

January 5, 1997

4' s, 5' s & K

God Corrects the Proud

Zephaniah

3ZEP17PK

Materials I Need:

Memory Work:

The Prophet - *Zephaniah*

The Principle - *God corrects the proud and helps the humble.*

The People - *Israelites living around Jerusalem*

God's Attribute - *God is the just Judge who corrects the proud.*

Aim Questions:

1. What prophet told the Israelites living around Jerusalem that God is the fair Judge who corrects the proud people? (Zephaniah)
2. What wrong things had the people been doing? (Praying to idols, and not obeying God)
3. What did King Josiah do when the Israelites found the Book of the Law? (He read it to all the Israelites.)
4. What did King Josiah stop doing when God's Word told him it was wrong? (He stopped worshipping idols.)
5. Does God correct or help the proud person? (Corrects) Does God correct or help the humble person? (Helps)
6. How can God be our helper and help us know what is right to do? (Read His Word, the Bible, and change to God's right ways)

 Hook:

"Prophet" Center: (3ZEP17PKGF1) Let the children color the picture of the prophet Zephaniah and add pieces of cotton glued to his beard. Say the name of the prophet several times. Sing "Zephaniah Was a Prophet Sent from God." Let the children put the prophet faces up to their own and say, "God is just and fair. He corrects the people who are too proud to listen to Him."

"People" Center: Bring light-weight blankets or king-sized sheets to make tents. Also bring a bath robe and a crown to be used later at this center. (Burger King crowns are easy to get, or you could make one on your own.) Have the children help you put the tents together over a table or some chairs. Pretend to be the Israelites living in Bible times. Let the children free play life activities--cooking, cleaning, washing, eating--in and around the tent. At some point in the play time, the teacher will put the bath robe on one of the children. Have that child pretend to be the prophet Zephaniah. Put the crown on another and introduce King Josiah. Have the rest of the "Israelites" stick up their chins and puff out their chests, pretending to act proud. Have the proud Israelites say, "I don't care what you say! I'll do what I want!" Sing "Haughty People May Not Go."

"Place" Center: (3ZEP17PKGF2) Have the children's workers use the GF2 pattern to cut puzzle pieces out of empty cereal boxes. The cardboard will be stiff and the colors will be bright. On class day, let the children choose which puzzle pieces they want to use. Help them arrange the pieces so the finished puzzle looks like a temple building. There may be several temple designs at one table which is okay. Remind the children that the temple was where God told the Israelites to worship.



"Who Is God?" Center: Hand out rhythm sticks to the children. Be sure to use clear guidelines for handling the sticks. Have all the children HOLD the sticks without playing them until you have given instructions. If someone taps before it is time, kindly take his or her rhythm sticks until you are ready to begin. Everyone taps their rhythm sticks together at the same time. Continue kindly taking sticks from any child who is not listening and tapping in time. Before very long, all children will have learned to listen and follow instructions. Playing the sticks this way will make a rhythm to accompany the following phrase: "God is the Judge who corrects the proud." Show the children how to tap on the downbeat as you say the phrase out loud. Then all tap together. Explain what the word "proud" means. The proud person thinks he knows better than God. A proud person does not listen and follow instructions. We all want to be humble, listening people. God punishes the proud because He is just and right. Go around the circle, having the children say the phrase about God one at a time.



Children can color letters "H" and "P." These can be pinned on later for team activities. Tell the children they will hear more about these letters later in the Bible Adventure. Talk about words and names that start with these letters. Make the children curious!



Book:

Presentation Ideas -



Bring puppets to introduce the concepts of "Humble" and "Proud."



Bring crowns for the teachers to wear.



Show a wooden idol.



Divide the children into teams for "Humble" and "Proud." They act out their character when the word is used in the Adventure.



Have several adults dress up as Zephaniah, King Josiah, and a few Israelites. Act out the scenes from the story. You can be as simple or as elaborate as you like as far as costumes or scenery goes. Use the tent you made during the Hook time to house the Israelites.



Make a large scroll out of paper towel tubes and cloth. Tie a fancy rope with tassels around the scroll. Untie the rope before you read the scroll to the people. Inside it, you might hide a small Bible. Read the words, "Don't worship idols. Love God with all your heart." Explain that the words written to the Israelites in the scroll are the exact same words written in our Bible today.



(3ZEP17PKGF8 & 3ZEP17PKGF9) Show these pictures first in black and white. Color in front of the children as if creating a painting. Stop periodically and show the work in progress.

Bible Adventure -

Last week we talked about the Israelites during the time that Micah was their prophet. What wrong thing were the Israelites doing then? Do you remember what it means to covet? Yes, to want something that isn't yours. What was God going to do to the Israelites who weren't listening and obeying? Yes, He would punish them because He is just and fair. Who were the Israelites listening to and following? False prophets who told some true words but mostly false words. They encouraged people to steal to get things they wanted. They ignored God's true words to the prophet, Micah, who told of coming punishment.

I want you to meet two friends of mine. (Have two older children in the hall ready to come in. They will wear a large "H" or "P" on their shirt.) Please say "Good Morning" to Mr. (or Miss) Humble. Mr. Humble, these are the children in our Bible School class. They love to have visitors, especially happy ones like you! You have a big smile on your face. What makes you happy today?

"I love to come and visit your class. I especially love our Savior God who made me. I need my Savior to help me through the day, to make right decisions and to treat other people as I should treat them. He

helps me know what is right to do. He helps me to not covet. He helps me to think of others first and to think of them as better. He helps me be humble."

That is great, Mr. Humble. Now I see how you got your name, because you are humble and know you need God. We will listen for your name "Humble" during our Adventure today. We are so glad you came.

