

Practicing Faithfulness (cont.)

“How’s it going?” Dad asked.

“Okay, I think,” Tim said. “Will you check the yard after I’m finished to see if it looks all right?”

“Good idea,” Dad smiled. “Just call me when you’re ready.”

Tim finished the front yard and pulled some weeds in Mrs. Snider’s flower bed; then he ran home to get Dad.

Dad and Tim walked through the back yard, then the front. “I see a few spots that you missed over near those trees,” Dad said. “But everything else looks pretty good for the first time. You worked hard, and I’m proud of you.”

Tim started up the lawn mower and mowed by the trees again. He was glad that Dad was proud of his work. Mrs. Snider met him outside and gave him ten dollars for the two hours he had worked.

“Thanks!” Tim grinned as he took the money. “I’ll do it again in two weeks!”

“That’s fine,” Mrs. Snider smiled.

The two weeks flew by! Tim noticed that the grass was higher than before, and there were lots more weeds in the flower bed this time. He dreaded Saturday.

**“The LORD will give
grace and glory:
no good thing
will he withhold
from them that
walk uprightly.”**

—Psalm 84:11

On Friday night, his best friend Jake called and asked if Tim could camp out with him in his back yard. Tim really wanted to go, but he knew he’d have to get up early and hurry home to mow. He asked his dad what he should do.

“You may go, but you’ll just have to leave early. Your Saturday job comes first,” Dad reminded him.

“I know,” Tim said. “I said I would do the job, and I have to do it. You know, Dad,” Tim continued, “I understand something in the Bible better now. You and Mom have always taught me to keep my word and do what I say I’ll do. I never thought about it hurting other people if I didn’t. But if I’m not faithful with my job, it will hurt Mrs. Snider. I don’t want to disappoint her.”

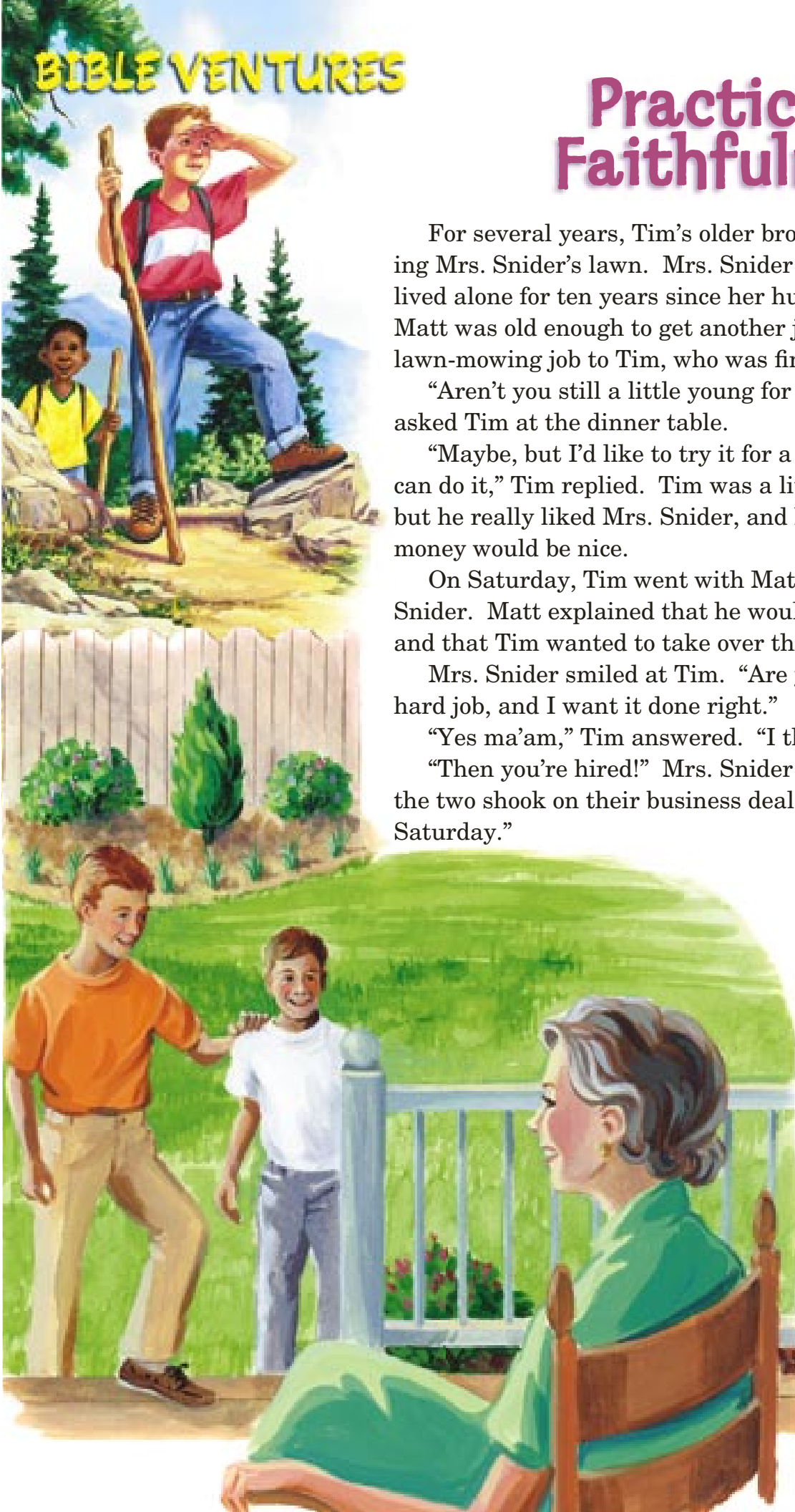
“That’s a very grown-up attitude, Tim,” Dad said. “God wants each of us to be faithful in whatever job we do. The Bible teaches us that if we are faithful in the little things, God will give us greater things to do for Him.”

