

# Tonight's

passage – Isaiah 61.<sup>7-9</sup>

*It's "coronation" weekend, so tonight in the worksheet see if you can find a crown on every page: the double portion was a sign of authority being given by God to His people.*



theme – **Double portion!**



There's a very famous line in the book, 'Oliver Twist', in which the poor boy, Oliver, asks for more 'gruel' (a soup-like dish made from oatmeal). He says –

**“Please sir, I want some more..”**

OLIVER TWIST



*Colour in the picture of Oliver!*

## ‘More’

is the theme of the passage in Isaiah which we're looking at tonight.

What the Lord gives us in Jesus is hugely **more** than all that we could ever deserve.

What the Lord is able to do, in us and for us and through us, is 'immeasurably **more**' than all we could ask or think (that's what Paul reminded the believers at Ephesus – have a look at Eph.3.20).

Jesus changes us wonderfully – and with Him there's always **more** for you to know!

*You can find the answer on the back page!*

What was the name of the author of 'Oliver Twist'? .....

Read  
**Isaiah 61**  
verses 7-9

# double portion

<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame you will receive a **double portion**, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance.

And so you will inherit a **double portion** in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

<sup>8</sup> 'For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.'

## Seeing **double**

Did you spot the **double** mention of the **double** portion?

In the Bible the '**double** portion' is referred to in a number of different connections.

It will help you understand why the Lord says what He does in these verses if you know what lies behind the idea of the '**double** portion'.



## a sign of love

Try  
this maze  
starting here



Giving someone a '**double** portion' was a way of showing them that you loved them.

God loves His people and that's one good reason why He gives them a '**double** portion'!

**Elkanah** had 2 wives (not the way it's meant to be!): his 1<sup>st</sup> wife had children, but his wife Hannah wasn't able to have children.

Elkanah loved Hannah very much. He wanted to show her his love. Turn to **1 Samuel 1** for the full story.

"Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a **double portion** because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb."



a sign of

# privilege

Read

## Deuteronomy

verses 15-17

Check out how many times the word **'firstborn'** appears in these verses! Write your answer here

That gives you a clue as to what these verses were all about. Sometimes men ended up with two wives – though that wasn't the way God means it to be, as you learned on the previous page.

In Israel, the first son to be born had certain rights and privileges given to him. What was the reason which is given here for the firstborn being privileged like that and having those rights?

f \_ \_ \_ \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_  
\_ \_ \_ \_ r ' s \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_

Draw a circle round the part of the passage here which refers to the **'double portion'**.

<sup>15</sup>If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and both bear him sons but the **firstborn** is the son of the wife he does not love, <sup>16</sup>when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the **firstborn** to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual **firstborn**, the son of the wife he does not love.

<sup>17</sup>He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the **firstborn** by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the **firstborn** belongs to him.

## The firstborn son

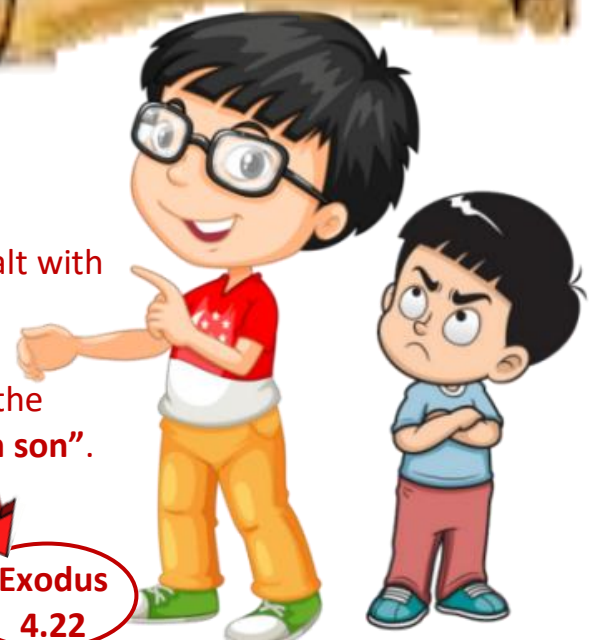
The firstborn son had some important responsibilities.

He had to represent his father; that meant that how you dealt with the firstborn son showed what you thought of his father.

When the people of Israel were in Egypt as slaves, God told the king, Pharaoh, to let them go because **"Israel is My firstborn son"**.

Giving the firstborn son a **'double portion'** was a sign of the privileged role which he had.

Exodus 4.22



# a sign of power

Read  
**2 Kings 2**  
verses 1, 9

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?'

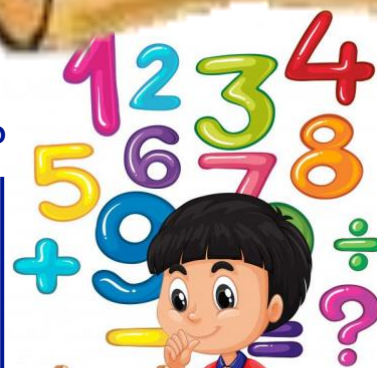
'Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,' Elisha replied.



