

# Tonight's

The passage tonight tells a sad story. See if you can find the sad face which is hidden on every page of the worksheet

## passage – 1 Samuel 4.<sup>12-22</sup>



## theme – the law of gravity

# gravity

Do you know who 'discovered' gravity?

His name was

**Sir**

**I \_ A \_ C**

**N \_ W \_ O \_**

### Gravity

The word 'gravity' comes from a Latin word meaning 'weight'.

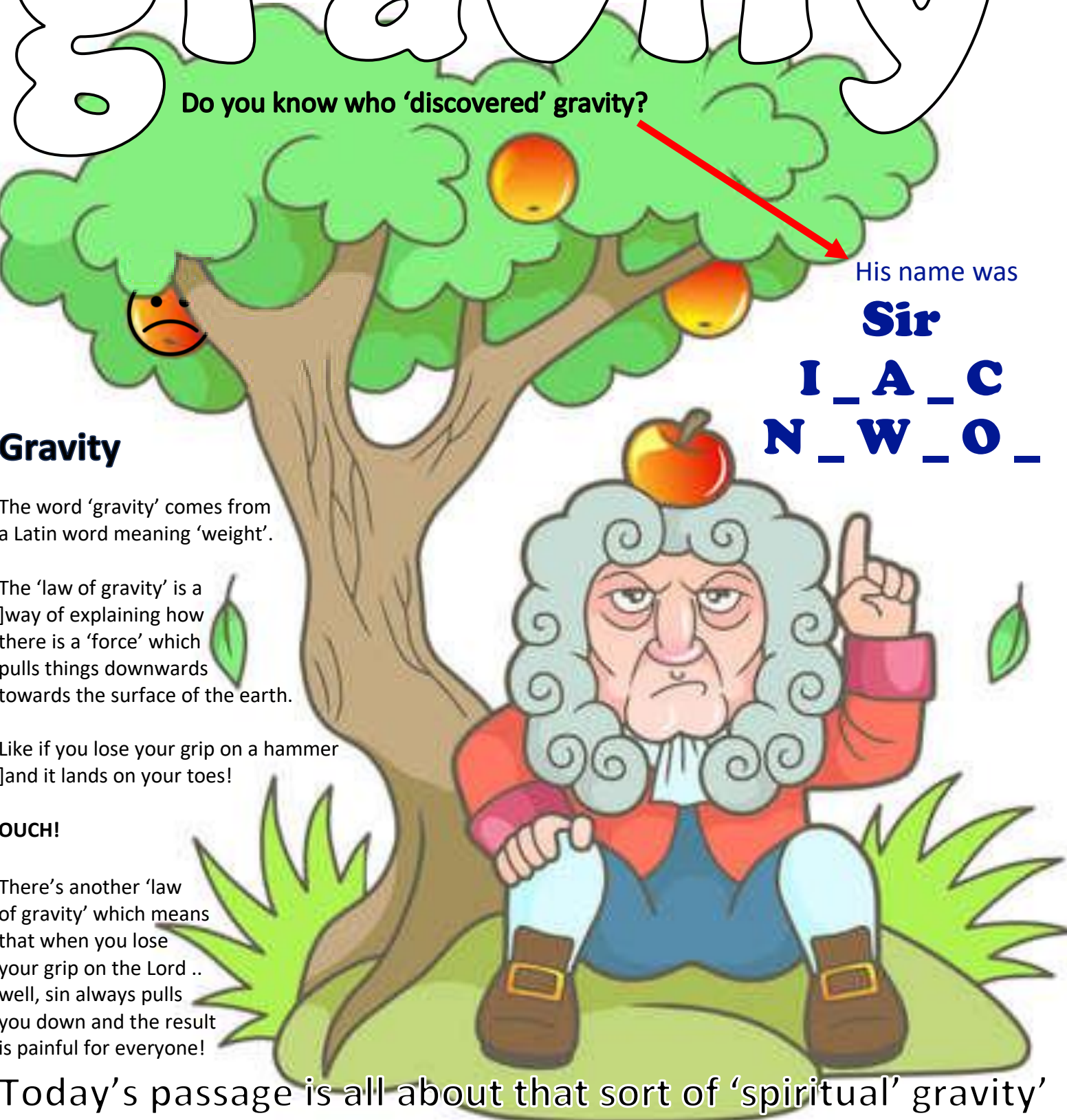
The 'law of gravity' is a way of explaining how there is a 'force' which pulls things downwards towards the surface of the earth.

Like if you lose your grip on a hammer and it lands on your toes!

