

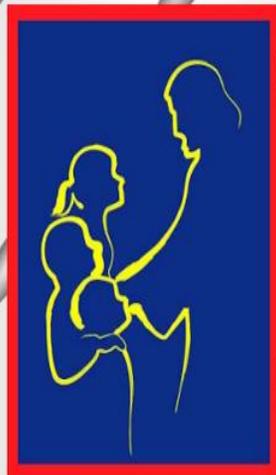
October 13-19

STEEL
VALUES



Week of prayer 2019

Inter-American Division





Week of Prayer: Steel Values

Suggested decoration:

During this week we will be working with a team of engineers in the construction of an extraordinary steel bridging bridge (inspired by the Baluarte bridge which is the longest drawn bridge in the world, located on the Mazatlán - Durango highway) Each day the participating children will be dressed as engineers with their respective work equipment, helmets, and vests, they will put the steel values we will be referring to every day on the bridge braces. (As shown in the picture)

You can put up a tarp that says: "Man working with steel values".

Around the bridge you can put tape that says: No trespassing (the ones we usually see on street repairs)

Verse of the week:

It is recommended that the verse be illustrated for better understanding and memorization. Use pictures you can find on the Internet to help you stick them on cardboard and write the corresponding sentence on the back. Glue stick on it for the children to pick up when the phrase in the picture is said.

Verse Romans 8: 35.38:39).

Verses 38 and 39 will be illustrated as follows (optional)

"Neither death" (mourning bow tie)

"Nor life." (A baby)

"Neither angels" (Celestial angels)

"Nor demons" (Black angels)

"Neither our fears for today." (The word TODAY)

"Neither our worries about tomorrow." (natural disasters)

"Not even the powers." (Kings, pope or president)

"Neither in the sky above." (A mountain)

"In the earth below." (A marine reef)

"Nothing in all creation." (space)

"Will ever separate us from the love of God." (A child embracing Jesus)

Suggested Song "No me Moveran." They won't move me (YouTube)

Day 1

PAUL A MAN OF FAITH OF STEEL

Approximately two years ago in the state of Sinaloa the camp meeting of pathfinders was held. We had to leave the state because the camp site is in Durango, called Coscomate. It's a high place because it's in the Durango mountains, surrounded by leafy pines, big rocks, waterfalls, and a very cool place so fresh that your smile froze! But it's a really nice place! But hardly anyone knew him, there was only one drawback for some children, they were afraid of the way because to get to this extraordinary place they had to pass first through the devil's backbone! They were scared, they asked: but what is that? Every strong and faithful pathfinder has to go through there! It's a very deep ravine that you cannot see its end and the truck goes over a bridge that has nothing below!

When some pathfinders told us of their great concern of going to the camp meeting, we told them, well, let's go to the internet so that he can clear up all our doubts! So, we looked for the famous Devil's Backbone Bridge and learned that it is called "Puente Baluarte", we saw that it was not a dark and dark place. On the contrary, it is a beautiful construction designed by Mexican engineers.

To support that part of the bridge that is 1124 meters that covers the great ravine they had to support them with 152 steel straps that form a great fan. 130 thousand tons of steel were used! Making it the bridge with the most braces in Latin America. And the longest stretched bridge in the world.

To give you an idea of the depth of the ravine, it measures twice the Latin American tower in Mexico City and is deeper than the height of the Eifel Tower in Paris. It took 5 years to build this beautiful road and 25 billion pesos were invested.

Now I ask you, do you think it's safe to go through the Baluarte Bridge? Of course, you do. What's your safety for? The 152 straps that are equivalent to 130 thousand tons of steel!

Due to its great resistance, the steel, classified in alloyed and structural steels, is used for extraordinary constructions that can resist strong storms, hurricane winds, tremors, great weight, etc.

In the same way, to build steel values in our lives we have to live experiences that form a strong faith. No one is born with steel values, this is acquired as you live. Honesty, respect, self-control, faith in God, everything becomes more resilient with each experience we live.

This week my dear children, we are going to memorize and try to understand a verse that is full of unbreakable, all-steel values. (Have the group of children who will participate with the illustrations ready.) For this purpose, the children listed will be asked to help us by illustrating the verse.

Let's open the word of God tonight and go to the book of Romans 8: 35:38 and 39 It goes like this:

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor present nor future, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Well we have in our stage a beautiful bridge with steel braces that represents the strength of your character that will be the only thing we will take to heaven. This bridge takes us to a beautiful place, to heaven, but to get there we have to maintain in our lives values resistant to any storm, tremor or weight of life.

What kind of professionals do we need to build a bridge? Engineers, very good, today we are going to have some engineers build our bridge and place the steel braces that we are going to mention.





(Bring to the front a couple of children dressed in their helmets and vests with the courage to put it on the first brace of the bridge)

There are many stories in the Bible that are written there to give us valuable teachings and the value of steel that our engineers will place today will be "FAITH"

Let us repeat the verse again all together: Romans 8: 35:38 and 39

What a wonderful verse, what a beautiful thought of Paul! Do you think Paul spoke or wrote this just because he thought of it or because it sounds nice? No, what happened in Paul's life that he managed to have that feeling, that conviction, that speaks to us in our verse this week?

First of all, Paul was educated from an early age to be a great disciple of Pharisee teachers. Look at the way he was raised.

From the age of 5 to 10, the first five books of the Bible had to be learned by heart: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. (Show me the books please) That's a lot!

From 10 to 13 years old, learn the oral tradition. The teachings and interpretations of the law of the Torah.

From 13 to 18 years old, learn the commentaries about the law. And at the age of 18, he applied to be recognized as a disciple by a teacher of the Law.

