



Beautiful BIBLE TREASURES For Children

Lesson 46

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:

Samuel and Saul

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:

Samuel and Saul

Level C—Story Time with Jesus:

Samuel and Saul

Level D—What Does it Actually Say?:

Samuel and Saul

Level E—Bible Bits: Notable Notes—Galatians /

Topic Treasures—God's Guidance Brings Solutions
and Takes Away Stress

Samuel and Saul

After Samuel had been the judge of Israel for many years, the people wanted to have a king to rule over their country.

One day, God told Samuel that there was a man coming to see him the next day, who was to be the king.

Saul was looking for his father's donkeys and couldn't find them, so he asked Samuel to pray and ask God where they were.

Samuel told Saul not to worry about the donkeys, because God said they had already been found. Samuel then told Saul that God was calling him to do an important job.

As a sign that God would help him, Samuel poured special oil on Saul's head. Saul would make a good king if he stayed humble and obedient to God.



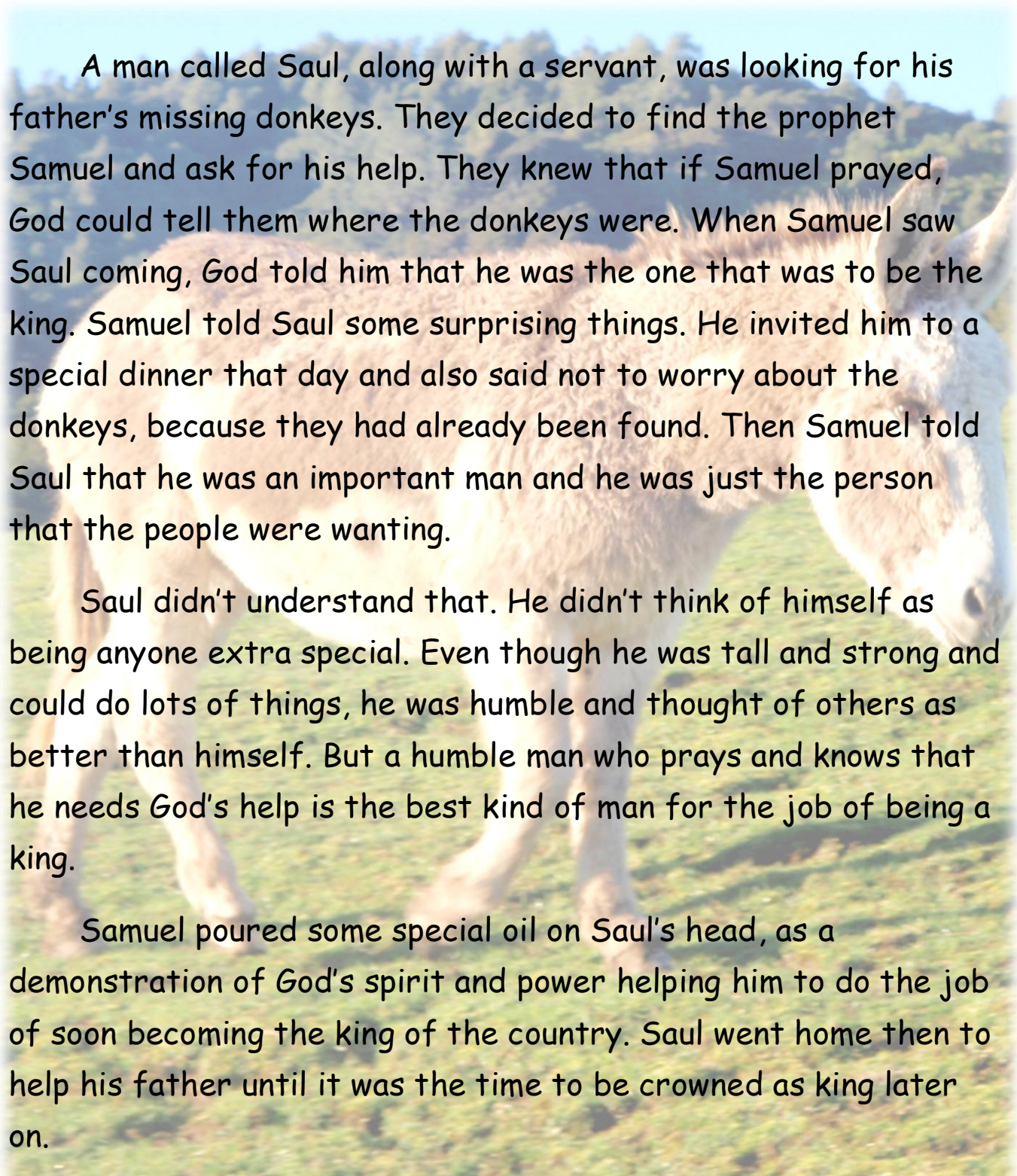
Samuel and Saul

Samuel had done his best to lead and teach the people of Israel God's ways. However, after many years they wanted to have a king to be their ruler, instead of a prophet leading them to follow God as their Heavenly King. When Samuel prayed and asked God what He wanted to do about it, God said that they could have an earthly king, but it wouldn't always be easy for them. Hearing God's Words through His prophet and obeying God would be much easier than having a ruler telling them what to do. If the king wasn't following God's ways then it would make things very difficult for them.

Even when Samuel explained what God said, the people still wanted to have a king as a ruler. God knew this would happen, and many years before had been preparing someone to do the job. One day when Samuel was praying, God told him that a man would visit him the next day, and that he was the right man to be the king.

Samuel got prepared, as God had said, and told the cook to make sure to set aside a good portion of the food that was to be served the next day, for a special guest that was coming.