### OUCH!

There's another 'law of gravity' which means that when you lose your grip on the Lord .. well, sin always pulls you down and the result is painful for everyone!

Today's passage is all about that sort of 'spiritual' gravity'



**Read**  
**1 Samuel 4**  
verses 12-16

<sup>12</sup> That same day a Benjaminite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh with his clothes torn and dust on his head. <sup>13</sup> When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the ark of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry.

<sup>14</sup> Eli heard the outcry and asked, 'What is the meaning of this uproar?' The man hurried over to Eli, <sup>15</sup> who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes had failed so that he could not see. <sup>16</sup> He told Eli, 'I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day.'

# Eli

the priest



Eli had been the priest for a long time.

Read v.18 on the next page and fill in the answer below.

He'd been leading the people of Israel for

years

## a bit of 'bio' about Eli ..

As the priest and leader of Israel at the time he was a bit like their 'representative'. If you wanted to know what *they* were like you looked at what Eli was like.

Can you fill in the blanks?

He was **S \_ \_ T \_ \_ G**

He was waiting for news of the battle, and worried not only that Israel might have been defeated and that his sons might have been killed: he was worried especially about what might have happened to the 'ark of God'.

He was **\_ \_** years old

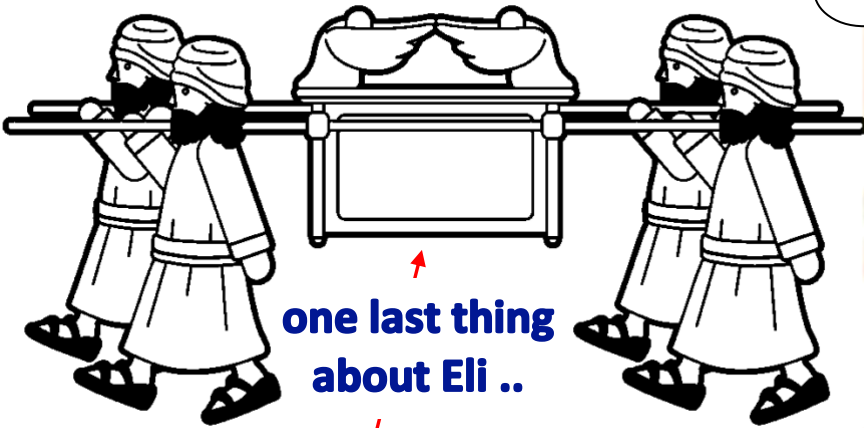
When food gets old it can go 'stale'. And the same can happen with ourselves when we've been serving God for a long time: we can get a bit 'stale'. Looks like Eli did!

He was **C \_ \_ \_ \_ N \_ \_ S \_ \_**

Like the people themselves Eli had taken his eyes off the Lord. Make sure you don't!

# heavy

**Read**  
**1 Samuel 4**  
**verses 16-18**



one last thing  
about Eli ..

## the ark of God

The 'ark' of God was a wooden box which contained the 10 commandments: it was a reminder to all the people that God is the King, that He loves us and is committed to rescuing and helping us, and that He's shown us how we're to live.

It was a reminder to them of the GLORY of God – that He alone is God, and that He is worthy of all our praise.

In Hebrew the word for 'GLORY' has the idea of 'weight'. So when we're told that Eli was 'heavy', that's a big clue as to what had gone wrong in the life of God's people. They put more *weight* on their own needs and desires, and didn't seek after God's honour and His 'glory'.

Eli asked, 'What happened, my son?'

<sup>17</sup> The man who brought the news replied, 'Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and **the ark of God** has been captured.'

<sup>18</sup> When he mentioned **the ark of God**, Eli fell backwards off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and he was heavy. He had led Israel for forty years.



God's people had got things mixed up, the wrong way round!

\*

See if you can spot the **10** differences between the two pictures

# Ichabod

**Read**  
**1 Samuel 4**  
**verses 19-22**

<sup>19</sup> His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the ark of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labour and gave birth, but was overcome by her labour pains. <sup>20</sup> As she was dying, the women attending her said, 'Don't despair; you have given birth to a son.' But she did not respond or pay any attention.

<sup>21</sup> She named the boy Ichabod, saying, 'The Glory has departed from Israel'—because of the capture of the ark of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband.

<sup>22</sup> She said, 'The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.'

**The wife of Phinehas**

Phinehas was one of the two sons of Eli.

The two brothers had been killed in the battle at which the ark of God had been captured.

When the wife of Phinehas heard the news, she gave to a son (she had been pregnant): giving birth was too much for her and she died.

