



PREVIEW



On the Way Home

Hey, Kids!

Imagine that you were with Mary at the tomb on the very first Easter morning. You saw Jesus and heard him speak. In the word balloon, write what you would tell your friends about what happened. Tell about your feelings and write or draw details about what you saw on that amazing day!

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He Is Risen!

John 20:1-18

¹ Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. Mary saw that the large stone had been moved away from the tomb. ² So Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other follower (the one Jesus loved). Mary said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb. We don’t know where they have put him.”

³ So Peter and the other follower started for the tomb. ⁴ They were both running, but the other follower ran faster than Peter. So the other follower reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down and looked in. He saw the strips, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then following him came Simon Peter. He went into the tomb and saw the strips of linen lying there. ⁷ He also saw the cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up and laid in a different place from the strips of linen. ⁸ Then the other follower, who had reached the tomb first, also went in. He saw and believed. ⁹

(These followers did not yet understand from the Scriptures that Jesus must rise from death.)

¹⁰ Then the followers went back home. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. While she was still crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. ¹² She saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and one at the feet.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She answered, “They have taken away my Lord. I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Whom are you looking for?”

Mary thought he was the gardener. So she said to him, “Did you take him away, sir? Tell me where you put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

Mary turned toward Jesus and said in the Jewish language, “Rabboni.” (This means Teacher.)

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Don’t hold me. I have not yet gone up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them this: ‘I am going back to my Father and your Father. I am going back to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and said to the followers, “I saw the Lord!” And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

(International Children’s Bible, New Century Version)

PREVIEW



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Hey, Kids!

This picture needs your help. Add flowers and leaves to some of the green stalks. Put sandals on Jesus' feet, and draw a big sun just peeking over the mountain. Finish by drawing the large stone to the side of the open tomb.

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Simon Peter

1



Two Angels

2



Mary

3



Jesus

4

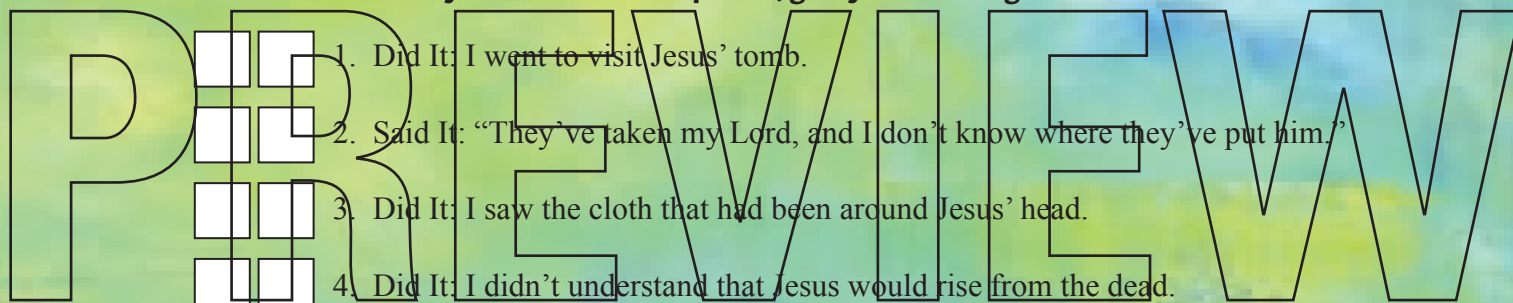
Who Said It? Who Did It?

Scratch your head, sharpen your pencil, and get ready for a memory check.

Write the number of the person who said or did what is written for each of the following items. Be careful! Some boxes need more than one number. When you're done, add up the numbers.

(Check the answers at the bottom of the page.)

If your answers add up to 28, give yourself a high-five!



1. Did It: I went to visit Jesus' tomb.

2. Said It: "They've taken my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him."

3. Did It: I saw the cloth that had been around Jesus' head.

4. Did It: I didn't understand that Jesus would rise from the dead.

5. Did It: I saw two angels dressed in white.

6. Said It: "Woman, why are you crying?"

7. Said It: "I am going back to my Father and your Father."

8. Said It: "I saw the Lord!"

Memory

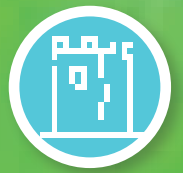


Challenge:

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Family:

Today we heard, discussed, and celebrated the Easter story. Read the story inside these pages as part of your own Easter celebration. Look at the front page to see what story details made an impression on your child. Check out story card #134 in your God's Big Story cards for more great ways your family can celebrate Easter at home this week.



