

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 8 – A Few Good Men...And Women Day One – Who Will You Listen To?

Today's reading: Pages 88-89

This reading covers: Judges 2-4

Summary: God's people listened to others rather than obey him.

Do together: Using hand puppets, dolls or other figurines to represent two children, act out a scene where one pretend child asks the other pretend child to do something wrong (shoplift some candy, tease a playmate, help cheat on a test, etc.) After Mom and Dad put on the play, have everyone take a turn improvising how they would respond in the situation.

Think about: Would you do something if you knew it was wrong? What if all your friends were doing it and said it was okay? That's what happened to the Israelites after they had arrived in their new neighborhood (Canaan.) There were sinful people living all around them who worshipped idols and did really bad things. At first the Israelites remembered everything God had told them, but before long they got accustomed to the things the other people were doing and started doing those things too. What is the name of the book that tells us how God wants us to live? Why do you think it is important that you read and study God's word? What should you do when others want you to do things you know your parents and God wouldn't want you to do?

Also read: Colossians 3:20; 1 John 2:5-6

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, help me to always obey you and do what is right. In Jesus' name, I pray, Amen.

Chapter 8 – A Few Good Men...And Women

Day Two – Samson’s Secret

Today’s reading: Pages 90-93

This reading covers: Judges 13-16

Summary: Samson tells a secret and it is used against him.

Do together: Play “I Have a Secret” charades. Take turns announcing you are a certain kind of animal but you can’t tell anyone. Everyone has to try to guess what kind of animal you are as you act it out. Remember, you can’t say the name of the animal; it’s a secret. You can only pretend to be the animal.

Think about: What was the secret Samson had that kept him strong? Why did Delilah want Samson to tell her his secret? Did Samson get into trouble after he told his secret? Which do you think was most on Samson’s mind while he was with Delilah: what he wanted to do or what God wanted him to do? Are there times when you behave the way you want to instead of the way God wants you to? That’s our “sinful nature” showing, and it happens to everyone. But do you want to know a secret? Our sinful nature will shrink and our goodness will shine through when we do things like pray, read the Bible and try to imitate Jesus in everything we do.

Also read: Psalm 119:105; Ephesians 5:1; Philippians 4:8

Prayer: Father God, I’m sorry when I don’t pay attention to what you want me to do and instead follow my sinful nature. Help me think about you every day. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Chapter 8 – A Few Good Men...And Women

Day Three – Making Things Right

Today's reading: Pages 94-95

This reading covers: Judges 17

Summary: Though Samson made a mistake, God gave him strength to make things right.

Do together: Draw a picture of Samson. (Remember he was strong and had long hair!)

Think about: How do you think Samson felt when he was taken out of prison and placed in the middle of the temple so everybody could laugh at him? Do you think he felt alone and afraid? He finally realized he needed God's help. What did he do that tells us he remembered God loved him and could help him do something good for the Israelites? When you feel afraid or alone or sad because you've done something bad, who can you turn to in prayer?

Also read: Psalm 18:1-3

Prayer: Jesus, sometimes I'm afraid or sad but I know you are always listening and ready to help me and comfort me when I pray. Thanks for loving me like you do. Amen.