

THE VINE FELLOWSHIP
SUMMER
SURVIVAL
GUIDE





Welcome to The Vine Fellowship's Summer Survival Guide. This guide was created to help you and your family spend dedicated time together with the Lord over the coming months.

In this packet you will find:

- TVF Summer Calendar
- Family Summer Guide by Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
- Scripture Memorization Challenge
- Other Summer Ideas
- Bible Detectives published by Focus on the Family

We pray that you will be blessed by this resource.

Matt and Mary

The Vine Fellowship

Summer Event Calendar

June 2019

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June

2	Sunday	Graduation Sunday	ALL
5	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
12	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
18	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
19	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
25	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
25	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS
26	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
30-4	Sun-Thur	Vine Students Camp Ridgecrest	YOUTH

July 2019

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July

2	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
2	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS
7	Sunday	Christmas in July - Movie Fun Night	KIDS
9	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
9	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS
10	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
11	Thursday	Tim Tebow Bible Study 6:30pm	MEN
15	Monday	TVF Pregnancy Ministry Meeting	ALL
16	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
16	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS
17	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
18	Thursday	Tim Tebow Bible Study 6:30pm	MEN
21-25	Sun-Thur	Vine Kids VBS - 2yo to 6th grade	KIDS
23	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
29	Monday	Life Line Preg Center Partner Meeting	ALL
30	Tuesday	Women's Bible Study - Gideon 10am	WOMEN
30	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS

August 2019

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August

1	Thursday	Tim Tebow Bible Study 6:30pm	MEN
6	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS
8	Thursday	Tim Tebow Bible Study 6:30pm	MEN
13	Tuesday	Sticky Faith Study Group 6:30pm	PARENTS
14	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
15	Thursday	Tim Tebow Bible Study 6:30pm	MEN
18	Sunday	Vine Kids Fun Day 4:00pm	KIDS
19	Monday	New Member Class	ALL
21	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS
26	Monday	New Member Class	ALL
28	Wednesday	Young Adult Bible Study 6:30pm	YOUNG ADULTS

FAMILY GUIDE

TO USE THIS RESOURCE

Summertime may be every student's favorite time of year, but for parents, the summer months can disrupt a family's normal routine and schedule.

This Family Summer Guide has been developed by the Faith at Home ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to help and encourage families to keep disciple-making at home a priority during the summer, when those normal routines and schedules are disrupted.

Based upon the daily rhythms described in Deuteronomy 6:7 — when you lie down, get up, sit at home and travel down the road — this resource includes a card for each daily rhythm that includes some suggested activities, Scripture readings, discussion questions and prayer prompts.

Parents and grandparents will find the suggested ideas and activities easy to implement as a way to impart biblical truth in those daily rhythms that are consistent. The resource also offers some suggestions for special family activities that can spark additional conversations about God's Word.

There's no question, the Lord had busy parents in mind in Deuteronomy 6:7. The simple framework that Moses sets forth fits into every family's daily schedule. We hope this resource helps you connect with your family through God's Word throughout the summer and all year long.



FAITH AT HOME

FAMILY GUIDE

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FAITH AT HOME

Sit at home

SUMMER RHYTHM: TURNING EVERYTHING OFF

FAMILY SUMMER GUIDE

For one day this summer, try something radical. Lead your family in a fast. Fast from all TV, video games, social media and time spent on mobile devices. In other words, turn everything off. However, be strategic and plan a few special activities to use the extra time you have as a family. See how the absence of these things affects everyone's mood and attitude...it may surprise you.

HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS:

- Play board games.
- Go for a walk or bike ride as a family in your neighborhood or at a local park.
- Take lunch or dinner outside. Eat a meal in your front or back yard.
- Make cards for people you know who could use encouragement and, if possible, hand deliver them.
- Do a service project together for someone in your neighborhood or in your community.
- Set up a few sprinklers outside and invite the neighborhood kids to enjoy getting wet.



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FAITH AT HOME



REMEMBER, be intentional with your time and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you in having spiritual conversations throughout the day.

PASSAGES FOR THE DAY:

Psalm 19, Psalm 127, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Matthew 6:16-18



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As you *Go*

**SUMMER RHYTHM:
GOD'S BIG STORY**

FAMILY
SUMMER
GUIDE

As you travel down the road, be creative and make up a story together. Have someone begin the story and let everyone contribute by adding an idea. As the story unfolds, write down the main points or draw pictures to help your family remember your fictional adventure. When finished, talk about God's bigger story that is true.

HERE ARE SOME POINTERS:

- God created the world and everything in it
- God made the first family, Adam and Eve
- God placed them in a perfect garden called Eden
- Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience
- Adam and Eve's perfect relationship with God was now broken
- God promised He would restore His relationship with people by bringing a Savior into the world
- God brought His Son Jesus into the world through a family
- Jesus came to die on the cross but God brought Him back to life and defeated sin and death
- Jesus offers freedom from sin and death for those who put their faith and trust in Him



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FAITH AT HOME



DISCUSSION:

Talk to your family about how Jesus lived the perfect life that we could not live and died the death we deserved to die. Help them understand how God placed all our sin on Jesus and when He died our sins died with Him. Then God raised His Son back to life and defeated death. He offers us eternal life through His Son when we believe in what Jesus did for us at the cross and the empty tomb. Share with your family that we can have confidence in knowing when we ask for forgiveness, Jesus will forgive all our sins. Assure them that when we put our faith and trust in Christ, He adopts us into His family.

PASSAGES:

Genesis 1, 3, John 3:16, Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-10, 10:13, John 10:28, Romans 8:17



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PASSAGES:

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lie DOWN

SUMMER RHYTHM: MY HELP

As a family, pick a night to stay up late. Watch a movie, churn some ice cream or play board games. Following the activity and after the sun goes down, go outside with a flashlight and your Bible to talk about how God is always there and never sleeps.

ASK:

- What sounds do you hear?
- What things can you see?
- What can you not see since it is so dark?
- How many people do you think are asleep right now?

As a family, read Psalm 121.

FAMILY SUMMER GUIDE



FAITH AT HOME

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FAMILY SUMMER GUIDE



FAITH AT HOME

lie DOWN

ASK:

- How does this passage describe God?
- Does God need to sleep? Why or why not?
- Have you ever asked God for help? If so, how did He help you?
- Have you ever needed help and did not ask God?
- Why do we sometimes forget to ask God to help when we need Him?
- Is there something God can help you with right now?

Spend time praying together. Ask God for help for the things brought up. Praise the Lord for how He does help us in our times of need and for the ways He keeps watch over us.

OTHER PASSAGES:

Psalms 28:6-7, 109:31, 110:5

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Get up

SUMMER RHYTHM:
CATCHING THE BIG ONE

FAMILY
SUMMER
GUIDE

Make plans to take your family on an early morning fishing trip. As everyone is getting their equipment ready for the big catch, read John 21:2-14.

ASK:

- How long do you think the men had been fishing?
- What do you think went through these experienced fishermen's mind when Jesus told them to throw their nets on the right side of their boat?
- Who in the boat recognized Jesus first?
- Who in the boat was the first one to respond?
- How many fish did they catch? Why is that significant?
- The word disciple means to be a follower of Christ. How does your life show that you are a disciple of Jesus?

As disciples, pray that you and your family would recognize the Lord when He is near and be ready to respond to Him when He speaks.



FAITH AT HOME

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FAITH AT HOME



This summer, we hope you will join The Vine Fellowship in our Scripture memorization challenge. Each week we will memorize a few verses that fit into a larger passage. We have chosen these passages intentionally both for the truths that they proclaim and the beauty in those truths. You will find our schedule to follow as we are challenged to commit to memory both Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 8:28-39.

While memorizing these two passages over the next 10-12 weeks will not be easy, we believe it will be well worth our time as a church family. We hope you will join us in our journey.

As a family, get creative with the ways you commit each verse to memory. Below are a few examples of activities you can do:

- Sidewalk chalk. Use sidewalk chalk to write the verse on your sidewalk or driveway. Practice with your kids by leaving blanks for them to fill in.
- Make a placemat. Using construction paper, cardstock or poster board, have each person create a placemat with the verse on it. Use the placemats at meal times and review the verse together.
- Draw it on a mirror. Use dry erase markers or bath crayons to write the verse on your bathroom mirror. Read the verse out loud each time you brush your teeth.
- Make up a song. Use the words of the verse to create a song. You can either make up a brand new melody or simply change the words of a song you already know.
- Create motions. Take the major words in the verse and make up motions for them. Do the motions as you say the verse out loud.
- Funny accents. Repeat the verse using different accents. Examples include British, French, robot, Western, Valley girl, etc.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Week 1: June 16-22:

[1] And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

[2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

[3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Week 2: June 23-29:

[4] But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,

[5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Week 3: June 30-July 6:

[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

[7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Week 4: July 7-13:

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

[9] not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

[10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (ESV)

Week 5: July 14-20: Practice Ephesians 2:1-10.

Romans 8:28–39

Week 6: July 21-27:

[28] And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

[29] For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

[30] And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Week 7: July 28-August 3:

[31] What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

[32] He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Week 8: August 4-10:

[33] Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

[34] Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Week 9: August 11-17:

[35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

[36] As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Week 10: August 18-24:

[37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

[38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

[39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ESV)

Week 11: August 25-31: Practice Romans 8:28-39.



Keep track of all the fun and significant things that happen this summer by making a Summer Memory Jar. Put an empty jar or container in a central location in your house. Put small strips of paper and pens next to it. Throughout the course of the summer, write down memories you make as a family—funny things you say, hard lessons you learn, trips you take, people you meet, fears you overcome, etc. As the summer draws to a close, time remembering and celebrating the things you learned and did. As a family, dump out your Summer Memory Jar and read through your memories together. As you remember, praise God for His goodness to your family through both the sweet and bitter providences of the past few months.



Write down some things you would like your family to pray about during the summer on Popsicle sticks and place them in an empty jar. Set a time each week to pray and take turns drawing from the jar of Popsicle prayer sticks. Have family members pray for what is written on their Popsicle stick. Replace the sticks and continue with this designated prayer time during the summer. At the end of the summer, discuss how God has heard and responded to those prayers.



As a family, brainstorm a list of ways you can serve together this summer. Think of ways you can serve the people in your home, those who live near you or people in need within your community.

Possible Ideas:

- Make goodie bags for the homeless. Fill a plastic zipper bag with a bottle of water, a pack of crackers, hand wipes, a travel size deodorant and shampoo, and a pair of socks. Keep them in your car and give to people collecting money at intersections.
- Collect old towels and money for pet food. Deliver to an animal shelter.
- Offer to run errands for an elderly neighbor or church friend. Make a grocery run, swing by the pharmacy, or give them a ride to church.
- Clean out closets and donate gently used clothing, toys, games, and books to the social services department for foster kids to use.
- Write thank you notes to veterans
- Write thank you notes to missionaries
- Help out with VBS
- Bake cookies and take them to the police or fire station.
- Do yard work for an elderly neighbor.
- Or think of your own. The possibilities are endless.



Choose one day per week this summer when your family will fast from all TV, movies, video games, social media and time spent on mobile devices. See how the absence of these things affects each person's mood and the amount of time you spend together. Be strategic and plan a few special activities to leverage the increased time and focus you have as a family. You may need to modify this to fit into the times you spend together as a family. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend time praying and making cards for people you know who could use encouragement.
- Go on a walk or bike ride as a family.
- Turn dinner into a picnic either in your front yard or a park.
- Bake and decorate cookies together and take them to a neighbor.
- Play board games.

Here are a few other ideas for fun family time this summer:

- **Be a tourist in your hometown.**

Pick a few local spots that you've never been to and go! Have you been to the local art museum? Seen the monuments? Tried the restaurants downtown? Now is your chance—no one has to know that you're really a local.

- **Read!**

See if your local library has a summer reading plan and sign up (many libraries have them for adults, too). If they don't, start a book club with your friends! If you need some direction on where to start, here are some books that our team has been loving recently.

- **Plant an herb garden and cook a meal for friends with your bounty.**

You don't need a backyard for this one. Just plant some seeds in a pot on your porch or place in a windowsill and watch them grow! Then, invite your friends over for a delicious, homegrown meal.

- **Learn a new skill.**

- What's a skill that you've always wished you had? Want to be bilingual? Learn to paint? Start a blog? Devote some you-time to learning that skill! (We suggest hopping on YouTube for how-to videos to get you started.)

- **Host a barbecue for your neighbors.**

What better way to enjoy old friends, or to meet new friends, than to host a barbecue? On a sunny evening, invite some neighbors over to enjoy dinner outside.



Mysteries to challenge and improve your kids'

BIBLE LITERACY



THE LINE-UP

Use the line-up as a reference for possible characters for each case. If you'd like cut them out and place them on each clue sheet when the mystery is solved. Don't be fooled, some characters can be used more than once!

Noah	Deborah	Paul	Ruth	Peter
John the Baptist	Miriam	Luke	Adam	
Esther	Joseph	Abraham	Mannan	
Johnan	John	Berthabas	Mary	Daniel
Levi	David	Priestella	King Solomon	



ESTHER

LIVED: 475 B.C.

OCCUPATION: queen

PROFILE

NOTES

- Was an orphan, raised by her cousin, Mordecai
- Rescued by King Xerxes to become the queen of Persia because of her grace and beauty
- Blended into life to expose Xerxes' evil
- Saved the Jewish people from destruction

ASSOCIATED: MORDECAI, KING XERXES, HANANI

SCRIPTURE: ESTHER 1:1-10, 17, 18-19

TESTIMONY

What a horrible day! My people were to be destroyed. But I didn't! God is working the king to change his mind. I'm not in the country to talk to the king and convince him that his advisor Haman was wrong to destroy my family and my people...



THE CASE OF THE FORGIVEN FISHERMAN

Use the clues to find the Mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1: Who was this man talking to me? He seemed special. To learn what he said to me, find the 10 fish, longest to shortest, and write their words on the lines provided.

CLUE 2: I WISHED TO SHEPHERD MY AND BEET MY HEADS, BUT A BUNCH OF MUST CALLED ME. I SHARED TO SEND

CLUE 3: KCRO

PROFILE

NOTES

- Originally named Joseph, his new name meant "son of consolation"
- Travelled and co-wrote at Antioch
- Wrote the book of Acts and some of the letters to churches
- Wrote the book of Galatians

ASSOCIATED: PAUL, JOHN, MARK

SCRIPTURE: ACTS 14:12-18

TESTIMONY

When I was a young boy, I was very shy. I was very nervous. I worked as a missionary with Paul. We traveled together preaching the Gospel. But we had a hard time getting people to listen. Paul had a special gift. He was able to speak to people's hearts. I was amazed!



2 / directions
4 / puzzles
32 / resources
33 / line-up
35 / decoder wheel
36 / character files
51 / answers

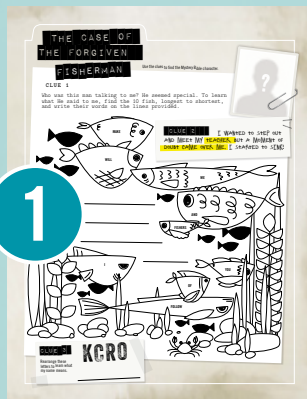


Welcome to the Bible Detectives adventure kit, where you and your kids will test and build your Bible literacy by solving fun mystery cases.



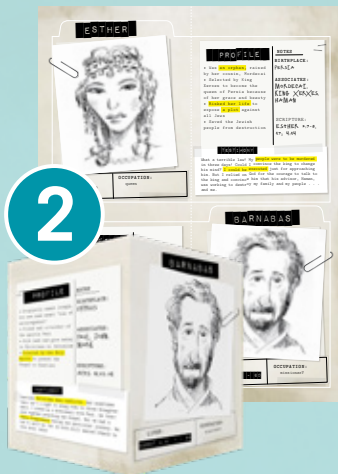
PRINT, CUT, ASSEMBLE

puzzles / pages 4-31



Print the 28 mystery puzzles

character files / pages 36-50



Print the 15 pages of 30 character files.
Cut each page in half, and then fold to create the character file.

the lineup / page 33-34



Print two pages of The Lineup per child and cut out each small square.

You can also cut these squares apart as mysteries are solved.

decoder wheel / page 35



Cut out and assemble the decoder wheel.

SOLVING THE MYSTERY

Investigate the scene

Each mystery has its own puzzle page. Explore the case by solving the puzzle and deciphering the clues. There's plenty of evidence--if you can find it.

Study the characters

Dive into your files of Bible characters. Analyze their background, biography and testimony. Which characters do you suspect might be a match for the case?

Solve the case

Identify the correct character. Then attach the person's Lineup picture to the puzzle sheet. But be careful: Some characters may be used in more than one case!

