



God Cares for Joseph

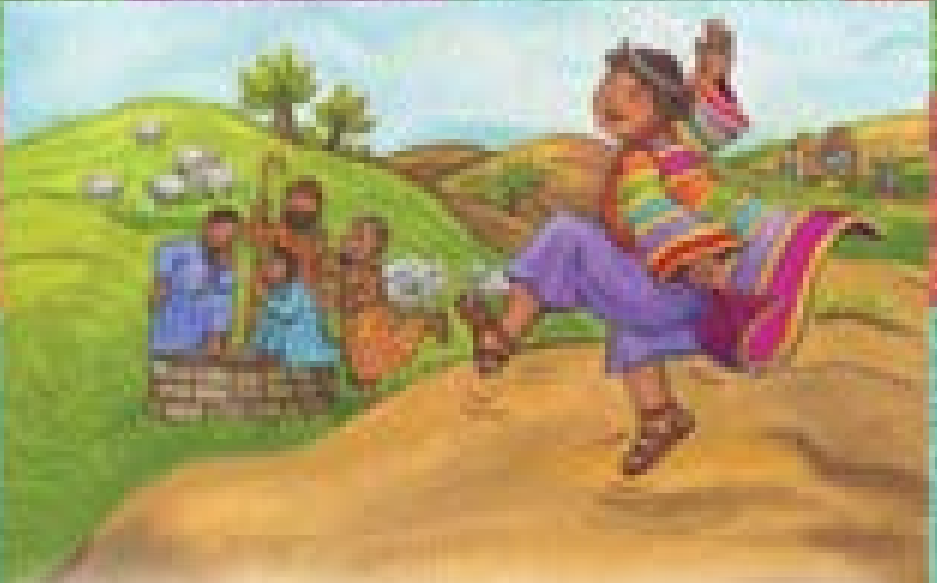
PREVIEW

1. Father Jacob had many children, but he loved Joseph more than all the others. Father Jacob gave a beautiful coat to Joseph, but he gave no special coats to his other children.



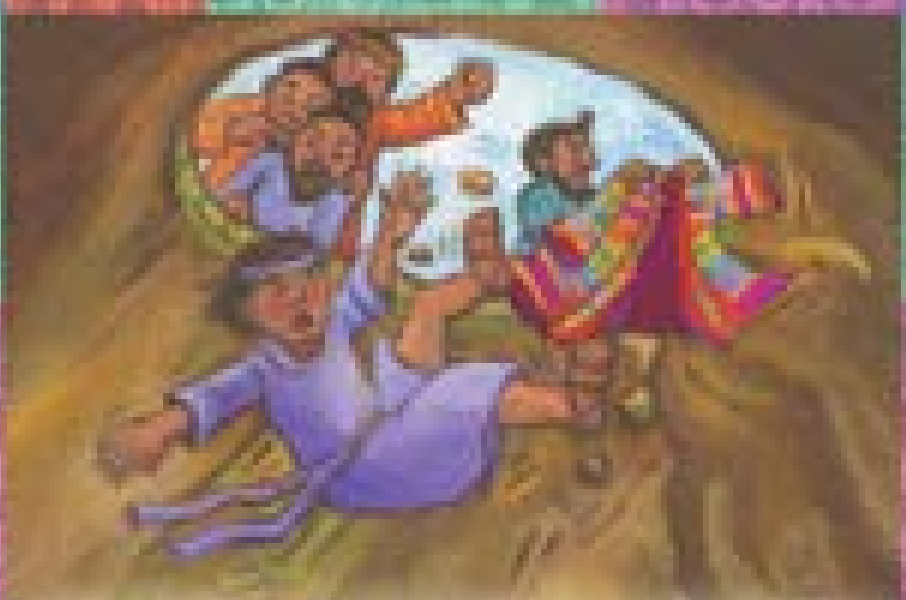
2. Joseph's brothers were angry at their father—and at Joseph. When they looked at Joseph's special coat, they wished they had one too. And when Joseph bragged about his dream, they were even angrier.