Saul loved God with all his heart and desired to be faithful to Him. That is why he had spent his entire life studying his word to memorize verses and had greatly appreciated the teachings of his teachers and sincerely believed that they were in the truth. He was integral in his beliefs, so he served with sincere devotion. But without realizing it, Saul had been fooled by his old teachers and was filled with prejudice and hatred against all those Christians who believed in a risen Jesus. To such a degree that he became the greatest persecutor and enemy of Jesus' disciples. He had every desire to find them and drag them to court where they were sentenced to jail and even death.

In the book of Acts chapter 9, it tells us that once Paul meets Jesus on the road to Damascus, you remember when a light makes him blind and Jesus speaks to him and says Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?

Right there Paul recognized the great error of his teachings and recognized Jesus as the Messiah and the name from whom we are all saved. So, God gave him back his sight but now he looked at the truth and became the new disciple of Jesus called Paul.

For this reason, his own teachers sought him, he was persecuted by his former teachers, those rabbis who educated him now sought him to kill him because he now believed in Jesus. Paul suffered persecution. But also, danger and violence. After his conversion Paul became the first missionary along with another disciple named Barnabas who traveled to other countries to take the gospel because Paul firmly believed that salvation was not only for the Jewish people but also for the bone gentiles for all nationalities. and defending that belief cost him anguish and fear because they were persecuted. One day after performing a healing miracle for a lame man in the city of Lystra, the people were so amazed that they were mistaken for gods that Barnabas was given the name of god Jupiter and Paul the name of god Mercury and wanted to offer them sacrifices. So, Paul said to them: do not worship me, I am a human being just like you, you must worship Jesus! People were so disappointed that they stoned him, and believing he was dead, threw him in the trash! When the Christian believers went to bury him Paul opened his eyes, stood up and do you think he was discouraged and threw in the towel and said I will no longer preach because I will end up dead? No, he went somewhere else to preach.

What can me from the love of Christ, tribulation or grievances? No, nothing could keel Paul apart from Jesus. Remember when the ship on which Paul was traveling as a prisoner with 276 people on board, suffered a severe storm and then had to throw away all the food and for three days, the passengers began to get sick from lack of water and food and were terrified because they were lost at sea and with the storm becoming more and more violent.

However, this did not disappoint Paul, but he trusted in God and prayed for all the crew until the ship pushed by the waves arrived on the island of Malta, all alive. When they arrived, they lit a fire and a poisonous snake came out of the logs and bit Paul's hand, immediately Paul shook his hand and the snake fell into the fire. The frightened people expected Paul to fall dead but he did not continue to preach and heal the sick for three months in that place. And so, we can spend the whole night talking about Paul's FAITH which was as firm as steel. What separated Paul from God's love? NOTHING, he never lamented, not even in death because Paul died a martyr but with his faith in his savior, always TRUSTING in Jesus. This feeling of Paul must be possessed by every boy and girl. When you make those words your own when you think that way WITH CONVICTION it will be when your values are really made out of steel! Strong, without fear, no doubt that God is the same today and tomorrow.

Some of you know that some of you have a stainless-steel kitchen in your house and I know that you clean it a lot because what Mom wants is that the shine of the steel doesn't get cloudy. In the same way, God wants to get shine out of us with every good and bad circumstance that happens to us in our life so that we may be like Paul and always trust in Jesus. Like Porfiria, a little girl who studied at Linda Vista's College.

She was studying at a beautiful Adventist school called Linda Vista, it's a beautiful university but it's pretty cold there in the winter. Porfiria had only one blanket! And it wasn't enough to warm her up because her feet were always too cold for her to fall asleep. Poor little Porfiria, before going to bed she would clog up a few bottles of very hot water on her feet but in the middle of the night the water would cool down and then she would wake up again and that's how she about it every day. She was already exhausted because she got up at four in the morning to work in the kitchen.

That night when he prayed he decided to ask God for help. She remembered the verse from Matthew 21:22 "And everything you ask for in prayer, believing it you shall receive". So, in her prayer she said: Lord Jesus, send me something to warm my feet, they get very cold and I can't sleep. Amen.

And what do you think? Porfiria for the first time in that winter was able to sleep through the whole night! What happiness she stretched out her whole body with a smile of gratitude, when suddenly... she felt... something hairy on her feet, it was like a hairy ball! Scared, she shrugged her legs, carefully lifted the blanket to see what it was, and guess what was in her bed? The she heard something that made this noise: MIAUUUU!!! Do you know what it was? Yes, a beautiful kitten!! However, Porfiria was afraid of cats so she scared him off and chased him out of his room, and the poor kitten ran out.

The next night when she prayed she remembered the kitten and said to God she was a little sorry for the way she treated the cat. Heavenly Father if that is the answer to my prayer then send it back to warm my feet, but please let it be when I am already asleep because it scares me a little. I promise I won't hurt it anymore.

Once again, she was able to sleep all night long, how happy she was! But when she stretched her feet... what do you think she felt? Yes, a hairy ball! For a second time the kitten came to lie on Porfiria's feet. Then she treated him with affection because she knew that this kitten was obedient to the voice of God. Porfiria says that all that winter the kitten would arrive at night and silently place herself on her feet at God's command. What a beauty! We have a God who listens to our requests and responds to them with the purpose of strengthening our faith.

Now Porfiria is a lady and says that this experience was the basis of her faith because it was a way that God showed his love for her. And gave her the assurance of his existence and power.

God allows us all to go through experiences so that we may grow, and our faith may be strengthened. **Remember that storms cause trees to put down stronger roots**

So, we should take advantage of every good and bad circumstance to grow. Because the word of God says: "To those who love God all things work together for good"

Theme Song





Here you'll need a person to dress in today's character, Paul. You will also need a pitcher of fruit water (try to make each day a different color) with a sign that says FAITH. Tiny cups for each child.

