



**Beautiful**  
**BIBLE TREASURES**  
**For Children**

**Lesson 45**

**Level A—Little Bible Treasures:**

A Faithful Judge and Prophet

**Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:**

A Faithful Judge and Prophet

**Level C— Story Time with Jesus:**

A Faithful Judge and Prophet

**Level D— What Does it Actually Say?:**

A Faithful Judge and Prophet

**Level E— Bible Bits:** Parables of Jesus—Net of Fish and  
Leaven/ Topic Treasures—Protection Insurance

## A Faithful Judge and Prophet

Samuel was a good example. He read and studied God's Word and then put it into action. People began to listen to what Samuel said and to follow what he told them from the Lord.

Samuel prayed for them. He told them to love and obey God most of all, and then things would get better for them—and that's just what happened!

The country began to be a better place, as the people obeyed God's Words.

Samuel was a faithful judge and prophet. He travelled around helping as many people as he could to learn how wonderful God's Word was.

The more people remembered and did what God said, the happier they were.



## A Faithful Judge and Prophet

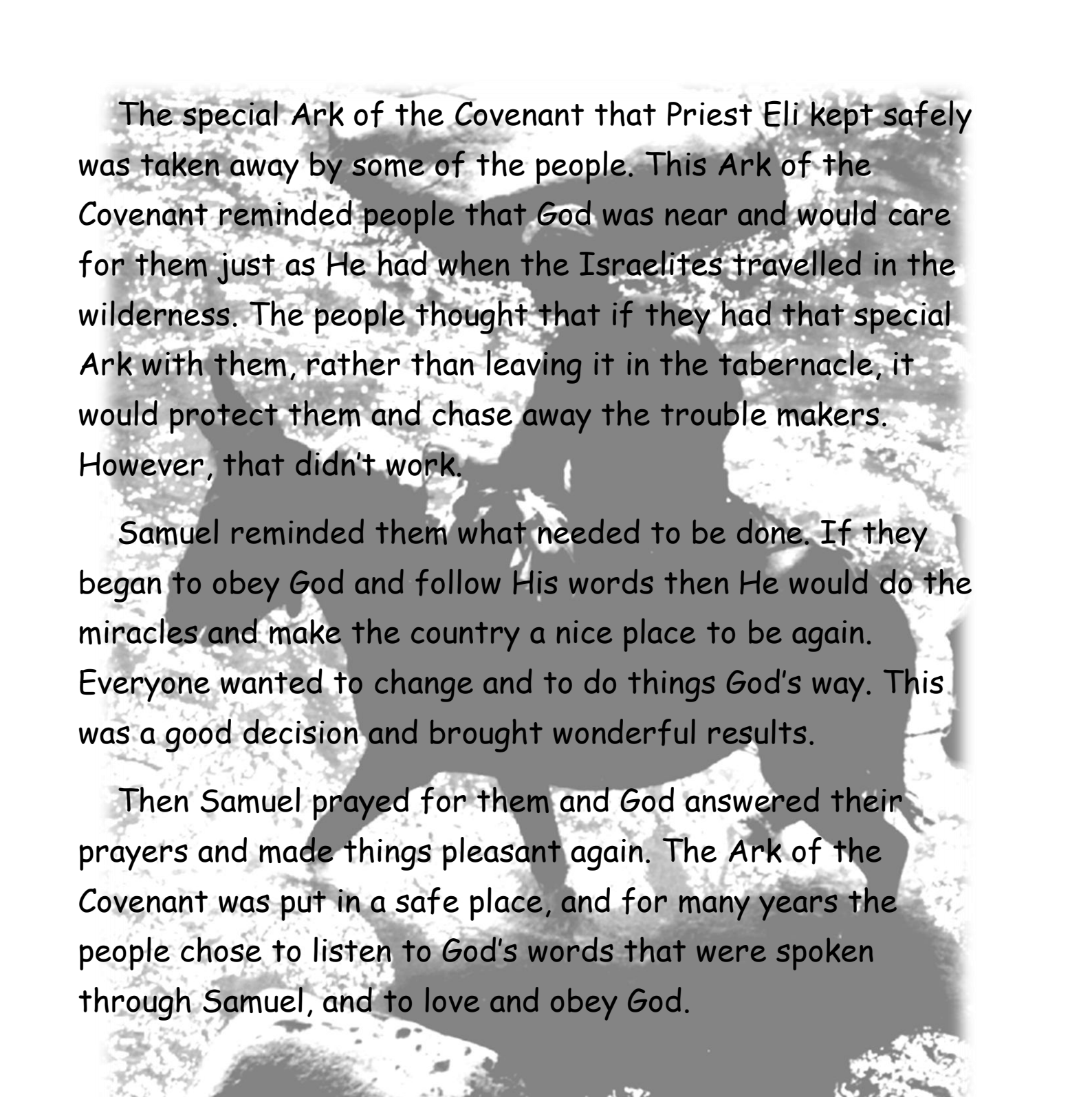
Samuel loved God so much, and was very respectful and obedient when God talked with Him. Everyone began to respect and appreciate Samuel too. He was helping things in the country change for the better, by praying and hearing from God and helping to teach everyone what God wanted them to do.

