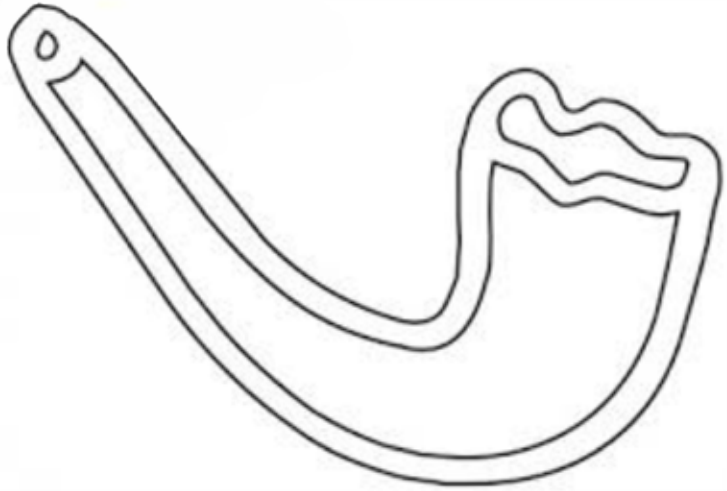
The Warrior Leader

From Joshua 3 and 6 * Pages 108 - 115

December 13



Fill in the missing word

1. The leader of God's children who came after Moses was _____.
2. Moses had led God's children as they wandered in the desert for _____ years.
3. The first job God gave Joshua as they entered the Promised Land was to conquer the walled city in _____.
4. God told Joshua that his battle plan started with marching his army around Jericho for _____ days.
5. On day 7 God told Joshua that his army should blow their trumpets and _____ as loud as they could!
6. Joshua and his army men trusted God and the walls of Jericho came _____.

Think about this: Joshua and his army were given a very surprising battle plan: march, blow trumpets, and shout. And they did just what God commanded. Who brought the walls of Jericho down? Yes, the Lord God Almighty won the battle. Joshua trusted God. There is nothing that God cannot do. He loves His children and protects us.

The good news of the Gospel: Jesus is our Captain. He is always with us. We are never alone. The Lord is for us. Jesus fought the greatest battle ever. He conquered death for us.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, You are always with me. You are for me. You promise to protect me. Forgive me when I don't trust You. Forgive me when I don't call on Your name. Thank You that Jesus is my Captain. Thank You for putting me in Your army! Amen.

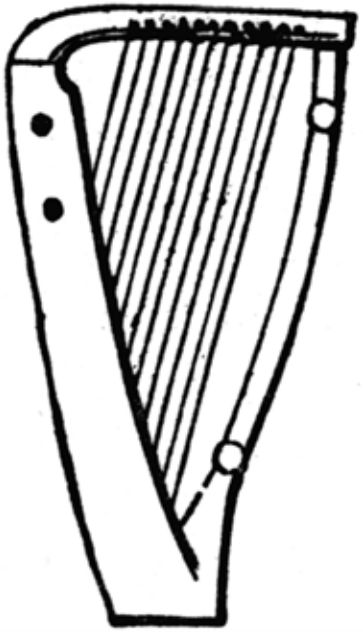
The Teeny, Weenie...True King

From 1 Samuel 16 * Pages 116 - 121

December 14

Yes or No Questions

1. When God's children were in their new land they wanted to plant trees.
2. God was so happy that the Israelites wanted a real King.
3. The first king that God gave His children was named Saul.
4. God told Samuel, the prophet, to go and find a new king back in Jericho.
5. God had chosen the youngest son of Jesse to be the new king.
6. David was bigger and stronger and taller than any of his brothers.
7. God told Samuel that young David had a heart that pleased Him.
8. David did not rule as king for many years.

