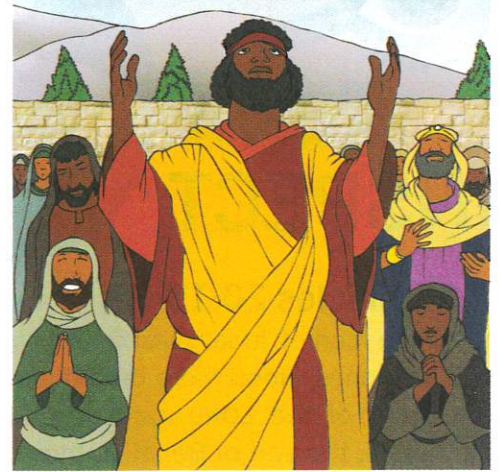


Background Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20:5-20**Print Passage:** 2 Chronicles 20:13-20

L8 Fear Not



REFLECT



Mrs. Ball, a tenth-grade teacher at Spiritville High School, started her morning off as usual with breakfast and a song of worship in her classroom before it was time for her students to arrive. Her students entered the classroom as she finished her breakfast and morning meditation. Just as the first bell rang for the students, a loud noise came from outside the tenth-grade hallway. Immediately after the loud noise, the alarm went off. The administrative assistant from the front office fearfully called out code orange, which meant an active shooter was in the building. Mrs. Ball quickly sprung into action. She gathered all of her students and locked the door to the hallway. She counted her students and ensured that they were accounted for and safe in their positions as

they had practiced and drilled every month—only this time, it was not a drill but the real deal. Mrs. Ball could not believe this was happening at her school. As they heard loud noises outside their door, Mrs. Ball began to pray and ask God to cover them and fight their battle during the horrific ordeal. She had done all she could as a teacher and wanted to safely make it out of the building with all her students. Mrs. Ball and her students remained in their safe place for several more minutes. Mrs. Ball told the children to pray and trust God that He would send help for them to escape. Mrs. Ball and her students all held hands and began to pray. As they prayed collectively, they could feel a sense of calmness come over them. Mrs. Ball was no longer fearful but felt a strong presence in the room. She and her students had no fear but trusted God to save them. A few seconds later, there was a knock on the door, and a police officer announced herself. Immediately, all the students jumped up and ran toward the officer. God had answered their prayers. Mrs. Ball praised and thanked God as she was safely escorted out of the front door of Spiritville High School.



"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)



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."



INTERSECT

IN THE LAND OF JUDAH, JEHOSEPHAT, WHO WAS RULER, HEARD THAT A VICIOUS ARMY WAS ON ITS WAY TO ATTACK THEM.

As King of Judah, he was responsible for keeping everyone in his nation safe.

Every man, woman, boy, and girl in Judah feared the army quickly approaching them. King Jehoshaphat was also afraid and did not know what to do. Then, the Spirit of the Lord came upon them as they all stood together. The angel told them not to fear because God would be with them. He told him not to be discouraged and that the battle was not their fight, but God would fight this war. In addition, the angel gave them specific instructions to follow. King Jehoshaphat was to go down to the battlefield and stand strong as God had told him to do. He told Jehoshaphat and his army to stand strong and not be afraid. In addition, they were to watch God win the battle for them. Then Jehoshaphat and his men bowed down with their faces to the ground to worship God. This represented that they trusted and believed in God Almighty. So, early the following day, Judah and the people of Jerusalem did as God had commanded. They believed in God and the prophets that the battle would be won. God wanted Israel to witness firsthand His promise and His power. Also, He wanted to see if King Jehoshaphat and his people had faith in Him and His word that He was able to overcome the large army that would have defeated them if they did not have faith in His word.

Inside Out



Today's lesson looks at faith over fear. God wants us to trust Him during all circumstances. We must trust in God and the promise of God's protecting presence. Either aloud or on a separate sheet of paper, respond to the questions below.

1. What was the significance of King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah's bowing down with their faces to the ground to worship God?
2. How are the two stories from the reflection and inspection similar?
3. We all feel fearful at some point. What are some ways that we can increase our faith over fear?