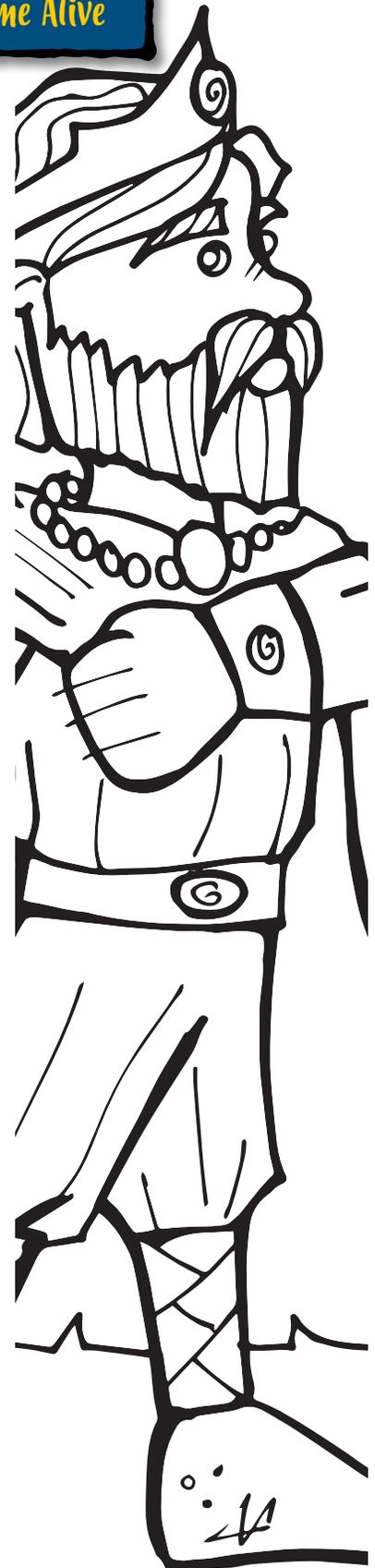


SAUL

THE JEALOUS ONE

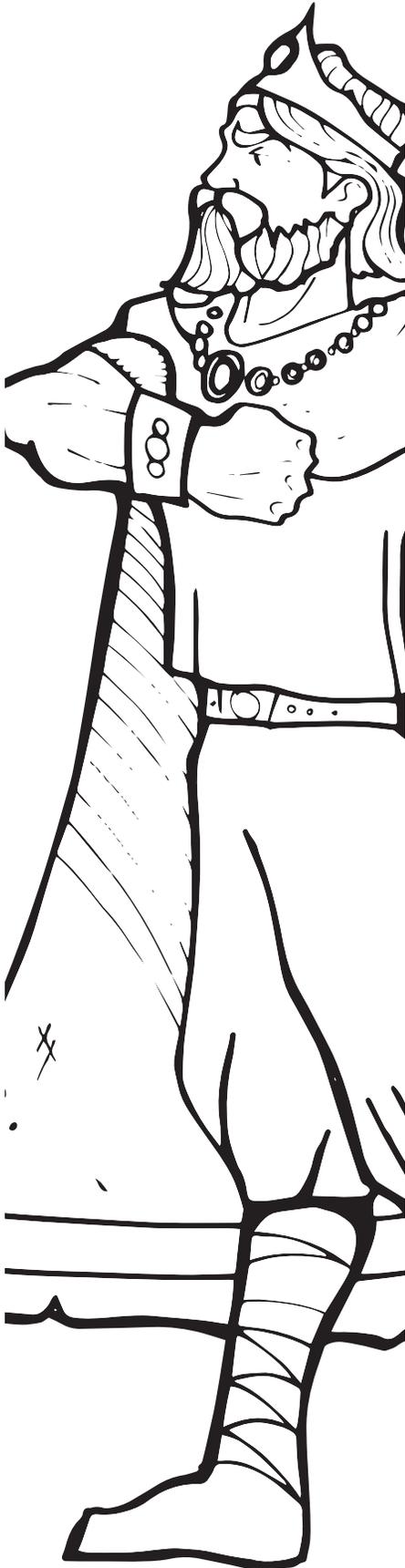
WHO WAS THIS PERSON?

- Saul was the first King of Israel and reigned for 40 years. (Acts 13:21).
- He was a man that was very stuck in his own way and wouldn't listen to God.
- He had a very strong appearance of what people think a king should look like. Saul was a courageous and brave man. He was not easily scared.
- He was the father of Jonathan.
- Saul was a very jealous man and didn't want anyone to take his throne.



WHAT IS THIS PERSON KNOWN FOR?

