

LESSON 5

KING UZZIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the reign of King Uzziah.
2. To learn about the destructive nature of pride.
3. To understand that God exalts the humble, but brings down the proud.

MEMORY VERSE

"You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down."

(2 Samuel 22:28)

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, grant to us a humble and true heart. May Your Holy Spirit search into the deepest parts of our heart and remove the pride and sins that dwell within us. May You give us wisdom to see ourselves as we truly are and help us to be like You, full of compassion, kindness, and gentleness. Help us to know that every good and perfect gift is from above and all that we have is to be used for Your glory.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Uzziah's Accomplishments
 - He expanded his territory.
 - He fortified his country.
 - He strengthened his army.
- b. Uzziah's Downfall
- c. The End of Uzziah's Life

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Bible

3. Life Application

- a. Proud Dude and Humble Dude
- b. Proud People in the Bible
- c. Rid Our Hearts of Pride

4. Activity—"Don't Be Tangled Up in Pride" Maze



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Crowned king by the people, Uzziah, a son of Amaziah, reigned about fifty-two years during a period of prosperity in Judah second only to that of King Jehoshaphat since the time of Solomon. He was a vigorous and able ruler, and his name spread abroad, as far as the entrance of Egypt. In the earlier part of his reign, under the influence of Zechariah, he was faithful to God, and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. But toward the end of his life, his heart was lifted up and he trespassed God's laws by entering the sanctuary to offer incense on the golden altar. The high priest Azariah, with a band of eighty priests, confronted him and he was suddenly struck with leprosy while in the act of offering incense. Uzziah remained a leper until the day of his death.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Children are not born knowing how to read words or solve math equations. They are not born with good manners or other social skills. Loving parents and teachers impart this knowledge to prepare children for adulthood, when they will have to make a living and be fruitful citizens in society. Likewise, children are not born with humility, but pride and self will. Humility is one of the most difficult virtues to learn because it requires a continual uprooting of self from the human heart.

Today, it may be difficult to raise children in a culture that encourages a false sense of self-importance, an attitude that conflicts with biblical principles. Children these days are encouraged to express themselves and to make a great noise about their rights and dignities. They are excited to offer their opinions on all kinds of issues. Western culture impresses upon children the idea that the loud and the proud will inherit the earth, not the meek and humble!

However, the Scriptures teach us that “God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.” Therefore, as parents and teachers, our greatest concern is not how well our children “compete” in the world, but where they “stand” with God. They need to be taught that as long as they seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, do all things for the glory of God, and strive to be Christ-like, God will bless and prosper their lives, providing them assurance for the life to come.



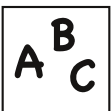
Opener

5 Minutes

Instructions: Pass out one balloon each to the students and have them blow it up as big as they can without bursting it.

Say to students: Did you know that some people are just like this balloon? They can get really puffed up and big headed. What does it mean to be puffed up? Yes, it means that we are prideful and haughty. We are prideful or haughty when we think that we are more important than others, or even more important than God. What happens to the balloon when it becomes too puffed up? That's right, it will burst. In the same way, God tells us that pride is a serious sin, and those who are proud will be brought low, and they will face destruction.

This is what happened to King Uzziah. Although Uzziah was a successful and famous king at first, ultimately, he met with a tragic ending due to pride.



Vocabulary

haughty: arrogant and proud



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Instruct the students to complete the worksheet as you go over the lesson. Pause when necessary to allow the students to write down the answers. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

King Uzziah was Judah's tenth king. He was also called Azariah (cf. 2 Ki 14:21-22; 15:1-6). Uzziah was crowned king when he was sixteen years old and he reigned for 52

years, which made him the longest reigning monarch in Judah so far.

Uzziah's name means “the Lord is my strength” and from reading 2 Chronicles 26:4-5, we learn that Uzziah put his trust in God and wanted to do what was right in the eyes of God. However, Uzziah fear of God came from the influence of another person. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, was a man close to God and who had understanding of the revelations of God. This God-fearing

priest instructed Uzziah also to fear God. When Uzziah sought the Lord, what was the result? (The Lord blessed Uzziah with prosperity.) As long as Uzziah sought the Lord, God gave him success in whatever he did.

Who are the main influences in your life? Do they influence you to be more like Jesus? (That is, people who influence you to be more like Jesus will teach you how to study His word and will try to set a godly example for you to follow.)

