel, and brought messages from God. We find him on the timeline, in 874 BC, during the reign of King Ahab

Let's find ELIJAH's spot on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Are you ever afraid that God will not help you?
- Do you think Elijah doubted whether God would send fire? How so?
- Does God always help you? (In His own time and in His own way, yes, he does).



Life Lesson

God is the only God. He does not want us to think that any other object or person is more important than Him.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we beg you to help us believe like Elijah did. You are the God above all gods, the only Lord.
Amen



Munchie fun!

Everyone gets a piece of bread to taste. This is the same kind of bread that the widow baked and that the ravens brought Elijah at the Kerith Ravine.



Creative activity

Worksheet of Elijah. Help Elijah to get to the ravens who delivered his food for him.



Bible verse of the week

1 Kings 18: 36

"At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command."

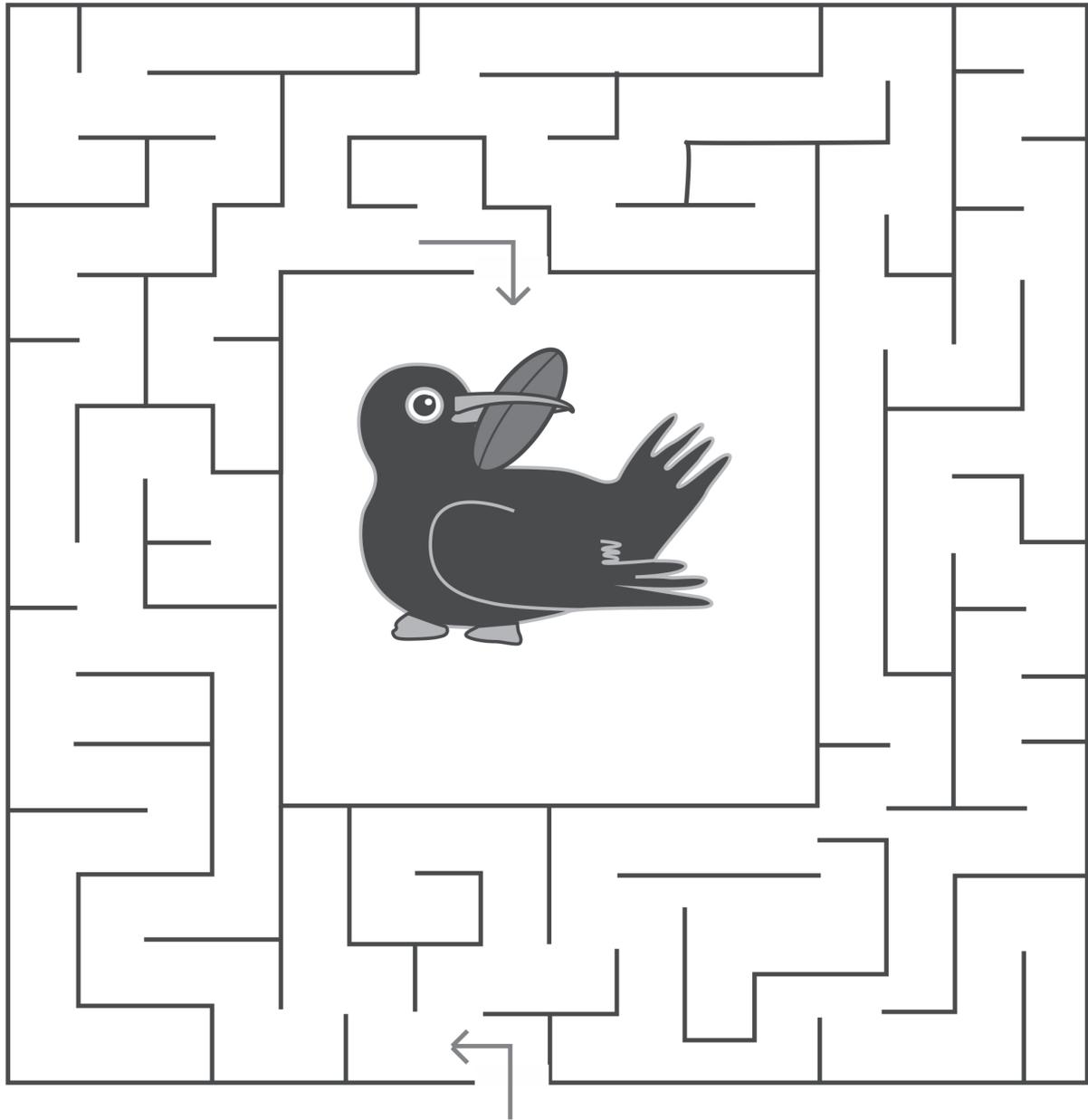


Just for fun!

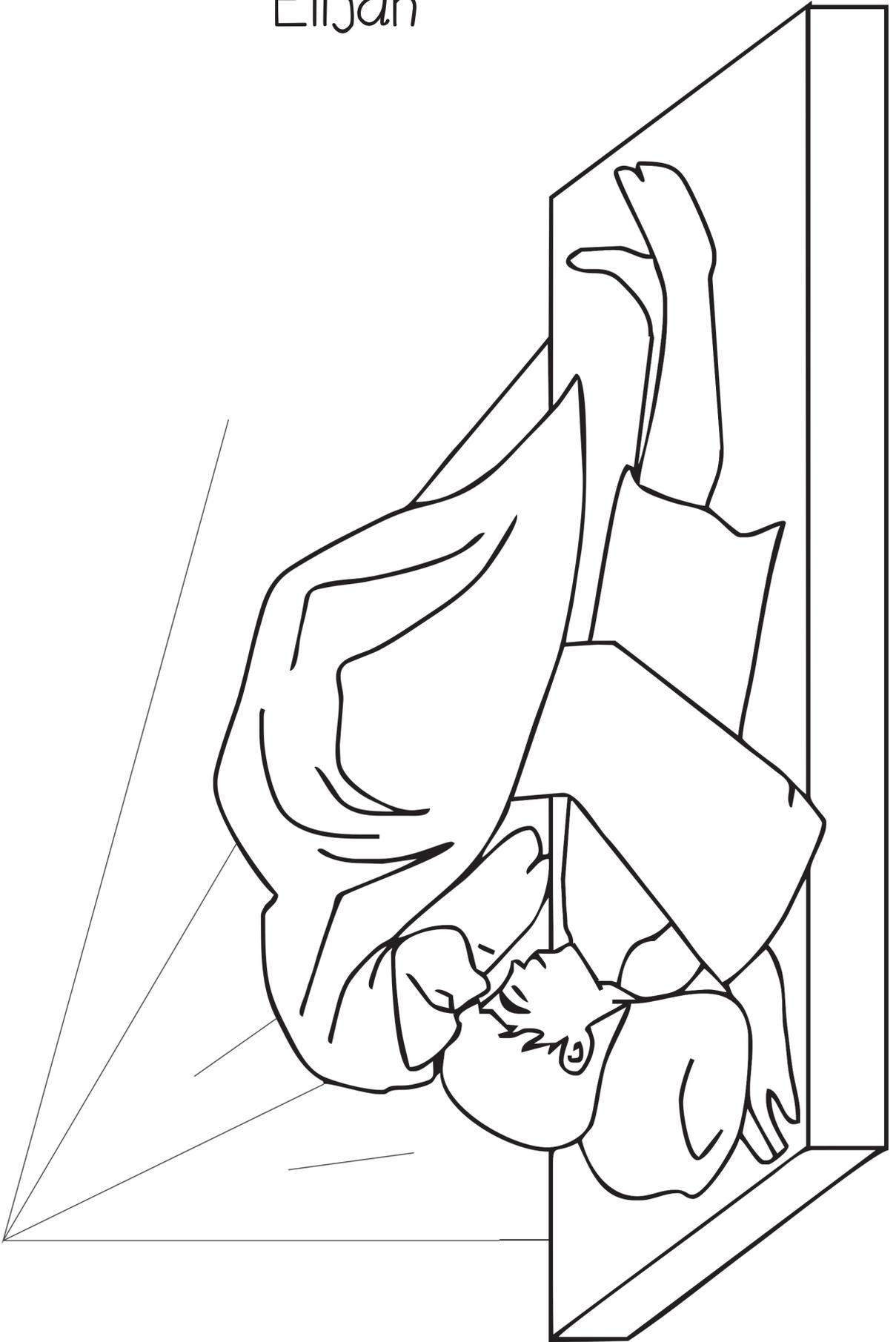
The ravens fed Elijah. Let's see if we can copy that! One child is chosen to hold a plastic funnel in his mouth. The others stand a few yards apart and attempts to throw grapes into the funnel. Try to catch the grapes! If you catch one, give another kid a turn. (The children should also take turns to throw the grapes.)

Elijah

Help Elijah to reach the crow



Elijah



Elisha



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Kings 2: 19 - 4: 44



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Elisha
Yellow powder paint
Paint brushes
Olive oil
Ice water
Marie biscuits



Lesson Content

Elisha was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom. He succeeded Elijah.

The residents of Jericho came to Elisha and complained about the water quality in the city. The water was so bad that the city's harvests had failed and animals had died. Elisha told them to bring a new bowl to him and to throw salt into it. Then Elisha went to the fountain where the water came from. He said: "I will transform this water so that it no longer causes death or infertility." He threw the salt into the water and to this day Jericho's water is good, pure water!

Rich people from everywhere came to Elisha for advice. One day the kings of Israel (Joram), Edam and Judah (Jehoshaphat) were engaged in a battle against their enemies. They travelled through a desert and after seven days there was no water for the people or for the animals. The kings decided to see a prophet for advice and Elisha was near. "Bring me a harp," said Elisha. While the harpist played his instrument, Elisha said: "Thus says the Lord: There will be water and dams in this valley, you will not see wind or rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, so that you and your livestock can drink." The next morning the whole area was unexpectedly filled with water!

Just when the sun rose that morning, the kings' enemies noticed the sun shining on the water. They shouted: "This is blood!" They were convinced the three kings were fighting amongst themselves. When they approached, they were defeated in battle! Elisha didn't only help kings and rich people, he also gave advice to ordinary people.

A woman complained to Elisha. "My husband is dead," she said, "And the people to whom he owed money have now taken my two boys to work as their slaves." Elisha said: "I will help you, what do you have in your house?" The woman had nothing but a can of oil. Elisha gave her this command:

2 Kings 4: 3 - 4 (Bible verse of the week)

The woman left to do as Elisha had asked her. Then Elisha told her to sell all the oil and pay off her debt. She and her boys could now live a happy life!



Questions for clever little ears

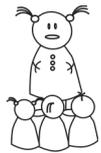
- What was the name of the prophet in this story?
- Why was the woman scared after her husband's death?
- What miracle happened in her house?



Timeline of Israel

Elisha was the prophet of the Northern Kingdom, Israel, who succeeded Elijah. We find him on the timeline in 845 BC.

Let's find Elisha's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you know people who are sad or who are suffering?
- How do you help these people or children? (To begin with, you can pray for them.)
- Do you think God can use you for a miracle in someone's life?



Life Lesson

God sees people who are suffering. As Elisha helped the widow, the Lord wants us to help people.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, make us thankful for what we have. Please restore our faith in miracles.
Amen



Munchie fun!

A jug with lots of cold water and ice. The children can each have a glass of water and think about how thirsty the soldiers were and how God created dams full of water out of nothing.



Creative activity

Worksheet of an oil canister. The children can mix yellow powder paint with olive oil, and then paint the canister with this. It can remind us of the widow's oil that never ran out.



Bible verse of the week

2 Kings 4: 3 +4

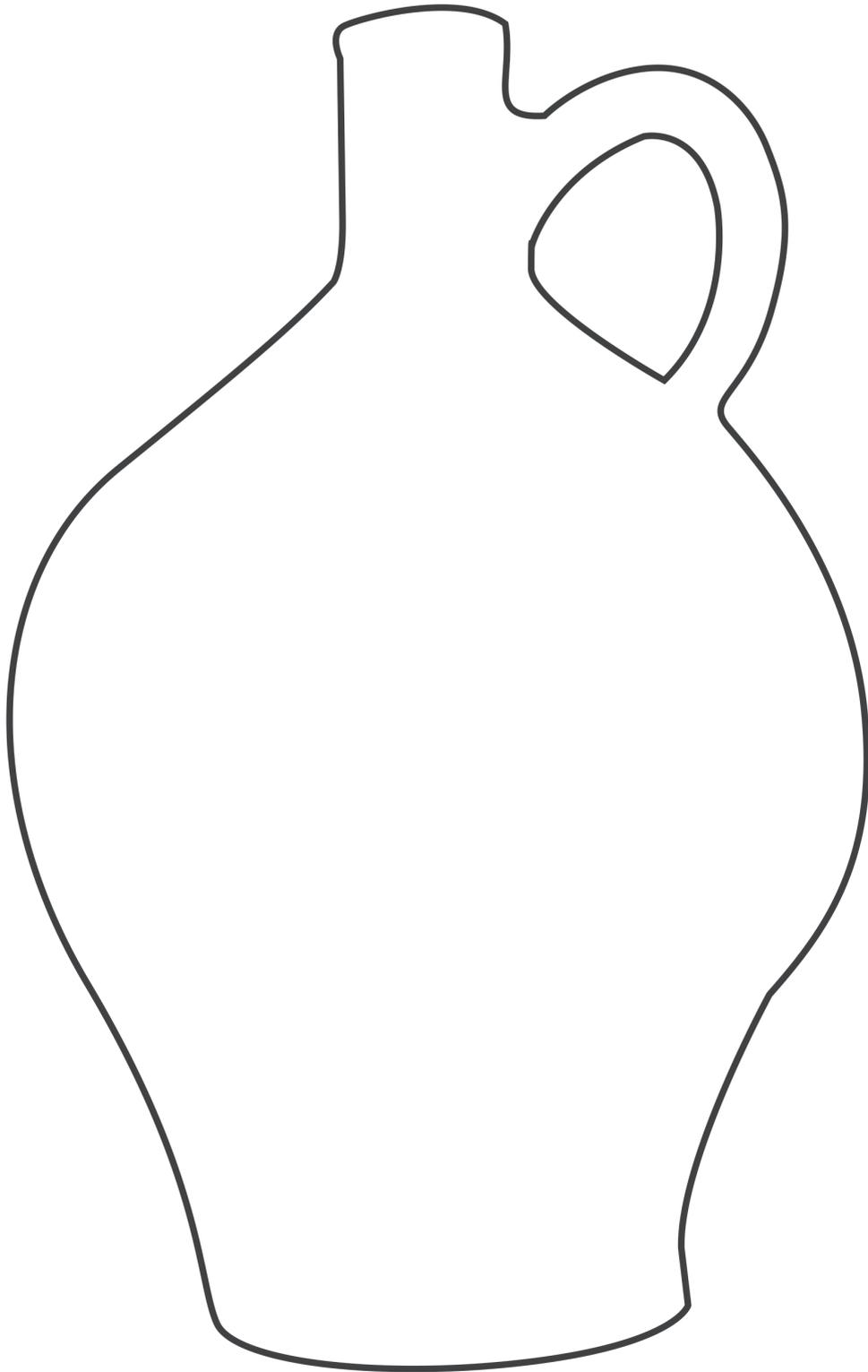
Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don't ask for just a few. Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."



Just for fun!

The poor widow had nothing to eat in her house. Children line up next to each other. Each child will get three Marie biscuits to eat as quickly as possible. Once you think you are finished, you need to whistle (without crumbs falling from your mouth!). The one who manages to whistle first, is the winner.

