

ABIMELECH MAKES HIMSELF KING

Judges 9:1-24

Judges 9

¹Abimelech son of Jerub-Baal went to his mother's brothers in Shechem and said to them and to all his mother's clan, ²“Ask all the citizens of Shechem, ‘Which is better for you: to have all seventy of Jerub-Baal's sons rule over you, or just one man?’ Remember, I am your flesh and blood.”

³When the brothers repeated all this to the citizens of Shechem, they were inclined to follow Abimelech, for they said, “He is our brother.”
⁴They gave him seventy shekels of silver from the temple of Baal-Berith, and Abimelech used it to hire reckless adventurers, who became his followers. ⁵He went to his father's home in Ophrah and on one stone murdered his seventy brothers, the sons of Jerub-Baal. But Jotham, the youngest son of Jerub-Baal, escaped by hiding.
⁶Then all the citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo gathered beside the great tree at the pillar in Shechem to crown Abimelech king.

⁷When Jotham was told about this, he climbed up on the top of Mount Gerizim and shouted to them, “Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. ⁸One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king.’

⁹“But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and men are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’

¹⁰“Next, the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come and be our king.’

¹¹“But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?’

¹²“Then the trees said to the vine, ‘Come and be our king.’

¹³“But the vine answered, ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and men, to hold sway over the trees?’

¹⁴“Finally all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘Come and be our king.’

¹⁵“The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’

¹⁶“Now if you have acted honorably and in good faith when you made Abimelech king, and if you have been fair to Jerub-Baal and his family, and if you have treated him as he deserves—¹⁷and to think that my father fought for you, risked his life to rescue you from the hand of Midian ¹⁸(but today you have revolted against my father's family, murdered his seventy sons on a single stone, and made Abimelech, the son of his slave girl, king over the citizens of Shechem because he is your brother)—¹⁹if then you have acted honorably and in good faith toward Jerub-Baal and his family today, may Abimelech be your joy, and may you be his, too! ²⁰But if you have not, let fire come out from Abimelech and consume you, citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo, and let fire come out from you, citizens of Shechem and Beth Millo, and consume Abimelech!”

²¹Then Jotham fled, escaping to Beer, and he lived there because he was afraid of his brother Abimelech.

²²After Abimelech had governed Israel three years, ²³God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem, who acted treacherously against Abimelech. ²⁴God did this in order that the crime against Jerub-Baal's seventy sons, the shedding of their blood, might be avenged on their brother Abimelech and on the citizens of Shechem, who had helped him murder his brothers.

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| POSSIBLE POINTS | MY POINTS | QUESTIONS |
|-----------------|-----------|--|
| 5 | | 1.) What did Abimelech do to 70 of his brothers? |
| 5 | | 2.) What did Abimelech's youngest brother do after he escaped? |
| 5 | | 3.) What did God do after Abimelech had been king three years? |
| 5 | | 4.) Why do you think Abimelech's youngest brother told on him? |

| POSSIBLE POINTS | MY POINTS | MEMORY VERSE |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| 10 | | <p>“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 29:2</p> |

| POSSIBLE POINTS | MY POINTS | HOME CONNECTION | PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE |
|-----------------|-----------|--|---------------------------|
| 5 | | <i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i> | |
| 5 | | <i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i> | |
| 10 | | <i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i> | |

| TOTAL POINTS | CLUB CONNECTION |
|--------------|---|
| | LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___ |

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Judges 9:1-24



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Judges 9:1-24



After killing 70 of his brothers, Abimelech makes himself king

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CRAFT/ACTIVITY: CROWNS

Students will make a crown to remind them that Abimelech, Gideon's son, made himself king after killing 70 of his brothers.

MATERIALS

1. 67 lb. Cardstock
2. Crown Pattern
3. Markers, Crayons, or Colored Pencils
4. Glue and/or Tape
5. Assorted Stickers (Optional)
6. Glitter (Optional)
7. Scissors



DIRECTIONS

1. Make a copy of the crown pattern on 67 lb. cardstock for each student.
2. Have students color the crown with markers, crayons, or colored pencils.
3. Decorate the crown with glitter and/or stickers (optional).
4. Cut out the three pieces.
5. Glue or tape the three pieces together end-to-end.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are working on their crowns, remind them that after Gideon died, his son Abimelech decided that he wanted to rule over the people. After killing 70 of his brothers, his youngest brother (who escaped) told the people to beware if Abimelech had acted dishonorably. God judged the people by sending an evil spirit between Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem. Help students understand the memory verse below.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