A. Uzziah's Accomplishments

1. He Expanded His Territory

Read 2 Chronicles 26:6-8. This passage describes how Uzziah conquered his enemies and expanded his territory. Which enemies did Uzziah subdue? He subdued the Philistines, the Arabians, the Meunites, and the Ammonites. Some of these enemies, such as the Philistines and Ammonites, were longstanding enemies of Israel, and yet, Uzziah was able to subdue them. He also broke down the walls of great cities such as Gath, Jabneh, Ashdod.

When we follow God's laws, God will cause our enemies to come under our feet. Moreover, when we follow God's laws, we can overcome Satan and we will have the strength to conquer our fleshly weaknesses.

When Uzziah became powerful, his fame spread far and wide. The Bible repeatedly mentions how Uzziah's fame spread (2 Chr 26:8, 15). Why do you think God caused Uzziah to be well known among the nations? [Allow students to answer.] One important reason why God caused Uzziah's fame and power to spread was because it allowed the other nations to see the greatness of the God of Israel. In the same way, the purpose of our lives is to glorify God and enable others to know about the God whom we worship. Furthermore, it shows how God blesses those who walk in His ways.

2. He Fortified His Country

How did Uzziah fortify his country?

- Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem as well as in the desert. The towers were tall and well fortified. A watchman would be posted on the towers to look out for danger and enemy attacks (2 Chr 26:9-10).
- Uzziah owned much livestock and also grew crops. He built great cisterns, which provided water for the crops and for his animals and which were an abundant resource for his people (2 Chr 26:10).

3. He Strengthened His Army

Uzziah created a large, powerful, and well-organized army. He had 2,600 chief officers who were in charge of an army of 307,500 men that made war with mighty power (2 Chr 26:11-13).

Uzziah issued weapons and armor to his entire army. His men were equipped with shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and slings (2 Chr 26:14).

Brilliant and skillful men were employed to invent and produce war devices—machines that could shoot arrows and huge stones at the enemies from up high on the towers and battlements (2 Chr 26:15).

Uzziah organized and equipped his soldiers to fight battles and protect his country. Likewise, as Christian soldiers, we need to be equipped with the armor that God has given each of us to fight our spiritual battles. We must be watchful, prepared, and skilled as Uzziah was.

B. Uzziah's Downfall

God had blessed Uzziah with great success; Uzziah ruled a prosperous nation and led a great army. However, after achieving great strength, Uzziah's heart became puffed up with pride (2 Chr 26:16).

What is pride? [Allow students to share. Write their answers on the board.]

- When we trespass our duty and position
- When we think that we are better or more important than others (Rom 12:3)

Why did Uzziah become proud? [Allow students to respond.]

Let's read 2 Chronicles 26:15b. Here it says that Uzziah "was marvelously helped till he became strong."

Continue to read 2 Chronicles 26:5; 7; 13 to find out who helped him. These verses tell us that it was God who had made Uzziah's kingdom prosper, and it was God who had helped him be victorious over his enemies. Furthermore, it was Uzziah's mighty army and all the people in his kingdom who helped support and establish his kingdom.

Unfortunately, when he became strong, Uzziah forgot about God's grace and he thought that all his accomplishments came from his own doing. He felt that he could live above God's laws, and that he could do whatever he wanted.

What did Uzziah do that was wrong in God's sight?

Read 2 Chronicles 26:16. Uzziah decided to enter the temple of the Lord to personally offer incense on the altar. According to God's law, only priests who had been called and consecrated, or set apart, by God for this holy work were allowed to do this (Ex 30:30; 40:15; Lev 22:9; Num 3:10; 18:7).

When Uzziah entered the temple, the high priest Azariah, together with eighty other priests, went in and demanded that Uzziah leave the temple because he had trespassed against God's commandments.

How did Uzziah respond to Azariah's warning? Let's read verse 19. Uzziah became furious and he refused to set down the incense burner that he was holding. Instantly, God punished Uzziah by causing leprosy to break out on his forehead.