Elisha



Gehazi



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Kings 4: 8 - 5: 27



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Gehazi
Scissors
Glue
Herbs (various types)
Cinnamon pancakes
Tennis balls



Lesson Content

The prophet Elisha had a servant called Gehazi. Eliza and Gehazi lived in Israel in the Northern Kingdom.

Elisha often travelled to Shunem. An important woman of the town always invited Elisha over for dinner when he was in Shunem. She told her husband: "I know Elisha is a man of God. Let's build a small room onto our house. We can have a bed, table, chair and lamp put in. When Elisha is in Shunem, he can then stay here with us." On a day, while Elisha was resting in this very room, he sent his servant Gehazi to call the woman over. Elisha wanted to thank her for all her kindness. He was an influential prophet, perhaps he could even put in a good word for her with the king.

Gehazi told Elisha that the woman did not have sons and that her husband was old. Elisha spoke to the woman and prophesied that she would conceive a baby boy in about a year's time! The woman did not believe him. But it happened! About a year later she had a baby boy. When the boy was a bit older, he went to his father one day and complained of a headache. "My head! Ow!" he moaned. The sick boy was carried to his mother. He lay on her lap until noon, and then he died.

The woman laid out her dead son on Elisha's bed. Then she called for a slave and a donkey. She wanted to go to Elisha. Elisha saw the woman coming from far away and sent Gehazi to hear how her family was. She would not tell Gehazi anything, and said as much. But when she came to Elisha, she clung to his feet. Gehazi wanted to push her away, but Elisha stopped him and gave her time to cry. When Elisha heard her story, he sent Gehazi with his (Elisha's) cane. "Take my stick and put it on the boy's face. Do not talk to anyone along the way."

But the woman insisted that Elisha himself had to go back to her house. Gehazi had already left and was there before Elisha, he put the stick on the boy's face, but there was no sound or sign of life from the boy. Elisha then entered the room and closed the door. He prayed to God. Then Elisha lay down on top of the boy, so that their mouths, eyes, arms and legs were together. The boy's body began to warm up. Elisha lay on the boy a second time, this time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. The woman was so grateful!

Elisha performed many miracles ...

Back in Gilgal, there was a famine. Elisha had a bunch of prophets accompanying him, and Gehazi made a stew for everyone. One of the prophets wanted to help and picked herbs. He also picked a bunch of wild cucumbers. He added it to the stew pot, without really knowing exactly what it was. When the meal was ready, the prophets tasted the food, and cried out: "Man of God, there is poison in the food!" They couldn't eat it. Elisha threw a little flour into the pot and the prophets could immediately eat the food - it was not toxic any more.



Questions for clever little ears

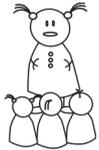
- What was Elisha's servant's name?
- How did Elisha revive the dead boy?
- What did the prophet put into the pot that made the food toxic?



Timeline of Israel

Gehazi was the prophet Elisha's servant. We find him on the timeline in 848 BC on the Northern Kingdom, Israel.

Let's find GEHAZI's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

Before Elisha brought the widow's son to life, he prayed to God.

- What do you think Elisha said in his prayers?
- What can you ask God in prayer? (Anything).
- Do you think God could also perform miracles through a servant, maybe someone like Gehazi?



Life Lesson

Elisha knew that it was not his own strength that healed people, but that God was working through him. We must always remember that God can work through anyone.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to obey your instructions - the difficult ones, but also the easier ones.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Take a few types of herbs for the children to smell. Lavender, basil, rosemary, pepper, cinnamon, etc. How will you know if something is poisonous? Can you add anything to your food? Let them smell and taste the herbs.

Cinnamon pancakes for every child. Cinnamon is also a kind of herb. Fortunately, we know that it is not toxic!



Creative activity

Worksheet of a pot. Cut out pictures of different kinds of vegetables, meats and sauces in magazines. The children can paste the pictures into the pot to illustrate what a stew looks like.



Bible verse of the week

2 Kings 4: 33 - 34 (a)

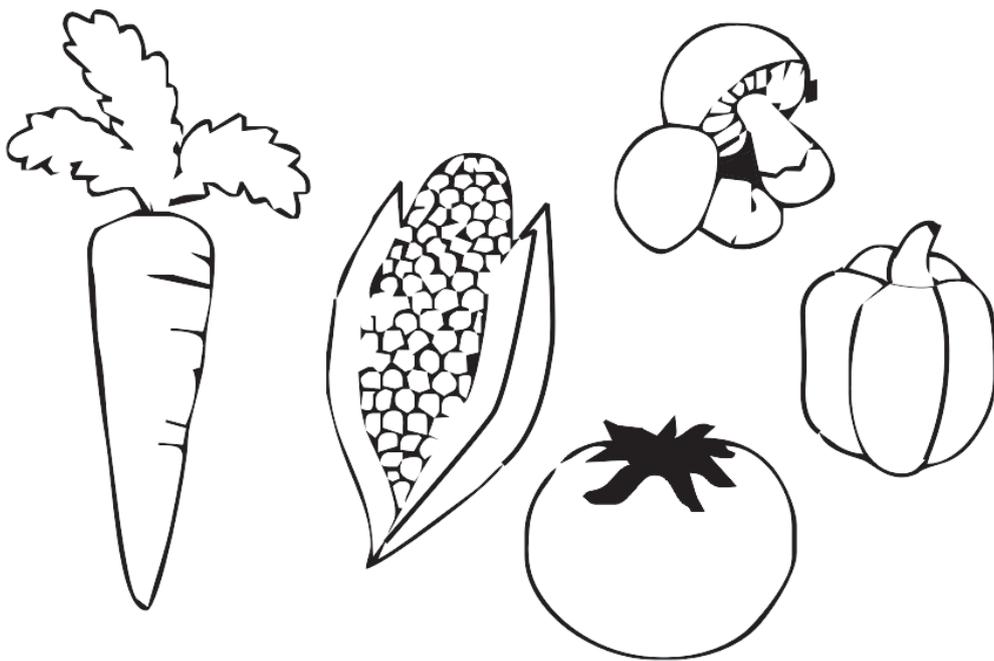
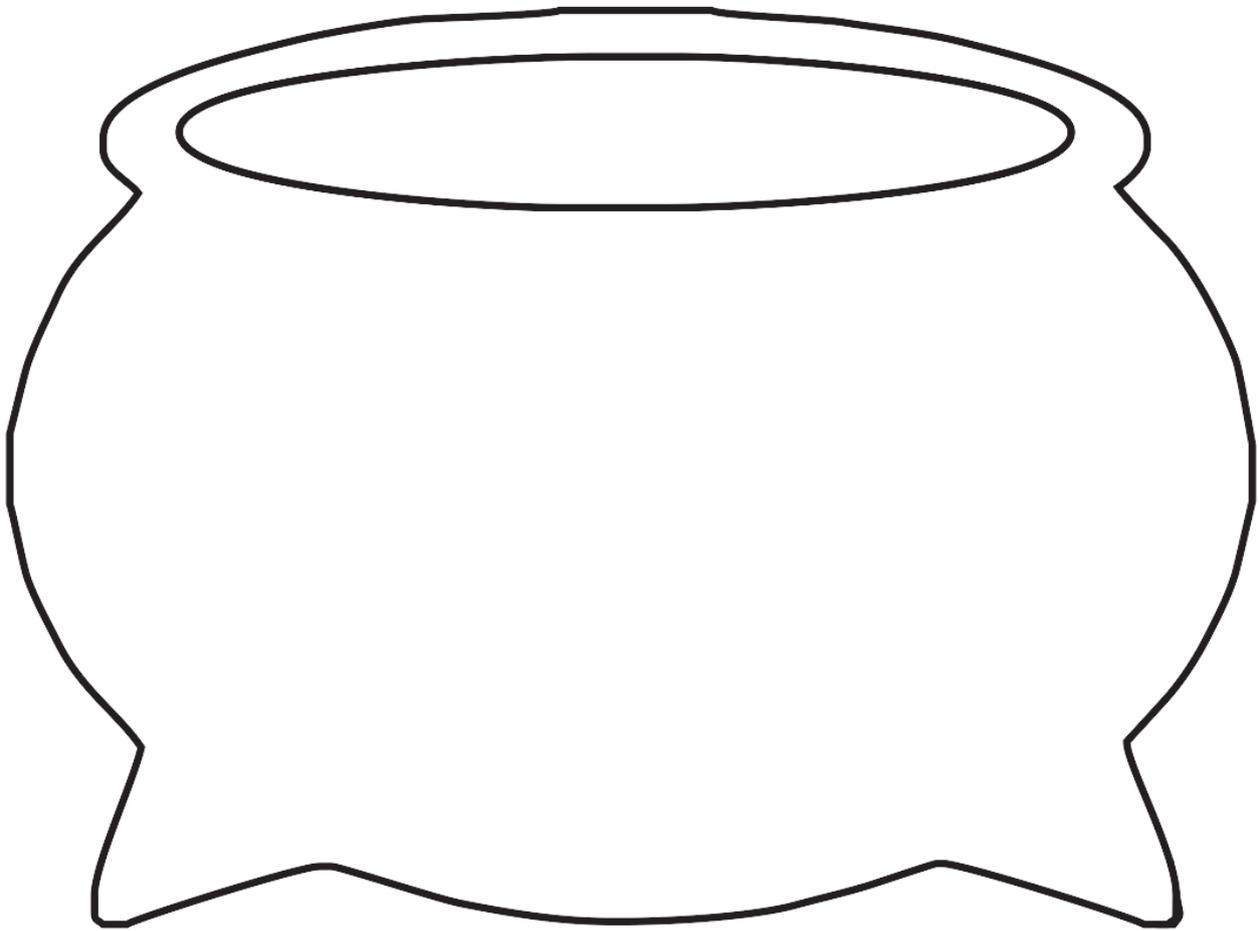
"He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord. Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm."



Just for fun!

Use an orange or a tennis ball. The class is divided into two groups. Stand in a row behind each other. Wedge the ball under a child's chin, the ball must be given to the next guy in line, hold the ball firmly under the chin and pass it on again and again. No hands may be used. The group to first get the ball to the end of their line, wins!

Gehazi



Naaman



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 King 4: 8 – 5: 27



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Naaman
Red paint
Ear buds
Chicken soup



Lesson Content

Naaman was a Syrian soldier and lived in the times of the prophet Elisha.

He was the head of the king of Syria's troops and a brave man, but he became sick and eventually turned into a leper. In Naaman's house there was a young girl from Israel who worked for his wife. She saw his suffering and said: "Oh, sir, our prophet in Samaria can heal you, I know it."

Naaman's wife told her husband all she could find out about this prophet and Naaman decided to pay him a visit, hoping for a miracle. Naaman traveled with his chariots and horses to Elisha's house and stopped right in front of Elisha's door. But Elisha did not even bother to come out of his house, he send a message to Naaman: "Go, wash yourself seven times in the River Jordan. Then you will be healthy and clean." Naaman was very angry because Elisha did not even come out and acknowledge or greet him. He thought Elisha would do mystical healing things like loudly implore the heavens for a miracle or maybe move his hands over his (Naaman's) leprous body to heal him. Were his own country's rivers so much worse off than Israel's? Did he have to come all the way for THIS advice!

Naaman's men pleaded with him and said: "Sir, it is something easy to do. You have nothing to lose." Reluctantly Naaman agreed, he went down to the River Jordan and washed himself seven times. His skin healed instantly and was as unblemished as a young child's. What a miracle!



Questions for clever little ears

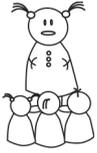
- Who gave Naaman a plan to get rid of his leprosy?
- Which prophet was he going to see?
- What was the prophet's advice?



Timeline of Israel

Naaman was the leader of the Syrians' army. We find him on the timeline in 848 BC on the Northern Kingdom, Israel, along with the prophet Elisha.

Let's find NAAMAN's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- What is leprosy?
- Do we still have terrible diseases today? (Yes, HIV, cancers, etc.?)
- What is worse to God, illness outside (your body), or “disease” in your heart?
- Is God’s miracles on earth always spectacular? (No, God also performs small miracles in our lives.)



Life Lesson

God does not need to impress anyone. He sometimes works in ways that are incomprehensible to us.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, even a child can tell grown-up people about You. Help our hearts to overflow with testimonies that will glorify Your name.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Naaman was sick. What does your mum give you to eat when you are sick? Chicken soup? (Offer chicken soup (or “cup-a-soup”) to those who want it. Just a little is enough.)



Creative activity

Picture of a man. Use red paint and ear buds to fill the man’s body with leprous sores. This is how Naaman looked!



Bible verse of the week

2 Kings 4 (5): 14

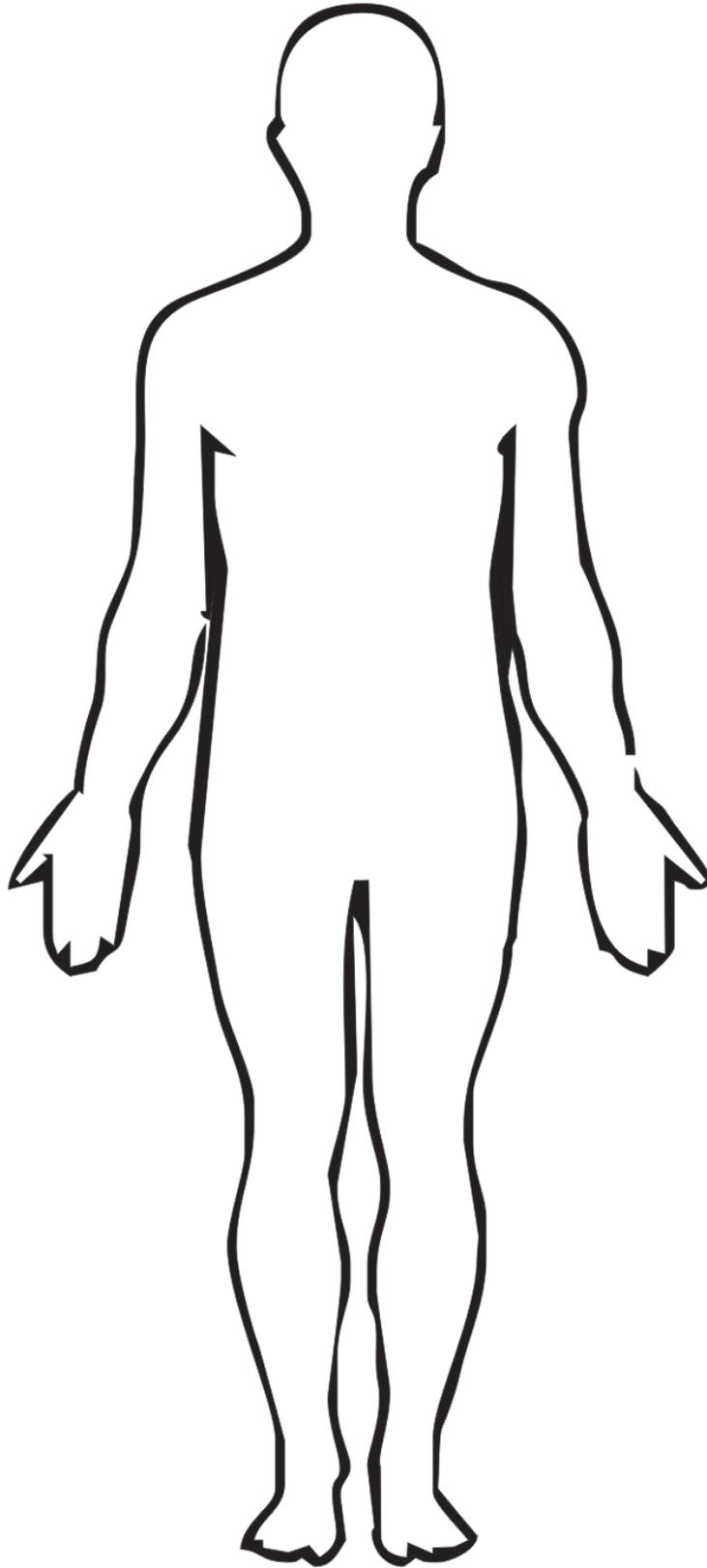
“So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.”