Rahab and the Spies

My Family
Picture

PREVIEW



On the Way Home

Hey, Kids!

Today you're the artist! Fill the picture frame with pictures of people in your family. Draw just the head of each person. As you draw each one, think of one way God cares for and protects that person. Don't forget to put yourself in the picture!

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Red Rope

(Based on)

The people of Israel were camped by the Jordan River. Just across the river was Canaan, the land God had promised to give them. The great city of Jericho was in Canaan. All around Jericho was a giant wall. And inside the wall were frightened people!

Joshua, the leader of God's people, sent two men across the river. He gave them these orders: "Go! Explore the land of Canaan, especially the city of Jericho."

The spies arrived during the day, when the gates to the city of Jericho were wide open. They walked right in. All day they walked around, looking carefully at everything they saw. They wanted to remember details so that when God directed them to come and take the city, they would know their way around.

e Rescue

(Joshua 2)

PREVIEW

But the spies weren't the only ones looking around. Someone had noticed them come in and suspected why they were in Jericho. The king got the message: spies in town!

That night the spies knocked on the door of Rahab's house, which was right inside the giant wall of that great city. Rahab invited them in and asked them to stay. She said, "My people are afraid. We know that God will give you this land."

Just then there was another knock. The king's soldiers had come to arrest the spies. Quickly, Rahab led them to the roof of her house and hid them under piles of straw.

Rahab hurried back down to open the door. The soldiers demanded, "Where are those men? Bring them out to us—they are spies!"

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Rahab pointed outside the city and said, "They were here, but they left. If you hurry, you might be able to catch up with them!"

Then Rahab dropped a red rope from her window. She said to the spies, "Hurry! Climb down and you'll be safe. I know your God is the true God of heaven and earth. When your God gives you this city, please be kind to me and my family, as I have been kind to you."

The spies got ready to climb over the wall and down the rope, but stopped just long enough to say, "If you will not tell anyone about us, you and your family will be safe. When we come back to fight Jericho, gather all your family into your house and hang this red rope in the window. Then you will all be safe." The spies said goodbye and slid down the rope, landing outside the city wall.

After hiding in the hills for three days, they left Jericho and crossed the river. They gave this report to Joshua: "God will give us this land."

Memory Challenge:



Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Family:

Today your child learned about Rahab's trust in God and God's promise to keep her and her family safe. Help your child sense God's faithfulness to generations of families—right up to your own. Throughout the coming week, celebrate God's care and protection over your family!

Crossing the Jordan



Remembering Jesus' Birth

These objects are often used at Christmas to help us remember.

Draw a picture of something that was seen and heard the night Jesus was born.

Draw a picture of something that guided the shepherds to the place Jesus was born.

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Remembering Jesus' Death and Resurrection

These objects are often seen at Easter to help us remember.

Draw a picture of something made from wood that reminds us that Jesus died for us.

Draw a picture of a flower that we often see at Easter. It reminds us of new life.



On the Way Home

God's people piled stones to help them remember God's saving love and power. Now it's your turn to do something!

Read the clues to find out what to draw.

Then talk to the people in your car about things in your home that remind you of Jesus.

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1. Why was the land of Canaan important to the Israelites?
2. What instructions did Joshua give about crossing the river?
3. Why would the Israelites be happy to finally be in Canaan?
4. When did God make the river start flowing again?
5. How many Israelites drowned in the river crossing?
6. What do you wonder about in this story?
7. What thoughts do you think the priests had when they stepped into the wild Jordan River?
8. Describe the looks on people's faces when they saw the river water begin to stack up.
9. Tell something you remember about God's river crossing miracle.

PREVIEW

Stone Stack

Join you in playing Stone Stack.

kers. (Buttons, coins, or paper pieces work well.)

After you answer the question on the stone you choose,
The first player to get 3 stones in a row wins.

play, use the questions on the left.
use the the questions on the right.

2

3

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5

6

8

9

1. If you were an Israelite, how would you have celebrated after everyone crossed the river?
2. Why is it important to remember God's miracles?
3. What do you wonder about in this story?
4. How did God show his power?
5. Why did God show his power?
6. As the people of Jericho watched the river crossing and the miracle, what different thoughts do you think they had?
7. Can you think of another time God stopped the water and made a path to bring the people safely across?
8. Why would God want a stack of stones to be on the Canaan side of the river?
9. What title would you give this story?