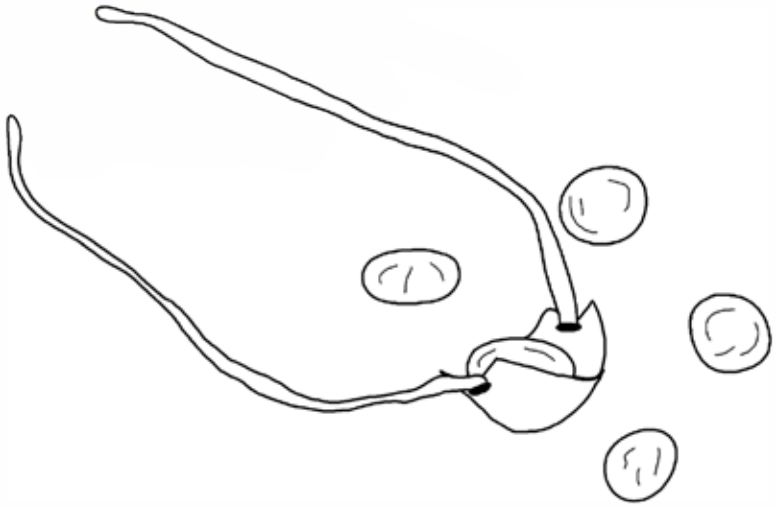


Think about this: In 1 Samuel 16:7 we read: *Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.* David had a heart that pleased the Lord. David did many wonderful things as king. David also did many things that were wrong and that did not please God. God knows that no matter how hard we try to please Him we can't. Sin is in our hearts. We need a greater King. We need a Savior.
The good news of the Gospel: God used little king David to point us to the real King, the greater King, His Son King Jesus. Jesus killed sin. When Jesus is our King, the King of our hearts, God is pleased!
Prayer: Dear Father God, You know that we are weak. We need a Savior to wash our hearts clean from the stain of sin. Thank You for sending Your perfect Son, King Jesus. I love You. Amen.

The Young Hero & The Horrible Giant

From 1 Samuel 17 * Pages 122 - 129

December 15



Fill in the missing word

1. God's children, the Israelites, had enemies called the _____.
2. The Philistines had a secret weapon called _____.
3. The Israelite army stood on the hill and when they heard Goliath shouting at them they were filled with _____.
4. Young David left his sheep, went to the battleground, and took his brothers some _____.
5. David heard the giant Goliath when he called the Israelites to send over someone to _____ against him.
6. David knew that God would win the battle as he went to fight Goliath with 5 smooth stones and his _____.

Think about this: Remember how God chose David to be king one day because his heart was full of love? David's heart was full of love for God's people and for God Himself. When David heard how Goliath was mocking God's people he was filled with anger. David gathered his 5 smooth stones and raced to fight Goliath knowing that he had the true weapon to win the battle: the Lord God Almighty.

The good news of the Gospel: God sent His Son Jesus to earth to win the greatest battle of all. Jesus by dying on the cross and rising from death won eternal life for His children. We have Him today. We have the Holy Spirit who gives us peace and joy and makes our hearts strong.

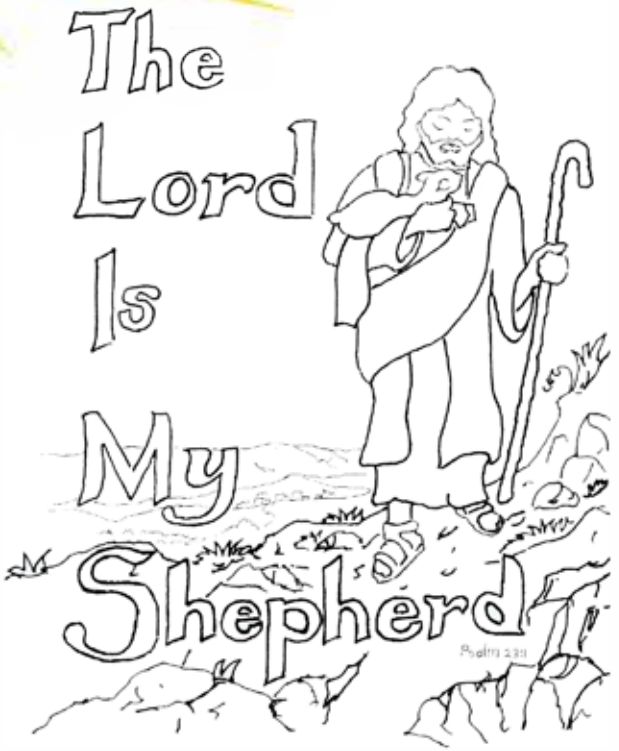
Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank You that today I can know You and love You. Today You give me a new heart that You fill with love. Help me to love what You love. Amen.