More to come

Once you have solved all the mysteries, find a safe place for your Bible Detectives materials because more cases are coming soon. *Focus on the Family* magazine will alert readers of new cases when they're available.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY®

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THE CASE OF THE TRANSFORMED TRAVELER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Jesus spoke to me as I traveled! Circle every fifth letter (do not count any numbers) to learn what He said to me. (Hint: 0 is a letter not a number.)

Start in this row and go from left to right

A large grid of letters and numbers for a word search. The letters are arranged in a roughly rectangular shape. The numbers are interspersed among the letters. A pink arrow points to the letter 'D' in the top row, and another pink arrow points to the letter 'O' in the second row from the top.

CLUE 2

I ONCE THOUGHT IT WAS **RIDICULOUS** THAT JESUS WAS THE SON OF GOD. HE SURE **CHANGED MY MIND!**

“

?”

DAMASCUS

CLUE 3

Use code **G** on your decoder wheel

B PKHMX FTGR UHDL BG MAX UBUEX.

THE CASE OF THE FIRE WATCHER

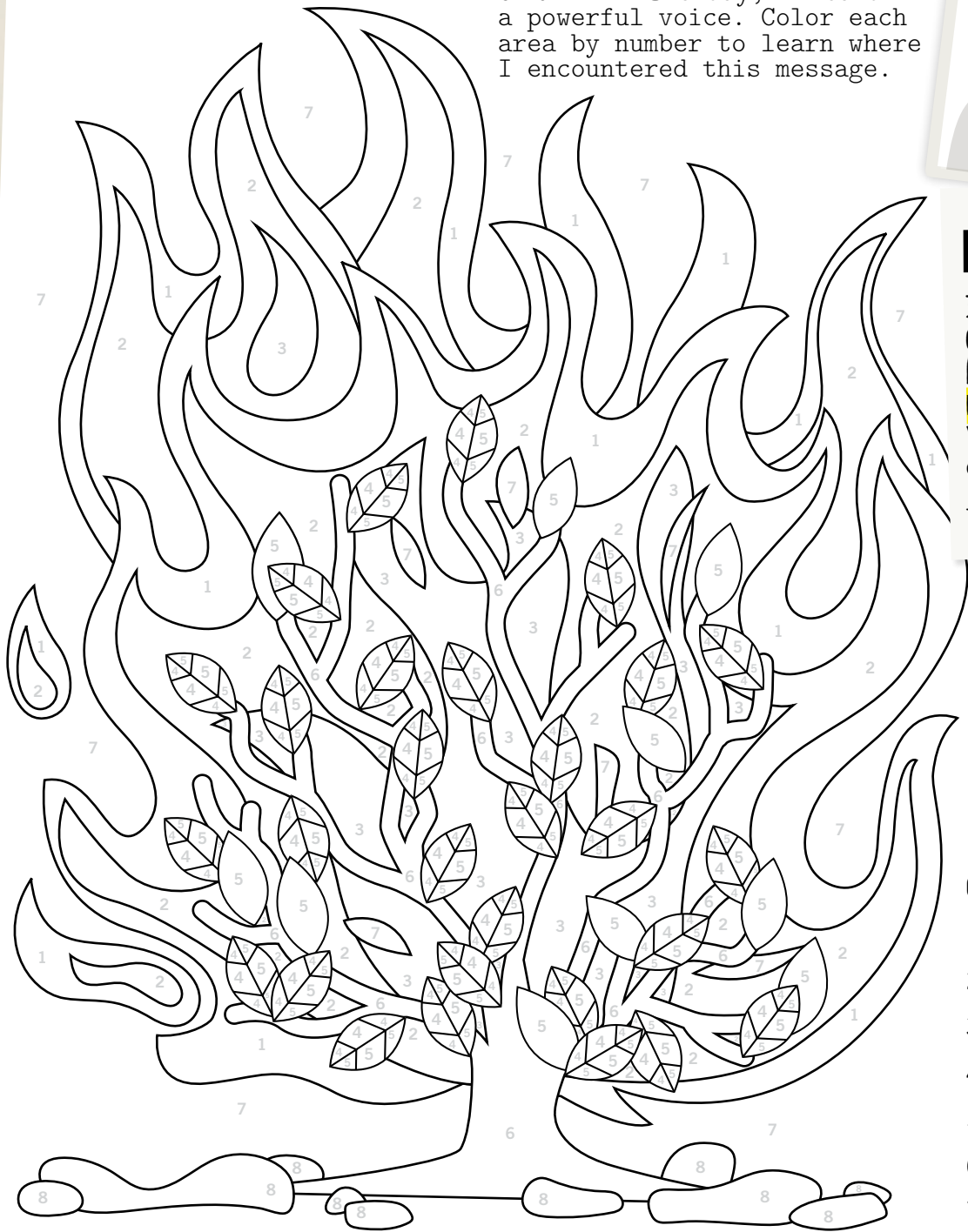
Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1: One day, I heard a powerful voice. Color each area by number to learn where I encountered this message.



CLUE 2

I **WONDERED** WHY GOD WOULD CHOOSE ME TO HELP **FREE HIS PEOPLE**. I WASN'T A LEADER OR EVEN A GOOD SPEAKER!



COLOR CHART

- 1 - yellow
- 2 - orange
- 3 - red
- 4 - light green
- 5 - dark green
- 6 - brown
- 7 - blue
- 8 - gray

CLUE 3

Use **code H** on your decoder wheel.

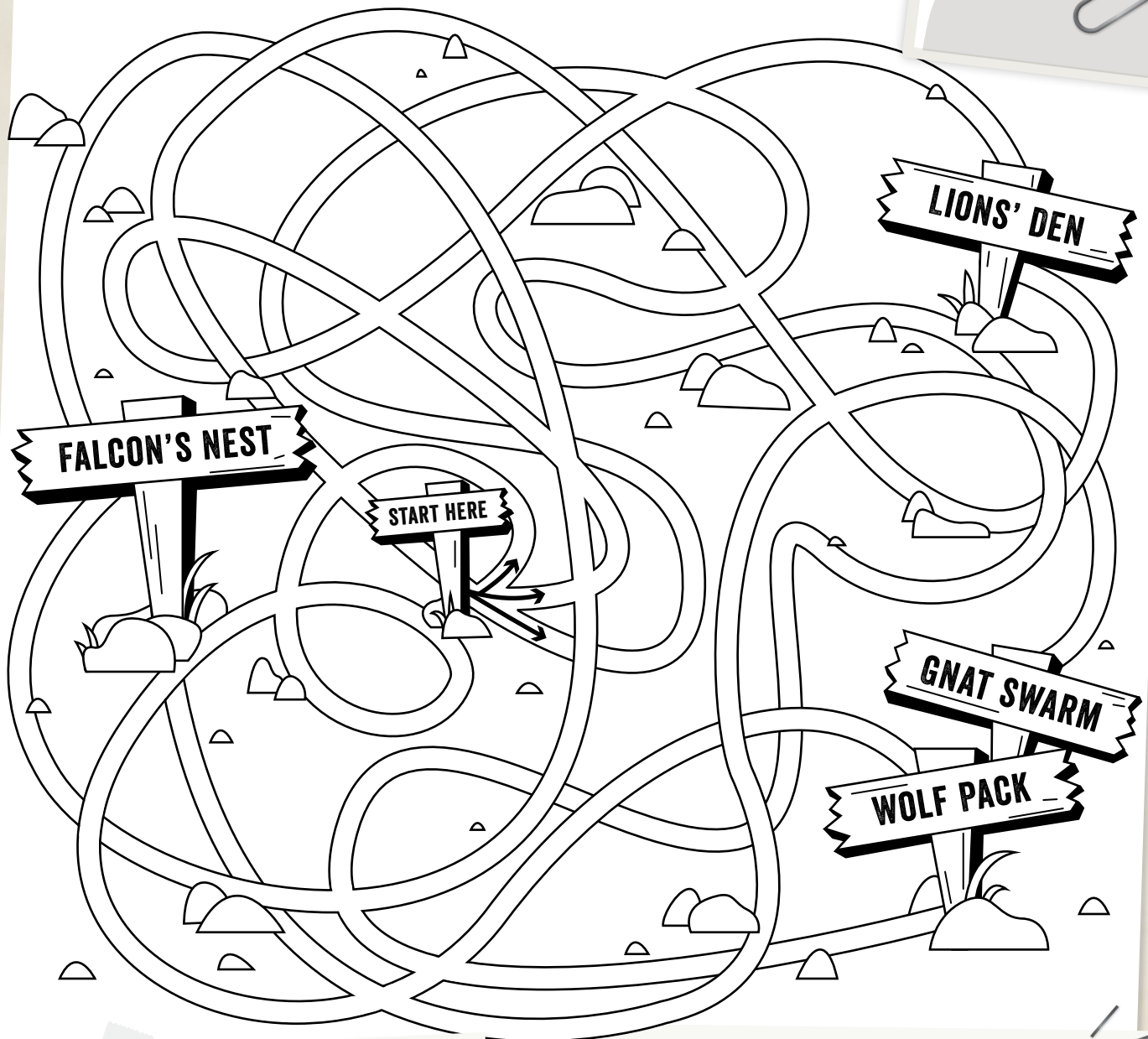
I led my people...
LZJGMYZ LZW JWV KWS.

THE CASE OF THE LONELY BELIEVER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1:

Follow the right path to learn what creatures I had a very close encounter with!



CLUE 2

I LIVED AND WORKED IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WAS **HOSTILE** TO MY BELIEFS. YET THE LORD'S POWER **STRENGTHENED** MY FAITH IN HIM.

CLUE 3

I did something the king didn't like!

Use **code K** to learn what it was.

EGPNTS IWGTT

IXBTH P SPN

THE CASE OF THE LONE VOICE

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1:

People kept asking who I was! Unscramble each word to learn what I told them.

“ I MA EHT OVCEI

FO OEN YICRGN UOT

_____ C _____

NI ETH NSDLERWEIS

_____ W _____,

KMAE TARTINGS HTE

YAW FO TEH RODL

”

_____.



CLUE 2

Would you lie to preserve your life? I knew the truth might get me in trouble, but I said it anyway, and it eventually cost me my life.

CLUE 3

I sure didn't have a fancy diet.

Use code Y to learn what foods sustained me.

MPDVTUT

BOE XJME

IPOFZ

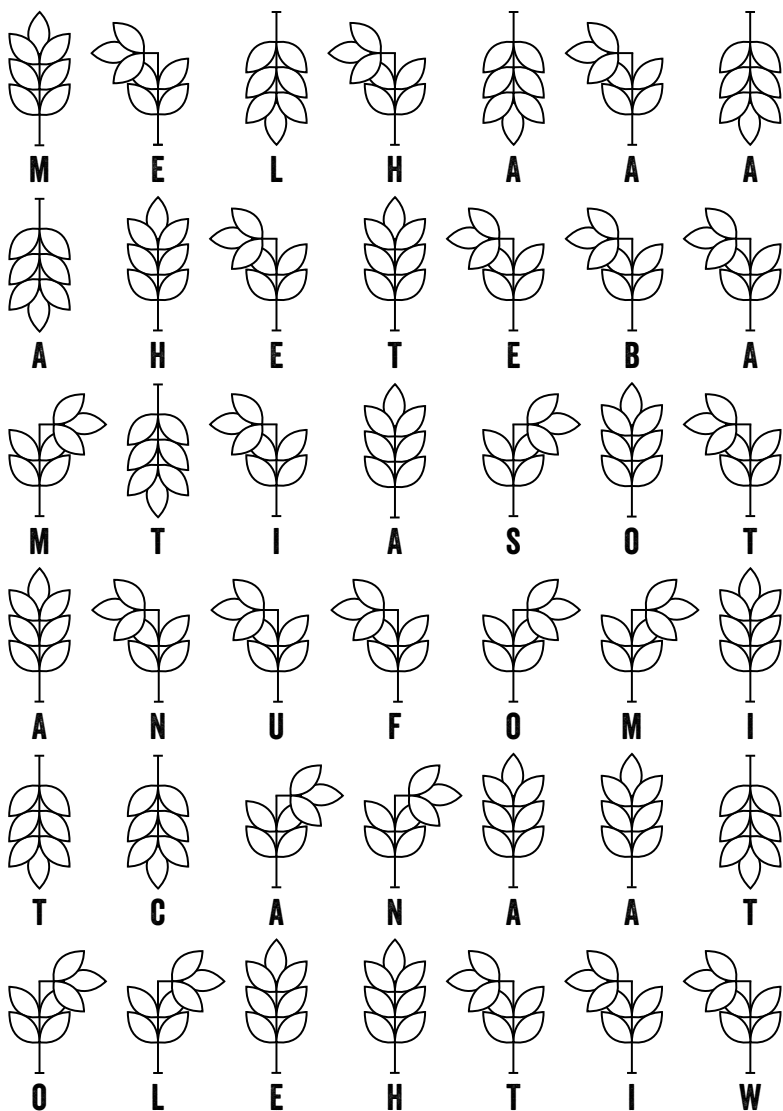
THE CASE OF THE HUMBLE HARVESTER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



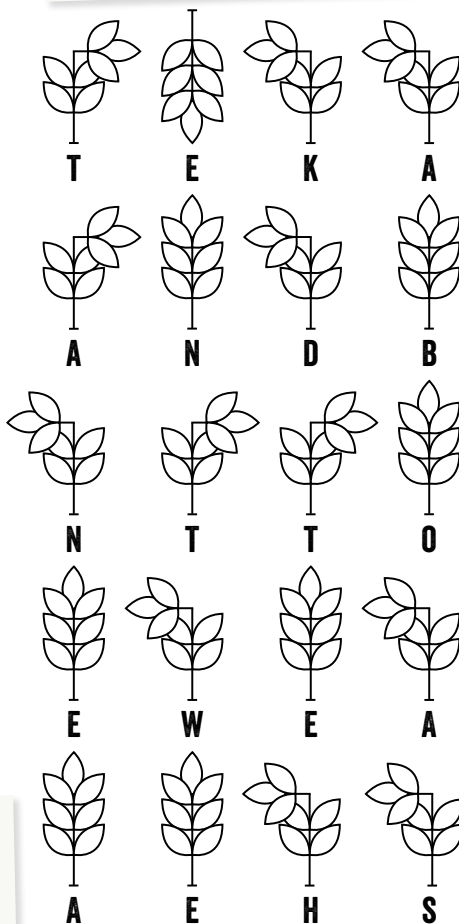
CLUE 1

I was known to be very dedicated to my mother-in-law. Starting at the bottom, follow the stalks of grain in the direction they point to learn what people say about me.



CLUE 2

I worked as a **GLEANER**. I gathered **LEFTOVER BITS OF WHEAT** that the reapers had missed during the harvest.



Start here

CLUE 3

Read this message in a mirror:

I AM ONE OF ONLY FIVE WOMEN LISTED AMONG THE ANCESTRY OF THE MESSIAH.

THE CASE OF THE PINT-SIZED PROTECTOR

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



12	22	24	4	14	8
9	6	20	18	14	21
13	3	15	5	23	10
11	7	17	2	16	1
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24

CLUE 1:

Guarding sheep wasn't easy. One time, I found a stranger in their midst. Redraw (or cut and paste) the pictures in the correct boxes below to learn what enemy I had to face.

CLUE 2

EVERYONE WAS SCARED OF THIS HUGE FOE. BUT THE LORD'S STRENGTH WOULD HELP ME FIGHT.

CLUE 3

Cross out every B, Z, K, Q and X to learn something about me that I'm well-known for.

QXI ZWZKRBOTQQEX KMZABNBY SZQOKNQGXS.