Children, there is one more friend that I want you to met. Please say "Good Morning" to Mr. Proud! (He wears a "P," has his nose in the air, and struts around with his thumbs under his arms.) You look sort of haughty today, Mr. Proud. What is going on with you?

"Oh, I just whipped the pants off of Mr. Humble in a game of Hungry Hippos! I knew I could beat him from the beginning. I didn't even need any help from my friends. I can beat anyone and I would love to beat you, too."

Well, Mr. Proud, you do sound like you know everything and can beat anybody. You are a very proud person. We are going to hear more about you in our Adventure today. Won't you have a seat and join us. "No, thanks, I'll be going. I don't need to hear anything. I don't need any help." Does it sound like he needs correcting or punishment? Listen for the word "Proud" while we go through our Adventure today.

Let me give you another example of what it means to be proud or humble. When your mom or dad asks you to pick up your toys, what do you do? Do you obey...the first time they ask? If you obey the first time they ask, with a good attitude, that shows a humble spirit. If you wait or argue with them, that is a proud and haughty attitude. When your teacher asks you to quietly listen during the Bible Adventure, do you obey and listen to what God's Word says? If you obey and listen with a good attitude, you are showing a humble spirit. If you refuse, you have a proud and arrogant attitude. If you grab all the crayons and your teacher corrects your behavior and asks you to share with the other children, you have a choice. You can listen and obey, which shows a humble spirit, or you can keep on being selfish, showing a proud and arrogant spirit. God gives us parents and teachers to help God correct our proud attitudes and help us be humble.

Let's find out what is going on with the Israelites living around Jerusalem. I wonder if they are humble or proud? God's next prophet for them was Zephaniah. Say that name with me. That name rhymes with Hezekiah - What-a-guy-a! Well, you will find out that Zephaniah is quite a guy-a too! His words are right here in the Bible. (Show them Zephaniah in your Bible.) The Israelites had enjoyed a good king, King Hezekiah! He was a humble king. (Put a crown on a teacher who is carrying a Bible and looking humble! Tape an "H" on his front.) Remember, being humble means he knew that he needed God. He always prayed to God when he was sad or confused. He knew that God was the only Savior who had power to save him in every situation, whether he was helping someone, making a decision or talking to an enemy.

After King Hezekiah died, there were two bad kings in Jerusalem who were not humble. They were proud and arrogant. They did not listen to God's commands or obey Him. These king's names were Manasseh and Amon, but we don't want to remember their names because they did not pray only to the true God. They didn't think they needed God or His help. They thought they could do it right all alone! They prayed to an idol called Baal, to the star gods and to the Molech idol. (Zephaniah 1:4-5) These kings were proud of themselves and encouraged the Israelites to stop being loyal to God. God is slow to anger but He is the fair Judge who punishes proud people if they ignore Him.

After Amon died, a young boy named Josiah became king. (Ask an 8-year old to join the class. Put a crown on him and an "H.") Josiah was only eight years old when he became the king in Jerusalem. That is very young, isn't it? He was so young that he had to listen to adults for advice about how to be king of the Israelites. I am glad he was humble because if he had been proud, he would have thought he knew it all and didn't need help. He would have thought he could do it without God's help.

Who was God's prophet at this time? Yes, Zephaniah. God said to Zephaniah, "Tell the Israelites living around Jerusalem that they have become proud and arrogant. They don't listen to me when I try to correct their haughty attitudes." (Stick your nose up in the air and say, "I don't care what you say. I'll do what I want!") God said, "The Israelites don't think I will punish them for their lies (3:3) and for

worshipping idols. Tell them I will punish the proud people in Jerusalem and I will help the people who are humble."

The humble prophet, Zephaniah, went right to the Israelites with God's message. He said, "If you accept God's correction, you will not be punished. If you are proud, God will remove you from Jerusalem to Babylon. God will not allow haughty people on His holy hill. (3:7, 11b-12) God is the fair Judge. He knows which people have proud attitudes and which people have humble attitudes."

King Josiah was a humble king who wanted to do what was right. He wanted to fix up the temple the way God had intended it to be. He called in workers of all kinds. He had men who used hammers, saws, pliers, and screws; men who mixed cement, washed walls and windows; and men who repaired roofs. (It might be fun to divide up the class and have the children make noises like the workers might be making. They would be making their own noises all at once.) While the workers were repairing the temple, someone found something very special. It was the Book of the Law, the Bible! The words in the Bible had been lost while Manasseh and Amon were kings. No one was able to hear God's words in the Bible for all that time.

The men quickly ran to King Josiah to show him their find! He was thrilled! He was amazed that he had God's very words in his hands! The word spread and everyone was excited to have God's words again. They couldn't wait to hear what God had to say. King Josiah gathered all the Israelites together at the temple. Everyone stood and listened very carefully. Elders, priests, prophets, women and children were there to listen as Josiah read from God's Word. The people were shocked at some of the things they heard. They had been doing many wrong things! Josiah read for hours and the people stayed even after the sun went down. They were eager to hear everything that God had to say. As Josiah finished reading, he said, "We need to stop doing wrong and start doing right! We must tear down the altars to Baal. We must quit praying to idols. We must do exactly what God has said. We need God and we need to please Him."

Josiah had a humble attitude, didn't he? When God's Word corrected him, he listened and obeyed. King Josiah was a good king because he helped the Israelites do the right thing. We can know what is right to do, too. If it says it in God's Word, the Bible, it is right for us to do. The true, fair God always helps the humble and punishes the proud.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible so we can know what is right and wrong. Help me have a humble, obedient heart. Help me do what is right and stop doing what is wrong. Thank You for being the just and fair Savior who corrects me when I am wrong. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:



Scroll Craft Center: (3ZEP17PKGF3) Help the children assemble the scroll crafts. King Josiah read the Book of the Law to the proud Israelites. God's words changed their hearts. They wanted to stop doing wrong and start doing right. Talk about what they were doing wrong that needed to change. They needed to stop worshipping idols, stop coveting and stop stealing.



