# HONORABLE MEN

# OF THE BIBLE

***AGE 0-4***

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

# HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 0-4
Written by Sister Michelle Corder

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**Booklet Design and Layout:**
Brother Cory Glass

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**Treasurer**
Brother Randall Henson
10022 Woodburn-Allen Springs Rd.
Alvaton, KY 42122
270-842-4526


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## HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

# HUMILITY AND PATIENCE

## *Solomon*

The time had come for Kind David to hand over his throne to his son Solomon. Solomon was very young when he became the king of Israel.

Solomon loved God very much and wanted to do the things God would have Him to do. One night, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. In the dream God asked Solomon what he would like to have. Solomon could have asked to be rich or to have a long life or for victories over his enemies, but he didn't. Solomon asked for an understanding heart to rule over God's people and to help him know good from bad and to be a fair judge.

God was very pleased with Solomon. Because he made a humble request, God gave him an understanding heart and wisdom to judge the people fairly; the Lord also blessed him with riches, honor, and a long life.

Solomon used some of his riches to build a temple to honor God. Solomon prayed to dedicate the temple to God. He praised God for his greatness and asked him to be merciful and forgiving to the people of Israel. When Solomon prayed, he bowed down in front of everyone that was gathered for the dedication in front of the temple.

Bowing shows humility. Praying shows that we know that we need God's help and that we are willing to listen to God's advice. Humility is acknowledging our own weakness and admitting that we need help from God, just like Solomon. Pride is refusing to admit our sins and wanting to do things on our own.

**Memory Verse; James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**

## HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

# INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

### *Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego*

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon won a great battle against the Israelites. He brought many people from Israel as prisoners to work for him in the city. He chose some of the strongest and most clever men to work in the palace. Three of these men were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and they were given important jobs to do for the king.

King Nebuchadnezzar thought he was the most important person of all. He had a huge golden statue made, and he told everyone to come and see it. When a big crowd of people came to see the statue, the king commanded that every time they heard music and singing, that they must bow down and worship the statue. Nebuchadnezzar told them that if they did not worship the statue they would be thrown into a fiery furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego knew that they should only bow down to God. They refused to worship the king's golden statue, even though they were his helpers. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego told the king that they loved God and could not bow down to the statue. This made King Nebuchadnezzar very angry and he ordered his strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the furnace. The fire was so hot that it killed the soldiers who threw them in.

King Nebuchadnezzar was scared. He asked his men if there were only three men put into the furnace. When the answer was yes, he said that he now saw four men walking around in the furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar called for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to come out of the flames and they were not burned at all! They did not even smell like smoke.

In Daniel 3:28, Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God."

King Nebuchadnezzar was so amazed that he forgave Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. He told his entire kingdom that from that day on they would only worship the one true God.

We should always be honest and fair, and God will protect us.

**Memory verse: Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.**

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

# FAITH AND WISDOM

## *Joshua and Caleb*

God told Moses to send twelve men to scout out the land of Canaan. The land of Canaan was the land that God had promised to the Israelites.

After the scouts were chosen, Moses told them where to go and what to bring back. They were to see how many people lived in the land and if they were weak or strong. They were to see if those people lived in tents or buildings and if the city had a strong wall built around it. They were also to see if the land was good for growing food and bring back fruit from the land.

After 40 days, the scouts returned. The land was great and they brought back a cluster of grapes so big that it took two men to carry it. But the people were big and strong and the city was strong too.

