

The Perfect Day

By Margaret N. Freeman

Jessica made a promise to God. At bedtime she told her mom about it.

"For one whole day, I'm going to be perfect. Tomorrow is that special day! I'm not going to do one wrong thing all day."

As Jessica's mom kissed her good night, she smiled and said, "That's a good promise. But I'm not sure you can keep it. Only God is perfect."

Jessica sat up. "Of course I can keep my promise! Trust me. All I have to do is try very hard to be good."

Mom shook her head and said good night. Jessica snuggled down in bed and thought about how great tomorrow would be.

When Jessica's alarm went off in the morning, she jumped out of bed immediately and started getting dressed. As she pulled on her socks, she remembered that this was going to be her perfect day.

"Breakfast is ready," Mom called.

"Oh," she said, "I don't have time to talk to God this morning. But that's okay. I prayed last night."

Everything went well at breakfast. Mom made Jessica's favorite pancakes and gave her a big glass of orange juice. "Remember what today is?" Jessica asked Mom.

"I remember," said Mom with a small smile.

A little while later, Jessica's brother Andrew couldn't find his shoes. So she found them for him. She also cleared the dishes off the table to help her mom. By the time she was ready to leave for school, Jessica was very pleased with herself for her good behavior.

"Bye, Mom!" she called. Today was library day, and she had to take her books back to school.

"Be careful of pride on your perfect day," Mom

warned her.

On the bus, Jessica had time to think about what her mom said. "But I'm not full of pride! I'm a Christian," she told herself.

The bus pulled up in front of the school. Jessica reached for her books. One was missing.

"Give me back my book Joey Winters!" she shouted to a boy getting off the bus.

"I don't have your book!" Joey shouted back.

"Yes, you do. You stole it!" But Joey kept on walking.

"Is this your book?" a voice said behind her. Jessica jumped. One of the fourth-grade boys held up a book. "It was on the floor under your seat," he said.

"Um, thanks," Jessica stammered. Suddenly she felt ashamed. She hadn't acted nicely by accusing Joey of stealing her book.

Then she remembered. The day was just beginning, and she had sinned already! She had called Joey a

(continued on back page)



Word Scramble

Unscramble the word segments in each row of eggs to form a word from Sunday's lesson that describes God. Then match the colors to unscramble the bold, colored letters to make a word that finishes the sentence below.

God is . . .

● _____

● _____

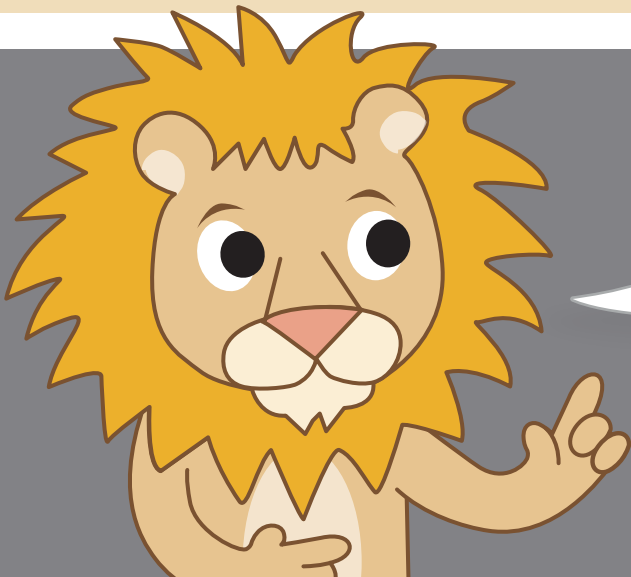
● _____

● _____



Answers: faithful; compassionate; trustworthy; merciful; promises.

He always keeps His

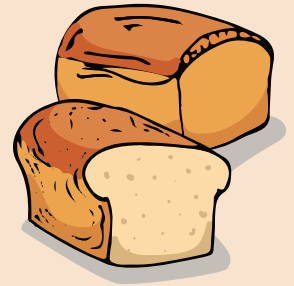


MEMORY VERSE

"His mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness"
(Lamentations 3:22b, 23).

Mini Bread Loaves

The widow made bread for Elijah with some flour and oil. God provided for Elijah through the widow, and God provided for the widow by giving her plenty of flour and oil. This easy bread recipe uses more than just flour and oil, but it still makes enough to share! Enjoy one mini loaf of bread yourself and give the second loaf as a gift to a friend!



Steps

- 1** In the ziplock bag, place sugar, yeast, and 1 cup of flour. Add warm water.
- 2** Release air from the bag and seal. Squish the mixture in the bag together to mix ingredients, then let it rest at room temperature for 10 minutes.
- 3** Add oil, salt, and 1 cup of flour to the bag. Seal the bag, and squish to combine.
- 4** Add remaining 1 cup of flour, seal the bag, and squish together until combined.
- 5** Sprinkle some flour over a clean table surface. Remove dough from the bag and knead on the floured surface for 5–10 minutes until smooth. Divide the dough in half.
- 6** Spray two mini loaf pans with cooking spray. Place half the dough in each pan. Cover the pans with a kitchen towel and let the dough rise for 30 minutes.
- 7** While the dough is rising, ask an adult to preheat oven to 375°. Then, with the adult's help, bake mini loaves until golden brown, 25–30 minutes.

