HONORABLE MEN

OF THE BIBLE

AGE 5-6

The Missionary Baptist
Vacation Bible School Literature Committee presents

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

Vacation Bible School Lessons for Ages 5-6
Written by Sister Tangi Wheet

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HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

HUMILITY AND PATIENCE

Soloman

Reading: 2 Chronicles 1:1, 7-12, 6:10-21, 7:1-3, 11-15
Memory Verse: James 4:10 - Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Do your parents and your grandparents tell you how wonderful you are? I bet they do! And you are wonderful because you are fearfully and wonderfully made! King David even praises God for this in Psalms 139:14:

"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

But sometimes, people think they are so wonderful that they are more important than other people. This is called pride and the Bible teaches us that being proud makes God unhappy.

God doesn't want us to be full of pride, he wants us to be the opposite of proud—He wants us to be humble. He wants us to put others before ourselves.

In the Bible, we are told that Solomon had been made king of one of the most powerful nations on earth. He had more splendor and riches than anyone else. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked Solomon if there was anything he wanted.

Despite his greatness, Solomon was humble enough to ask for wisdom from God to govern God's people. God was very pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom and told him that because he had asked for wisdom and not riches, honor, a long life or the death of his enemies, God would give him wisdom, *and* all these other things.

With some of the wealth that God gave him, Solomon built a temple to honor God. Solomon prayed to dedicate the temple to God, acknowledging God's greatness and asking God to be merciful and forgiving.

When Solomon prayed, he bowed down in front of all the people. (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 did. Pride is refusing to admit our sinfulness and wanting to do things on our own, without help from God or anyone else.

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

INTEGRITY AND HONESTY

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Reading: Daniel 3:10-30
Memory Verse: Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

Have you ever been afraid to tell the truth? I sure have! There have been times in my life when I knew that being honest would get me in trouble or hurt someone's feelings. In times like these, we may be very tempted to not be honest and lie our way out of something like that.

The men in today's lesson found themselves in a similar situation; but their consequence for being honest was more severe than getting a time out or making someone upset. Their consequence was death!

King Nebuchadnezzar ruled over his kingdom of Babylon. The king had three men working for him and they had important jobs.

One day the king decided to build a huge image made of gold that stood 90 feet high. That's as big as a nine-story building!

King Nebuchadnezzar then made a decree that when the music played, the people would bow down and worship the statue.

God does not want us to worship anything or anyone other than Him. After all, he is God, He made us, and He loves us very much.

The next time the music played everyone stopped what they were doing and they bowed down to worship this idol. Everyone that is, except for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard, he was very angry. He immediately ordered that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought to him to explain their actions.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, because they were brave and honest, explained to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

This made Nebuchadnezzar even angrier. The king ordered the furnace to be heated seven times hotter and commanded some of the strongest soldiers to take Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to throw them in the fire.

As the soldiers were pushing the men into the furnace the heat killed them.

After a few moments, King Nebuchadnezzar jumped to his feet in disbelief and asked his advisors "Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They replied, "True, O king." He said, "Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Nebuchadnezzar then came as close as he could to the furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither.”
So the three men walked out of the furnace without any burns, no hairs on their head burned, all their clothes perfectly fine, and no smell of fire on them at all.

At that moment Nebuchadnezzar knew that they worshipped the living God. The king realized that the three men truly believed and trusted in God. They were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own.

The king commanded that from that day on all the people could not say anything bad about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's God or they would be badly punished.
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego's honest heart and faith in God saved them from death and witnessed to others the power of God.

HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

FAITH AND WISDOM

Joshua and Caleb

Reading: Numbers chapters 13-14
Memory verse: Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Luke 18:27:

"And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Isn't that amazing?!

There may be times in your life when it seems that there is no hope of things being accomplished, but if it's God's will, He can make impossible things possible!

God told Moses to have one man, a leader, from each tribe of Israel to spy the land of Canaan. There were twelve tribes, so there were twelve men sent to search the land of Canaan. Moses told them to go south, into the mountains.

They were to see what the people living there were like. How many were there? How was the land, is it good or bad? Are there forests? Are the cities like camps or like strongholds? He told them to "be ye of good courage" and bring back some of the fruit from the land. It was the season for ripe grapes.

They searched the land and returned after forty days. They told the people that the land flowed with "milk & honey" and they showed the people the grapes they had brought from the Valley of Eshcol. The branch was one grape cluster and was so big, they had to put it on a pole and carry it between two men! They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. They also told them that the people there were strong and the cities were very large and protected.

Caleb quieted the people and told them "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." But the other men that had spied the land, said, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. … And there we saw the giants, … and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

The people complained and said that they should have just stayed in Egypt to die!

