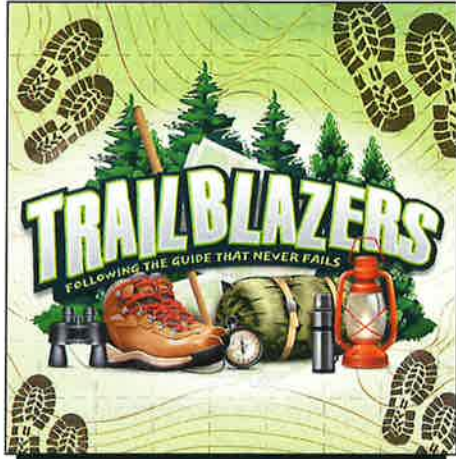




DAVID AND JONATHAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 20

FOCUS VERSES: Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5–6;
Hebrews 10:24

Summary: Saul was still the king of Israel, but God had anointed David to replace him. Saul brought David to live in his house. Saul's son Jonathan and David became best friends and promised to always take care of each other. Saul grew very jealous of David and tried to kill him multiple times. David and Jonathan made a plan to figure out if Saul truly intended to harm David. Jonathan helped David escape. Jonathan was a good friend to David even though that meant he would never be the king himself.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)



God's plan comes first.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHY SHOULD GOD'S PLAN COME FIRST?
God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.



DO WE HAVE TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN ON OUR OWN?
God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: OUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL

Our words have the power to build up or tear down. Our words have the power to negatively affect a kid's self-esteem or to encourage them and build up their confidence. Let's be intentional with the words we use, calling out the strengths of each child.

- **Praise publicly, correct privately.** Correction is best done in a quiet corner of the room, out of earshot of others. Public correction can cause shame, which can increase undesirable behavior.
- **Look for ways to say "yes."** "Yes" is a powerful word. While there are times we must say no, look for opportunities to respond with a yes or use a positive response. For example if a kid wants to get out the toys, instead of saying no, which can result in a power struggle, reframe your response with, "yes, we will play with the toys after large group."
- **Call out the good in each kid.** Kids who have difficult behavior often receive negative feedback everywhere they go, which can impact their beliefs about themselves. Be the one to point out the unique gifts that God has given them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: CHOOSING FRIENDS

Research shows that 20 percent of elementary-age kids have difficulty making or keeping friends. Friendships are crucial for kids' social development and mental health. In today's lesson, kids will learn about David and Jonathan and their commitment to God and to each other. You may have kids in your group who struggle with having close friends. Some kids choose friendships that are not healthy. You can help kids begin to create a definition for Godly, healthy friendships. Your group can be a safe place for kids to develop friendships. Utilize "Belong" experiences to help kids connect with each other and discover similarities. When kids work in partners or groups, help pair them in varying groups so they have the opportunity to know others. Most of all, help kids understand that great friendships help them grow closer to God.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Anoint: chosen by God for a special job

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Providence: God's active involvement in the world today

Bible TEACHING

DAVID AND JONATHAN 1 SAMUEL 20



PRAY: God, thank You for this powerful story of two friends who put Your plans first. Help us learn from them and choose Your way over our own. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages

PREP:

Print the printable pages.

Ask for three volunteers to come to the front. Have one hold the "God's Way" sign, another hold the "Their Way" sign and the third hold the arrow, standing between the two signs.

Say: Some people in our story chose to follow God's way, while others chose their own way. Each time we come to a choice, point the direction you want the arrow to face. The arrow will turn the way most people choose.

Say: God had used judges to lead the Israelites, but they demanded a king. Were the Israelites choosing God's way or their way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel, but soon after, Saul disobeyed the Lord. God told Saul that he would lose the throne. Did Saul choose God's way or his own way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: God sent Samuel to anoint a shepherd boy named David to be the next king.

Say: David killed a great giant and saved the Israelite army. Afterwards, he became famous in Israel, and Saul brought him to live in his home.

Say: David and Saul's son, Jonathan, became best friends.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Show teaching illustration: Jonathan and David Become Friends

Say: As the son of the king, Jonathan should be the next king. But Jonathan understood that God's plan was for David to be king, and Jonathan put God's plan first by giving up his right to be king. Did Jonathan choose God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "God's way."

Say: David made a covenant with Jonathan, promising to always protect his family. Did David choose God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "God's way."

Say: As time went on, Saul grew very jealous of David. One day, David was playing the harp for him when Saul became angry and hurled his spear at David. David dodged it and was not harmed. Do you think Saul was choosing God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: Jonathan talked to his father and told him that David was not a danger. Saul promised not to hurt him, but the next time David was playing the harp, Saul threw his spear at David again! This time, David left the house. Do you think Saul was choosing God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "their way."

Say: Jonathan still did not believe that his father really wanted to harm David, so the friends made a plan. David would hide in the field during an important dinner. Jonathan would watch Saul's reaction to determine if Saul actually wanted to hurt David. Jonathan would then have a servant shoot arrows into the field. If he said, "The arrows are to the side of you," David would know he was safe. If Jonathan said, "The arrows are farther ahead of you," David would know he was in danger.

 (CONTINUED)

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: At the meal, Saul became extremely angry when he saw that David was missing. He yelled at Jonathan, "Don't you know that as long as David is alive you can never be king!"

Say: This time Saul threw his spear at Jonathan.

Say: Jonathan hurried to the field. He told the young boy with him to go out into the field and shot an arrow ahead of him as he ran. Jonathan yelled to the boy, "The arrows are farther ahead of you!" signaling to David to escape. Did Jonathan choose God's way or his way?

Allow kids to point and then ask the volunteer to direct the arrow the way they choose. It should point toward "God's way."

Show teaching illustration: Jonathan Puts God's Plan First

Read 1 Samuel 20:41-42 directly from the Bible: *And as soon as the boy had gone, David rose from beside the stone heap and fell on his face to the ground and bowed three times. And they kissed one another and wept with one another, David weeping the most. Then Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, because we have sworn both of us in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD shall be between me and you, and between my offspring and your offspring, forever.'" And he rose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city.*

Say: Jonathan put God's plan first and protected David, even though that meant he would never be king. David escaped from Saul.

