

LIVING FAITH: Chapter 8

Living Faith is a family activity that helps drive home the point from this week's chapter from The Story.

Break your family into two teams. Gather masking tape, a package of 100 straws and several eggs. Work in teams to create a casing that will protect an egg when it's dropped. Each team can only use tape and straws. When you've finished your designs, go outside and see which egg protector works best. You may need to get a ladder or chair to stand on as the eggs are dropped on a hard surface. The losing team has to clean up the mess.

Explain that the Israelites followed God as long as Joshua and the elders lived (Judges 2:7). God's people were like the egg surrounded by the protective casing of God's commands. The casing protects the egg. Without protection, the egg breaks. Chapter 8 of *The Story* shows what happened to the Israelites after they strayed from God's commands by worshipping idols and following the world's customs instead of God's. God judged His people and they had to suffer the consequences of their actions.

Ask

- Could the egg survive the fall without the protection of the straw casing?
- How does God's Word protect us?
- Why is it important to know and follow God's commands?
- What happens to us when we decide to get outside the protection of God's commands? (We sin and have to suffer the consequences.)

Extra Mile

Go to godtube.com and search for Bob Smiley's video on spanking. It's only a minute and a half long. If you want to watch more of Bob's comedy, look for a 14 minute and seven second video that talks about being a father and other issues. When you're done watching the videos as a family, discuss these questions about discipline.

- How is God judging the Israelites like a parent disciplining a child?
- What was God's purpose in the judges? (To bring His people back to Him, to stop them from sinning and to help them live a more abundant life.)
- Did God's judgment seem harsh or loving? Was it both?