The Crossing Miracle

(Based on Joshua 3-4)

Just across the river
was God's promise—Canaan land!
We all were packed and ready
to hear Joshua's command.

At last he gave these orders:
"The priests will lead the way
with all the people following;
do exactly as I say."

The rushing water ran so fast;
the river was so deep!
And then God piled that river
into a watery heap!

We walked along a sandy path—
so wide and oh so dry!
And as we walked we smiled to see
that water wall so high!

Then God let the river flow
and down the water crashed
as soon as everyone had walked
across God's sandy path.

God said to build a tower
and then tell everyone
about God's crossing miracle—
the great thing God had done.
Yes!
The great thing God had done!

Dear Family:

Today's session was about remembering God's power and goodness to the people of Israel. After enjoying the story in rhyme together, look around your home to find things that help you remember God and what God has done for us. Throughout the week, look for and talk together about ways God cares for you. For more story activities, see card #34 in your God's Big Story cards.

PREVIEW

Memory



Challenge:

Philippians 4:6-7

The Fall of Jericho



Write a new, exciting title for the story.

If you lived in Jericho and saw God's people marching around seven times on the seventh day, what would you say to your friend?

Draw the face of someone watching the walls crash.

Write four words that describe how great God is.

PREVIEW

Write the number of weapons the Israelites had when they marched.



On the Way Home

Hey, Kids!

Pencil ready? Here's the deal.

Think about the story and then respond to each of the instructions.

Ask someone who is with you to join in on the fun!

If you were going to crash the walls of Jericho, what machines would you need?

Draw a picture of the parts of your body you can use to praise God.

The Walls Came Tumbling Down

(Based on Joshua 5:13 - Joshua 6)

Jericho was a strong and mighty city. It had not one, but two very thick and very high walls all the way around it. The walls stood thirty feet (about nine meters) in the air—taller than most houses! The people of Jericho felt safe inside their city.

Some people marched into the land of Canaan, where Jericho was. These people had a God more powerful than any of Jericho's walls and all of their idols put together! The people of Jericho were frightened. They slammed their city gates shut and locked them. No one could destroy their city now—that would be impossible! Could never happen!

PREVIEW
But the people of Israel were eager for battle and full of courage. Surely God would be with them as they fought their enemies. Jericho was a mighty city, but their God was a mighty God who had promised them this land. Surely God would keep his promise!

One day, God's angel came to speak with Joshua. "It is not you, but I, who will win this battle with Jericho! Every morning for six days, you must march around the city of Jericho one time. Start your march with priests blowing trumpets. The armed men of Israel else must follow. On the seventh day you must march around Jericho seven times. Then the priests must sound one long blast on their trumpets. At that signal everyone must give a loud shout!"

Early the next morning the march began. The priests walked in front, blowing trumpets. Behind them followed the army of Israel. Just once they circled the city, and then they returned to their camp.

Every morning for six days the same thing happened. And on the seventh day, just as God had commanded, the army of Israel marched around the city seven times. Then, in a loud blast, the trumpets sounded. Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!"

With a great roar, the walls of Jericho cracked wide open and crashed to the ground. The two spies hurried to rescue Rahab and her family and bring them safely to the camp of God's people.

And so it was that God's people destroyed the mighty city of Jericho—not because they were strong or brave or fierce, but because they trusted in our great God. Nothing is impossible with God! Nothing!





Litany of Praise

We praise you, God, for your mighty ways.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

We praise you for bringing down the mighty walls of Jericho!

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

We praise you for doing what seemed impossible!

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

We praise you for keeping your promise to your people.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

You brought them safely to the land of Canaan.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

And you gave them victory over the land.

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

Yes! Let everyone shout—

Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

Now it's your turn.

Grab a pencil and write your own litany of praise:

I will praise you with _____.

I will praise you with _____.

I will praise you by _____.

I will praise you _____.

I will praise you for _____.

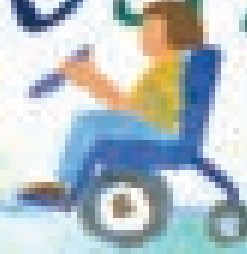
Yes, I will praise you forever, O Lord, my God!

