

14.18a Thirteenth Judge - Samson, Promised Son (Judges 13:1-25)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- Beka Flash-a-Cards for Judges are recommended.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Nazarite* or *Nazirite*: someone dedicated to God. According to Numbers 6, “he may not take wine, or anything made from grapes; he may not cut the hair of his head; he may not touch the dead” (<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11395-nazarite>).

Scripture: (ESV)

Judges 13:1 And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

2 There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. 3 And the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. 4 Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, 5 for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” 6 Then the woman came and told her husband, “A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome. I did not ask him where he was from, and he did not tell me his name, 7 but he said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

8 Then Manoah prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, please let the man of God whom you sent come again to us and teach us what we are to do with the child who will be born.” 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman as she sat in the field. But Manoah her husband was not with her. 10 So the woman ran quickly and told her husband, “Behold, the man who came to me the other day has appeared to me.” 11 And Manoah arose and went after his wife and came to the man and said to him, “Are you the man who spoke to this woman?” And he said, “I am.” 12 And Manoah said, “Now when your words come true, what is to be the child’s manner of life, and what is his mission?” 13 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. 14 She may not eat of anything that comes from the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean thing. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

15 Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “Please let us detain you and prepare a young goat for you.” 16 And the angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “If you detain me, I will not eat of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, then offer it to the Lord.” (For Manoah did not know that he was the angel of the Lord.) 17 And Manoah said to the angel of the Lord, “What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?” 18 And the angel of the Lord said to him, “Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?” 19 So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the Lord, to the one who works wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching. 20 And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the Lord went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground.

21 The angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the

angel of the Lord. 22 And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, for we have seen God.” 23 But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering at our hands, or shown us all these things, or now announced to us such things as these.” 24 And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the Lord blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahaneh-dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Introduction/Review:

We’ve learned about the ninth judge, Jephthah. Let’s review his background. When I pause, you fill in the words. He was rejected by his _____ [half brothers]. When he moved away, he gathered some pretty worthless men to him. No other leader was available to fight against the Ammonites. So his _____ [brothers] asked him to lead them and rule over them. He won the victory over the Ammonites.

Three more judges followed Jephthah. Only a few verses are given to them, but they were important men in their time.

Story:

After the judges Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, and Abdon died, Israel again did not obey God but did evil, worshiping other gods. What had happened before when Israel sinned like this? [God delivered them into their enemies’ hands.] Name some of those enemies. [Canaanites, Moabites, Midianites, Ammonites.] Now God delivered them into the hands of the Philistines, who lived right next to Israel along the Mediterranean coast [locate]. The Philistines harassed Israel forty years. That’s as long as some of your dads have been alive.

Angel of the Lord and Manoah’s wife

There was a man from the tribe of Dan [locate] named Manoah. His wife was barren. What does that mean? [She couldn’t have children.] Some other women in the Bible who were barren were Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel. God later gave them children.

Enter the Angel of the Lord. We have learned about the Angel of the Lord before. He is Jesus in the Old Testament before He was born into this world. In other words, He is God the Son—*God*. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah’s wife, saying, “You are barren and can’t have a child, but you will conceive and bear a son. Now be careful not to drink any grape juice or wine or to eat any unclean thing because your son will be a Nazirite from the womb. Indeed, your child will begin to drive out the Philistines.”

My! What an exciting announcement! Not only would barren Manoah’s wife have a child but also would she have a son to start the process of driving out the Philistines! What a privilege to be the mother of such a child!

Manoah’s wife and Manoah

Manoah’s wife went to find her husband. “A man of God, whose face was like an angel’s face (an angel of God) came to me. He was scary, but I didn’t ask where he came from or his name. He told me I’ll have a son and not to drink grape wine because our son will be a Nazirite from the time of his birth until he dies.”

Such incomprehensible news as this sent Manoah to his knees. He prayed, “O my Lord, let the man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we should do with the child to be born.” ✓Manoah dearly wanted this son to be trained as God wanted him to be trained. Was this a good request? [Yes.] How and where can we learn how to rear up a child? [In God’s Word.] What if the philosophy of the day contradicts what the Bible says? [We should follow the Bible’s instruction.]

Angel of the Lord with Manoah and his wife

God listened to Manoah’s prayer and appeared to the wife again as she was alone in the field. Immediately she ran to Manoah. “The man that appeared to me the other day is back!”

Manoah ✓quickly followed his wife back to the place where the Angel of the Lord waited. “Are you the man

that spoke to my wife the other day?”