You will say:

We have invited Paul in an imaginary way to share with us a vitamin that will strengthen our character, he brings a shot of FAITH, for everyone who wants to stay close to God. But for this you must believe that Jesus is the son of God and that the Bible is his word. If you think so, then before you take it you should pray to Jesus asking Him to increase your faith every day. Come closer to take this medicine against unbelief and it will strengthen your faith for the struggle of every day.

After each child has prayed, Paul ends with a prayer of faith.

JOSHUA AND CALEB HEROES WITH STEEL PERSEVERANCE

Today is our second day in the construction of this bridge with steel tie rods, it is becoming very resistant to any natural phenomenon because we have already laid the main foundation that is FAITH. These steel suspenders represent the strength of our character, our job is that we have to polish it very well, polish it, because it is the only thing that will accompany us to our Heavenly Homeland.

Let us begin our message of this day by repeating the key verse of this week of prayer called "steel values." Romans 8: 35, 38 and 39; these verses illustrate the great value that Paul placed on God. And hopefully by the end of this week we will repeat this verse with the same conviction as Paul did in the past.

Let's open the word of God tonight and go to the book of Romans 8: 35:38 and 39 It goes like this:

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor present nor future, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Marcos was poor and from a large family, he lived in a very fertile village where a great variety of fruits were grown. And he loved to go to Mr. Armenta's orchard because they always had some fruit for sale. One day Marcos received ten pesos and thought he could buy some fruit he could share with his brothers. Well he thought, it has to be a big, tasty fruit! One that is green on the outside and red on the inside? Very well, he decided to buy a watermelon, so he ran to Mr. Armenta's orchard. He looked for the watermelon plants and finally found it, he chose the biggest watermelon! And then Mr. Armenta comes along and asks him:

Do you want a watermelon Marcos? Yes, I want the biggest one. Marcos answered.

Very well, it will cost you 20 pesos Mr. Armenta's said.

Marcos, a little sad told him: Oh, but I only have ten pesos

Well, says Mr. Armenta: For ten pesos you can take this one!

Oh, but that one is too small, and it will not be enough to share with my family. But a brilliant idea came to him, and he decided to buy it -okay he said here is the ten pesos- Marcos said very happy.

When Mr. Armenta was going to cut it, Marcos stopped him and said:

Look, Mr. Armenta, since that watermelon is now mine, I'm going to ask you to let it grow for a few more days and then I'll come for it.

Mr. Armenta said very surprised: My goodness, how clever you turned out to be!

A few days later Mark returned to the garden and found that his watermelon had grown and was ready to be cut and savored by the rest of his family.

Why do you think Mark's watermelon grew? Very good, because he left it stuck to the branch! And then it fed on the plant's sap and was able to grow. What value did they find in Mark? He was very kind and persevering.

My engineers today are going to place two steel straps. (Put the name of the values - goodness and perseverance - on the straps) these will make our character more resilient.

The Lord left said in John 15:5 I am the vine and you are the branches. He who abides in me, as I in him will bear much fruit; for apart from me you can do nothing.

This story of Mark and the Watermelon leads me to think that we are like the plant of the watermelon or the vine. In order to grow and bear fruit, the plant has to stay close to the root so that the plant is nourished. In the same way God is the root of our life, which represents strength and if we separate from the root (which is God) that passes away? We dry ourselves up because just as a plant cannot bear fruit by itself separated from the root, so also, we without God can do nothing!

This reminds me of two heroes of the Bible who, thanks to the circumstances in which they lived, managed to cultivate perseverance and as a result their faith was strengthened.

. Let us look to the word of God in the book of Deuteronomy 1: 19:45.

Joshua and Caleb's life was not pleasant, they were born as slaves in Egypt and spent most of their childhood and adolescence making bricks for the pharaoh. When they were young they had to watch as the plagues struck the Egyptian people. Yet how grateful they were to belong to the Hebrew people that God had chosen as His special people to take them to a beautiful place where food, pasture and no one else would be a slave.

What most impressed Joshua and Caleb was when the army of Pharaoh was about to reach them in front of the sea and not knowing how to escape, God opened a way in the middle of the sea so that everyone could escape. Their hearts overflowed with gratitude to their Savior and they joyfully joined their voices to the rest of the people in a song called Mary's song. Every day in the desert the evidence of God's presence was with them, by day it accompanied them through a cloud that gave them the freshness of a shadow and during the night the presence of God accompanied them through the same cloud but now it provided them with light and warmth. It also protected them from the predators that abound in the desert.

Every morning I could see how God's gracious hand would drop manna (food from heaven) to feed them. How amazed they were when on a day of drought, Moses with a blow was able to draw water from a rock.

After fifteen months of exodus, for the first time, they looked on in ecstasy at the green hills and fertile valleys of their future home. The much sought after Canaan, how excited they were to behold the desired land, of which their ancestors had spoken so much.

They had to wait because the next step was to choose twelve men, one from each tribe, to go ahead and explore the country. They were going to find out the best way to get in and settle down for good. Each one had to bring a kind of report on the region they were visiting. The whole village gathered to see them leave. We only know the names of two of the spies: Caleb, of the tribe of Judah and Joshua, of the tribe of Ephraim.

Forty days passed and finally the twelve spies were seen returning. They were loaded. To transport a single bunch of grapes, they did it between two men, because of how big they were!

Joshua, full of courage, said: The land that God intends to give us is a wonderful place, indeed it flows with milk and honey. We brought this fruit as a token of what we are saying.

Up to that point, everyone was smiling. Until the other ten spies added:



But the people who inhabit this land are very strong and the cities are very large and fortified. We have also seen giants. There are many very powerful tribes, we are like locusts and they will tear us apart.