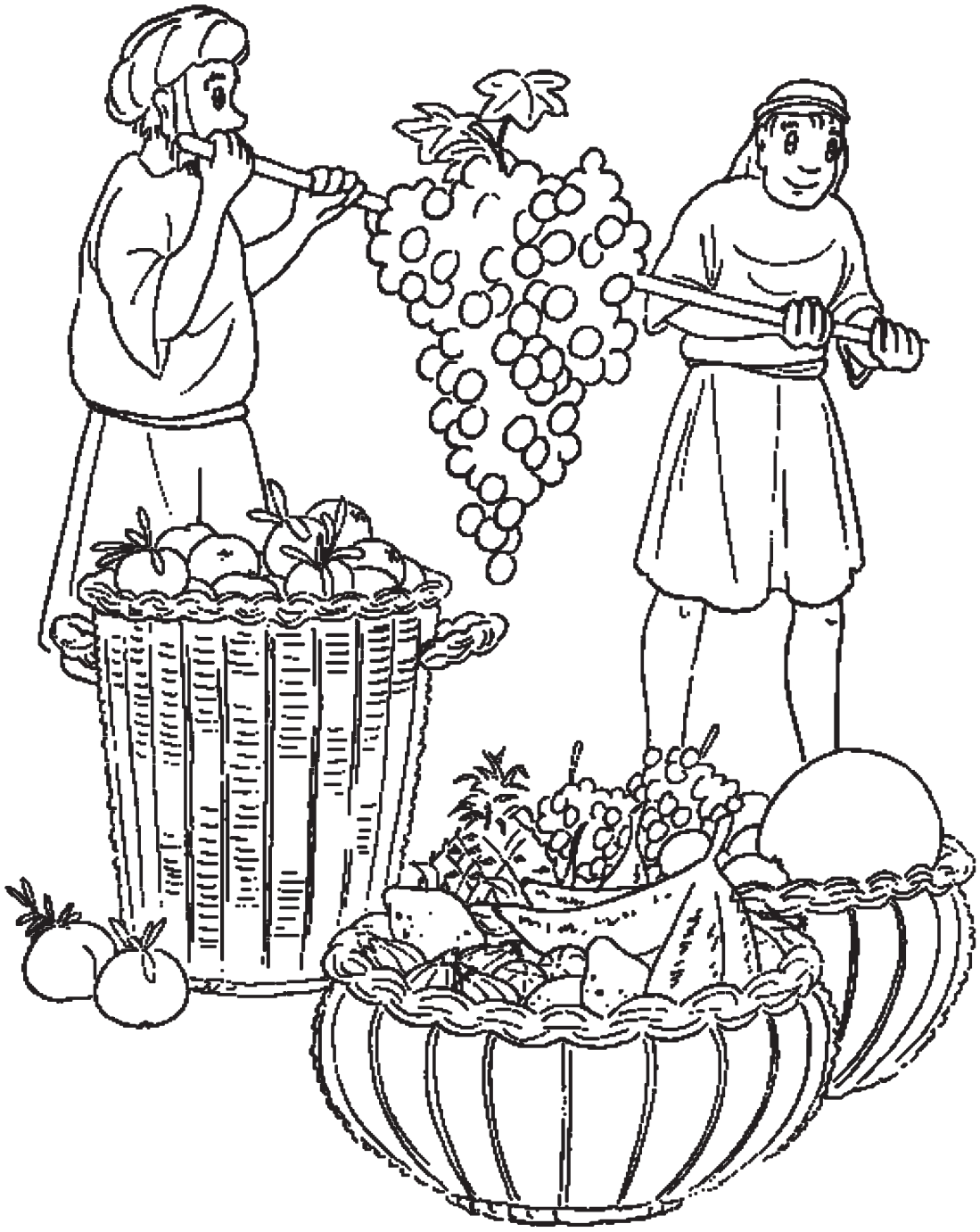
They still didn't have enough faith in God and His power! But Joshua and Caleb, two of the men that searched the land of Canaan, tore their clothes and spoke to everyone. They told the people that it was very good land, and if the Lord is happy with them, then He would give the land to them! They told the people again that it was a land that flowed "with milk and honey"! These two faithful and wise men encouraged the people to not fight against the Lord and fear the people of Canaan, but that the Lord would be with them if they put aside their fears and went to take the land. The people were so upset, they wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb!

God told them because of their lack of faith, all the people that were twenty years and older

would die in the wilderness. Only Caleb and Joshua and the younger people would enter into the Promised Land.

Because some of the spies didn't believe God would protect them, and they had searched the land for forty days, God would make the people wander in the wilderness for forty years (one year for each one day). Joshua and Caleb were the only spies that had faith in God. The other ten died from a plague.

After the forty years of wandering in the wilderness, Moses, not being permitted to enter into the promised land, made Joshua the Israelite people's leader in his place. Joshua became the leader due to his demonstrated faithfulness and wisdom (Deuteronomy 34:9). Moses being one hundred twenty years old was permitted to go to the top of a mountain to see the promised land.



HONORABLE MEN OF THE BIBLE

ZEALOUSNESS AND LEADERSHIP

Moses

Reading: Exodus 3
Memory verse: 1 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 faith, in purity.

Did you know that you can be a leader? Everyone can! However, not all leaders are good. Some make bad choices and lead others to make bad choices. God wants us to be good examples to those around us.

