aCURRYcreation.com

"Let my TEACHING fall like RAIN...like SHOWERS on YOUNG PLANTS." (Deuteronomy 32:2)



Story: David's Census

Supplies Needed

You will need the following:

8 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
8 3 mil Laminating Film

Directions

- Print pages 2-17 two-sided on cardstock. Laminate the pages.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story.

Illustrations courtesy of Free Bible Images
https://www.freebibleimages.org/



Before holding up the picture:

What happened in our last lesson? *(Absalom tried to take the kingdom away from David. David told his soldiers to be gentle with Absalom. Absalom got his hair caught in a tree and Joab killed him. David mourned Absalom's death and returned to Jerusalem)*

Hold up picture :

As David grew older, he became more powerful and defeated many of Israel's enemies. Instead of thanking God for his blessings, he became proud of all his victories – but who was really responsible for all of David's success? *(God)*



Hold up picture:

David, who had become rich and famous, may have wanted to brag about his military power. So he was tempted to take a census. A census is counting all the people. David ordered his commander, Joab, to count all the men who were of fighting age. Did David ask God if he should count the people? *(No)* Do you think God would be please by David counting his soldiers? *(No)* David was putting more trust in the size of his own army than he was in trusting God to give him victories.



Hold up picture:

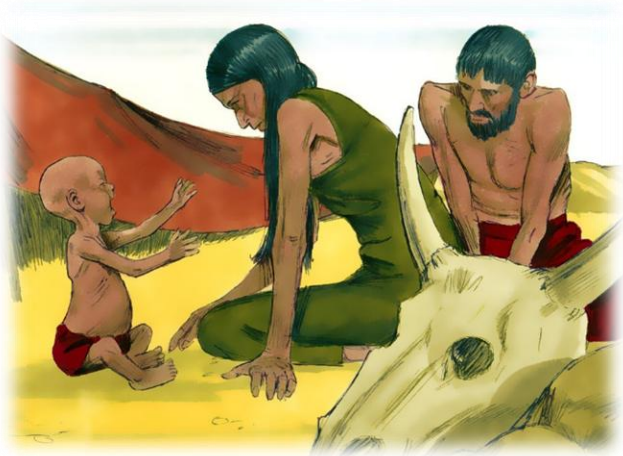
Joab, tried to change David's mind by asking him, "Why do you want to do this?" But David ignored Joab's question and ordered him to count the people anyway. So Joab took some officers and went all over the land. After 9 months, they came back to tell David there were 800,000 men of fighting age in Israel and 500,000 in Judah.

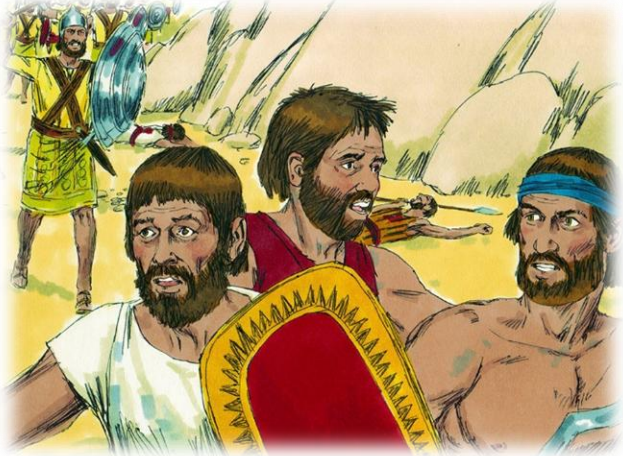


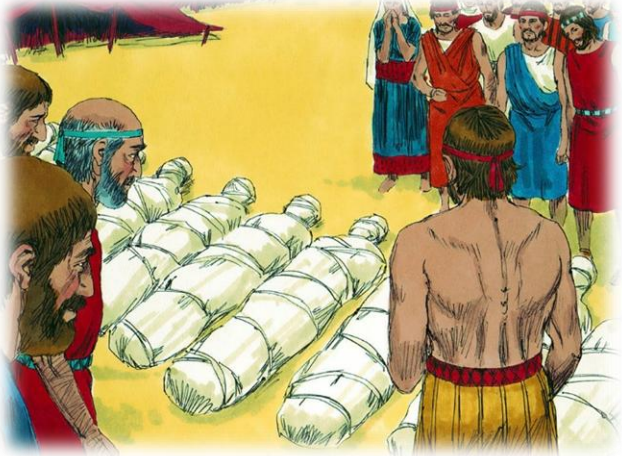
Hold up picture:

After Joab returned from counting the fighting men, David started to feel guilty. He realized he had made a foolish decision, so he confessed his sin to God and asked for forgiveness. Did God forgive him? *(Yes)* Do you think there will be a consequence for David's sin? *(Probably)*









Hold up picture:

God forgave David but He sent a prophet named Gad to give David a choice of punishments. The first choice was seven years of famine. Do you know what a famine is? *(When you have no or very little food – it's usually cause by a drought)* The second choice was 3 months of being chased by his enemies from other nations. The third choice was three days of a plague (sickness) throughout the land. Which one would you choose? *(Answers might vary)*