And they kept on telling everything. Joshua and Caleb said they would conquer the land confidently, but the other spies said otherwise:

They are not more powerful than we are, they will crush us in an instant.

The Israelites were very discouraged. The bible says: "Then the whole congregation raised their voices and the people wept that night."

Then the people began to murmur against their leader Moses and forgetting what God had done for them in the past they commented:

It would have been better if we had died in Egypt or even here in the desert," they said, angrily, proposing:

- Let's pick another chief and go back to Egypt.

Then Joshua and Caleb stood up to the people and cried out:

Let us not forget that the Lord loves us and has been with us every day and He will guide and protect us, do not be afraid.

Let's stone them! Let's stone them! - shouted the fury

Suddenly, God appeared beside the Tabernacle and the rebellious crowd was speechless.

When God spoke, they understood the great mistake they had made. They had said that they would rather die in the desert; well, they would have what they had desired. God told them:

"As you have spoken to my ears, so shall I do to you. In this desert their bodies will fall. All you who are more than twenty years old, who have murmured against me, shall not enter into the land which I swore to give them to dwell in it, except Caleb and Joshua. But your children, I will introduce them, and they will enjoy the land you despised. According to the number of the forty days that thou hast recognized the earth, forty years ye shall wander in the wilderness."

They had to pay a very high price for not trusting God. Sadly, the people of Israel stopped looking at Jesus and forgot all the miracles that God had done with them. They did not persevere in the struggle.... In times of difficulty it is very easy to see our problems, sinking us into pessimism, negativity, disappointment. Our human nature is very fragile, we quickly forget the victories God has given us through our lives. That is why every day we must contemplate Jesus, as Caleb and Joshua never forgot that they were accompanied by an almighty God with unconditional love and inexhaustible grace. In this way they managed to remain strong as steel, conquered the Promised Land and with perseverance waited for the fulfillment of the faithful and true promises of the God of the impossible.

Prayer

Here you will need a clear, crystalline pitcher with color and flavor water that says PERSEVERANCE. Little cups to give the kids a shot like medicine.

You will say:

Unfortunately, most of those who left Egypt did not enter the promised land, Canaan. Without a doubt, they lacked the steel of perseverance. In the face of danger, they lost the courage to fight. Perhaps the same thing will happen to us on our way to the Celestial Canaan, it is likely that in the desert of our lives we will face some giants that will be difficult for us to exterminate.

A giant can be something that destroys the strength of our character, such as unbelief, by thinking that Jesus will not return. However, remember that nothing that the Lord has said in His Word will fail to be fulfilled. Remember the promise of Revelation 22:12 we must persevere in this promise





Another giant may be entertainment, we are as absorbed in modern gaming as we are: XBOX ONE, online internet games that we forget we must spend some time of the day with our best friend who is Jesus. We despair because our friends don't connect to play and when they don't, we get so sad! In the same way Jesus feels when he sees that the day is passing, and you didn't connect with him.

No doubt we need a portion of Perseverance. That is why we have invited Joshua and Caleb in an imaginary way to share with us some perseverance. It will have the function of a medicine if you pray to God before taking it, asking Him to take the first place in your life. (They are given a small glass of fruit water)

At the end, Joshua prays.

Day 3 THE STEEL HEROES OF DAVID'S ARMY

It is beautiful to meet again in this special week for all the children of our church. I am sure that our God watches us happily as we set aside a time of day to meditate on His word and become more concerned with the building up of our character which is a task of eternal transcendence.

The group of participants who will help us remember our verse of the week are ready, so we invite you to come and repeat together these words of Paul that are full of faith.

Let's open the word of God tonight and go to the book of Romans 8: 35:38 and 39 It goes like this:

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor present nor future, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord"

This bridge reminds me of the Baluarte bridge on the Mazatlán - Durango highway. It was not easy to build that road in Mexico's largest mountain range, the Sierra Madre Occidental. They were able to build 61 luxury tunnels, 230km of road and the most difficult part was to build the Baluarte bridge where the most dangerous area called the devil's hut was located at a depth of 42 meters. The best engineers in the country were hired and they did it!

In the same way, it is not easy to build a character with firm values in the midst of this world besieged by evil where good is called bad and bad is called good. However, God has already hired the best engineers to work with our character, do you know who they are? Well, it is the Holy Spirit who is our counselor and the thousands of angels who care for us every day. And I am sure that God will accomplish the transformation of our character if we keep ourselves integrated into His word.

So, the steel straps to be placed today are INTEGRITY, this will help to further strengthen our character so that nothing and no one destroys it. So, we're going to ask today's engineers to move on to the steel tie-strap.

But to understand today's issue we first need to know what integrity is, we can say that integrity is doing the right thing even though no one is watching you. I'll explain it to you with the following story.

James is the son of a pastor, when he was about four years old he made Jesus his best friend, he liked to be told over and over again the story of David and Goliath. What he enjoyed most was staging the story, so his father became Goliath and he became David.

One evening after playing David and Goliath, his father gave James a surprise, the surprise was that he would sleep with Santiago in his little bed that night. So, James' father made himself comfortable on the right side of his son, but to his surprise, James stopped him and told him:

Dad, you can't sleep on that side. You have to sleep on my left side.

The father, a little surprised, asks his son: "Why can't I sleep on the right side, James?"

To which the boy very confidently said: Well, because that's where Jesus goes to bed.

Oh! The father was so happy to have a son that had made Jesus his best friend.

The years passed, and James became a teenager in high school. One afternoon he went out with a group of friends to eat and celebrate a birthday party and from there everyone agreed to go to the movies to see the Rambo movie, which was then a premiere. Everyone but James entered, they begged him to go in with them, but he said, "No, I'm waiting for you outside at the tables eating popcorn.