A man called Saul, along with a servant, was looking for his father's missing donkeys. They decided to find the prophet Samuel and ask for his help. They knew that if Samuel prayed, God could tell them where the donkeys were. When Samuel saw Saul coming, God told him that he was the one that was to be the king. Samuel told Saul some surprising things. He invited him to a special dinner that day and also said not to worry about the donkeys, because they had already been found. Then Samuel told Saul that he was an important man and he was just the person that the people were wanting.

Saul didn't understand that. He didn't think of himself as being anyone extra special. Even though he was tall and strong and could do lots of things, he was humble and thought of others as better than himself. But a humble man who prays and knows that he needs God's help is the best kind of man for the job of being a king.

Samuel poured some special oil on Saul's head, as a demonstration of God's spirit and power helping him to do the job of soon becoming the king of the country. Saul went home then to help his father until it was the time to be crowned as king later on.

Activity

*Make a display together using toys, grass, pillows for a hilly setting. Have the children play out the story you just read, remembering the order of events and retelling them using the appropriate toys to demonstrate.

Samuel and Saul



In the time when judges, like Samuel, were the only rulers of the people of Israel it was like God was the king. Other countries and nations had kings ruling over them, but the Israelites didn't. These judges would pass on God's Words and instructions to the people and remind them of God's ways. It was the way that God wanted it to be. He wanted humble rulers to help the people; rulers that wouldn't try to take control of things themselves and lead people in their own ways and with their own ideas, instead of God's.

Samuel was a faithful judge and prophet and heard clearly from God. People would go to him to find out things that they needed to know—things that only God knew. After many years however, of being instructed and taught by Samuel to do things God's way, the people wanted something different, they wanted a change.

They liked Samuel, but they felt that they couldn't just do as they wanted, anymore. Samuel was helping them to be obedient to God's Words, and after the country had been peaceful for awhile, because of the good choices they'd made because of following God's ideas, then the people started to forget what it was like when things were real difficult before. They then seemed to have the time to start complaining.

"We want to be like the other countries! Everyone else has a king, and we want one too—instead of a judge or prophet instructing us!" people began to say.

