

LESSON 1 SNAPSHOT - SPORKY

BOTTOM LINE:

God has my entire life in His hands.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 25:21-28, The Birth of Jacob and Esau

LESSON SUMMARY:

Sporky is two very different utensils – a spoon and a fork – joined together. Even before Esau and Jacob were born, their parents were told that they would be very different people, and that the older would serve the younger. We should be humble realizing that God knows everything about us from the very beginning.

MEMORY VERSE:

“If you are proud, you will be destroyed. If you are proud, you will fall.”
Proverbs 16:18 (NIRV)

SUPPLIES:

Skit Props

- Table and chairs to look like a boardroom
- Easel with chart (optional)
- 3 styrofoam take-out containers
- 3 sets of plastic cutlery

OBJECT LESSON:

- Magic 8 Ball toy

LARGE GROUP GAME:

- Any item to be the “hot potato”
- A device that plays music

LARGE GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

- Several balloons

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

- Hot glue gun
- Googly eyes
- Chenille stems
- Craft sticks
-

SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

- 1 spoon per child
- A pen
- Scrap paper (write each word from the verse on a piece less than one inch)
- A bowl or cup

SUGGESTED SERVICE SCHEDULE:

- 1) Skit - 5 Minutes
- 2) Object Lesson - 5 Minutes
- 3) Large Group Game - 10 minutes
- 4) Large Group Lesson - 10 Minutes
- 5) Memory Verse - 5 Minutes
- 6) Small Group Discussion - 15 Minutes
- 7) PowerPoint Review Game - 5 Minutes
- 8) Make it Stick Parent Resource - give to parents as they leave
- 9) Activity Page (optional)

SKIT PAGE 1: FUTURE PLANS

PROPS:

- Table and chairs to look like a boardroom
- Easel with chart (optional)
- 3 styrofoam take-out containers
- 3 sets of plastic cutlery

CHARACTERS:

CEO- Walter H. Wobbleton

Susan Probably

Frank. Just Frank.

SETTING & PREMISE:

Wobblepop, an old toy company on the brink of bankruptcy, is pitching new toy ideas, boardroom style

SCRIPT:

WALTER: Hello! Welcome! For those who don't know me, I am the CEO here at Wobblepop. We've been around for years, but sales are stagnant, so we need some fresh ideas. We need synergy. So, I've brought us all together for this strategic intensive. Let's go around and introduce ourselves.

SUSAN: Hi, Susan Probably. I'm the Global Director of Joy Delivery.

FRANK & WALTER: Hi, Susan.

FRANK: Frank. Just Frank.

WALTER: So, do you go by Just or Frank?

FRANK: Yes.

WALTER: (*nods*) and what's your title?

FRANK: Executive Vice President of Play Optimization.

SUSAN & WALTER: Hi, Just Frank.

WALTER: Susan, can you pass out our catering?

(*Susan passes out takeout boxes and cutlery.*)

SKIT PAGE 2: FUTURE PLANS

WALTER: Very well, then, let's get on with some revenue-generating initiatives. We have KPIs to meet, people.

FRANK: What's a KPI?

SUSAN: At a traditional company, it means Key Performance Indicator, but Mr. Wobbleton, here at Wobblepop, we measure KPG's, now, correct?

WALTER: Oh, yes, of course, Kicks per Giggle. I apologize for the confusion. These new metrics are still a little tricky for me.

FRANK: My favorite is the Drop Survivability Score! You should go down to the lab sometime!

SUSAN: Frank, you don't have access to the lab with your keycard. How did you get in there?

FRANK: My buddy Blister lets me in. *(shuffles nervously)* After my shift, of course.

WALTER: Mm-hmm. Anyway, what new toy ideas do we have?

SUSAN: Well, according to our market sensing consultant, the biggest trends in toys for this year are all nostalgia-based.

WALTER: Aren't we basically just paying those guys to watch commercials?

FRANK: *(loudly opens cutlery)* Ooh! I want that job!

SUSAN: Great! I can contact HR right away.