The Good Shepherd

From Psalms 23 & 51, 2 Samuel 7 * Pages 130 - 135
December 16

Fill in the missing word

1. Before David ruled as King he was a _____.
2. A shepherd is someone who takes care of _____.
3. Sheep are helpless animals and don't know how to take care of _____.
4. The songs David wrote are called _____.
5. You can read the psalms that David wrote in the _____.
6. The 23rd Psalm is very well loved and starts this way: The Lord is my _____ .
7. In Psalm 51 when he had done wrong and was filled with sorrow, David asked God: Cleanse me from my _____!



Think about this: David knew that God made him, that God knew his heart, and that his sins were against God. David knew that God was his Good Shepherd who was with him in joy and in dark valleys. He knew that God could clean his heart and give him a steadfast heart.
The good news of the Gospel: We need the Lord to give us new hearts, clean hearts. The Bible tells us that Jesus washes us and makes us whiter than snow!
Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for all the blessings of Christmas time. It is a joyous time when we prepare our hearts to receive You as King. Thank You for coming to earth and for coming to me! Amen.

The Little Servant Girl & the Proud General

From 2 Kings 5 * Pages 136 - 143

December 17

Yes or No

1. Naaman, the army commander, needed to be cured of chicken pox.
2. His young servant girl knew who could help her master be cured.
3. The servant girl told Naaman's wife that he needed to go to Israel to see King David.
4. Naaman went to the home of the prophet Elisha.
5. Elisha refused to help the man who had taken a girl away from Israel.
6. Naaman expected Elisha to come and see him and do something to show he knew how important Naaman was.
7. Naaman was too afraid of the alligators in the Jordan River.
8. Naaman was healed and his skin was a soft as a baby duckling.

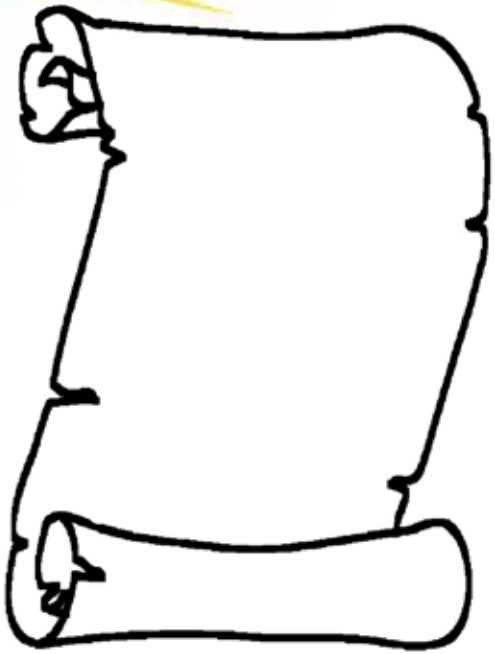
Think about this: This is the story of two hearts. What does it mean to be proud? What does it mean to be humble? Naaman, even though he was a sick man in great need of healing, was very proud. He expected everyone to admire what a great army man he was. His servant girl, who he had captured, poured out love instead of hate to him.

The good news of the Gospel: Jesus does not give us what we deserve. He humbled Himself on the cross and poured out love. His love is our best Christmas gift. It cost Jesus His life, and it is free to us!

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You for Your love poured out to me. Help me to have a humble heart and be thankful for all You have done for me. I love You. Amen.

Operation "No More Tears!"

From Isaiah prophecies * Pages 144 - 151
December 18



Choose one

1. Isaiah was a prophet who lived before Jesus was born OR Isaiah was a prophet in Naaman's army.
2. Isaiah gave God ideas that he thought would comfort God's children OR God told Isaiah words to write to His children.
3. Isaiah wrote about how to take care of sheep OR Isaiah wrote about the Good Shepherd that God was sending to take care of them.
4. God told Isaiah how to cure blind people and crippled people OR God told Isaiah how His Son will change people.
5. God told Isaiah how His Son would suffer and die for His children OR God told Isaiah to help Him figure out His Secret Rescue Plan.

Think about this: Our heavenly Father knows our ways, He knows our hearts and what we need. God had a plan before He made the world of how He was going to send His Son to save us. His Son was born in a stable not a palace, He was poor not rich, He was humble not puffed up with pride. Jesus wore a crown of thorns not jewels.
The good news of the Gospel: We believe that Jesus came to rescue us, to save us, from the penalty of our sins. He fills our hearts by His Holy Spirit with light and love. Jesus is Christ with us.
Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You that You came as a baby and grew up to be a man, a man who suffered out of love to bring us to Your Father. Amen.