Elijah was one of the most famous of all the prophets: his successor was to be a man called Elisha. The passage alongside is the story of what took place just before Elijah was taken up by the Lord to heaven.

Did you spot the reference

in the passage to the '**double** portion'?



**Do the maths!**

The Bible tells us about 14 miracles which Elijah performed.

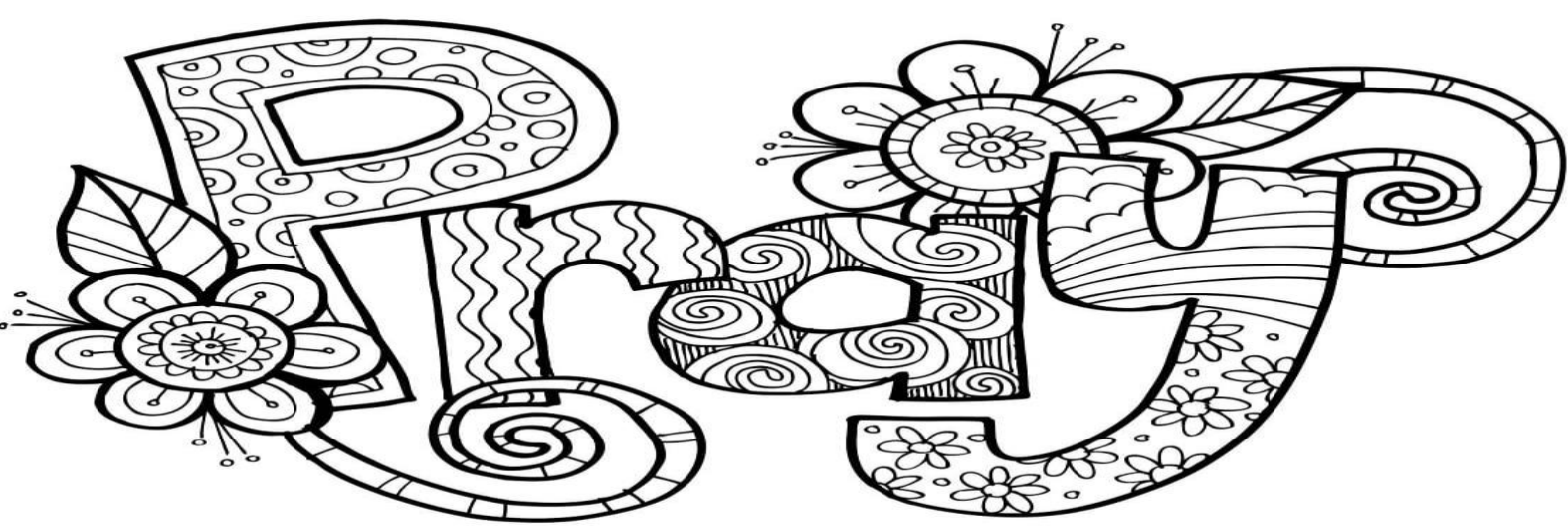
And it tells us about some 28 miracles which Elisha performed – exactly **double**!

God gave Elisha a '**double** portion' of the power which Elijah had! God always has more to give us in Jesus!

$$14 \times 2 =$$

**ANSWER**





*Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet.*

*Speak to God about what you've learned: if you want, use this prayer to help you*

**Thank You, Lord, for all Your goodness to me.**

**Sometimes the Bible can be quite confusing! And all those bits about a 'double portion' could leave me scratching my head and wondering, "What's all that about?!"**

**But thank You that You help me to see that You're glad to give Your people a 'double portion' because You love us so much and want us to know how much You love us.**

**Thank You, too, that You want to let everyone know how You honour Your people and give them Your authority.**

**Help to remember always also that You give Your people power to live by and power to serve You well!**

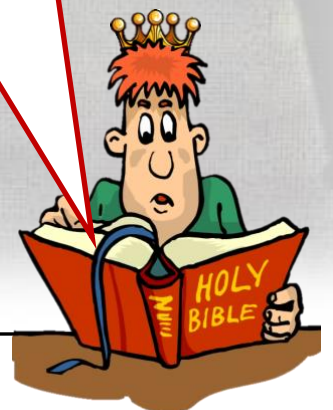
**You're amazing! I'm glad that You can do immeasurably more than all I could ask or even think through Your Spirit living in us!**



# Today's verse for you to try and remember!

**"Instead of your shame  
you will receive a  
double portion"**

Isaiah 61.<sup>7</sup>



# A WORDSEARCH ...

This Wordsearch is taken from 2 Kings 2 which tells the story of the 'handover' from the prophet Elijah to his successor, Elisha. When you find the words '**double**' and '**portion**' mark them in big bold colours!

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

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Bethel	Jericho	Gilgal	Jordan	portion
double	mountain	horses	Fire	Moses
Malachi	whirlwind	river	quiet	Kings
prophet	faithful	heaven	cloak	chariot
Elijah	Elisha			

# COLOUR in the picture