PREVIEW

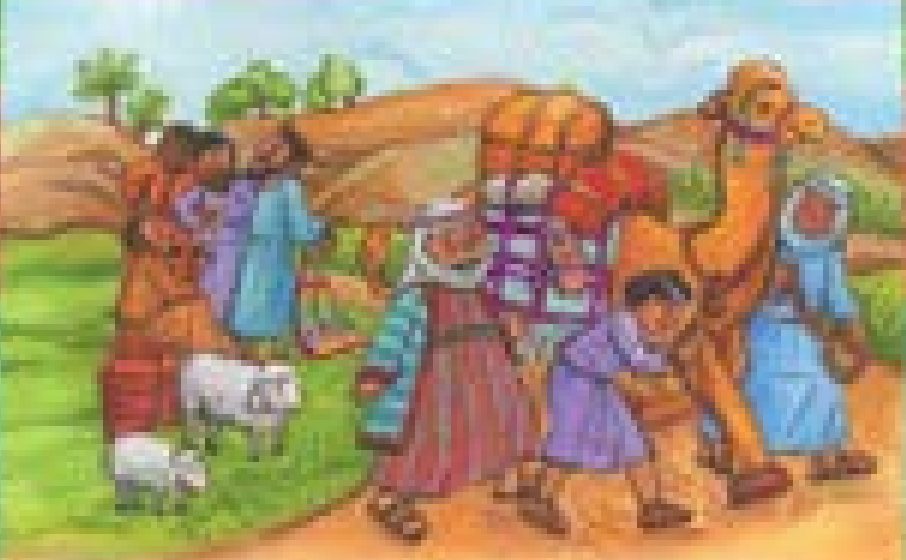


3. One day Joseph's brothers were busy taking care of their sheep. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they said, "Here comes 'special' Joseph. Let's get rid of him."

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4. They grabbed Joseph, ripped off his colorful coat, and threw him down into a deep, dark hole. Joseph felt frightened—and alone!



5. When a group of men on their way to a faraway place came by, the brothers had an idea. “Let’s sell Joseph to them!” And they sold Joseph to the travelers.

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PREVIEW

6. The brothers tore up Joseph's coat and showed it to Father Jacob. "A wild animal must have eaten my son!" he said. Father Jacob cried.

But God was taking care of Joseph. And Joseph knew God would always stay with him—no matter what.

Dear Family:

Today we heard the story of Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37)—and the way in which God continued to care for Joseph through a frightening turn of events. After reading the story together you may wish to follow up on the theme of God's constant care by sharing a time when something bad happened and God brought about good. For more story activities, find story symbol #20 in your God's Big Story card set.

Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 136:1

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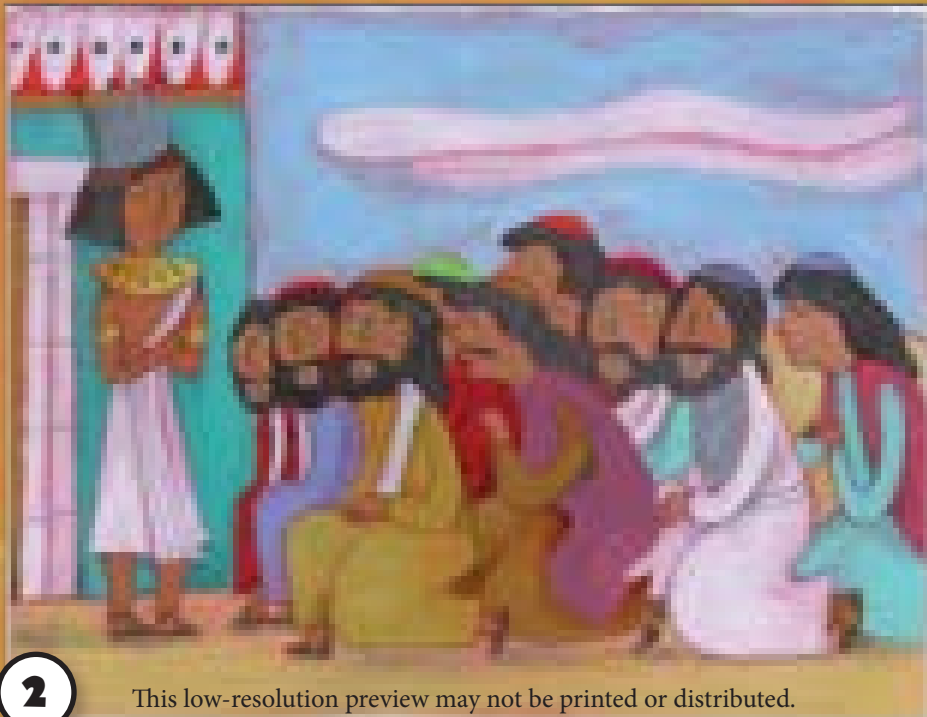
Joseph Trusts God