Humble Heart Craft Center: (3ZEP17PKGF4) Let the children cut out the pieces and glue this craft together on class day. You can either use glue sticks or double stick tape. The Israelites heard God's word and their hearts became humbled.




Following Directions Maze: (3ZEP17PKGF5) "To complete this maze, you will have to listen carefully to the directions and do exactly as they say. That is what King Josiah did when they found the Book of the Law. He did everything God said." Sing "Josiah Was a King."





Quiet Time: Put the blanket or sheet from the Hook time tent on the floor. Let the children lie on the blanket keeping their bodies still for several minutes. Read easy to understand passages from the Bible. Have the children quietly listen.




Missionary Center: Choose one of today's crafts and send to your class missionaries the necessary craft supplies. Write a note from the class telling what you learned about God, His prophet, and the people to whom the prophet was sent.


 **Snack Center:** Eat "Humble Pie." Make little pieces of "pie" with the children on class day. Let them decorate Pepperidge Farm tea cookies (they are triangle-shaped like a wedge of pie) with chocolate frosting. People are still proud today like the Israelites were. There is a saying that some people use to explain a change of heart. They might say, "I think I'll eat humble pie." We know real change comes only when God changes the heart.

 **"Proud, Proud, Humble" instead of "Duck, Duck, Goose":** The "goose" goes around the outside of the circle acting proud and haughty. When the "humble" person is touched, he runs as fast as he can to the "temple" to worship God.


 **Musical Chairs:** Tape a "P" and an "H" on two different chairs. When the music stops, the person who sits on a "P" gets to act out being proud. The person who sits on an "H" can act out a way of being humble.

Songs:


 **God Is the Judge** (Tune: "Three Blind Mice")
God is the judge.
God is the judge.
He helps the humble and punishes the proud.
He helps the humble and punishes the proud.
I want to be humble. I want to obey.
God is the judge.
God is the judge.

 **Haughty People** (Tune: "London Bridge")
Haughty people may not go, may not go, may not go,
Haughty people may not go...on God's holy highway.

Humble people, they can go, they can go, they can go,
Humble people, they can go...on God's holy highway.

 **Zephaniah was a Prophet Sent from God** (Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know it")
Zephaniah was a prophet sent from God. (Clap, clap)
Zephaniah was a prophet sent from God. (Clap, clap)
Zephaniah was a prophet,
Zephaniah was a prophet,
Zephaniah was a prophet sent from God. (Clap, clap)

Zephaniah said that God corrects the proud. (Clap, clap) (Puff out chest as though proud)
Zephaniah said that God corrects the proud. (Clap, clap)
God corrects us when we're wrong,
Doesn't let us go for long.
Zephaniah said that God corrects the proud. (Clap, clap)

 **Josiah Was a King** (Tune: "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean")
Josiah was-a king in Jerusalem.
Josiah was-a very good king.
Josiah was-a humble and good king.
He wanted to do what God said.

Chorus: Listen! Listen! Listen to all that God says, God says!
Listen! Listen! The Bible is all that God says.

(Second Verse)

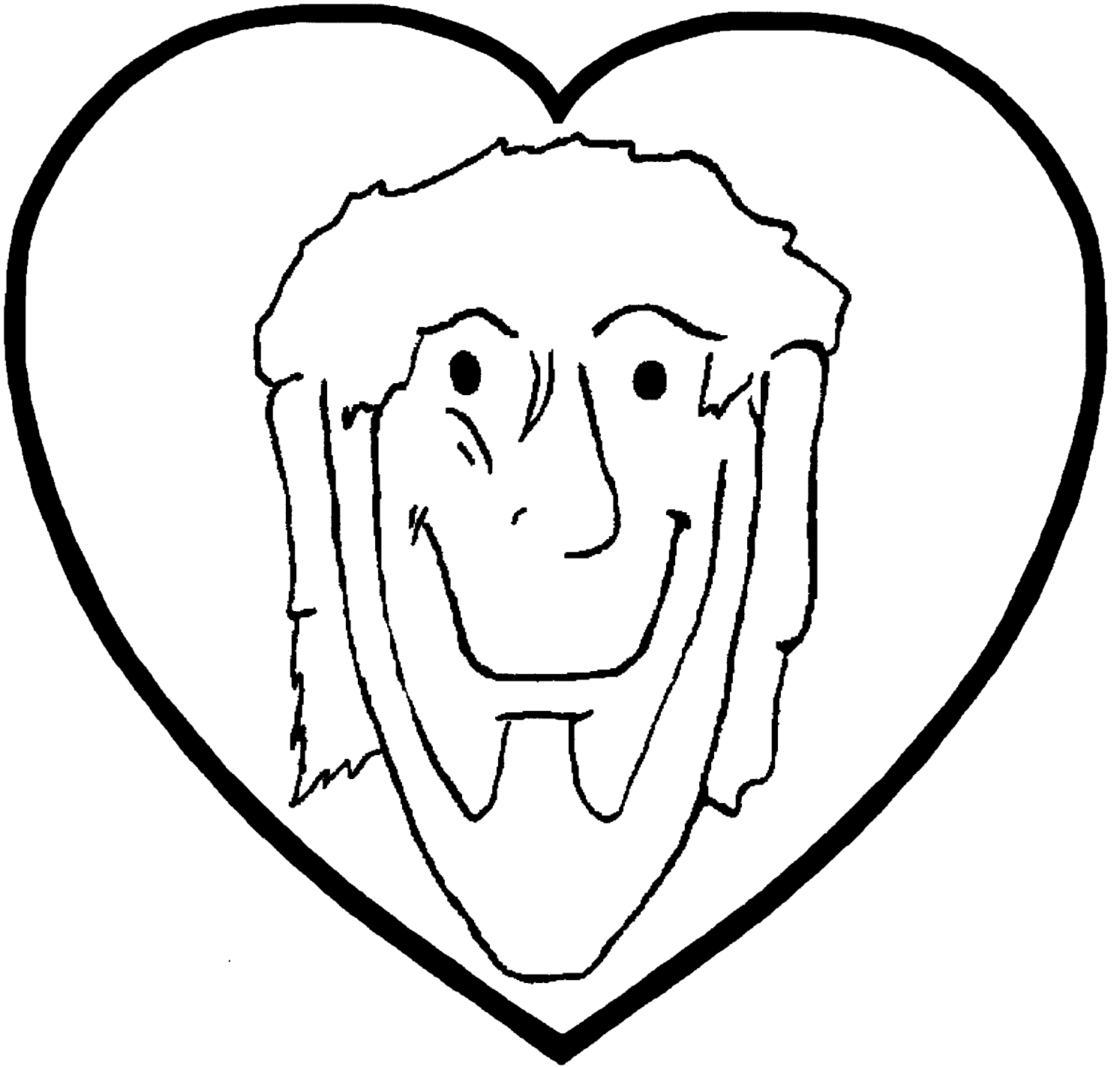
Manasseh (Jehoiakim) was-a king in Jerusalem.
Manasseh was not a good king.
Manasseh was proud and was haughty.
He didn't do all that God said.