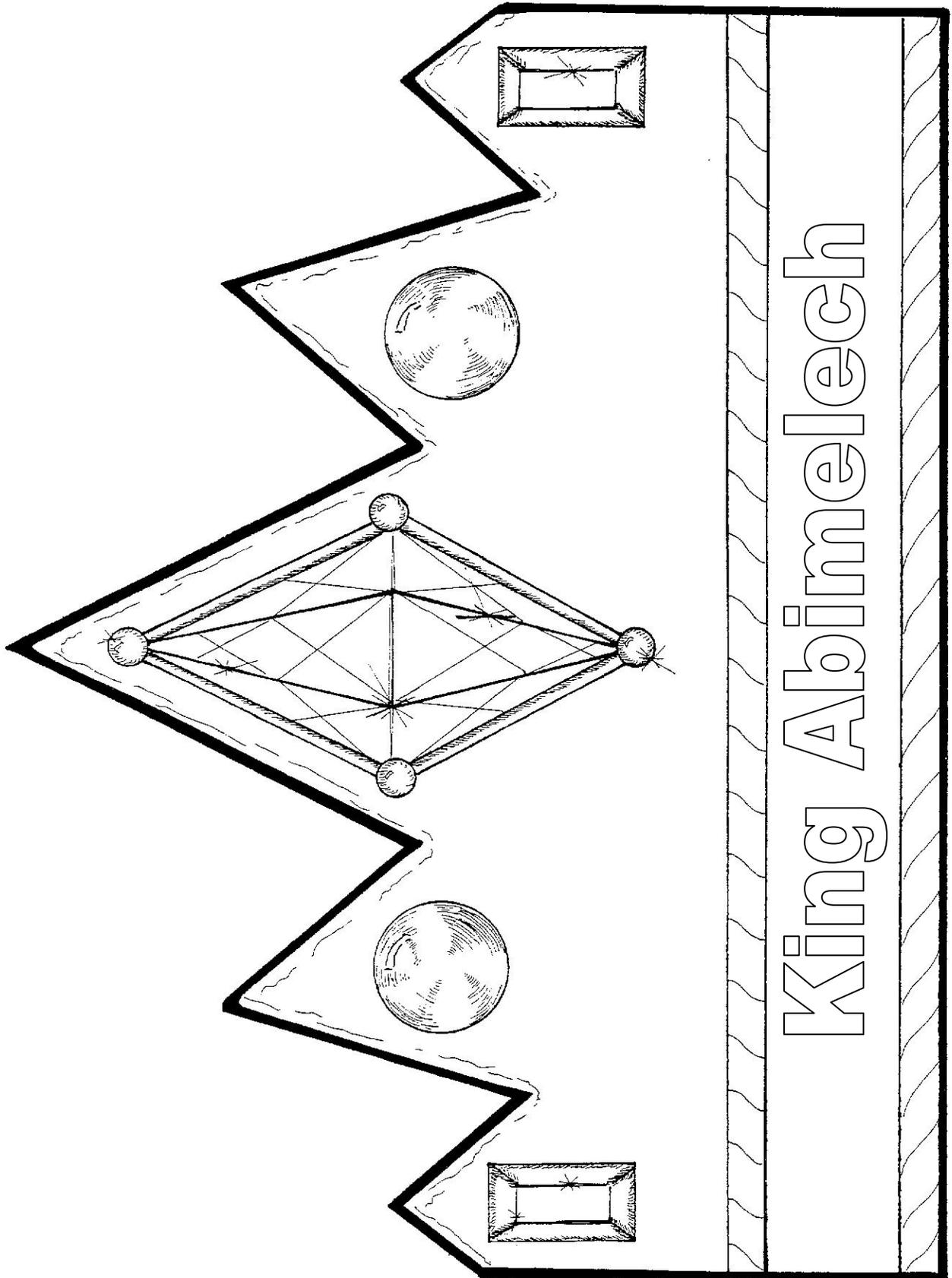
Approximately 20 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.” Proverbs 29:2