Tim had fun camping at Jake’s house. The guys cooked hot dogs over the campfire and then made s’mores. The next morning, Tim left right after breakfast to mow Mrs. Snider’s grass. Although he may not have thought about it, he was practicing the faithfulness that pleases God.

Explore the Bible each day

Sun	—1 Samuel 18:1–4
Mon	—1 Samuel 18:5–9
Tues	—1 Samuel 18:10–16
Wed	—1 Samuel 19:1–3
Thurs	—1 Samuel 19:4–6
Fri	—1 Samuel 19:7–11
Sat	—1 Samuel 20:35–42

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Practicing Faithfulness

Cheryl Reid

For several years, Tim’s older brother Matt had been mowing Mrs. Snider’s lawn. Mrs. Snider was a widow who had lived alone for ten years since her husband had died. Now Matt was old enough to get another job, and he offered his lawn-mowing job to Tim, who was finishing up fourth grade.

“Aren’t you still a little young for a job like that?” Dad asked Tim at the dinner table.

“Maybe, but I’d like to try it for a few weeks and see if I can do it,” Tim replied. Tim was a little afraid to take the job, but he really liked Mrs. Snider, and he knew that the extra money would be nice.

On Saturday, Tim went with Matt next door to talk to Mrs. Snider. Matt explained that he would be getting another job and that Tim wanted to take over the lawn job.

Mrs. Snider smiled at Tim. “Are you sure, Tim? It’s a hard job, and I want it done right.”