Took:

- KNOW and DO: (3ZEP17PKGF3)** We KNOW God corrects the proud. We DO want to change our prideful ways. Show a completed GF3 scroll. “Zephaniah wrote these words in his book of the Bible, ‘Seek the Lord.’” Add a sticker of Jesus to your scroll. If the children made scrolls, let them each add a Jesus sticker to their scroll as they say, “Seek the Lord.” When you say, “Seek righteousness,” add a clean lips and clean heart sticker to your scroll. When you say, “Seek humility,” add a Bible sticker and a happy face. Sing the second verse to “Haughty People” several times.
- Changing Directions Activity:** Several children are given instructions to walk straight ahead until they are told to stop and change directions. Keep changing their directions. Ask the children, “What if you had been too proud to change directions? What if you had said, ‘No, I won’t change!’? You would have all been going in different directions. God wants us to listen to instructions and follow directions. The Israelites said, ‘We won’t be corrected. We love idols too much.’” Pray for each child to have a humble, obedient heart.
- Memory Work Review: (3ZEP17PKGF6 & 3ZEP17PKGF7)** Jerusalem is located on a hill and several prophets went up the hill to give God’s message to the Israelites. Place the GF7 prophet stickers on the path to Jerusalem. Have the children say the name of the prophet, the name of the city Jerusalem, and what we learned about God from the prophet. Don’t add the Habakkuk or Jeremiah stickers this week. We will use them in the coming weeks.
- Aim Question Review:** Put the Aim Questions on a scroll and pretend you are King Josiah, with a crown, robe and throne. Let a child be the king when he answers a question. While the child is king, he can say “God corrects the proud person.”
- God’s Word Is Still the Same: (3ZEP17PKGF10)** Unroll the scroll page that tells us what God says we shouldn’t do. Now give the positive aspect, what we should do. For example, it says “Don’t worship idols.” What should we do? God wants us to worship Him alone.