“Yes, I am,” answered the Angel.

Manoah replied, “Now let your words happen as you say. How shall we train the child? What will his work be?”

“The woman must be careful to do exactly as I said—no grapes or strong drink; no eating an unclean thing. Let her obey all my commands,” answered the Angel. (Notice that this passage says nothing to answer Manoah’s request about training the child.)

“Let us keep you here until we make ready a young goat for you to eat,” said Manoah.

Offering to the Lord

“I’ll wait but not to eat your food. If you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it to the Lord,” said the Angel. Now Manoah didn’t know this was *the* Angel of the Lord, but we know who the Angel of the Lord is—God Himself in the person of Jesus.

Yet, Manoah was intrigued and wondering. “What is your name?” he asked. “We want to know so that we may honor you when these things happen.”

The Angel gave a strange answer. “Why do you ask My name, since it is secret or wonderful.”

Students, the only One whose name is *Wonderful* is Jesus. Isaiah 9:6 later prophesied these words about Jesus: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: . . . and *his name shall be called Wonderful*.”

Well, Manoah got the goat meat and a grain offering ready and offered it on a rock to the Lord. (Remember how Gideon did the same thing?) Then the Bible says the Angel “did wondrously” [KJV], going up in the flame from off the altar as Manoah and his wife watched.

Suddenly, they fell on their knees with faces to the ground. Why? Because they realized this was God—*the* Angel of the Lord. In fact, Manoah exclaimed, “We are going to die, for no man can see God and live. We have seen God!”

But Manoah’s wife, retaining her senses, reassured, “If the Lord wanted to kill us, (1) He would not have received our offering; (2) He would not have shown us all these things; and (3) He would not have told us all these things now.”

Did the woman have a baby? Of course, for God had said she would. The boy born was named Samson, which means “serving like the sun.” The child grew, and God blessed him.

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus:

The Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Angel of the Lord said His name was *Wonderful*, a name also designated for Jesus: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: . . . and *his name shall be called Wonderful* . . .” (Isaiah 9:6).

Activities:

- Play dough: man; angel
- Snack: If possible, serve bite-sized pieces of cooked goat or lamb with whole-grain crackers.
- Play act the angel, the wife, and Manoah in three scenes: (1) Angel and wife; (2) Manoah and wife; (3) Angel, wife, and Manoah.
- Discuss the appearance of the Angel of God. Note that both Manoah and his wife called him a “man of God.” That means that, although he was very impressive, he still looked like a man. In other words, he

didn't have wings; otherwise, he would have given away his identity immediately. Manoah's wife described him: "A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like the appearance of the angel of God, very awesome."

- Sing the names of the judges to the tune, "Ten Little Indians."

Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah,
Gideon, Abimelech, Tola, Jair,
Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon,
Samson, and Samuel.

- Review questions: (Game: "Don't Touch the Grapes." Print, back with paper towel, and cut apart the clipart of a cluster of grapes found below. Place all eleven parts on a flannel board. Students who answer questions correctly will remove a grape from the board without touching it with their fingers. They may use a tweezer or two small sticks to remove a grape and place it in a container below the flannel board.)

1. When Israel again turned away from God, whom did He send to harass them? [Philistines.]
2. How long did the Philistines trouble Israel? [Forty years.]
3. What was the name of the man in this story? [Manoah.]
4. What was the problem Manoah's wife had? [She was barren.]
5. Who appeared to Manoah's wife? [A man of God; an Angel of God—Jesus.]
6. What did the man of God promise Manoah's wife? [That she would have a son.]
7. Fill in the blank. "The child shall be a _____ to God from the womb to the day of his death." [Nazirite.]
8. Name one of the two things the man of God told Manoah's wife to do. ["Drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean."]
9. When did Manoah and his wife realize that they were actually dealing with God? [When the flame went up toward heaven from the altar and the angel of the Lord went up in that flame.]
10. According to the definition of *Nazirite*, what three things was a Nazirite forbidden to do? [He was not to drink wine or eat anything made from grapes; not to cut the hair of his head; not to touch a dead body.]