When people were going their own foolish and disobedient ways, then troubles came. But when they listened to and obeyed God's words, and did what Samuel the prophet and judge told them from the Lord, then their situation improved.

One time when things weren't going well at all, and troublesome people were giving the Israelites a hard time, the Israelites decided to do something they shouldn't have done.

Instead of praying and being sorry for not following God's ways, and changing, they tried to do something else to protect themselves.





The special Ark of the Covenant that Priest Eli kept safely was taken away by some of the people. This Ark of the Covenant reminded people that God was near and would care for them just as He had when the Israelites travelled in the wilderness. The people thought that if they had that special Ark with them, rather than leaving it in the tabernacle, it would protect them and chase away the trouble makers. However, that didn't work.

Samuel reminded them what needed to be done. If they began to obey God and follow His words then He would do the miracles and make the country a nice place to be again. Everyone wanted to change and to do things God's way. This was a good decision and brought wonderful results.

Then Samuel prayed for them and God answered their prayers and made things pleasant again. The Ark of the Covenant was put in a safe place, and for many years the people chose to listen to God's words that were spoken through Samuel, and to love and obey God.

### **Activity**

\*Colour, glue on to thin cardboard and cut out the little pictures that go along with the story. See if you can retell the story in your own words, or say what the main lesson of the story is, using the little pictures as props.

### A Faithful Judge and Prophet



When Samuel started out as God's prophet and the judge of the Israelites, he noticed that many people hadn't been obeying God and His words. Because of this there was trouble from other nations who were giving the people of Israel a hard time. Then one day something shocking and troubling happened.

Some of the Israelites got the idea that God would help them if they just had the Ark of the Covenant with them, so they went and took it out of its very special place and carried it away to the place in the land where the Philistines were giving them the hardest time. Priest Eli was very shaken and upset by this.

Was that what was needed? Was a box going to help them? They might have thought so because, "when the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant over the Jordan river it parted; and the walls of Jericho also fell down when it was carried around the city; and..." They remembered the amazing miracles the Lord had done.

But was it really the box that did it? No. It was God who was with them and as they heard from Him, worshiped Him and obeyed Him then He did the mighty miracles. So what was needed was for the people to put God first in their lives and to obey Him. Samuel was the one God had chosen to help them do that.

When the Ark of the Covenant was brought to the place where the Philistines were causing so much trouble, the people of Israel were so excited at first and made such a great noise together that it seemed like the ground shook! The Philistines found out the reason and began to be afraid.

"Oh no! It's the Ark of the Covenant! We are losers! We are so weak compared to God's power!" they were thinking. And it's true, they were. But God likes to use His power to help those who love and obey Him, and most of the Israelites, even though they were happy for the Ark of the Covenant being there, just wanted some relief from the troubles. Their hearts weren't sorry for their wrong doings and how far they had walked away from God's ways. The country hadn't changed; they just wanted the difficult consequences of their bad choices and wrong doings to go away. They weren't desperate and praying to follow God's Word again—but they would be soon, after the next troubles came.

The Philistines got an idea. "Let's stop being afraid of this Ark of the Covenant! That's silly! Let's just go and take it away from the Israelites!" and they did! Everyone was shocked and very displeased. That had never happened before. Wasn't God strong enough to stop such a terrible thing from happening? Yes, He was, and it would be returned later on—after both the Philistines and the Israelites had learned a few things.

From the time the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant terrible troubles began for them. In all their cities around people were getting terribly sick and having lots of painful afflictions, and there were so many mice it was very disturbing.

Every place they brought the Ark of the Covenant it seemed to bring with it the punishment of God for being the ungodly people that they were, and for taking the Ark of the Covenant. God needed to show them that He was real and alive and could do amazing things.



One time the Philistines put the Ark of the Covenant in the same room where there was a big statue-idol. They didn't worship or love God and had this statue that they chose to worship instead. It was pretty silly, and angered God very much. He felt perhaps a bit like you might if you had invented and created a very complicated machine that could do all sorts of great things, and instead of people complimenting you on the good job and asking you how to operate it properly, they ignored you and started saying the materials that the machine was made of were what had created it. You wouldn't be too pleased and you'd think those people weren't very smart at all.

So these unkind and ungodly people had this statue for years and it looked strong and big. But not strong enough when compared to even a tiny little bit of God's spirit. When that Ark of the Covenant was placed near it something shocking happened that made them feel nearly the same as the Israelites had felt when the Philistines took away their Ark of the Covenant.