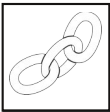
During biblical times, if God's people had leprosy, it was symbolic of sin. People with leprosy were considered unclean and could not live among people who did not have leprosy. When Azariah and the other priests saw the leprosy on Uzziah's forehead they grabbed him and ushered him out of the temple. God

had once commanded that besides Aaron and his sons, no one was to offer sacrifices. If they did, they were to be put to death. From this, we can see that God showed mercy to Uzziah, as God did not put Uzziah to death immediately (cf. Num 3:10; 18:7) By offering incense, Uzziah took on a role that God did not mean for him to have. He forgot that God has certain duties for a king, a priest, and a prophet. Uzziah's great power filled his head, leading him to feel that he could do anything he wanted, even if it meant trespassing God's laws.

C. The End of Uzziah's Life

Due to his pride, Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. Uzziah had to live in isolation; he was cut off from his people and from the temple of God. His son Jotham was placed in charge of the king's affairs and of the judging of the people of the land.

Although Uzziah followed God early in his life, his pride ultimately caused him to stray from God's commandments. Uzziah fell from being a powerful and successful king to being a leper. He spent the last of his days filled with loneliness and shame.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is inspired by God and is the standard for Christian living.

To be blessed by God and not to fall into sin, we need to have a humble heart to obey and follow the teachings of the Bible in our daily lives.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

1. Zechariah, a God-fearing priest instructed Uzziah to also fear God. True.
2. Pride is when we trespass our duty and position and when we think that we are better or more important than others. True.
3. When Uzziah became proud, he felt that he could live above God's laws, and that he could do whatever he pleased. True.
4. The priests urged Uzziah to leave the temple because it was time to lock up. False.
5. Uzziah became famous and prosperous because he was a brilliant warrior and he had great ideas about how to run his country. False.
6. It is the duty of the priests and Levites to offer sacrifices. False.
7. Since Uzziah is the king, he has the authority to change any law as he wished. False.
8. To rid our hearts of pride, we should read the Bible and pray, be thankful, focus on God, learn from others, and learn through trials and difficulties. True.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Pride is one of the most common sin in man. It is also a sin that could remain hidden in our hearts and be hard to detect. From today's lesson, we learn that pride is a serious sin and very destructive; it can ruin our soul and affect our relationship with God and the people around us.

1. PROUD DUDE AND HUMBLE DUDE

[Divide students into groups of 2-3. Pass out poster paper and markers to each group.] Let's explore and compare the characteristics of a proud person and a humble person. On the poster paper, draw two large stick figures side by side. Write above the figures "Proud Dude" and "Humble Dude" (or "Dudette," if you prefer). Next, add features (eyes, mouth, ears, hands) to the figures. For each feature, compare and contrast how Proud/Humble Dude would behave and write down brief captions next to the figures.

a. Eyes

Who does Proud/Humble Dude look at most? How does Proud/Humble Dude see others?

As they draw the eyes on each, explain that Proud Dude tends to focus on himself. He sees other people occasionally, but when he does, it's often to see their mistakes, weaknesses, and failures. Humble Dude sees God first and then others.

b. Mouth

What things does Proud/Humble Dude talk about?

Proud Dude brags about himself constantly; he talks about his good grades, his accomplishments, his looks, and how he is the most popular kid in school. He complains about other people and talks about them behind their backs. Humble Dude often talks about how awesome God is. He is also known to brag about others. He can be heard saying, "Did you see her art project? It's amazing! What a gift!" Humble Dude uses his words to encourage everyone!

c. Ears

How does Proud/Humble Dude respond to what others tell him?

Proud Dude does not listen to others and he does not like to be told what to do. He doesn't like to hear that he is wrong, so he starts fights when he is corrected. He is pleased when others praise him and gets upset when others are praised. Humble Dude will listen carefully to what others say. He realizes that he makes mistakes sometimes, so he hears people out and apologizes.

d. Hands

[As you draw the hands, put a boxing glove on Proud Dude's hand. Humble Dude should have a balloon, a flower, or any other treat in his hand.]

When Proud Dude does not get what he wants, he often gets angry and starts quarrels with others. If Proud Dude does not like what he hears, he will insist on doing things his own way. Humble Dude will let go of his own way to make others happy.

e. Relationship with others

[Draw little stick figures surrounding each of them to represent their friends, family, pastors, teachers, etc.] How does Proud/Humble Dude get along with others?

Proud Dude may disobey or resent authority. He will often look down on those who are not as good as him and instead associate with people who are similar to him or with people he admires. But sometimes, because of pride, Proud Dude ends up with few friends or even alone. In contrast, Humble Dude gets along well with others, because humility builds relationships in which people feel loved and valued.