Just for fun!

Let’s conclude the lesson with something that will make everyone laugh. Shoes off! Groups should lie on the ground in a long row with their feet pointing in the same direction. The first picks up a banana with his feet and passes it to the person next to him. Pass the banana on in this way until it reaches the last person. The last person has to peel the banana and eat it. The first group to finish, wins. (It’s advisable to choose two boys to be at the end of the two rows – they can change the banana eating into great fun.)

Naaman



Amos

16



Prepared reading for the teacher

Amos 1 - 9



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Amos

Wool

Cotton

Glue

Ripe figs (or any other ripe fruits)



Lesson Content

Amos was a prophet of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. He was a sheep farmer from Judah. During the reign of King Jeroboam II of Israel, he had a dream about Israel.

In the dream, God told Amos he would punish Israel for all their sins. God detailed everything His people were doing wrong to Amos.

- They carried people away as captives (explain this).
- The tribes fought against each other with swords, and no fraternal feelings were shown to their 'brothers.'
- They said NO to God's law.
- They sold innocent people for money (as slaves).

God was very angry with His people. Amos had to take God's message to the king.

Amos also had other dreams. In his second dream he saw locusts eating all the greens in sight. Then he saw a fire that dried up the water and the soil. The third dream was of the Lord with a plummet. The fourth dream featured a basket of ripe fruit. All these dreams meant that God's time was ripe to punish Israel.

BUT the Lord didn't plan to completely wipe out His people. He is a merciful God. God could rebuild his people. He himself said: "I'll rebuilt my nation as it was in ancient times, so that my people will be victorious..."



Questions for clever little ears

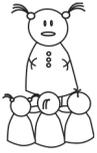
- What work did Amos do before God called on him?
- Name one of the wrong things God's people were guilty of.
- Name one of Amos's dreams.



Timeline of Israel

Amos was a prophet of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. We find him on the timeline in 762 BC, during the reign of King Jeroboam II on the timeline.

Let's find AMOS' place on the timeline of Israel!



Points for Discussion

Amos was just an insignificant shepherd

- Do you know someone who is unimportant in the eyes of the world, but still a good Christian? (Yourself maybe?)
- Who will you listen to? (Mom, Dad, teacher, your church leader)
- Will you listen to someone insignificant? (Like your little sister or brother) Why not, or why?



Life Lesson

Amos had to go to the king with a tough message. Sometimes God wants us to warn people to stop their evil deeds. We can help the Lord bring people to Him.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You are a gracious God who can forgive sins. We confess our sins and ask for Your forgiveness.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Any ripe fruit for the children to taste. This was Amos's fourth dream - ripe fruit, which meant the time was "ripe" to punish Israel.



Creative activity

Worksheet of a sheep. Let's stick the sheep full of cotton wool and cut it out. Store it in your Bible to remind you that God's work is never unimportant.



Bible verse of the week

Amos 4:13

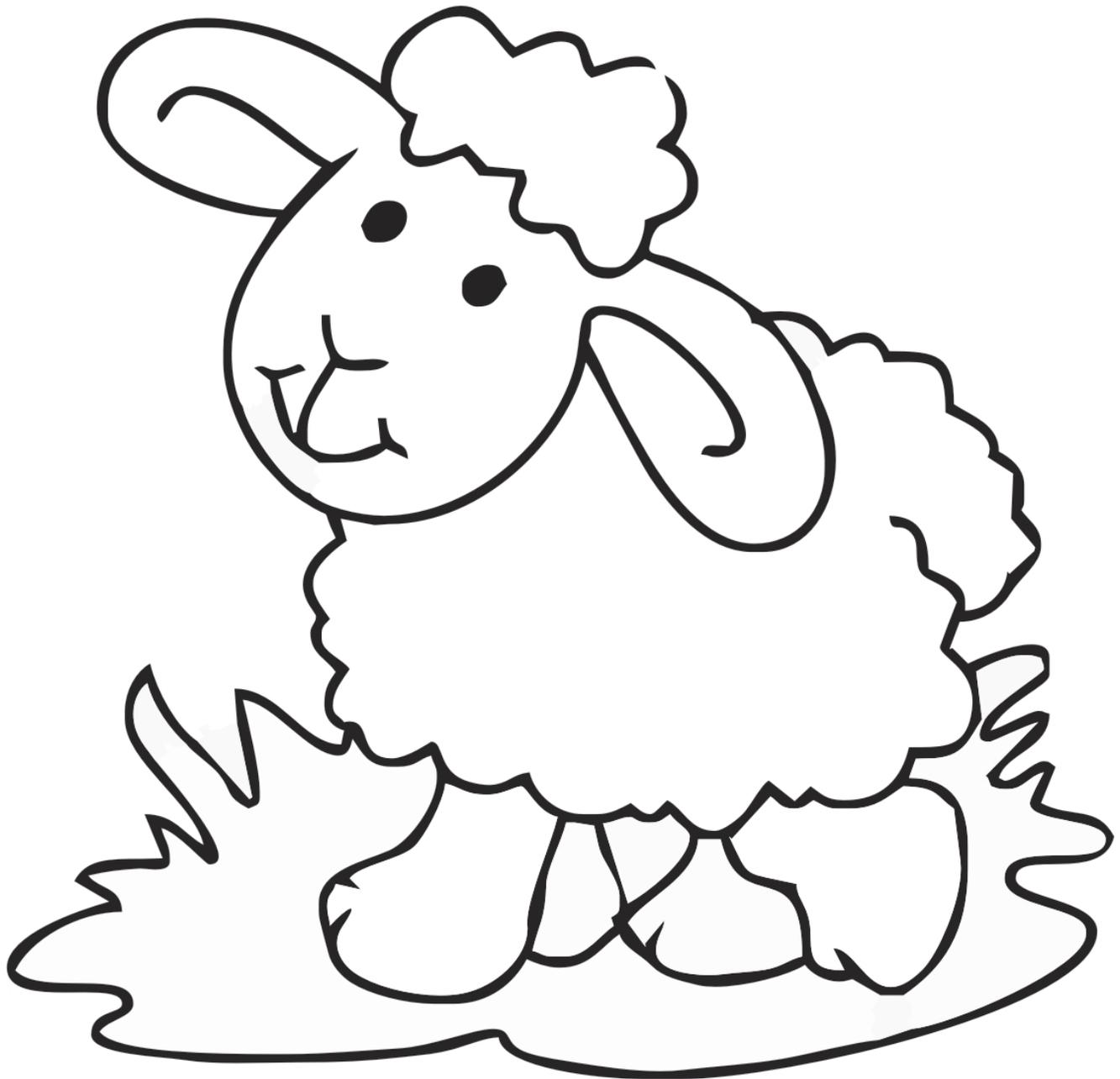
"He who forms the mountains, who creates the wind, and who reveals his thoughts to mankind, who turns dawn to darkness, and treads on the heights of the earth — the Lord God Almighty is his name."



Just for fun!

We're going to a church camp! Teacher begins by saying: I'm going to a church camp and I, for example, brought my sleeping bag. The next child then says: I'm going to a church camp and I brought my sleeping bag and toothbrush. Every child adds something, but they have to recite all the previous items as well. The children can help each other out. Especially at the end, it can be difficult memorizing everything!

Amos





Hosea



Prepared reading for the teacher

Hosea 1,2 and 11



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Hosea
"Glitter"
Glue
Yellow paint
Candy rings



Lesson Content

Hosea was the prophet who announced the end of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. He is one of the Bible's less well known, prophets that God used to show his unchanging love for his people.

Hosea was the son of Beeri. God wanted to use Hosea's marriage to illustrate something to the Israelites. He told Hosea to marry a poor woman, who had relationships with many men, had a bad reputation and a bunch of kids with different dads. Hosea then married a woman named Gomer. She was really a bad wife!

Hosea and Gomer had some children of their own. All their children's names had a special meaning. Their first child was a boy named Jezreel. (The Israelite army would be defeated at Jezreel). Hosea and Gomer's 2nd child, had a name that meant: "without mercy," because God would have no grace for Israel. Hosea's 3rd child's name meant "not my people." Israel would no longer be God's people.

God predicted, however, that there would come a day that the two tribes, Judah and Israel, would be reunited once again under one leader. Hosea's bad wife was a symbol of the nation of Israel: "The Harlot" (Israel and Gomer) can marry a worthy husband (God and Hosea).

Just like Hosea's wife turned away from her bad past, Israel had to turn away from their evil past, to serve and to love God.

God's love for His people (and for us) is stronger than any sin!



Questions for clever little ears

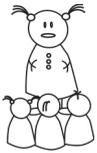
- How did God want to use Hosea to "tell" something to his people? (His marriage)
- What kind of woman did Hosea have to marry?
- What was the message that God, through Hosea's marriage, brought to the people?



Timeline of Israel

Hosea was the prophet who announced the end of the Northern Kingdom. We find him on the timeline in 750 BC.

Let's find HOSEA's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Whom do you love?
 - Do these people you love sometimes make you VERY angry?
 - How does your family feel about you if you are disobedient?
- (They love you and forgive you most of the times, just as God forgives us).



Life Lesson

We sometimes disobey the Lord. God wants us to grow closer to Him, and He wants to prove His love to us.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, our family members sometimes make us very angry! Please help us realise that having a family is a very precious privilege.
Amen



Munchie fun!

Candy rings to remind us of Hosea's marriage



Creative activity

Decorate the ring on the worksheet. Paint the ring yellow (gold) and put glitter on top of the stone. We can be reminded of Hosea's marriage and the message that God send to his people via this marriage.



Bible verse of the week

Hosea 2:18

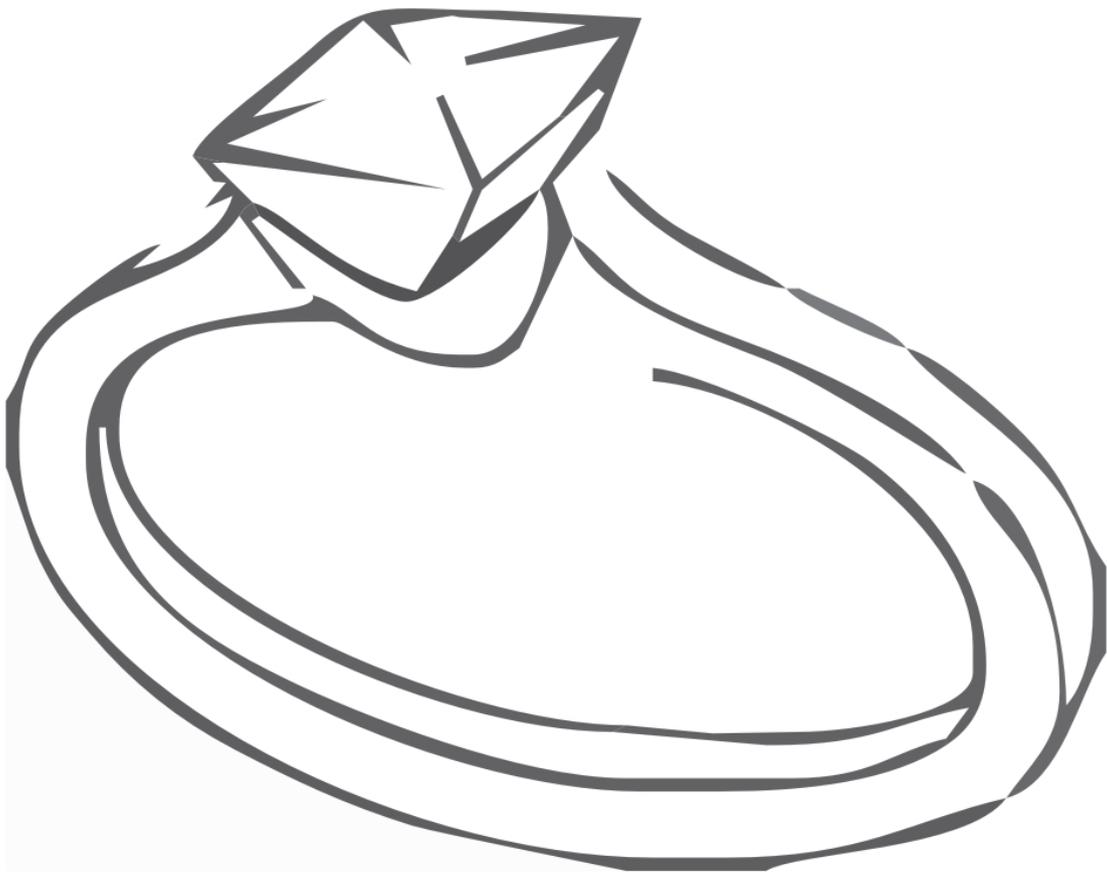
"I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion."



Just for fun!

Children must form a queue. Now, without speaking a word, the queue must rank themselves in order of birth dates from 1st of January (in front) to December 31st (rear). Children may not talk; use sign language! Check afterwards to see if you were correct!

Hosea



Isaiah

18



Prepared reading for the teacher

Isaiah 1 and 6



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Isaiah
Yellow paint
Sequins
"Glitter"
Glue
"Fireball" candy



Lesson Content

Isaiah was a prophet of the Southern Kingdom, Judah.

He was the son of Amoz and he had a dream about Judah (the Southern Kingdom) and their capital, Jerusalem. Isaiah had received a message from God during this dream. He was told that suffering and punishment was waiting on these sinful Israelites. God had already destroyed their country and had their cities burned. He would punish them even further.

In Isaiah's dream, God was sitting on a very high throne. The lower part of His clothes were draped across the whole temple. There were angels surrounding Him. Each angel had six wings. They hid their faces with one pair of wings; hid their feet with another pair, and flew with their last pair of wings. In this dream, the angels were calling to each other all the time, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord." The angels cried so hard that the doors shook and the temple filled with smoke.

In the dream Isaiah proclaimed: "This is it for me!" (Isaiah thought he would die because he had seen God, even if it was only in a dream).

In the dream, one of the angels flew to Isaiah, carrying a live coal with tongs. He touched Isaiah's mouth with the coal and said, "Your sins are forgiven!"

What a dream! What could it's meaning be?

God is not looking for burnt offerings or gifts. He does not require festivals and celebrations. He just wants His followers to stop their evil deeds and worship Him.



Questions for clever little ears

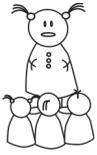
- What punishment had God already meted out on the Southern Kingdom? (Countries and cities were destroyed and burned)
- What did Isaiah see near the throne in his dream? (Angels)
- What did the angel do with the burning coal?



Timeline of Israel

Isaiah was a prophet of the Southern kingdom, Judah. We find him on the timeline in 741 BC. He was an active prophet especially during the reign of King Hezekiah.