FRANK: *(Using a knife as an airplane.)* Really? That would be great! I don't even have to apply?

WALTER: She means she wants to fire you.

FRANK: Oh! No! Nevermind! I am sooooo happy here! This is the best job I've ever had.

SUSAN: Smooth. Anyway, we need a toy that's going to remind us of simpler times. Look back to go forward.

SKIT PAGE 3: FUTURE PLANS

FRANK: (*spills ketchup*) Are we sure these (*uses finger quotes*) “consultants” are credible. I think the future is a safer bet. Fast forward into the future.

SUSAN: That’s terrible.

FRANK: (*Holds up cutlery to make an “X”.*) You’re terrible.

WALTER: Okay you two, cut it out. Let me tell you a story that my granny used to tell me. It might help us think through this whole past vs. future bit to come to a consensus and create some synergy in our strategy.

FRANK: Ooh! Corporate allegory.

WALTER: Nope. Just a Bible story.

SUSAN: But—

WALTER: Susan, I know you’re tempted to call in HR for this, but please hear me out before you do.

SUSAN: Okay.

WALTER: There was a woman named Rebekah. She was pregnant with twins. Even in the womb, they fought and struggled. Her two twins were extremely different, as different as could be.

FRANK: (*Pretending the fork is chasing the spoon.*) Like a fork and a spoon.

WALTER: Sure, Frank. Anyway, Rebekah was so worried about her babies that she prayed. God told Rebekah exactly how their lives would turn out.

SUSAN: So, you agree with me? She already knew what the future held, so what’s the point in focusing on the future. Look back to go forward?

FRANK: No, he agrees with me. She already knows the future, so why not rush toward it at full speed ahead? Fast forward into the future.

WALTER: Okay, maybe the story wasn’t as clear cut as I thought. My granny always told me God has our entire lives in His hands.

SKIT PAGE 4: FUTURE PLANS

FRANK: *(Holding plastic knife in one hand.)* Did you say, “cut?” *(Holding the spoon and fork in the other, with the plastic wrapped around it like a cape.)* You can escape, Sporky! It’s okay! *(Pretends to make Sporky fly.)*

(Walter and Susan look at each other, shocked.)

WALTER: Susan, I don’t think past or future matters anymore.

SUSAN: Frank, I never thought I’d say this, but you are a genius.

WALTER: Susan, I don’t know if I would go that far, but we have definitely stumbled on the very thing that will bring us into the future!

OBJECT LESSON: SEEING WHAT'S AHEAD

SUPPLIES:

Magic 8 Ball toy

INSTRUCTIONS:

Hello! Welcome to our brand new series, Toys & Bible Stories. It's kind of fun because you don't usually hear people talk about those things together, but, surprisingly, there's a lot to say, especially when it comes to pride, which is nothing to play around with.

In this series, we will learn all about Jacob, the grandson of Abraham and the father of Joseph, the guy with the multicolored dream coat. Jacob had his own challenges. He faced some ups and downs. But what I really want us to take away from this series is how he dealt with pride. In some cases, it might be more of an instruction manual. In others, it may be more of a "what-not-to-do."

So, today we're learning about Jacob and his brother Esau. Even before they were born, God told their parents some things about how their lives would go. Not a lot of people get to know anything about their lives ahead of time. Wouldn't it be nice, though?

That's where this thing comes in! (Hold up Magic 8 Ball.) Who can tell me what this thing is? (Invite kids to raise their hands and answer.) This is just a silly toy and should not be taken seriously. But the silliness of it is asking it questions and seeing how it answers. For example, "Will I get to eat chocolate cake after church?" (Shake it and read the answer.) (Ad lib a comment about how it's not true, or if it is, do it again until you get an incorrect answer, and then talk about how it can't always be right because it is just a toy. It's just a die in some liquid with a plastic case.)

Here's the thing: It's pretty silly to think we can get a toy or an AI chatbot or anything really to give us answers about what's going to happen in our lives isn't it? Nothing and no one knows the future except for God. The good news is, we don't have to try to know all the answers about our future because we can know God has our entire lives in His hands and we can trust that He has promised to be with us always.