Say: Eventually David became the rightful king of Israel, just as God had promised.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus



POINT TO JESUS

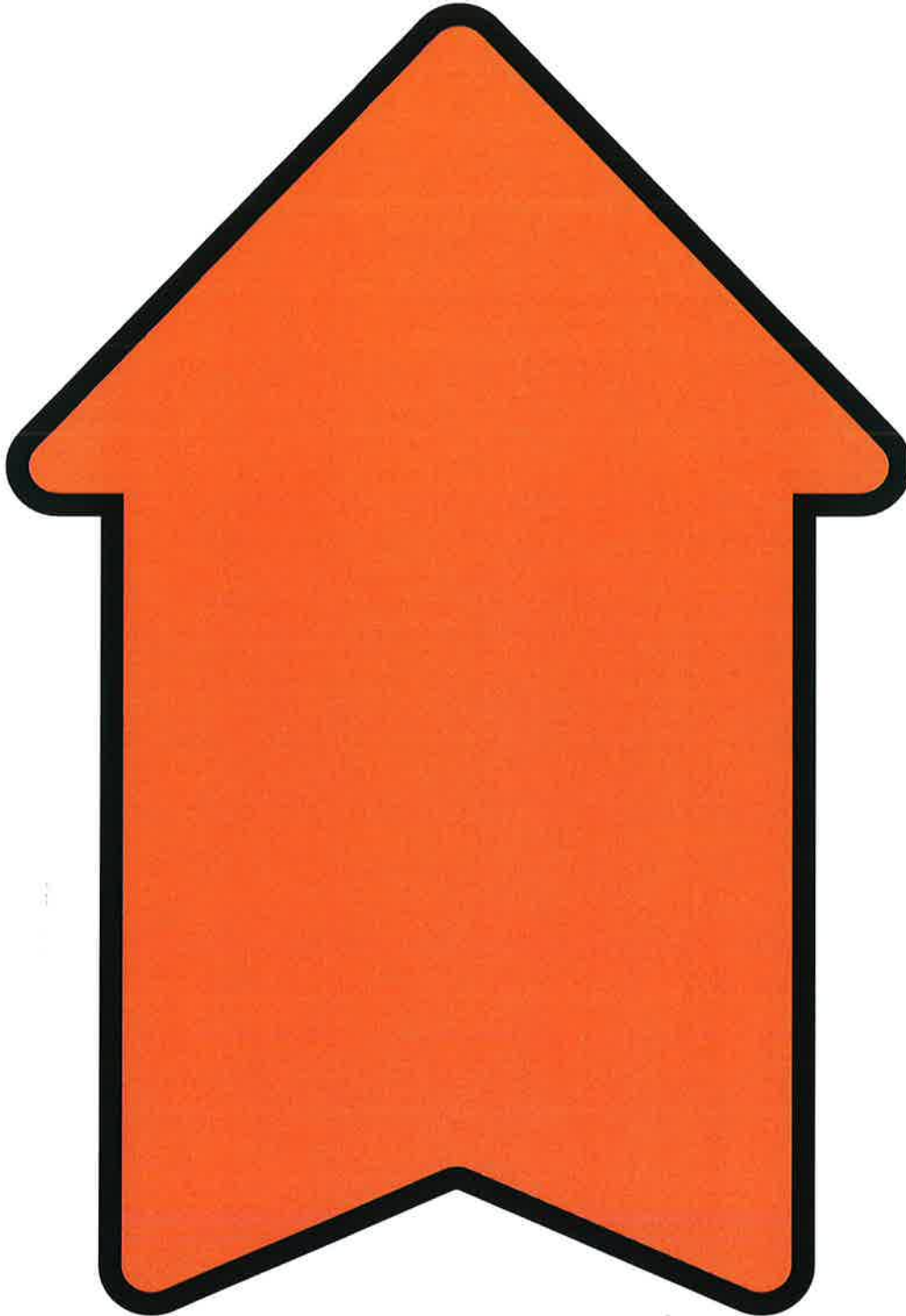
Say: Not only was David the king of Israel, but God promised him that the throne would always belong to his family. One day one of his descendants would be the forever King who would always be on the throne. That descendant was Jesus. God's perfect plan was to send Jesus to rescue us from our sins.



GOOD'S WAY



THEIR WAY



Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

PLAN A PARTY

SUPPLIES: Whiteboard, dry-erase markers

OR

BUILD A FRIEND

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

OVER UNDER VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, ball

OR

PUZZLE IT

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page, scissors

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

ENVELOPES OF SUPPORT

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, envelopes (1 per kid), craft sticks (several per kid)

OR

PICTURE FRAME PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, craft sticks (4 per kid), glue dots (4 per kid), cardstock (1 per kid), scissors, glue (1 per kid)



PLAN A PARTY

SUPPLIES:

Whiteboard, dry-erase markers

PREP:

Write the following categories on your whiteboard with space underneath each one: Where, Food, Games, Activities.

LEADER TIP: Have examples of how God has never failed you in your life!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God never fails. How have you seen this week that God hasn't failed you?
4. **Discuss:** What did you do for your last birthday party?
5. **Say:** Birthday parties are so much fun! Let's see if we can plan an epic birthday party together!
6. **Discuss:** Where would you like to have the party? Where would be the best place you can imagine?
7. *Invite kids to discuss ideas. You can see what the consensus is or have kids vote from a couple of ideas. Write the winning idea under "Where."*
8. *Continue with each of the categories.*
9. *Review the party plan.*
10. **Discuss:** What are some things we would need to do to make this plan happen?
11. **Discuss:** What would happen if we didn't plan the food?
12. **Discuss:** Why is it important to have a plan for something?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Having a plan for a birthday party is very important or people might be hungry or have nothing to do. Today we are learning that God has a special plan for our lives and that His plan is the very best!