Let's find ISAIAH's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

Isaiah had to warn people that they would be punished for their sins.

- What do you think that the glowing coal and the fire on Isaiah's lips, signifies?
- Can we impress God? (No).
- How can we try to please God? (With our good works.)



Life Lesson

Do you know what it means that God is holy? Holy means that God is completely different from humans. He can not commit sin. We serve a wonderful God. God wants our words, thoughts and deeds to be directed towards honouring Him.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord, we pray for reverence and respect for You. We want to be sincere in our love to You.

Amen



Munchie fun!

"Fireballs" (to remind us of the coal that touched Isaiah's mouth)



Creative activity

Worksheet of a throne. Paint the throne with yellow paint or crayons, paste sequins on and cover the throne with glitter, to represent the throne of the Lord in Isaiah's dream.



Bible verse of the week

Isaiah 1: 18 (b)

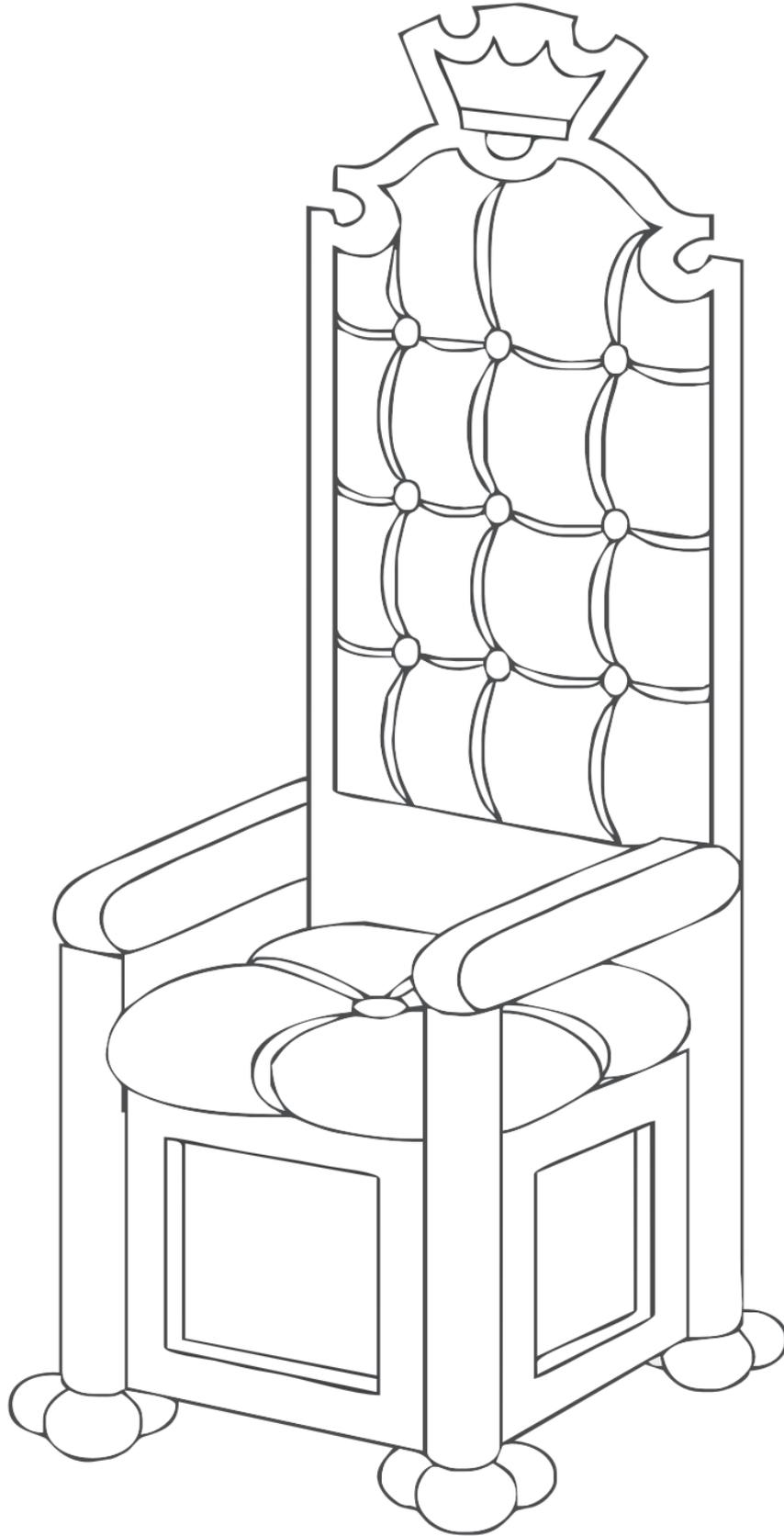
"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."



Just for fun!

In this story Isaiah had a dream. Guess what? Teacher also dreamt something, but I can't remember the exact dream. Will you please help me finish my dream? You can say for example, I dreamt: "There was a huge eagle" The next child must add a sentence to the dream. Each child gets a turn to add something. The last one has to finish off the dream.

Isaiah



Hezekiah

19



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Kings 20: 1- 21



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Hezekiah
Crayons
A large wall clock
Watches - jelly sweets
Puzzle (see: Just for fun)



Lesson Content

Hezekiah was a king of the Southern Kingdom, Judah.

During his reign, he suddenly became very ill. The prophet Isaiah was called and he gave Hezekiah a message from God: "You will die, Hezekiah! Give your family your last wishes before you die! "

Hezekiah wept bitterly and earnestly prayed to the Lord.

Isaiah was not even out of the city, when he received another message from God. "Go back to Hezekiah, I have a new message for him!" Isaiah had to tell Hezekiah that God had answered his prayer, and had decided to heal him. He would recover from his illness so quickly that he would be able to visit the temple in two days' time to worship God! Hezekiah's lifespan would be extended by 15 years and his people would be saved from the king of Assyria's oppression. What good news for Hezekiah!

Isaiah went back and gave God's new message to Hezekiah. He asked for a cake of figs to put on Hezekiah's boils. And the king was healed right there! Hezekiah told Isaiah to please ask the Lord to give him a sign that he would be well enough to go to the temple in two days' time.

Isaiah said, well, God will give the following sign: "Do you want the shadows on the steps to go forwards or backwards?" (It meant that God would be moving the sun – and therefore the time - forwards or backwards!) Hezekiah chose that the shadows should move backwards. And God did just that! He made it "earlier" in the day!

A king of Babylon had sent letters and gifts to Hezekiah because he had heard of his grave illness. Hezekiah showed these messengers his entire palace, the treasures and armories, and his store rooms. The prophet Isaiah then told Hezekiah: "There will be a time that all of your treasures will be carried off to Babylon. Even your children will be kidnapped and taken to Babylon." Hezekiah accepted this word of God. "If only my time was a time of peace and security," he sighed to Isaiah, "I would be content."

15 years later Hezekiah died and his son Menasse reigned in Judah after him.



Questions for clever little ears

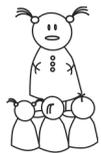
- What happened to Hezekiah? (He got sick).
- What did Isaiah put on Hezekiah's boils?
- What sign of the restoration of his health did Hezekiah receive from God?



Timeline of Israel

Hezekiah was a king of the Southern Kingdom. We find him on the timeline in 728 BC.

Let's find HEZEKIAH's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Prayer can change God's mind, never think that prayer is powerless!
- If we pray, we must accept God's will. Do you think all people believe this? Why not?
- Can your bad example lead other friends astray?



Life Lesson

What we do has an impact on others. Our sin affects other people. Hezekiah's disobedience in boasting to the messengers about his wealth, would later lead to his people's captivity in Babylon.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, in Your name everything is possible! We honour You and sing Your praises.
Amen



Munchie fun!

Use a large clock. What time is it? And now? Is it earlier or later? Use the hour hand for the young kids, and make it more difficult for the bigger kids.
Give everyone a "jelly-watch sweet".



Creative activity

Worksheet of a watch. Draw in the time of the day that you were born at. If you don't know, just guess.



Bible verse of the week

2 Kings 20:5

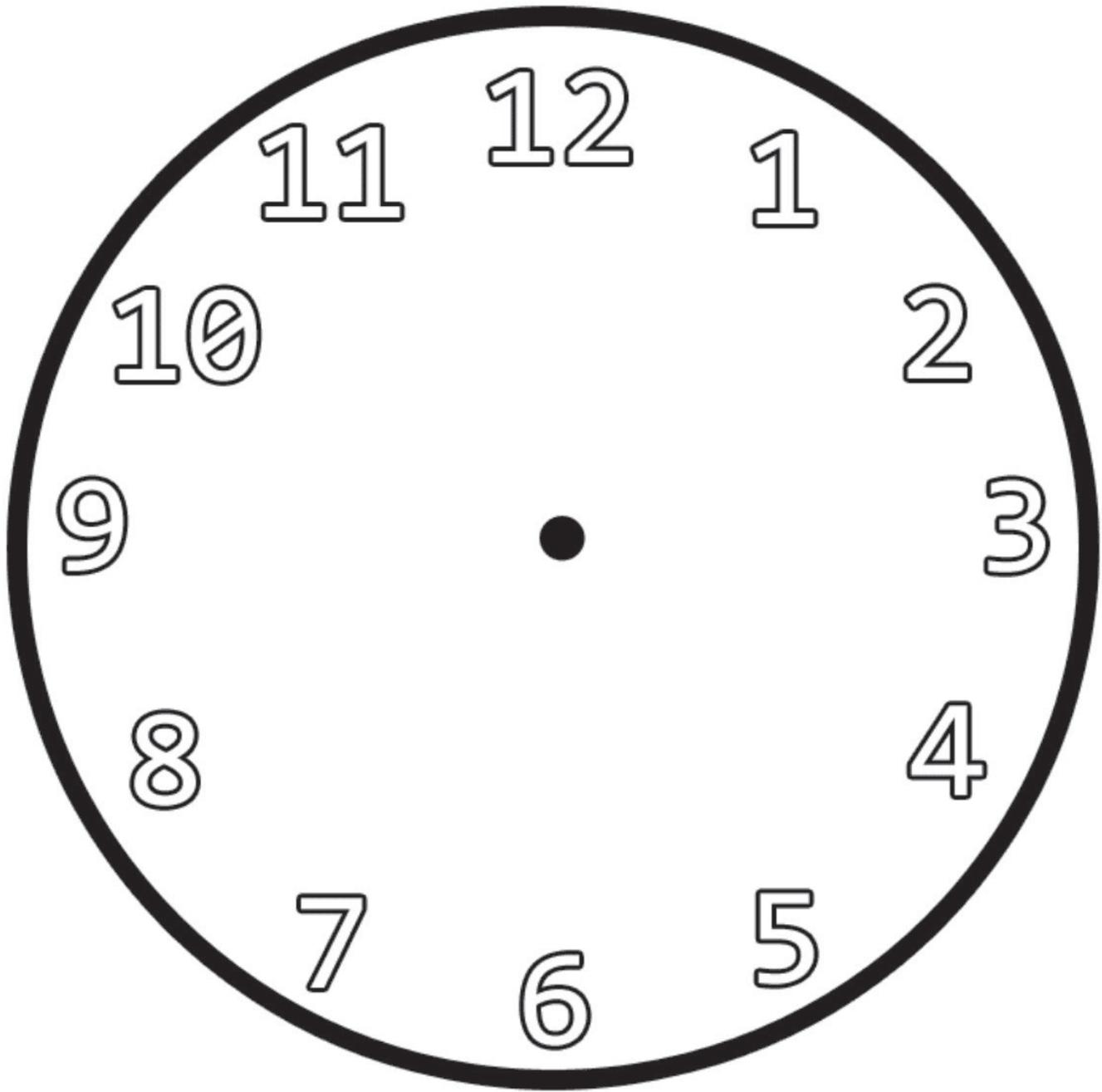
"Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the Lord.'"



Just for fun!

Make a pattern of a puzzle on cardboard and cut it out. Each child gets a puzzle piece that he/she has to write something positive on. At the end of the lesson we build the puzzle together to show that every child has made a positive contribution to the group!

Hezekiah



Josiah

20



Prepared reading for the teacher

2 Kings 22 – 23: 30



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Josiah
Crayons
Stickers



Lesson Content

Josiah was a king of the Southern Kingdom, Judah.

He was only 8 years old when he became king. His mother's name was Jedidah and his father was king Amon. Josiah was a child of God.

One day, when he was 18 years old, he sent someone to the high priest, Hilkiah, to fetch the money that the guards collected at the temple doors. This money was used to pay the workers that were restoring the House of the Lord.

The priest informed king Josiah that while working and cleaning up, God's law book had been found in the temple. This law book was brought to the king. After the king had read the law book, he tore his clothes out of sadness. Josiah knew now that God was angry with Judah and that they were not obeying His laws.

King Josiah send his men to a prophet named Gulda, to ask for advice. She confirmed that disaster would strike Judah because of their sinful ways. King Josiah, a true king, was remorseful and so sad about the terrible sins he'd read about in the book. He now knew his people were committing sin against the Lord Almighty.

God saw king Josiah's remorse and therefor decided to allow him to die in peace before any bad tidings fell on Judah. Josiah called all the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem together for a meeting. Before these people he promised to follow God with all his heart.

Josiah further ordered that everything that bought honor to Baal and Asherah (idols), or any other idol in the temple, had to be burnt. All altars used for other gods had to be destroyed! Statues idolising the sun were chopped up. King Josiah condemned and destroyed each and every image, statue or symbol that encouraged the worship of false idols.

Then the king ordered the people to celebrate the Passover in honour of God, as God's law book required them to do. During his reign, Josiah tried to meet all the conditions that were written in God's codes and His law book.

Josiah was a good king and God really loved him.



Questions for clever little ears

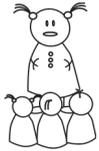
- How old was Josiah when he became king?
- Why was the king sad when he read the code/law book?
- What did he do then? What happened to the idols?



Timeline of Israel

Josiah was a king of the Southern Kingdom. We find him on the timeline in 639 BC..

Let's find JOSIAH's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you always know the rules of games?
- What happens if you know the rules and you still don't follow them? (Others would not play with you; you would be pushed away and accused of cheating)
- Do we know all God's rules today? Where do we get these rules? (The Bible)
- Is it always easy to obey God's rules?



Life Lesson

Josiah's life teaches us that the Bible is the most important book in our lives. Not only did Josiah read the law book, he obeyed it completely. We must read the Bible and do what it says.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord, thank you for the many religious God-loving people in our country. Lord, please let all believers be full of courage and positive about our country's future.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Read the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) to the children. These are our rules that we must believe in and obey. Older children can try to memorise it if they like. Read a line, and then a chosen child has to try and continue with the next line. If they are correct, they get a reward (something small like stickers or a treat). Continue till everybody has had a turn. (You can repeat the commandments over and over.)



Creative activity

Decorate the worksheet of Josiah. These are the most important rules of God. Paste it in your room and contemplate these rules.