(Written by _____)

PREVIEW

Praise

to God!



Memory

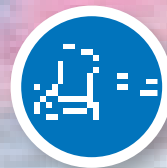


Challenge:

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Family:

Enjoy the dramatic story of Jericho's fall—and be sure to recall with your child the truth of today's session: Our mighty God gave the people of Israel a victory that seemed impossible! You can use the praise litanies on this page as part of your family devotions. For more fun follow-up ideas, find card #35 in your God's Big Story cards.



Deborah and Jael

God used Deborah.

God used Jael too.

And today God uses

_____!

PREVIEW



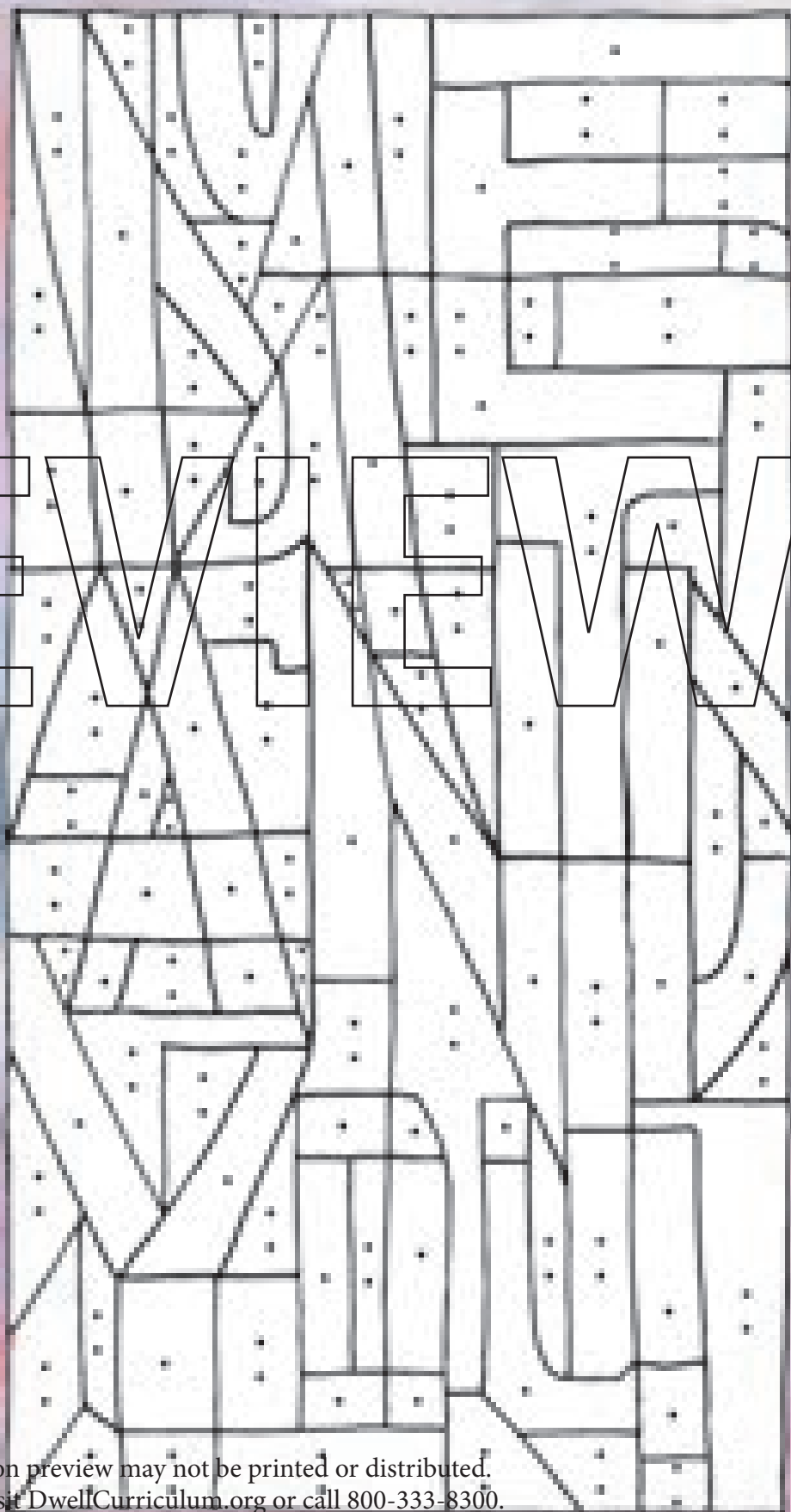
On the Way Home

Guess Who?