LARGE GROUP GAME: HOT POTATO

SUPPLIES:

- Any item to be the "hot potato"
- A device that plays music

INSTRUCTIONS:

All players sit in a circle facing inward. A designated leader starts the music. At the same time, players quickly pass the "hot potato" object around the circle. The object should be passed as quickly as possible without throwing it too hard. The leader stops the music randomly. The player who is holding the "potato" when the music stops is "burned" and is out of the game. The game restarts, and the remaining players continue passing the potato until only one person is left. The last person remaining in the game is the winner.

WHAT'S THE POINT:

We didn't know how this game was going to turn out, but God has our entire lives in His hands.

LARGE GROUP LESSON: SPORKY

BOTTOM LINE:

God has my entire life in His hands.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 25:21-28, The Birth of Jacob and Esau

INTRO:

Who in this room are my worriers? My type-A, gotta know the plan kind of people? Okay, now who in this room are my chill, go-with-the-flow people? You all like spontaneity. Wow! It's fun to see how you all think about yourselves.

Well, I have some bad news for you worriers. It could be that you have a little case of pride. Oftentimes, people who worry are people who want control. Here's the thing, though, in life, there are very few things we actually have control over. So, we have to keep ourselves in check by humbling ourselves and allowing ourselves to embrace the fact that God has our entire lives in His hands.

That's humbling, right? Think about it. God knows every single thing about you and how your life will turn out. We don't get to know that, and that can be hard, because we want to be in control of our own lives.

In our story today, we will read about a mom who got to learn about her children's futures. While I'm sure it was kind of a relief to know that her children would make it to adulthood, I'm sure it also gave her a lot more things to worry about. But, we can learn from Rebekah's story. We can learn to humble ourselves because God has our entire lives in His hands.

READ:

Genesis 25:21-28

UNPACK:

Our story begins with Isaac, the son of Abraham, and his wife, Rebekah. We learn that they were not able to have children. But Isaac trusted God and knew of His mighty powers, so he prayed. Soon after, Rebekah became pregnant. The Bible says that the babies struggled inside of her. This worried her, so, because of her faith in God, she prayed.

LARGE GROUP LESSON: SPORKY

Then something very special happened. God spoke to her. But what does it mean? God was letting her know what was in store for the two boys. “Two nations” tells us that there would not be unity. We find out later that Esau will establish the nation of Edom, while Jacob will produce 12 sons who will make up the tribes of Israel. We know that Israel is a strong tribe because it is God’s chosen people.

The first twin was named Esau, which means “hairy.” Have you ever seen a hairy baby? The second twin was named Jacob, which means “heel-holder.” He was born holding his brother’s heel. We find out later that Esau loved the outdoors, especially hunting, which made him his father’s favorite. Meanwhile, Jacob stayed closer to home, so he was Rebekah’s favorite. (This favoritism will come back later on, but for now, we’ll focus on today’s big idea.)

MAIN POINT:

Just like any good mother, Rebekah was worried about her kids, even before they were born. So, she did what any wise mother would do. She prayed. Here’s the amazing part, though. She got an immediate answer. God told her how her children’s lives would play out.

This is amazing for a couple of reasons. First, it’s amazing that we have an all-knowing God who has our entire lives in His hands. He knew exactly what was going to happen. The second amazing thing is that He was willing to share it with Rebekah. He didn’t have to tell her all of that. He didn’t have to say anything, but He loves His children and wants them to know that He cares for them.

Now, why do you think He did that? Obviously, I’m not God, but if I had to guess, He did it to show Rebekah that He had things under control and that He knew how things would work out. He might have done it so others would know His power and character.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Can you imagine what it would be like if you could know what was going to happen in your life? You could find out if your team will win the next soccer game. You could find out what job you’ll have or maybe who you’ll marry.

I wonder, would that make things easier? I think it might make me more anxious. However, I think that knowing that we don’t have to be in control because God is might be even better. It’s hard not to worry, but that is something that Jesus commands.

