



# Stockport Sunday School

August 2021 Newsletter 18



The theme for our Sunday Zoom service on 11th July, was a novel one. Stuart Dean showed us an extract of a video by the actor and broadcaster, Stephen Fry, in which he posed the question: 'Who are the Grown Ups in our modern age?' In effect he was asking, who can we trust to guide us as to how we should respond to life's varying challenges. It's a good question. Should it be the politicians; newspaper editors and leader writers; TV and radio personalities? Or do we rely on Twitter, and other internet sources. Maybe it's in our social circles, our friends, or those we work with. All these may have some validity, but equally they may just be reflecting the individual's view of what will benefit themselves and not the good of society as a whole.



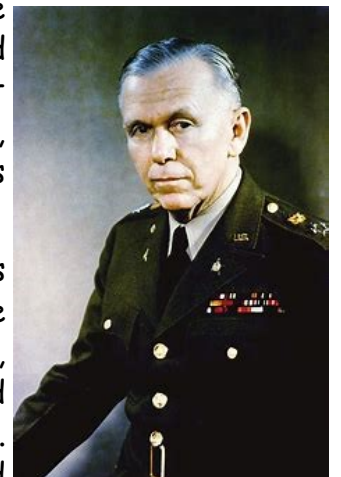
At one point in the broadcast, Stephen Fry referred to the challenge that had faced Germany at the end of the Second World War. Most of us will be familiar with the scenes of devastation as the Allies advanced throughout Europe, and especially in Germany itself. Looking at the ruins of their cities, it must have been almost impossible to imagine how to



start to rebuild, with the houses, offices, road and rail infrastructure destroyed, together with a famine in some areas.

The recent TV news flashes of the damage caused by the severe flooding in Germany in recent days, were painful reminders to the older generations of what some of them had experienced back in those times.

But, within a relatively short period of time, in historical terms, Germany recovered and in due course became a leading economy in the western world. What is often forgotten is that the key to their recovery was the enlightened attitude of the Allies, and, above all, the United States government. Their leaders appreciated that the primary source of World War II was the severity of the terms imposed on Germany by the Allies, driven to a degree by the French, whose population had suffered most from the war waged across their country. As a result of these economic pressures, the German economy collapsed in 1927, opening the door to the rise to power of the Nazi Party and the evils that ensued.



At the end of WWII in 1945, Europe, as a whole, was in a parlous state. A repeat of the 1918 type of settlement would only create another breeding ground for conflict. Instead of punitive measures, the Americans took a different approach by providing an economic aid package, drawn up by the American Secretary of State, George C. Marshall, to help recovery across Europe, - for Britain on one hand through to Germany on the other.

We all owe a great debt of gratitude to those 'Grown Ups' whose wisdom enabled this to happen and the extended period of peace which has ensued.

At about the same time, another significant 'revolution' was taking place in our country, namely the foundation of our National Health Service, an organisation which celebrates its 73<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary this year.



It is hard for the vast majority of the present day UK population to appreciate what an incredible endeavour this was, particularly in the difficult economic situation that existed at the time. It was an initiative that has made a tremendous difference to the quality of our lives, by ensuring medical treatment is available to everyone when necessary, and not just to those who could afford to pay for it.

Again, it was the result of individuals who saw a pressing need and committed themselves to resolving the problem.

Like George C. Marshall, these were men and women who were the 'Grown Ups' of their time. No doubt as individuals they had their weaknesses, but as Jesus said: 'By their fruits ye shall know them' and, as a result, we can honour them.

In our present age, we are once again in tumultuous times. Currently we have the threat posed by Covid, on an international scale. To succeed in overcoming it, we need our leaders to be men and women who will be wise and foresighted in their decisions; 'Grown Ups' who can see the wider picture, and adopt policies which will build a stable and secure future for our country and our world as the American leaders did over 70 years ago.



And there are other equally important issues to be urgently addressed - the provision of long term social care for the elderly in our country, - how to deal with the problem of global warming throughout our planet, - issues of racism, - to name but a few.

We are all involved in these challenges, and we need to decide who we should trust to play the role of Grown Ups on our behalf. At the end of the day, in a democracy, the politicians have to have the support of the majority of the population to be able to implement their plans. It is up to us to make our views known.