Bible verse of the week

2 Kings 23: 25

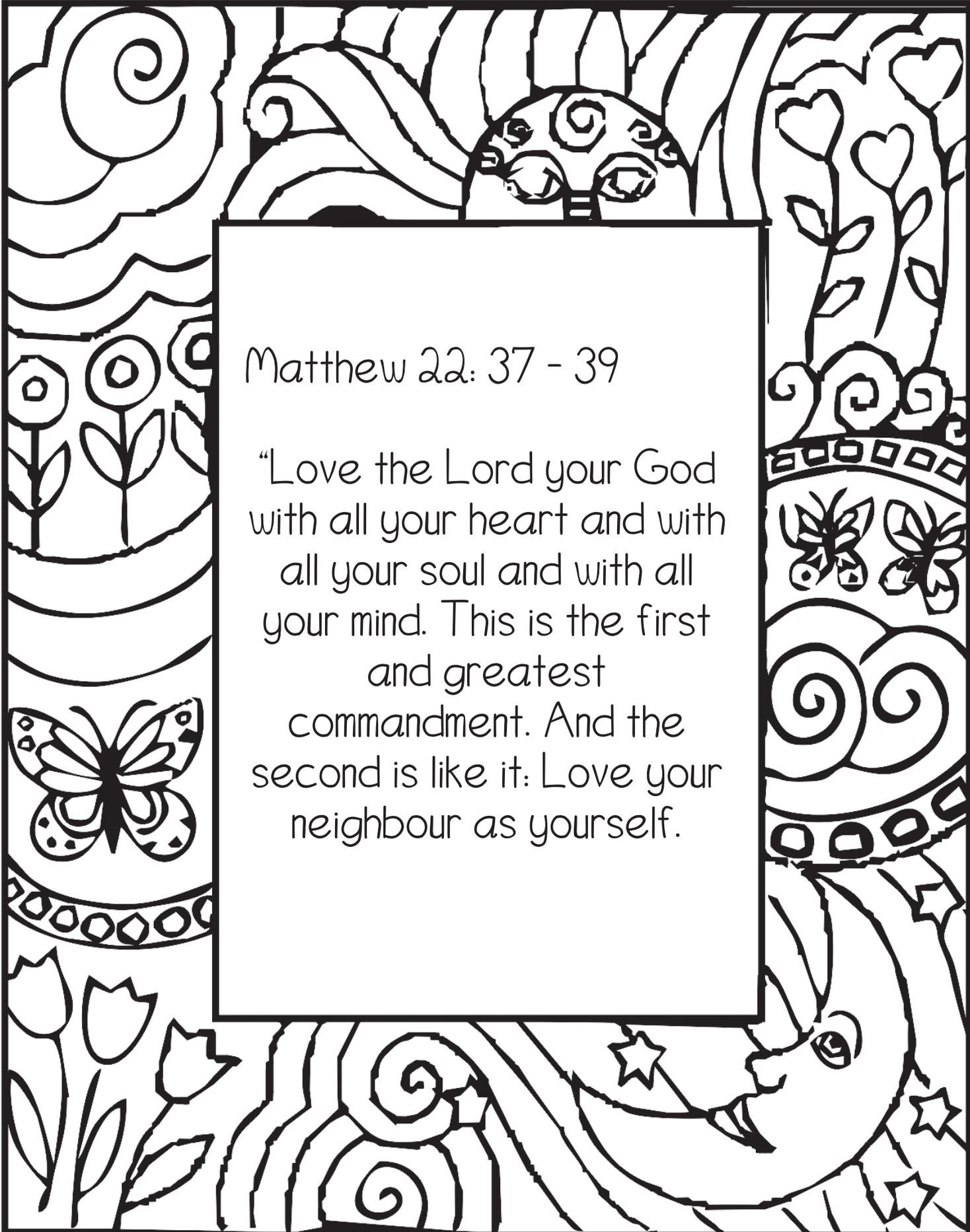
"Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did - with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses."



Just for fun!

Divide children into two groups. Children stand beside each other in a row. Let them all face the same direction. Put your hand on the friend next to yours' stomach and say: HA! This person then puts his/her hand on the stomach next to his and says: HA! HA! Keep it up, go down the row and add a new "HA" every time. If anyone gets confused or starts laughing too much, start again. The first group to finish, wins.

Josiah



Matthew 22: 37 - 39

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

Jeremiah

21



Prepared reading for the teacher

Jeremiah 1, 2 and 24



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Jeremiah
Paint in a shallow bowl.
Figs



Lesson Content

Jeremiah was a prophet of the Southern kingdom, Judah.

He lived and worked in Judah when Josiah was king. During Josiah's 13th year of reigning, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. Jeremiah belonged to God even before his birth, but he was still a bit afraid to take action as a prophet. He felt he was too young and couldn't really talk well. God assured him that he did not have to be afraid, as the Lord would be with him every step of the way. Jeremiah had a dream and in the dream God put His hand on Jeremiah's mouth and said, "Now you have God's words in your mouth!"

"What do you see Jeremiah?" God asked? In his dream Jeremiah saw the branch of an almond tree. This was God's sign that He would do what He said. "What do you see now Jeremiah?" God continued. Jeremiah saw a boiling pot falling over in the north. It was God's sign that a disaster would befall the Northern kingdom. The people of Judah would also be punished for their sins and all their worshipping of false idols. Jeremiah's task was to inform Judah about what God had told him. God reminds Jeremiah that He is on his side and that he does not need to be afraid. God couldn't believe that His people could call a piece of wood or stone 'My Father.' Only when things went wrong, did they call on the true God.

Jeremiah also had another dream: There were two baskets of figs in the temple. One basket was full of delicious figs, another basket was full of rotten figs, so rotten that you could not even eat it. God likened the exiles (those who were stolen and abducted away from Judah to Babylon) to the good figs. God would look out for these people and bring them back to Israel. The rest of the people of Judah were like the bad figs. God would let war, famine and pestilence loose amongst them until they were exterminated.

It was very difficult for Jeremiah, as a prophet, to have to tell all these bad things to the people, but he told everything, just as God had told him in his dreams.



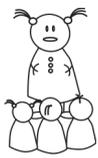
Questions for clever little ears

- When did God choose Jeremiah? (Even before his birth!)
- What kinds of idols did the people pray to? (Wood and stone sculptures)
- Was Jeremiah's work easy or difficult?



Timeline of Israel

Jeremiah was a prophet of the Southern Kingdom, Judah. We find him on the timeline in 626 BC, especially during the reign of Josiah. Jeremiah announces the end of the Southern kingdom and the return of the Israelites from Babylon.



Let's find JEREMIAH's place on the timeline of Israel.

Points for Discussion

Bad news is hard to tell, but sometimes we have to.

- How old must you be before you can tell people about God?
- Can only ministers, pastors and great people talk about God? Why not?
- What can you do if someone quizzes you about Jesus and Christianity? (Trust in God to give you the right answers. Read your Bible in order to gain more knowledge)



Life Lesson

Jeremiah couldn't turn the heart of his nation Israel back to God! Nobody wanted to listen to him. Not all people want to hear what we have to say, but even so, we should never stop testifying about Jesus. The Holy Spirit will lay words in our mouths.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, at times we find it very difficult to openly confess our faith in You. Make us strong in our faith and mighty in our testimonies!
Amen



Munchie fun!

Allow the children to taste figs. Who has eaten a bad fruit? It's horrible, isn't it? Tell them about figs and how it was a sign of affluence in old Israel.



Creative activity

Worksheet of two feet. Put your feet in paint and make prints on top of the other tracks. Like the prints, God's "footprints" will always shadow you.



Bible verse of the week

Jeremiah 1: 5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."



Just for fun!

Put all the children's names in a hat. Take out five names and those children must answer the following questions. (If there is time left, get another 5 names.)

- If you could have any kind of food to eat every day, what would it be?
- If you could choose to be an animal, what would you choose and why?

Jeremiah



Habakkuk

22



Prepared reading for the teacher

Habakkuk 1 - 3: 19



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Habakkuk
Modeling clay
Olives



Lesson Content

Habakkuk was a prophet of the Southern kingdom, Judah.

He was a prophet of the living God. Habakkuk earnestly prayed to God as it seemed to him as if none of the really bad people were being punished. Everywhere in Israel there was strife and fighting; oppression and violence. How was this possible without retribution? God answered Habakkuk, and said that a very cruel race, the Chaldeans, were being sent to punish Judah. "Don't you worry about sinners being punished Habakkuk, God is in control."

The Chaldeans' horses could apparently run faster than leopards and were fiercer than hungry wolves. They would destroy Israel.

God told Habakkuk that those people, the righteous ones, would live. Habakkuk wrote God's message on clay tablets (explain to children what that was), so that the people could read it and know the truth about their sins.

God especially warned Habakkuk against people who had become rich in dishonest ways, who committed murders and those who made other people drunk.

God also warned that people should not trust in idols. How could a wooden statue say: "Awake" or a stone, "Arise?" You can't trust a picture or learn something from an idol.

Even though times were bad for Judah, Habakkuk still rejoiced in God. He praised God without ceasing.



Questions for clever little ears

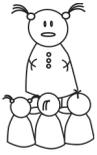
- What did Habakkuk pray about to God? (He thought bad people weren't being punished.)
- What message did God want Habakkuk to relay to the people of Judah?
- Was Habakkuk discouraged at the end? (No, he still rejoiced, even though circumstances were bad.)



Timeline of Israel

Habakkuk was a prophet of the Southern kingdom, Judah. We find him on the timeline in 602 BC, during the reign of King Jehoiakim.

Let's find HABAKKUK's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Has things ever been bad for you or your family / relatives? In what way?
- Do you love God more during prosperous times? Why / not?
- Do bad things only happen to bad people?



Life Lesson

Habakkuk taught us that no matter how bad things are for you, or how bad things are in your country, God is still in control. Praise God!



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that we do not have to worry about the punishment of sinners. You will judge them. Let us rather be glad for the kindness You show towards those that you love.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Give them olives to eat (Habakkuk says... "though the olive harvest failed..")



Creative activity

Use modeling clay to form a cross on our worksheet. Habakkuk wrote God's message to the people on clay tablets.



Bible verse of the week

Habakkuk 2: 4

"See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness."



Just for fun!

Read Habakkuk 3: 17-19. Let the kids repeat it after you like a poem.

Habakkuk



Rejoice in Jesus

Nebuchadnezzar

23



Prepared reading for the teacher

Daniel 1 - 3



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheets of Nebuchadnezzar
Scissors (for younger children, please cut it out)
Crayons, Pins and Glue
"Fireball" candy



Lesson Content

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon, the king who caused the demise and downfall of the Southern Kingdom of the Israelites.

Nebuchadnezzar ordered that all the best and brightest young men of the exiles from Israel be brought to his palace. For a period of three years these young men had the opportunity to receive teaching and training in his palace. They would even eat the same food as the king. Four of these young exiles were friends, they were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, but the palace in Babylon had other official names for them: Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Daniel refused to eat the king's food and asked permission to eat his own food. The king's servant feared his reprisal and told Daniel: "It's okay with me, but if you are physically any worse looking than the other young men because you're not eating the same food, I'm in trouble." Daniel asked him for a 10 day trial. After that, the servant could make his decision. Daniel and his friends ate only vegetables and drank water. After 10 days, the four friends looked healthier and more handsome than the other young exiles did!

God was with Daniel and He gave him the wisdom to interpret dreams. Daniel and his friends were 10 times smarter than any of the king's magicians and fortune tellers.

As God would have it, the king had a dream. He was worried that his fortune tellers would lie about the meaning of the dream and so he said that they first had to tell him what he had dreamed about, and then to explain the dream's meaning! Nobody could do it! In a fit of pique, the king ordered that all his workers be killed! Daniel and his friends would also be killed. Daniel then prayed to God and God told him what the king had dreamt about and also what the interpretation of the dream was.

The king dreamed of a big statue. The statue was very large and shiny. The head was of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and hips of bronze, the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay mixed. A stone struck the statue on its feet and the whole statue shattered. All of the minerals were ground to dust and the wind blew it away. The stone had become a large rock that somehow filled the whole earth.

The dream meant that Nebuchadnezzar, the king, symbolised the golden head of the statue. After him, the kingdoms that followed would not be as rich or important (these

were the silver and bronze parts). The “iron” kingdom would finally crush everything. The feet signified a divided kingdom. God would eventually set up a kingdom that could never be destroyed (the rock).

King Nebuchadnezzar was impressed and bowed deeply to Daniel after hearing the interpretation of his dream. The king then paid respect to Daniel by lavishing him with great gifts and instating him as the leader of a whole province.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar commissioned that a gold statue be made. He ordered the whole kingdom to bow before the statue. Whoever did not bow and worship this statue, would immediately be cast into a blazing furnace. Some of the palace informers told the king that Daniel’s friends were not worshipping the statue. The king turned white with rage and ordered that the furnace be heated up 7 x hotter than it usually was. Daniel’s three friends were tied up and flung into the big, hot oven. The furnace was so hot that the three soldiers nearest to the oven burnt to death just from coming close to it. But Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were placidly sitting inside the furnace with their clothes on. From far away the king watched four men freely move inside the oven. Who was the fourth person? Maybe an angel from God?

Then the king called out to the three friends and they emerged out of the oven. The king and his men saw that the oven had not even singed the hair on their heads. You could not even smell smoke or fire on their clothes!

Nebuchadnezzar was in awe and he made a law that any person who did not worship the true God, would be dismembered and their houses would be destroyed. The king saw to it that every need of Daniel and his three friends in Babylon were taken care of.



Questions for clever little ears

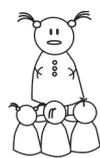
- What was the king’s name?
- How do you know that the fire was really hot?
- Who do you think the 4th person, along with three friends in the oven, was?



Timeline of Israel

Nebuchadnezzar was king of the Babylonians. He caused the end of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, and carried them away in captivity to Babylon. We find him on the timeline in 586 BC.

Let’s find NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Is it easy to serve God?
- Have you ever been afraid to tell someone that you are a child of God?
- What do Christians in countries like Afghanistan do when they know they will be killed if they serve God?
- Does God ever save these people?



Life Lesson

Daniel and his friends were willing to commit their lives to the Lord and to worship His name. They were not afraid to die, because they knew that God would save them.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for protection when we need it. You are amazing!
Amen



Munchie fun!

“Fire balls” to eat. It was really hot in that furnace – hotter than any fireball!



Creative activity

Activity 1

Help Nebuchadnezzar to find his way out of the fire.

Activity 2

Worksheet of Daniel's friends. Cut and paste all the parts together to form the furnace.



Bible verse of the week

Daniel 2: 20

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.”