It's a shame that it takes things getting real difficult, for people to want to stay close to God and to obey His Words. Isn't it odd that when things are going well that it is the easiest time to start being discontent

and complaining and starting to think you can do whatever you want without there being consequences?

When things are going pretty well, and you feel rather comfortable, it's easy to then start focusing on new things that you wish you had and begin to look around and see what others have that you don't. When things are real hard, you are thankful for any bit of peace and good that comes your way, but when things are going smoothly and you have what you need, it's sad that people then use their time to think up new things to complain about.

So people at that time were wishing for a king to rule over them. God told Samuel it was not because they didn't like Samuel, but because they were starting to turn away from God and wanted to be ruled by a person instead of God alone.

God told Samuel to warn the people and explain what would happen if they had a king. The king could do whatever he wanted. He could take the best things; make everyone work real hard for him; make them give him a lot of their food and animals—and they would have to obey the king if they didn't want him to be mad at them. Even though Samuel warned the people of all these things, they said it didn't matter; a king is what they wanted.

When someone is only thinking about the one thing that they want, it's not a good way to make a wise choice. To know what would actually be the best in the end, and to find out what would truly make them happy, someone needs to stop thinking for a moment about what they want and to instead think about the consequences of getting what they want.

They should ask questions like, "How will this affect me later on? Is it something I actually need? Is it even good for me? I know I really want it now, but will I regret it later?" And most of all, people need to talk with Me, Jesus, about it, in order to get the best advice.

If there is something that you are really wanting and it seems that it wouldn't be the best to get it or to have it right then, what can you do? You can pray for you to instead begin to want something else that would make you happier in the end. You can think for a minute what the true need or problem is that is making you want something. Maybe there is a better way to fill that need or wish.

The people of Israel didn't take those steps, but when Samuel passed on God's Words to them, telling them what would happen and how they would regret the decision later on, they just kept on saying that they still wanted a king. Samuel talked with God about it and God said to go ahead and let a king rule over them then. God, who knew this would happen, already had someone in mind and would tell Samuel who it was.

One day, God told Samuel that the man who was to be the first king would be coming to see him the next day, and to have the cooks prepare a special portion of the meal for him to eat with this man. Samuel obeyed and gave the instructions to those who would be getting everything ready. The next day, two men came to Samuel asking where the prophet lived, as they had a problem.



Saul was the name of one of the men, and he was travelling with a servant of his father trying to find their missing donkeys. They'd been gone for quite a while looking here and there all over the place and still hadn't found them. Saul suggested that they just go home, as instead of worrying about the donkeys their father would start to think that they were lost now too!

The servant then got an idea, "I heard about a prophet that lives around here. Why don't we go and ask him to tell us where the donkeys are. God could tell him that for sure."

And so they went looking for Samuel, and the women who were drawing water told them just where to find him.

When Samuel saw Saul approaching, God told him, "This is the man I told you about. He's the one that is to be the king."

Samuel surprised Saul by inviting him to come and eat with him that day, and then told him two more amazing things. Samuel said, "And don't worry about the donkeys, they've already been found." He said then to Saul, "You are the one that everyone has been wanting and asking for."

Even though Saul was tall and good-looking, strong and able to do things well, he was also humble. He didn't think proudly about himself. He didn't think of himself as anything particularly special or important at all.

"What do you mean?" Saul said. "I'm nothing great. I'm from the smallest tribe of Israel, and there is nothing exceptional about my family either."

But he would find out soon what Samuel meant.

Saul was invited to sit in the best place in the dinner area where about 30 other people were having a special meal, and Samuel called the cook and said to bring the specially saved food that he had asked to be set aside for a certain guest—before Samuel even met Saul.

God knows what's going to happen to people, and He knows what will work out best. If you stop to listen to Me, Jesus, today and get My thoughts and advice on problems that come your way, and hear what I want to say about things that haven't even happened yet, things will go so much better for you.