Connect the dots to see what Joseph wore,
and then decorate it!



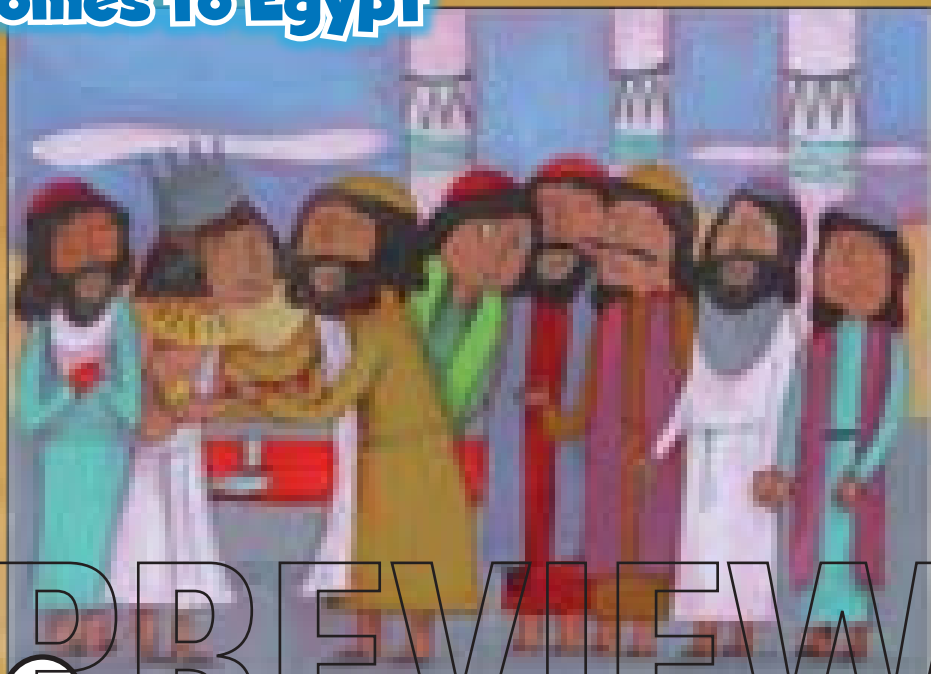
1 PREVIEW



2

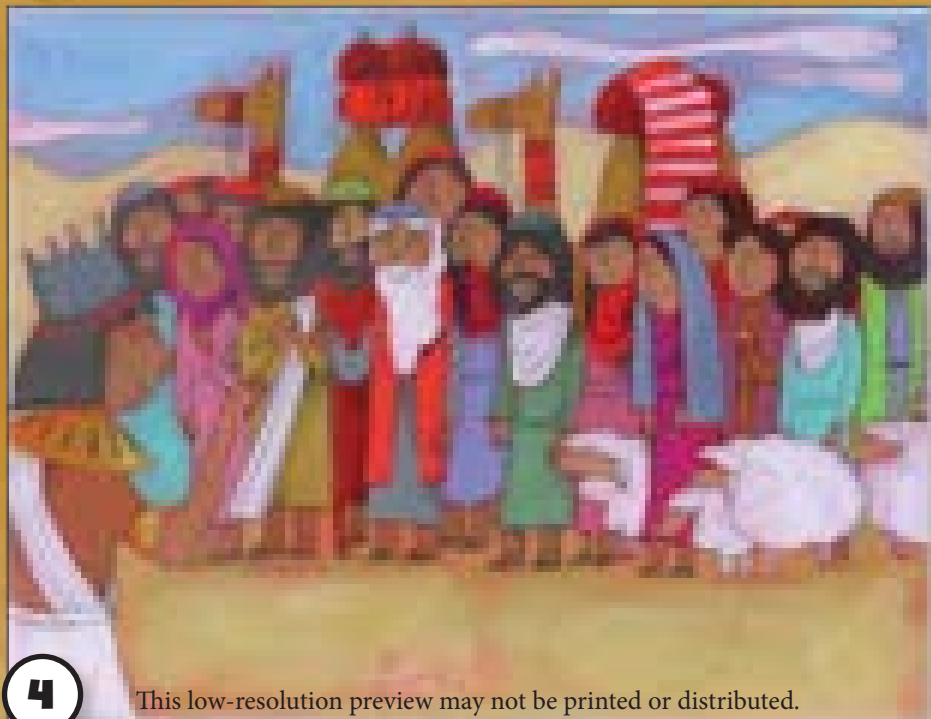
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Comes to Egypt



PREVIEW

3



4

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Dear Family:

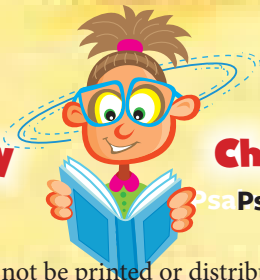
Today we learned the rest of Joseph's amazing story. Invite your child to show and tell you the story, using the pictures inside this paper. Then spend a few minutes talking about the ways God cares for your family too. For more ways to nurture your child's faith, visit www.nurturekidsfaith.org.

Hey Kids! God gives you and your family food too! Circle your favorites.

PREVIEW



Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 136:1

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PREVIEW

Hannah Prays to God

Hello! I'm Hannah! When you've heard my story, you will know for sure that we really can talk to God—and that God really does listen to us!

When I was a small girl, I sometimes wondered if God really did listen when I prayed. But I've never stopped praying to God. I pray to God when I am happy . . . and sad . . . and scared . . . and hurt. Sometimes I pray for the same thing over and over and over again.

For many years I prayed to God over and over and over for a precious baby to care for and love. But no baby came. I felt sadder and sadder—especially when others teased me because I had no children.



PREVIEW

One day I went to the temple to pray. I felt so alone, even though I knew how much my husband loved me. I found a quiet corner and began to pray for a baby. I prayed softly so no one could hear me—except God, that is.

But I never quite finished my prayer. Before I could say “Amen,” I felt a hand on my arm. I opened my eyes and there was Eli, the old priest, watching me. I told Eli about my prayer to God for a baby. I’ll never forget his answer: “Go in peace, and may God give you what you have asked for.” When I walked out of the temple I felt a happiness that was new to me.

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The next year my baby son, Samuel, was born! As I smiled at my precious child, I prayed a thank-you prayer to God. Watching baby Samuel grow into a little boy helped me remember that God really does listen to our prayers.

When Samuel grew bigger, his father and I brought him back to the temple. Somehow Eli didn't seem surprised that God had given us a baby boy. And it filled me with happiness to bring my son to the temple to live with Eli and learn about God from him.

There are still many things I pray for, but one thing will never change when I talk to God. I'll never stop saying *Thank you, thank you, thank you* for being my God and listening to my prayers.