**What was she most concerned about?**

*tick what you think is the correct answer*

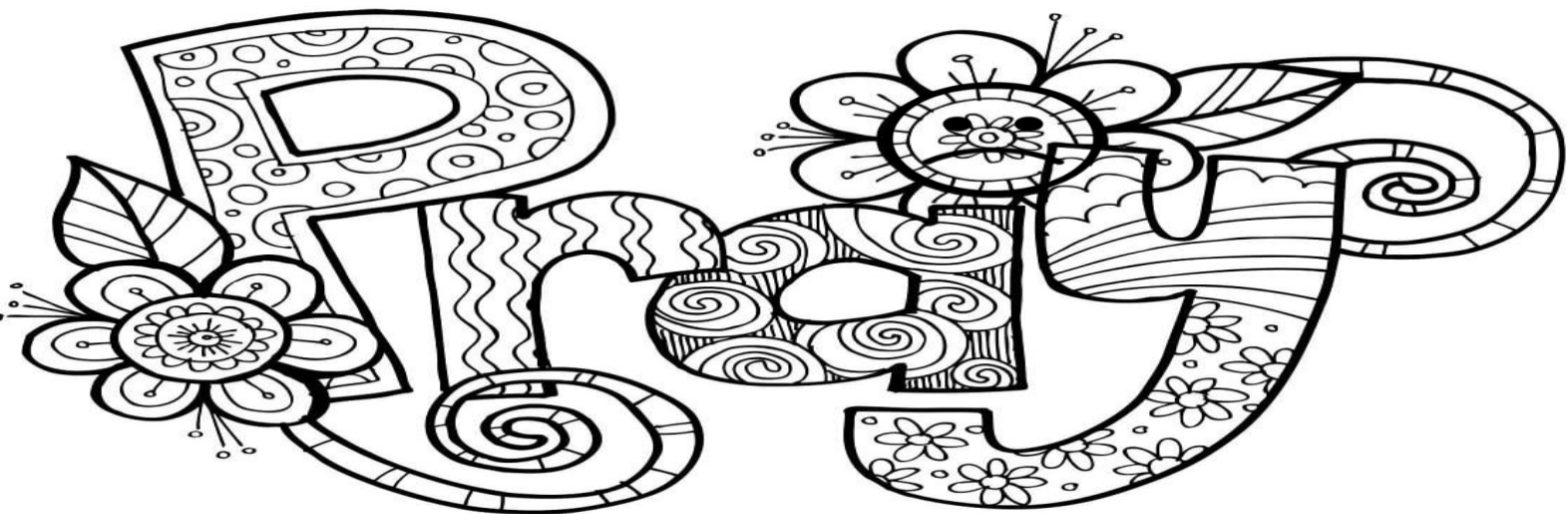
- A. the health of her new-born son
- B. the heavy defeat by the Philistines
- C. the capture of the ark of God
- D. the death of her husband

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**think** • • what are **you** most concerned about?

ask the Lord to give you such a love for the Lord Jesus that you'll want to serve Him with all that you've got day by day.





*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*

**Lord Jesus, it's sad to read of how quickly Your people could go wrong.**

**Help me to keep my eyes on You.**

**Help me to remember every morning how great You are.**

**Help me to live each day in a way that'll show others how great You are!**

**I'm sorry for the times when I become more concerned for myself and for what I want.**

**Life never seems to work so well when I forget about You!**

**Help me to learn more about You and to grow to love You more and more.**

**And help me to see each day the ways in which I'll be able to serve You best!**

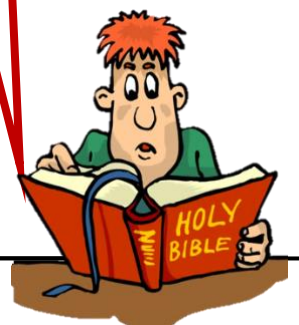


# Today's verse for you to try and remember!



The glory has  
departed from Israel

(1 Samuel 4.22)



# Wordsearch

The Wordsearch is about the 'glory of the Lord'.  
It's taken from Exodus 33.12-23. See if you can find all the words!