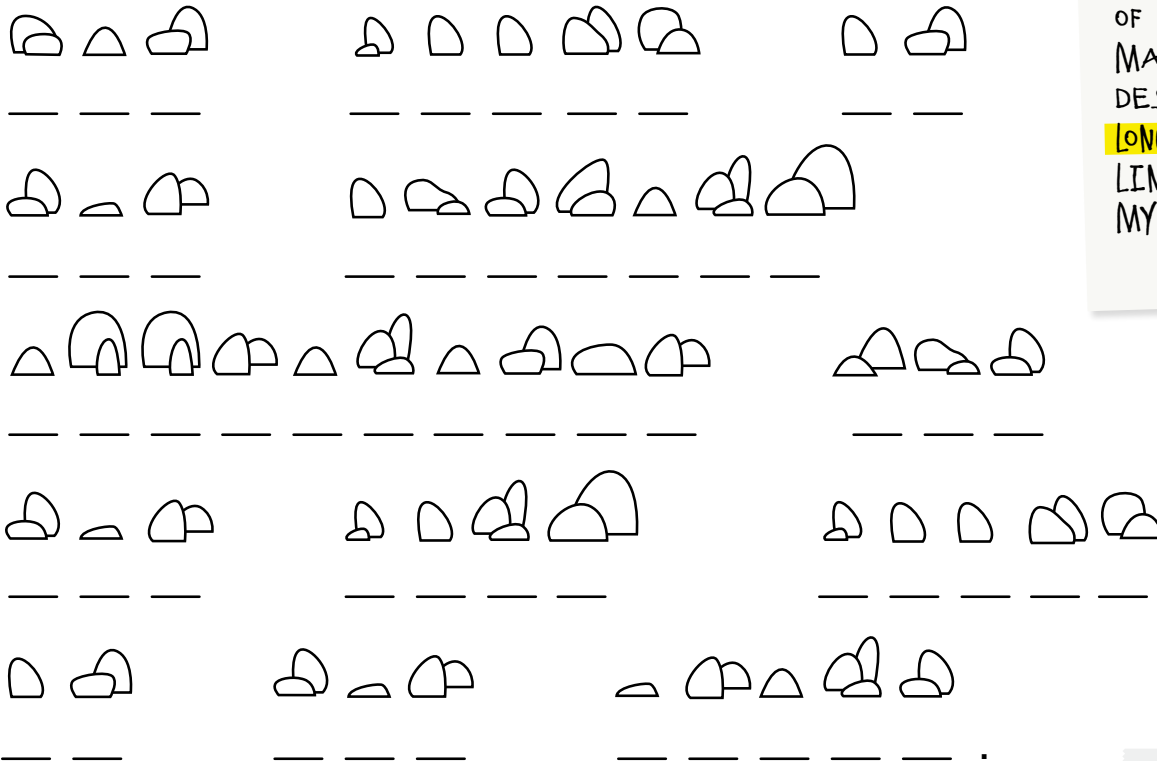
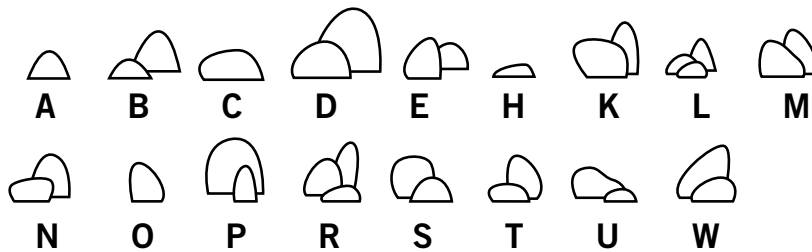
THE CASE OF THE UNEXPECTED LEADER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Why did the Lord choose me to be king?
Decode His message by filling in the letters
that correspond to the rocks below.



CLUE 2

I WAS AN
IMPORTANT
ANCESTOR
OF JESUS.
MANY PEOPLE
DESCRIBE OUR
LONG FAMILY
LINE USING
MY NAME.

CLUE 3

I had a very close relationship with God.
Use Code W to find out how God described me.

“D PDQ DIWHU PB RZQ KH DUW.”

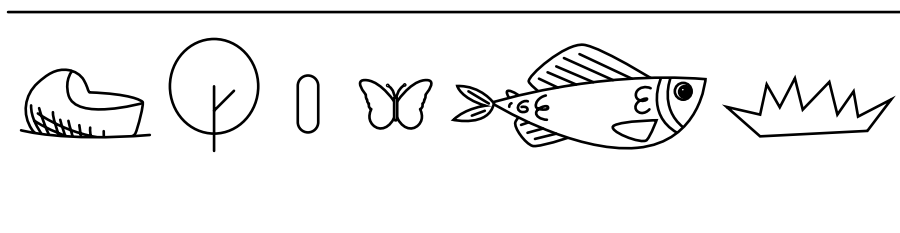
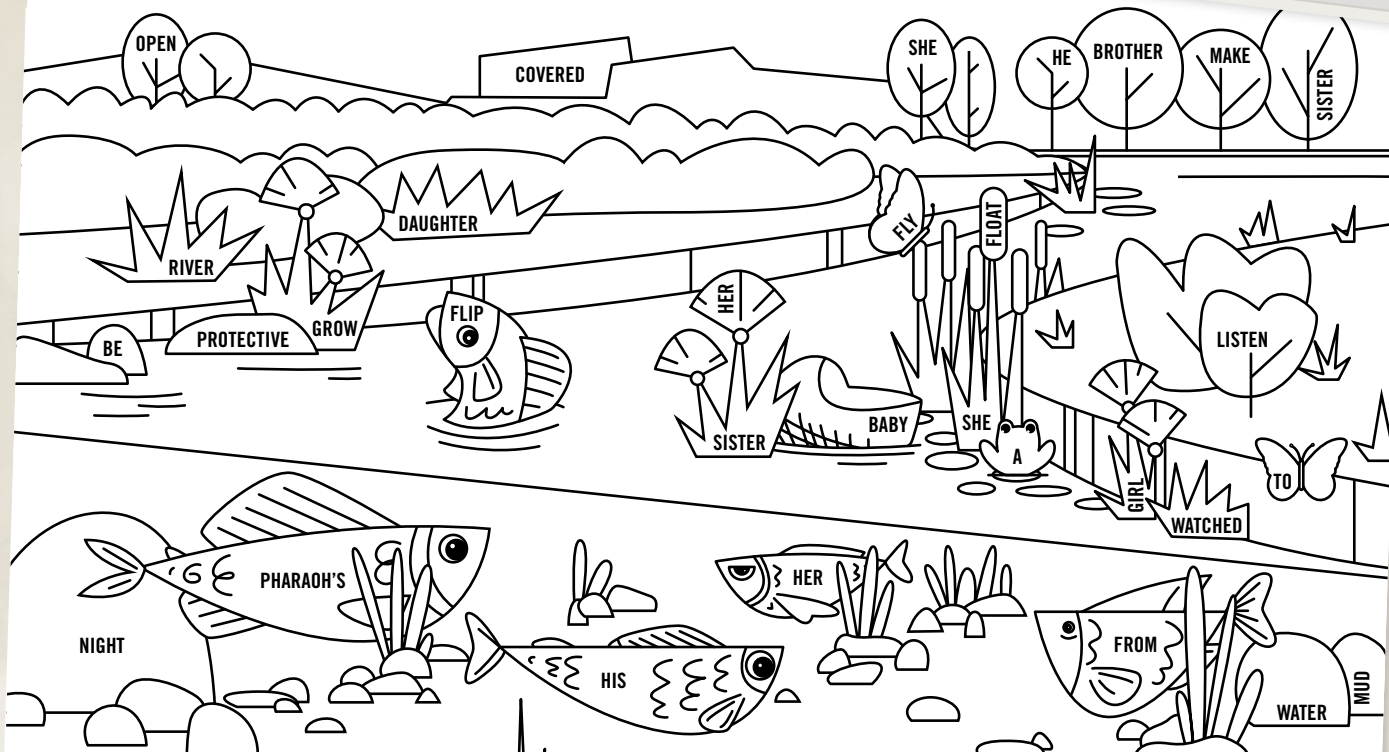
THE CASE OF THE RIVER WATCHER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Copy the words on the symbols in the river to the matching symbols below. Be sure to use an exact match!



CLUE 2

GOD HAD THROWN THE ENEMY INTO THE SEA! WE COULDN'T CONTAIN OUR JOY. WE SANG AND DANCED ON THE SHORES, KNOWING THAT GOD HAD DELIVERED US.

CLUE 3

Use Code I to learn something else about me.

Z NRJ R CVRUVI FW YVSIVN NFDVE.

THE CASE OF THE BRAVE LEADER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

I led a famous marching band around Jericho! Circle every other letter, copying those letters into the blanks below, to discover what my people accomplished.

CLUE 2

MY NAME IN HEBREW MEANS "GOD SAVES." JESUS' FAMILY SPOKE ARAMAIC, BUT HE HAD A SIMILAR-SOUNDING NAME, WITH THE SAME MEANING!

↑
Start here

CLUE 3 What a mission!

Use Code V to decode God's encouragement to me:

FI WXVSRK ERH GSYVEKISYW!

_____!

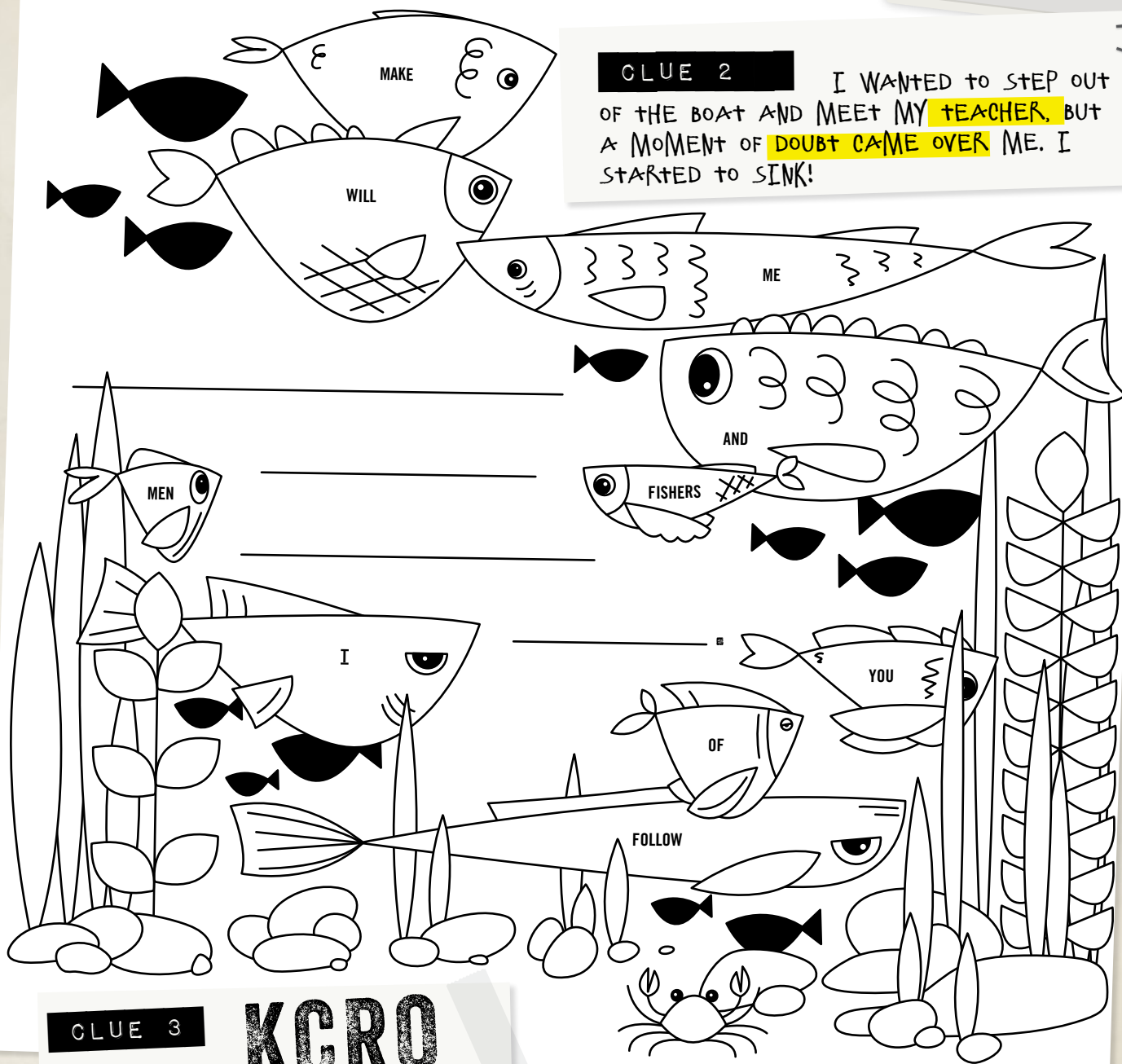
THE CASE OF THE FORGIVEN FISHERMAN

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Who was this man talking to me? He seemed special. To learn what He said to me, find the 10 fish, longest to shortest, and write their words on the lines provided.



CLUE 2

I WANTED to STEP out OF THE BOAT AND MEET MY TEACHER, BUT A MOMENT OF DOUBT CAME OVER ME. I STARTED to SINK!

CLUE 3

KCRO

Rearrange these letters to learn what my name means.

THE CASE OF THE RELUCTANT BATHER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Bathe seven times in the river? I didn't believe the prophet at first. But I decided to try. Cross out every word listed to reveal what happened to me after I washed in the river.

B F L E S H S O R E B L I S T E R W A S R O T
 R B L E E D I N G R E S T O R E D U L C E R S
 U N C L E A N L E P R O S Y S U F F E R I N G
 I L I K E F S T I N G T B L E M I S H G A S H
 S C A B S F W O U N D H L E P R O S Y S C A B
 E U R O T L E S I O N E B R U I S E F L E S H
 G T O F I I A B L E E D I N G C U T W O U N D
 A P A I N C U T S U F F E R I N G U L C E R S
 S O R E G T L I T T L E S O R E U N C L E A N
 H B O I L I S C R A T C H T O B L E M I S H P
 C H I L D O O U A N D ~~C U T~~ T S C R A T C H A
 R O T T E N R T B L I S T E R W A S B O I L I
 R O T I N F E C T I O N C L E A N R O T T E N

WORD SEARCH

- affliction
- bleeding (2)
- blemish (2)
- blister (2)
- boil (2)
- bruise (2)
- cut ~~(5)~~ (4)
- gash (2)
- infection
- leprosy (2)
- lesion
- pain (2)
- rot (4)
- rotten (3)
- scab (2)
- scratch (2)
- sore (4)
- sting (2)
- suffering (2)
- ulcers (2)
- unclean (2)
- wound (2)

CLUE 2

"Go to SAMARIA." MY WIFE'S
SERVANT GIRL SAID. "GO, AND
YOU COULD BE HEALED." REALLY?

CLUE 3

Use Code A to
learn the name
of the prophet
I visited.

DKHRGZ

THE CASE OF THE HOSPITABLE

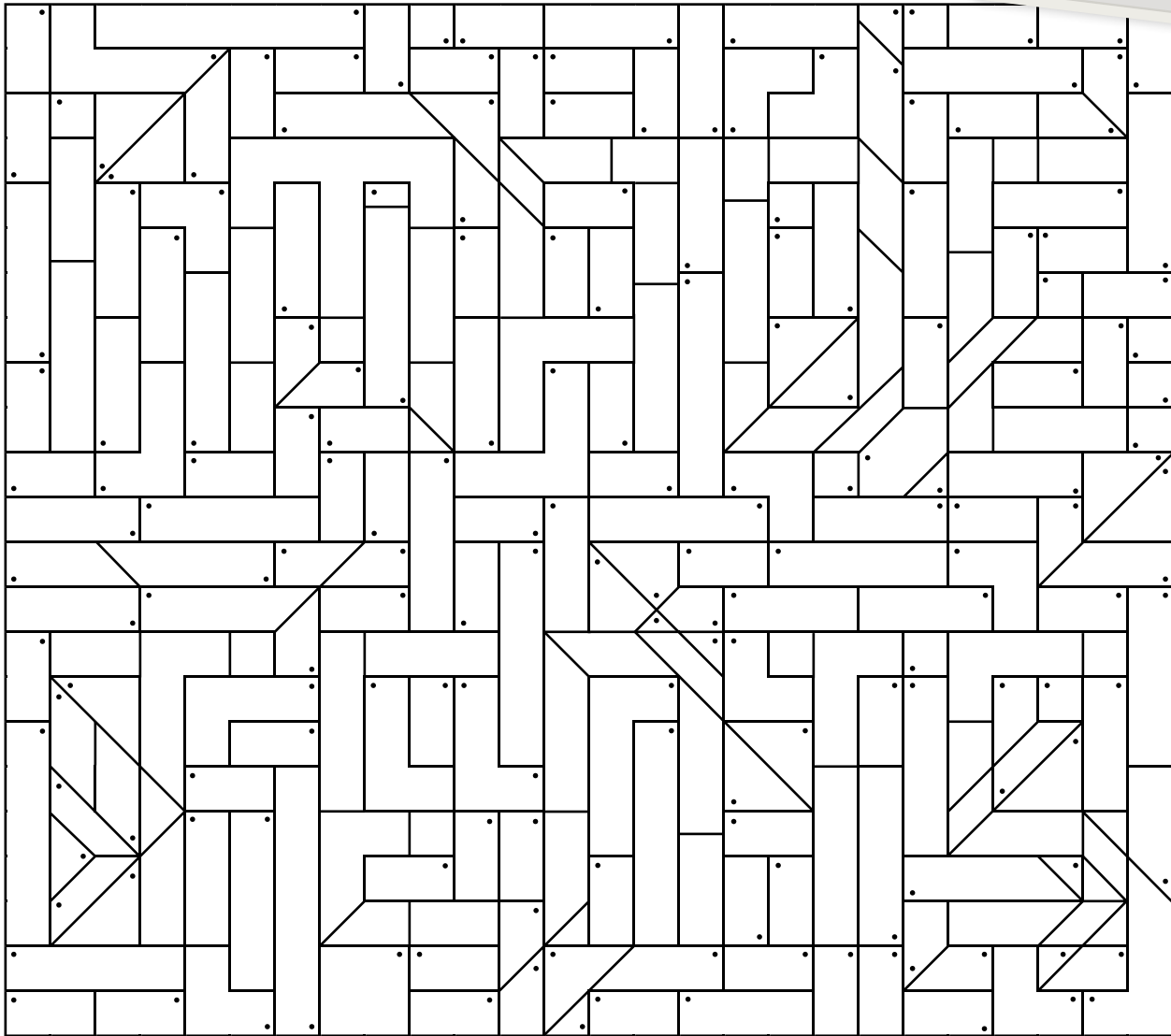
TEACHER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Color the shapes with dots to learn what my husband and I did for work--with one of our friends, the apostle Paul.