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Dear Family:

Today your child learned from 1 Samuel 1:9-2:11 that God is always listening when we pray. Ask your child to tell you about Hannah and how God listened to her prayer; then use the picture prayer journal your child made as you pray together this week.

Hey Kids! Hannah named her baby Samuel because that name means “asked of God.” She wanted everyone to know she had asked God for this precious son! Find out why your name was chosen for you. Then draw yourself as a baby below:

PREVIEW



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Memory



Challenge:

Psalms 136:1

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Imagine

Year 2, Unit 1, Session 4

show and share



Samuel Listens to God

Hey Kids! God's Word, the Bible, has many messages for you. What does this one say?

PREVIEW

Dear Family:

Today we heard about God's message for Samuel (1 Samuel 3) and learned how important it is for us to listen to God's words in the Bible.

Ask your child to use the puppets to tell what happened to Samuel and Eli in this part of God's big story.

Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 136:1

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Samuel! Samuel!

When Samuel was young, he went to the temple to live. Eli, the old priest, couldn't see very well, so Samuel became a very good helper for him.

One night, after Samuel had fallen asleep, he was awakened by a voice calling, "Samuel! Samuel!"

"Eli must need my help," thought Samuel. He ran down the hall to where Eli was sleeping. "Eli, here I am! You called me?" said Samuel.

"I was asleep, Samuel. I didn't call you. Go back and lie down," said Eli. So Samuel went back and crawled into bed.

Three times that night Samuel heard the voice, "Samuel! Samuel!" And three times Samuel ran to Eli. The third time Eli said, "God is calling you, Samuel. When you hear God's voice again, say, 'Speak to me. I am listening.'"

As Samuel lay there listening, his heart was beating very fast. This time when the voice called his name, Samuel said, "Speak to me. I am listening."

Then God gave Samuel a sad but important message: "Samuel, I must punish Eli and his sons because they do not listen to me. They have forgotten to do what I say. I will be with you, Samuel, because I know that you *do* listen when I speak to you." Samuel thought about the sad message from God. It would be hard to tell it to Eli in the morning.

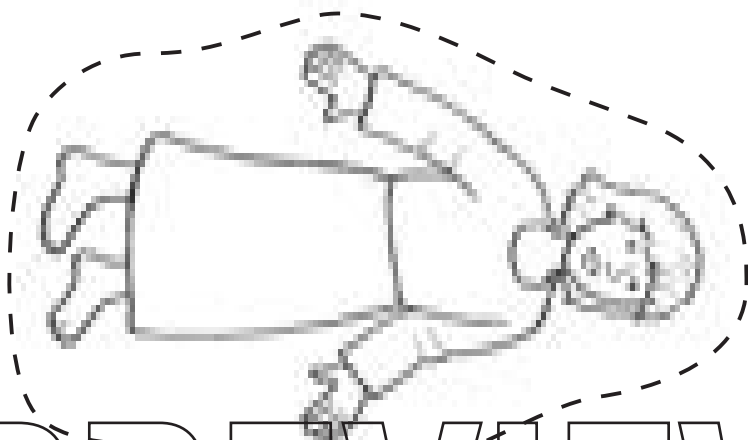
The next morning Eli called him. "Samuel, what did God tell you last night?" Samuel told Eli everything that God had said. And Eli listened.