What would have happened if Samuel hadn't been listening to God that day when he was told that the person who was to be the king was coming, and to prepare for it? Even if God had it all set up, and had Saul on his way to meet Samuel, if Samuel had been so busy trying to work things out on his own that he didn't have time to stop and pray and listen to God, he might have missed the whole plan.

Samuel could have felt very stressed and under pressure and instead of praying and trusting God to work things out, he could have frantically tried to come up with solutions. "I need to find a king! Who should it be? There are so very many people to choose from! How will I know who's the best one? There's no time to lose! Maybe I should just go on a long journey around the country and start searching!"

If Samuel had made the wrong choice to do that, he wouldn't have been at home at that time when Saul arrived. He wouldn't have heard God telling him that the solution, the man, was already on his way there! God was bringing the king to him, right at that moment. He just had to wait patiently for one more day.

I work in your life to bring different situations and solutions your way, and have good ideas how you can cope with the problems and difficulties. If you stay calm and pray for My plans to be shown to you, and you listen to what I want to tell you, it will save you so much time and effort.



Samuel had learned the best way to help people was to pray for them, and hear from God and put His words into action. So as he followed what God showed him step by step he saw things were working out with the new job of finding a king.

So after the special meal Samuel invited Saul to stay at his house, and on the flat rooftop they sat and talked for a long while. Samuel got to see what kind of a man he was. He could tell that Saul was the right one for the job—he was humble and meek, and his heart was right with the Lord. If he stayed that way, he would be a good king. He also had the skills and abilities to face the troubles that would come again from the Philistines and their harmful, selfish and ungodly ways.

In the morning, Saul and his servant began the journey home and Samuel walked with them for awhile. Samuel asked if the servant could go on ahead, as he had something that only Saul was to hear. When they were alone then Samuel took a vial of oil and poured it on Saul's head and said, "The Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over His inheritance."

The oil in a way represented the power of God giving him the strength and faith and ability to do the new job he was to do. He wasn't the king yet, and no one knew about their conversation and the fact that God had called and chosen him to be the king, but getting God's special power from above was the first step in starting a new and important job.

Let's Talk About It

*What sort of good news would really shock you, if someone came up to you and told it to you—something that would affect you for the rest of your life?

*When the prophet Samuel talked with Saul, what sort of a person do you think Samuel saw that he was, from their conversation? The words Saul said, the things they talked about, the matters that seemed important to Saul showed Samuel that he really was the right choice for a king at that time. I wonder what they discussed.



Activity

*Talk about each job or role you each have in your home or with your family or in your life. What is something that you feel God has given you to do in your life now? Take a little bit of oil and place a drop of it on each one's forehead, and pray for each other to fulfill their job on Earth, or current duties or ministry, empowered by God's Spirit to do it well.

Samuel and Saul



Connect and Communicate

*Toss a light ball or wad of cloth (like a rolled up pair of socks) from person to person. When it is thrown, the person throwing it says aloud something they want to thank the Lord for, and says it fast; before it lands into the person's hands they are passing it to.

Study Fun

Repeat aloud: Any questions that the passages below say.

Select: A part of the story to act out, and have the others guess what part it is.

Summarise: The events that happened in Samuel's life in those two days, starting with when the Lord told him that the next day the man who was to be the king would come to him.

1 Samuel

8:4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

8:5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

8:6 But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the Lord.

8:7 And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

8:8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

8:9 Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

8:10 And Samuel told all the words of the Lord unto the people that asked of him a king.

8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;

8:22 And the Lord said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

9:1 Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish,

9:2 And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

9:3 And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses.



9:4 And he passed through mount Ephraim, and passed through the land of Shalisha, but they found them not: then they passed through the land of Shalim, and there they were not: and he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they found them not.

9:5 And when they were come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant that was with him, Come, and let us return; lest my father leave caring for the asses, and take thought for us.

