

# TRUTH PURSUER

Proverbs 15:9

## Bible Kids Hall of Fame

by Joshua Cooley

**A**dmit it: Sometimes you feel the Bible is pretty much about old men with long, gray beards who carry staffs and witness jaw-dropping miracles.

Of course, there's much more to the Bible, but in some ways, you're right. Genesis chapter five reads like the Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. Take a look.

Noah's father, Lamech, lived 777 years. Noah himself lived to be 950. And then there was the granddaddy of them all: Noah's granddaddy Methuselah. He won history's Extreme Wrinkles Award for living 969 years. (If you were 969 today, you would've been born in A.D. 1041—451 years before Christopher Columbus' famous voyage to the New World!)

But guess what. The Bible is about kids, too! In fact, it features many stories of young people who did great things for God.

So without further ado, enter the Bible Kids Hall of Fame. . .



### Naaman's Servant Girl:

#### A Gracious Slave

After kings David and Solomon, enemy countries began to attack Israel. One attack came from Aram, a strong nation that had harassed God's people ever since they came out of Egypt.

Aram's powerful commander, Naaman, captured a young Israelite girl and made her his wife's slave. Meanwhile, he suffered from a terrible skin disease called leprosy.

You'd think this servant girl would hate Naaman and not want to help him. But she told him about the prophet Elisha, who had God-given power to heal diseases. Thanks to this girl's remarkable kindness, Naaman was cured and honored God. Learn more in 2 Kings 5.



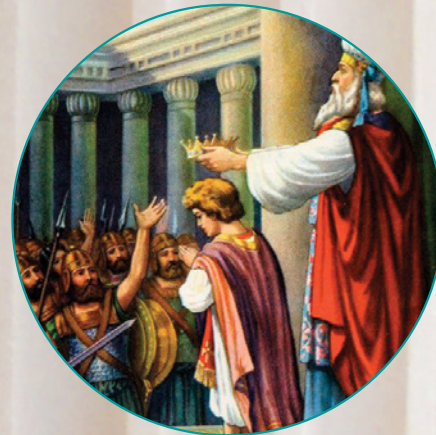
### Samuel:

#### A Great Listener

Samuel must have gotten homesick. When he was about 3 years old, his mother, Hannah, fulfilled a promise to God by dropping him off at the tabernacle, Israel's main place of worship. Samuel spent the rest of his childhood helping Eli, the high priest, and only saw his parents once a year.

One night, Samuel heard someone call his name. Did he pull the sheets over his head? No. Once Eli told Samuel it must be God calling him, Samuel obediently answered: "Speak, for your servant is listening."

God wanted Samuel to tell Eli that his sons would soon die because of their wickedness. That's a tough message for a kid to give an adult. But Samuel obeyed. He listened to God's voice and eventually became one of Israel's greatest prophets. Not bad for a homesick kid. Learn more in 1 Samuel 3.



### Josiah:

#### A Humble King

Imagine becoming a king at age 8. That's what happened to Josiah.

When court officials killed Josiah's father, a terrible idol worshiper, the people of Judah put Josiah on the throne. The nation of Judah was filled with false gods, people weren't reading God's Word and God's holy temple was falling apart. No one seemed to care about God.

But Josiah cared. When officials found a dusty copy of God's Word in the temple, Josiah listened to it carefully and tore his clothes in grief over how his nation had turned from God's ways. Josiah led the people to repent and dedicate themselves back to God.

During Josiah's reign, he rid the land of idols, had the temple repaired and inspired people to worship God. God told Josiah He was pleased with him because "your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD" (2 Kings 22:19). Learn more in 2 Kings 22-23.



### Daniel:

#### A Faithful Exile

Imagine being taken captive by enemy soldiers and marched to a foreign city hundreds of miles away. You don't know the language or the culture, and you'll never return home. That's exactly what happened to Daniel.

When King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah, Daniel was among the smart, good-looking boys taken to Babylon. To prepare these fine young men for the king's service, the Babylonian captors gave them rich food from the king's table.

However, some of the food was not OK to eat according to God's dietary laws. Daniel refused to eat it. He asked the chief official to give him and his friends only vegetables and water as a test. After 10 days, these faithful friends were healthier and stronger than any of the other captives. They proved that God's ways are better than the world's ways.

God blessed Daniel's faithfulness, and Daniel became a powerful governor in Babylon. Daniel made up his mind to honor God more than powerful earthly rulers, even when threatened with death in a lions' den. Learn more in Daniel 1.



### You

Pretty amazing stories, huh?

And that's just a brief glimpse into the Bible Kids Hall of Fame. What about David the giant killer; or Joshua, who was Moses' faithful helper from his youth; or the boy who helped feed thousands by giving his bread and fish to Jesus.

You get the idea. You don't have to be old, rich or strong to do great things for God. You just need a heart that wants to please Him. Then God will do great things through you, too! Learn more in 1 Timothy 4:12. 📖

**"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in faith and in purity."**

— 1 Timothy 4:12.