

Background Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:5-20

Print Passage: 2 Chronicles 20:13-20

Fear Not



SHAWN AND HIS GRANDFATHER WERE WALKING TO THE CAR AFTER WEDNESDAY NIGHT'S BIBLE STUDY.

From Shawn's perspective, it seemed to take forever to hear the Bible stories. It seemed like the choir sang song after song after song. Shawn was already tired from school. He thought that they

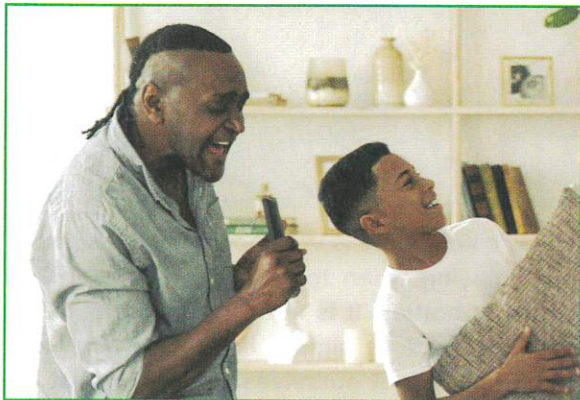
should sing one or two songs, get to the Bible story, and then everybody goes home. But the choir would sing two songs, then sing some more, then sing some more—even after the Bible lesson from the pastor.

"Hey, Gramps, I have a question; why do we sing so much in church?" asked Shawn.

Gramps, slightly startled by the question, asked, "What do you mean? They sound good to me. You don't like it?"—to which Shawn replied, "I mean, yes, but why do they have to do so much of it, and then they hoop and holler so much that I can't keep up, and it just makes me tired."

"Ha, well, you need to get into praise and worship shape, Shawn," said Gramps with a chuckle; "What do you mean?" asked Shawn.

"Praise and worship are considered spiritual warfare, which believers do



when fighting battles. We believe that God fights our battles for us if we get out of His way. But we keep our faith and sing our praises and thanksgiving to God so He will deliver us from our enemies on our jobs, at home, at school, and in our communities. We also like to sing a lot because if you know that God has been

good to you, you thank Him for His love and care. Don't ever let praise and worship tire you out, Son. It is life-saving!" explained Gramps with a smile.

"Yeah, okay, I guess I will try to understand more, Gramps," said Shawn.



WORD UP

2 Chronicles 20:13-20

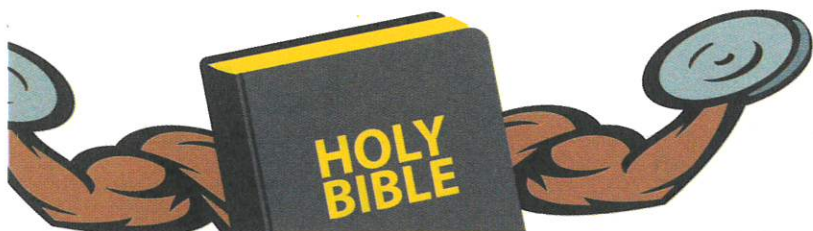
13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD. **14** Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. **15** 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. **16** Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. **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. **19** Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. **20** Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

KEY VERSE:

"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.'"

(2 Chronicles 20:15)



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

WORK OUT

KING JEHOSEPHAT WAS LEADING A GREAT PRAYER. The people of Judah quietly stood before God, waiting on directions. Then a word of prophecy via the Spirit of the Lord came to Jahaziel, who was in the midst of the gathered people. God spoke through him and said that they should not be afraid or discouraged just because the enemy armies outnumbered them. The battle belonged to God, and He would fight for His people. But because this was God's battle, He would fight on behalf of Judah. They were commanded not to give in to their fears but to stand and believe in God, no matter what it looked like.



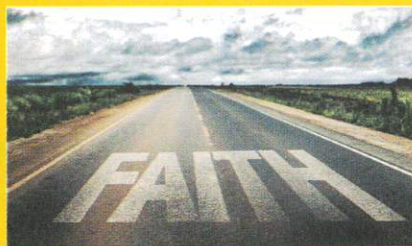
God gave them the important directive to meet the enemy armies the next day. They were still going to participate in the battle. God already knew the battle plans of the attacking armies, and He revealed them to the king and the people of Judah. They were to position themselves and were commanded to "stand still and see the salvation of the Lord go before them." Doing so would be a critical step of faith in working with God. The Israelites then worshipped the Lord, who promised to save His people. God responded to His people and saved them. They got up early in the morning and met the enemy armies. The people sang "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever" to God and led the army into the battle.

Read this prayer: *Father God, to be a strong believer and not afraid, I know I will have to face some fears by trusting You to fight my battles. There may be some fears of not being liked or of being talked about. I may also have friends who turn against me. Just help me not to get discouraged. Encourage me, Lord, to know that You will send people who will love the God I serve and me. Jesus had to deal with people who didn't like Him, either. Help me to stand strong, face my fears, and speak up about how wonderful You are. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

INSIDE OUT



The battle is not yours but God's. As the Israelites were headed to battle, they were given the prophecy that they would be victorious. Did you know that God will fight your battles for you? God shows up for all battles when His children need Him. When we stand for God, keep our hands clean, or live right and make the right decisions, God will fight for us. When God fights for you, no one will be against you.



WALK OUT



Today's Key Verse is very powerful. It discusses our knowing when to step back and let God fight our battles. It is not easy to do, but God has promised us victory if we trust Him and don't try to do it ourselves. Trust Him that He loves you and will fight your battles!