

THE LOYALTY OF ITTAI STUDY GUIDE

Note to teachers/parents. The following questions and activities can be used to help children learn while reading the book. There are questions on history, geography, Bible, etc. It is not an exhaustive list but is provided to give you an idea of questions and activities you can use. I encourage you to use these and/or some of your own to help your children learn while they read *The Loyalty of Ittai*.

Chapter 1 The Sword Fight

1. What does “spoil” mean in reference to war?
2. Look at a map of the Middle East during the time of King Saul’s reign. What were the five cities of the Philistines? Which city did Ittai live near?
3. Where did the Philistines come from? They were sometimes called the “Sea People”. Why? (There is a lot of uncertainty regarding the origin of the Philistines, however, this is a good question for students to learn to do research).
4. Was that a common occupation during that time? What was Ziza’s occupation after he couldn’t fight in wars?
5. When Ziza told Ittai to get the cattle, what good character trait did Ittai show?
6. Why did Ittai have to walk so far to get the cattle? What part of the year receives more rain in the area where Ittai lived?
7. Read I Samuel 4:1-11. When Israel was losing the battle, what did they do? Did it help them win? Why? What should they have done instead?
8. Read I Samuel 5:1-12. What did the Philistines do with the Ark? What happened when it was in the temple of Dagon?
9. Read I Samuel 6:1-21. How did the Philistines get rid of the Ark?
10. What other stories from the Bible did Ittai think about as he went to get the cattle?
11. What was Ittai’s prayer at the end of the chapter?

Chapter 2 The Horrible Champion

1. Why did Ittai and Padi go into the city of Gath?
2. What did they talk about as they were walking?
3. How were kings normally chosen in their culture?
4. Read I Samuel 8:1-9. What did the elders of Israel want? Why?
5. Read I Samuel 10:18-24. Who was anointed king in Israel?
6. Why did Ittai and Padi have to hide?
- 7.

Chapter 3 Soldiers at Last

1. Where were Ittai and Padi going?
2. What was the tent made of? Was it light or heavy?

3. What did they eat for supper?
4. What did Ittai and Padi have to do instead of sleeping?
5. What did they take with them? What would it be used for?
6. What was Ittai thinking about while he stood guard?
7. Activity: Find a recipe for lentil soup. Make it and try it for dinner. Is that something you would like to eat often?

Chapter 4 The Horrible Challenge

1. Read I Samuel 17:1-16. What does “set the battle in array” mean?
2. What is an amour bearer? Who in this chapter had an amour bearer?
3. What did Goliath do? How many days did he do it? How did the Israelite soldiers react?
4. What did Ittai and the other soldiers do in the middle of the day? Why?

Chapter 5 The Challenge is Answered

1. Read I Samuel 17:17-31. Why did David’s father send him to the battle? What was David’s reaction to Goliath’s challenge?
2. Read I Samuel 17:32-37. Why did David think he could defeat Goliath even though no one else could? Who was he depending on?
3. David started to wear Saul’s amour. Why did he change his mind? What did he take instead?
4. What is a shepherd’s bag?
5. Read I Samuel 17:41-47. Why did Goliath disdain (mock) David? In verse 47, who did David say would give him the victory?
6. What happened to Goliath? How did the Philistine army react? How did the Israeli army react?
7. The Lord helped David win the battle. Can you think of a time when the Lord helped you?
8. Activity: Make a sling like David used. (Various patterns are available online). Use a ping pong ball and see how well you can throw it using the sling.

9. Chapter 6 The War Continues

1. What is a war made up of?
2. Why was there conflict between Saul and David?
3. Read I Samuel 21:10-15. Where did David go to try to escape Saul? Why did David become afraid?
4. What did David do to escape from Achish?
5. When David left Gath, what did Ittai want to do? What stopped him from doing it?

6. David and his men were living in the wilderness. What do you think it would be like to live in the Judean wilderness?

Chapter 7 Giving Aid to the Enemy

1. Read I Samuel 27:1-7. How many men were with David? Were there other people with them?
2. When Ittai took David into the palace, what was his concern?
3. What did King Achish agree to do for David? Why do you think he did it?
4. What did Ittai offer to do for King Achish?

Chapter 8 Discouraged

1. Why was Ittai discouraged?
2. What had King Achish given to David?
3. Who did Ittai go to talk to about his discouragement?
4. What characteristics attracted Ittai to Tirzah?
5. Why did Tirzah go to the market?
6. Why didn't Tirzah talk with Ittai much when they first met? Have you ever felt shy?
7. What was the most important thing Ittai and Tirzah had in common? Why is that so important?
8. When Ittai talked to Tirzah about David being gone, what did she tell him to do?
9. What did Tirzah have to do before she could make the bread? What kind of bread did she make?
10. Activity. Find a recipe and make a loaf of barley bread. Do you think it would be hard to grind grain and bake bread every day to be able to eat?