Memory Verse[s]:

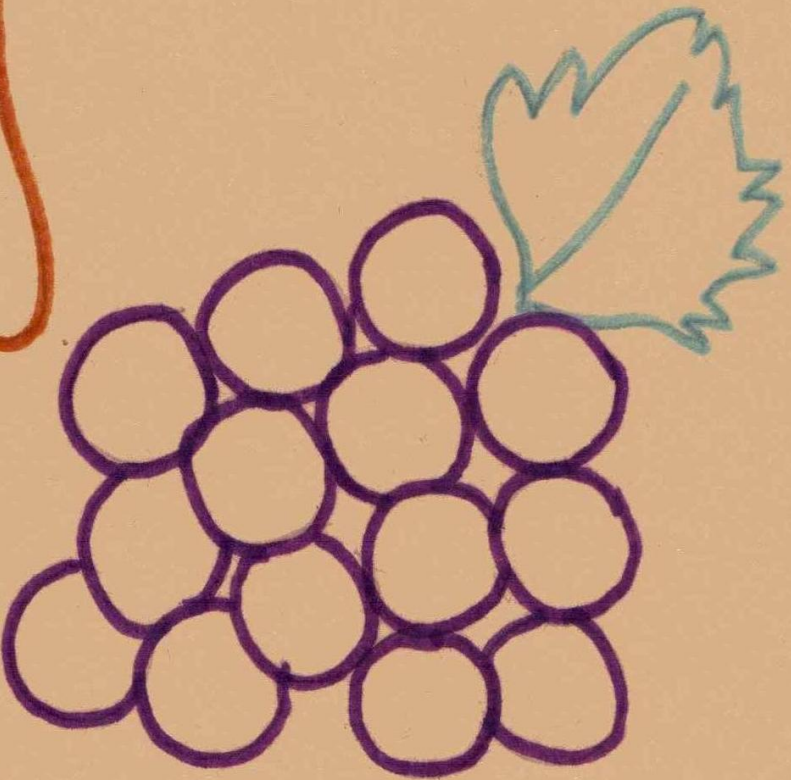
- Judges 13:18— And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

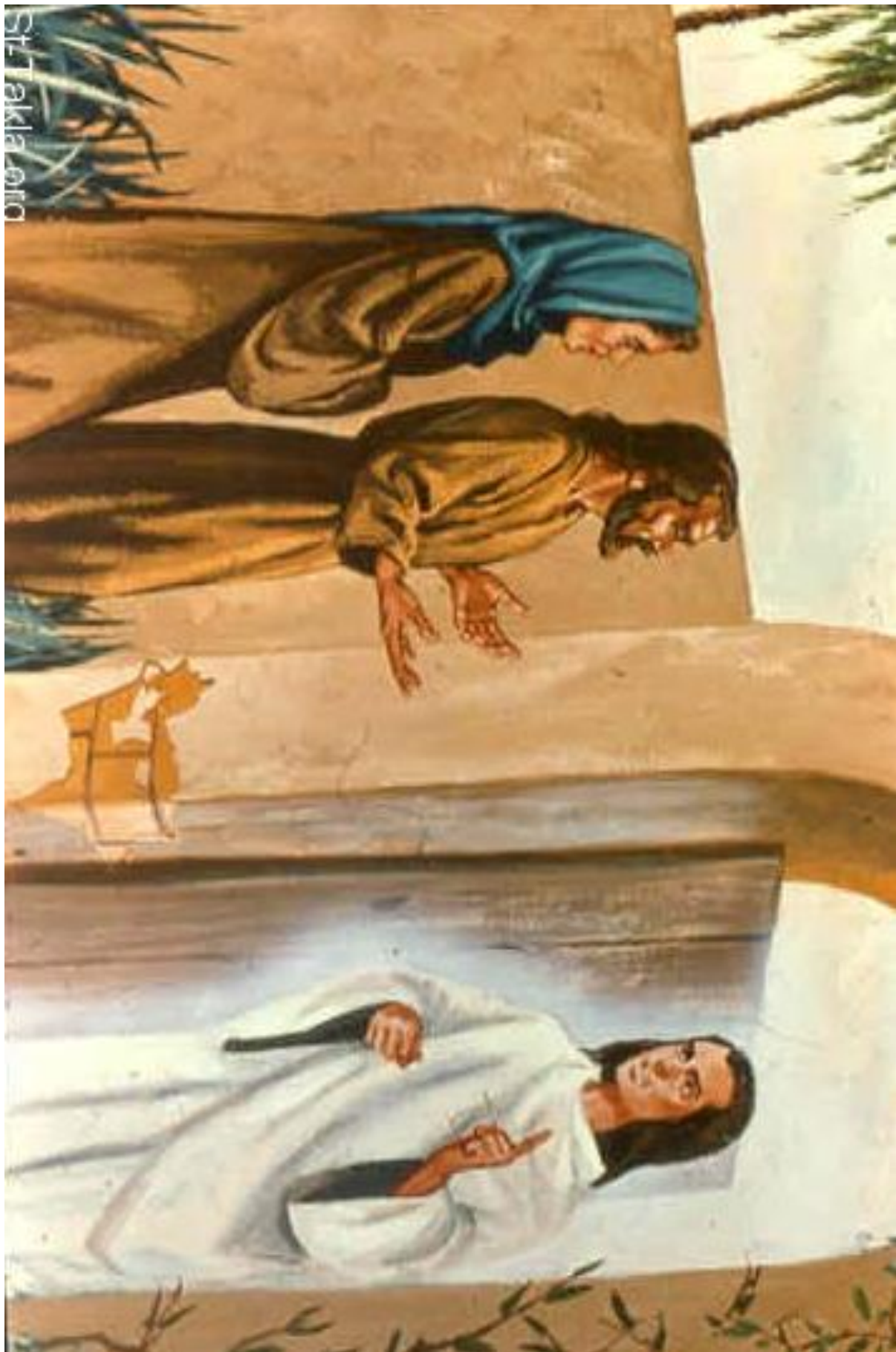
Handwork:

- Color the Nazirite page found at the end of this lesson.

Nazirite

Nazirite

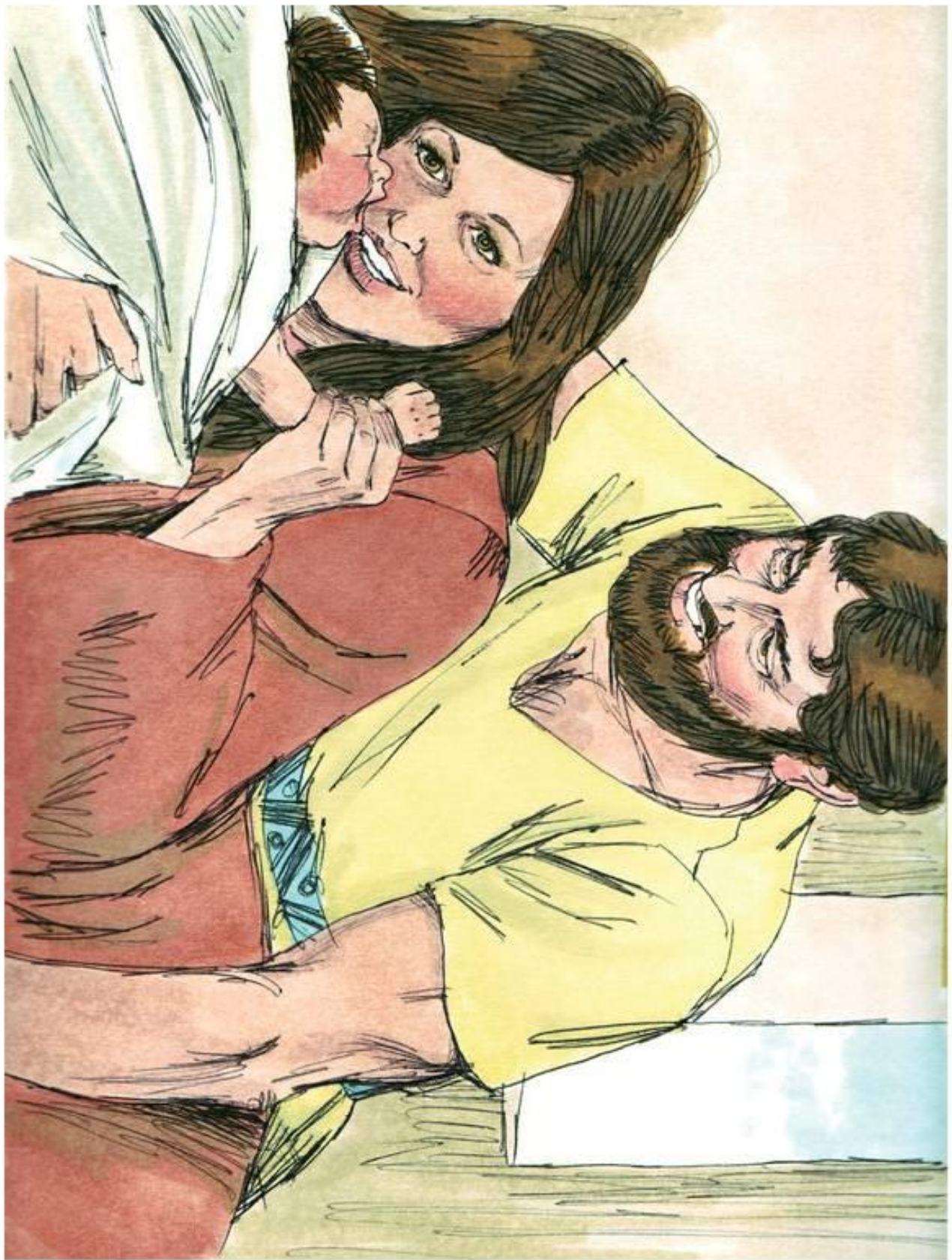