- Israel really wanted a king so they could be like the other nations, so God chose Saul to be Israel's first king. It was Saul who was chosen to lead them into battle.
- Saul was young when he was anointed by Samuel to be king. He was known to be 30 years of age at that time. (1 Samuel 13:1)
- When God would ask Saul to do something, he would do the exact opposite. Saul did not feel he had to listen to God. He thought he could do whatever he wanted.
- The people of Israel wanted a king. Saul, to them, was an excellent choice because he looked like a king. He was tall and had the features people thought a king should have. When people looked at him, they saw a king. The Bible describes him to be wealthy, tall, dark and handsome. (1 Samuel 9:1-2)
- Saul had a son named Jonathan, who was David's best friend. Since Jonathan was the son of Saul he was able to warn David what Saul was going to do. Jonathan was able to save his best friend, David, from death.
- Saul felt like David was a threat to him and he chased David for eight years. He was jealous of David and his popularity. He wanted David dead so he spent years hunting him down.



WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?

- **To remind us that our outward appearance is not what matters but it's what's in our hearts that is truly important.** The people of Israel wanted a king and they believe that Saul would be the best because his looks fit the role. Sometime we think that we have to look really pretty to others or super strong for people to like us and to think we are important, but that is not true. God values what is in our hearts and our inner beauty. We need to remember that we are beautiful because of our hearts not because of our looks. (Psalm 51:10; 1 Samuel 16:7)
- **To remind us that we always need to listen to God and obey him.** When God told Saul to do something Saul would not listen. Saul disobeyed God by doing exactly what he was told not to do. Since he disobeyed God his kingdom was taken away from him, and the role of being king was handed over to a new king. We need to remember to always do as God asks us and to listen to what He says. If we don't we will be punished like Saul was, but if we listen to God's words we will be blessed. (1 Samuel 13:13-14; 1 Samuel 15:10-11; 1 Samuel 15:26)
- **To remind us that you cannot lead on your own, you need God's help.** Saul believed that he could lead Israel on his own, that he could do what he felt was right and everything would go perfect. When he did what he wanted to, his kingdom fell apart. We need to remember when we are put in charge or we get to be the leader, we need to ask God for help. We need to ask God to help us make the right decisions and follow His leadership steps. (1 Samuel 15:23)
- **To remind us to show mercy.** When Saul was in the cave that David was hiding in, David had the chance to kill him but he didn't. He just cut a piece of his clothing. David showed Saul mercy. He didn't give him what he deserved. We need to use this as a lesson and remember when someone is mean to us that we need to treat them kindly, turn the other cheek and be kind to them rather than being mean back.
- **To remind us that jealousy is an unwanted trait.** Saul became very jealous of David and all the attention he was getting. His jealousy caused him to do some very bad things. Jealousy is to want something that someone else has. God does not want us to act in that way. You need to remember to be grateful and thankful for what God has

blessed you with. From Saul's life we need to learn that we never should be jealous of what another person has, but instead we should be thankful to God for what we have been blessed with. (Acts 5:17-18; Acts 17:5)

- **To remind us that our weaknesses are what allow us to succeed.** Everyone has weaknesses. We are not all good at everything. Even Saul had weaknesses, but he kept them to himself instead of allowing God to use them. We need to always remember that our weaknesses are good to have because they allow us to realize that we need God's help and guidance to do things. We should never try to go through life on our own or do things in our own strength. We need God's help. (Romans 14:1)

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

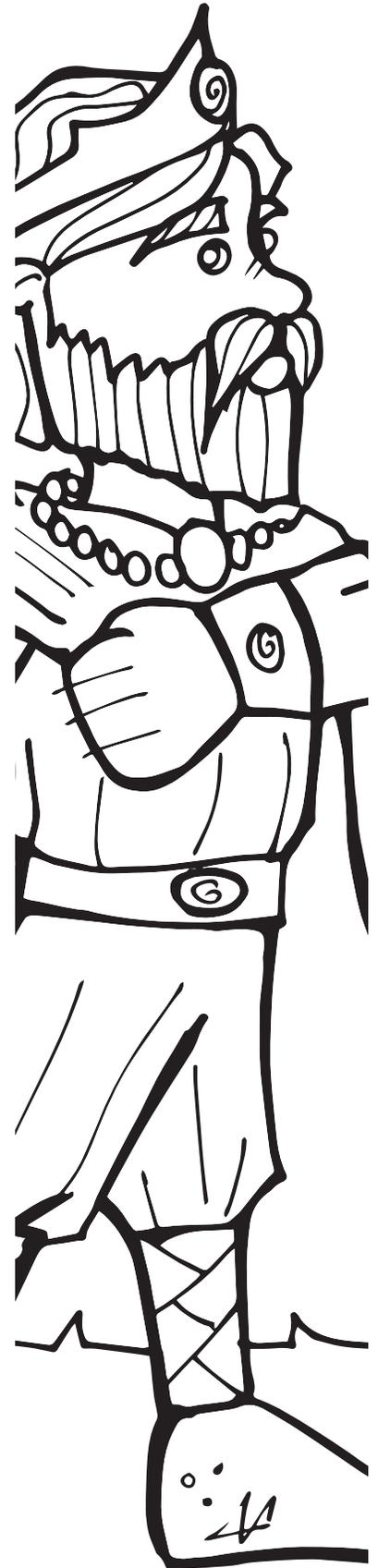
Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.