LARGE GROUP LESSON: SPORKY

So, how will your life be different this week because you know that God has your entire life in His hands? I actually think it's pretty humbling. People with a lot of pride like to think that they do everything on their own, but we will never know how often God works in the background of our lives to work things out.

I think a lot of people like to be in control because they think they can do it best. But, nobody can work things out like God. He can see the big picture that we can't see, so there's no way we could ever be able to work things out the way He does. It would be like trying to do a puzzle without the picture on the box.

PRAYER:

Dear God,

Please help me to be humble and not to seek control because I know that you have my entire life in Your hands.

In Jesus' name, Amen

LARGE GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: ALL OF IT

SUPPLIES:

- Several balloons

INSTRUCTIONS:

One volunteer gets to juggle the balloon while the class recites the verse. Repeat, but with a second balloon. Keep adding balloons with each repetition until a balloon hits the ground. Keep repeating until every student gets a chance to juggle the balloons, or as interest allows.

MEMORY VERSE

“If you are proud, you will be destroyed. If you are proud, you will fall.”
Proverbs 16:18 [NIRV]

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”
Proverbs 16:18 [NIV]

“Pride goes before destruction and haughtiness before a fall.”
Proverbs 16:18 [NLT]

“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
Proverbs 16:18 [KJV]

REVIEW GAME

A PowerPoint file with these review questions is also included.

Question #1

What are the names of the twin brothers in our story?

- A. Jacob & Esau
- B. Cain & Abel
- C. Ephraim and Manasseh

Question #2

What does Esau's name mean?

- A. Red
- B. First
- C. Hairy

Question #3

What does Jacob's name mean?

- A. Second
- B. Heel-holder
- C. Twin

Question #4

Who were Jacob & Esau's parents?

- A. Romeo & Juliet
- B. Taylor & Travis
- C. Isaac and Rebekah

Question #5

Who was Isaac's favorite son?

- A. Jacob
- B. Esau
- C. Both

Question #6

Who was Rebekah's favorite son?

- A. Jacob
- B. Esau
- C. Both

Question #7

The Lord said, "The older son will serve _____."

- A. all the nations
- B. humbly
- C. the younger son

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE (K-2ND)

GAME/ACTIVITY SUPPLIES:

- Hot glue gun
- Googly eyes
- Chenille stems
- Craft sticks
- Stickers

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY SUPPLIES:

- 1 spoon per child
- A pen
- Scrap paper (write each word from the verse on a piece less than one inch)
- A bowl or cup

GAME/ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN SPORKY

Invite kids to decorate their own Sporky, using the arts and crafts supplies provided.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you could name a baby, what would you name it?
2. What did Isaac do when he realized Rebekah could not have children?
3. What was Esau skillful at?
4. Why do you think Jacob was Rebekah's favorite son?
5. What do you think of when you think of the word humble?
6. How can we tell if we are being humble or prideful?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: SCOOP IT UP

Each kid gets a spoon and takes a turn scooping out a tiny piece of paper, and then works together to put the verse in order.

PRAYER:

Dear God,
Thank you for holding my entire life in Your hands.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE (3RD-5TH)

GAME/ACTIVITY SUPPLIES:

- Hot glue gun
- Googly eyes
- Chenille stems
- Craft sticks
- Stickers

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY SUPPLIES:

- 1 spoon per child
- A pen
- Scrap paper (write each word from the verse on a piece less than one inch)
- A bowl or cup

GAME/ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN SPORKY

Invite kids to decorate their own Sporky, using the arts and crafts supplies provided.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you could ask God one question about your future, what would you ask?
2. How old was Isaac when the twins were born?
3. Why was Rebekah worried about her babies?
4. How would you have felt if you were Rebekah and God told you those things about your children?
5. What do you think it means to be a heel-holder?
6. If you were Rebekah and Isaac, would you have told the twins what God predicted for their lives?
7. What do you think the difference between confidence and pride is?
8. Why do you think people struggle with pride?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: SCOOP IT UP

Each kid gets a spoon and takes a turn scooping out a tiny piece of paper, and then works together to put the verse in order.