CLUE 2

BEING A **NEW BELIEVER** CAN BE HARD. WHEN OUR FRIEND APOLLOS STARTED PREACHING, HE DIDN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND **THE GOSPEL**. WE HELPED HIM!

CLUE 3

Use **Code G** to learn where you can find my story in Scripture.

BG MAX UHHD HY TVML

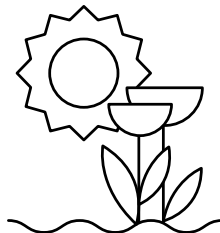
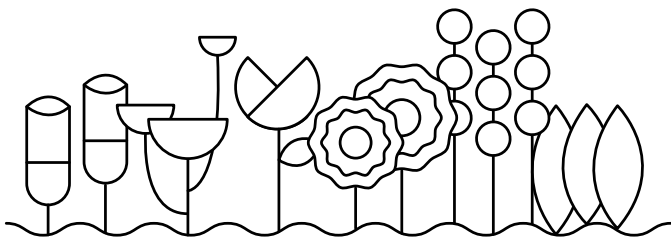
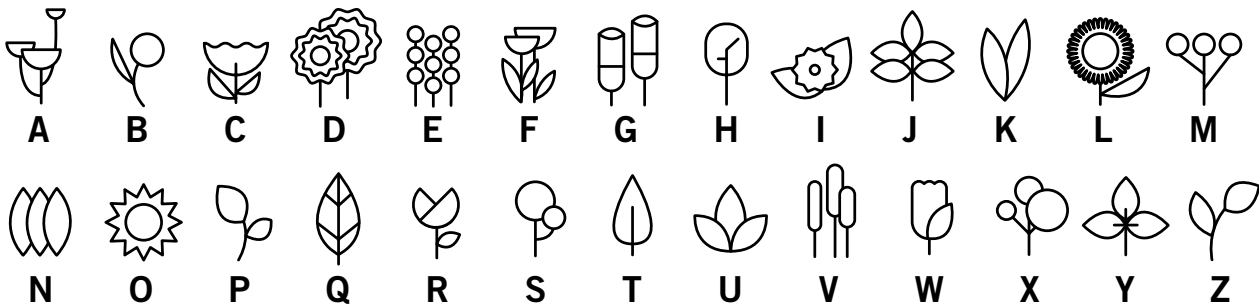
THE CASE OF THE TROUBLED FARMER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



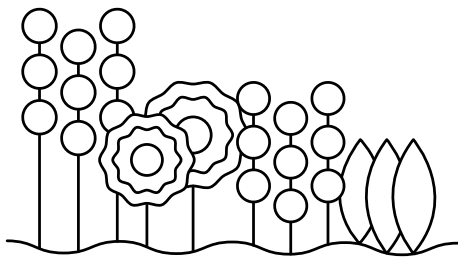
CLUE 1:

I once had a great home. To learn where it was, find the symbols that match the sequences below and copy the letters into the spaces.



CLUE 2

GROWING FOOD IS **HARD WORK!** IT WAS **EASIER** WHEN ALL THE WORK WAS DONE FOR US.



CLUE 3

I had several children. But you may know about two of my sons.


Use **Code Y** to learn their names.


DBJO BOE BCFM


THE CASE OF THE OBEDIENT BUILDER


Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.




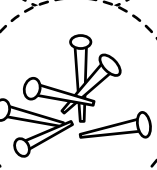
O A • 


G I • 

B T • 

E R • 

A O • 

J B • 

B B • 

CLUE 1:

How many nails did each board take? Draw a line from each plank to matching nails. Copy the crossed out letters and rearrange them to learn what special project God had for me.

CLUE 2

WHAT BEAUTIFUL COLORS! I'D NEVER SEEN SUCH A SIGHT BEFORE. AND WHENEVER I SAW THOSE COLORS AGAIN, I WOULD REMEMBER GOD'S PROMISE!

CLUE 3

Use Code H to discover the material that God told me to use on my project.

YGHZWJ

OGGV

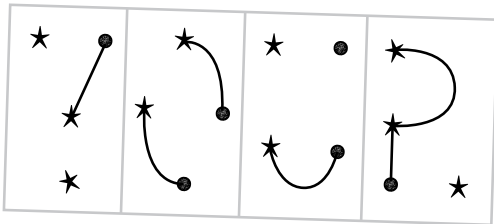
THE CASE OF THE DELAYED DAD

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



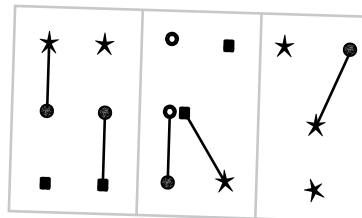
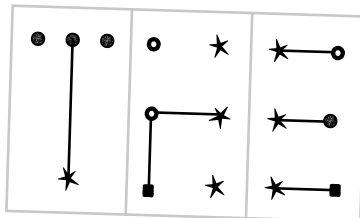
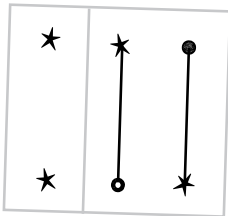
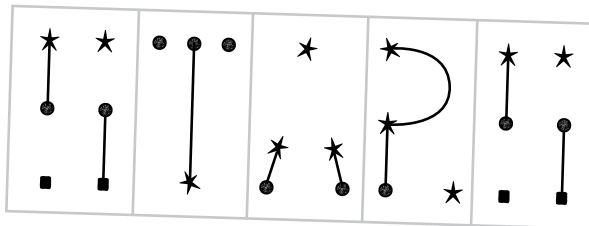
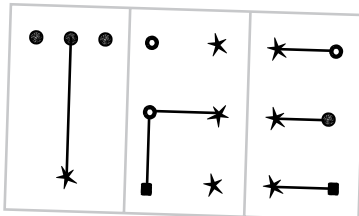
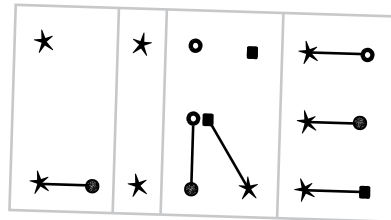
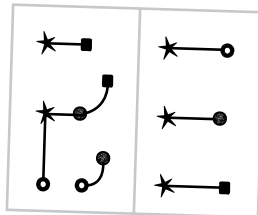
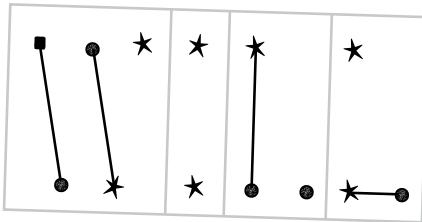
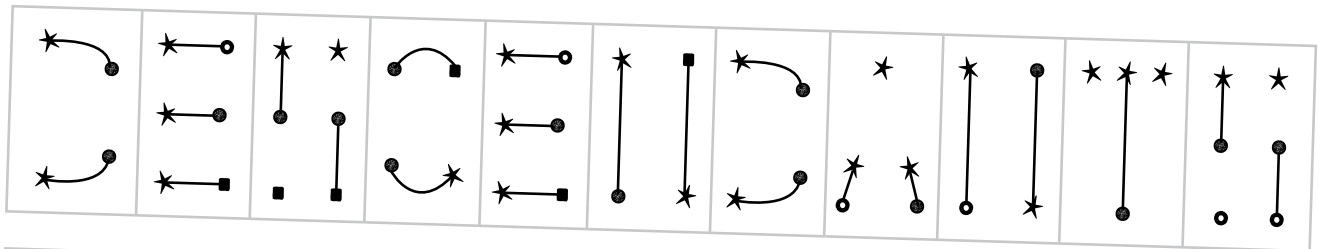
CLUE 1:

I was an old man when God told me something that was hard to believe. Connect the matching shapes in each box to learn what He said.



CLUE 2

DID THE LORD REALLY WANT MY SON'S LIFE? I WASN'T SURE WHAT HIS PURPOSE WAS, BUT I KNEW I NEEDED TO TRUST HIM.



CLUE 3

Use Code T on your decoder wheel to discover the name of my wife.

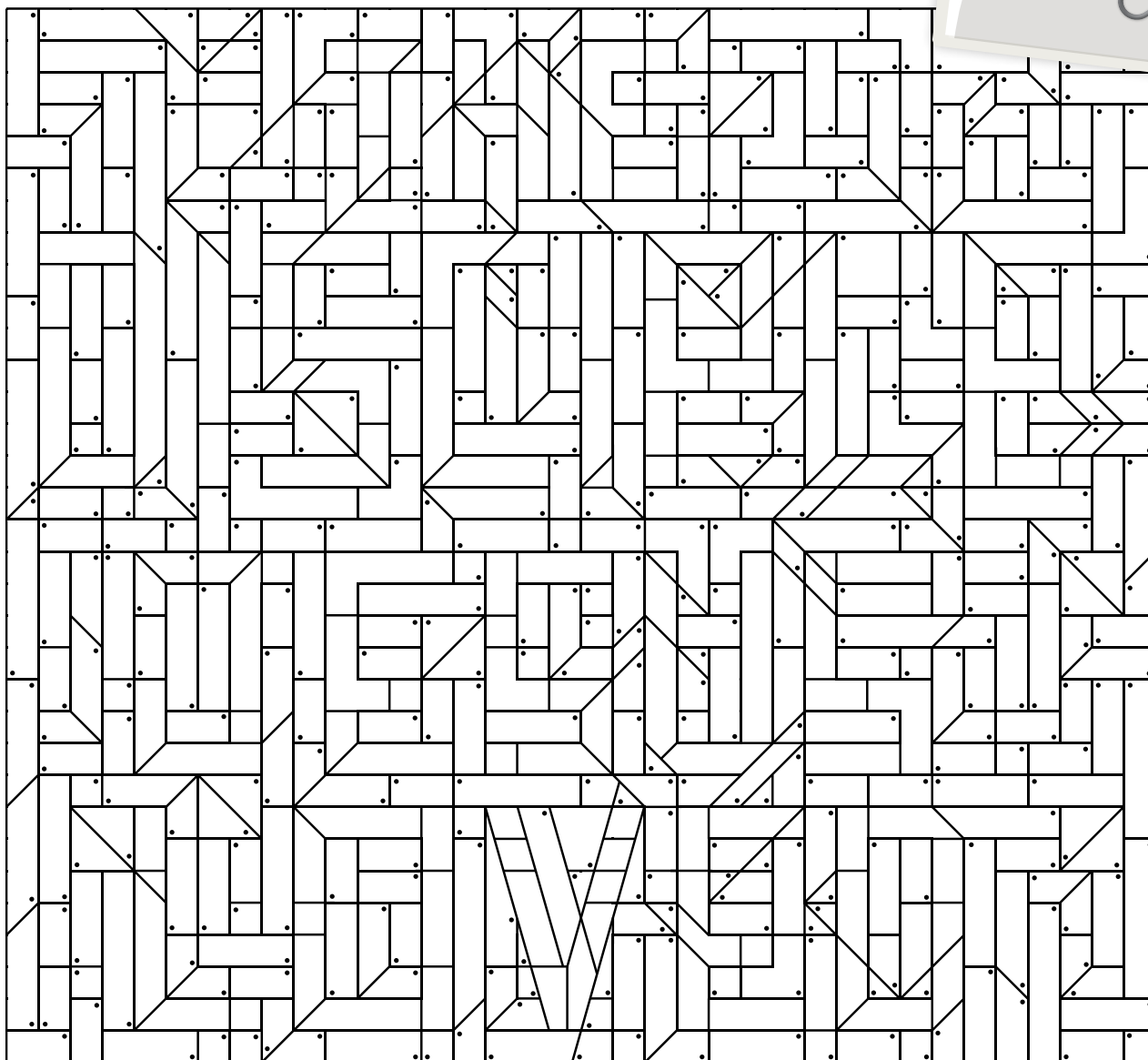
YGXGO

THE CASE OF THE LOVING EXILE

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1:

Color the shapes with dots to learn how I am sometimes described in Scripture.



CLUE 2

MOST OF MY FRIENDS DIED BECAUSE OF THEIR FAITH. MAYBE I WAS FORTUNATE TO BE ONLY EXILED FROM MY HOME.

CLUE 3

My brother and I were both students of a wonderful teacher. Rearrange the following letters to learn my brother's name.

AESMJ

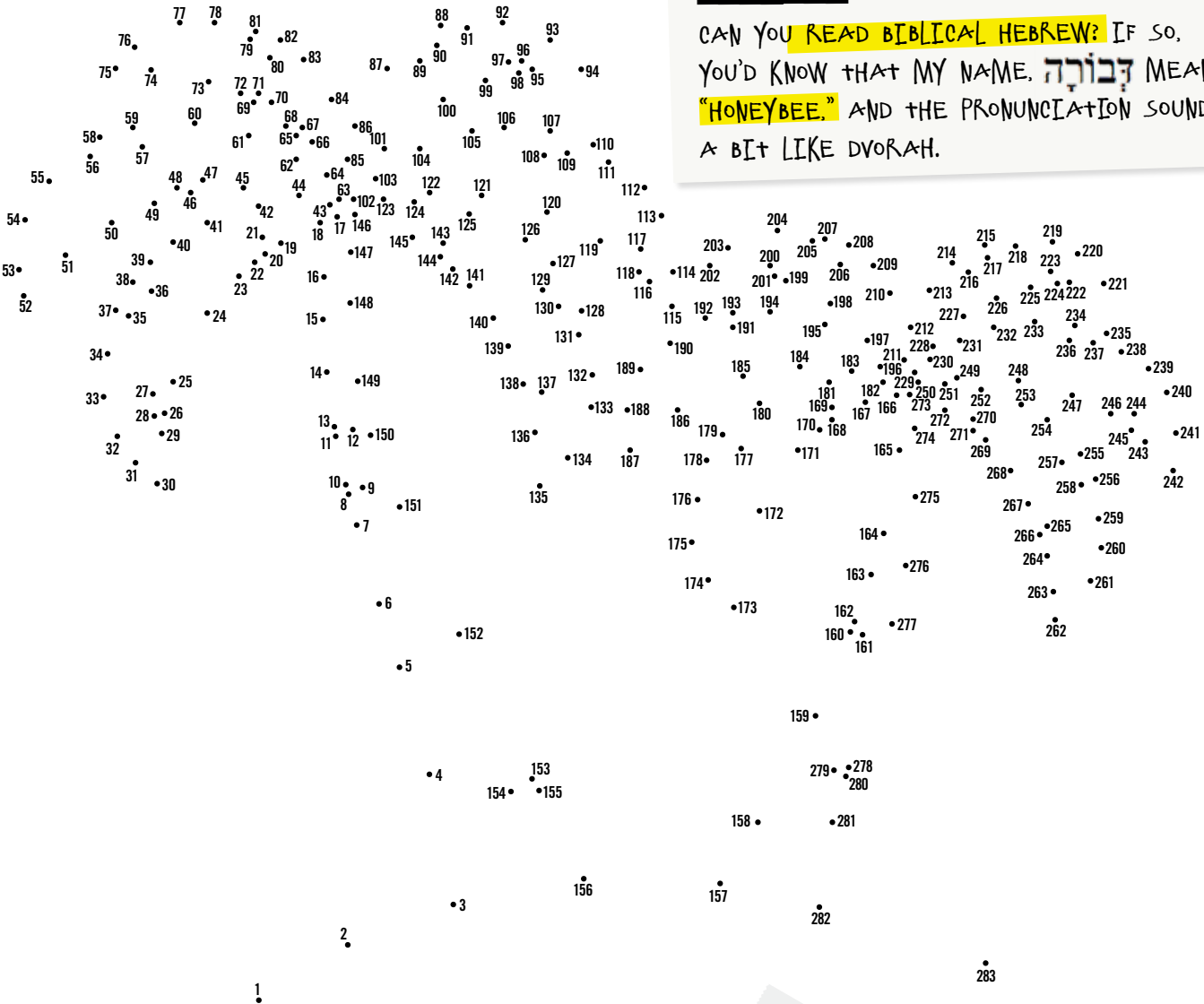
THE CASE OF THE WISE WOMAN

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Many leaders have grand thrones or big, beautiful rooms to work in. Not me! Connect the dots by number to reveal the place where I advised my people.