BUILD A FRIEND

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, scissors, painter's tape

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God never fails. How have you seen this week that God hasn't failed you?
4. **Discuss:** What makes a good friend?
5. **Discuss:** If you could create a friend, what would you make them like?
6. **Say:** Let's work in pairs to build a friend!
7. *Divide kids into pairs and pass out a set of body cards to each of them.*
8. *Give pairs time to assemble the body parts together into their friend. Encourage kids to take turns in their pairs selecting which cards they will use to be part of their friend.*
9. *In the end, each pair should have a person with two legs, a torso, two arms and a head.*
10. *Invite pairs to share the friend they built together.*
11. **Say:** Wow! You all made great silly friends together!
12. **Discuss:** Who is someone you know who is a great friend? Why are they a great friend?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

In today's lesson, you are learning about two guys who had the qualities of a great friend. They helped each other with God's plan!



OVER UNDER VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, ball

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow modified movements specific to their needs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lead kids to find Luke 1:37 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.
2. **Discuss:** What may have felt impossible to David? What impossible things did God do?
3. **Discuss:** What plan did God have for David's life?
4. **Discuss:** Why should God's plan come first?
5. **Say:** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.
6. **Say:** There were many times when David may have felt discouraged or like it was impossible for him to become king, but God's plan happened! David and Jonathan worked together to accomplish God's plan.
7. **Say:** Let's work together as friends to learn our verse!
8. Gather kids in a standing circle.
9. Have everyone face the same direction.
10. Choose someone to give the ball to and begin the verse.
11. They will pass the ball over their head to the person behind them while saying the first word of the verse aloud. The person in line behind them will pass the ball under their legs to the person behind them while saying the next word of the verse aloud.
12. Everyone will continue alternating passing the ball over or under while saying a word of the verse until the verse is completed.
13. Repeat the verse as many times as you have time for.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God's plan is always the best plan! Nothing is impossible for Him!



PUZZLE IT

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable page, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable page and cut out (1 per 2 kids).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Pair kids who may struggle with this activity with a friend who can help.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What plan did God have for David? Did anything stop that plan?
2. **Discuss:** What does this show us about who God is?
3. **Say:** God is faithful, powerful and always able to carry out His plan.
4. **Discuss:** Why should God's plan come first?
5. **Say:** God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.
6. **Say:** Let's put a puzzle together and talk about God's plan.
7. *Divide kids into pairs and give them each a puzzle.*
8. *Give kids time to put the puzzle together.*
9. **Read:** Jeremiah 29:11.
10. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God and His plans?
11. **Discuss:** What kind of plan does God have for His people?
12. **Say:** Think about this puzzle like God's plan. We don't always see the whole picture of what God is doing, but God does. He sees the complete picture of our lives, and His plan is good because He is good. He is powerful enough, wise enough and loving enough to make His plan happen.
13. **Say:** Just like the puzzle came together piece by piece, God's plan comes together because He is the One putting it all in place.

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

As you go through your week, remember that you can trust God's plan because He will make it happen.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: God gives us friends. Friends are a precious gift because we don't have to live life on our own. Friends bring joy and comfort. Good friends are a reminder of God's goodness.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–10a directly from the Bible: *Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... CHOOSING FRIENDS?

Discuss: Share about how you met your best friend.

Discuss: What are some characteristics of true friends?

Discuss: What does God have to say about that?

Say: Friendships are very important and are a gift from God. We can all think of friends who have helped us in many ways. But you can likely also think of friends you have had who have gotten you into trouble. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says: *Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."* In other words, if we spend a lot of time with people who aren't living like God wants them to, we are likely to end up not making great choices as well. Our friends influence us a lot, so it is important that we spend time with people who help our relationship with God. It is hard enough to follow God's plan in our lives. Imagine how much easier it would be if you had a friend group who encouraged that? Show love to all people, but be picky in who your closest friends are.



ENVELOPES OF SUPPORT

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, envelopes (1 per kid), craft sticks (several per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Allow for extra time and cueing of ideas to support struggling learners.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did Jonathan put God's plan first? How was Jonathan a good friend to David?
2. **Discuss:** Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?
3. **Say:** God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.
4. **Read:** Hebrews 10:24.
5. **Discuss:** Who is someone in your life who helps you follow God's plan?
6. **Say:** Jonathan and David kept their promise to always take care of each other. We can thank God for the people He has given us to help us follow Jesus.
7. *Give everyone several craft sticks, coloring supplies and an envelope.*
8. *Invite kids to decorate the envelope to look like a church.*
9. *Next, challenge them to decorate each craft stick to look like someone who is a helper in their life.*
10. *When kids are finished, invite kids to share about the helpers in their life who help them follow God. Have kids place their craft sticks in their church envelopes.*
11. **Say:** God gives us a church filled with people who care about us and want us to follow Jesus. He gives us friends who are also following Jesus. He gives us adults to teach us. Putting God's plan first isn't always easy, but we don't have to do it alone!
12. **Pray:** God, thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Help us remember that Your plan comes first. You will make it happen because You never fail. Amen.
13. **Say:** God's plan comes first. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



PICTURE FRAME PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, craft sticks (4 per kid), glue dots (4 per kid), cardstock (1 per kid), scissors, glue (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Cut the cardstock to fit the picture frames (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: Purchase foam picture frames instead of having kids make their own.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** How did Jonathan help David?
2. **Read:** Hebrews 10:24.
3. **Discuss:** Do we have to live out God's plan on our own?
4. **Say:** Jonathan helped David live out God's plan for him. God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us and help us.
5. **Discuss:** Who is someone who has encouraged and helped you learn about God or follow His plan?
6. **Say:** Let's make a picture and frame for this person and then thank God for them. First you will draw a picture of you and the person and put it in the frame.
7. *Pass out supplies. Kids will assemble their frames with four craft sticks held together by a glue dot at each corner.*
8. *Give kids time to draw their picture and glue it in the frame.*
9. **Say:** Let's hold our picture frames and pray for this person. I will start the prayer. Then in the middle, you can thank God for how this person has helped you.
10. **Pray:** God, thank You for these people in our lives who have helped us, loved us, encouraged us and strengthened us. Thank You for ____ (*pause for kids to silently pray for their person*). Give us people who we also can encourage and help. Thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Help us remember that Your plan comes first. You will make it happen because You never fail. Amen.
11. **Discuss:** How can you help and encourage someone in your life?
12. *Invite kids to decorate their picture frames for the remaining time.*
13. **Say:** God's plan comes first. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.