PRAYER:

Dear God,
Thank you for holding my entire life in Your hands.
In Jesus' name,
Amen

MAKE IT STICK

TOYS AND BIBLE STORIES LESSON 1

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON:

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

Why is it important to know that God has your entire life in His hands? God knew exactly how Esau and Jacob's lives would play out. Esau was older but ended up serving his younger brother. We should be humble realizing that God knows everything about us from the very beginning. Genesis 25:21-28, The Birth of Jacob and Esau.



HANGING OUT:

What do you think "If you are proud, you will fall" means?
Have you ever seen that play out in real life?



AT DINNER:

What do you think the difference between being proud of a good grade and the kind of pride that makes you fall is?

When is a time that you've shown humility?

Who are some people you know who are humble?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"If you are proud, you will be destroyed. If you are proud, you will fall."

Proverbs 16:18 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

One of the hardest lines to discern is the one between pride and confidence. How do we know when we are living in confidence because we are assured of God's love? How do we know if we've stepped over the line into the dangerous territory of pride?

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

SHARE YOUR OWN STORY

Share a story about a time when you knew God had a plan for you.

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

The review game is also included as a PowerPoint file, so you can quiz your kids on the lesson with visuals.

LET THEM LEAD

When appropriate, let students volunteer to lead the group in things like prayer, memory verse activities, discussions, or the review game.

GOODBYE GIFT

As your students leave, give each of them a candy with “baby” in the name such as “Baby Bottle Pops,” “Sugar Babies,” or “Baby Ruths.”

ACTIVITY SHEET

You can use the activity sheet on the next page in your program, or send it home with each student to complete at home.

U	E	P	V	L	D	A	S	X	O	O	B	Y	R	N
R	C	K	B	H	U	J	Y	Y	H	L	E	F	K	O
G	I	T	L	K	D	V	D	P	Q	N	D	S	Y	O
Z	Q	V	C	K	L	G	R	U	S	G	O	E	A	U
C	L	M	E	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	G	S	R	E
Y	O	V	N	V	S	H	E	G	A	R	F	Y	B	R
O	A	Z	T	R	L	Q	U	W	I	U	M	G	X	G
U	N	H	I	E	H	M	D	M	K	I	O	S	X	J
N	X	G	R	W	Y	F	S	S	B	G	L	O	P	E
G	P	N	E	S	A	U	G	R	M	L	H	Y	H	H
E	X	R	J	A	C	O	B	V	R	Q	E	O	T	C
R	D	H	I	W	I	A	O	P	J	U	F	P	G	C
E	A	M	X	D	L	M	L	K	X	O	N	N	E	S
D	Z	T	G	G	E	S	N	L	C	I	F	B	G	A
E	E	H	A	S	D	F	N	Z	D	T	T	Q	D	J

DRAW TWIN BABIES, ONE THAT IS HAIRY LIKE ESAU AND THE OTHER TOUCHING ESAU'S HEEL, LIKE JACOB.