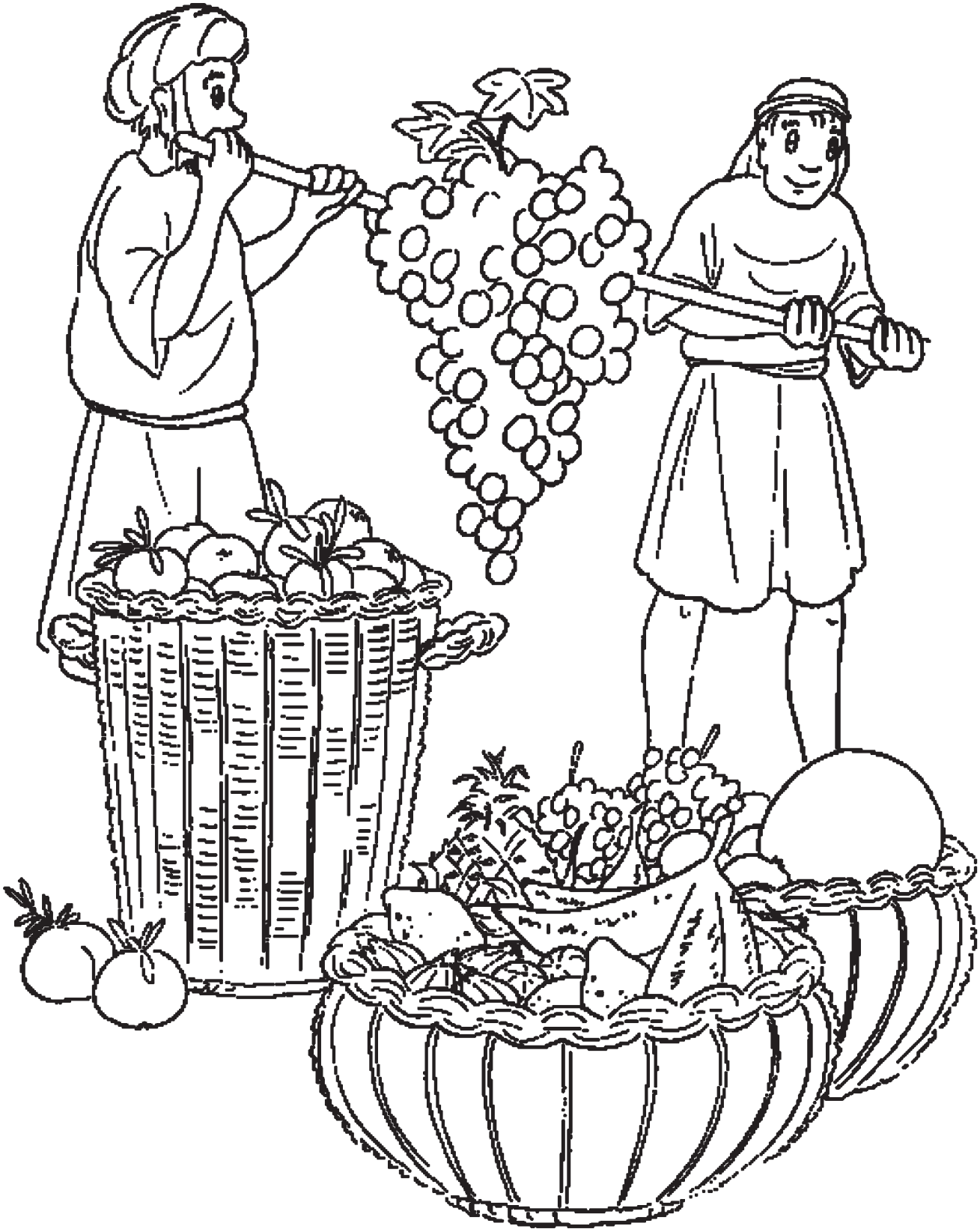
Two of the scouts, Joshua and Caleb, told the people that they could take control of the land. The other ten scouts were scared. They convinced the Israelites that the people in Canaan were like giants. The Israelites were afraid. They did not think they could win. They complained that they should have just stayed in Egypt.

Joshua and Caleb tried to calm the people. They tried again to tell them how good the land was and how wonderful it would be to live there. They told them that if they would trust the Lord, He would give the land to them. The Israelites became very angry with them and threatened to stone them.

God told Moses to tell the Israelites that because of their lack of faith and trust in Him that all of the people 20 years and older would die in the wilderness. So for the next 40 years (one year for each day) the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. Only Joshua and Caleb and the younger Israelites were allowed to enter the Promised Land.

Joshua and Caleb had faith in God and He richly blessed them.