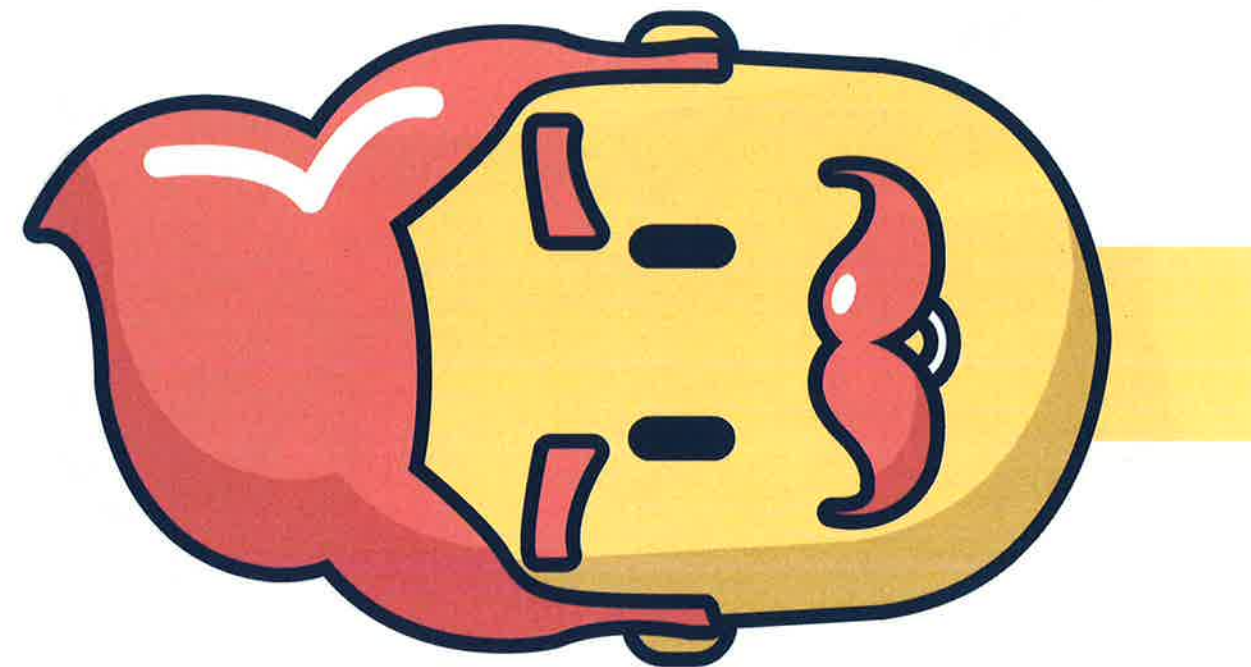
BUILD A FRIEND

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 1 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

HEAD





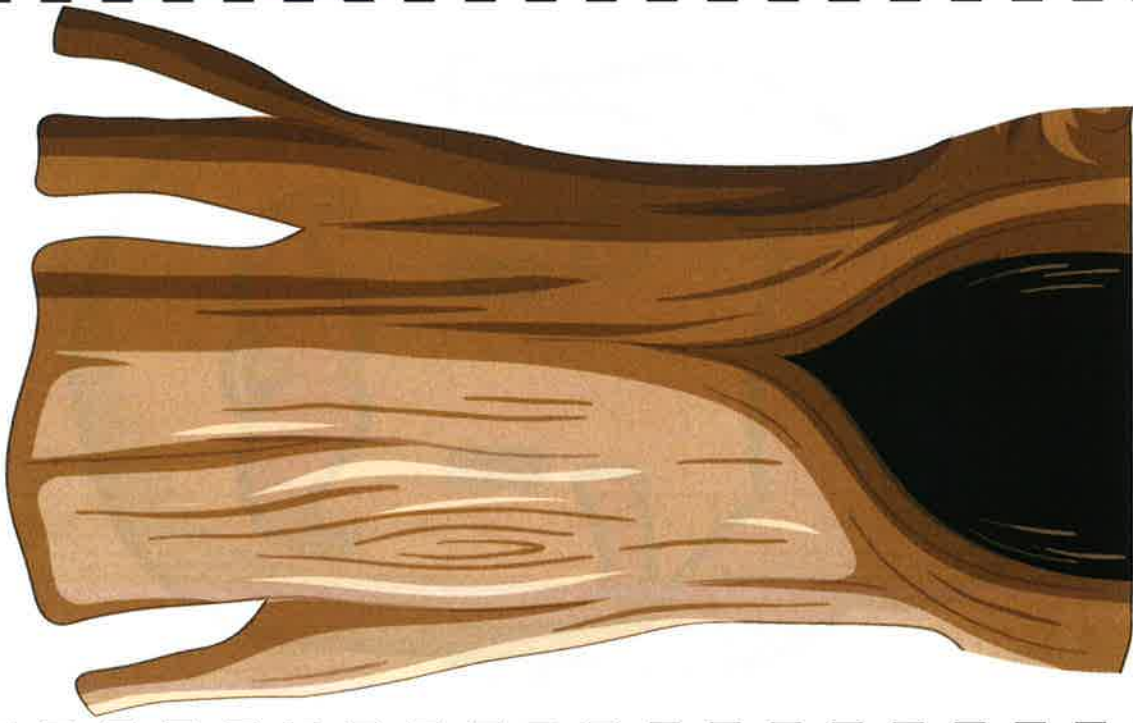
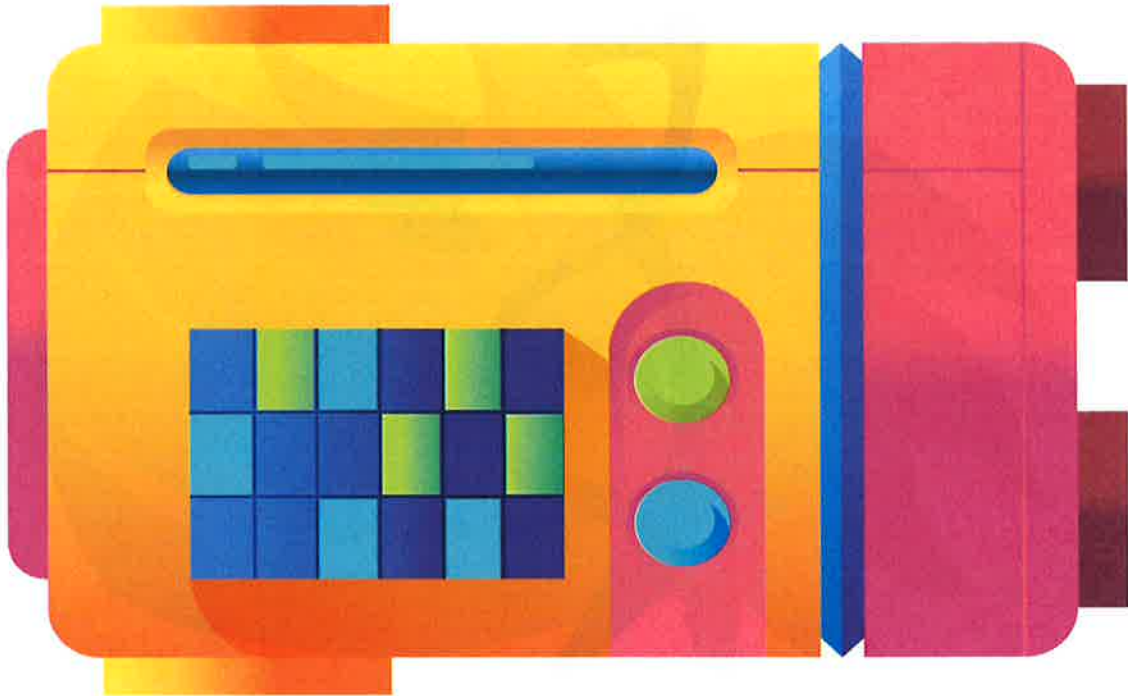
BUILD A FRIEND

