

STANDING STRONG

VOLUME 2 | NUMBER 4
FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-11

Part 1 of 13

RIGHT OR LEFT?

BY KATHLYN LONGTINE

Have you ever heard of a left-handed hero? That might seem kind of odd—*right*? Maybe that's because left-handed people didn't always have it easy. They were looked down upon by right-handed people.

But once when the people of Israel cried to God for help, He gave them a left-handed deliverer named Ehud.

Israel had been attacked and was under the evil rule of Moab and its hefty king, who was just as cruel as he was heavy. The people of Israel sent Ehud on a special mission to kill the evil king!

But how would Ehud get into the castle with a weapon? The guards would surely notice the weapon and take it from him!

Being a lefty made Ehud just right for the mission! Most people wore their swords on the left side so that they could grab them and be ready to attack with their right hand. But since Ehud was left-handed, he hid his dagger on his right thigh instead.

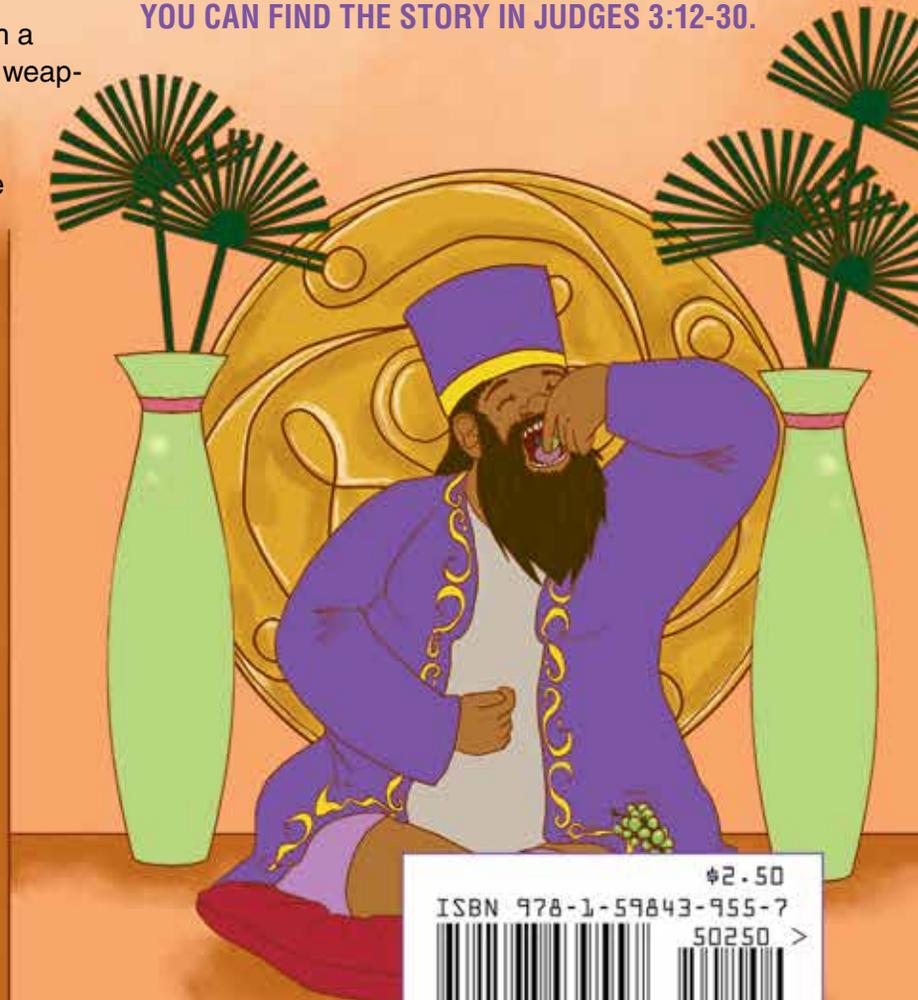
That was a close call! The guards

at the palace only checked Ehud's left side, and he went to see the king.

After giving the king a gift, the two of them were alone. That's when Ehud grabbed his dagger with his left hand, killed the king, and locked the door!

It appears that Ehud escaped through a hole in the bathroom floor. Yuck! Sometimes a plan that stinks is a plan that works! But trusting God is always the best plan.

YOU CAN FIND THE STORY IN JUDGES 3:12-30.



RYAN

and

SUN

the

By Susan Harris

“Meet my grandson. He’s nine,” Grandpa boomed to his neighbor. “Ryan, say ‘hi’ to Mr. Brennan.”

But Ryan looked up at the sky and pointed. “Sun?” he replied.