9:6 And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honourable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go.

9:10 Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.

9:11 And as they went up the hill to the city, they found young maidens going out to draw water, and said unto them, Is the seer here?

9:12 And they answered them, and said, He is; behold, he is before you: make haste now, for he came to day to the city; for there is a sacrifice of the people today in the high place:

9:13 As soon as ye be come into the city, ye shall straightway find him, before he go up to the high place to eat: for the people will not eat until he come, because he doth bless the sacrifice; and afterwards they eat that be bidden. Now therefore get you up; for about this time ye shall find him.

9:14 And they went up into the city: and when they were come into the city, behold, Samuel came out against them, for to go up to the high place.

9:15 Now the Lord had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying,

9:16 Tomorrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me.

9:17 And when Samuel saw Saul, the Lord said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people.

9:18 Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.

9:19 And Samuel answered Saul, and said, I am the seer: go up before me unto the high place; for ye shall eat with me today, and tomorrow I will let thee go, and will tell thee all that is in thine heart.

9:20 And as for thine asses that were lost three days ago, set not thy mind on them; for they are found. And on whom is all the desire of Israel? Is it not on thee, and on all thy father's house?

9:21 And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

9:22 And Samuel took Saul and his servant, and brought them into the parlour, and made them sit in the chiefest place among them that were bidden, which were about thirty persons.

9:23 And Samuel said unto the cook, Bring the portion which I gave thee, of which I said unto thee, Set it by thee.

9:24 And the cook took up the shoulder, and that which was upon it, and set it before Saul. And Samuel said, Behold that which is left! set it before thee, and eat: for unto this time hath it been kept for thee since I said, I have invited the people. So Saul did eat with Samuel that day.

9:25 And when they were come down from the high place into the city, Samuel communed with Saul upon the top of the house.

9:26 And they arose early: and it came to pass about the spring of the day, that Samuel called Saul to the top of the house, saying, Up, that I may send thee away. And Saul arose, and they went out both of them, he and Samuel, abroad.

9:27 And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on), but stand thou still a while, that I may show thee the word of God.

10:1 Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?



Activity

*Same as the "select" part of the study fun ideas:

Select: A part of the story to act out, and have the others guess what part it is.

Fountain of Faith

Psalms 28:8 The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Psalms 31:5 Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.



Notable Notes—Galatians

Prayer

Psalms 30:2 O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

*Take turns praying for people you know who are sick and in need of healing, or pray general prayers for those with common afflictions.

Galatians

3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

4:18 But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you.

5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

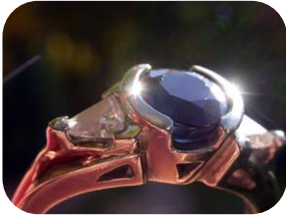
6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Activity

*Interview each other, reading one of the verses and asking someone in the class, "What does it mean to you?"

The person being "interviewed" can explain how they see it or understand it, and how it can be lived out or acted on, practically speaking.

For example Galatians 6:2, when someone is asked "What does it mean to you?" might say, "To me this verse is telling me to notice when someone is doing a house job that seems difficult for them, and to stop for a while to help them out. Also I can do this by not being too busy with my own life to talk with others and find out what their "burdens" are, and remembering to pray for them."



Topic Treasures

— God's Guidance
brings Solutions and
Takes Away Stress

Study Fun

Repeat aloud: The words and phrases that are underlined.

Select: A phrase to commit to memory, and memorise together now.

Summarise: The points in three of the verses, saying in your own words what the verse is expressing.

Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.

Isaiah 58:11 And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Psalms 34:4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.



Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.



Daily Diary

*Write in your book:

"When I feel stressed and uptight about _____
(fill in the things that most often cause you to
feel tense).

I will look to You in prayer and think of things
that I can be glad about anyway.

I will remember the verse: (write the verse from
the above passages that you would like to keep in
mind the next time stress and pressure tries to
close in on you)

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