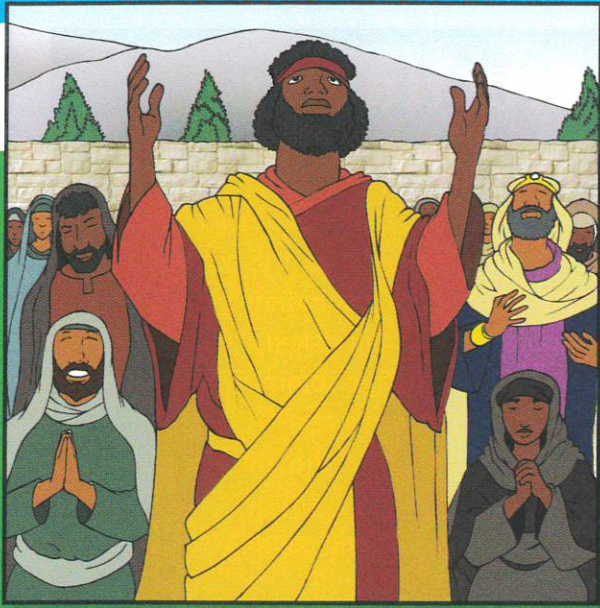


January 21, 2024

BIBLE LESSON

8



KEY VERSE: [The Spirit of the LORD said,] "Listen, . . . ! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid For the battle is not yours, but God's.'" (2 Chronicles 20:15)

Who's in Control?

Lesson Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:13-15, 17-18

God's Word

13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD. **14** Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. **15** He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.'"

.....

17 "You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you." **18** Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.



Bible Story

Who's in Control?

2 Chronicles 20:13-15, 17-18

Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of the kingdom of Judah. As king, he removed the idols and followed God's commands. When the large army of the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites came to fight against Jehoshaphat and his army, Jehoshaphat prayed to God.

In today's Scripture text, all the people of Judah stood with Jehoshaphat before God to pray for help. The Spirit of God spoke through Jahaziel, a Levite and a descendant of Asaph's. Jahaziel told the king and people not to fear the enemy's large army. He encouraged the people because the battle was not the people's battle—it belonged to God. God gave them instructions on what to do and where they would find their enemies in the Desert of Jeruel.

God's Spirit continued to tell Jahaziel that Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah would only need to stand firm. They did not need to fight because God would save them. As God's Spirit continued to speak, Jahaziel told them that they would go out tomorrow but would not be alone. God would be with them. They did not need to fear or worry because God was in control. Then King Jehoshaphat and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem bowed and worshipped before God.

Trusting God

(Part 1)

Eric, Santi, and Jeremiah loved playing basketball. They planned to try out for the basketball team at the community center.

After practice, Santi asked, "Eric, didn't your uncle coach at the community center? Would he give us some pointers?"

Eric said, "You're right. I'll ask Uncle Carl today."

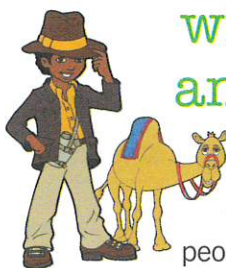
The following day, Eric came to the court with his uncle.

Uncle Carl said, "After you boys practice, I'll let you know what I think and give you some pointers."

After practicing, Eric's uncle said, "Boys, you have good basketball skills, but coaches want players who don't give up. Also, do you boys pray and trust God before you play?"

Jeremiah replied, "Yeah, I trust God, but I still need skills on the court."

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello, everyone! Nicholas and Cornelius here! When the Spirit of God spoke through Jahaziel, Jehoshaphat and all the people listened. Jahaziel was a Levite and a descendant of Asaph's. They were musicians. Music was an important part of the religious life in Israel. It was even used in battle.

Decode the hidden message to discover what Jahaziel told Jehoshaphat and the people. (The letter to be written on each dash is the one in the alphabet that comes between the pair of letters given.)

f-h n-p c-e

v-x n-p t-v k-m c-e

o-q q-s n-p s-u d-f b-d s-u

s-u g-i d-f l-n

!