The big and strong rock statue fell over and broke, without anyone but God doing it. He showed them who really was to be worshiped. It looked as if even the stone idol fell on its face and bowed down before the Lord. And this happened not just once, but twice! After it fell the first time, they propped it back up again. However, when it fell down in the presence of the Ark of the Covenant the second time, it broke. It would have been good if the Philistines had learned from that, and changed and began worshiping, following and obeying the true and all-powerful God.

If they, as bad as they had been, had humbled themselves in prayer to the God of Heaven and said they were sorry and wanted to learn His ways, things would have been so much better for them. If they would have gotten rid of their false gods and ugly practices and instead said to the Israelites, "Your God is the true God and the best, teach us about Him", and if the Israelites had been the good examples that they should have been, they



could have helped to change things for the better. But since that didn't happen things got real unpleasant and hard for anyone who kept going their own, ungodly and proud ways.

Samuel the prophet, who was then a grown man and the new judge, came to talk with the people and tell them that the way to make things right again and to not have these troublesome folks bothering them was to get back to doing things God's way.

Samuel said to the people of Israel, "If you return to the Lord with all your hearts, and serve Him only, He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

Everyone really listened and decided that they had had enough bad consequences for doing things the disobedient way. They chose to follow and love and obey God, and wanted to be able to get His blessings and protection. Samuel prayed and so did everyone else, and God showed His love and power to them and answered their prayers for help and relief from the troubles that were going on.

The Philistines had enough of their own problems that came when they took the Ark of the Covenant, and so they decided to return it. Then, after Samuel and the Israelites had prayed, God sent a powerful thunder display to help chase away the Philistines. God then did the miracles it took to make the country pleasant again. During the time that Samuel was the prophet and judge there was peace and rest from those bothersome folks.

People decided they liked doing things God's way, and chose to love and obey and worship Him. Samuel travelled around to different areas to talk to people and pass on God's words and instruction. He prayed lots for everyone to keep making the right choices and for God to help, bless and protect them all. That was one of his most important jobs and it had a wonderful effect. Prayer changed things for the better. It was the key to Samuel's success in helping people go God's way, and to keep them following God's word.

Samuel didn't just read the words of the Lord, nor did he just tell them to others, but he lived them and showed by example what the right thing to do was. Living *God's Word* is just as important as reading or studying it, because if you can't put it into practice then it doesn't do you or others any good.

So when Samuel showed an example to the people of what it meant to pray and to follow the Words of *God* it made an impression and people began to change, one step at a time, doing what Samuel showed them as an example. He lived what *God* said to do. And when there were people that weren't going in the way they should he didn't try to work it out in his own might or try to push people to go this way or that way. He started with the first step which is prayer, because prayer can change things in ways that is beyond the help of people.

Prayer works the miracles that are needed. When he prayed, then people started to change from the heart, and that is where the change was needed. Their hearts needed to follow *God*, and they needed to get to know *God's* ways and to see why it was best to do things His way.

When they did and things improved, the people saw that it was really the best thing to do. When things got worse when they only did whatever came into their minds, it taught them it would have been better to do as Samuel said—to pray and love and follow *God's* Words.



## Let's Talk About It

\*Have you ever been in a situation where you needed a "hero" or great person to be at the scene to help you out or rescue you or your loved ones?

\*If you were in a difficult or dangerous situation, with people causing you trouble or a natural disaster taking place where you were, can you remember from this story the greatest and surest way to get help, relief, and protection was?



## Activity

\*Play "Who Am I" as a character of the story. Someone chooses a person or group of people that are mentioned in the story and says something that they might have said. From the words they say, the others try to guess who it is that the person is thinking of.

## A Faithful Judge and Prophet

### Connect and Communicate



\*Each person, in turn, says something they are feeling, and someone else in the room thinks of a Bible verse or hymn portion that would suit it. For example someone might say, "I feel tired", and someone else might say, "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." (Isaiah 40:29)

### Study Fun

Draw: A smile beside the verses that talk of the good things happening, and draw a frown beside the verses that talk about the sad, bad and difficult times.

✓ Checkmark: A certain something that is written in these verses, that Samuel did, and that we can and should do also.

Write: On a whiteboard, chalkboard, piece of paper or on a computer, make a list of all the expressions you can think of that can be used for exclaiming when there's something you are very glad about. (Like, "Yippee!", "Wow!", "Hallelujah!", etc.)

## 1 Samuel

**4:3** And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

**4:4** So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims.

**4:5** And when the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again.

**4:6** And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the Lord was come into the camp.

**4:7** And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

**4:8** Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

**4:9** Be strong and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you.

**4:11** And the ark of God was taken.

**4:19** And [Eli's] daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered ...when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken.