The next day a rumor spread at school that the group of teenagers had entered the cinema. This came to the pastor's attention and he was saddened to think that his son had done it too. So, when he had the opportunity he spoke to James and told him what he had heard. To confirm his doubts, he asks James. and you son went to the movies?

Yeah, Dad, I went to the movies too.

And how did you feel? The father asked him

Well, I was a little pressured by the insistence of my friends.

- and will you do it again, son? asked the father, still sad.

To what James very honestly says: - Not really, Dad, because I prefer to eat popcorn with Jesus here at home.

The father, a little confused, asks him, "What do you mean, eating popcorn with Jesus?"

James, clarifying, says to him: Yes, Dad, Jesus accompanied me to the tables outside the movie theater and while my friends were leaving the movie, Jesus and I were eating popcorn. Of course, I wasn't going to leave Jesus out there just waiting for me to leave the cinema. If Jesus doesn't come in, then I shouldn't come in either!

The pastor says: At that moment I realized that I could now die in peace, for my son had made Jesus his faithful companion in life.

This is called character integrity, doing the right thing even if your parents or teachers are NOT watching you. It is very certain that Santiago is a successful man because people of integrity are valued in all jobs.

James reminds me of the soldiers of King David's army, the king valued them so much for the integrity they showed him on different occasions. They were really as strong as steel, but more than their physical strength they were loyal, completely devoted to their king. That's why he gave them positions of trust, they were the closest to the King.

I will tell you some anecdotes that King David wrote in his memoirs and that we can find in the book of 2 Samuel 21 and 23

King David has been the most beloved and respected king of the people of Israel. He earned that affection by being a very considerate man to everyone, always manifested acts of kindness and empathy with all those who were at his service. The word of God is not wrong to call him a "man after God's own heart".

King David's reign was always in constant territorial struggle with the nearby towns, which is why he had a large army of soldiers who were always on vigil to protect the life of their King. In addition to the army, David had a special group of 30 soldiers who took care of his life, called the thirty brave men of David. In addition to their physical strength they were chosen for their integrity to the king.

I'll tell you about the exploits of David's officers.





It happened at a time when David was a little older, the Philistines resumed the war against Israel, and David went out with his officers to face it. But David was exhausted, so a giant named Isbibenob tried to kill him, armed with a new sword and a bronze spear, weighing more than three kilos. However, Abisay Sarvia's son came to his aid and wounded the giant and killed him. There David's soldiers swore this oath to him: **“Never again will His Majesty go out with us into battle, lest someone should kill him and the lamp of Israel should be extinguished.”** 2 Samuel 21: 15-17.

Do you realize how much love and care these faithful soldiers felt for their King David? For them, David was a light to his people. Losing their king is like being left in complete darkness. They may well have made their own the words of our verse this week. Who will separate me from my king? Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence? Absolutely nothing separated them.

On one occasion three of the thirty bravest went to the cave of Adullam, where King David was hiding. It was the beginning of the harvest, and an enemy Philistine troop camped in the valley of Refayin. And at that time there was a Philistine garrison in Bethlehem. David was very thirsty, and he exclaimed: I wish I could drink water from the well at the entrance to Bethlehem!

And when the three mighty men heard the king say this, they went into the camp of the Philistines, and drew water out of the well of Bethlehem, and took it to David. But he would not drink it but poured out the water in honor of the Lord and solemnly declared: May the Lord save me from drinking it! That would be like drinking the blood of men who have risked their lives! And he wouldn't drink it. (2 Samuel 23: 15-17) King David never thought lightly of what his soldiers did for him. They really were very faithful men willing to do anything to protect His Majesty's health and life.

Have you ever seen a sword attached to a hand without the hand having to make an effort to hold it? Well, it happened to one of David's brave men. I'll tell you about it:

During the war with the Philistines, three of David's brave men stood against the enemy army. Eleazar, who was the second most famous, stood firm and defeated so many Philistines that his hand was stuck to his sword due to fatigue. Can you imagine? It must have been amazing for everyone who saw it, right? That day the Lord gave him a great victory. (2 Samuel 23:10)

Many children admire Samson because he was a very strong man and he also fought with a big lion and killed him. But I want to tell you, among David's heroes there was also a brave man who faced a lion! Do you want to meet him?

Another of David's three brave men was Benaiah, the son of Jehoiada, a warrior who performed many deeds. On one occasion when it was snowing, he went into a cistern that was like a well or a waterwheel, to protect himself from the cold and snow, when to his surprise the cistern was already occupied by a lion! Can you imagine the great fear that must be felt to be in the same hole with a fierce lion? So, the lion became angry and attacked Benaiah, who killed the lion without a weapon to save his life.

How much physical strength does it take to defeat a lion! Or to fight 300 men at a time like Eleazar did. But more than physical strength these men were of an unwavering character with firm principles. That positive attitude they had in adversity in the constant struggles depended on an integral relationship with the God of Israel. They knew perfectly well the history of their people. **They knew that they had the support of an Almighty God because they were sure that the strength and victories they had come not from the army but from God.**

In the same way, today we must know that God wants His people to be a holy people, a firm principle that they should not be sold or bought.

Prayer dynamic

Here you will need a clear, crystalline pitcher with color and flavor water that says PERSEVERANCE. Little glasses and three young men dressed as the brave men of David.

Every day we must again seek God with faith and ask him to be the priority in our lives, that Jesus may take first place in everything. Let every decision we make be accompanied by integrity. But, to achieve this, we must be willing to face the consequences of our actions. Because as imperfect humans we are, we are prone to make mistakes. That is why we have invited the heroes of David into our imagination to offer us a portion of INTEGRITY, this will only work if, before taking it, you pray for God to make you brave enough to face every challenge, the strength to overcome evil and the courage to reject sin.