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 2 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

TORSO





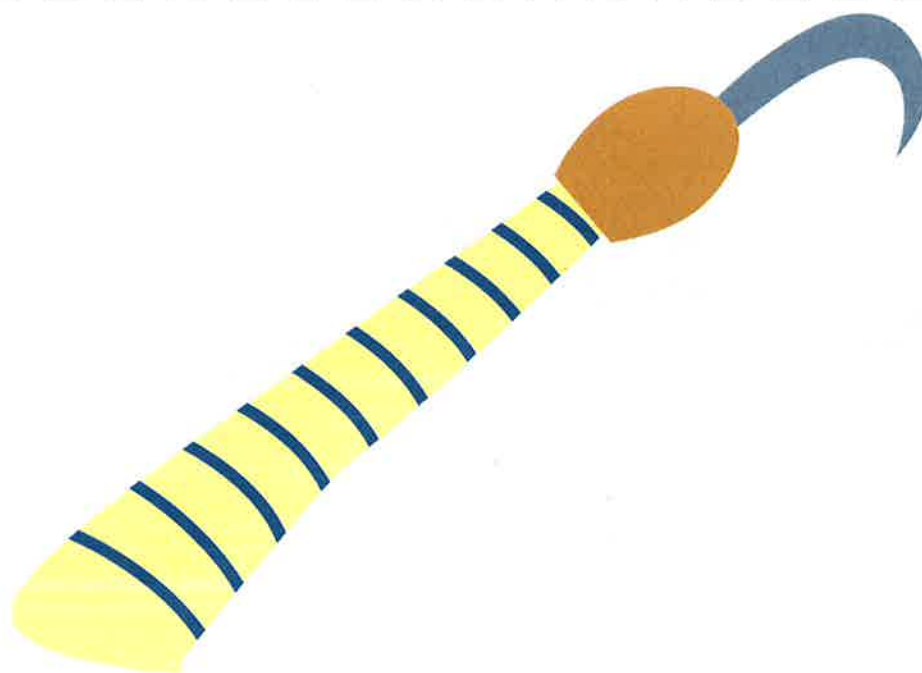
BUILD A FRIEND

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 3 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

LEFT ARM





BUILD A FRIEND

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 4 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