WORD SEARCH

JACOB

ESAU

OLDER

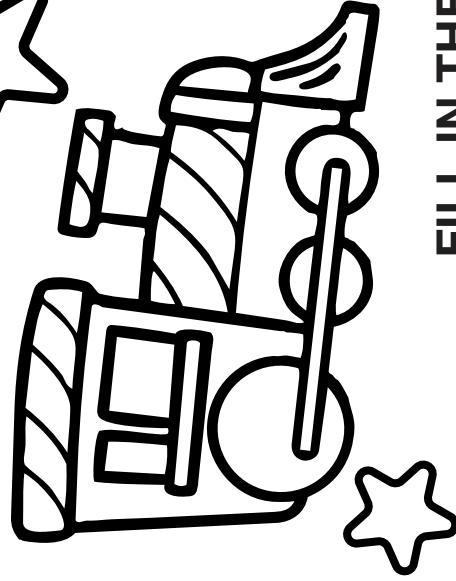
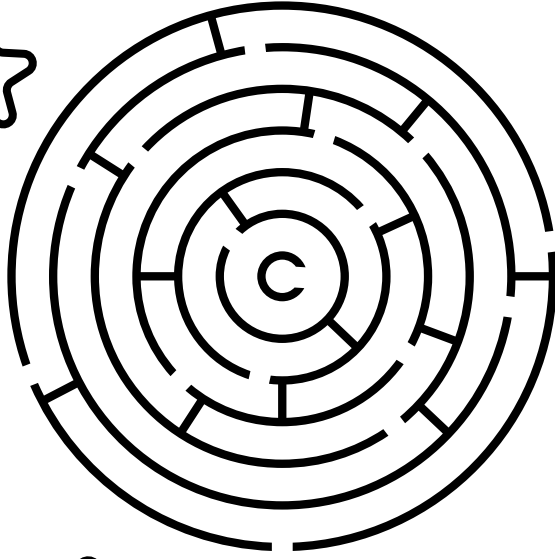
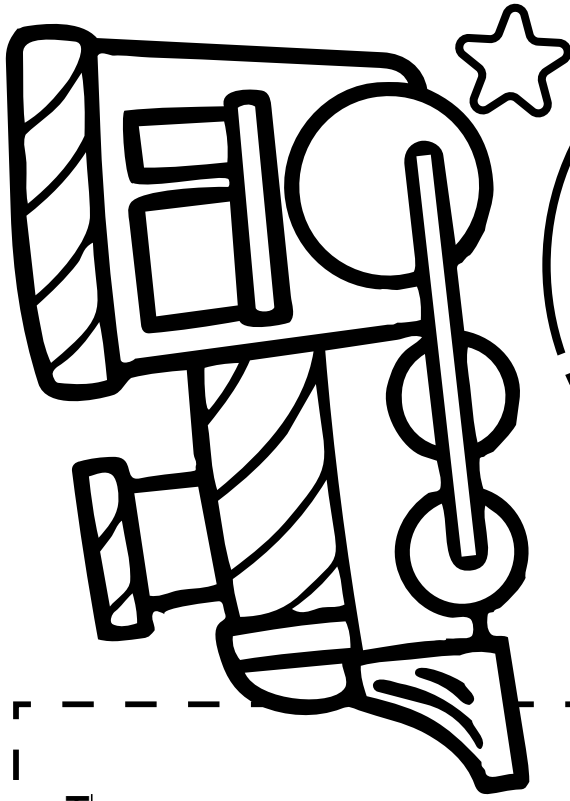
YOUNGER

HUMBLE

ENTIRE

PRIDE

NATIONS



FILL IN THE BLANKS

"If you are _____, you will be _____. If you are _____, you will fall." Proverbs 16:18 (NIRV)

PROVERBS 16:18

U	E	P	V	L	D	A	S	X	O	O	B	Y	R	N
R	C	K	B	H	U	J	Y	Y	H	L	E	F	K	O
G	I	T	L	K	D	V	D	P	Q	N	D	S	Y	O
Z	Q	V	C	K	L	G	R	U	S	G	O	E	A	U
C	L	M	E	N	A	T	I	O	N	S	G	S	R	E
Y	O	V	N	V	S	H	E	G	A	R	F	Y	B	R
O	A	Z	T	R	L	Q	U	W	I	U	M	G	X	G
U	N	H	I	E	H	M	D	M	K	I	O	S	X	J
N	X	G	R	W	Y	F	S	S	B	G	L	O	P	E
G	P	N	E	S	A	U	G	R	M	L	H	Y	H	H
E	X	R	J	A	C	O	B	V	R	Q	E	O	T	C
R	D	H	I	W	I	A	O	P	J	U	F	P	G	C
E	A	M	X	D	L	M	L	K	X	O	N	N	E	S
D	Z	T	G	G	E	S	N	L	C	I	F	B	G	A
E	E	H	A	S	D	F	N	Z	D	T	T	Q	D	J