(Children volunteer to drink their small glass of fruit water.)

One of the brave ones ends with a prayer.

Day 4

THE STEEL FIDELITY OF THE YOUNG HEBREWS

This week has really been blessed for all of us, it is incredible the work done by every builder of this bridge. It's turning out very beautiful! But the most important thing is that it's safe and resilient for any life circumstance. We know that every steel strap represents a value of our character. It is very important for every Christian to maintain a character based on strong principles because it says in his word: "You will keep the one with a firm character in perfect peace, because he trusts in God." Isaiah 26:3).

So, it's time for our engineers to move on to placing the steel FIDELITY strap, without a doubt every day our bridge that takes us to heaven is getting stronger. See how beautiful our bridge is turning out to be! Thanks to all the engineers who are still working.

We are happy because in the middle of our week we already see that this week's key verse is almost learned. Let's repeat it again, let's say it with all our hearts that it is evident that we speak sincerely with conviction as the Apostle Paul did.

(The group of children with the corresponding illustrations enters) Let's open the word of God tonight and go to the book of Romans 8: 35:38 and 39 It goes like this:

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence?

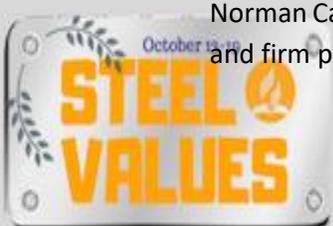
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor present nor future, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord"

The question Paul asks is interesting: Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Then he mentions some options that could lead us away from God. Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence? What could possibly separate you from God? I hope nothing. The truth is that some people have left the church, they have separated from God because they have suffered losses in their lives and their character has not been as strong as steel to endure tremendous pain. However, I would like to mention a beautiful sentiment that I would like you to learn:

"GOD ALLOWS US TEMPORARY PAINS TO GIVE US PERMANENT BLESSINGS."

I love this thought because it reflects the character of Christ, He loves us so much! that whatever bad circumstances the enemy puts in our way, God transforms it into a blessing for our life. Like in the case of Brother Norman Carey of an Adventist church in Central California, USA.

Norman Carey is a man very dear to his church, that love is because he is a person of noble character and firm principles. He's very kind and helpful. When he was 15 years old he got his first three bee



hives and from that moment on he works with them. Most of his life has been devoted to the care of bees and the cultivation of the sweet honey that these hard-working animals produce without rest. Brother Carey takes very good care of his thousands of bees, he prepares a very nutritious bread especially for bees, he also places special water with some substances that make the bees enjoy wellbeing.

He and his workers are very vigilant about the health of their bees when they get sick and quickly put medicine in their food to help them heal. They take care of them from colds that they may suffer and for this reason, they protect them from cold weather, which is why the many bee houses they have are constantly changing them to warmer places so that they don't get sick.

Around the end of November in 2017, the weather became very cold where they live so they decided to take the bees in their little houses further south in California because the weather was warmer there. So, they put the houses on the trucks and took them up into the bush there. Nearby there were other bee houses of other companies.

Weeks went by and Brother Carey said that one morning Irineo, his trusted worker, spoke to him and informed him that there was a tremendous fire in the woods, the mountains of southern California that had already been ravaged by many miles of woods and houses and that he was approaching the place where the bees were. So, they made the decision to take the trucks to pick up their poor little bees before they died in that big fire.

Some workers rushed out to rescue the bees, but when they arrived, the many firefighters who were guarding the area did not let them pass because the fire was already there. So, sadly, the worker Irinaeus calls Brother Carey on his cell phone and tells him about the situation.

Brother Carey tells us that right there where he received the tragic news, he knelt down and prayed like this: [Dear Heavenly Father, I am only one of your stewards, everything I have belongs to you. These bees are also yours and I give them to you. If it is your will that they die or if you decide to let them live it is okay, my Lord, I accept your will.](#)

It took three days to put out the fire, many beautiful houses were burned down and many miles of forest were burned down. So, when the fire was controlled, they went to see where their little bees were. And what do they think? Oh, Surprise! Everything was burned down except the land where the many white bee houses were, they couldn't believe it, how was it possible? They approached to see inside if they were alive and healthy, not a single bee was missing, not a single bee died. We can look at the photograph that the same brother took in that unforgettable moment, we see how everything is black and burnt, the other hives of the other companies were also burned, but miraculously those of Brother Carey remained intact. Right there they knelt, wept and thanked God for being a real God who even today lets us see his great love and care for his faithful children.

I imagine a group of angels of the Lord surrounding those little bee houses looking after them, so nothing would happen to them. [Do you realize how the most fragile thing like a bee God makes it strong in the face of any adversity?](#) That's the wonderful thing about having God on your side. Your values are made of steel, and you become an excellent human being with a character of firm principles like that of Brother Carey.

Brother Carey's FAITHFULNESS also reminds me of what happened to three young Hebrews, this remarkable experience is found in the Word of God in the book of Daniel chapter 3.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young Hebrews who had learned to respect and love God from their childhood. Every day before any activity they prayed and studied the sacred scriptures. They lived a life very dependent on God, they never forgot him, three times the horn in Jerusalem sounded to invite the people to pray, morning, noon and night. Wherever these children were, they turned their faces toward the temple and bowed their faces in respect for their God.

Their faith in God was as strong as steel because from a very young age they had heard from their grandparents the stories of the many miracles God had done in bringing his people out of Egypt, the



many ways he had freed them from the enemy armies and the many wonderful things that had happened with those people so special to God.

Sadly, Jerusalem was invaded by the Babylonian army and the strongest young men among them Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were taken prisoner; now they were in a different place, Babylon, it was a country with a very powerful king, with different customs. However, because of their good performance and strength they were chosen to serve King Nebuchadnezzar.