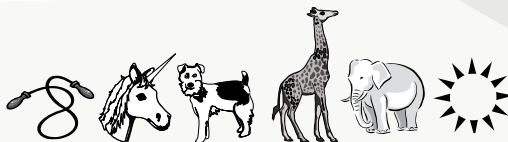


CLUE 2

CAN YOU READ BIBLICAL HEBREW? IF SO, YOU'D KNOW THAT MY NAME, דְּבוֹרָה MEANS "HONEYBEE." AND THE PRONUNCIATION SOUNDS A BIT LIKE DVORAH.

CLUE 3

Write the first letter of each object or animal in the blank below to help you find the Bible book where my story is told.



THE CASE

OF THE COLORFUL

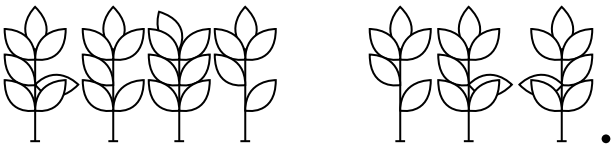
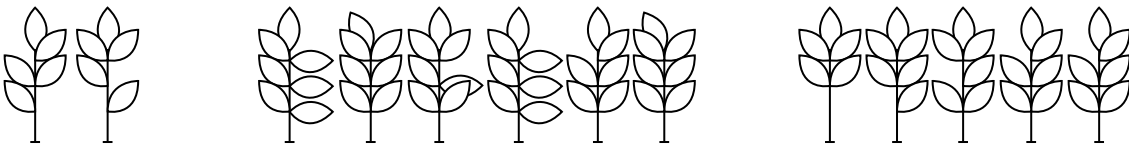
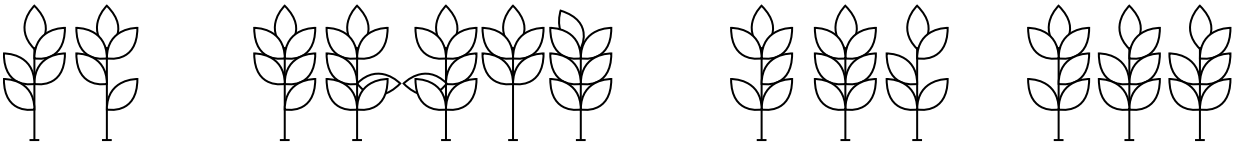
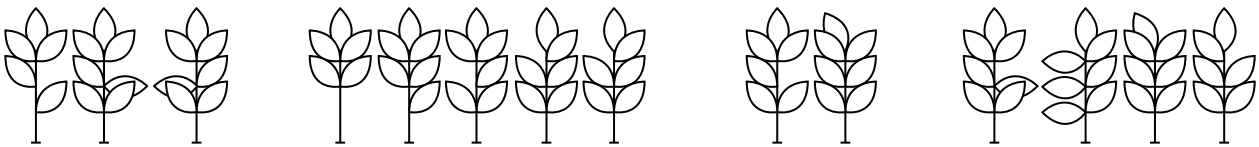
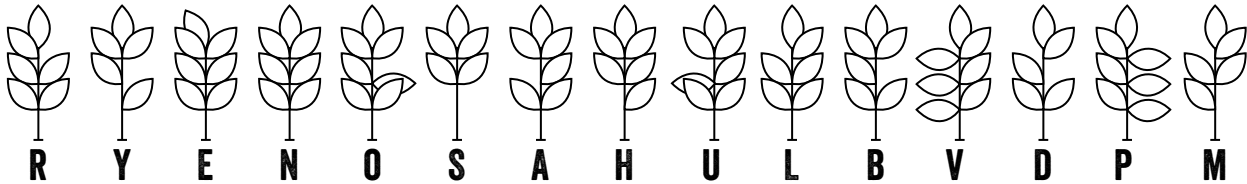
DREAMER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Against my will, I was sent to a foreign land. I worked as a slave at first, but one day, the king told me something incredible. Transfer the letters of the matching wheat stalks to the spaces below to learn what he said.



CLUE 2 MY FATHER LOVED ME. HE SAID I WAS THE SON GIVEN TO HIM IN HIS OLD AGE. ONCE HE MADE ME A BEAUTIFUL, COLORFUL COAT!

CLUE 3

Some people were very cruel to me. To learn their identity, unscramble these words (all names of colors), and transfer the first letter of each word to the blanks below.

KALCB DRE GNEROA NTA RLMEEDA SERO LEIVSR

MY

H

THE CASE OF

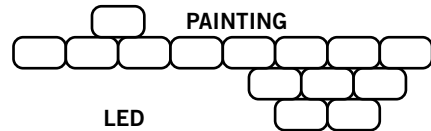
THE CRYING

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

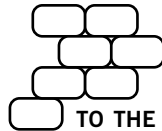
CONSTRUCTION WORKER

CLUE 1:

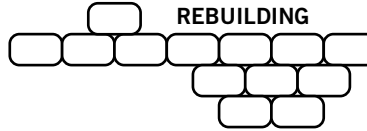
Finish building this wall by matching the correct shapes to the holes where they fit. Then copy the words to the blanks to learn what job I accomplished.



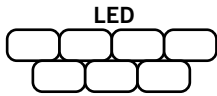
PAINTING



TO THE



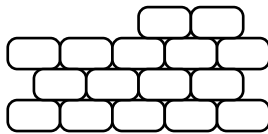
REBUILDING



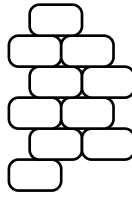
LED



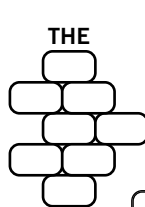
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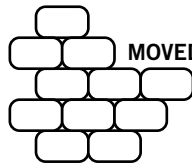
JERUSALEM



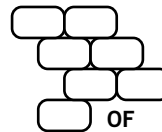
CREATION



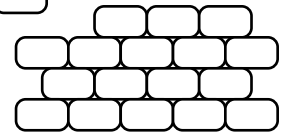
THE



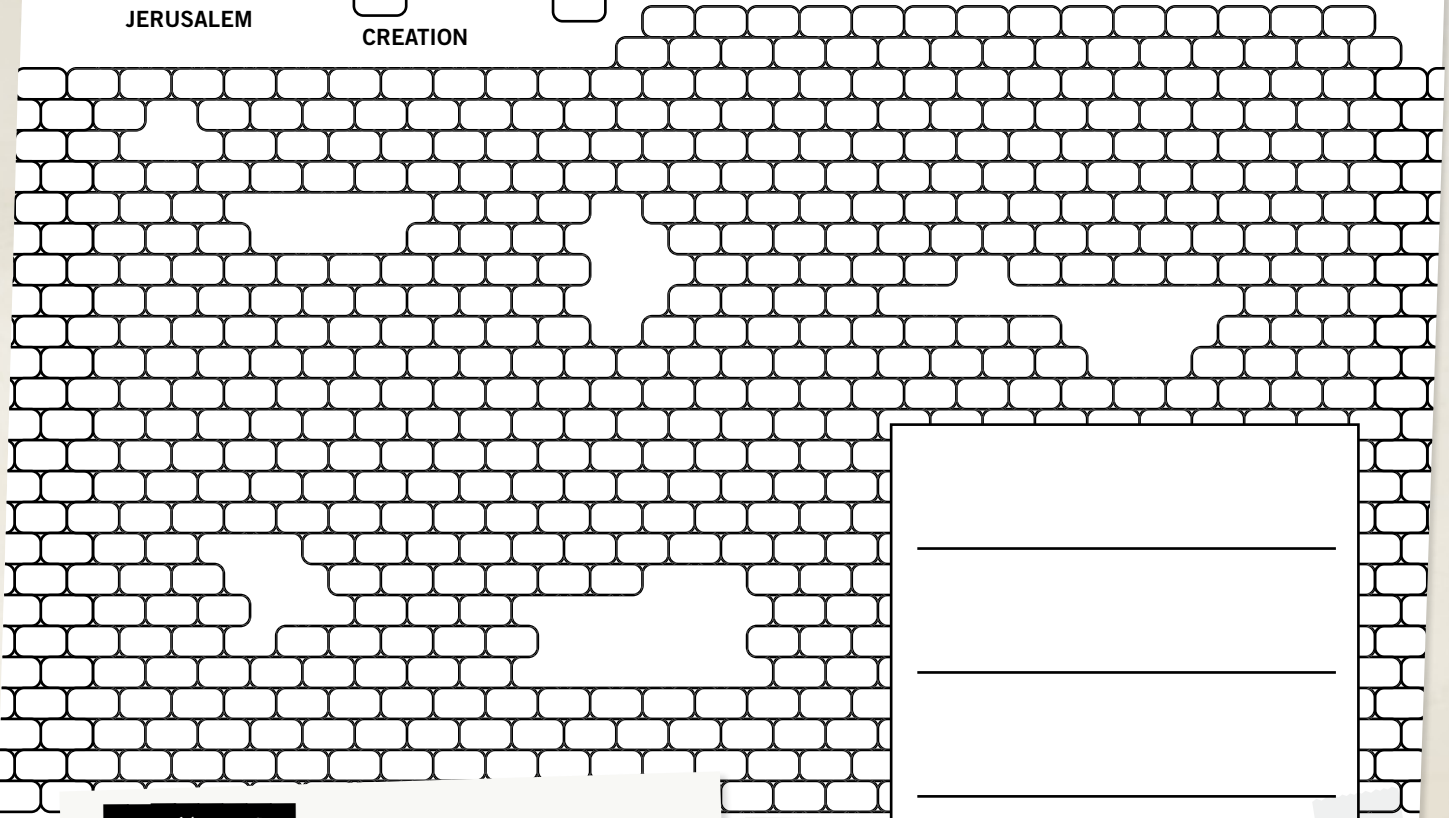
MOVED



OF



PARIS



Two horizontal lines for writing the name of the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 2

MOST CUPBEARERS HAVE A SIMPLE, YET DANGEROUS JOB: TASTE THE KING'S WINE TO MAKE SURE IT ISN'T **POISONED**. BUT AS A CUPBEARER, I BECAME ONE OF MY KING'S MOST TRUSTED ADVISERS.

CLUE 3

Use **Code X** to learn the name of one of my co-workers. He helped restore God's temple.

GBTC

A horizontal line for writing the name of the co-worker mentioned in Clue 3.

THE CASE OF THE ROYAL ORPHAN

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

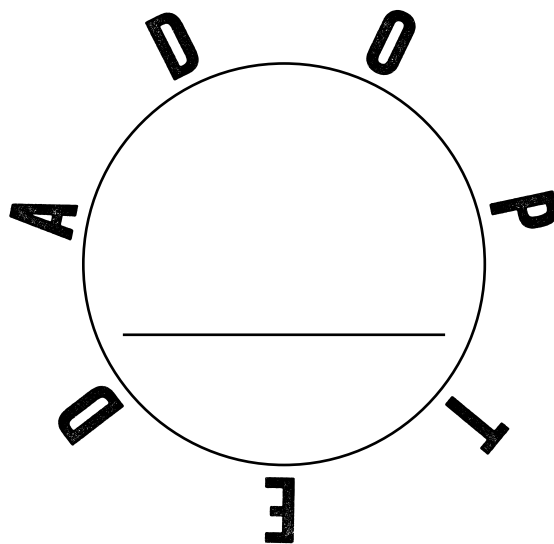


CLUE 1:

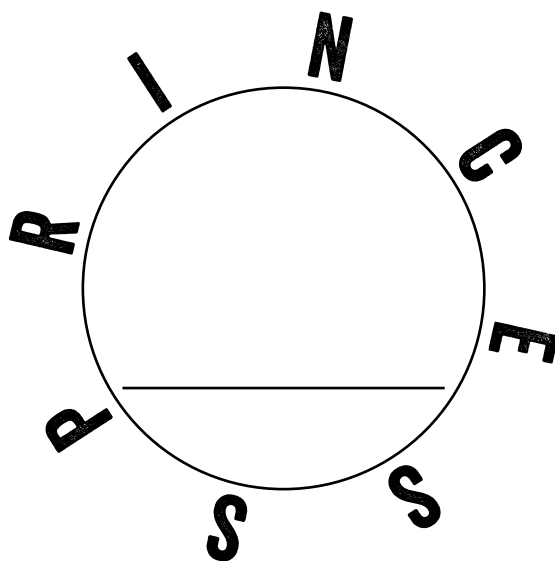
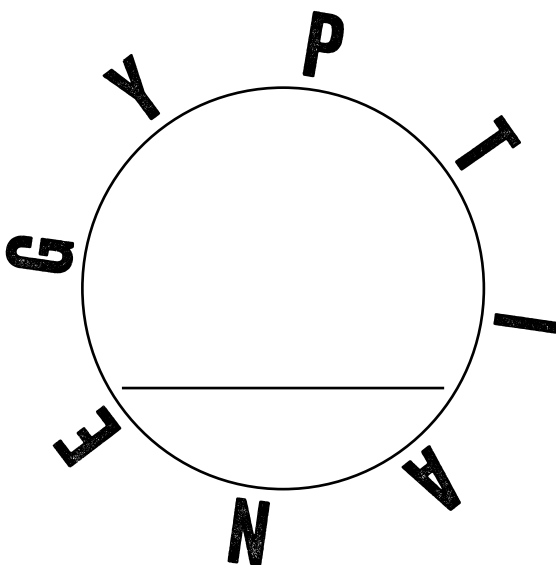
Something happened to me when I was a baby. To discover what happened, find the correct place to start reading on each word wheel. Then fill in the word in the blank.

CLUE 2

AS A YOUNG MAN,
I MADE A BIG
MISTAKE. I KILLED
A BULLY WHO WAS
HARASSING ONE OF
MY PEOPLE. THEN I
RAN AWAY.



BY AN



CLUE 3

My sister was
pretty famous,
too. You may
know her.

Use Code W to discover her name.

PLULDP

THE CASE OF

THE PEEKING PERSON

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Why didn't I obey the angel? Because I disobeyed, I was transformed into something awful. Discover what I became. Find the hidden letters by decoding each clue, and then copying each letter into the space above the bottle.



CLUE 2

WHEN I **DOUBTED GOD**, I DIDN'T KNOW I'D ONE DAY BE USED IN A WARNING FROM JESUS: "THOSE WHO TRY TO MAKE THEIR LIFE SECURE WILL LOSE IT, BUT THOSE WHO **LOSE THEIR LIFE WILL KEEP IT.**"

CLUE 3

I can't say I wasn't warned. Uncover the angel's message to me and my family by reading this sentence in a mirror.

!DON'T LOOK BACK!

THE CASE OF THE APOSTLE'S ARGUMENT

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1:

My friend and I had a serious disagreement! Later, he had some good advice for all of us. To learn what he said, start in the center of the wheel. Circle one word or phrase in each row to find your way to the outside. Avoid the words that don't fit my friend's advice!



CLUE 2

MANY KIDS HAVE NAMES FROM THE BIBLE. MICAH. RUTH. JOHN. MY NAME ISN'T AS POPULAR, too LONG MAYBE? BUT I LIKE IT! IT MEANS "SON OF ENCOURAGEMENT."

A circular word wheel with the word **BE** in the center. The wheel consists of several concentric rings of text. An arrow points to the word **YOU** in the outermost ring.

Center: BE

Innermost Ring: HARSH TO GIRLS, UPSET TO BOYS, KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, RUDE TO GIRLS

Second Ring: UNTRUSTWORTHY, DECEITFUL, UNTRUSTWORTHY, UNTRUSTWORTHY

Third Ring: TO YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL, TO YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL

Fourth Ring: AS YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL, AS YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL

Fifth Ring: AS YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL, AS YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL

Sixth Ring: AS YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL, AS YOUR PARENTS, DECEITFUL

Outermost Ring: THE WORLD, QUESTIONED, AS STRANGERS, YOUR TEACHERS, AS GOD IN CHRIST, YOUR PARENTS, YOU, ME, US, YOUR FRIENDS, REVENGED, AS YOUR PARENTS, EACH OTHER, UNTRUSTED, THE WORLD, YOU, HUMILIATED, AS YOUR FRIENDS, ON YOUR FRIENDS, BLAMED, MOM, DAD, MADE FUN OF, YELLED, YOUR BROTHER, YOUR SISTER, MOCKED, AS YOUR TEACHERS, TO YOUR PARENTS, BEING UNKIND, DISRESPECTING, TENDERHEARTED, DISRESPECTING, YOUR TEACHERS, AS GOD IN CHRIST, YOUR PARENTS, YOU

CLUE 3

You might know about something nice I did for my friends. Read this clue in a mirror to discover what I did.