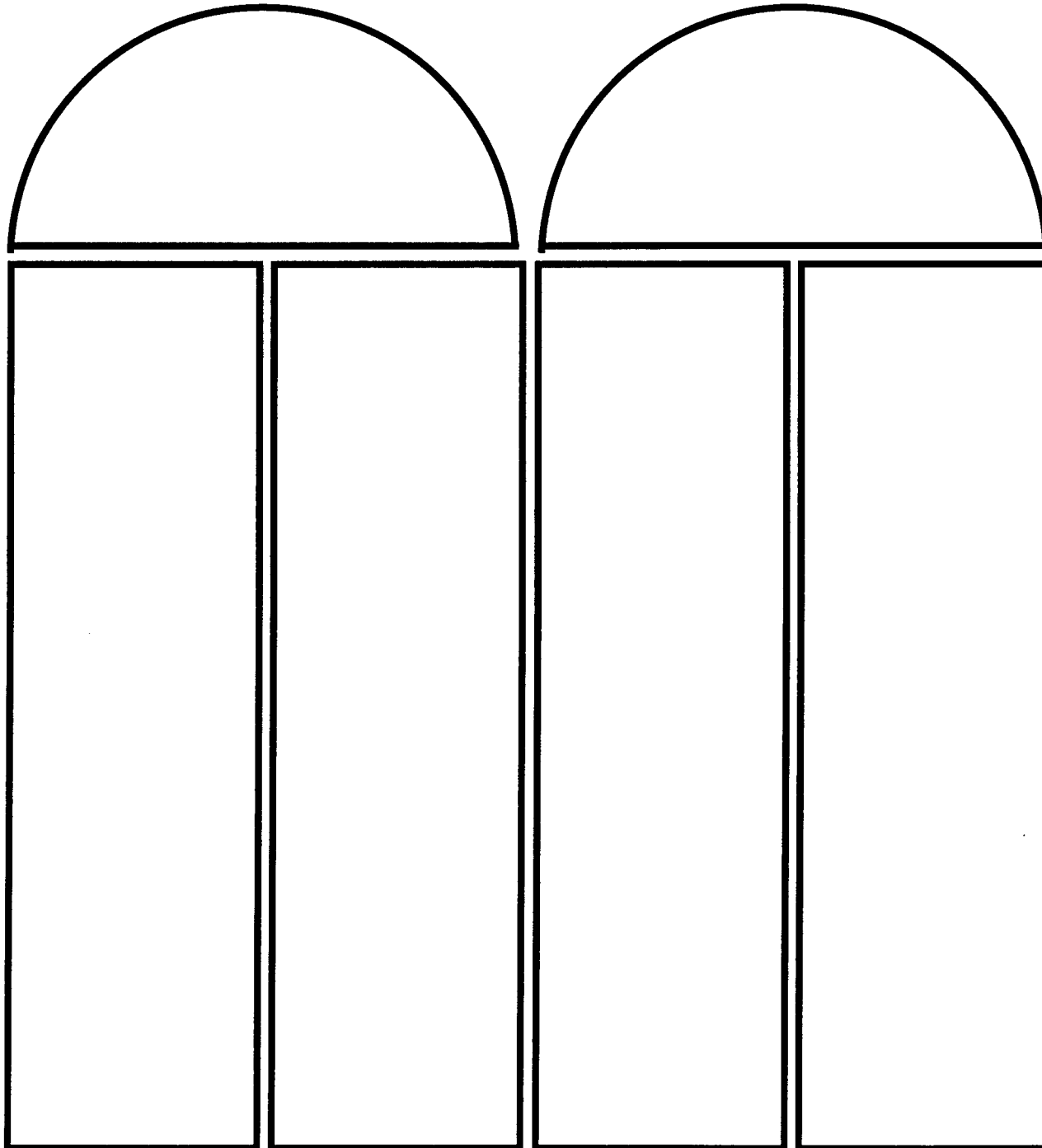
Zephaniah says



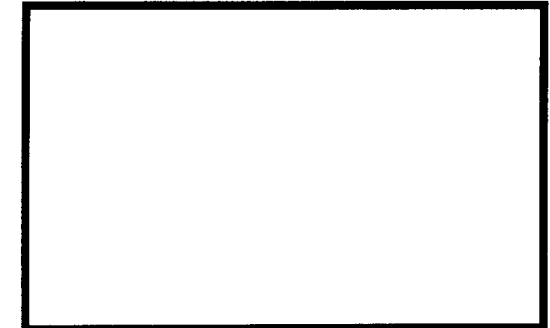
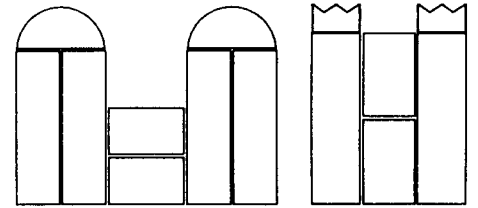
God corrects the proud.

3ZEP17PKG1

Temple Puzzle Patterns: Design your own temple from the patterns on this page.



Samples k



Scroll Craft Center

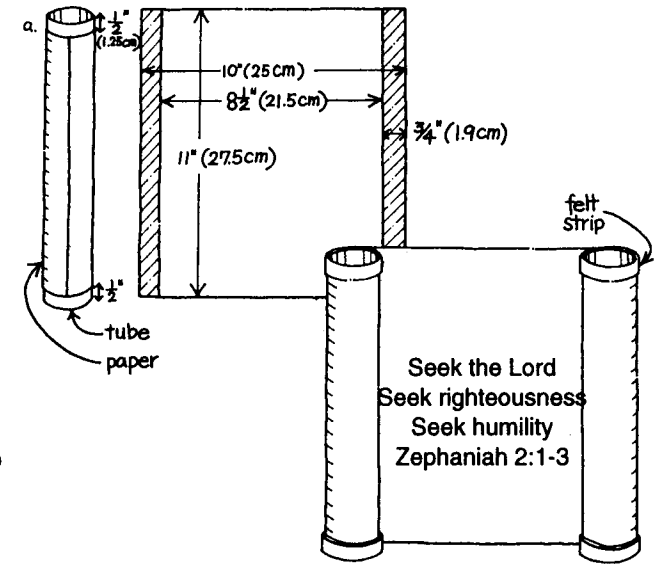
Materials: Bible, white poster board, scissors, rulers, glue, felt. For each student--3 sheets of 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper, one with the verse on it, 2 paper towel tubes, one adhesive picture hanger. Optional--stamps or stickers.

Preparation: Cut poster board into 10 x 11-inch rectangles, one per student.

Instruct each student in the following procedures:

- Roll one sheet of white paper around each tube and glue in place. There should be about 1/2 inch of tube extending beyond each end of paper (sketch a).
- Glue the Zephaniah verse sheet in center of poster board. There should be a 3/4-inch strip of poster board showing along each side of the paper.
- Glue covered tubes on each side of poster board (sketch b).
- Optional: Cut four 1/2 x 6-inch strips from felt. Glue strips around the four uncovered ends of tubes.
- Attach adhesive picture hanger to back of scroll.

Discussion Ideas: Zephaniah told the Israelites to seek God and His righteous ways. This is the way to become humble and just. What are things you can do this week to become a humble person?