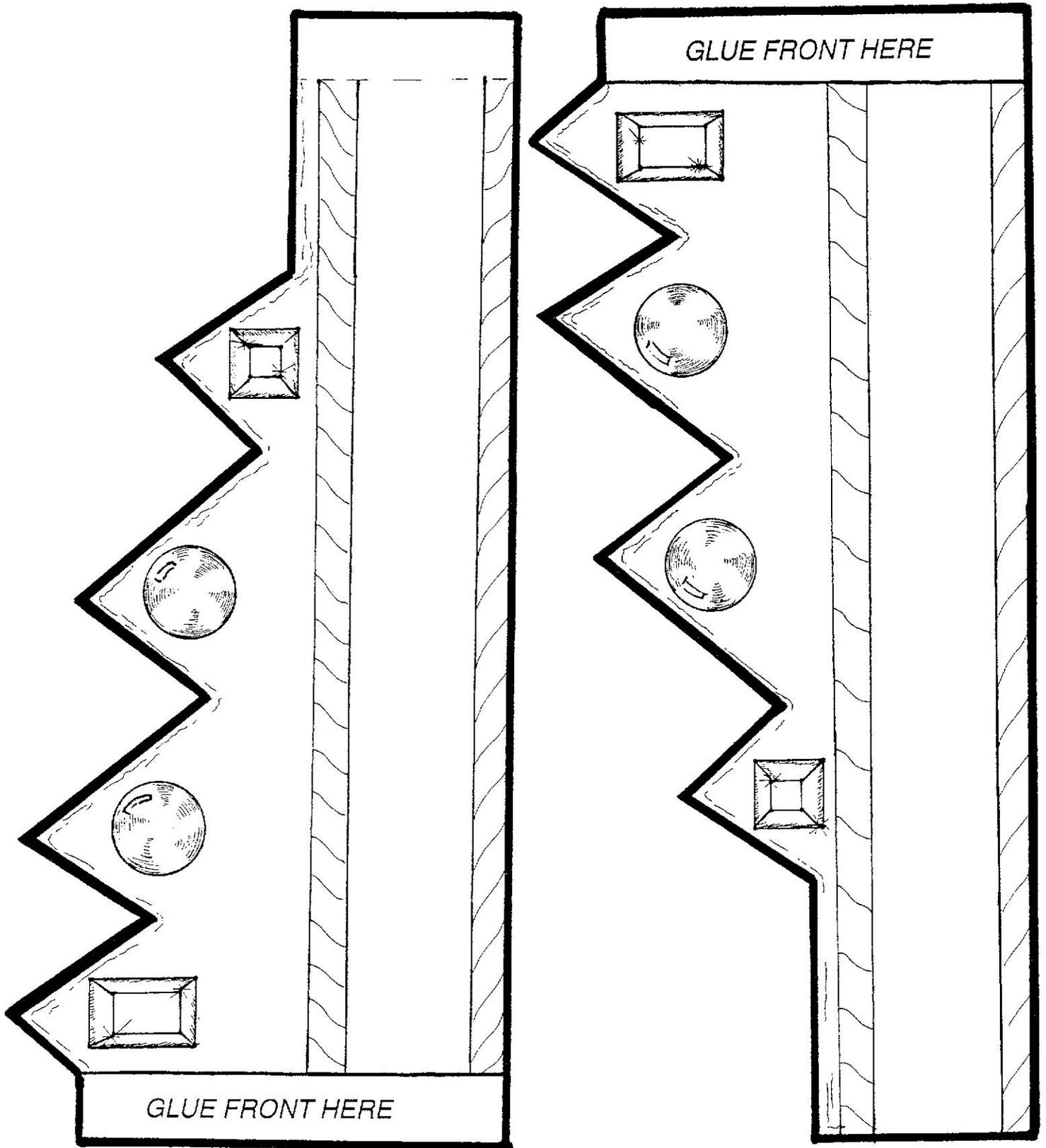
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THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON JUDGES 9:1-24

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A man named Abimelech is reported to have made a request of his uncles. He wanted to be king. He decided to kill 75 of his brothers on one stone.

The brothers were all that kept Abimelech from becoming king.

Witnesses saw one of the brothers, Jotham, escape.

Later, Jotham was seen talking to the people. He was asking the people to think about what they had allowed Abimelech to do.

For three years, the people liked having Abimelech as their king. After three years had passed, God sent an evil spirit to cause problems for the people and Abimelech. God did this because Abimelech killed 75 of his brothers to become king. For additional details about this story, please read Judges 9:1-24 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Abimelech kill 75 of his brothers?
2. How many years did the people enjoy having Abimelech as king?
3. Why did God send an evil spirit?
4. What kind of a person do you think Abimelech was? Why?

MEMORY VERSE

“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

Proverbs 29:2

FINISH THE PICTURE