SOLD LAND AND GAVE MONEY TO CHRISTIANS

THE CASE OF

THE CHOSEN ONE

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Jesus probably spoke to me more than any other person! Discover what name He used for me by drawing a straight line from each question to the correct number. Unscramble the letters that you crossed out, and write the word on the lines below.

ON WHAT DAY DID GOD CREATE MAN?	○
HOW MANY DAYS DID IT RAIN WHILE NOAH WAS IN THE ARK?	○
HOW MANY COMMANDMENTS DID GOD GIVE MOSES?	○
HOW MANY DAYS DID JONAH SPEND IN THE BELLY OF THE GREAT FISH?	○
HOW MANY DAYS DID THE ISRAELITES MARCH AROUND JERICO?	○
HOW MANY TRIBES OF ISRAEL WERE THERE?	○

CLUE 2

WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO **KILL** **BABY BOYS**? MY HUSBAND AND I KNEW WE WERE **IN DANGER**, SO WE FLED TO EGYPT UNTIL THE DANGER HAD PASSED.

A T R D M

T U O K

E

H A

S R N

M _ _ _ R

6

7

12

40

3

10

CLUE 3

Use **code P** on your decoder wheel to learn where I was born, and where my husband and I raised our son.

XKJKBODR

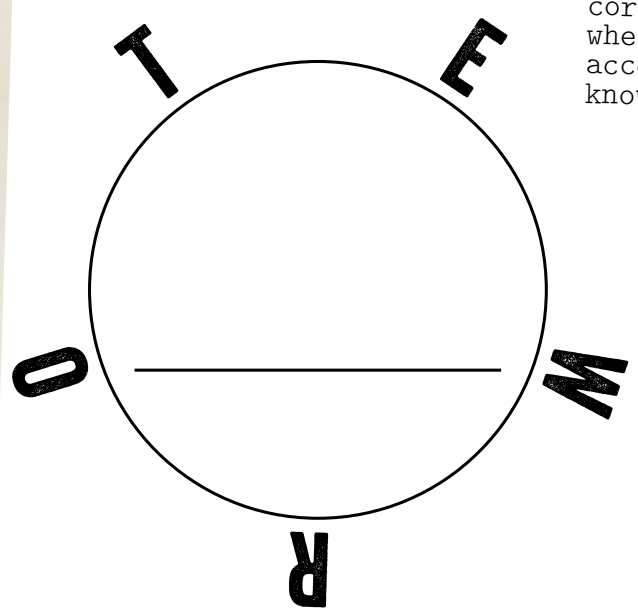
THE CASE OF THE TRAVELING DOCTOR

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

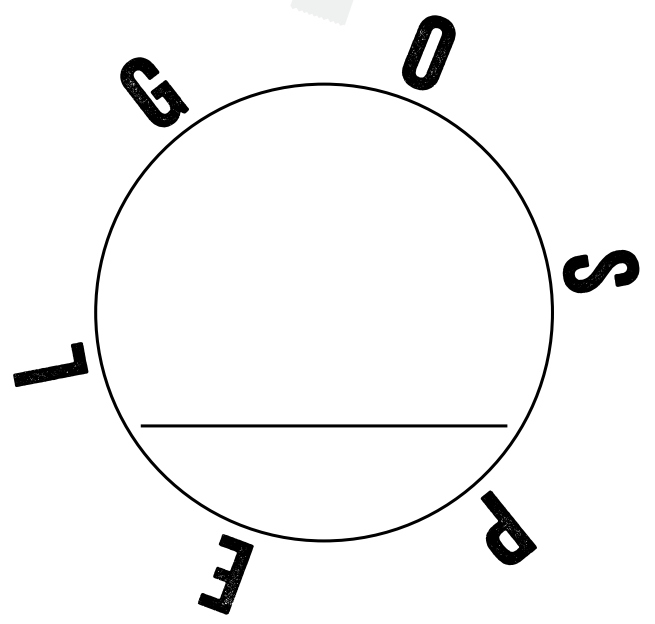
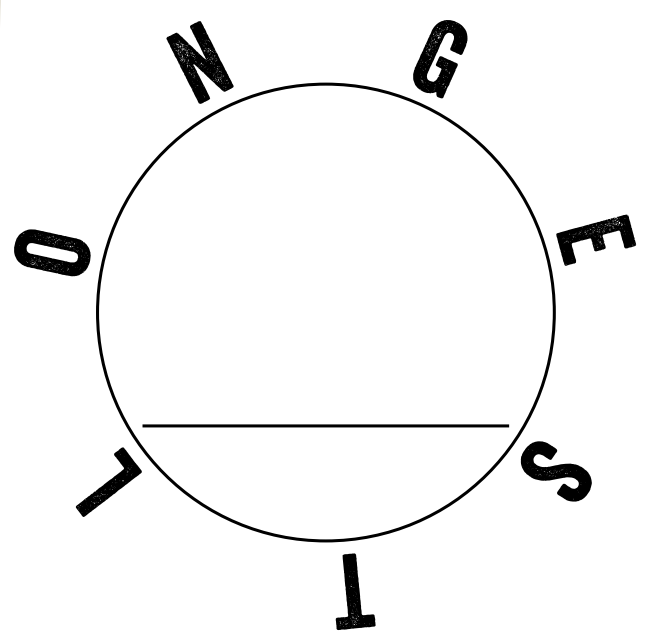
Start reading at the correct place on each word wheel to learn about an accomplishment that I'm known for.



THE

CLUE 2

MY FRIENDS WERE HAPPY TO HAVE ME ALONG. I'M A GENTILE, AND WE WERE PREACHING TO GENTILES. I'M ALSO A PHYSICIAN. WHEN YOU TRAVEL A LOT, HAVING A DOCTOR MAKES LIFE SAFER.



CLUE 3

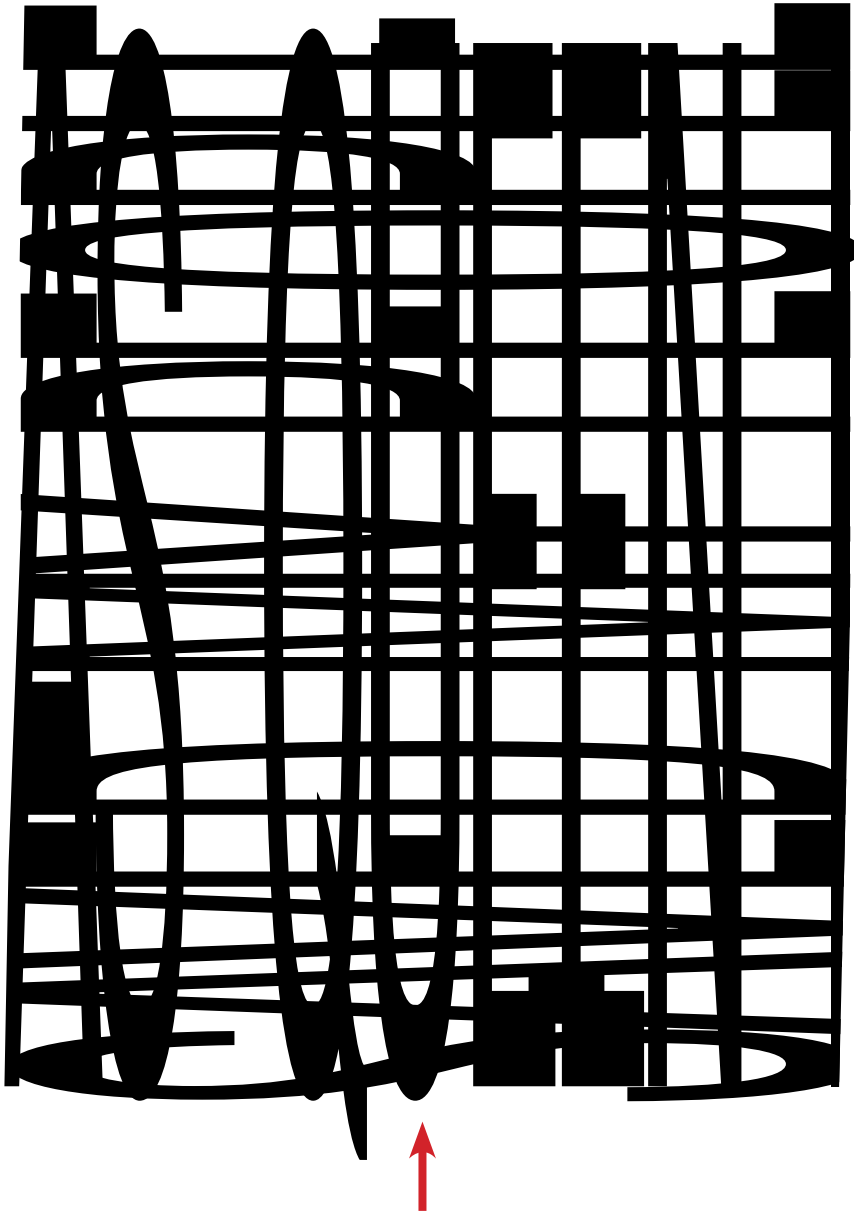
You probably know the name of one of my good friends.

Use code Y to learn my friend's name.

UIF BQPTUMF QBVM

THE CASE OF THE ROYAL RESCUER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Can you discover the hidden words in this image? Tilt your page almost to eye level, and then rotate it to read the second part. You'll learn something about me.

CLUE 2

I NEVER REALLY KNEW MY PARENTS. WHEN MY FATHER AND MOTHER DIED, MY OLDER COUSIN TOOK ME INTO HIS HOME AND RAISED ME.

CLUE 3

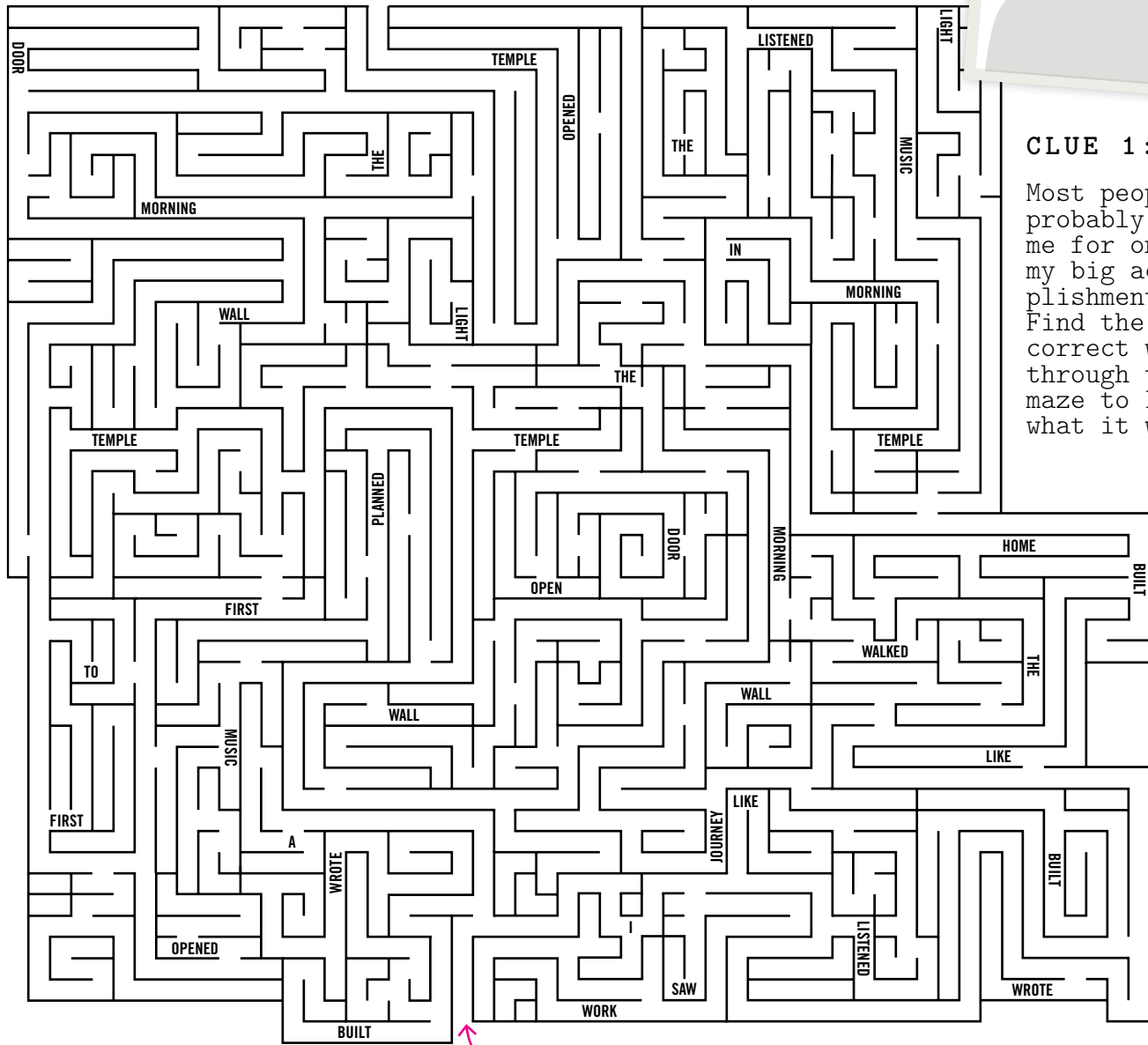
I wouldn't have been in a position to help anyone without my cousin's help.

Use **Code X** to learn the name of my cousin.

OQTFGECK

THE CASE OF THE ROYAL BUILDER

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Most people probably know me for one of my big accomplishments. Find the correct way through this maze to learn what it was!

CLUE 2

BEFORE MY DAD DIED, HE GAVE ME SOME WORDS TO LIVE BY. "BE STRONG." HE SAID "AND SHOW YOURSELF A MAN. AND KEEP THE CHARGE OF THE LORD YOUR GOD!" GOOD WORDS FROM A KING.

CLUE 3

Do you know my father? Write the first letter of each object or animal in the blanks to discover his name.



THE CASE OF

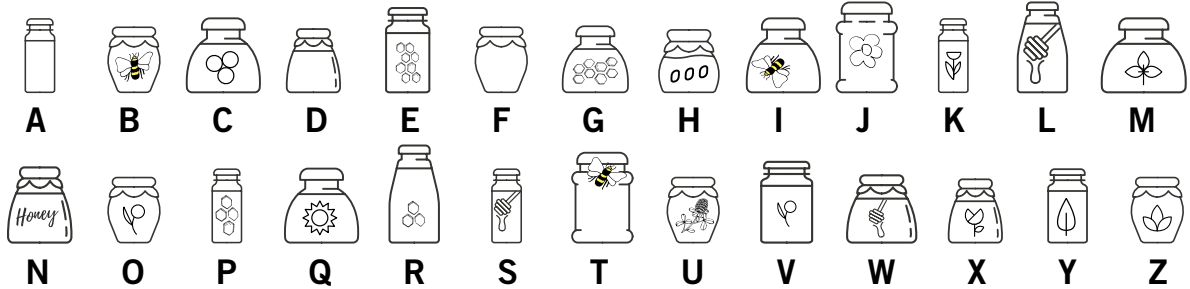
THE HAIRY SITUATION

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.



CLUE 1:

Is anything sweeter than honey? Maybe, but not for me. Once, I found some honey in a strange place. Match the markings on each honey jar to the letters below to learn where I found this very tasty treat!



CLUE 2

I MADE A SPECIAL PROMISE TO GOD, SO I HAD TO FOLLOW SOME SPECIAL RULES. I COULDN'T GO TO A GRAVE, EVEN WHEN SOMEONE I KNEW DIED. I COULDN'T CUT MY HAIR OR EVEN EAT GRAPES!

CLUE 3

Whenever I think of the woman who betrayed me, a thought goes through my head.
Use Code J to reveal the answer.