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WORD SEARCH

JACOB

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OLDER

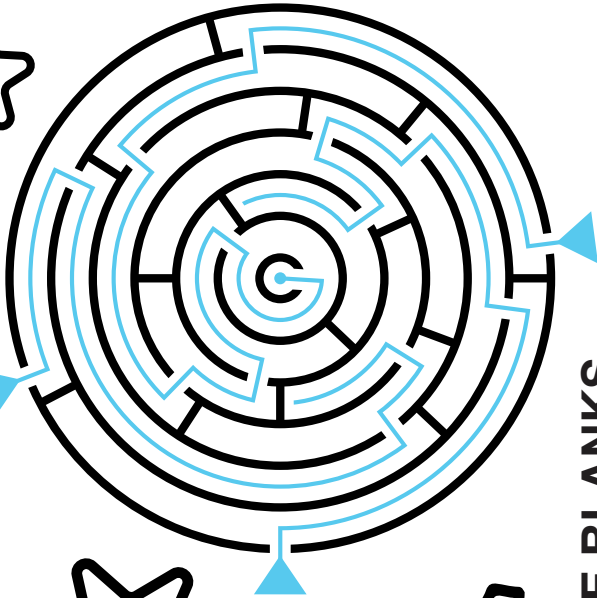
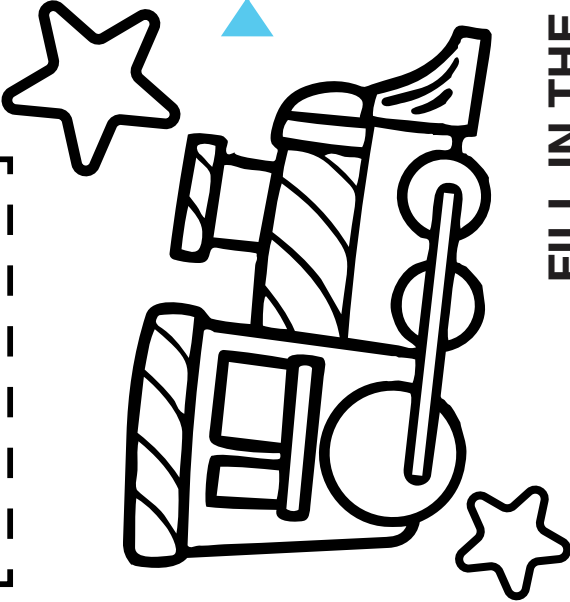
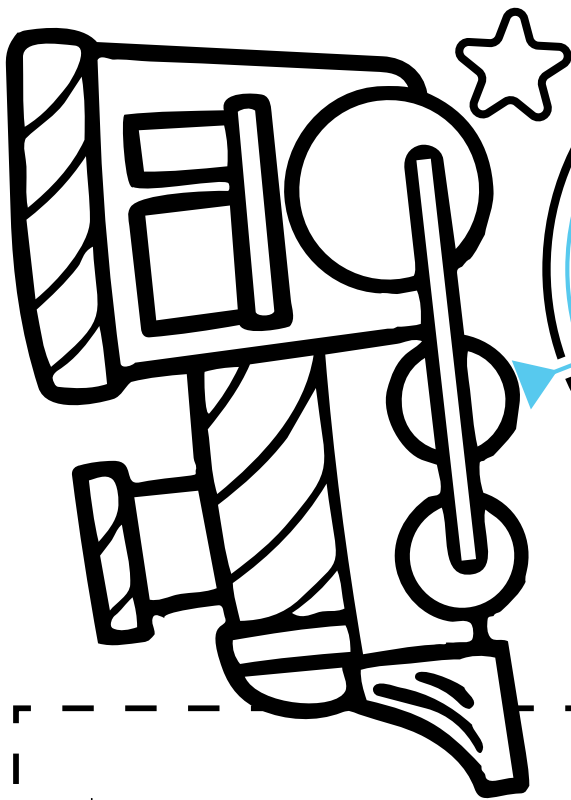
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FILL IN THE BLANKS

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PROVERBS 16:18