RIGHT ARM





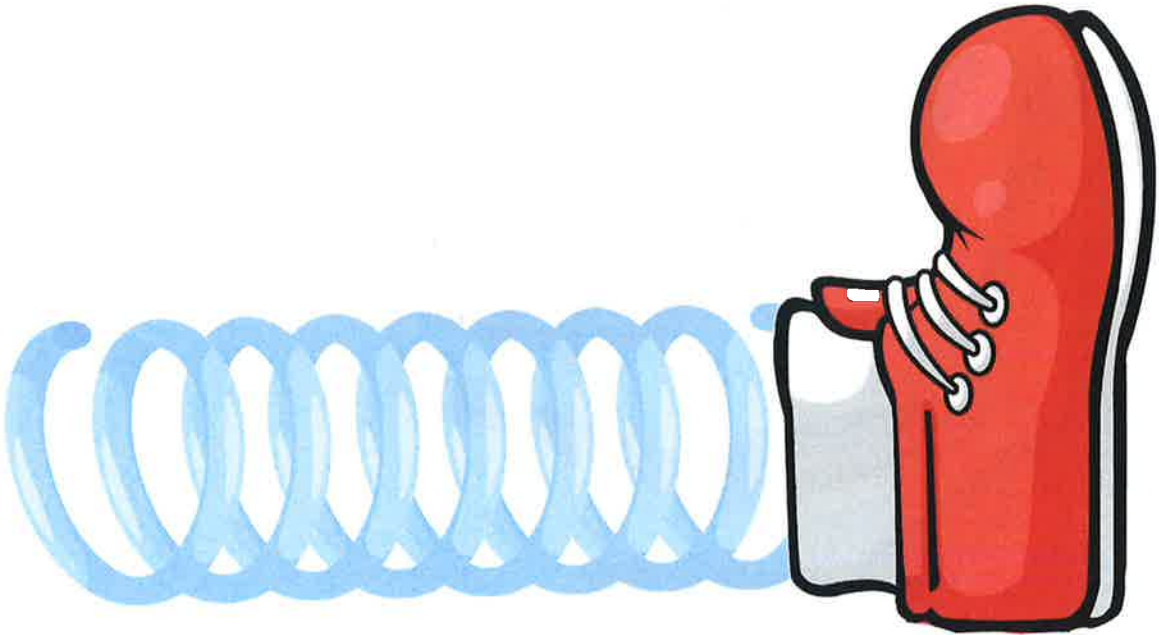
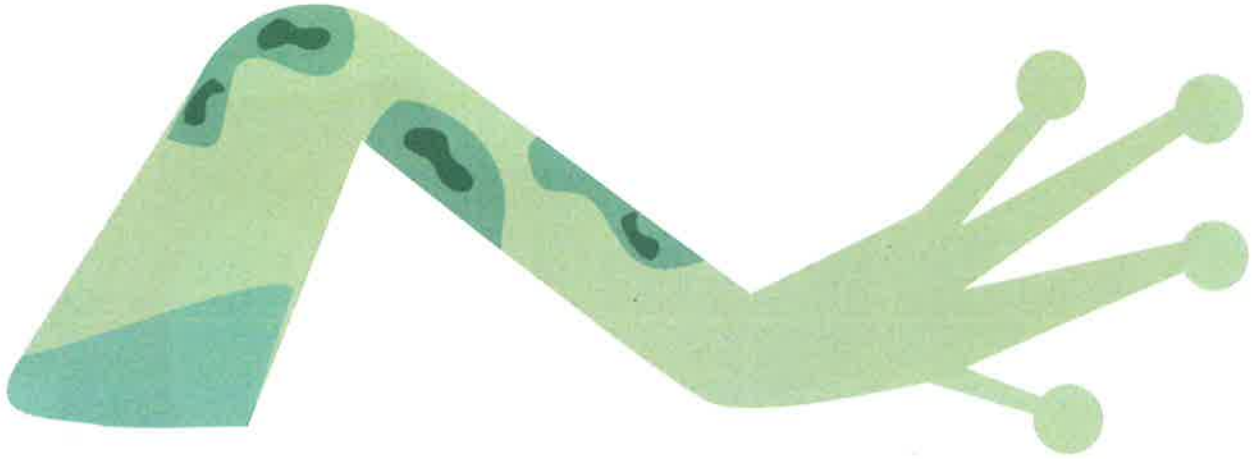
BUILD A FRIEND

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 5 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

LEFT LEG





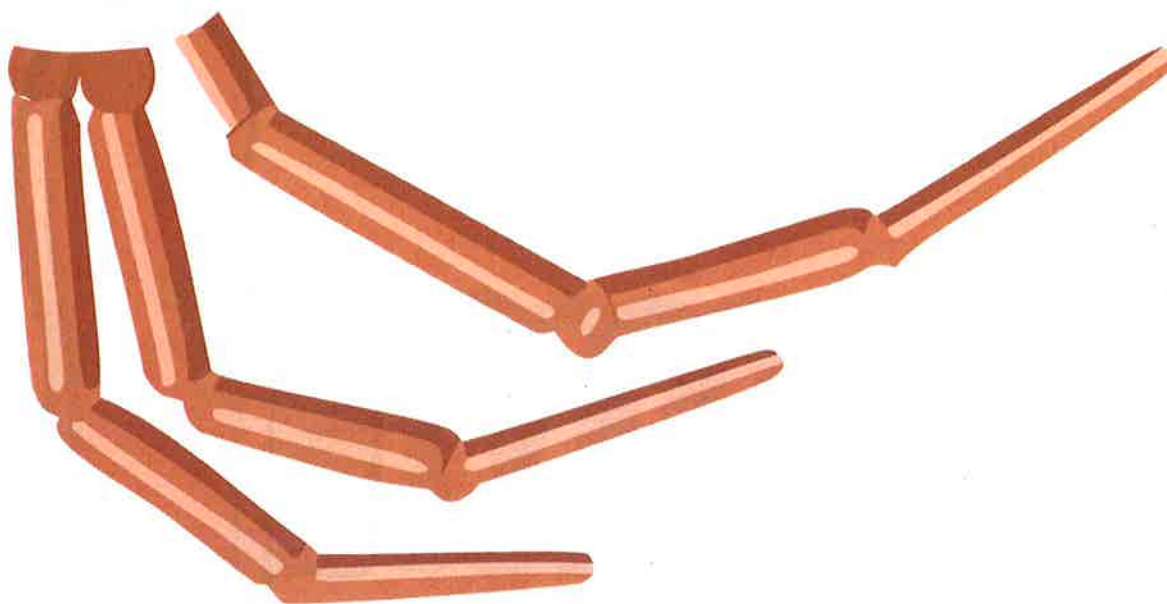
BUILD A FRIEND

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 6 OF 6

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 set of body cards per 2 kids).