Daniel and the Scary Sleepover

From Daniel 6 * Pages 152 – 159
December 19

Fill in the missing word

1. Daniel was captured as a young man and taken to _____.
2. When Daniel was in the palace the king was very _____ with him.
3. The king's helpers, his advisors, saw how highly the king thought of Daniel and they were _____.
4. The helpers tricked the king into making a law that you could not pray except to _____.
5. Daniel could not be tricked so he prayed to God even though he knew he would end up in _____.
6. When the king saw that God had saved Daniel he made a new law that everyone must pray only to _____.

Think about this: Daniel knew God. Daniel worshipped God alone. Daniel knew that this might cost him his life, but he loved God more than he loved his life. He refused to pray to the king. Daniel kept the First Commandment: You shall have no other gods before Me.
The good news of the Gospel: God sent His Angel to be with Daniel when he was in the den full of lions. God rescued Daniel from death. We know that when Jesus was on the cross He was not rescued. He died for us so that we would always live with God.
Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You that You are always with me. You never leave me. You never forsake me. Thank You for this story about Daniel and how You were with him when he was surrounded by lions. Thank You that You died to rescue me. I love You. Amen.

God's Messenger

From Jonah 1 – 4 * Pages 160 - 169

December 20

Yes or No Questions

1. God told Jonah that He wanted him to go to Nineveh.
2. God was very tired of the people in Nineveh and wanted Jonah to ship them out to sea forever.
3. Jonah did not have any love for the people of Nineveh and did not obey God.
4. Jonah decided to swim to a small island away from God.
5. God sent a storm to stop Jonah from running away.
6. A huge fish swallowed Jonah.
7. Jonah was happy to be in the dark belly of the fish where God could not see him.
8. When Jonah finally went to Nineveh the people all repented of their sins and turned to God.

Think about this: Jonah ran from God. He did not want to obey God. He did not want to love the people God loved. But God is a loving heavenly Father. He rescues His children from our sin. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for 3 days before he repented. Did God hear him? Yes! God always hears His children when they cry out to Him.

The good news of the Gospel: It was 3 days before Jesus' resurrection. Jesus did not need to repent. He had never sinned. He died for our sins. We need to repent and turn to God. He always listens. He always forgives.

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You that You listened to Jonah when he turned to You. Thank You that Jesus conquered the grave and death. Help me to run to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Get Ready!

From Old Testament Passages * Pages 170 - 175
December 21

Yes or No Questions

1. Did God's people always follow Him with faith and love?
2. Did God's children forget how God had taken such good care of them?
3. Were God's children afraid that God would punish them?
4. Did God send Ezra His messenger to remind them of His love?
5. Did God promise to send His Son to rescue us?
6. Is Christmas about the greatest rescue party ever before?

Think about this: Do you have a treasure? Do you have something that you love more than almost anything else? The Bible is God telling us how much He loves us. God told Moses that His children are His treasure. Can you believe that? You are God's treasure. He celebrates you!

The good news of the Gospel: Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience. He died on a cross instead of you. He died in your place. Jesus lived so that He could pay for your sins and bring you to God. You can go right into God's throne room today and tell Him how much you love Him.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, thank You that I am Your treasure. I don't understand it. Thank You for Your love, for Your "Never stopping, never giving up on me, unbreaking, always and forever love." Amen.

He's Here!

From Luke 1 – 2 * Pages 176 - 182
December 22

Fill in the missing word

1. Mary was a young girl who was engaged to marry _____.
2. One day Mary received a surprising message from the Angel _____.
3. God had said that one day His Son would be born in the town of King David, His great great grandfather, the little town of _____.
4. When Mary heard the news that God had chosen her to be the mother of His Son she said that she was God's _____.

Think about this: At just the right time God sent Jesus into the world. Are you surprised that Jesus left the courts of heaven and came to earth as a helpless baby? Mary accepted the Angel's news with great faith. Mary and Joseph walked by faith and not by sight. They wrapped up God's Son in swaddling clothes. Jesus the one who made the starry skies slept in a lowly manger. He is Emmanuel, "God has come to make His home with us!"