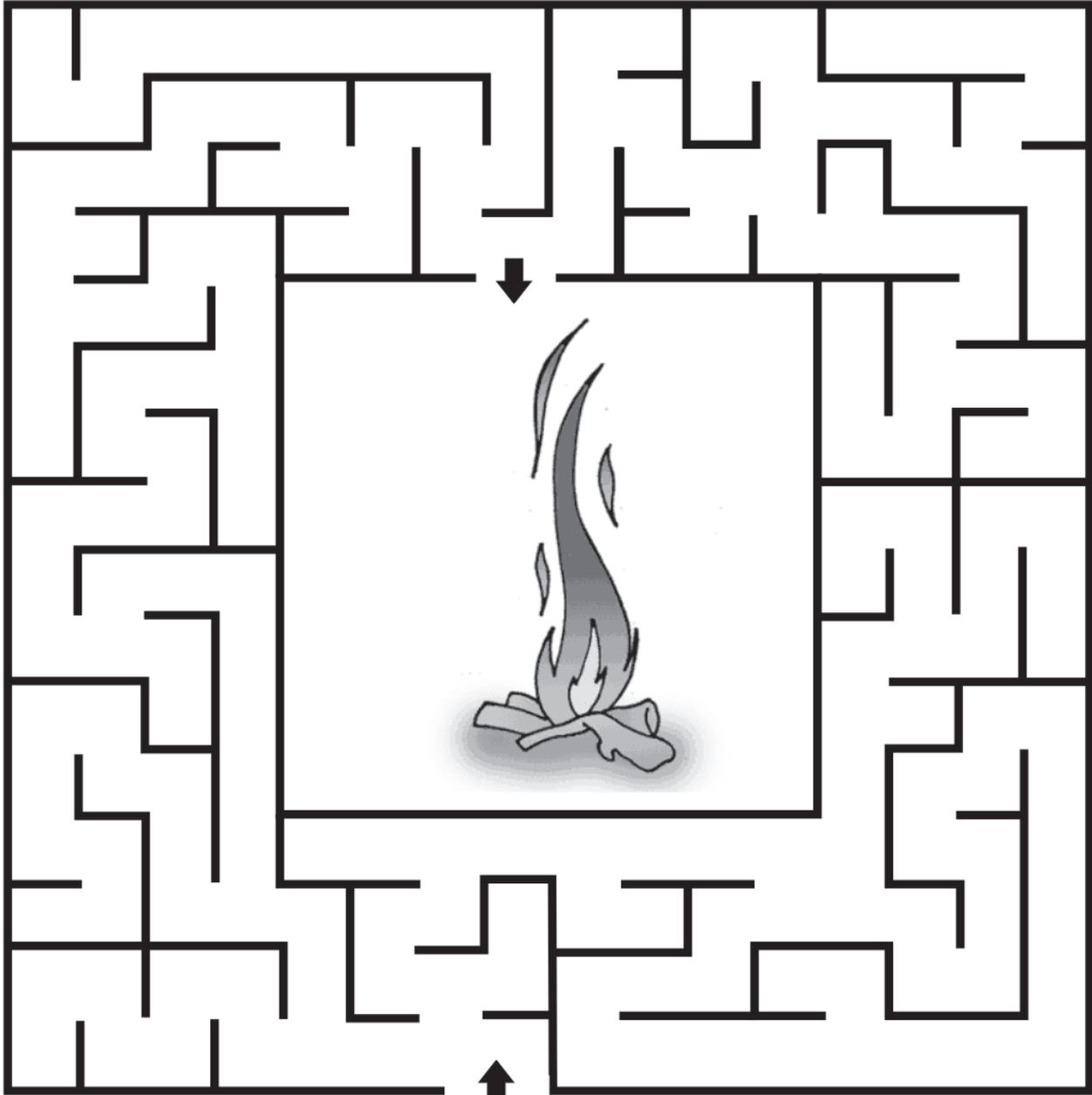
Just for fun!

Today we are going to play a “silent” game. Divide children into groups. Each group gets a card that they have to act out. They can all participate or groups can select specific participants. The cards can say things like:

- You have just won the lottery
- You have just got engaged
- You are very in love with someone
- You just ran into a bear in the woods

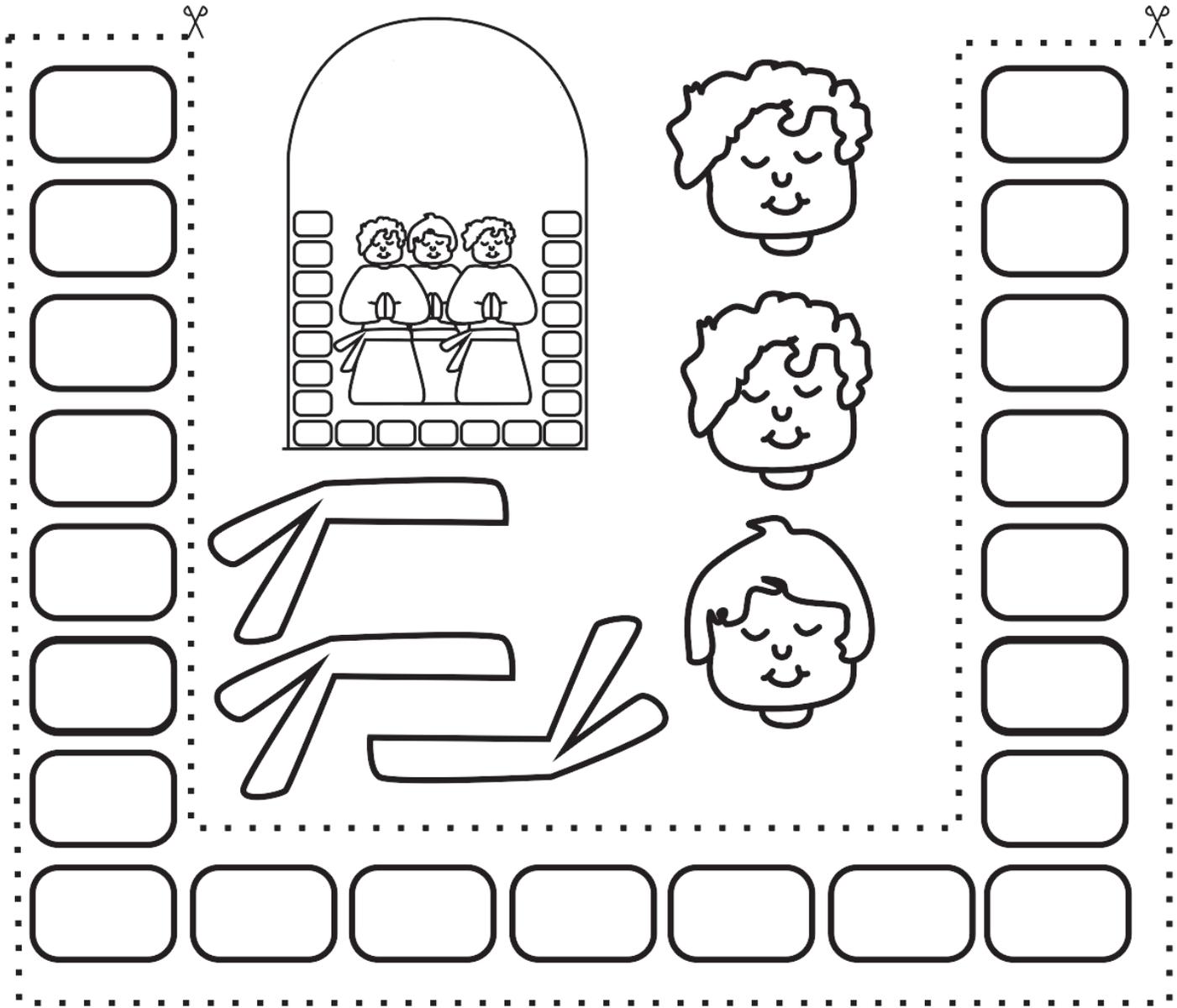
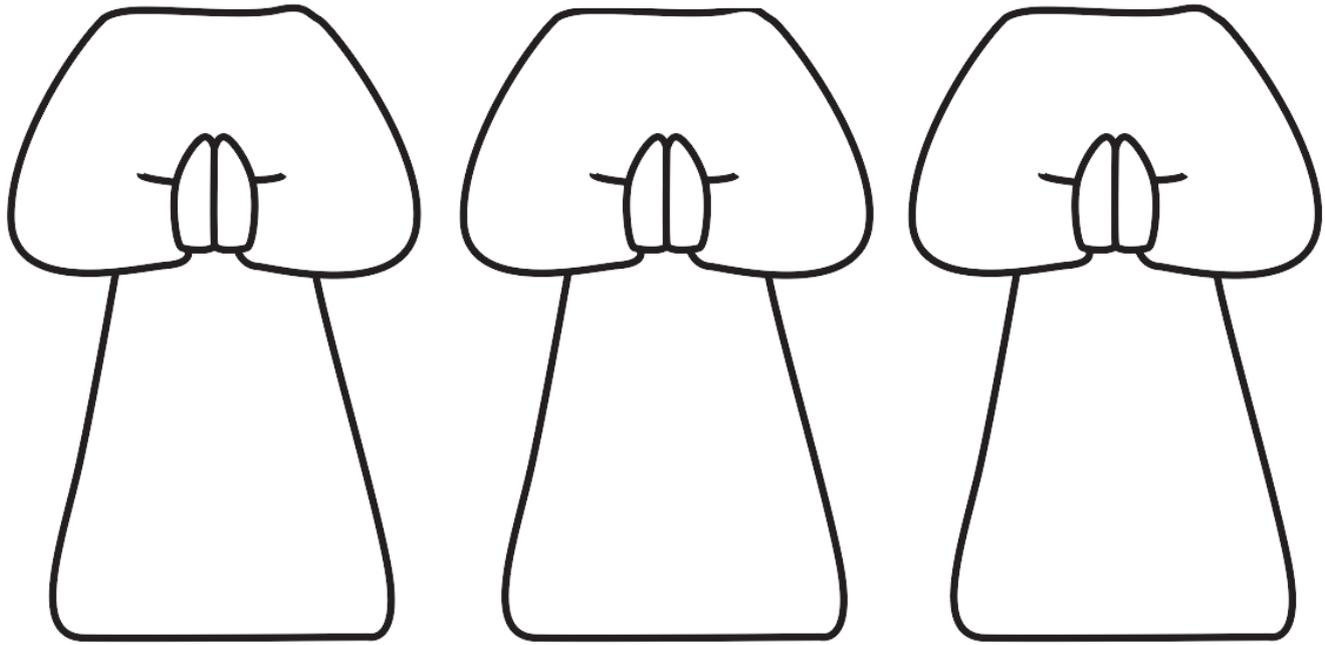
They have to try and act out the scenario on the card, and other groups should try to guess what they're doing. If they guess correctly, it's another group's turn.

Nebuchadnezzar



Activity 1

Nebuchadnezzar



Activity 2

I Glorify God

Ezekiel

24



Prepared reading for the teacher

Ezekiel 1: 1 - 28



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of a storm

Cotton wool (which might be darkened with blue powder paint that you can sprinkle on)

Tinfoil

Glue

Honey



Lesson Content

Ezekiel was a priest of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, during their captivity in Babylon.

Ezekiel was the son of Buzi. His remarks and prophecies were directed at the exiles, but also at the people who remained back home in Judah and Jerusalem. Even though things were hard for the people, they continued to sin and did not turn to God for advice and guidance. Ezekiel stressed that people should be accountable for their deeds before God.

Ezekiel had a dream that a great storm had arrived out of the north. There were flames and lightning, and a glowing light that looked like white metal. From this white light four angels appeared. These angels resembled men, but each had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, but their feet were like cows' hooves. In between their four wings, they had human hands. The upper wings touched each other but with the lower wings of the angels they covered their bodies. All four angels were moving straight ahead. The angels' faces were strange. The first one looked like a man, the right one like a lion, the left like a bull and the one at the back like an eagle.

These angels also shone with bright light from head to toe. Ezekiel saw that each angel had a wheel on the ground besides it. The wheels looked like they were decorated with the finest gemstones, the wheels were exactly alike. On the outside of the four wheels were eyes all around. When the angels moved, the eyes moved with them. Above the angels' heads, there was an arch that shone like an iceberg. This dream felt very real and vivid, Ezekiel even imagined that he could hear the beating of the angel's wings. It sounded like the sound of a strong current, the noise that a crowd of people gathered together will make or the sound of soldiers marching. Above the arch over the angels' heads was something like a throne made out of sapphires (a blue precious stone.).

A phenomenon that almost looked human was sitting on the throne. From this figure's waist upward, there was a glare like glowing white metal. From his waist downwards, the glow looked like fire with a bright sheen. The glamour surrounding this creature was like a rainbow. When Ezekiel saw this dream, he fell flat on his face because he realised that the being on top of the throne was God.

A voice commanded Ezekiel to stand up. The voice started talking and told Ezekiel to go to the Israelites, and not to fear them. The figure gave Ezekiel a scroll. This scroll was filled

with lamentations and sorrowful songs. In his dream Ezekiel had to eat the book! Fortunately, it tasted as sweet as honey.

Ezekiel had to go to Israel and tell those stubborn people that their sinning was wrong! He had to keep fighting and continue to testify of God's greatness even though it would be a difficult job to do.

What a vivid, weird dream!



Questions for clever little ears

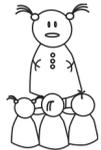
- What was the prophet in this story's name?
- What did the book roll that he had to eat in the story taste like?
- Was it an easy job that God gave him?
- What was this "work?"



Timeline of Israel

Ezekiel was a priest of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, during their captivity. God made Ezekiel a prophet. We find him on the timeline in 597 BC, during the exile in Babylonia.

Let's find EZEKIEL's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

Sometimes it's difficult to minister to others about God, but even if it is difficult, we should never give up.

- Why do you want people to obey the Lord?
- In the Bible book of Ezekiel, the Lord tells Ezekiel that if he does not warn the people about their evil deeds, the Lord himself would hold Ezekiel responsible. Do you think this is fair?



Life Lesson

God tells Ezekiel that if Israel's hearts are as hard as stone, God will soften them again. We believe that Jesus can change anyone's heart.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we pray that all sinners would turn to you. Make us confident enough to minister without cease about Your wonders.

Amen



Munchie fun!

We're tasting honey today! The scroll that Ezekiel had to eat tasted like honey.



Creative activity

Worksheet of a storm. Paste on the wool "clouds" and make lightning out of the tinfoil. God will protect us in any storm.



Bible verse of the week

Ezekiel 2: 6

"And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people."



Just for fun!

Divide the class into smaller groups. This game's name is "one truth and one lie". Every child needs to say one thing that is true and one thing that is false about themselves. The rest of the group must decide which is the lie. Once everyone in the group has had a chance to guess, people can confess what their truths and lies really are. Try to make it difficult!

Ezekiel



Belshazzar

25



Prepared reading for the teacher

Daniel 5



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Belshazzar

Tinfoil

Sequins

Glue

Jelly hand sweets

Pens

Paper



Lesson Content

During the exile of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, to Babylon, Belshazzar was king of the Babylonians.

One day King Belshazzar held a huge feast for all his compatriots and workers. There were a thousand people attending the feast, and King Belshazzar was having a grand time. Everyone was eating and drinking wine. When he was eventually drunk from all the wine, he sent someone to fetch the golden and silver cups that the previous king (Nebuchadnezzar) had stolen and carried away to Babylon, from the temple in Jerusalem. His wives, his guests and himself resumed their drinking from these sacred cups. As they drank, they praised the gods of gold, silver and bronze!

Suddenly, a person's enormous hand appeared against the palace walls and started writing. The king saw the hand writing. He became pale and was terrified. His legs trembled and he was almost paralyzed with fear. King Belshazzar called for all his fortune tellers and astrologers. He did not know what the mysterious hand on the wall was writing and he WANTED to know!

The one who could tell Belshazzar what was written there, would receive the king's clothes and a valuable necklace around his neck. He would also receive the third rank in the kingdom. None of the fortune tellers knew what the writing on the wall meant though. Now the king was even more scared! The queen, however, remembered Daniel (Belteshazzar). He had interpreted dreams for King Nebuchadnezzar (the former king of Babylon).

Daniel was immediately brought to the king. If he could say what was written, he would get the king's clothes, a gold chain for his neck and the third rank in the kingdom. Daniel wanted none of these gifts, but he did start reading the message out loud: "The former king, Nebuchadnezzar, used to have the power and glory and honor. All nations before him trembled. However, he was haughty and arrogant and lost his kingdom. At the end of his life he had to live with wild animals; live and eat grass like cattle! King Nebuchadnezzar finally recognized that God had all the power. But Belshazzar, you have learned nothing from your father! You were arrogant towards God and mocked Him!