Seek the Lord
Seek righteousness
Seek humility

Zephaniah 2:1-3

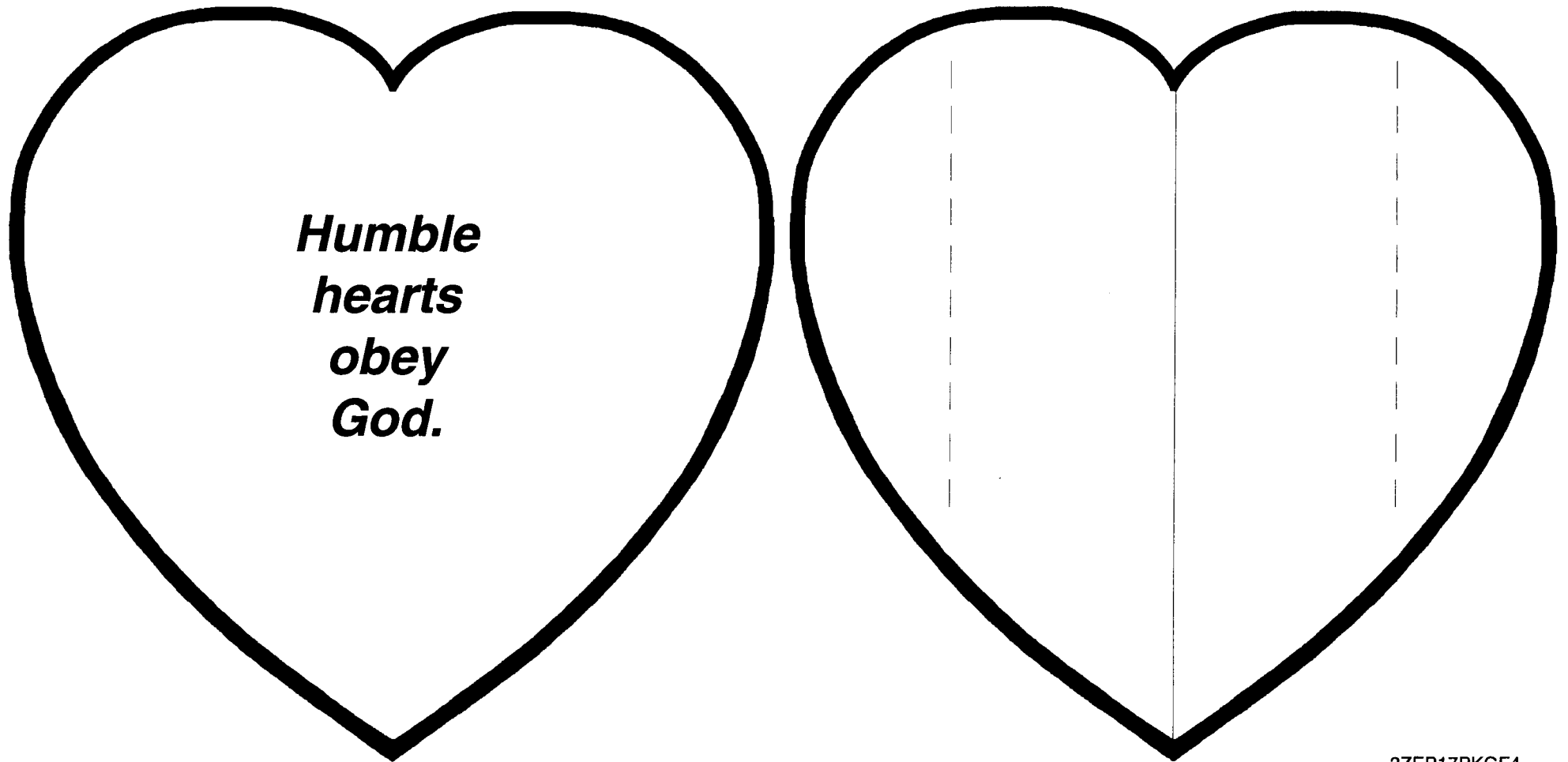
Humble Heart Craft

***Copy two hearts per child on red or pink paper. Cut one in half on the solid line.
Glue the 2 halves on top of the whole heart along the right and left sides, and fold on the dotted lines.***

The top heart will fold open to show the words on the heart underneath.

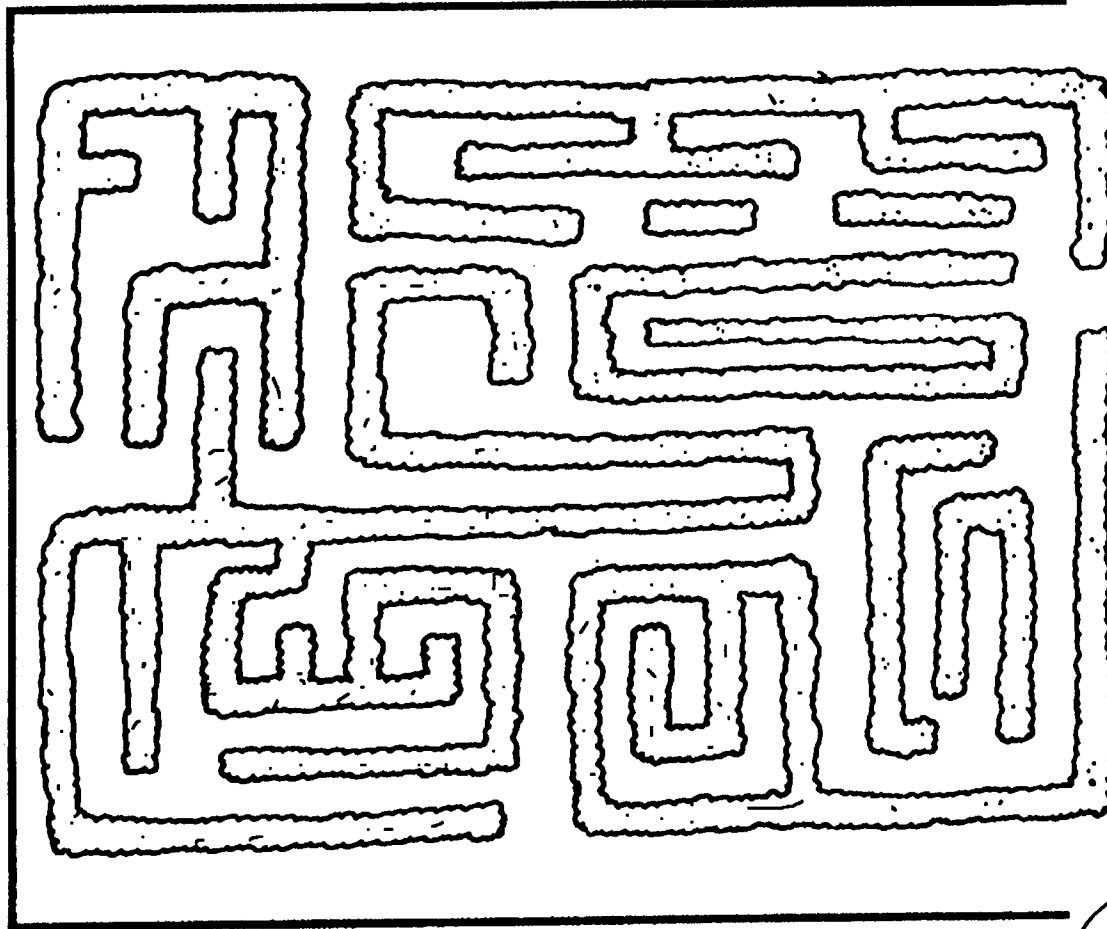
Decorate with yarn, lace, glitter and stickers.

