

God Wins Again!

1 Samuel 29; 30:1-25; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 690-694

I won! I won!" Jason shouted. "I made the final point!" His teammates frowned and turned away. Recess was over. It was time for Bible class. Here's the story they studied. What do you think Jason might have learned?

David and his 600 men marched from the city of Ziklag to help Achish, the Philistine king, fight a battle. But the Philistine princes would not let David and his men help. So they had to turn around and march all the way back to Ziklag.

As Ziklag appeared in the distance, the men

were shocked to see smoke rising. While they were gone, the Amalekites had attacked and burned their city to the ground! Their wives, children, and cattle were all gone. All that was left was smoke and ashes.

"It's all your fault, David," the men accused. "You should have left soldiers here to take care of our families."

David was upset too. He had lost some of his own family. Now the men were blaming him. What should he do? David's first thought was to turn to God. He knew God would show him what to do.

"Bring the ephod," he told Abiathar the priest. "Shall we go after the Amalekites?" David asked the Lord. "Will we reach them and get our families back?"

The ephod had two large gemstones on it. When the priest asked a question of God, one of the stones would glow if the answer was yes. And that is what happened. "Go," the priest said. "You will reach them and get everything back again."

So David and his 600 soldiers set out to find the Amalekites. But when they reached the Besor Ravine, they stopped. Two hundred



The Message

When God wins,
we are winners

Memory Verse

"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"

(Psalm 23:6, NIV).

soldiers were just too tired to go any farther. So David left them there to rest and guard the supplies.

A little farther on David and his men found an Egyptian lying in a field. A slave to one of the Amalekites, he had been abandoned because of illness. He was weak from hunger and thirst. David and his men gave him some water and food and then asked the man to help them find the Amalekites. So the Egyptian led David to the Amalekite camp.

From a distance they watched the Amalekites eating and drinking, celebrating their victory.

David and his men attacked the Amalekites at sunset. The battle lasted all night and the next day. When it was over, the Amalekites were defeated. Only 400 men escaped on their camels. David and his men rescued everything and every person that had been stolen from Ziklag.

David and the soldiers collected their families, their possessions, and their animals. They gathered things they had captured from the Amalekites and began the long walk back home.

As they neared the Besor Ravine, the 200 men who had stayed behind came out to meet them. But some of David's weary soldiers were not glad to see how rested their friends looked.

"We'll give these men back their wives and children,"

they grumbled, "but nothing else. They didn't help us win, so they shouldn't share the goods."

"Wait!" David said. "Who won this battle? We didn't win; the Lord did. He gave us this victory. He protected us. So all will share alike."

And that's the good news of God's grace. When God wins the battle, He shares the victory. We are all winners because Jesus won the victory over sin and Satan.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go with your family to a high place and climb to the top. Imagine seeing smoke and burning buildings in the distance. Read the Bible lesson together. Talk about how David and his men felt when they saw that their homes had been destroyed.

DO Review Psalm 23 together. Thank God for His protection today.

S U N D A Y

READ For family worship today read and discuss 1 Samuel 30:1-3. How would you feel if a great fire destroyed your town? Read and discuss other Bible stories about fire. (See Genesis 19; 1 Kings 18; 2 Kings 2:11; Daniel 3:15-17.)

DO If possible, visit a fire station. Thank the firefighters for all they do to protect your town.

SING Sing songs about God's care, then thank Him for it.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss 1 Samuel 30:4-6. Talk about sad times your family has had. If all is well now, praise God. If not, ask Him for help. Ask: Can we know God's goodness and love even in sad times? (What does your memory verse say?) Read Psalm 23:4 together. For what will you thank God today?

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss 1 Samuel 30:6 for family worship. What did David's men want to do? Why? Read the last sentence of the verse. Put your name in place of David's.

SHARE Ask your family: How do you feel when someone is angry with you? What do you do about it?

SING Sing "I've Got Peace Like a River" (Sing for Joy, No. 108). Then ask God to give you His peace today and thank Him for it.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ For family worship today, read and discuss 1 Samuel 30:7, 8. Ask: What did David do before going into battle? What was God's answer to him? How can David's experience help our family?

THINK Whom do you talk to first when you have a problem? Why?

SHARE Say your memory verse together. How does it make you feel?

SING Sing a song about trusting God, then ask Him to help you trust Him more.



T H U R S D A Y

READ Say your memory verse together to start worship today. Then read and discuss 1 Samuel 30:9-25. In your own words tell how God turned David's sadness into victory. Tell about a time God gave you the victory over some sin or sadness.

SING Sing about God's help. Then thank Him for giving you the victory over sin and sadness.