Materials

- Cooking spray.
- Mini loaf pans.
- Measuring cups and spoons.
- Gallon-size ziplock bag.
- Kitchen towel.

Ingredients

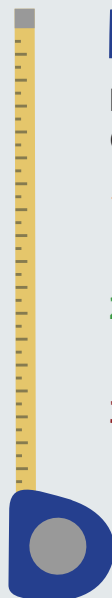
- 3 c. all-purpose flour, plus extra to flour the table surface
- ¼ c. sugar
- 1 pkg. rapid rise yeast (2 ¼ t.)
- 1 c. warm water
- 3 T. vegetable or olive oil
- 2 t. salt



Growing at Home

The Primary lesson for this week emphasized the trustworthiness of God based on the fact that He keeps His promises. Each time God promised to provide for the prophet Elijah, He followed through exactly how He said. Elijah trusted God, and God never let him down.

This is an important truth for your child to understand as your child grows in his or her faith. You can confidently assure your child that God is perfectly trustworthy no matter what.



Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child believes God is trustworthy and keeps His promises.

- 1. My child prays about his or her needs and worries.**
- 2. My child is not anxious or worried about the present or future.**
- 3. My child is confident that God will take care of him or her.**

STRONG
kids at home

Puppy Plans (continued)

"A puppy!" she shrieked.

Her mom smiled. "Mr. Bell called. He found out he needs to move for his job, and he can't take his puppy along. You came to his mind today, so he brought you the puppy."

Ashley hugged the squirming little ball of fluff. "God did this!"

Ashley's baby brother, Kenton, ran from the room. He came back holding something. "Doggy glasses," he said. He tried to put Ashley's glasses on the puppy.

Ashley grabbed them. "Kenton! I forgot to look in your room!"

Kenton just giggled.

Ashley asked, "Mom, may I please take my puppy to school for show-and-tell this week?"

"We'll see," Mom said.

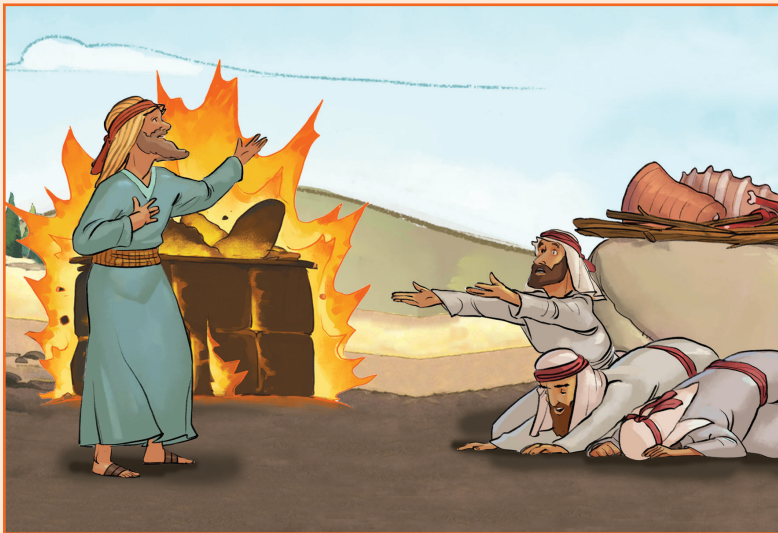
"I hope I can," Ashley said. "I'm going to tell everyone how great God is!" ■

Answer the story questions.

1. What two problems did Ashley have?
2. Tell two mistakes she and her friends made.
3. What did Ashley decide about God? Why?

Mountain Showdown

1 Kings 18:17–40



God does not force people to believe Him and obey Him. People can choose to turn away from Him. But they will have problems when they do that.

The Israelites were ignoring God and disobeying His commands. God had said, "You shall have no other gods." He also said, "Do not make idols and worship things. Worship only Me." But the people began worshiping false gods anyway. God wanted them to come back to Him. He told His prophet Elijah to show the people they were doing wrong.

Elijah went to Ahab, the king of Israel. He challenged the king to have his wicked prophets meet Elijah in a contest.

"Tell your prophets to build an altar to their god," Elijah

said. "Have them put wood on it and a bull for their sacrifice. But don't put any fire under the altar. I will do the same with an altar to the Lord."

"You call on your god. I will call on my God. The one who answers by fire will be declared the true God." The king and his prophets agreed to the contest.

The false prophets called on their god for an entire day. But nothing happened. No fire came down to burn their sacrifice.

Then Elijah prepared the altar to the true God. He put wood and a sacrifice on the altar. Then he covered everything with water. He even dug a trench around the altar and filled it with water too. Then Elijah began to pray out loud. "God, let everyone here today know that You are God. Turn their hearts back to You."

When Elijah finished praying, fire came roaring down from Heaven. God's fire burned up Elijah's sacrifice, the altar's stones, and the dust on the ground. The fire even turned the water to steam.

The people fell on their faces and declared, "The Lord, He is God!"

God proved that day that only He is the one true God worthy of worship. ■