You can be the leader of a line, the leader of a team, or the leader of your family.

Can you imagine being a leader for millions of people? That would be a huge responsibility! I don't know about you, but I would need a lot of help to lead that many people. Not help from other people, but from GOD!

The Bible tells us that one day, a man named Moses was leading his sheep to Horeb, also called "the mountain of God" when he saw a burning bush. Moses thought it was strange that the bush was on fire, but it did not burn up.

Then God spoke to Moses from the burning bush. "Moses, Moses. … Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground."

God told Moses that He was the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, that He had seen the affliction of His people in Egypt and have heard their prayers for deliverance. God told Moses to go back to Egypt and lead the people to the land that is flowing with milk and honey.

"Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Moses asked. God answered, "Certainly I will be with thee …".

Moses then asked God what he should tell the people when they asked who sent him to deliver them.God answered, "I AM THAT I AM: … Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

As God's chosen leader, Moses saw God perform many great miracles. One such miracle was when the children of Israel escaped the Egyptian army through the Red Sea.

God used Moses to part the waters to allow the Israelites to pass through safely on dry land. When the Egyptian army followed, God closed the sea and the entire army was drowned in the sea.

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

Moses

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COURAGE AND OBEDIENCE

Elijah

Reading: 1 Kings 18:21-40
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.

Have you ever been afraid? It's not fun to be scared, is it? I've been afraid when I've heard a scary noise. I've been afraid when someone I loved was sick. Did you know that God doesn't want us to be afraid? He doesn't want us to worry about what can happen to us. He wants us to trust Him!

There are a lot of men in the Bible that showed great courage in scary times, but today I want to tell you about Elijah. Elijah was a regular man, but he was not ordinary. He was a man who made mistakes, and was afraid sometimes, yet when it really mattered he trusted God. Elijah did amazing things with God's help and God did amazing things for Elijah.

There was a king named Ahab who believed in a god named Baal. He and most of the people worshipped this god and did many things that the Bible says we shouldn't do.

King Ahab also had a wife named Jezebel. The king and his wife both came from very evil families. Together they helped make Israel a place that God did not like. That's why God sent Elijah, he would show the people that God was more powerful and the One they should be worshipping instead.

Elijah was told by God to deliver a message to King Ahab. Elijah went to Ahab and told him, "As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

Elijah told King Ahab what would happen, then the Lord told Elijah to go and hide.

Three years went by and during this time the evil Jezebel was trying to get rid of all the prophets of God like Elijah. What Jezebel didn't know was that one of the king's servants named Obadiah, who was in charge of the palace, was hiding the Lord's prophets in caves to keep them safe. God spoke to Elijah and told him, "Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth."

So Elijah went to find Ahab. When Ahab was told that Elijah wanted to see him he said in an angry voice, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?"

Elijah quickly replied, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim. Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table."

None of us should disobey God, but God was especially angry because Ahab and his father were both kings. Kings had a lot of responsibility like presidents and prime ministers. They made laws and people listened to them, and when the King and Jezebel ruled Israel they didn't worship God they worshipped Baal, and unfortunately a lot of the people turned to Baal like they did.

All the people gathered on Mount Carmel. Elijah stood before the people and asked them how long they were going to keep changing their minds. He told them that if the LORD is God to follow Him but if they thought it was Baal then follow him. The people just stood there and said nothing.

Then Elijah said to them, “I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men. Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.”

All the people nodded and agreed. So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, to get a head start and get their bull ready first. Then they should call on Baal, but they were not to start the fire themselves.

So they picked the best bull and set it on the wood. Then they began calling on Baal to start the fire. They shouted and danced around the altar yelling to Baal to start the fire. They shouted and shouted from morning till noon with no answer.

Around noon Elijah was getting bored so he told the prophets of Baal that maybe they were not shouting loud enough; maybe their god was busy or sleeping and can't hear. So he told them they had better shout louder.

So some of the people ran around screaming to Baal, others were bowing and crying to Baal. They just couldn't seem to do enough, but nothing happened. The people who believed in Baal had done this all day long and they were very tired. Finally, Elijah called the people over to his altar. He began to make his altar. He took some stones and put them around his altar. Then he built a trench around his altar to hold about a bath tub full of water. Then Elijah did something very strange. He asked the people to pour water over his bull, the wood and enough water to fill the trenches below the altar.

How was God going to start a fire when the whole altar was soaking wet? The people thought for sure that Elijah's God would never be able to start a fire now.

After the entire altar was completely soaked and the trench filled, Elijah stepped forward and simply prayed: “LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.”

Just as Elijah finished his prayer and everyone stood silently watching, fire burst out of the altar and everything was covered in flames. Every single thing was burnt down to nothing, and all the water was gone.

As the people watched completely amazed they began to fall on their knees and cry out, “The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”

Then all the prophets of Baal were taken away and Elijah told Ahab to watch because now that the people didn't worship Baal anymore, the Lord would let it rain.

Facing all of those evil men without God, could have had a bad ending, but God was with Elijah and did amazing things!

Anytime you are in a scary situation, remember to have courage because God is with you!