This is what was written against the wall: "Counted, counted, weighed and divided." And that means God has counted the years of your (Belshazzar) reign and plans to end it now. Belshazzar was weighed by God and found wanting. His kingdom would be divided between the Medes and Persians.

Although Daniel did not want the gifts, king Belshazzar gave him clothes, he also gave him a gold chain and bestowed the third most powerful position (job) in the kingdom on him. But it was too late..... that night, King Belshazzar was killed.



Questions for clever little ears

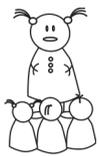
- What do you think King Belshazzar did wrong?
- Whose hands wrote on the wall?
- What does the word "split up" mean?
- What was king Belshazzar's punishment?



Timeline of Israel

Belshazzar was king of the Babelonians. He was the successor of King Nebuchadnezzar. We find him on the timeline in 549 BC, during the exile of the Southern Kingdom, Judah.

Let's find BELSHAZZAR's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- For the Israelites those were holy temple cups. Do you think a thing (object) can be holy?
- What happens if you mock someone? (That person usually feels bad)
- Why do Christians believe you're not allowed to use God's name in vain? (In the movies they say, "Oh my God!" Christians believe you must have reverence for God)



Life Lesson

The Lord must not be mocked. You must have respect for God.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we sometimes do not have enough respect and fear for You. Make us humble and submissive to You, we beg You, please.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Jelly sweets of hands. It can remind us of the hand that wrote against the wall.



Creative activity

Worksheet with temple cups. Glue aluminum foil and sequins onto the cups to indicate that it was made of metal.



Bible verse of the week

Daniel 5: 25

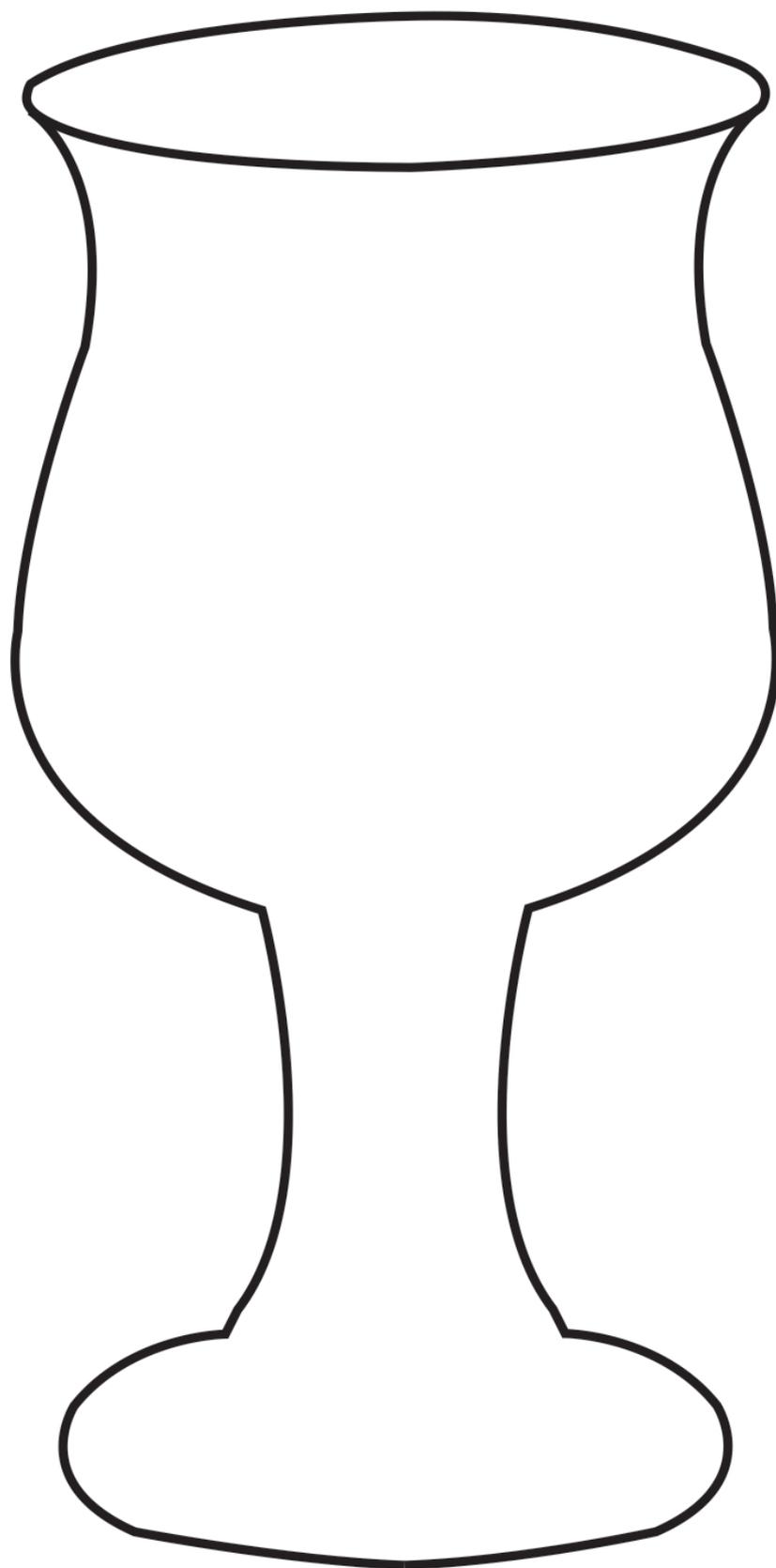
"This is the inscription that was written: mene, mene, tekel, parsin. These are the words written, numbered, counted, weighed and divided."



Just for fun!

Each child gets a pen and paper. You need to go to as many friends as you can, lightly pinch them on the nose, and ask: What is your name? The partner then gives you a pinch on the nose and say: My name is.... If you have a name, you should write it on your list. This can be very funny! If the teacher says the time is up, see who has the most names on their lists. You are then the winner!

Belshazzar



Zechariah

26



Prepared reading for the teacher

Zechariah 1 - 6



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Zechariah

Old candles - enough for each child to have one

Matches

Olives



Lesson Content

Zechariah was a prophet of God during the period just before and after the return of the Israelites from their exile in Babylon.

He had a lot of visions (dreams) about how Jerusalem would be rebuilt, the new temple and the coming of Christ. Zechariah was the son of Berechiah. King Darius was king of Judah during his lifetime.

Zechariah's first dream was of a man on a brown horse. The rider was in a deep ravine, and behind him were other riders on brown, red-brown and white horses. The dream meant that God had sent people out to explore the world. They were God's messengers, and they reported that the world was calm and quiet. The Lord said to Zechariah in this dream that Jerusalem and the temple would be built up again.

The second dream Zechariah had was of four horns. It was the horns that had made Judah, Jerusalem and Israel scatter. There were also four artisans (tradesmen). The artisans were in conflict with the nations that stood up against Israel, (the four horns) and they conquered these nations.

The third dream was of a man with a measuring tape in hand. He told Zechariah, "I will divide Jerusalem to see how wide and how long it should be." In his dream angels said to one another that Jerusalem would have so many people and animals that this measuring would be unnecessary. The Lord would build a fire around Jerusalem to protect it.

In Zechariah's fourth dream he saw the priest, Joshua, standing before the angel of the Lord. To his right was the devil. The Lord said, "I will punish you, Satan!" The priest was wearing terribly dirty clothes. The angel then commanded his assistants: "Give him clean clothes, because his sins are forgiven." The priest even received a clean turban.

The fifth dream was of a golden candlestick. There was also a sump with 7 nozzles and 7 lamp wicks in each. Near the lamp were two olive trees. All this meant that only with the Spirit of the Almighty God, could man succeed in the world.

The sixth dream was of a scroll that floated in the air. It was very big - 9m long and 4.5 meters wide. It was a sign that all the bad people would have their sins written up.

The seventh dream was of a grain basket. Inside this basket was the sin of everyone on earth. When the heavy lid of the basket was lifted, there was a woman inside. Her name was "wickedness." And the angel was pushing her back and putting the heavy lid back on. Two women with wings flew to the basket and picked it up to take it away.

Zechariah's 8th dream was of four chariots parked between two mountains of brass. Before the first car was a brown horse and before the second car, a black one. For the third car there was a white horse and the fourth had a piebald (mixed white and black) horse. The chariots belonged to God. The carriages were all pointing into a different wind direction (north, south, east and west). They were the Spirit of God on earth.

What a lot of dreams Zechariah had!



Questions for clever little ears

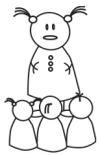
- Name one of Zechariah's dreams?
- What does this dream mean?
- What is another name for a dream from God? (A vision, says the Bible)
- Does Zecharia always clarify the meaning of his dreams?
- Why do you think he doesn't?



Timeline of Israel

Zechariah was a prophet in the period after the exile. We find him on the timeline in 520 BC, during the exile and during the reconstruction of the second temple.

Let's find ZECHARIAH's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you often dream?
- Do you think God speaks only in our dreams?
- Why was Jerusalem so important to the Jews? (This is where the temple was, and you could only speak to God in the temple.)



Life Lesson

For the Israelites the re-building of the temple was very important. After Jesus' arrival, we can pray to God from anywhere. Our body is now God's temple.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we want to pray for your kingdom on earth. Help the wicked to turn to You and help us to spread Your word around the nations.

Amen



Munchie fun!

We're eating olives, the same as in Zechariah's dreams. In which dream did he dream of olive trees?



Creative activity

Worksheet of a candleholder. Use old candles and drip them onto the candleholder's shape. Work carefully so that no one gets hurt. Each child gets a piece of candle to burn down and drip.



Bible verse of the week

Zechariah 1: 3

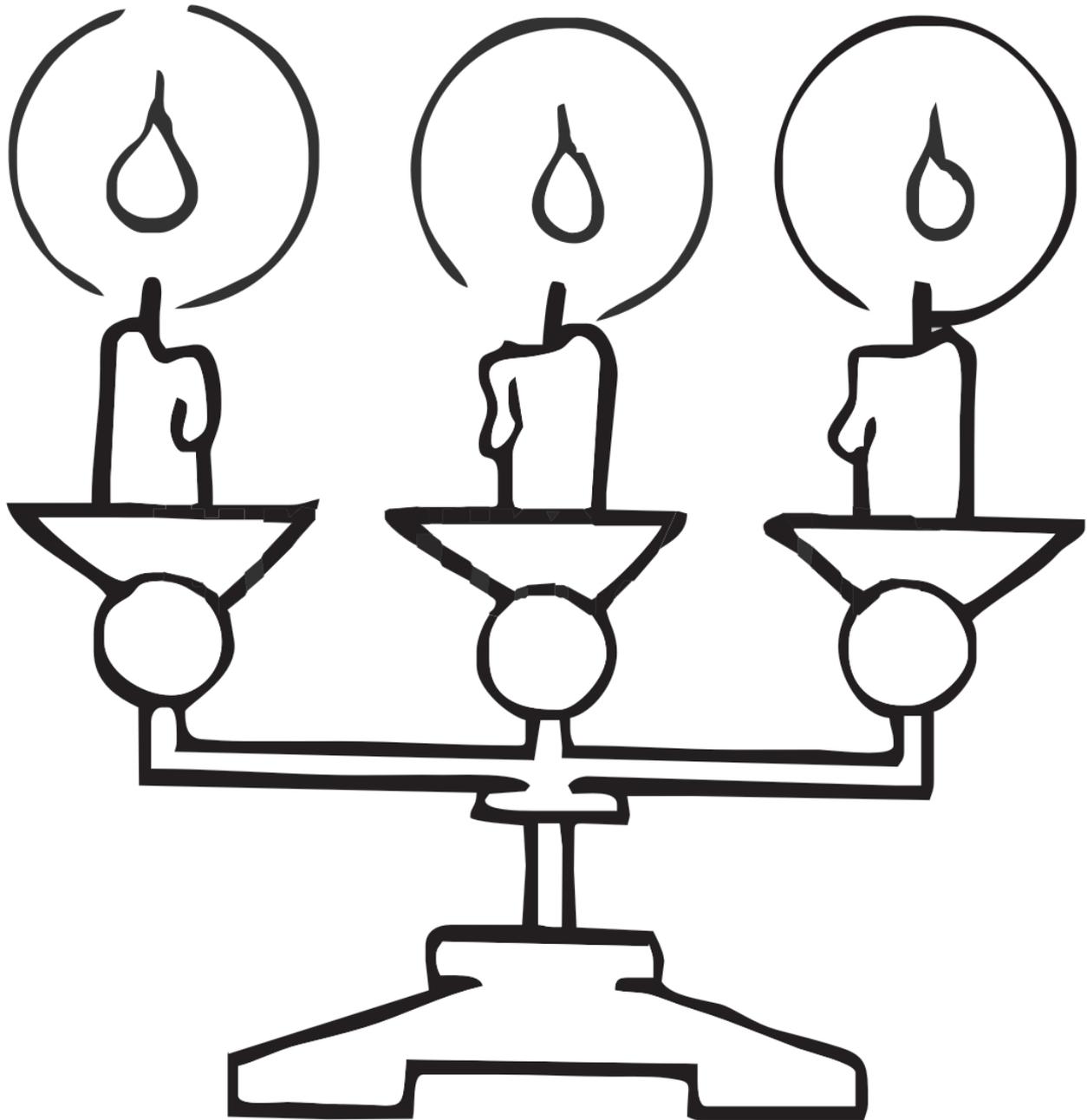
"Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty."



Just for fun!

Stand in a circle. Say your name and the name of a partner to whom you want to throw a ball. This person should say your name, his name and the partner to whom he wants to throw the ball. As the game gets going, it is increasingly difficult for everyone to remember all the names!

Zechariah



Esther

27



Prepared reading for the teacher

Ester 1 - 10



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Macaroni
Fishing line
Scissors
Bracelet / necklace sweets
Five straws



Lesson Content

Esther was a Jew and the queen of Persia and wife of king Xerxes. She saved the Jews from Haman.

King Ahasuerus invited all his employees and friends to a huge party that would continue for 180 days! His wife, Queen Vashti, was a very beautiful woman. The king wanted to show off to his guests with her presence, but she didn't want to join them. When she rejected him publicly, the king became so angry that he decided to search through out his kingdom for a new queen to replace Vashti.

All the pretty girls of the kingdom assembled and hoped to be chosen as the new queen. In the city of Shushan lived a Jew named Mordecai. He took care of the daughter of his uncle, as she was an orphan. Her name was Esther (or Hadassa, in Hebrew). Esther was also selected to go to the palace, but she remained silent about the fact that she was a Jew girl.

The king chose Esther above all the other girls. He put the crown on her head and made her his queen, instead of the old queen, Vashti. During this time, Mordecai (Esther's uncle), heard of two of the palace guards conspiring to kill the king. He told Esther about this, so that she could warn the king. She did, and the two thugs were caught. But Mordecai did not even get a "thank you" from the king.

Haman was the king's chief officer and he thought that he was a very important man. Everyone had to bow before Haman, but Mordecai, Esther's uncle, would only kneel before God, and disobeyed Haman's instruction. Haman was furious about this disregard and he decided not only to put Mordecai to death, but to kill all Jews out of revenge. Haman slyly convinced the king to be part of his evil plans for genocide. Letters were sent to all the provinces, stipulating which days Jews would be massacred. The letters made no discernment between young and old, men, women and children. The Jews were sad, helpless and defeated. They wept in frustration. Esther also heard the terrible news.