Then Grandpa whispered, “Ryan was born prematurely, and his brain has not fully developed.”

“I worked with children with special needs,” Mr. Brennan replied.

He stooped to Ryan’s level. “Yes, that’s the sun up there, and you are your grandpa’s little boy.”

Ryan gazed into Mr. Brennan’s eyes. Mr. Brennan winked at him. Ryan giggled and blinked both eyes.

“He likes you,” Grandpa announced. “He doesn’t take to strangers too easily.”

Mr. Brennan stood up. “Ryan may not understand the difference between words that sound the same. Whichever meaning he matched with a word the first time he heard it becomes the only meaning he

knows for that sound.”

Grandpa’s brows creased. “I don’t understand.”

Mr. Brennan continued. “‘Sun’ and ‘son’ sound the same. When you say, ‘grandson,’ Ryan understands it as ‘grand sun.’ Ryan only knows the one in the sky.”

“Ah, I get it,” Grandpa said, his eyes widening. Mr. Brennan bent down and held up his hand to Ryan. “High-five!”

“High-five.” Ryan grinned.

“Say,” Grandpa began. “Do you think you could help me learn to communicate with Ryan better?”

Mr. Brennan smiled. “Of course!”

Grandpa beamed from ear to ear. “You’re an answer to prayer,” he said. “I love Ryan so much, and sometimes I don’t know how to get through to him. I thank God that you can teach me how to communicate with him better.”



ROMANS 5:8 TELLS US THAT GOD LOVED US SO MUCH THAT HE SENT HIS SON TO DIE FOR US WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE OR WHERE YOU ARE FROM. JESUS LOVES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US.

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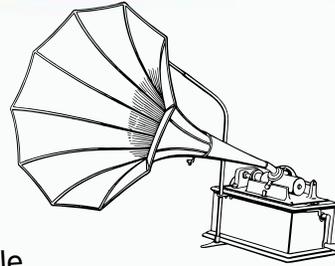
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Words at Play

By Susan Harris

A homophone is a word that sounds the same as another word but is spelled differently and has a different meaning. For example, "sun" and "son" are homophones. "Their," "they're," and "there" are also homophones.



The verses below contain homophones. First, circle the word in the parentheses that correctly completes the sentence. Second, define the word you used.

Example:

"Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an (air, heir) of God through Christ" (Galatians 4:7).

Definition: a person who inherits something

1. "I and my Father are (won, one)" (John 10:30).

Definition: _____

2. "And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little (maid, made)" (II Kings 5:2).

Definition: _____

3. "Jesus said unto him, Let the dead (berry, bury) their dead" (Luke 9:60).

Definition: _____

4. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should (bow, bough)" (Philippians 2:10).

Definition: _____

5. "Behold, a king shall (rain, reign) in righteousness" (Isaiah 32:1).

Definition: _____

6. "God sitteth upon the (thrown, throne) of his holiness" (Psalm 47:8).

Definition: _____

Fun fact: In Greek, "homo" means "same" and "phon" means sound! So "homophone" is "same sound!" "Phon" is also in "telephone" and "phonograph!"

UNDER PRESSURE

BY JUDITH HUPP

What happens when you combine carbon atoms at titanic amounts of pressure deep beneath the earth's surface? Diamonds form! Diamonds are sparkly, pretty, and tougher than nails. They have it all. Sometimes we wish we had it all too.

If you could put your cool sibling's brain inside your skull, replace your face with another face, and attach that head to the body of the best soccer player on the team, would you do it? And if you could do it, would you still be you?

Sometimes we may wish we were someone else. We feel the peer pressure to be popular and cool. What do we do? How do we fit in with our classmates when we feel we don't fit anywhere?

Peer pressure is a fact of life. Sorry, but it's the truth. It's when we *give in* to peer pressure that things get out of whack. In order to fit in, we become weird versions of ourselves. We might try to become a clone of the most popular kid in our group, or we might become a combination of many kids we think are cool.

Do you think God wants you to be like everybody else? No way! He designed each of us to be EXTRAordinary! When we give in to peer pressure, we miss the opportunity to go through the pressure test and become amazing.

So how can you become a diamond? Stand up to the squeeze of peer pressure, and come out of the crush sharp, strong, and brilliant.



CHECK OUT JOB 23:10.

GOD CAN USE PRESSURE TO STRENGTHEN WHO YOU ARE.

FUN FACT:
DIAMONDS ARE THE
HARDEST NATURAL SUBSTANCE.
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN SCRATCH
A DIAMOND IS ANOTHER
DIAMOND.

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