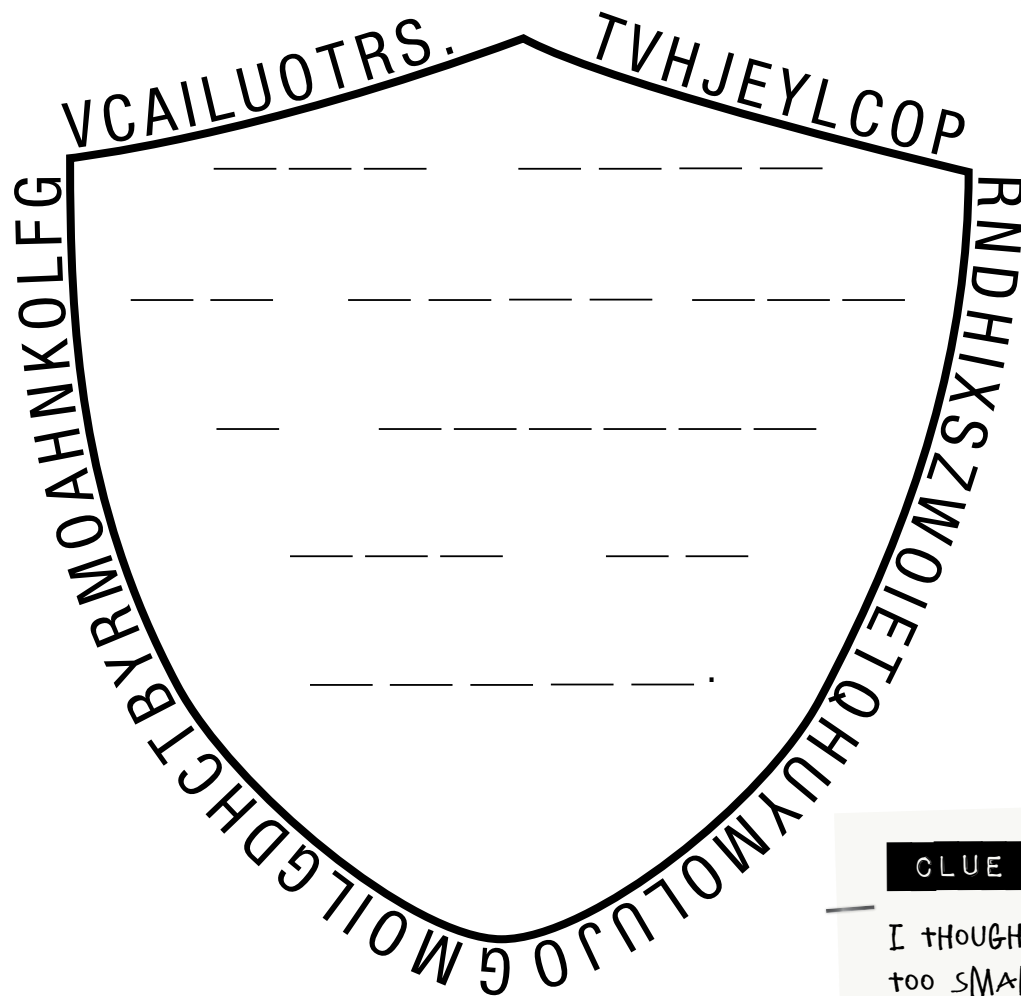
MEHIJ XQYHSKJ ULUH

THE CASE OF THE MISMATCHED MILITARY

Use the clues to identify the mystery Bible character.

CLUE 1

I was the youngest in my family, weak and small. How could God use me? But one day, the Lord's messenger greeted me. And you wouldn't believe what He said! Start at the top right of the shield, and copy every other letter from the rim to the spaces below.



CLUE 2

I THOUGHT MY ARMY WAS TOO SMALL. BUT GOD WAS IN CHARGE. I NEEDED TO LEARN TO TRUST HIM. HE NARROWED OUR NUMBERS DOWN TO JUST 300 MEN BASED ON HOW THEY TOOK A DRINK OF WATER. OUR LITTLE ARMY MARCHED FORWARD WITH TRUMPETS AND TORCHES. WOULD GOD GIVE US VICTORY?

CLUE 3

Hold this message to a mirror and flip it upside down to see something I accomplished:

ԵՅԱՆ ԳՈԴ ԵՄԻ
 ԵՏՐՈՅԵԸ ԱՆ ԱՂԻՐ ԵՒ ԹԵ

BIBLE LITERACY RESOURCES FOR YOUR FAMILY



Adventures in Odyssey Bible

Kids can enjoy reading God's Word with the characters from Adventures in Odyssey.



Adventures in Odyssey Club

Each month you'll get access to a brand-new, exclusive Adventures in Odyssey episode and activities, in addition to access to the entire Adventures in Odyssey series. AIOClub.org



Bible KidVentures

Get stories that build on a child's knowledge of the Bible with fun and entertaining short stories. For ages 7 to 12.



Imagination Station

Explore history from a biblical perspective with Patrick and Beth, two characters from Odyssey. For ages 5 to 10.



Clubhouse Jr. is an award-winning, biblically based magazine for 3- to 7-year-olds.



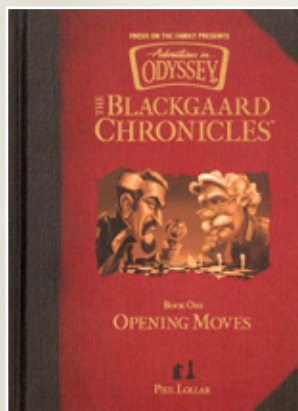
Captain Absolutely: Defending Truth, Justice, and Lots More Truth!

Josiah King battles villains and defends God's truth.



Focus on the Family Clubhouse

magazine is an award-winning, biblically based publication for 8- to 12-year-olds.

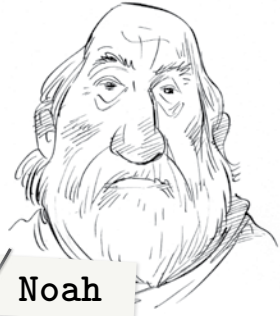


Adventures in Odyssey: Blackgaard Chronicles Books 1 & 2

A new book series that introduces stories based on the Adventures in Odyssey audio program.

THE LINEUP

Use the lineup as a reference to possible characters for each case. When a mystery is solved, cut out the correct character and attach it to the puzzle sheet. Don't be fooled; some characters can be used more than once!



Noah



Deborah



Paul



Ruth



Peter



Nehemiah



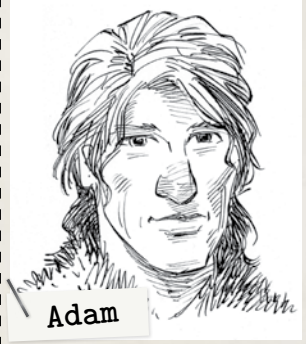
John the Baptist



Miriam



Luke



Adam



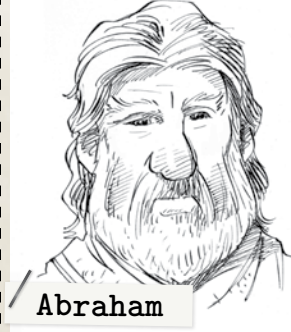
Esther



Moses



Joseph



Abraham



Naaman



Joshua



John



Barnabas



Mary



Daniel



Lot's wife



David



Priscilla






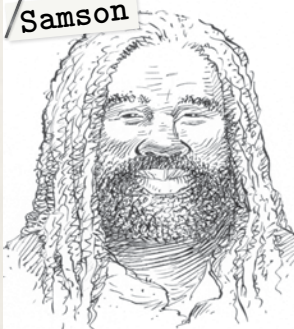


King Solomon



FocusOnTheFamily.com/
BibleDetectives

THE LINEUP

Use the lineup as a reference to possible characters for each case. When a mystery is solved, cut out the correct character and attach it to the puzzle sheet. Don't be fooled; some characters can be used more than once!

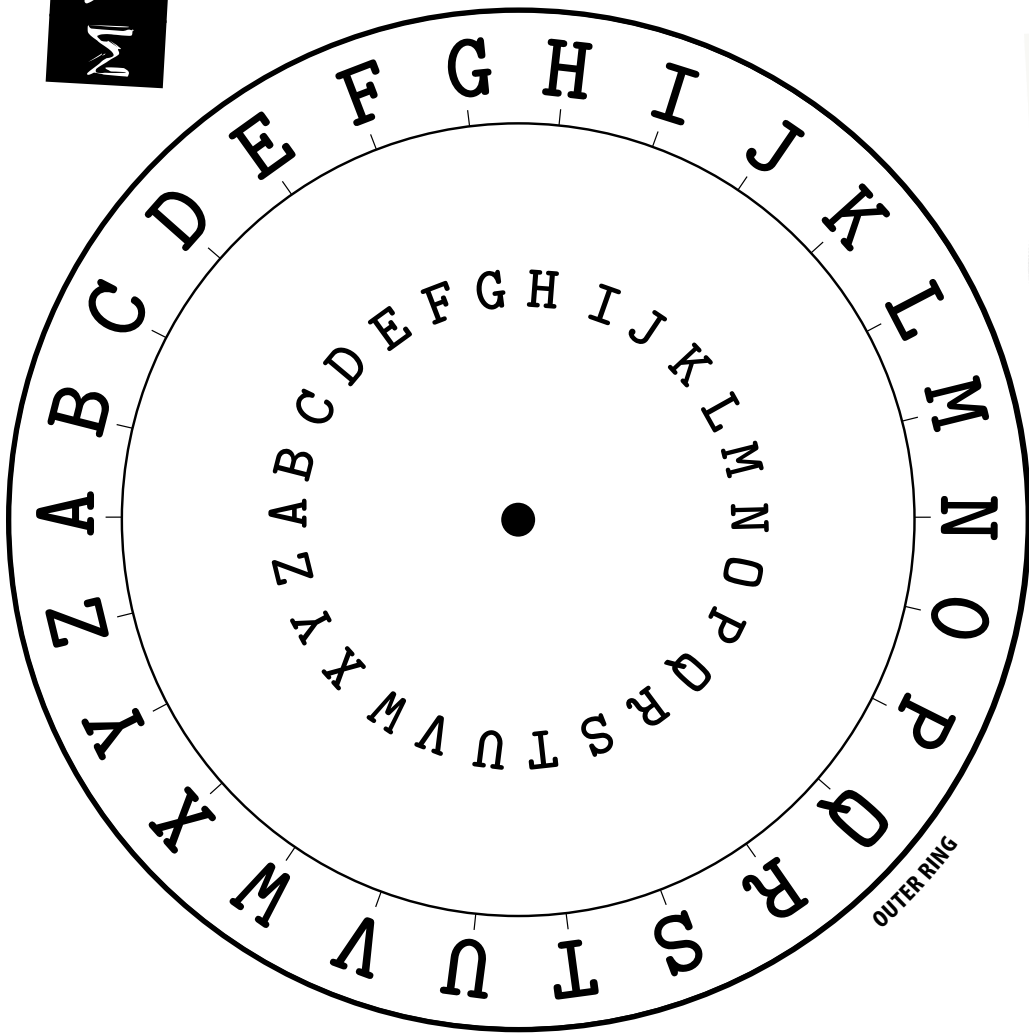
 Sarah	 Jonah	 Elizabeth	 Samson	 Mary Magdalene
 Gideon				



FocusOnTheFamily.com/
BibleDetectives

MYSTERY DECODER

1. Print on thick paper for best results.
2. Cut out both disks.
3. Cut out the rectangle next to CODE.
4. Using a brass paper fastener, pierce the centers of the disks and attach the smaller disk to the larger one. (Instead of a brass fastener, you can use a thumbtack to fasten it to a small box.)



EXAMPLE

This decoder is set to **CODE D**

W E Q T P I
S A M P L E

PAUL THE APOSTLE



LIVED:

A.D. 5 - 67

OCCUPATION:

tentmaker, missionary

PROFILE

- Birth name: Saul
- Arrested and persecuted Christians
- Saw Jesus on the road to Damascus and went blind for three days
- Became a missionary of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to Gentiles
- Author of several New Testament books

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
TARSUS, CILICIA
(ROMAN EMPIRE)

ASSOCIATES:
BARNABAS,
SILAS, TIMOTHY

SCRIPTURE:
ROMANS 1:15

TESTIMONY

As a Pharisee, I thought I was such an educated man! I believed I was serving God by persecuting the followers of Jesus Christ. But Jesus still loved me, and He convinced me to serve Him while I traveled along the road to Damascus. I went from persecuting Christians to planting churches!

PROFILE

- Born to a Hebrew mother but raised by an Egyptian princess
- Fled Pharaoh after killing an Egyptian
- Heard the voice of God, who spoke to him from a burning bush
- Led Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
EGYPT

ASSOCIATES:
AARON,
MIRIAM,
JOSHUA

SCRIPTURE:
EXODUS 3:10

TESTIMONY

I knew my heritage, that I was Hebrew. When I saw an Egyptian beating another Hebrew, I became so angry that I killed him. But there were witnesses. I had to run away. Then God spoke to me through a burning bush and told me I had to go back and lead the Israelites out of captivity. I doubted I'd be a good leader, but God's power was with me.

MOSES



LIVED:

1393-1273 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

leader, lawgiver

DANIEL



LIVED:

620-538 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

civic leader,
prophet

PROFILE

- Taken as a **slave** to Babylon as a young man
- Honored God as he served the pagan kings of Babylon and Persia
- **Interpreted royal dreams** and visions
- Thrown into a den of lions for praying to God three times a day

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
JUDAH

LIVED IN:
BABYLON, PERSIA

ASSOCIATES:
SHADRACH,
MESHACH,
ABEDNEGO

SCRIPTURE:
DANIEL 1:17;
6:3

TESTIMONY

Can God touch a pagan king's heart? He certainly wants to. God allowed me to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, even though the king never told me any details. The Lord also protected me when jealous leaders forced King Darius to throw me into **a lions' den**. But both kings did recognize that the Lord is the only true God.

PROFILE

- **Wore camel hair robes;** ate locusts and wild honey in the wilderness
- Prepared the way for Jesus by teaching Israel about their need to repent and about the kingdom of heaven
- **Baptized Jesus;** recognized Him as God's Son
- **Beheaded by Herod** after criticizing Herod for marrying his brother's ex-wife

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
JUDAEA

ASSOCIATES:
JESUS OF
NAZARETH,
ELIZABETH

SCRIPTURE:
MATTHEW
11:7-11

TESTIMONY

People asked me many questions. **Was I the Messiah?** "Who are you?" they finally asked. I told them I was there to prepare the way for the Lord's arrival. I encouraged people to repent and change their ways--to live godly lives.

JOHN THE BAPTIST



LIVED:

A.D. 1 - ABOUT 31

OCCUPATION:

preacher

RUTH



PROFILE

- Was a Moabite widow and the daughter-in-law of Naomi
- Gathered grain from fields after crops were harvested
- Married Boaz, who recognized her as a woman of noble character
- Great-grandmother of King David and an ancestor of Jesus

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:

MOAB

LIVED IN: MOAB, ISRAEL

ASSOCIATES:

NAOMI, BOAZ

SCRIPTURE:

RUTH 1:16-17

LIVED:

ABOUT 1100 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

gleaner

TESTIMONY

After my husband died, my mother-in-law, Naomi, told me to stay in Moab with my people. Naomi was going to return to her home in Bethlehem. But I told her that I would go with her and that I would serve her God. Only death could stop my loyalty to her!

PROFILE

- Was a disciple of John the Baptist before becoming a disciple of Jesus
- Wrote the Gospel of John and First, Second and Third John
- Often called "the disciple who Jesus loved"
- Exiled to the island of Patmos
- Observed and recorded a vision of the last days

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
BETHSAIDA,
GALILEE

ASSOCIATES:
JESUS, JAMES
(BROTHER),
JOHN THE
BAPTIST

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 4:13

TESTIMONY

I traveled with Jesus during His ministry. Years later, after Jesus returned to the Father, the Roman government placed me in exile. It was difficult, but I was there for a reason. God sent an angel to give me a vision about the future. I recorded what I saw so that others could learn about God's message of what was to come.

JOHN THE APOSTLE



LIVED:

A.D. 6-100

OCCUPATION:

apostle, author

DAVID



PROFILE

- This shepherd boy famously defeated the giant Goliath
- Was called a "man after God's own heart"
- Served as the second King of Israel
- Was an ancestor of Jesus Christ
- Wrote many songs and poems included in the book of Psalms

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
BETHLEHEM

ASSOCIATES:
JONATHAN

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 13:22

LIVED:

1040 - 970 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

shepherd,
warrior, king

TESTIMONY

What a life God had for me! From shepherd to warrior to king of Israel. Most of the time, I've tried to follow the Lord's will, although I committed some great sins. Still, God's love and His power were with me. He helped me protect my sheep from a fierce lion. He helped me slay the giant Goliath. And He helped me be a good king to my people.

PROFILE

- Lived in Sodom, an ungodly city
- Was told that city would be destroyed
- Was commanded by an angel to leave and not look back
- Disobeyed God's instruction and was turned into a pillar of salt

NOTES

HOME:
SODOM

ASSOCIATES:
Lot (HUSBAND),
TWO DAUGHTERS

SCRIPTURE:
GENESIS 19:26;
LUKE 17:32-33

TESTIMONY

God had saved my family before. Why didn't I trust Him? Why didn't I obey His messengers? I chose to look back at the destruction of my home city! Maybe it was because I missed it already or that I wanted to see what was happening. I don't know. But as the flaming sulfur fell upon the city, I was transformed into a pillar of salt.