Talk about the ways a humble heart obeys God.





Following Directions

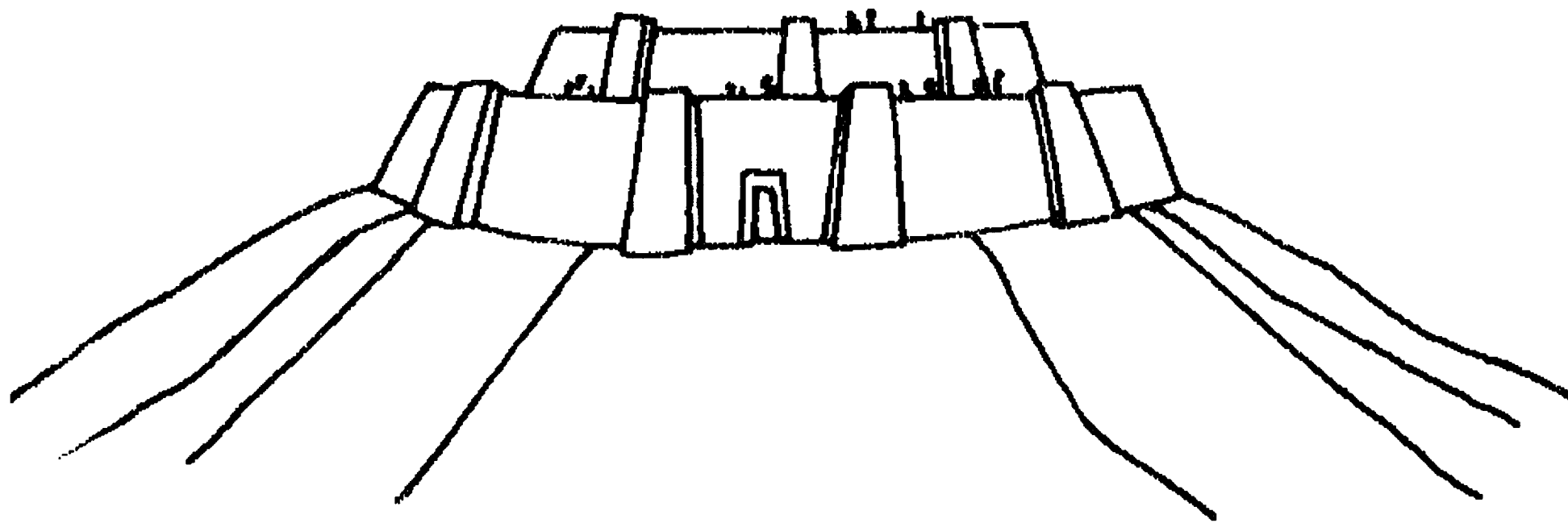


Directions:

1. Start at the bottom opening and go toward the top.
2. When you get to a wall, go right.
3. At the next turn, go toward the bottom and stop at the wall.
4. Turn the only direction you can, toward the girl. After you pass one door, turn toward the top.
5. Go past 3 doors on your left. Turn left at the fourth door, away from the girl.
6. Pass 2 doors on your right, (toward the top) then one door on your left, (toward the bottom).
7. Turn to the top at the next door, (to the right). Turn toward the Bible and keep going!

Did King Josiah and the Israelites follow God's Word? What did they do when they found the Book of the Law?

***Jerusalem sat on a hill in Judah. Many prophets came to Jerusalem to tell God's message.
Place the prophet stickers on the path to Jerusalem.***