Finally, have students think about how God would think of each of them. How does God treat the proud and the humble? What does Proud/Humble Dude think of God? The Bible says that God detests pride, while humility and fear of the Lord will bring wealth, honor, and life.

God is displeased with people who have so much as a proud look, and He is even more displeased when these people show the pride of their heart through their actions. He will bring down those who are arrogant and overconfident. Instead, God delights in those who are humble and trust in Him.

What the Bible say about pride?

- 2 Sam 22:28--You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.
- 1 Pet 5:5--God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

2. PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

Turn to the following Bible passages to learn about some of the people who were brought down because of their pride.

a. Lucifer (Isa 14:12-15)

Lucifer was an angel of God, but he grew proud. He wanted to ascend above the clouds and be like God. As a result, God cast him down from heaven and into Sheol.

b. King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4:29-34)

Like Uzziah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon became proud of himself and his splendid kingdom. However, Nebuchadnezzar was not stricken with leprosy, but driven out into the fields where he ate grass as the animals did. His body was wet with dew; his hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. Worst of all, his mind was gone! At the end of seven years, when God saw that Nebuchadnezzar had humbled himself, his mind was restored and his kingdom returned to him.

c. Korah (Num 16:1-3, 28-33)

Korah and his followers were Levites who served in the tabernacle, but they rose up against Moses and Aaron and refused to follow their leadership. They demanded to be leaders, not realizing that it was God who had appointed Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelites. God therefore caused the ground to split open and swallow up Korah, his followers, their families and all their possessions.

d. Pharisee (Lk 18:10-14)

A Pharisee and a sinner went to the temple to pray. The proud and self-righteous Pharisee told God about how good he was; he fasted twice a week, gave tithes, never cheated, and didn't commit adultery. He thought himself much better than the tax collector, who stood far off. The Pharisee's proud and self-righteous attitude prevented his sins from being forgiven and his prayers from being heard by God.

e. Goliath (1 Sam 17:4-8, 43-44)

Goliath, the champion warrior of the Philistines, felt he had every reason to be proud. He was nine feet tall, possessed tremendous strength, and had been a warrior since his youth. He was not afraid of anything, not even the armies of Israel. So when David challenged him, Goliath looked at David with absolute contempt. How could a young boy like David overcome the great Goliath? But God was with David and, with a single stone, David brought down the proud and mighty Goliath.

f. The people after the flood (Gen 11:1-9)

After the flood, the people once again began to populate the earth. God had commanded mankind to be fruitful and increase in number, to fill the earth, and to be in authority over it. But rather than obeying God, the people wanted to stay in one spot and build a great tower to make a name for themselves. This was not what God wanted for them, so God confused their language so that they could not understand each other and caused them to be scattered abroad over the face of all the earth.

3. RID OUR HEARTS OF PRIDE

a. Read the Bible and Pray

We need to constantly give our hearts daily check-ups to see whether what we say, think or do comes from pride. If pride has crept into our hearts we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and word of God to put to death the sin of pride.

b. Be Thankful

King Uzziah received many marvelous blessings from God, but at the end, he forgot that it was God who supplied everything and he did not give thanks to God. We need to be mindful that our accomplishments are not our own doing but that every good and perfect gift is from above.

c. Keep Our Eyes on God

When we focus on how great and almighty God is, we will realize that we are truly nothing in comparison. For without God we cannot do anything.

d. Learn from Others

If we think we know everything, then we will be unable to see the merits and strengths of others and learn from them. But if we empty ourselves and regard others better than ourselves, we will maintain a humble attitude and learn valuable lessons from others.

e. Experience Trials and Difficulties

God taught Uzziah a very hard lesson when he was punished with leprosy. Sometimes God makes us face difficulties to remind us that we are not great and powerful and that we need to trust and rely on the Lord.



Activity

"Don't Be Tangled Up in Pride" Maze

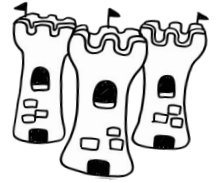
10-15 Minutes

Refer to activity worksheet.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. True
3. False; the priests urged Uzziah to leave because he was about to trespass against God's word
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. See Life Application: "Prideful People in the Bible"
8. Uzziah was no longer able to experience the blessings that God had given him. He lost the honor, fame, and success that he had enjoyed for so many years, and he even lost the right to rule his country. He became a leper, isolated until the day of his death.
9. Read the Bible and pray, be thankful, keep our eyes on God, remember that our blessings and talents come from God, learn from trials and difficulties and from others, etc.