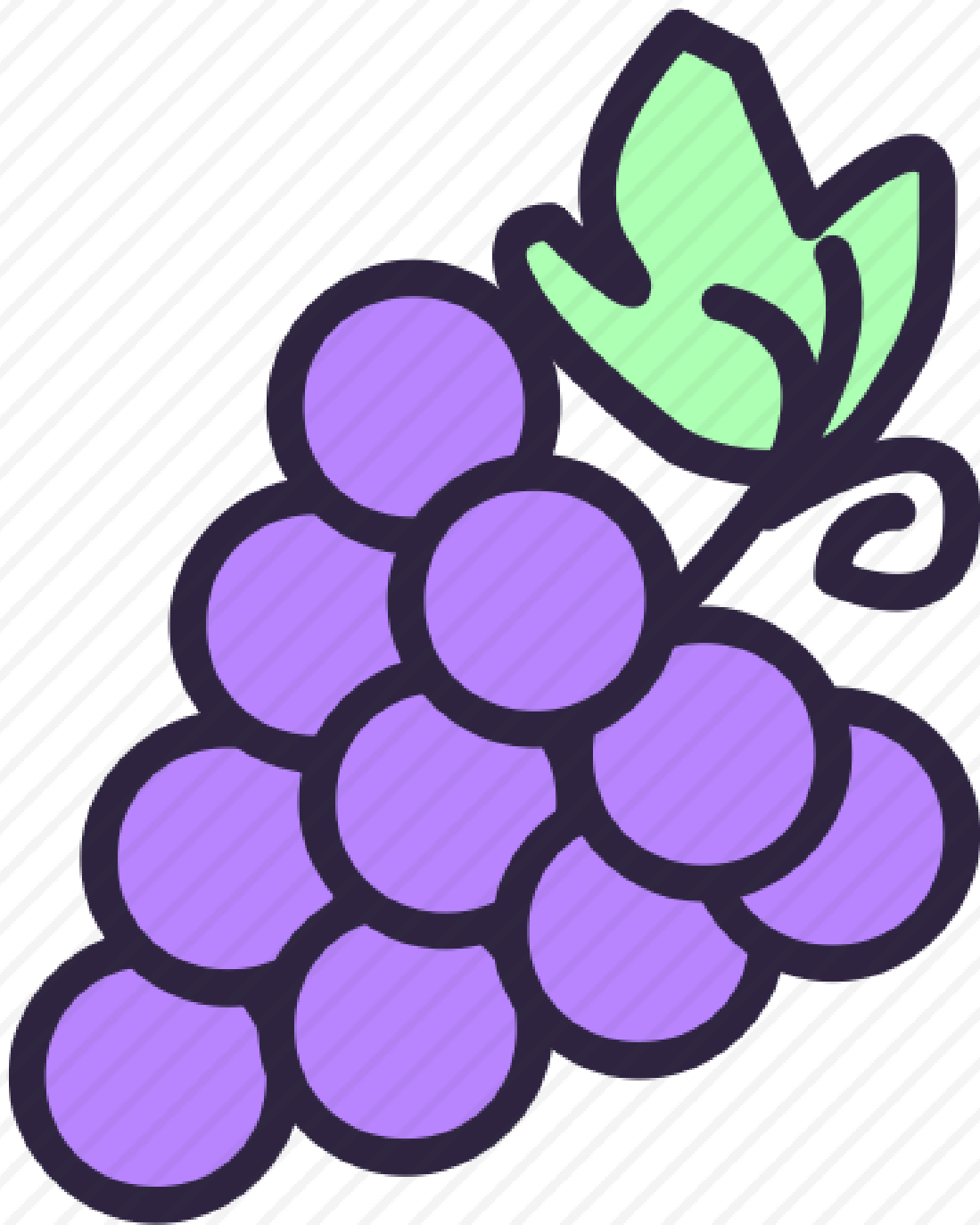






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Ndzirite