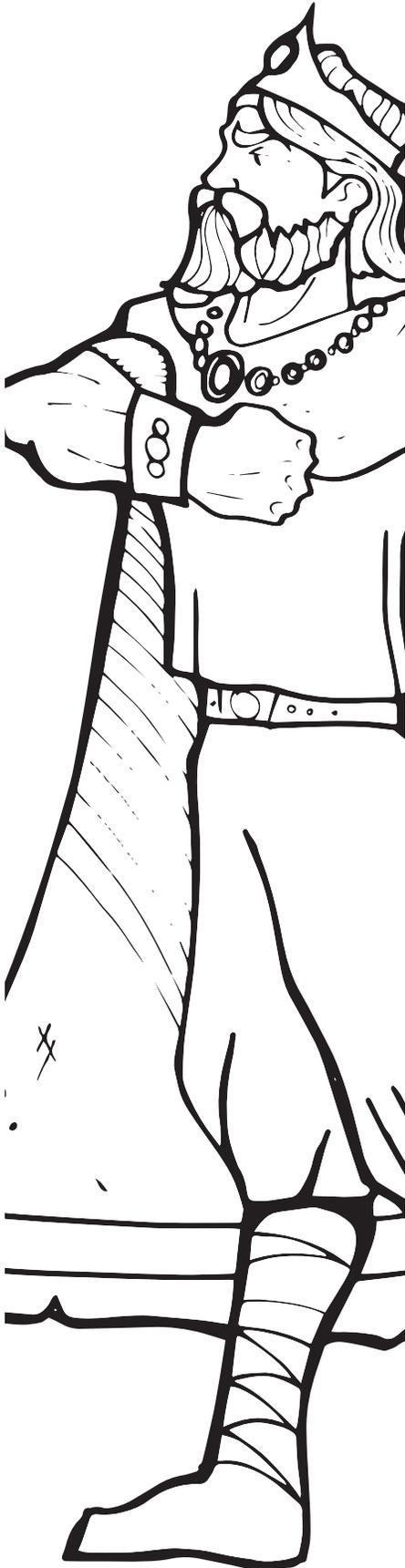
- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God?

MORE IN GOD'S WORD

In 1 Samuel 19, we can read about one of the many times Saul tries to kill David because of his jealousy. Read this chapter with the kids and explain to them why Saul was so angry at David. Talk to the kids about the eight years Saul spent chasing after David because of his jealousy. Talk to them about how Saul wasted his time chasing David because of his jealousy and how it is a waste of our time to be jealous because God has blessed us with so much that we have to be thankful for. Saul was king and that should have made him happy, but it didn't. Don't make the same mistakes as Saul. Encourage them to learn from Saul's mistakes.

Jealousy can lead to all kinds of issues in our lives. ! Samuel 16:14-23 tells of how the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit began to torment him. When he was being bothered by the evil spirit David would come to Saul, upon his request, and would play his lyre for him. The music always seemed to lift Saul's spirit and would cause the evil spirit to depart. This is such a good lesson for us. When we are feeling down or depressed, we should immediately tune our hearts to God and put on music that worships and praises God for Who He is. Praise and worship chases away evil thoughts and spirits. It fills our room or our home with praise to God and welcomes the Spirit of the Lord to be with us. Teach children the importance of living their daily lives in the





presence of the Lord, and not allowing any evil spirit to get a foothold into their lives or space.

1 Samuel 16 ends with verse 23 in the New International Version where the Bible tells us that “Whenever the spirit from God came on Saul, David would take up his lyre and play. Then relief would come to Saul, he would feel better, and the evil spirit would leave him.” In the Contemporary English Version it says, “Whenever the evil spirit from God bothered Saul, David would play his harp. Saul would relax and feel better, and the evil spirit would go away.” Praise and worship music can relax our heart and our minds and drive away the evil spirits that seek to torment us and bring us unrest in our hearts. If you are feeling bothered, turn up the music. Sing real loud. Tell the enemy there is no room for him in your life, and lift a song of praise to the Lord. He is worthy of your praise ... even when you are struggling and don’t really feel like praising God.