RIGHT LEG



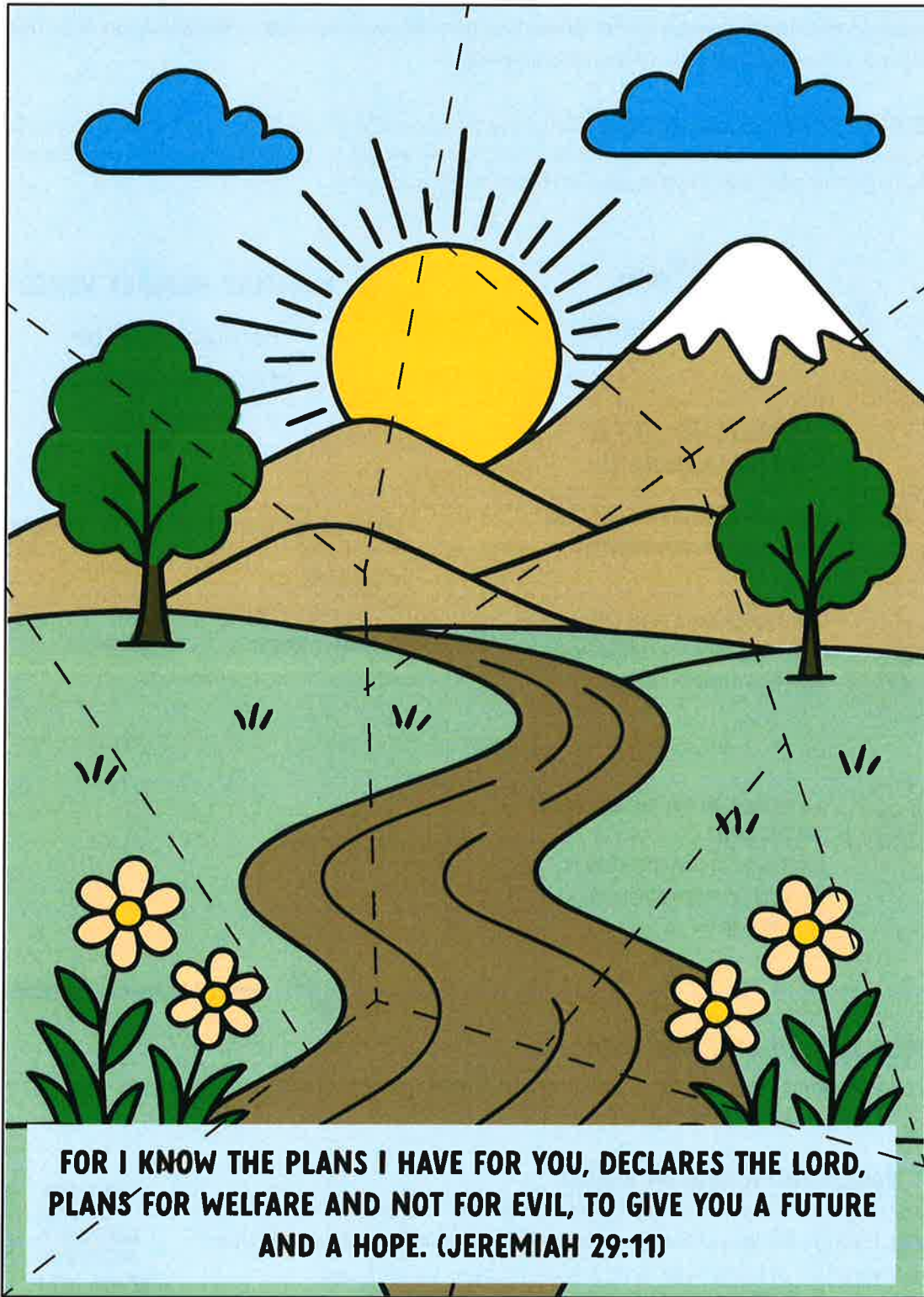


PUZZLE IT

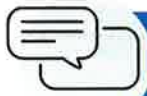
YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
DAVID AND JONATHAN

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out (1 per 2 kids).



**FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE
AND A HOPE. (JEREMIAH 29:11)**



TAKE-HOME

DAVID AND JONATHAN

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 SAMUEL 20 Saul was king, but God chose David to replace him. As David lived with Saul, Jonathan became his closest friend. When Saul grew jealous and tried to kill David, Jonathan helped him escape, choosing God's plan over becoming king.

POINT TO JESUS: God promised David that the throne would always belong to his family. One day one of his descendants would be the forever king who would always be on the throne. That descendant was Jesus. God's perfect plan was to send Jesus to rescue us from our sins.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



WHAT IS ONE THING THAT MADE YOU SMILE TODAY IN YOUR GROUP?



WHY SHOULD GOD'S PLAN COME FIRST?

God's plan is the most important, and He will make it happen.



DO WE HAVE TO LIVE OUT GOD'S PLAN ON OUR OWN?

God gives us other people who can encourage us, strengthen us, love us, and help us.

HOW IS GOD INVITING

ME

TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Have each family member use six words to describe a great friend. Challenge each other to be those six words for your friends this week.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Choosing friends can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.

☐ DAY 1

Read: 1 Samuel 20:1-4

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ DAY 2

**Read: 1 Samuel
20:41-42**

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ DAY 3

**Read: Proverbs
19:20-21**

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ DAY 4

Read: Psalm 115:1-3

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

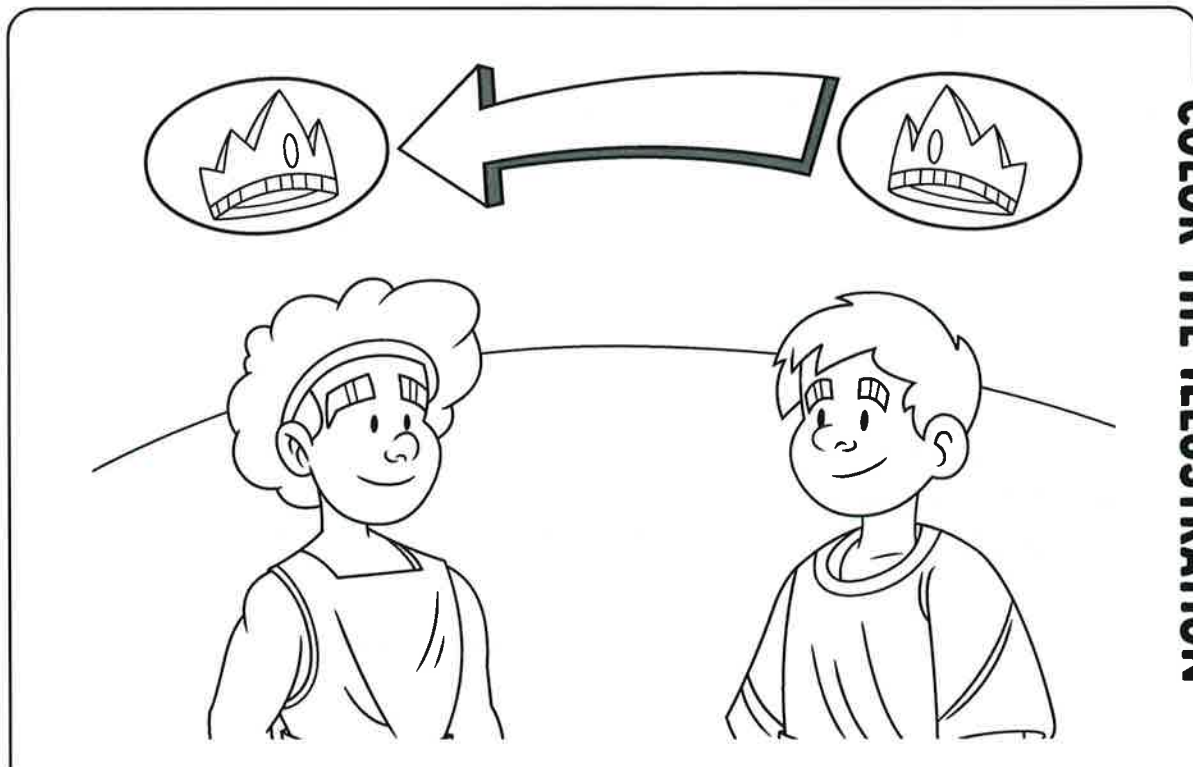
ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