**4:21** And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken.



**5:8** They sent therefore and gathered all the lords of the Philistines unto them, and said, What shall we do with the ark of the God of Israel? And they answered, Let the ark of the God of Israel be carried about unto Gath. And they carried the ark of the God of Israel about thither.

**5:9** And it was so, that, after they had carried it about, the hand of the Lord was against the city with a very great destruction.

**5:11** So they sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to his own place... for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city; the hand of God was very heavy there.

**6:1** And the ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

**6:2** And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the Lord? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

**7:1** And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the Lord, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the Lord.

**7:2** And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.

**7:3** And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, ...and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

**7:5** And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the Lord.



**7:6** And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured it out before the Lord, and fasted on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the Lord. And Samuel judged the children of Israel in Mizpeh.

**7:7** And when the Philistines heard that the children of Israel were gathered together to Mizpeh, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the children of Israel heard it, they were afraid of the Philistines.

**7:8** And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines.

**7:9** And Samuel cried unto the Lord for Israel; and the Lord heard him.

**7:10** The Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them.

**7:12** Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.

**7:13** So the Philistines were subdued, and they came no more into the coast of Israel: and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.

**7:15** And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

### Activity

\*Pretend to be presenting the events of the story on the TV News channel, telling of the Ark being taken, the troubles, then returned but kept elsewhere, the prayer for safe keeping and the thunderstorm. Someone can be the main reporter, and others can be those interviewed for the show. You can get a few more story details from "Story Time with Jesus", Level C of this lesson.



## Fountain of Faith

### **Psalms 25:10**

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.



### **Psalms 27:5**

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.





## Parables of Jesus— Net of Fish and Leaven

### Praise

**Psalms 30:11** Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.

\*Thank the Lord for someone you know that has passed away, and for what they brought to the world, or to you, during their Earth-visit. Thank the Lord for Heaven and the joys that you are looking forward to experiencing, in that place where all tears are wiped away.

### Net of Fish

#### Matthew

**13:47** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

**13:48** Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

**13:49** So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.



## Leaven

**Luke 13:20-21** And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

### Thoughts to discuss:

\*God wants everyone to have a chance to have a place in His kingdom. He's not choosey as to who He offers His gift of salvation to. But eventually time as we know it now will draw to a close, just as the net of a fisherman is drawn.

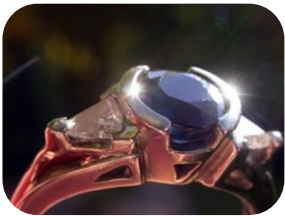
God will assess the way lives were lived, and the decisions made by each one. He and His angels will allow those to be a part of His kingdom who have good hearts. Do you think it would affect people's decisions if everyone in the world knew how much God knows about them and is keeping a record of what they do and how they behave?

If people knew that the best and most wonderful, fair and just kingdom and world set-up is yet to come, and if they prove worthy at this time they will be allowed to be a citizen of His Kingdom with God as their loving King, how do you think things would change in the world today?

\*Only a little yeast can make dough rise, so it will bake into a big, round, fluffy loaf of bread. First, it's put inside the dough and then the expanding begins. Jesus' words and ways placed within our hearts can cause a change to take place, and soon the body of believers expands as more and more come to know Him. One day the "dough" of God's Kingdom will fill the Earth—even though it only started off small, with one man who came with a message and gave His life for our forgiveness; and a handful of close followers who were faithful to spread the leaven of God's love all around. How have you helped to "leaven" the world with the kingdom of God?

## Activity

\*Make your own "Parables of Jesus" picture book, and draw pictures for each parable read about here. Colour them if you like. You can retell the story lesson to your younger brothers and sisters, showing your art, if you like!



## Topic Treasures

### — Protection Insurance

## Study Fun

Draw: Some of the items listed in 2 Samuel 22:2,3.

✓ Checkmark: The verses that tell tips of what we can do to gain God's safe protection. (For example: "trust", "call", "serve".)

Write: A word or phrase of something you need help or protection with, marking a word in one of the verses that say "trouble" or "deliver", and draw a line from it to your example, to personalise it.

**Deuteronomy 33:12** The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between his shoulders.

**2 Samuel 22:2,3** And he said, The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour

**2 Samuel 22:20** He brought me forth also into a large place: he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

**Psalm 4:8** I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

**Psalm 7:10** My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

**Psalm 37:40** And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him.

**Psalm 50:15** And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

**Psalm 91:2** I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

**Daniel 6:16** Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

(See "Daily Diary " on next page.)



## Daily Diary

\*Give the responsibility of your protection care over to Jesus, through prayer, and do what He knows is best for you. You can then relax and trust Him to do His part in caring for you and performing miracles when necessary to ensure your protection.

Do you believe what you are doing, and where you are today, is pleasing to the Lord? Then state your needs for protection, and He'll care for you and your loved ones in the best way.

Write here a little list to Jesus, of what you need Him to do, so you will make it through today safely.