T	E	S	Y	R	R	S	N	C	E	E	E	R	S
O	M	R	E	S	C	E	O	O	A	O	D	N	M
N	G	A	K	S	R	S	R	M	R	A	E	A	E
E	E	C	M	E	C	O	O	P	T	H	S	M	A
O	C	T	S	N	L	M	C	A	H	T	A	E	A
G	G	T	S	D	E	O	K	S	O	M	E	N	R
P	L	P	E	O	F	H	L	S	A	E	L	E	D
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NATION  
PLEASED  
COMPASSION  
GLORY  
PEOPLE

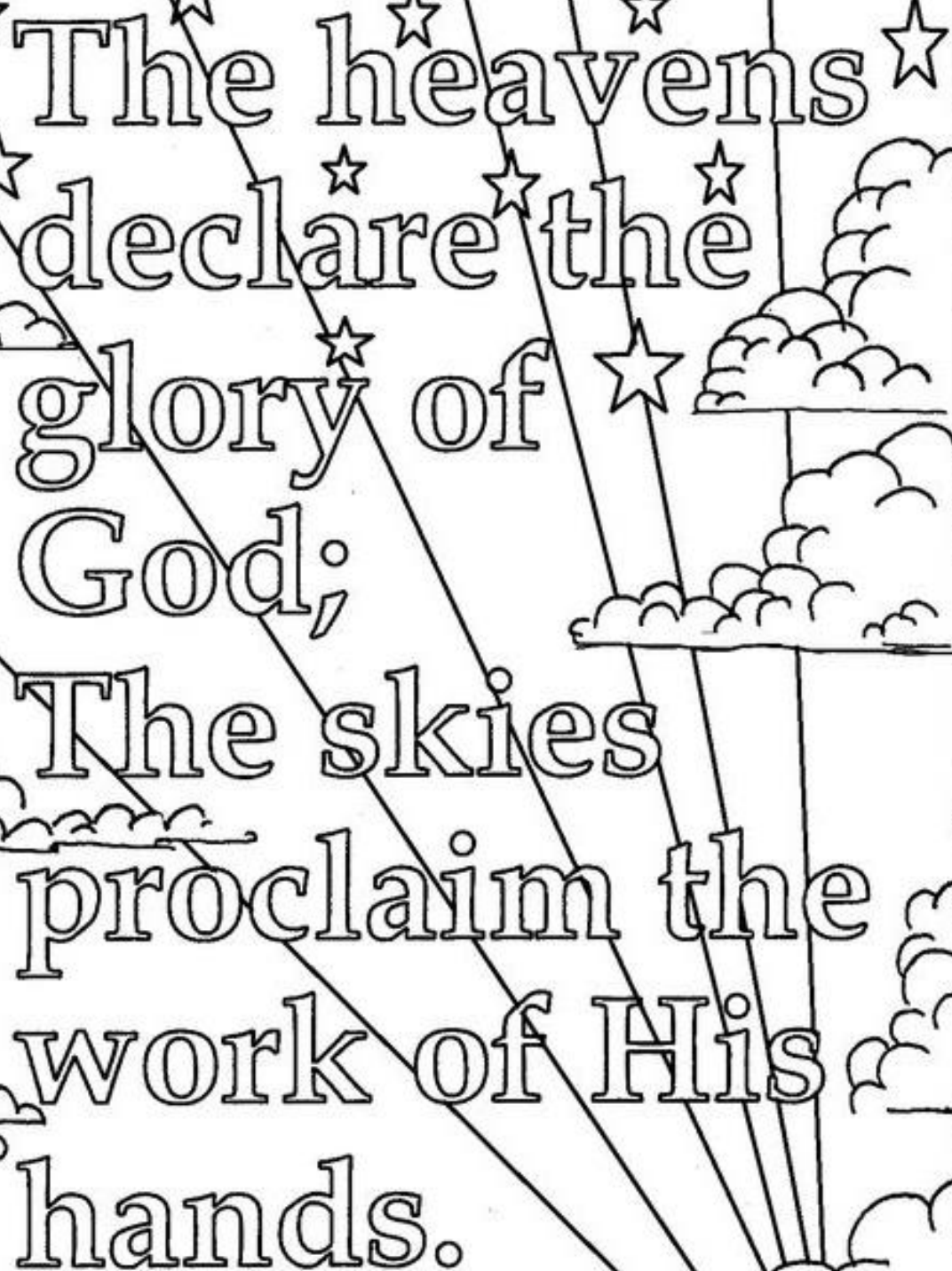
LORD  
HAND  
TEACH  
PRESENCE  
NAME

MOSES  
MERCY  
REMOVE  
GOODNESS  
CLEFT

REST  
WAYS  
ROCK  
EARTH  
FAVOR



# COLOUR in the picture



The heavens  
declare the  
glory of  
God;  
The skies  
proclaim the  
work of His  
hands.

*Psalm 19:1*