King Nebuchadnezzar was very impressed with a statue he dreamed of and ordered that the statue be made all of gold, with the intention of showing that his empire, represented by gold, would last forever. The height of that statue was thirty meters, it was a big statue! When it was ready it was transported to a large plain, spacious enough to bring the entire population of Babylon.

He then sent an invitation to all the important people of his empire to attend the dedication of the statue he had had erected. People from all over the world began to arrive. At the appointed time, the herald made silence prevail, and then proclaimed aloud: It is commanded to you, peoples, nations, and people of all languages. Know that as soon as you hear the music of trumpets, lyres, harps, flutes, and all kinds of instruments, you must kneel down and worship the golden statue.... Whoever does not kneel down and worship will be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Immediately, as soon as the music began to sound, the great crowd knelt down and worshipped the golden statue, as the king had commanded. At that scene, the king must have been very proud. But his joy was short-lived, for some astrologers soon approached, and hastened to accuse the young Jews.

They said to Nebuchadnezzar: O king, live forever! You have issued a decree by which all men, hearing the sound of music, must kneel down and worship the golden statue, and whoever did not do so must be cast into the burning fiery furnace. But there are some Jews who have not obeyed. Naturally the king was furious and wanted to know who it was.

They were Jews called Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. To whom you gave important positions in Babylon.

Bring them here at once!" said the king.

The three young men were taken to the presence of the king who asked them very angrily:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Was it on purpose that you did not serve my gods and worship the golden statue I had made? I'm going to give you another chance. The orchestra will sound and you will kneel to adore the image. If you do, everything will be fine. If you disobey again, you will be thrown into the burning furnace. "Then we'll see what God delivers you from my hands."

How awful to be burned alive! And they knew the king would keep his promise. Burning people alive was a traditional punishment in Babylon. Yet despite this, they responded respectfully:

[We don't have to defend ourselves to His Majesty! If we are thrown into the burning furnace, the God we serve can deliver us from the furnace of fire and from His Majesty's hands. But even if he does not, know that we will not honor your gods or worship your statue.](#)

At the response of the three young men, Nebuchadnezzar became more furious and changed his attitude toward them. He then ordered the oven to heat up seven times more than normal. And that some of the strongest soldiers in his army bind the three young men and throw them into the burning furnace. That's how they threw them in the oven just as they were dressed. So immediately was the king's command, and so hot was the furnace, that the flames reached and killed the soldiers who brought the young men in, who, bound hand and foot, fell into the burning furnace. At that moment the king stood up and, surprised, asked his advisors:

Were there not three men we tied up and threw into the fire?

They said to him, " So it is, your majesty."





Look at this! Impossible not only are they alive, but instead of three now there are four men in the oven!

The people who were near the king also went there to observe what was happening.

The king continued speaking, "How is it that I now see four of them walking quietly through the fire, and that the fourth is like the Son of God? Then Nebuchadnezzar came to the door of the furnace and he called

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of God, the Most High! Get out of there! Come outside! Come outside!

The young people came out of the burning furnace, all could see that none of them had even a singed hair, nor were their clothes. The fire had consumed only the ropes that bound them.

The king himself was so impressed that he forgot his golden idol and said:

Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They would rather die than worship another god. Therefore, I now make another decree by which whoever says anything else offensive against the God of these young people will be punished and their house will be destroyed. Then the king helped these young men prosper in Babylon.

GOD ALLOWS TEMPORARY PAIN TO GIVE US PERMANENT BLESSINGS.

It is incredible this experience that the young Hebrews had of how the fire did nothing to them! However, we know that we cannot do the impossible with our own strength. It takes faith and great fidelity in God. These young people are a real sign that a human being can achieve the impossible if only he depends on God and thus achieve a character of firm principles like steel. God has not promised a life without problems, without fears, without challenges, no, but He has promised to be by your side in the most difficult moments of your life. Just as he was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, he will be with you as long as you let him.

Prayer dynamic

Here you will need a clear, crystalline pitcher with color and flavor water that says PERSEVERANCE. Small cups for each child

Faithfulness is scarce today, we need more faithful friends, spouses who respect their marriage covenant, workers who are honest in their responsibilities and Christians who honor God in their way of life. That's why we invited the young Hebrews to imagine that they give us a portion of Faithfulness, the only condition is that you pray before taking it and ask Jesus for forgiveness if at any time you worship other gods such as infidelity, greed, lies, etc... Ask Jesus to forgive you and record His commandments in your mind so that you will not sin against Him again.

One of the representatives ends with a prayer.

Day 5

A MAN OF STEEL, THE HUMBLE JOB.

We are super happy to see our sturdy bridge almost finished, this week our engineers had a lot of work to place each steel strap that will allow our bridge to maintain great stability and strength in the face of any tremor, hurricane of our lives.

Let's go over every steel strap that they've placed on it: FAITH, PERSEVERANCE, INTEGRITY, FIDELITY. Today we ask our engineers to come in and we are going to put on another very important strap for our character that is: HUMILITY.

Nothing less than this element so essential to our character, you know without this strap our bridge may be fragile, in the future it could be broken by the important place where it is. The same thing



will happen with our character, if we lack humility, everything we have built in life will collapse. I don't think anyone would want to end their life ruined, would they? Well, then let's work on it.

It's time to review our precious verse of the week. Let's repeat it with all our hearts as if it were a promise we made to our great God.

Let's open the word of God tonight and go to the book of Romans 8: 35:38 and 39 It goes like this:

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Tribulation, or anguish, persecution, hunger, destitution, danger, or violence?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels nor demons, nor present nor future, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love that God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord"

I want to begin today's reflection by quoting the verse from Isaiah 57: 15 it says like this:

"For it is said by the exalted and sublime, the one who lives forever, whose name is Holy: I dwell in a holy and sublime place, but also with the contrite and humble in spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and encourage the heart of the broken."