KING UZZIAH



A. Uzziah's Accomplishments

Use the word pool to fill in the blanks.

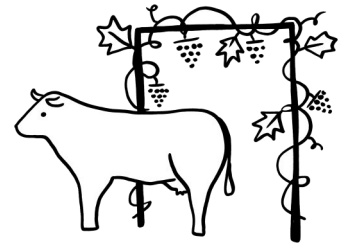
war devices	armor	Philistines	army	towers	crops
Arabians	livestock	Meunites	weapons	enemies	Ammonites

1. He Expanded His Territory

Uzziah conquered his enemies which included the _____, the _____, the _____, and the _____ [2 Chr 26:6-8].

2. He Fortified His Country

- a. Uzziah built _____ in Jerusalem as well as in the desert [2 Chr 26:9-10]
- b. Uzziah owned much _____ and he grew _____ [2 Chr 26:10].



3. He Strengthened His Army

- a. Uzziah established a large and powerful _____.
- b. Uzziah issued _____ and _____ to his entire army [2 Chr 26:14].
- c. Brilliant and skillful men were employed to invent and produce _____ [2 Chr 26:15].

B. Uzziah's Downfall

When Uzziah became strong and successful, his heart became puffed up with pride.

What is pride?

- o
- o



Why did Uzziah become proud?

Uzziah forgot that it was _____, his _____, and his _____ who had helped him to become strong [2 Chr 26:5, 7, 13].

Draw a picture or use your own words to describe what Uzziah did that was wrong in God's sight.

C. The End of Uzziah's Life

Describe what happened to Uzziah as a result of pride. Explain why pride is such a dreadful sin.

Pride

Fill in the blanks to see what the Bible says about pride.

- You will _____ the _____ people; but Your eyes are on the _____, that You may _____ (2 Sam 22:28).
- God _____ the _____, but gives _____ to the _____ (1 Pet 5:5).

PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

Turn to the following Bible passages to find out who was brought down because of pride.

- (Isaiah 14:12-15) I was an angel of God but I grew proud and wanted to be like God. Who am I? _____
- (Dan 4:29-34) I was the king of the great and mighty Babylon. I became proud and God drove me out into the fields to live as an animal. Who am I? _____
- (Num 16:28-33) I am a Levite and served in the tabernacle. I refused to accept the leadership of Moses and Aaron and wanted to be a leader myself. I was swallowed up by the ground. Who am I? _____
- (Lk 18:10-14) I was praying in the temple at the same time as a tax collector. I fast twice a week and give tithes, and am much better than the tax collector. My self-righteous attitude prevented my prayers from reaching God. Who am I? _____
- (1 Sam 17:4-8, 43-44) I am a champion warrior for the Philistines. I am nine feet tall, possess tremendous strength and have been a warrior since my youth. I am afraid of nothing, not even the armies of Israel. This young lad called David killed me with a single stone. Who am I? _____
- (Gen 11:1-9) After the flood, God told us to have children and fill the earth, but we wanted to stay together in one spot. So, we built a great tower to make a name for ourselves. God was not pleased, so He confused our language and scattered us to different parts of the earth. Who are we? _____