The good news of the Gospel: Jesus was willing to be born in a stable. The helpless baby became a man who was willing to die alone on a cross. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us, who wraps us in His robes of righteousness to be with Him forever. We are never alone.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, I want to put You in a soft bed with a silken pillow for Your head. You know what is best. You came in humility so that I can always come to You. Thank You. I love You, Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Light of the Whole World

From Luke 2 * Pages 184 – 191

December 23

Choose one

1. On the night when Jesus was born the sky was filled with shooting stars OR the sky was filled with angels singing.
2. Shepherds were on the hillside when an angel told them to sing along with them OR to go to Bethlehem and see the new baby.
3. The shepherds were thrilled with the angel's good news so they finished their dinner and ran into town OR they left everything and ran into town.
4. The shepherds found the baby Jesus after they checked every stable in Bethlehem OR they found the baby in the stable under the bright new star.

Think about this: Can you run really fast? One night some shepherds raced to the stable where God's Son was sleeping. Their sheep-watching job in the darkness on the hillside outside of town was changed to flaming brightness. Angels filled the sky and sang, "Glory to God in the highest!" Their hearts filled with exploding joy as they raced to see the Baby. The humble shepherds were the first to hear the good news of the Servant King's birth. Isn't that just like God?

The good news of the Gospel: God sent His Son to earth as a baby, a real baby. Jesus was a baby who did what babies do. But Jesus grew up without sinning ever. He was perfect. He died on a cross to do what we cannot do. Jesus died to give us life, real life, abundant life now, life with Him forever.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank You for the glory filled night when the angels sang of Your birth. Oh Lord, when I sing Christmas carols now help me to remember that the baby Jesus became the Savior Jesus who loves me. Amen.

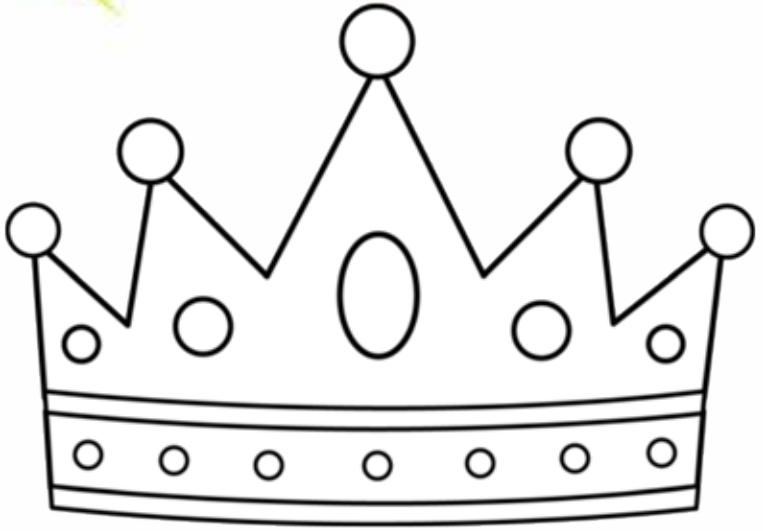
The King of All Kings

From Matthew 2 * Pages 192 - 199

December 24

Yes or No Questions

1. The wise men from the east studied to stars for special signs.
2. When the wise men saw a special star they asked everyone they knew if a new born King was nearby.
3. The wise men traveled for weeks and weeks to take their gifts to the baby King.
4. When they asked King Herod about the baby he told them to go right to Bethlehem.
5. The wise men saw the star again and followed it right to Jesus.
6. The wise men met young King Jesus and worshipped Him.



Think about this: Kings are born in palaces. Kings grow up in palaces. The wise men from the east went right to a King's palace to see the new baby King. But the baby was not in the palace. The star showed them where to go. No, the baby Jesus was where any baby could be. He was in a little town, in a humble house. The wise men knelt and worshipped when they saw Jesus, the Almighty King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Their hearts knew He was the True King.

The good news of the Gospel: God comes to the poor, the humble, the outcasts. God knows that we need Jesus to show us the way to Him, the way to worship Him as our King. God sent Jesus to save us and bring us to Himself.

Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, I am like shepherds and wise men. I need You to be my Savior, to be my King, the King of my heart. I have nothing to give You except my heart. I love You. Amen.

JESUS SAID: I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NOT WALK IN DARKNESS.
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE. JOHN 8:12

CHRIST EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8300 KATY FREEWAY
HOUSTON, TX 77024
713-526-1188 | CEPC.ORG