DAVID AND JONATHAN



WORD SCRAMBLE

GNIK

ADDVI

RSINFED

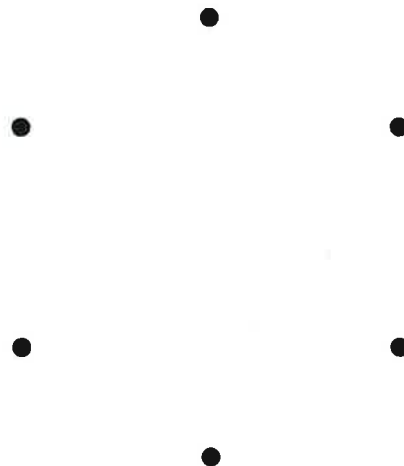
LUSA

NAPL

King, David, Friends, Saul, Plan

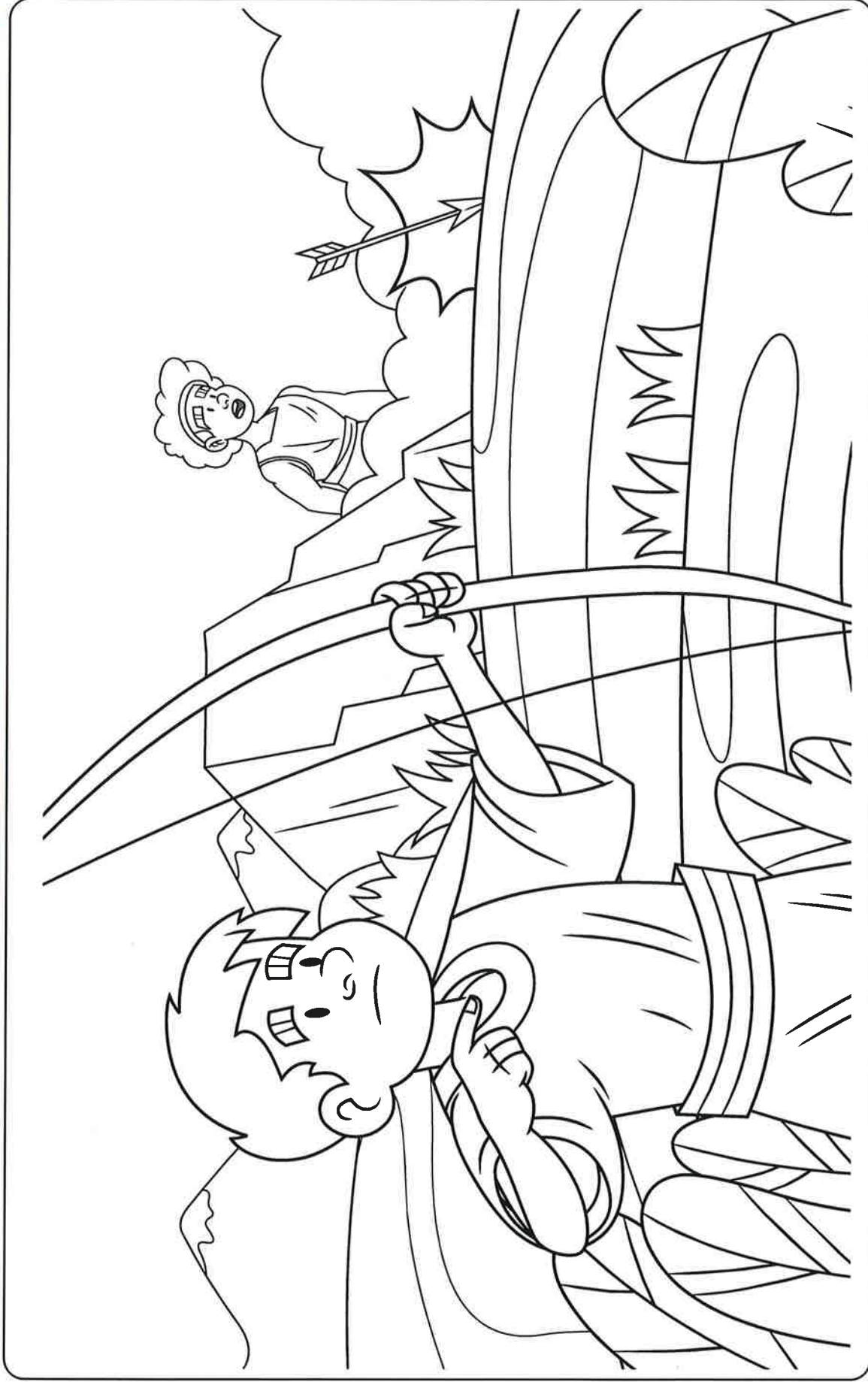
SIM GAME

- Find a partner.
- Use different colors.
- Take turns drawing a line from one dot to another.
- The first player to make a triangle in their own color loses!



1 SAMUEL 20

DAVID AND JONATHAN



brite*

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