Chapter 9 Answers at Last

1. Why did Ittai always carry his sword with him?
2. What was the road like that he took to Ziklag?
3. What did he pray as he walked?
4. Was Ziklag built on a hill or in a valley? Why?
5. What was David's favorite subject to talk about?
6. What doubts did Ittai have about Dagon?
7. What things did David tell Ittai about the Lord?
8. Read Psalm 3:8. Who gives salvation?
9. At the end of the chapter, what was Ittai's concern?

Chapter 10 Whosoever Will May Come

1. Does someone have to be a Jew to know the Lord? What are some examples that David gave Ittai?
2. Read Romans 10:13. According to this verse, who can be saved? Does it matter what a person's background is to get saved?
3. What was Ittai's response to hearing of salvation through Jehovah?
4. David didn't have the complete Bible, so he didn't understand how God was going to accomplish salvation. Read Romans 5:8. What does this verse say that God did to provide salvation?
5. Have you received the salvation that God provides through Christ?

Chapter 11 An Awkward Situation

1. What was Tirzah's reaction to the things Ittai told her?
2. Why did Ittai go back to Ziklag?
3. What should you do to keep learning about the Lord?
4. When King Achish called for David and his men, what were they going to do? Why would that be awkward for David?
5. Read I Samuel 29:1-11. How did God work out the situation to help David?
6. What responsibilities did Ittai have? Does being a leader mean making everyone else do the work?
7. What things did Ittai see as they walked? During Ittai's life, it was called "The Great Sea". What is it called now?
8. Look on a map of the area of the Great Sea. What countries surround it?
9. What was on the other side of Ittai as he walked?
10. Where did they have to walk through to get to the Jezreel Valley?
11. Look for pictures of the Jezreel Valley, Megiddo, etc.
12. Why did Ittai decide to retire from being a soldier?

Chapter 12 David Returns to God's Will

1. Read I Samuel 30:1-4. Why was it a blessing that David had been sent back by King Achish?
2. Read I Samuel 30:5-20. Who helped David and his men to find their wives and children?
3. In verses 18-19, what was David able to recover from the Amalekites?
4. Why did Ittai and Tirzah decide to live on the farm? Who is responsible for taking care of the elderly? Does that always happen in our culture?
5. What promise of God was fulfilled in David's life?
6. David had sinned. What was Ittai's reaction to it? What should our reaction be to others who fall into sin?

7. What was the most important thing that Ittai taught his children?
8. What decision did Ittai and Tirzah make? What did he do before he made the decision? Should we always pray before making decisions?

Chapter 13 Choosing the Blessing of God

1. What surprise was waiting for Ittai when he returned home from Jerusalem? What did his friends want?
2. What was David's attitude about people from other countries? Can you think of others who lived in Israel from other countries? (II Samuel 11:3 is one example).
3. Read Isaiah 56:6-7. Will God receive people from other countries and cultures if they seek Him?
4. How many men and their families moved from Gath to Jerusalem?
5. Read II Samuel 15:1-6. Who was Ittai concerned about, who might cause problems for David?

Chapter 14 The Loyalty of Ittai

1. Read II Samuel 15:13-23. Why did the people have to leave Jerusalem?
2. Look at a map of Israel. How far is Hebron from Jerusalem? (Approximately 24 miles). If someone can walk at the rate of 3 miles an hour, how long would it take to get from Hebron to Jerusalem?
3. What things did they take when they left home? What was Tirzah worried about?
4. How did Ittai show his loyalty? Would it be easier for him to go with David or return to Gath? Should we always take the easier route?
5. Are there consequences to our sin, even though God forgives us? Are others affected by our sin? How did David's sin affect others?
6. In the Bible, it always talks about going "up" to Jerusalem? Why? (see page 80).
7. Where did they camp for the night?
8. Read II Samuel 17:17-24. What did Jonathan and Ahimaaz tell David to do?
9. What do you think it would be like to cross a river in the dark?
10. Why was the walk hard after leaving the Jordan River Valley?
11. What city did they end up in?

Chapter 15 The Faithfulness of God

1. Read II Samuel 17:27-29. How did God provide for David and his followers? What things were provided for them?
2. Do you think God blessed the people who provided for David? Read II Corinthians 9:6-7, Isaiah 58:10-11, Proverbs 22:9. Have you ever helped someone who was in need?

3. Read II Samuel 18:1-4. Who were the three captains over David's army? Why did the people tell David he shouldn't go with them? What does "succour" mean?
4. Read II Samuel 18:5-8. What did David command Joab, Abishai, and Ittai? Where was the battle fought?
5. How many men from Absalom's army died? How did most of the men die?
6. What happened to Absalom? How did David react?
7. What had Tirzah been doing while Ittai was in the battle?
8. How were the people comforted?
9. Why did Ittai have to leave Jerusalem again so soon?
10. What did David and Ittai have to look forward to after death?

Epilogue

1. How many people have sinned?
2. What are the wages or payment for sin?
3. What did God do because He loves us?
4. What do you need to do to be saved?
5. Have you done that?
6. Do you know for sure you will spend eternity in heaven?

If you have any questions about salvation, please contact me at Nancy.Hitt@SweeterDaysLiterature.com