

THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!

Chapter 11 – From Shepherd to King Day One – One Big Bully

Today's reading: Pages 110-111

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 16-17

Summary: God's people are afraid of the giant.

Do together: Play a flashlight game. When it is dark, herd everyone into a bedroom and sit on the floor together. Turn the lights off and the flashlight on. Shine the flashlight toward the ceiling and while everyone is watching the ceiling, stretch your arm high in the air and just into the light of the flashlight. Pull your hand slowly closer to the light and see how big and scary your hand looks on the ceiling. Let the children try it too.

Think about: Goliath was a big, big man with big, big hands. He stood very tall and very strong and very large. He was not afraid of anything, but all his enemies were very afraid of him. God's people were his enemies. All of King Saul's army was frightened of Goliath. Even David's brothers who were fighting in the army were afraid of him. Was David afraid of that bully, Goliath? Why wasn't David afraid?

Also read: Psalm 56:3. This verse will be referred to every day during this chapter for emphasis. It is a simple verse to remember, and a wonderful verse for your family to set to memory.

Prayer: Dear God, thank you that you are bigger, and stronger, and mightier than any enemy we will ever have. Thank you that you are always on our side. We can trust you to keep us safe and help us to do what is right. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 11 – From Shepherd to King Day Two – The Giant Falls

Today's reading: Pages 112-113

This reading covers: 1 Samuel 17

Summary: By trusting in and fighting for God, David defeats Goliath.

Do together: Look up Philippians 4:13. Read it aloud and then think of a short cheer to say as a family that reminds you all of this verse. Something like, "God can do it all!" or "It's God who gives me strength!" Whenever something difficult comes up in the family, use the little cheer to remind one another where your strength lies.

Think about: God gave David a big job to fight Goliath. David knew that God would help him and that God can do everything because he is bigger and more powerful than anyone. So David trusted God, and did what God asked him to do. We can do anything that God wants us to do because God is on our side.

Also read: Psalm 56:3 again.

Prayer: God you are mighty and strong and powerful. You give us your power to do everything that you want us to do. We never have to be afraid to do your will. Please give us your courage and help us to follow you in all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 11 – From Shepherd to King Day Three – God is My Strength

Today's reading: Pages 114-115

This reading covers: Psalm 59

Summary: David prays and expresses faith that God will protect him.

Do together: Have the children teach the family one song from their kids worship time at church. If it involves movement, get up and move! Sing it together a few times.

Think about: David loved God so much that he often made his prayers into songs. Many of the Psalms in the Bible are songs that David wrote to praise God and to thank God for protecting him. Most of the songs we sing at church are songs made up from Bible words.

If you have a Bible concordance, you might see if you can find any scripture that matches your family's song today. Singing praise music is a wonderful way to get actual scripture into the hearts of your children and yourself.

Also read: Psalm 56:3 once more. Perhaps the children have memorized this by now. Maybe you can even make up a song for the words and turn it into your family's own praise song.

Prayer: Dear God, we love you so much. We trust you for all that we need. We trust you for our food and our home and our safety. We know you will always take care of us, because you love us even more than we love each other. Thank you for your love and care for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 12 – A King Makes Bad Choices Day One – Turning Around

Today's reading: Pages 116-117

This reading covers: Psalm 51

Summary: When told about his sin, David tells God he is sorry and is going to change.

Do together: Draw the outline of a tee shirt. Write "S I N" on the front of the shirt. Then with Liquid Paper, correction fluid or tape, or a white crayon, cover up the letters so that they can no longer be seen.

Think about: Tell everyone about a time you spilled some food on your clothes or played outside and got them muddy. What did you have to do to get them clean? David wrote a song after he realized he had made a mistake with Bathsheba. He sort of compares his sin to dirt and to God's forgiveness as making him clean. When you tell God you are dirty (sorry that you have sinned) and ask him to wash you clean (forgive you) will he do it?

Also read: Psalm 32:5; 1 John 1:9

Prayer: Father, when I do things you don't want me to do, make me realize it so I want to do better. Thank you for always forgiving me when I say I am sorry. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 12 – A King Makes Bad Choices

Day Two – Giving Freely

Today's reading: Pages 118-119

This reading covers: 1 Chronicles 29

Summary: God's people find great joy in freely giving to him.

Do together: Draw a picture of a big treasure chest filled with gold bars, silver coins, necklaces and bracelets, diamonds, rubies and other jewels.

Think about: It sounds like David had plenty of sad times, but still David loved God with all his heart. What did he want to build in order to show God how much he loved him? Which do you think made God the happiest: having a pretty temple or seeing that David and the people wanted to express their love to him by giving back some of what he had given them? Do you think it makes God smile when you and your family give gladly to show him your love?

Also read: Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:7

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I can't think of one thing I have that isn't a gift from you. You are so good to me and my family! Let me always be thankful to you. Let me always be a cheerful giver! In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Chapter 12 – A King Makes Bad Choices

Day Three – Trust God

Today's reading: Pages 120-121

This reading covers: Psalm 23

Summary: David writes a beautiful song expressing his trust in God.

Do together: Number a page from 1 to 7 and then answer each question either T or F to test your sheep IQ.

1. A baby sheep is called a puppy.
2. A female sheep is called a ewe.
3. A group of sheep is called a flock.
4. Sheep are covered in white feathers.
5. The sound sheep make sounds like this: Baaaaah.
6. There are white sheep and black sheep.

Think about: Lambs and sheep need lots of care from their shepherd. They need food, water and protection so they don't get in trouble or get hurt. Why do you think David compared himself to a sheep and God to his shepherd? Sheep trust their shepherd and follow his voice. Do you trust Jesus to be your shepherd? Can you think of a time when you were scared or sad and you remembered to trust God?

Also read: Proverbs 3:5; John 10:11-15

Prayer: Father God, David's song makes me smile because it reminds me just how much you love me, just like a shepherd loves his sheep. Help me always trust in you and always follow your voice just like sheep trust their shepherd. In Jesus' name, Amen.