**Memory verse: Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, “If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and thou be planted in the sea; and it should obey you.**



## HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

# ZEALOUSNESS AND LEADERSHIP

### *Moses*

Moses was an Israelite, but he grew up in an Egyptian palace as the son of the Pharaoh's daughter. When Moses realized that he was not a true Egyptian, he fled to the land of Midian. In Midian, he became a shepherd. One day while he was tending his sheep, he saw a bush that was burning. The bush was on fire, but it was not burning up. God spoke to Moses from the bush. God told Moses to return to Egypt and convince the Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go. Moses was very afraid! He gave God every excuse he could think of hoping that he would not have to go. One excuse that he tried was that he did not speak well. So God just sent his brother, Aaron, along to help him.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, "Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go, …" (Exodus 5:1). Pharaoh refused! Moses and Aaron returned to their camp and prayed for help from God. God told Moses that he would make Pharaoh let the Israelites go. God sent 10 plagues upon the Egyptians. The plagues were terrible for the Egyptians. During the first plague all of the water was turned to blood, then God sent frogs that covered all the land, lice covered their bodies, and flies swarmed everywhere, then all the animals died, painful boils popped up all over their bodies, hail destroyed all their crops, and then the locust ate anything that was left, darkness covered the land, and the first born of each Egyptian home died. After some of the plagues, Pharaoh would agree to let the some of the Israelites go or place conditions on letting them go. But after the last plague, when the Pharaoh's own son had died, he let the Israelites go.

They quickly gathered all their belongings, including all of the animals and about 600,000 Israelites marched out of Egypt. The Lord guided them during the day by a cloud and at night by a pillar of fire.

A few days after the Israelites had left, Pharaoh changed his mind. He gathered a large army of chariots and started after the Israelites. When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army coming, they were very afraid. The cloud that went before them during the day moved behind them. It was now between the Israelites and Pharaoh's army, and the army could not see through the cloud.

The Israelites were now trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. God told Moses to stretch out his rod over the sea and God caused the sea to part by a strong east wind. All of the children of Israel walked across on dry land. The Egyptians followed after them. On the other side Moses again stretched out his rod over the sea and the waters returned and covered the Egyptians.

Moses was a good leader because he listened and obeyed God.

**Memory Verse; I Timothy 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in purity.**

Moses

## HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

# COURAGE AND OBEDIENCE

### *Elijah*

Elijah was a prophet. A prophet is a messenger of God. God sent Elijah to deliver a message to King Ahab.

King Ahab lived in Israel with his wife, Jezebel. Israel had become a very evil place under the reign of Ahab. The king and most of the people believed in a god named Baal. They worshipped this god and did many bad things.

God sent Elijah to tell King Ahab that he was angry with him because he was worshipping a false god. Elijah told Ahab that there would be no rain or dew for three years unless Elijah commanded it.

After warning the king, God sent Elijah to a quiet place in the country. Elijah waited there by a brook and God sent ravens to feed him. They brought bread and meat morning and night. Elijah drank from the brook.

Soon the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. Elijah knew that God's word was coming true. The whole country was short of water. The crops didn't grow and the people were hungry.

Three years later, God sent Elijah back to King Ahab. Elijah was very scared because Queen Jezebel had killed hundreds of prophets. But Elijah did not question God; he knew God would take care of him.

When the two men met, Elijah told Ahab to build an altar and offer a sacrifice. He told them not to light the fire but to call out to Baal to start the fire. They called and shouted all day but nothing happened.

Elijah called all the people over to his altar. He began to make his altar using twelve stones - one for each of the twelve sons of Jacob. Then he dug a trench around it. He poured water all over the altar until everything was soaking wet and water ran down and filled the trench.

Then Elijah stood in front of the altar and prayed so that everyone could hear him. He asked God to prove to the people that He was the God of Israel. Suddenly, there was a fire on Elijah's altar. It was hot and red and burned everything. It even made the water boil away. Across the sea, there was a small dark cloud. It came quickly. Soon the sky darkened and big drops of rain began to fall.

Elijah was courageous because he knew that God would provide everything that he needed.

**Memory verse: Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**