What an extraordinary fact our God makes known to us, he says that he dwells in a beautiful and holy place. Here he is making reference to the heaven where he has his abode. But he is also saying that he is leaving heaven to dwell with the humble, to revive his spirit, to give him joy, peace and encouragement to go forward.

What a beautiful thing! God promises to dwell in me and in you. But there is a condition, he asks you to be humble in spirit. And what will it mean to be humble in spirit? Well, to understand, we're going to meet a character of steel called the humble Job. Once you know him you will understand why it is often said that someone is humble like Job.

The story is found in the book of the Bible that has the same name, Job.

There was a man named Job, who lived in the land of Uz, he was a good and honest man, very religious, who did no harm. He was well respected by all and this man had ten children (seven males and three females). He owned many animals: seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred pairs of oxen and even had five hundred donkeys. He had a large number of servants at his service. He was the richest man in the whole East and since he was sincere, correct and loved God very much, we can say without mistake that he was a very happy man.

Job's whole family was very close, even though his children were already married and often gathered to celebrate some important event.

Everything was going very well. They were very happy until something terrible happened. Do you know what happened? One day a messenger came to Job's house and said:

Lord Job, the oxen were tilling the land and the donkeys were grazing nearby when the inhabitants of Arabia appeared and took them away. Your servants were also wounded. I'm the only one left to come and tell you what happened.

Job was very saddened that the thieves had taken the cattle and what had happened to his servants, but immediately another messenger appeared, coming from other fields, and told him:

Lord Job, a mighty lightning fell from heaven upon the flocks and upon your servants and destroyed everything. Only I managed to escape to come and tell you the news.

Job was still thinking of the terrible storm and the poor shepherds when a third messenger appeared with even worse descriptions than the first ones:

Lord Job, three groups of Chaldeans appeared and attacked your servants and stole all your camels. I'm the only one left to come and tell you.

This servant had not yet finished speaking when another messenger arrived with the most terrible news of all:

Lord Job, his sons and your daughters were having a party in your eldest son's house and suddenly, a very strong air came from the desert. It hit the house on all four sides and knocked it down, killing them all. Only I managed to escape to come and tell you the news.

Job had managed to accept the other misfortunes but his children...! It was too terrible!

So, Job got up, tore his cloak, shaved his hair (as was customary at the time when people were in mourning or misery) and very anxiously knelt down and prayed to God with the following words:

“Naked I came out of my mother's womb

And I'll take nothing with me when I die.

The Lord gave me everything I owned.

So, he had the right to take back what ultimately belonged to him.

The Lord be praised.”

Despite everything that happened to him, Job did not attribute the blame to God. Therefore, it is no wonder that God loved Job so much and that he considered him one of the best men who lived on earth.

Sometime later, when Job was also suffering from a serious illness which was leprosy, he was very badly judged by his friends as they rebuked him and told him to repent of his sins because his misfortunes were consequences of God punishing him because he had behaved badly.

To everyone's surprise, God spoke to them and told them that they were wrong that Job was a man of integrity and humility, and that God's plans are often not understood by man.

After that God gave Job more than he had and also ten more children. But the best part of all this is that Job confirmed his great love of God for him.

Do you remember the thought from yesterday? **GOD ALLOWS TEMPORARY PAIN TO GIVE US PERMANENT BLESSINGS.**

And how right is this thought, because we see in the story of Job that it is not true that misfortunes are consequences of our disobedience to God and that God punishes us for our bad behavior. That's a big lie the devil has made us believe so we'll be angry with God. The truth is that the evil that happens in our lives is the cause of the enemy who wants to destroy us, but God is so powerful that He has a thousand ways to turn those calamities into blessings for our good. God allows such bad things as sickness, problems, natural phenomena, etc. Because it is through these bad circumstances that we can see the reality of the power of an Almighty God and then our faith is strengthened.

After every sad experience, we are no longer the same, there is a good transformation in our character that is what our God desires a character more like that of Jesus.

The most beautiful thing about the small human being is not his physical appearance, nor his possessions but his essence, his temperament, the principles that move him to act in a certain way.

It is said that when you look at a worm and a caterpillar with the naked eye they both look apparently alike, but if you pay attention to them you notice





noticeable differences: the worms feed on rotten food and carrion and the caterpillars on green leaves and vegetables, the worms always crawl and the caterpillars erect half their body to eat, the worms undergo a change in their life becoming flies and die in the dirt. However, the caterpillar also undergoes a change, a metamorphosis in its life becomes a spectacular butterfly and dies near its usual place among the flowers next to a pleasant smell. You know the caterpillar lives happily and dies happily because its image was not that of a worm it always looked like a butterfly because its interior had already been transformed into a butterfly before its exterior became a butterfly. When you believe and truly feel that God has worked a change within you, you will be able to achieve what you most desire A CHARACTER JUST LIKE JESUS, because you have the greatest and most beautiful image of all, the image of God.

Prayer Dynamic

The purpose of living on this earth is for us to prepare ourselves to live in heaven. Let us remember that the only thing we will take to heaven is our character. Every day we must stay as close to Jesus as possible so that we can stay strong as steel and our character become more like the character of Christ.

On this bridge we can see its straps that represent a value of our character and was represented by a character from the Bible. Today we invite our Heroes of this week to place themselves with the courage they represent and you my dear child will reflect on what value you need to perfect in your life. For example, if it is humility you go with Job, if you need faith you go with Paul and so on, we will form prayer groups to go to our good God who is willing to give good gifts to his children as long as we ask him.

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