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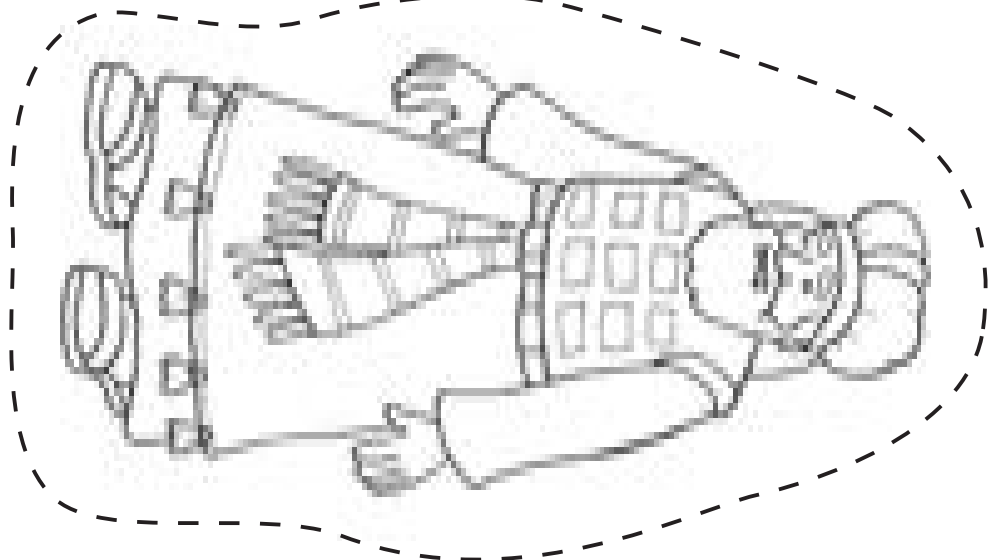
Color the puppets and cut them out.

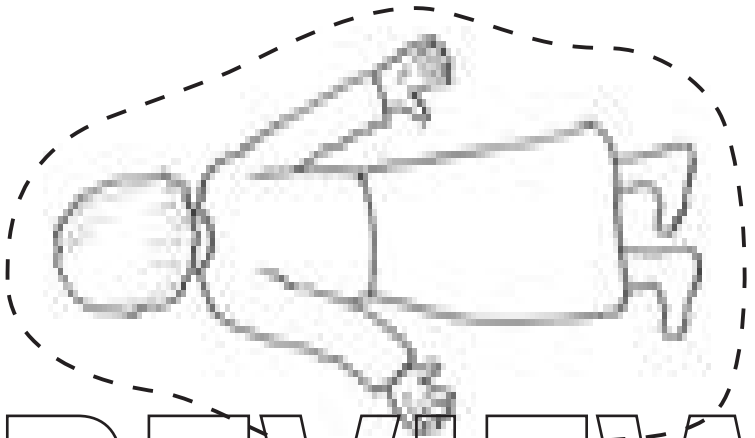
Tape a pencil or craft stick to their backs.

Use them to tell the story.

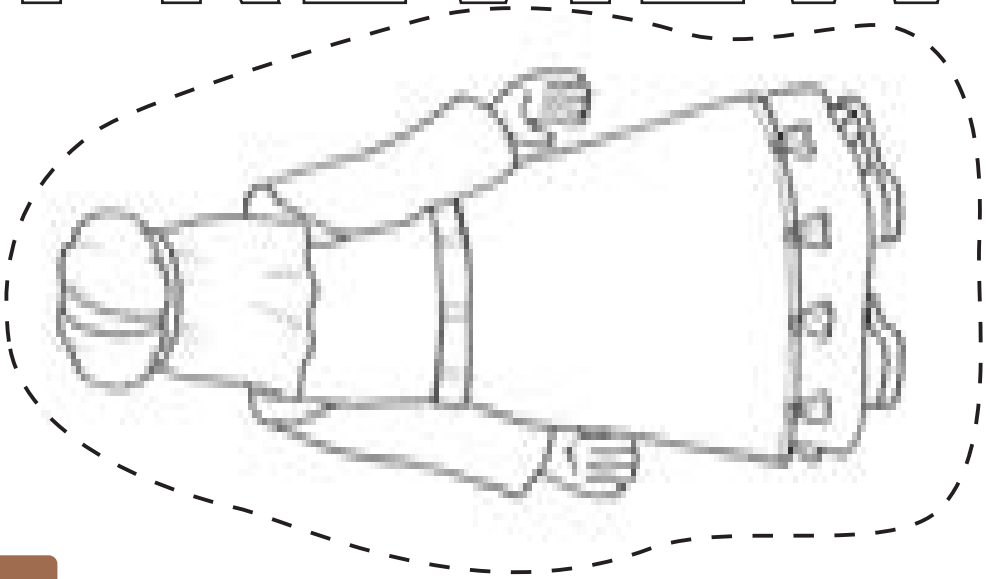


PREVIEW







PREVIEW






David, the Shepherd Boy



PREVIEW

David was a shepherd boy. Already when he was just a young boy he took very good care of his father's .


