



WEEK 4

Jephthah
(Judges 11:1-22)

Parents: Find pictures of the following: a screw, a paint brush, saw, stethoscope, camera. Lay out all the pictures on the table and ask the kids which among the objects do they think is the most valuable for them. You may draw and use drawings if you don't have access to pictures.

Take time to share everyone's answers.

Say: Good job for sharing your answers. But the truth is all of these items will be valuable depending on who you ask. If you ask a painter, he will surely say the paint brush has more value to him than the stethoscope because he has no use for the stethoscope. A carpenter will value the saw more than anything because it is what allows him to make a living. A photographer will definitely pick the camera because it enables him to do his job.

Maybe nobody will pick the screw as the most valuable. But ask a watchmaker and without a screw, he will not be able to produce any watches.

Our story today is about a man who was not exactly valued by others but despite that, was still used by God to deliver the Israelites.



Read the Word

Let's read about Jephthah in Judges 11.

1-8 Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty warrior. His father was Gilead; his mother was a prostitute. Gilead's wife also bore him sons, and when they were grown up, they drove Jephthah away. "You are not going to get any inheritance in our family," they said, "because you are the son of another woman." So Jephthah fled from his brothers and settled in the land of Tob, where a gang of scoundrels gathered around him and followed him.

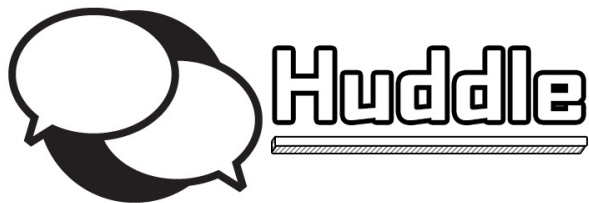
Some time later, when the Ammonites were fighting against Israel, the elders of Gilead went to get Jephthah from the land of Tob. "Come," they said, "be our commander, so we can fight the Ammonites." Jephthah said to them, "Didn't you hate me and drive me from my father's house? Why do you come to me now, when you're in trouble?" The elders of Gilead said to him, "Nevertheless, we are turning to you now; come with us to fight the Ammonites, and you will be head over all of us who live in Gilead."

29 Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh, passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites.

32 Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into his hands.

Jephthah did not give up even when his family rejected him. In fact, when they came to ask for his help, he agreed to fight for them. Even if he was a mighty warrior, he knew victory is from God, that God can deliver them.

Some of us may have gone through that same thing. People may think we're not good enough or even reject us. But there is Someone who values us more than any other - God!. He chose us, accepted us and loved us even before we deserve anything. You can depend on Him, no matter what others say.



Parent to Kid/s:

2-6 years old

- What is valuable to you and why?

7-12 years old

- Do you think you are valuable to us, your parents? Why?
- Do you think you are valuable to God? Why?

Kid/s to Parent:

- Why does God value everyone, even the sinners?

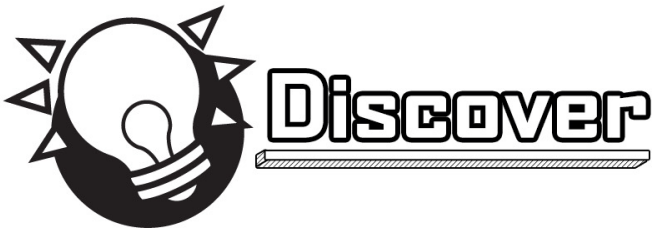
No matter what others say, you are valuable to God. He values you so much that He did not just deliver you from sin but He will use you to share His love others and be a blessing to them. With God, you can do so much more than what others say.



Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and valuing us. Help us to understand and remember it especially when others reject us. Teach us to love others the way you love us.

In Jesus' name, amen!



Do you want to know how much God loves you and values you?

God loves you and values you so much. If he were to put a price tag on you, it would say JESUS! That was the price He had to pay in order to get us back from sin. So the next time someone tells you you're not good enough, remember that it's not what they say but what God says and God loves you enough!