One rule that the king was very strict about, was that you were only allowed to approach him if he called you over. If you just showed up to talk to him, you were usually killed. The only exception was when the king, when approached, pointed his scepter to a person, in that case your live would be spared. Esther wanted to speak to the king about the

coming genocide, but she was frightened that he might have her killed. Fortunately, the king pointed his scepter at her and she was invited to dinner with him and Haman that night. After a delicious dinner, she was invited again for the next day's meal with the two men. Mordecai (Esther's uncle, the Jew) had so infuriated Haman by this time that the irate chief officer had had a 23m high gallow built. He would soon ask the king to hang Mordecai. Haman could not wait for the day when all Jews would be exterminated!

That night the king could not sleep. He remembered again how Mordecai had saved his life and how he had not even thanked him for his kind act and information. Early the next morning he decided to ask Haman about it: "What should I do with someone whom I want to honor and delight?" Haman thought the king was talking about himself and said, "Put him in royal garments, and let him ride on the king's horse and walk around with him where people can see the two of you."

"Now then, please do that with Mordecai the Jew," the king said to Haman! Haman had to do this on the same day that he had planned to kill Mordecai! He was so embarrassed and humiliated.

At the next day's meal, Esther pleaded with the king to spare her people's lives. The king was very surprised and asked whom had thought up such a horrible plan to murder an entire nation. Esther answered that it was Haman! The king was furious! He ordered that Haman should be hanged on the gallows he had built especially for Mordecai - on that same day!

The king could not break his own laws, so he told Mordecai and Esther to write other letters that could help the Jews, and to write whatever they saw fit. The new letters proclaimed that the Jews were allowed to defend themselves and that they could get weapons together in case someone wanted to attack them. On the day of the previously planned genocide, the Jews overpowered their enemies, knowing they were at least allowed to fight back.

Thanks to Esther's bravery, all the Jews were saved.



Questions for clever little ears

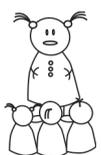
- What was Esther's uncle's name?
- * How did Mordecai save the king's life?
- * Haman had a bad plan devised for Mordecai and his plan was turned onto himself in the end. What was this plan?



Timeline of Israel

Esther was a Jew and queen of Persia. We'll find her on the timeline in 486 BC.

Let's find ESTHER's place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- Do you think God has a plan for your life?
- Does the plan always include that you will be rich or famous or marry a king like Queen Esther?
- Why not?



Life Lesson

Just as God had a plan with Esther, He also has a very specific plan with each of our lives.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we pray that you will protect Christians around the world. Make them strong in their faith, even though we know that the Christian faith is not always approved of in all countries.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Ring of sweetie necklace. Esther wanted to look beautiful for the king.



Creative activity

Ring or necklace sweets (to show how Esther had made herself ready for the king in an effort to look attractive).



Bible verse of the week

Esther 7: 3

“Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor with you, Your Majesty, and if it pleases you, grant me my life - this is my petition. And spare my people - this is my request.”



Just for fun!

Prepare a few questions. Take 5 straws – one should be cut shorter. Allow five kids to choose straws. Take the next 5, until you go through your whole class. Everybody who drew the short straw has to answer one question for the class.

Examples of questions:

- What is your favorite Bible figure and why?
- Who have taught you most about the Bible?
- Does your mother ever do something you really like or dislike?
- What makes you happy about your house?

Depending on how intimately the group knows each other, the questions can be customized.

Esther



Ezra

28



Prepared reading for the teacher

Ezra 7 - 9: 15



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Ezra
Crayons
"Pink pill" sweeties



Lesson Content

Ezra was a priest from the family tribe of Aaron. He was a prophet in Jerusalem after the return of the Israelites from exile in Babylon.

Ezra was the son of Seraiah. He came from Babylon and was a learned man, and knew the laws of Moses very well. The Lord was with Ezra and the king of Babylon had also taken a liking to him. He knew of Ezra's dream to return to Jerusalem.

King Artaxerxes of Persia instructed that any Israelite, priests of Israel, or Levites could return to Jerusalem with Ezra. The king would also send silver and gold as gifts to God's temple. Ezra was instructed to buy bulls, rams and lambs so that they could be sacrificed in God's temple in Jerusalem. Ezra was very pleased about all this.

King Artaxerxes had ordered his officers to also help Ezra with gifts of silver, wheat, wine, oil and salt.

Ezra was very grateful that the king had been so kind. It was a courageous decision to go back to Jerusalem, but Ezra knew that God would protect them on their way; it wasn't even necessary to ask the king for soldiers to ensure a safe passage. The gifts for the temple were carried by twelve of the Jewish nation's leaders. The gifts were silver, gold and bronze.

When Ezra and his people arrived in Jerusalem, they saw that the Israelites left behind had adopted many of the non-Jewish customs from other nations. They were also marrying pagan women.

Ezra was very sad to see this – in fact he tore his clothes in grief. He prayed earnestly to God to forgive Israel for all its sins.



Questions for clever little ears

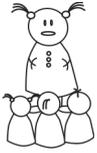
- What was the prophet in this story's name?
- Who carried the gifts from Persia to the temple in Jerusalem?
- Why was Ezra so sad when he entered Jerusalem?



Timeline of Israel

Ezra was a priest from the family tribe of Aaron. We find him on the timeline in 458 BC, after the exile when the people of God began to return to Jerusalem.

Let's find EZRA'S place on the timeline of Israel.



Points for Discussion

- What does our church look like?
- Is what a church looks like on the outside important to God? Why not?
- Where is your favourite spot to pray? (In your bed, your home, school, playground - anywhere!)
- Do you think it is important to attend church gatherings? Why?



Life Lesson

The Israelites could only worship God in the temple. Christ's coming ensured that we can pray to God anywhere on earth. But Jesus would have us join a church, so we can be part of a community of fellow believers.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, we have violated so many of Your laws, please forgive us. Help us to be obedient to You.

Amen



Munchie fun!

When mothers in older days wanted their children to be silent in church, they often gave them 'pink pill'-sweeties to suck on. For Ezra, the temple (the church) is a serious matter! Let's eat pink pill sweeties and think of Ezra and his important work in re-building the temple of the Lord.



Creative activity

Worksheet with different emotions. Select what emotions Ezra most likely experienced in this story (excited, happy, sad...).



Bible verse of the week

Ezra 9: 9

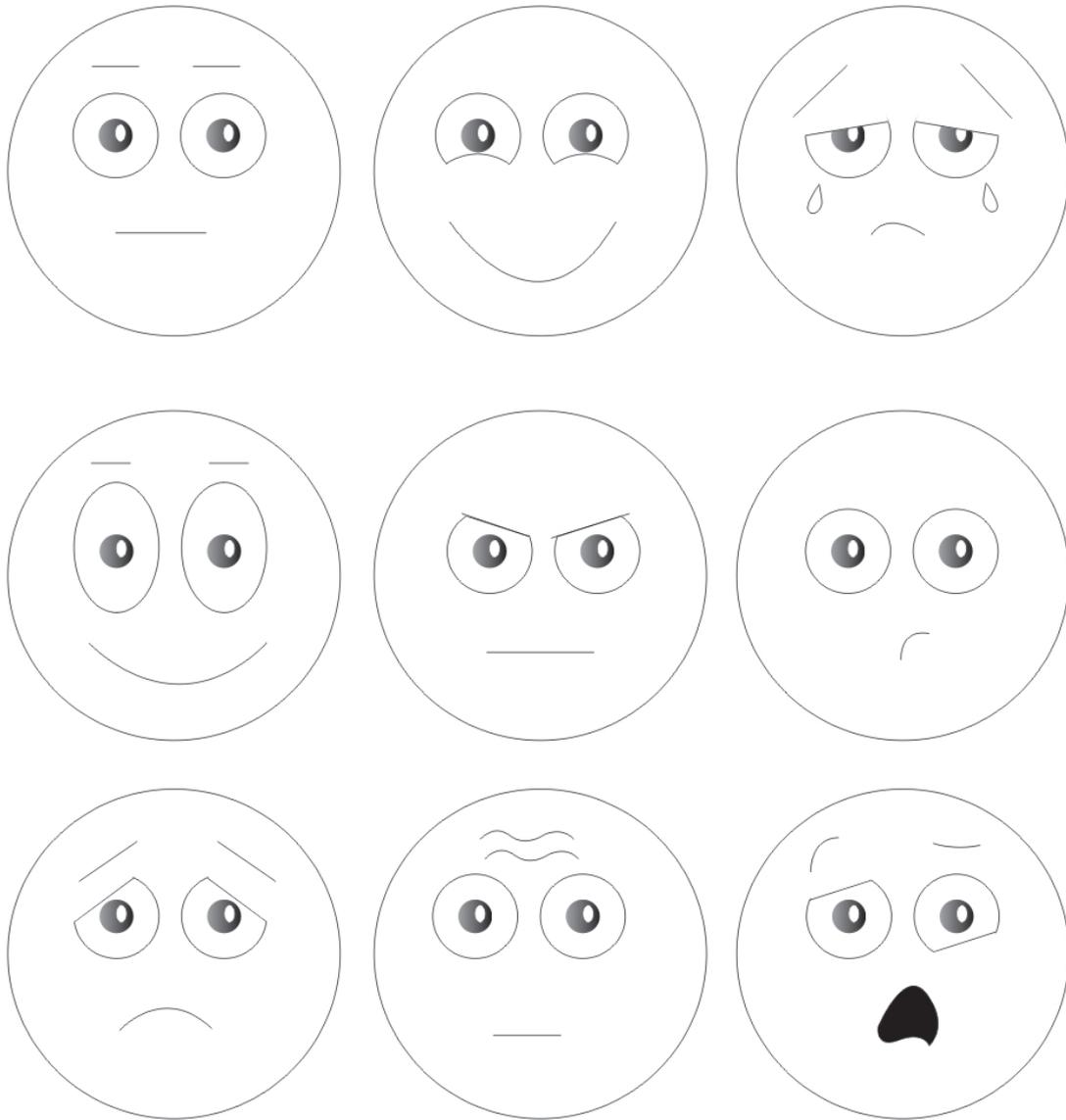
"Though we are slaves, our God has not forsaken us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem."



Just for fun!

Divide kids into two groups. Groups should line up and hold hands. Everyone should then close their eyes and look down. Teacher begins by squeezing the hands of the two kids in front, who then transfer the hand squeeze to the friends next to them. Once you feel the squeeze, you have to pass it on. If the squeeze reaches the last kid in the row, this kid should run forward and squeeze Teacher's hand. The group who hugs teacher's hand first is the winner!

Ezra



Nehemiah

29



Prepared reading for the teacher

Nehemiah 1 - 3: 32



Resources for the teacher during the presentation of the lesson

Worksheet of Nehemiah

Scissors

Gum

Crayons

Jelly sweet-guns



Lesson Content

Nehemiah was a Persian officer, but he was of Judean origin.

Nehemiah was one of the exiles from Persia that later returned to Jerusalem to assist in re-building the temple walls. While living in the Persian Empire, Nehemiah had been a cup-bearer to the king. Nehemiah was the son of Gakalja. In Persia, he had heard news of Jerusalem.

It had not gone well with the Jews from exile returning to Jerusalem. Jerusalem's walls were still broken and the gates burned. Nehemiah was very sad about this situation. He earnestly prayed to God and confessed all his own, but also Israel's, sins.

On a day when Nehemiah was serving wine to King Artaxerxes, he was very depressed. The king asked him whether he was sick, or maybe sad. Nehemiah was afraid to tell the king the truth. He quickly prayed (a "shooting prayer") for inspiration and courage and then asked the king if he could go back to Jerusalem. The king wanted to know how long Nehemiah would be gone and when he would return. Nehemiah also asked the king to please give him letters of safety, so that he could safely pass through hostile areas. Everything worked out for Nehemiah and he had permission to go to Jerusalem.

Not everyone was equally pleased with Nehemiah's plans to help rebuild Jerusalem's walls. (Two of these pessimists were Sanballat the Goroniet and Geshem the Arab). They thought Nehemiah would be waisting his time. After three days in Jerusalem, Nehemiah secretly set out on a mission at night, with only a few men with him. He was planning to inspect the walls around Jerusalem so that they could start planning to build them up again.

Only now did Nehemiah inform the people and the priests about his mission from God, and how the king of Persia helped him to do it. Everyone was heavily enthusiastic once they heard all this and they said, "Let's build!"

Sanballat and Geshem mocked and laughed at the Israelites about this momentous task they were tackling.

But Nehemiah simply answered, "The God of heaven will make us succeed in what we do."



Questions for clever little ears

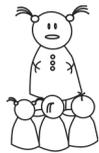
- What prophet do we hear about in this story?
- To what city did he return?
- Was everyone happy about the Israelites' hard work?



Timeline of Israel

Nehemiah was born in Persia, but was of Judean origin. He was an officer of the Persian empire. We find him on the timeline in 445 BC, just before the rebuilding of the temple.

Let's find NEHEMIAH's place on the timeline of Israel



Points for Discussion

- Would God ask you to do something that really is impossible for you to do?
- The Lord asked Nehemiah to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem. What tasks does He ask of us today? (Maybe to pray for others, and to tell people about Jesus.)



Life Lesson

With God on your side, even the most difficult task is possible. As God helped Nehemiah re-build the wall around Jerusalem, He will help us to do what He asks of us.



Our prayer for today

Dear Lord Jesus, it's easy to use a quick prayer when we are in trouble. Help us to also make time every day to pray to You in earnest and to spend time with You.

Amen



Munchie fun!

Sweets that look like guns – to illustrate Nehemiah's 'shooting' prayer.



Creative activity

Worksheet of a wall. Let's cut out bricks and paste it onto the wall to "build" it up, just as Nehemiah had done in Jerusalem.



Bible verse of the week

Nehemiah 1: 11 (a)

"Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favor in the presence of this man."



Just for fun!

Pass-the-parcel: Take small gifts such as sweets or a notebook. Wrap them in several layers of paper. The children sit in a circle. The music is turned on and when it stops the person with the package, removes a layer of paper or collects a loose tape. The child who removes the last layer can keep the gift.

Nehemiah



Recipies for Odos lessons

Uncooked soft clay

Ingredients

2 cups of flour
½ cup of salt
1 T oil
Food colouring

Method

1. Mix water and oil together
2. Mix with the flour and salt
3. Knead untill it looks like bread dough
4. Add water if necessary
5. Add food colouring
6. Knead untill colouring is evenly distributed
7. Store in an air tight holder

Cooked soft clay

Ingredients

2 cups of flour
5 T Cream of Tartare
1 cup salt
2 cups water
5 T oil
Food colouring

Method

1. Mix all the ingredients together
2. Stir over high heat untill the mixture clings to the wooden spoon
3. Lower the temperature
4. Keep on stiring untill you reach the prefered consistency
5. Knead for 2 minutes
6. Store in an air tight container

Uncooked salt clay

Ingredients

2 cups of flour
2 cups of salt
2 cups alum (available at a pharmacy)

Metode

1. Mix all the ingredients together
2. Add water little by little untill the mixture clings to your hands
3. Knead
4. Use immediately and do not store

Lemonade recipe

Ingredients

1 cup sugar
1 cup water (for the syrup)
1 cup lemon juice
3 - 4 cups cold water to dilute the mixture

Method

1. Mix sugar and water and heat over a low temperature untill the sugar dissolves
2. Prepare the lemon juice
3. Add the syrup and the water together and dilute with 3 - 4 cups of cold water. Store in the refrigerator. Serve with a slice of lemon. If the drink is too sweet, add a little bit more of the lemon juice.

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