David writes beautiful songs to God that he plays on his harp. We Israelites think harp music sounds like music from heaven.



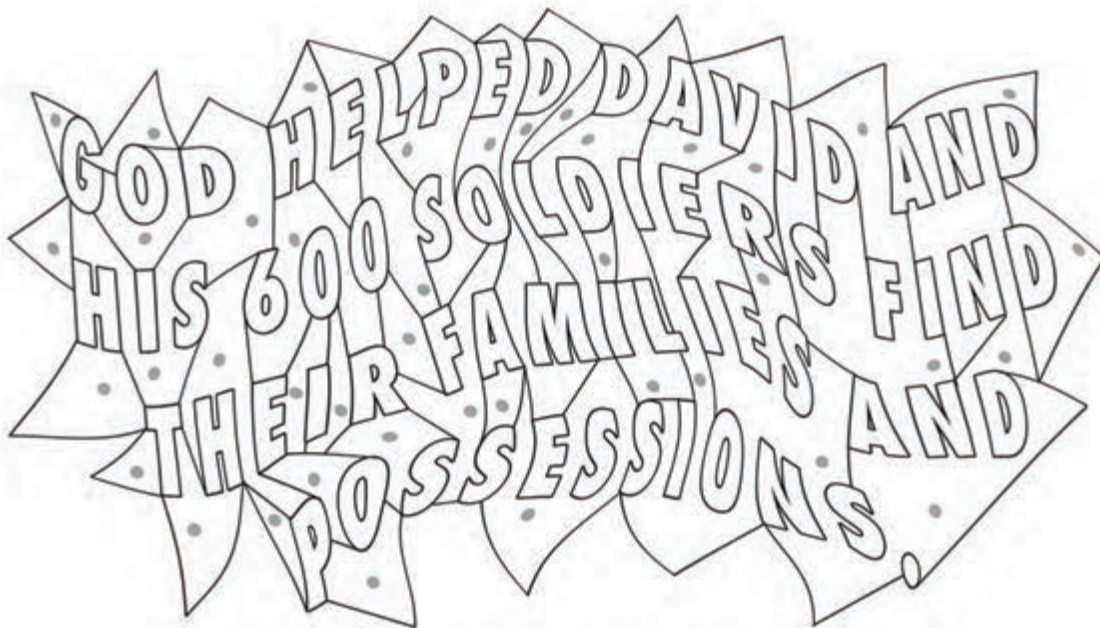
F R I D A Y

DO Do charades or act out your lesson story with your family for worship today

READ Read 1 Samuel 30:22-24 together and discuss what you can learn from David about sharing. How can your family share what God has given you with someone today? Tomorrow? Make a plan and do it. What good news will you share?

SING Sing together "Redeemed!" (Sing for Joy, No. 68), then thank God for His redeeming love. Thank Him for sending Jesus to win the victory for you.

PUZZLE

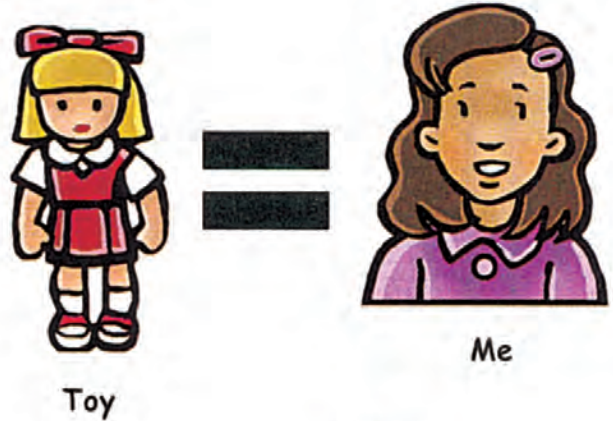


Directions: Color all the shapes that have a dot to find the hidden message.

Psalm 23—Treasure Hunt

Directions:

1. Ask your parents if you can collect things from inside and outside your house to remind you of Psalm 23.
2. Be really creative. For example, choose a favorite shirt or toy to represent yourself.
3. Share your collection during family worship.
4. Be sure to return all the things to the right place.



Hint: Water in a glass might make you think of "still water."



"still water"



Hint: Can you find something that you might find on or near a path?



path





green pasture

=



Hint: What can you find that makes you think of a green pasture?



Hint: Can you find a special thing that reminds you of someone who loves you?



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Look for things that make you think of the following parts of Psalm 23.



The part of Psalm 23 that says, "Guides me."



The part of Psalm 23 that says, "Valley of the shadow of death."



The part of Psalm 23 that says, "House of the Lord."