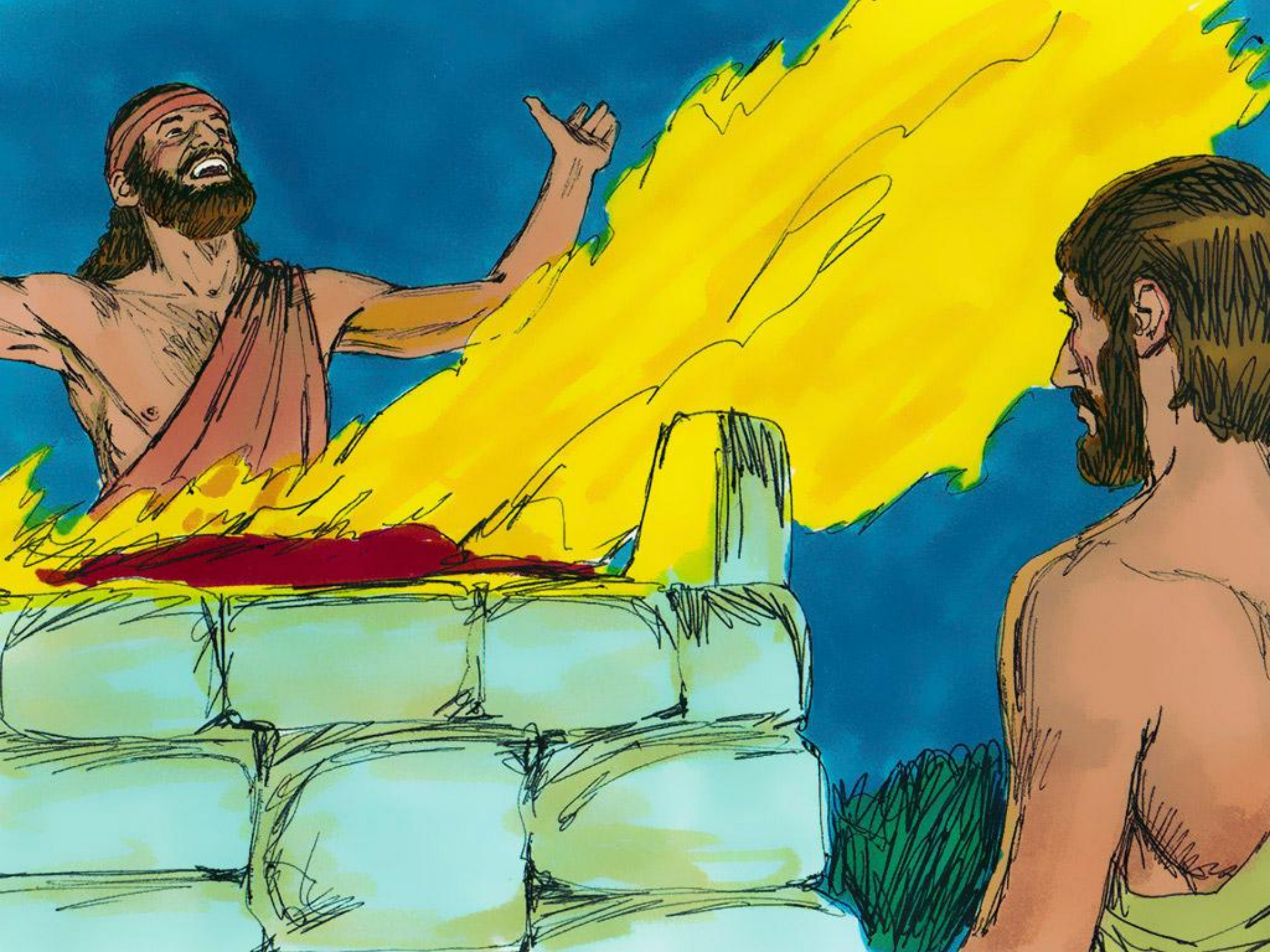
Hold up picture:

David chose the three days of illness. He said, “I would rather be punished by a merciful God than by men.” The plague came that very morning and during three days 70,000 men died. David was so upset that his sin had caused this horrible thing that he pleaded with God to hurt his family instead. He didn’t want the innocent people to suffer.



Hold up picture:

Then the angel of death approached Jerusalem, but the Lord told the angel to pause. The place where the angel paused was the threshing floor of Araunah. The prophet Gad told David to build an altar to the Lord on Araunah's threshing floor. When David asked Araunah if he could buy his threshing floor, Araunah offered to give David everything for free – the threshing floor, the wood, and even the oxen to sacrifice. Doesn't that sound like a good deal? But David said, "No."



Hold up picture:

David knew that his sin had brought harm to so many people, and he needed to pay the price for the altar and the sacrifice. It's not a true sacrifice if it doesn't cost you anything. God listened to David's prayer and stopped the terrible plague. David was king over Israel for a total of 40 years. Many consider him to be the greatest king of Israel, but he was not perfect. Even though he made mistakes, he had the kind of heart to help others and to always ask for forgiveness for his sins.

What can we learn from this lesson? *(Answers might vary)* Just as God listened to David when he prayed for forgiveness, God will listen to us as well. We can say anything to God when we pray. We can thank God for our blessings and also ask for forgiveness for things we've done wrong. Let's set a goal of talking to God more.