To find the answer, fill in all the spaces that have just one dot.

When you discover the answer, write the words on the lines.

When you get home, color the spaces with two dots to complete the picture.



Hey, Kids!

Got a pencil? Finish the story by finding these words or sentences:

1. Circle the sentence that tells what Israel did that made God angry.
2. Circle the word that tells what Sisera did when he saw God's army.
3. Underline the sentence that tells what happened to Sisera's army.
4. Underline the sentence that tells how Sisera died.

Deborah and Jael

(Based on Judges 4-5.)

Scene 1

When Joshua died, the people of Israel forgot their great God. They began to worship idols. That made our great God very angry. God let Israel's enemies into their land to hurt them. Only then did God's people feel sorry and beg God to save them.

When the people prayed, God heard their pleas. God gave them judges, good leaders who trusted God. One of the judges was a brave woman named Deborah. God knew it would take a brave and trusting person to lead the people against Sisera and his army.

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Scene 3

But God knew better. When all of Sisera's chariots and his great army had gathered in the valley, Deborah shouted to God's people: "Go! This is the day God has given you the victory!"

At that very moment, God sent a terrible rainstorm. The rain poured down and the ground turned to thick mud! Sisera's chariots stuck deep in the mud. Then a great river washed away the army. Sisera slogged through the mud, getting away as fast as he could.



Scene 2

When Deborah asked Barak to fight against the enemies of God's people, Barak was afraid. "You go with me!" he said to Deborah. So she did.

When Sisera saw God's people coming, he laughed. "You cowards!" he shouted. "Come and fight me! I will kill every one of you!"



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Scene 4

Not far away lived another brave woman. From her tent, Jael could hear Sisera coming. "Come in, my lord!" she called. "I will hide you!" But when Sisera fell asleep in her tent, she killed him.

Once again God destroyed Israel's enemy. This time God used Deborah and Jael to save Israel.



In this week's Bible story, God uses a woman named Deborah to save the people of Israel. Since the beginning of time, God has used people—young and old, men and women, boys and girls—to do God's work in this world. Here's a true story that shows what ordinary kids like you can do!

PREVIEW

The Cabin That Cared

One great summer day at Bear Lake Camp, a camper named John was badly hurt in an accident. His mom and dad, who worked at the camp, rushed John to the clinic. The doctor was worried. John was bleeding inside and needed to go to the hospital for an operation right away.

John's mom and dad prayed for John—they loved him so much! John's dad rode in the ambulance with him on the way to the hospital. John's mom went back to the camp to get a few of John's things from his cabin. In a circle in the middle of the cabin, she found John's friends. They held John's "Bear Lake Camp"

shirt in their hands as they prayed for John.

When John's mom got to the hospital, she heard good news. John was doing better. The bleeding slowed—and finally had stopped. John didn't need an operation after all!

Adapted from "This Thing Called Prayer" by Barbara Hibschan. Reprinted with permission from *Guideposts* Magazine, © 1991 by Guideposts Associates, Inc., Carmel, New York, 10512.

Memory



Challenge:

Philippians 4:6-7

Dear Family:

Today's story tells of the two women God used to rescue the Israelites from their enemies. Your child learned about God's loving and forgiving ways with Israel—and us. He or she also learned that anyone who trusts in God and is ready to work for God can be used to do amazing things in this world. Take time to talk about how this truth applies to each member of your family!

Gideon



Nobody's Perfect!

Nobody's perfect!
Not you—not me.
But that doesn't matter
to God, you see!

You may be scared,
you may be small
But God can use you—
don't worry at all!

Read the story
and you will see
how God used a man
who was as scared as could be!

PREVIEW



On the Way Home

Hey, Kids!

We've got three challenges for you:

1. Read the poem. Then read the Gideon story.
2. Nobody's perfect—including the artist! Did you spot the missing objects in the Gideon story?
3. Gideon wasn't perfect either! But God still used him. What was Gideon's main weakness? How did he obey God?

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A Great

(Based on...)

Hey kids! Something is missing in each story picture. Figure out what is missing as you read the story. Then add the missing details.