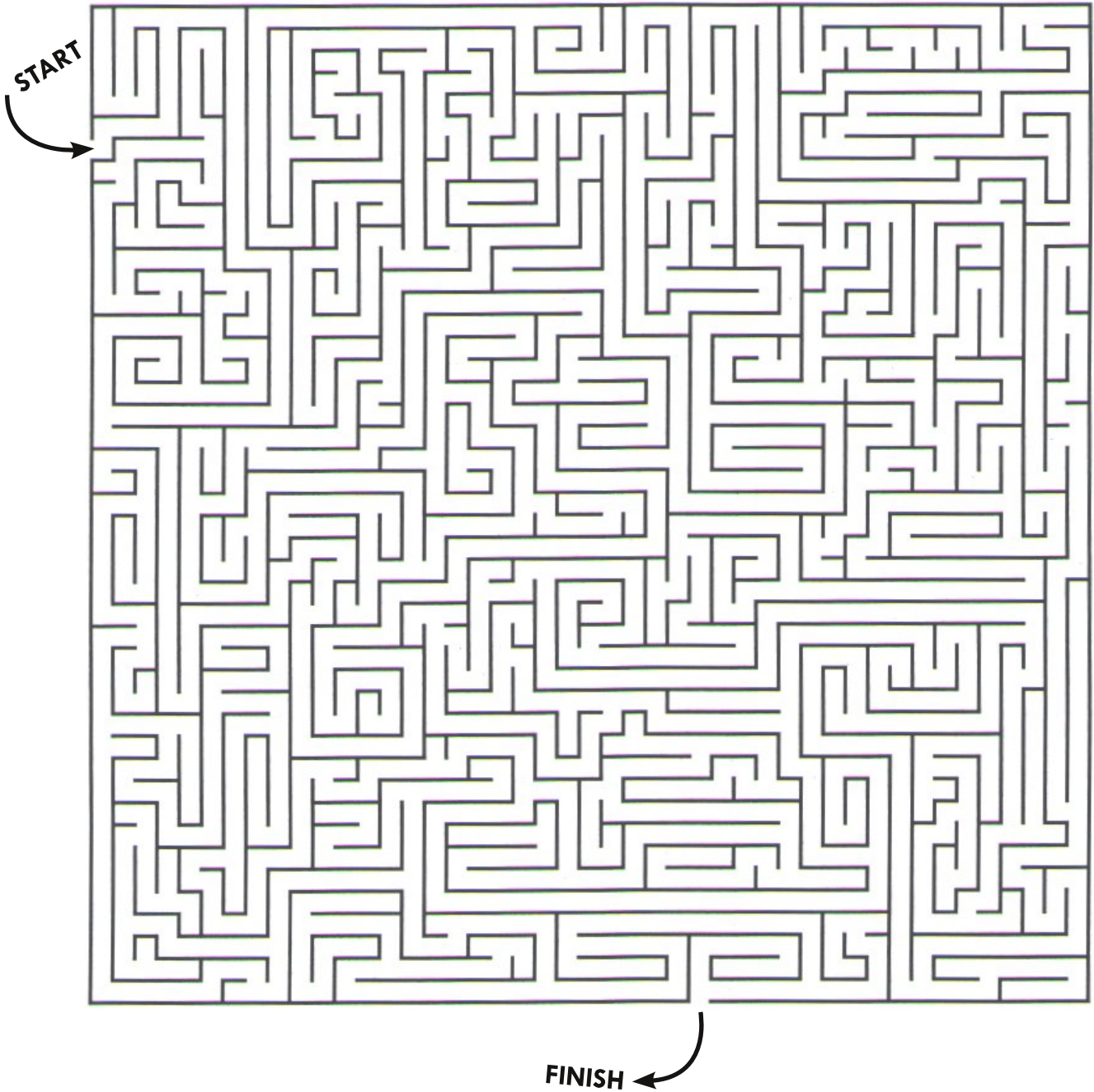


RID OUR HEARTS OF PRIDE

Write down the different ways we can rid our hearts of pride.

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-
-
-
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E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 5—King Uzziah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (2 Samuel 22:28)

True or False

1. Zechariah, a God-fearing priest, instructed Uzziah also to fear God. _____
2. When Uzziah became proud, he felt that he could live above God's laws. _____
3. The priests urged Uzziah to leave the temple because it was time to lock up. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : Why was Uzziah famous and prosperous?
 - a. He sought after the Lord.
 - b. God helped him overcome his enemies and expand his kingdom.
 - c. Uzziah's mighty army and all his people helped establish his country.
 - d. All of the above.
5. _____ : What caused Uzziah to fall?
 - a. He forgot about God's grace and became proud.
 - b. He became too busy and failed to pray each day.
 - c. His country became so great that he could not run it properly.
 - d. He began to worship idols.
6. _____ : Whose duty was it to burn incense?
 - a. Levites
 - b. Priests
 - c. Levites and priests
 - d. Levites, priests, and the king

Short Answer

7. Name three biblical examples of people who became proud.

8. The Bible says that God will bring down the proud. How was Uzziah brought down?

9. How can we rid our hearts of pride?