

DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN

Old Testament Lesson #92

As King David approached the end of his life, he thought about the men who had served him faithfully as soldiers.

Called David's "Mighty Men," this elite corps of warriors had fought alongside David since before he was king. His band of mighty men numbered 600.

This group was divided into three groups of 200, each with its own commander. Together these leaders were known as the "Three." They reported to Joab, who was in charge of the entire army of Israel.

Each of the three battalions of 200 men was divided into 10 platoons of 20 men each. The platoon leaders were known as the "Thirty." This group — along with Abishai, Joab's brother, and Benaiah, who was captain of David's bodyguard — made up the mighty men.

The three mighty men rose to their positions because of their great deeds.

Josheb-Basshebeth was chief among the Three. He earned his rank by fighting and defeating 800 men in one battle.

Second was Eleazar. He was with David in a battle against the Philistines. It was a battle in which the men of Israel retreated, but Eleazar held his ground and fought back until his hand grew so tired and cramped he couldn't let go of his sword.

The final member was Shammah. In another battle with the Philistines, Israel's troops turned and ran, but Shammah took his stand in the middle of the field. "He defended it and struck the Philistines down, and the LORD brought about a great victory."

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- All of these mighty men followed the example of their leader David, who, when confronting Goliath, or any enemy of Israel, did so in "the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel" (1 Samuel 17:45). David's mighty men are also described in 1 Chronicles 11:10-14.

David's Mighty Men

- I. An elite corps of 600 warriors consisted of three battalions divided into 10 platoons with 20 men each.
- II. Commanders of the battalions were known as the "Three."
 - A. Josheb-Basshebeth defeated 800 in one battle.
 - B. Eleazar was with David in a battle against the Philistines.
 - C. Shammah stood his ground in battle with the Philistines.
- III. The platoon leaders were known as the "Thirty."
 - A. Abishai and Benaiah were well-respected platoon leaders.

ANSWER KEY:

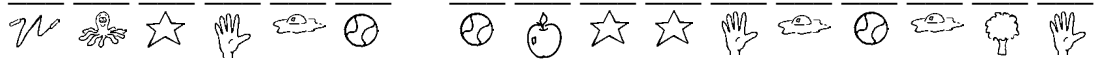
Josheb-Basshebeth, Eleazar, Shammah

1
2
3

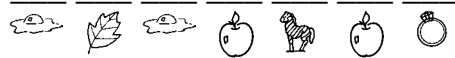
King David's Mighty Men had served him faithfully since before he was king. There were 3 men who became commanders because of their great deeds. Who were they?

Use the code below to find the answer.

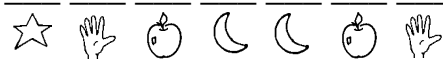
I was chief among the 3. I earned my rank by fighting and defeating 800 men in one battle. Who am I?



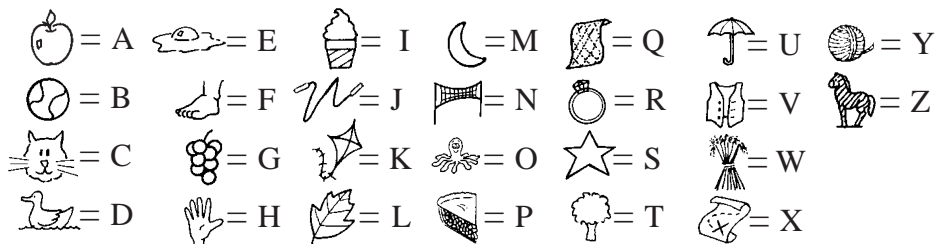
I was in a battle with David against the Philistines. The men of Israel retreated. I held my ground. My hand grew so tired and cramped I couldn't let go of my sword. Who am I?



I was also in a battle with the Philistines. Israel's troops turned and ran, but I took my stand in the middle of the field. I defended it and struck the Philistines down. Who am I?



Code



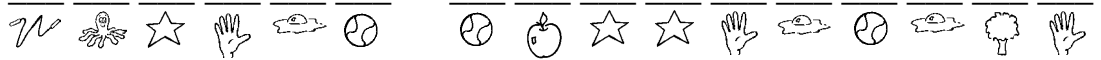
Name _____

King David's Mighty Men had served him faithfully since before he was king. There were 3 men who became commanders because of their great deeds. Who were they?

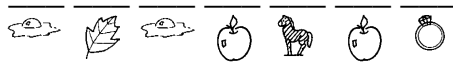
Use the code below to find the answer.



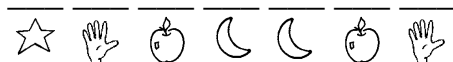
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Code


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

Name _____

Many men served King David. They were his "mighty men."


Count the men in each box. Circle the number.

Joab



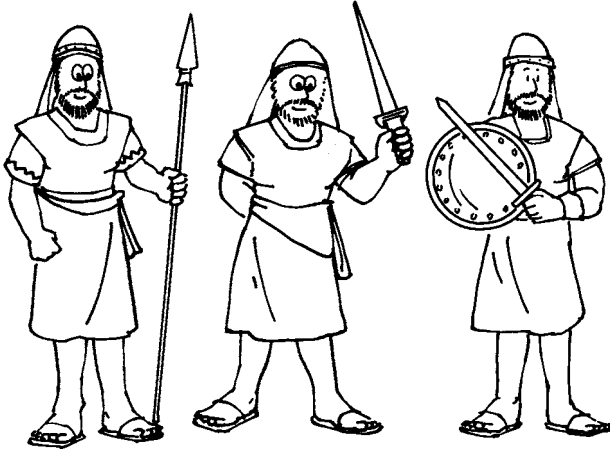
1
2
3

Abishai and Benaiah



1
2
3


Josheb Eleazar Shammah



1 2 3

Trace the letters. Fill the box with many men. David had 600 "mighty men."

MIGHTY
MEN




Name _____

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Joab




1
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Abishai and Benaiah



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MIGHTY
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Name _____