David gave the  everything they needed. Each morning he led the  to sunny pastures where the grass was green and crunchy. He took the  to quiet streams where they could drink lots of cool, clean water.




PREVIEW

There were times when David had to lead

But he helped his  walk safely through

lookout for wild animals. When hungry lions came near, the  wo


one of his little  by pulling it out of the mouth of a lion. Another time

And he thanked God each






PREVIEW

had his great flock of  through rocky places that were dark and frightening.

in the scary places. David never stopped watching his . He was always on the

ground. He would huddle together and shake with fear. But David wasn't afraid. Once he rescued

one. One day he saved a  from the mouth of a bear. David always protected his !

every day for keeping him safe too. 

Dear Family:

Ask your child to use this little storybook to tell you the story of David, the good shepherd (based on 1 Samuel 17:34-37 and Psalm 23). Talk together about how God cares for us like a loving shepherd.

PREVIEW

Every night, when the sun began to go down and the [] became tired, David led his flock back to their [] fold where they could rest. David counted each one and then carefully closed the gate behind them. Soon all the [] fell fast asleep. David was tired too, but before he slept he sang a song of praise to God.

(Read Psalm 23:1-4).

David knew that just as he kept his father's [] safe, God was keeping him safe. David said, "The *Lord* is my shepherd." God is our shepherd too—God will keep us safe!



Memory

Challenge:


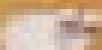



Psalm 136:1



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


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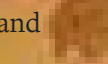















David Trusts God

Every day  took care of his . When  trusted God, he felt brave. Even  and  couldn't frighten him!

One day David's father sent him to visit his brothers, who were soldiers for the . There  saw the enemy soldiers who did not love or serve God. He also heard the fierce voice of a giant.

PREVIEW
“COME OVER HERE AND FIGHT ME, IF YOU DARE!”
 roared at the  and his soldiers. Everyone was frightened...
everyone, that is, except .

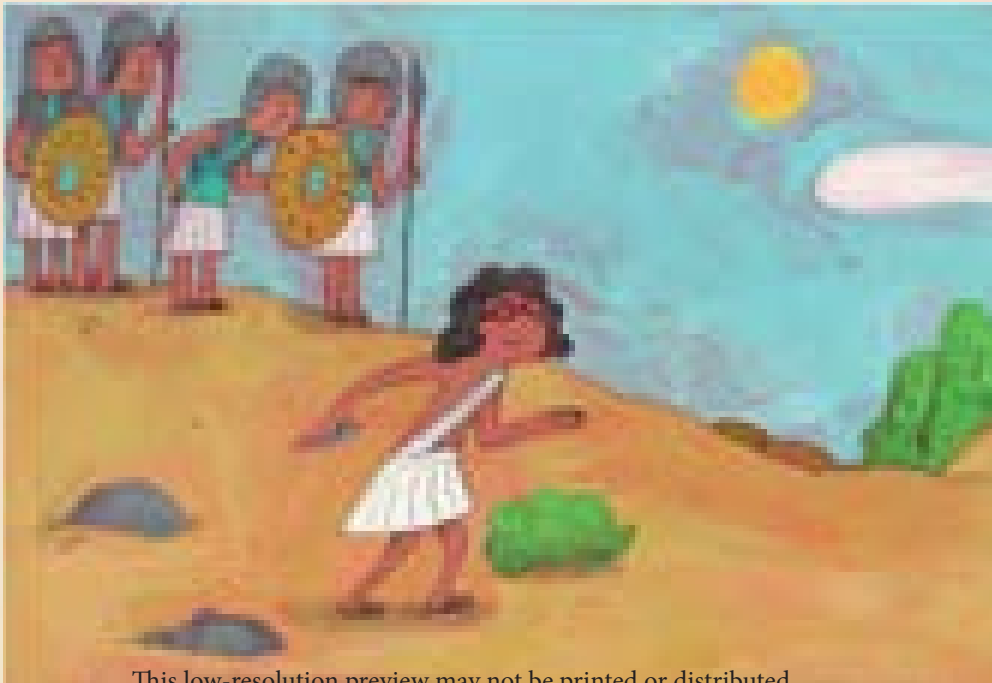
“God helped me fight  and ! God will help me fight  too!” said . “All I need is my  and .