LOT'S WIFE



LIVED:

ABOUT 1900 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

mother

MIRIAM



PROFILE

- Older sister of Aaron and Moses
- Watched as Pharaoh's daughter found Moses in reeds
- Leader of Hebrew women
- Afflicted with leprosy after criticizing Moses, but healed through her brother's prayer

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
EGYPT

ASSOCIATES:
AARON,
MOSES,
JOSHUA

SCRIPTURE:
EXODUS
15:20-21

LIVED:

ABOUT 1400 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

prophetess, leader

TESTIMONY

We thought we were caught. We would be returned to captivity! But God's power gave us safe passage to the other side of the Red Sea. And when we turned around, we saw Pharaoh's horses and soldiers swept away by the tumbling waters. I was filled with such joy and relief. I sang and danced to celebrate the Lord's deliverance of His people.

PROFILE

- Sent as one of 12 spies to explore Canaan
- Name means "God saves"
- Chosen by God to lead Israel after Moses
- Led Israel into the land of Canaan
- Commanded Israel's army in several battles, beginning with the city of Jericho

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
EGYPT

ASSOCIATES:
MOSES,
CALEB,
RAHAB

SCRIPTURE:
JOSHUA 1:2-3;
6:27; 24:15

TESTIMONY

I helped Moses lead the Israelites out of Egyptian captivity. I even climbed Mount Sinai with him when he received the Ten Commandments from God. Before he died, Moses told me that God had chosen me to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. I wasn't sure about this job. But God instructed me to be "strong and courageous."

JOSHUA



LIVED:

1355-1245 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

spy, leader of
Israelites

PETER



LIVED:

1 B.C. - A.D. 67

OCCUPATION:

fisherman,
disciple

PROFILE

- Name was changed by Jesus from Simon to Peter, which means "rock"
- Was a friend and disciple of Jesus--once walked on water with Jesus
- Was the author of First and Second Peter

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
GALILEE

ASSOCIATES:
ANDREW
(BROTHER),
JESUS,
JAMES, JOHN

SCRIPTURE:
LUKE 5:11;
MATTHEW 16:16

TESTIMONY

I never thought it would happen to me. Deny my Lord? The Messiah? But on that dark night before Jesus' death, I found myself denying Him three times. I was so relieved to see Jesus again, to know that He had forgiven me for betraying Him. And I spent the rest of my life telling others about Him.

PROFILE

- Left his homeland to follow God's lead
- Had a son, Isaac, when he was 100 years old
- Was willing to obey God completely, even if it meant sacrificing his own son
- Became the father of all Israel

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
UR

ASSOCIATES:
SARAI
(WIFE), Lot
(NEPHEW)

SCRIPTURE:
GENESIS
13:14-16

TESTIMONY

I was 96 years old when God told me I would be a father of many, numbering more than the stars in the sky. What a promise! I was an old man. My wife was old, too. Could God really do this? I believed Him because God created everything that lives. Surely He could fulfill this promise.

ABRAHAM



LIVED:

ABOUT 1800 - 1600 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

livestock
owner

MARY



LIVED:

18 B.C. - ?

OCCUPATION:

mother, wife

PROFILE

- Was the mother of Jesus
- Found favor with God and rejoiced in the plan God had for her
- Temporarily **lost her Son** in Jerusalem when He was 12
- Was **present at Golgotha** when Jesus was crucified

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
NAZARETH

ASSOCIATES:
JOSEPH
(HUSBAND);
ELIZABETH
(COUSIN)

SCRIPTURE:
LUKE 1:38;
2:5-6

TESTIMONY

The angel told me I was going to have a baby! How? I wasn't married yet. The angel said God's Holy Spirit would cause me to become pregnant. The child would be called the Son of God. "**Nothing is impossible** with God," the angel said as he left me. I treasured this message, trusting God's plan for the salvation of His people.

PROFILE

- Victorious commander of Syrian army
- Visited Elisha in Judah, hoping to be healed of leprosy
- Initially **too proud** to bathe in the Jordan River

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
ARAM-
DAMASCUS

ASSOCIATES:
KING BEN
HADAD II

SCRIPTURE:
LUKE 4:27

TESTIMONY

I was suffering from a **painful skin disease** called leprosy. My wife's servant girl suggested that I go to Israel to visit a prophet who could heal me. I was excited until the prophet Elisha told me to **bathe in a muddy river**. I was unwilling to follow his instructions. But when I finally did, I was healed!

NAAMAN



LIVED:

ABOUT 850 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

military commander

NOAH



PROFILE

- Used by God to save his family and every animal species from destruction
- Was 600 years old when God flooded the earth
- Witnessed the first rainbow, the promise from God that He would never again destroy the world by a flood
- Lived to be 950 years old

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
MESOPOTAMIA

ASSOCIATES:
SHEM, HAM,
JAPHETH
(SONS)

SCRIPTURE:
GENESIS 6:22;
2 PETER 2:5

LIVED:
SOME UNKNOWN TIME
AFTER CREATION

OCCUPATION:
ship builder

TESTIMONY

I wanted to love God and His truths. And I tried to help my family do the same. But there was such overwhelming evil in the world! God said He was going to wipe the sin away with a giant flood. He told me to build a giant boat to save my family and all the animals on earth. And that's what I did.

PROFILE

- Evicted from Rome under the orders of the Roman emperor
- Lived, worked and sometimes traveled with the apostle Paul
- Discipled Apollos, a famous first-century evangelist
- Praised for her servant heart and the gift of hospitality

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
ROME

ASSOCIATES:
AQUILA
(HUSBAND),
APOSTLE
PAUL

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 18:2-3,26

TESTIMONY

Yes, I knew the apostle Paul. He was a good friend. My husband and I served with Paul as missionaries to the Gentiles. We discipled new believers, helping them grow stronger in their faith. But we still had to make a living. So we all worked as tentmakers.

LIVED:
FIRST CENTURY

OCCUPATION:
tentmaker,
missionary

PRISCILLA



ADAM



PROFILE

- Was the **first man**
- Named the animals and was given authority over the earth
- Disobeyed God's command and ate the **forbidden fruit**
- Brought sin into the world and caused all of creation to fall under God's curse
- Lived to be 930 years old

NOTES

HOME: EDEN

ASSOCIATES:
EVE (WIFE),
CAIN AND
ABEL (SONS)

SCRIPTURE:
GENESIS
2:7-8

LIVED:

BEFORE ANY OTHER HUMAN

OCCUPATION:

farmer

TESTIMONY

I should have spoken up. "No, we can't eat from that tree. God commanded us to not eat that fruit." But it sure looked tasty. **Sweet and juicy.** And wouldn't it be good to be able to tell the difference between **good and evil?** To be like God. So we ate. And then everything changed.

PROFILE

- Served as cupbearer to King Artaxerxes
- Received permission to help rebuild Jerusalem
- Resisted Israelite enemies, such as Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem
- Worked with Ezra, who restored the nation's observance of God's laws

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
BABYLON

ASSOCIATES:
EZRA, KING
ARTAXERXES

SCRIPTURE:
NEHEMIAH
2:3-5; 6:15-16

TESTIMONY

I'd just heard the terrible news. The walls around Jerusalem were still destroyed, with **fires breaking** out around the city. I **prayed and wept and mourned** the fate of my fellow Hebrews. I decided to ask King Artaxerxes for some time off from my job. I wasn't going on **vacation.** I was going back to Judah to help repair the home of my ancestors.

LIVED:

FIFTH CENTURY B.C.

OCCUPATION:

cupbearer, adviser
to the king, builder

NEHEMIAH



DEBORAH



PROFILE

- Was the fourth judge of Israel after Joshua
- Advised and judged from under a palm tree
- Told Barak that God wanted him to attack Jabin, king of Canaan
- Agreed to go into battle with Barak

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
ISRAEL

ASSOCIATES:
BARAK

SCRIPTURE:
JUDGES 4:14

LIVED:

LATE 12TH
CENTURY-1067 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

judge, prophetess

TESTIMONY

I was the fourth judge of Israel. I was also the only female judge and the only judge to also be called a prophet. I tried to lead my people with wisdom and God's truth. My 40 years of leadership in Israel happened over 1,000 years before Jesus came to Earth.

PROFILE

- Called the "beloved physician" by the apostle Paul
- Accompanied Paul on several missionary journeys
- Helped establish the early Christian church
- Was the author of the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
ANTIOCH,
SYRIA

ASSOCIATES:
PAUL, MARK,
JUSTUS,
EPAPHRAS

SCRIPTURE:
LUKE 1:1-4

TESTIMONY

As I worked with the apostle Paul, I talked with many who were eyewitnesses to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. These men and women told me about Jesus' love for the poor and the oppressed. He truly was the Messiah! I carefully recorded these events so that others could learn about how Jesus came to save us all!

LUKE



LIVED:

FIRST CENTURY

OCCUPATION:

physician,
missionary, writer

ESTHER



LIVED:

FIFTH CENTURY B.C.

OCCUPATION:

queen

PROFILE

- Was an orphan, raised by her cousin, Mordecai
- Selected by King Xerxes to become the queen of Persia because of her grace and beauty
- Risked her life to expose a plot against all Jews
- Saved the Jewish people from destruction

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
PERSIA

ASSOCIATES:
MORDECAI,
KING XERXES,
HAMAN

SCRIPTURE:
ESTHER 2:7-8,
17; 4:14

TESTIMONY

What a terrible law! My people were to be murdered in three days! Could I convince the king to change his mind? I could be executed just for approaching him. But I relied on God for the courage to talk to the king and convince him that his adviser Haman was working to destroy my family and my people . . . and me.

PROFILE

- Originally named Joseph, his new name meant "son of encouragement"
- Friend and co-worker of the apostle Paul
- Sold land and gave money to Christians in Jerusalem
- Directed by the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel to Gentiles

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
CYPRUS

ASSOCIATES:
PAUL, MARK

SCRIPTURE:
ACTS 11:22-24

TESTIMONY

Sometimes Christians have conflicts. And sometimes there isn't a right or wrong side to those disagreements. I worked as a missionary with Paul. We traveled together preaching the Gospel. But we had a sharp disagreement during one particular journey. We had to split up, but we both still wanted others to know about Jesus!

BARNABAS



LIVED:

ABOUT A.D. 1 - 61

OCCUPATION:

missionary

JOSEPH



LIVED:

1562-1452 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

slave,
prime minister of Egypt

PROFILE

- Was the favorite son of his father
- Sold into slavery by his brothers
- Imprisoned after being falsely accused of assault
- Became a powerful leader in Egypt

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
ISRAEL

ASSOCIATES:
PHARAOH,
ASENATH (WIFE),
JACOB (FATHER)

SCRIPTURE:
GENESIS
37:3,12,18;
50:20

TESTIMONY

What crazy dreams! I was gathering wheat in a field with my 11 brothers. Their bales of wheat bowed down to me! Later, I dreamed that my family--represented as the sun, moon and stars--all bowed down to me, too. My brothers were angry when I told them about these dreams. Perhaps I was wrong to tell them, but after many hardships, God did bring these things to pass.

PROFILE

- Built God's temple
- Was blessed by God with wisdom and wealth
- Wrote three books of the Old Testament
- Didn't follow God in later years; had multiple wives and worshipped idols

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
JERUSALEM

ASSOCIATES:
BATHSHEBA
(MOTHER)
KING DAVID
(FATHER)

SCRIPTURE:
1 KINGS 4:29

TESTIMONY

"Ask for anything you want." Those were God's words to me one night as I became king. What should I ask for? Power and wealth? The death of my enemies? No, I wanted to honor my father, King David, and the relationship he had with God. So I asked for wisdom and knowledge to rule my people well. God gave me those things, but also prosperity.

KING SOLOMON



REIGN:

EARLY 10TH
CENTURY-931 B.C.

OCCUPATION:

king, builder

SARAH



LIVED: APPROX. 1800 - 1600 B.C.

OCCUPATION: wife, mother

PROFILE

- God changed her name from Sarai to Sarah, reflecting His promise to make her a "mother of nations."
- Followed God's plan to leave Ur and settle in the land of Canaan
- Angelic messengers foretold the birth of her son.
- Her descendants became God's chosen people, Israel.

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE: UR OF THE CHALDEES

ASSOCIATES: ABRAHAM (HUSBAND), ISAAC (SON), TERAH (PARENT)

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 17:15-16

TESTIMONY

God promised that my descendants would be as numerous as the stars. But when He made that promise, my husband and I didn't have any children. Many years later, when I was already too old to give birth, God said that I would have a son. I laughed at the idea! But at age 90, I gave birth to a boy! I named him Isaac, meaning "laughter." Ha! It's true: Nothing is too difficult for the Lord!

PROFILE

- Tried (unsuccessfully) to run away from God's plan
- Led the city of Nineveh to repentance
- Was angry that God spared the wicked Ninevite
- God used a worm and a withering plant to teach him about grace.

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE: GATH HEPHER, ISRAEL

ASSOCIATES: AMITAI (FATHER), KING JEROBOAM

SCRIPTURE: JONAH 4:1-4

TESTIMONY

I tried to run away from God's mission for me, but He sent a mighty storm to stop the ship. I was thrown overboard and swallowed by a huge fish. What an awful experience! But God heard my prayers. He made the fish spit me out! So I preached what He wanted me to say in Nineveh, telling them to repent. I couldn't believe God wanted to save them! I guess I had a lot to learn about God's grace.

JONAH



LIVED: EIGHTH CENTURY B.C.

OCCUPATION: prophet

ELIZABETH



LIVED:
FIRST CENTURY B.C.

OCCUPATION:
wife, mother

PROFILE

- Descended from Aaron, the first priest of Israel
- An angel foretold the birth of her baby, who was to be named John (the Baptist).
- Felt her baby jump for joy when Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, came to visit

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
HEBRON

ASSOCIATES:
ZECHARIAH (HUSBAND),
JOHN THE BAPTIST (SON),
MARY (COUSIN)

SCRIPTURE:
LUKE 1:5-6

TESTIMONY

Friends pitied my husband and me because we couldn't have children. But God still had a plan for us. One day, after serving in the temple, my husband came home unable to speak. An angel had appeared to him, saying we would have a baby boy whom God would use to prepare the hearts of His people. What a blessing!

PROFILE

- A Nazirite, set apart by God, living by special rules.
- Told to never cut his hair, or God would take away his strength
- Protected God's people from the Philistines, enemies of Israel
- One of the last judges of Israel
- Once used the jawbone of a donkey as a weapon to kill a thousand Philistines

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
ZORAH

ASSOCIATES:
MANOAH (FATHER),
DELILAH

SCRIPTURE:
JUDGES 13:5

TESTIMONY

God gave me great strength. I once killed a lion with my bare hands. And later I found honey in that lion's carcass! Regretfully, I broke my promises with God by sharing the secret of my strength. So Delilah cut my hair, and my strength disappeared. While enslaved by the Philistines, my hair slowly grew back. I asked God for my strength again. With it, I brought down a mighty building on Israel's enemies!

SAMSON



LIVED:
APPROX 1100-1050 B.C.

OCCUPATION:
Judge of Israel

MARY MAGDALENE



LIVED:
FIRST CENTURY

OCCUPATION:
Follower of Christ

PROFILE

- Loyal to Jesus; traveled with Him during His ministry
- Jesus cast seven demons out of her.
- Was present at Jesus' crucifixion and death
- Was the first to witness Christ's resurrection

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
MAGDALA

ASSOCIATES:
JESUS,
PETER, MARY
(MOTHER OF
JAMES)

SCRIPTURE:
JOHN 20:11-16

TESTIMONY

After Jesus died, I wept outside His tomb. But then I looked in because the stone had been moved from the opening. I saw where His body should have been, but He wasn't there. Two angels were sitting there instead! Then I saw a man not far away and thought he was a gardener. He asked why I was weeping. Then he said my name and I realized that this man was Jesus! He had risen!

PROFILE

- The youngest son in his family
- Visited by an angel, who called him a "mighty man of valor"
- Doubted his own abilities; kept asking for signs to confirm God's plan
- Destroyed an altar to the pagan god Baal and won a battle against the Midianites

NOTES

BIRTHPLACE:
MANASSEH

ASSOCIATES:
JOASH
(FATHER),
JETHER
(SON)

SCRIPTURE:
JUDGES
6:12-14

TESTIMONY

I gathered an army of Israelites, but God said I had too many warriors! Too many? I sent some home. But He kept telling me to reduce the number of soldiers, so that His power would be known. When I only had 300 men left, we marched on the enemy, blowing trumpets and lighting torches. We were such a small force, but God confused the Midianites and caused them to start fighting each other! God gave us victory.

GIDEON



LIVED:
ABOUT 1200-1150 B.C.

OCCUPATION:
judge, military
commander