Joel said
God does
great things
in nature

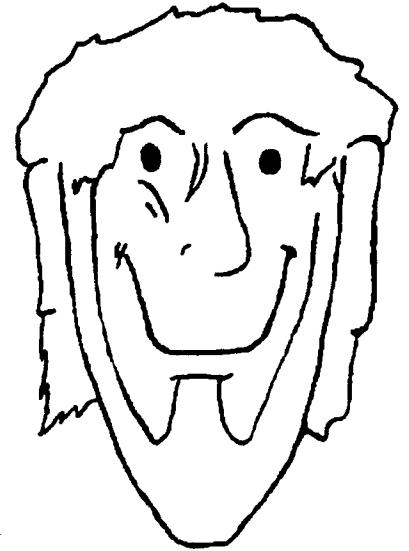
Isaiah
said
God
is the
Savior



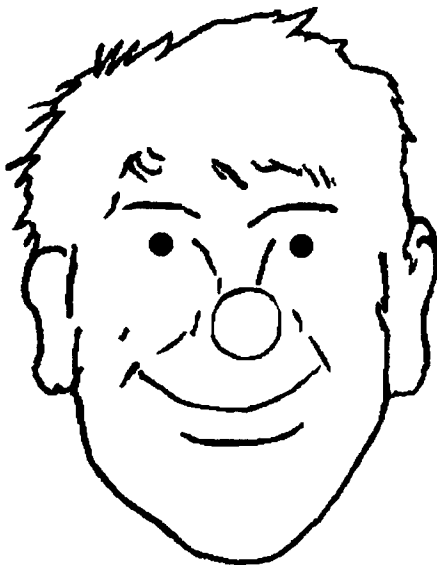
Micah
said
God is
just and
right



Zephaniah
said God
corrects
the proud



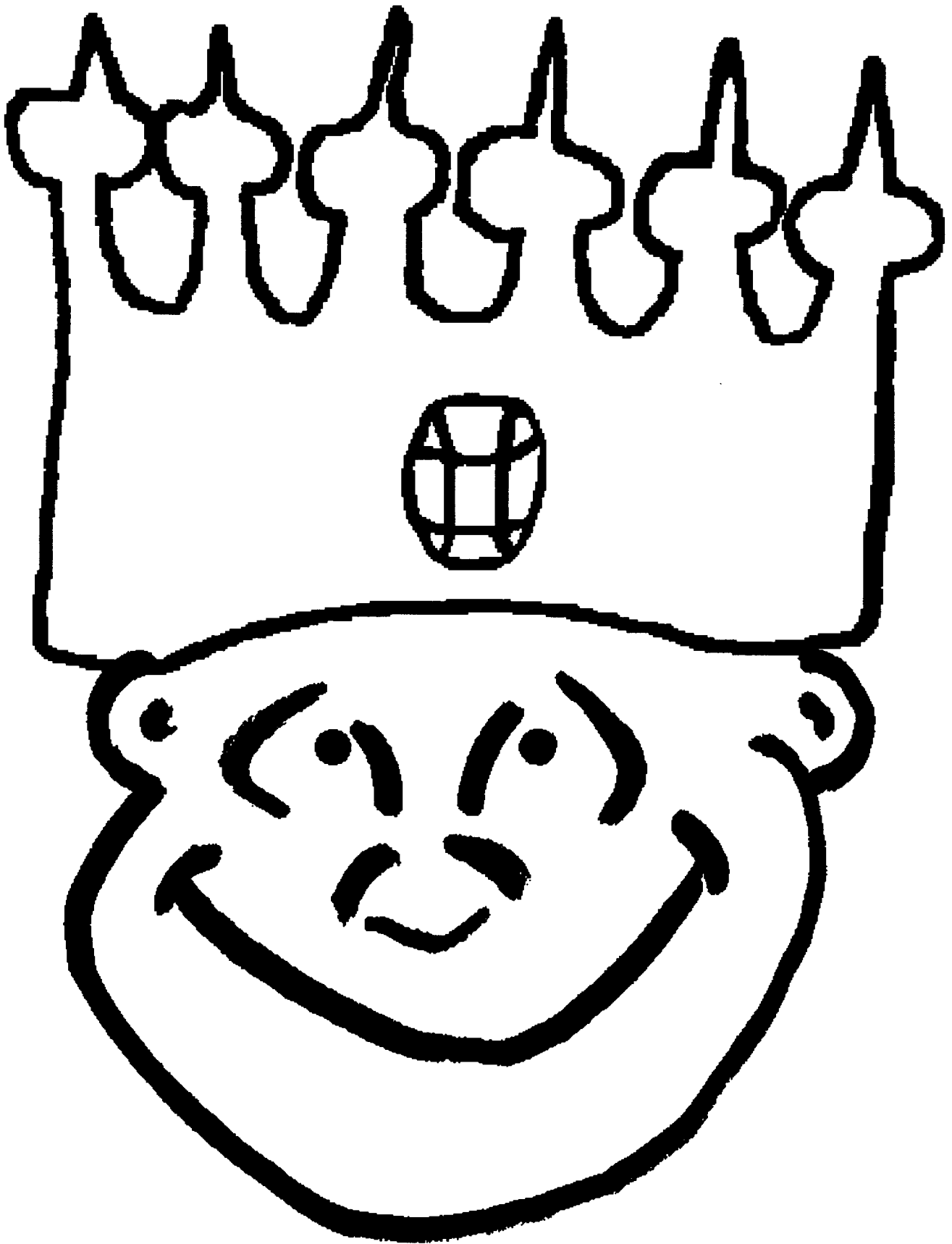
Habakkuk
said
God's
plan is
right



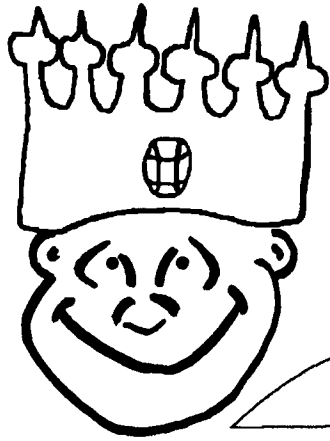
Jeremiah
said
God's
righteous
ways
never
change



King Josiah wanted to change to God's righteous ways.







**King Josiah wanted to change
to God's righteous ways.**

Book of the Law

***Don't worship idols.
Don't covet.
Don't steal.***

Exodus 20:4,5,15,17