 walked toward . Before  knew what was happening, David took his  and shot a  straight at the giant's . Down the giant went . That was the end of Goliath. But it wasn't the end of ! When David grew up, he became the new  of God's people.



PREVIEW

There are 10 differences between the two images.
Mark an X in the square each time you see a difference.



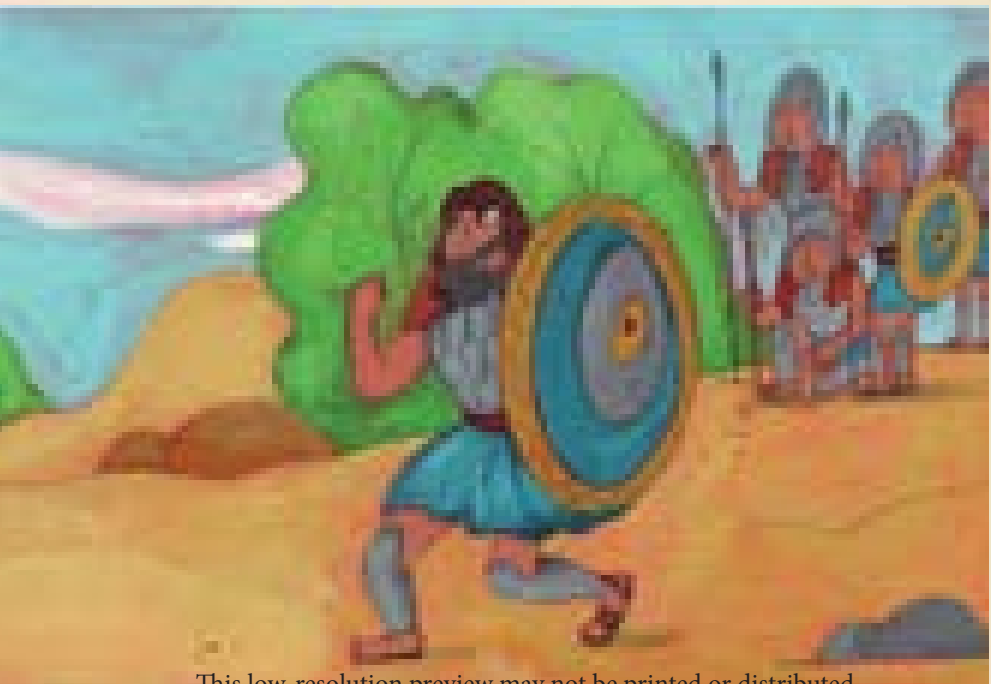
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PREVIEW

Use these two pictures. Can you find them?

difference.



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Dear Family:

We hope you and your child will enjoy the familiar story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17). It provides a wonderful illustration for today's focus—trust! Talk together about times and places where you can also be sure of God's care. For more activities, find story symbol #46 in your God's Big Story cards.

Hey Kids! The Bible tells us that Goliath was over 9 feet (2.75 meters) tall! Measure the people in your family. Does anyone come close to Goliath?

PREVIEW



Memory



Challenge:

Psalm 136:1

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