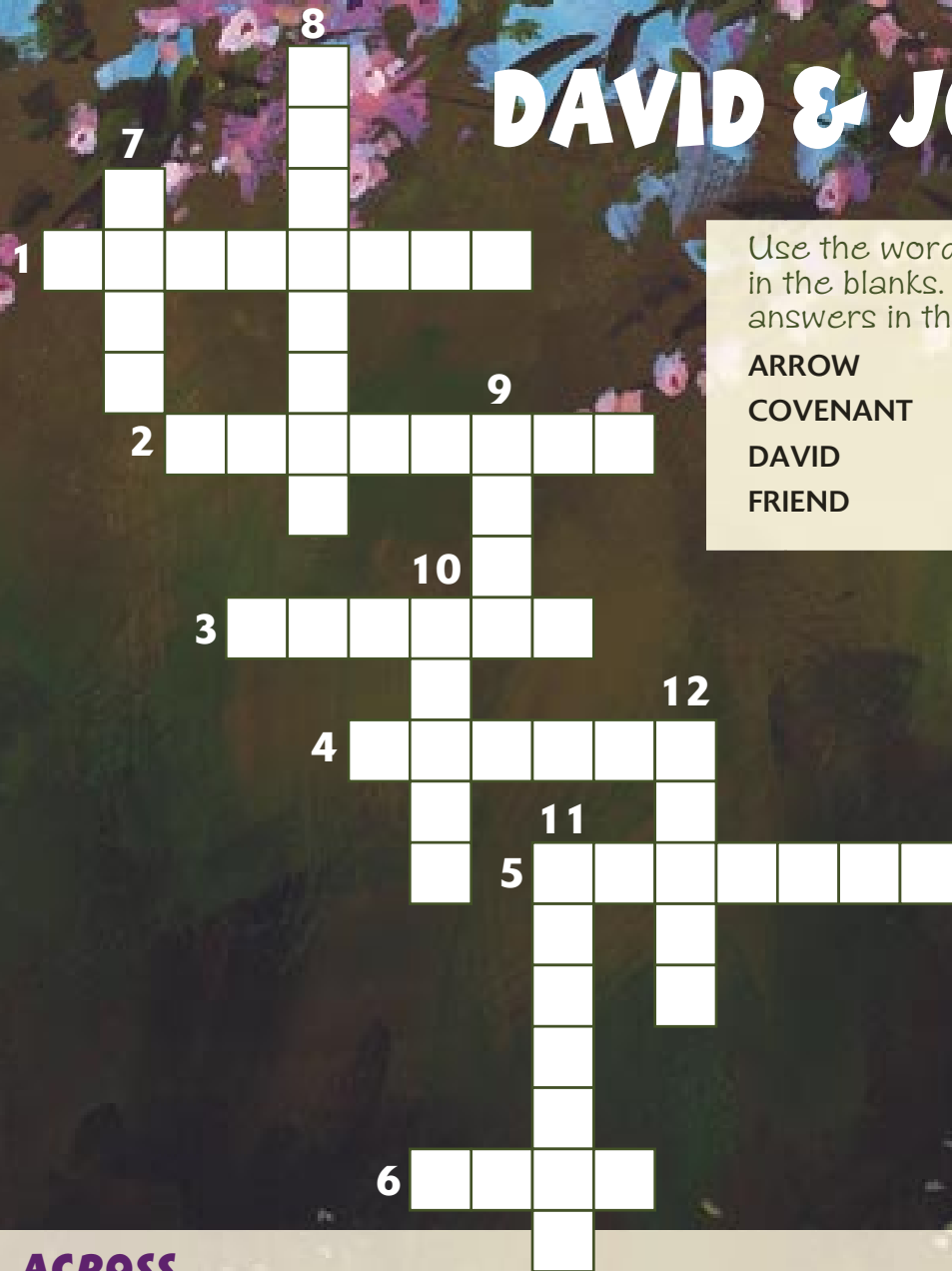
“Yes ma’am,” Tim answered. “I think I can do it.”

“Then you’re hired!” Mrs. Snider held out her hand and the two shook on their business deal. “You can start next Saturday.”

Tim was up early and ready to work the next Saturday morning. He and Dad checked the oil and gasoline in the lawn mower, and Tim started mowing the back yard. It was a warm day, and Tim was hot and sweaty before long. When the back yard was finished, he took a break and ran home for something to drink.

(continued on back page)

DAVID & JONATHAN



Use the words below to help you fill in the blanks. Then write the correct answers in the crossword puzzle.

ARROW	GARMENTS	JAVELIN
COVENANT	HARP	JEALOUS
DAVID	HIDE	JONATHAN
FRIEND	ISRAEL	SAUL

ACROSS

- Jonathan gave David his _____.
- David's best friend was _____.
- All of _____ loved David.
- David was Jonathan's best _____.
- King Saul threw his _____ at David.
- Because the Lord was with David, King _____ was afraid of him.

DOWN

- David played his _____ for King Saul.
- Jonathan and David made a _____ together.
- David had to _____ because King Saul wanted to kill him.
- Jonathan shot an _____ in the air as a sign to David.
- King Saul was _____ of David.
- _____ behaved himself wisely.



FRIENDS IN THE BIBLE

When your friends look at you, what do they see? You either influence them for good, or for bad. The Bible is a good guide to help us become the right kind of friend. Read the following verses about friends and answer the questions.

Luke 10:30–37 What good character trait did the Samaritan show to the wounded man? (v. 37) _____

2 Kings 5:1–3 Who knew the answer to Naaman's leprosy? (vv. 2–3) _____

John 11:1–5, 43–44 What were the names of three special friends of Jesus? _____

What did Jesus do for them? (v. 44) _____

Acts 22:6–13 Who was sent by God to Saul? (v. 12) _____

Daniel 1:7, 8, 12–13, 15, 17, 19 Because Daniel and his three friends chose together to do right, how did God reward them? (v. 19) _____

Look for these qualities in a friend:

- Christian
- good attitude
- honest
- puts others ahead of himself
- respects authority

List other qualities that are important in a friend:

DO YOUR FRIENDS SEE THOSE QUALITIES IN YOU?

Ask God to help you **BE** the right kind of friend, as well as **CHOOSE** the right kinds of friends.