2

Gideon obeyed God. He gathered a giant army. "You can't have too many soldiers," God said. "Send them home." So Gideon did.

"Still too many men," God said. "Take your men to the water. Send home everyone who gets down on all fours to drink. Only those who lap the water with their hands will stay." Gideon obeyed—but he was beginning to worry. C

God knew how scared Gideon was. So he sent an angel to the Midianite camp and listen to what the man was telling a friend about his dream: "I dreamed last night that a loaf of barley bread rolled down the hill into our camp. It struck the tent, and the whole camp fell down!"

The man's friend said he thought the dream was a sign for Gideon to defeat the Midianites. When Gideon

PREVIEW

1

After Deborah died, the people of Israel began to worship idols again. So God let Israel's enemies, the Midianites, into their land to bother them. Then the people of Israel felt sorry about what they had done. They begged God to save them again. God heard their cries. God sent a new judge to rescue the people from their enemies.

God's angel came and sat under an oak tree. Gideon was nearby, working on his grain and hiding it from the Midianites. The angel said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior Gideon. You must save Israel from the Midianites! God is sending you!"

Gideon wasn't feeling very brave at all. "I'm not important!" he told the angel. But the Angel of the Lord said, "God will be with you!"

Victory

(Judges 6-7)

army to fight the Midianites. "You everyone home who is afraid to

r men to the water and watch them n on his knees to drink." Again, Gideon Only 300 men were left to fight.

at night God told Gideon to sneak into e soldiers were saying. Gideon heard a ust dreamed that a round loaf of bread uck our tent with such force that our

eam meant that God was going to help eon heard that, he worshiped God.

PREVIEW

3

Gideon went back to his tiny army and said, "Get up! The Lord is giving the Midianite camp to us—now!" Then he gave each man a trumpet, an empty jar, and a burning torch to hide inside the jar. "Follow me!" he whispered to his men.



Dear Family:

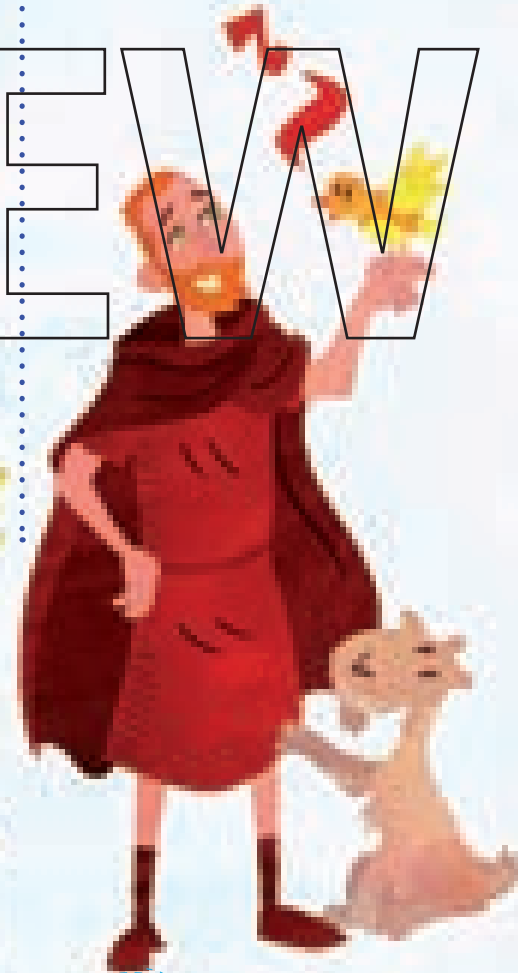
Today your child heard the story of Gideon, the timid judge who won a great victory with God's help. Read the story together, and be sure to talk about ways God overlooks the weaknesses and uses the strengths of each person in your family—big and small!

PREVIEW

4

Without a sound Gideon's soldiers made a great circle all around the tents of the sleeping Midianites. Then Gideon blew his trumpet and gave a great shout: "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!" Every man blew his trumpet, smashed his jar, and held his torch high against the night sky!

The sleepy Midianites woke up. It was dark—there were only a few stars in the sky. The Midianites were so frightened and confused that they grabbed their swords and began to fight each other. When they realized what they were doing, they ran for their lives! And they didn't stop running until they were far away from the land of Israel!



Memory



Challenge:

Philippians 4:6-7

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