In addition, we should remember that we need to play our part as Grown Ups in our own daily lives; in our relationships, not just in our families, but with one another wherever our views and behaviour may be of influence.

So how do we choose who to follow, or how to be 'Grown Ups' ourselves?

Well, might I suggest we let ourselves be guided by the one true Grown Up - Jesus. Let us base our decisions on His teaching. Let us pray for our leaders, that they may have wisdom, coupled with compassion, in their dealings; for them not to make rash promises for short term gain; to be honest in their statements, prepared to acknowledge when they get things wrong or when circumstances change.

For our part, let us be prepared to share the burdens which may be necessary to achieve the goals which we, as a nation, are seeking. Also, let us not seek immediately to apportion blame when things go wrong, as is so often the case in the media, but to be constructive in our approach. As Jesus said: 'Judge not, that ye be not judged.'

Of course, we do have to make judgements between what is right and what is wrong. But in doing so, we also have to try to understand what factors are leading others to different conclusions, and ask ourselves how reconciliation can be reached. It is not easy to do in the heat of the moment but experience tells us it is the only sure way to progress.

So, as followers of Jesus, we seek to play our part in society, let us resolve to keep in mind the words of the hymn:

'Christ is our corner stone, on Him alone we build.'

### COLLECTION

The collection at the lovely Founder's Day service in the car park on June 27th amounted to £61.00.

Thank you to Joyce Darvill for her donation in lieu of collections.

We have received a further cheque for £30 from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Joyce Sellers

### LEGACY

We have been notified that Stockport Sunday School has been left a legacy from the estate of the late Eva Flint, a valued long time member of the School, who sadly passed away a few months ago at the age of 100.



We wish Happy Birthday to the following people who have birthdays this month.

Norman Sellers on 14th August

Joyce Darvill on 18th August

Ken Dean on 29th August

and

Cath Brown on 2nd September

### ZOOM SERVICES

The next zoom services will be:-

August 1<sup>st</sup> Judith Higgins

August 15<sup>th</sup> Garth Higgins

There will be no zoom service on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup>, as it's a Bank Holiday weekend. We hope though that the following service, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September, will be held in Sunday School, but this will depend on Government restrictions at the time.



## ZOOM SERVICES

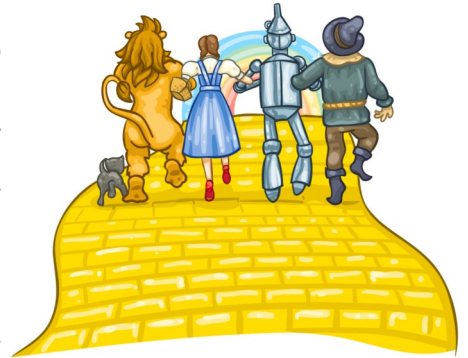


### ZOOM SERVICE, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2021

(Further information for this service can be found in Walter Stead's editorial at the beginning of the newsletter)

Stuart Dean led the service on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>. He talked about how he had run an outdoor event near the canal in Romiley with light music from the shows, including one song from the Wizard of Oz. A video clip was then played by Stuart of Stephen Fry and we were asked to give our opinion on the Wizard - giving false or true news?

Stuart then asked us "Do you believe in free speech?" Stephen Fry expected the answer to this question would be 'Yes'. But how do we sort out what is true news and what is false news or who the actual grown ups are now if in fact there are any? Stephen Fry explained it that free speech actually coerces people, and depending on the scale of it, it can be very upsetting, and in today's society it can become bullying by 1000's causing harm and can even push people to self harm.



In previous years we knew the figures to look up to, eg Nelson Mandela, UNESCO, NATO, but now we have little trust in our leaders and politicians, with Donald Trump a recent example.

Stephen Fry was then seen talking to USA boys asking them whether they wanted to be politicians and put things right when they are older, but the 17 year old said he wanted to be in the FBI first then go into politics later, a good example of starting with small steps and then progressing forward.

Stephen also told about an island where nature had started to recover in one year in small steps to the point that it continued to recover completely.

Stuart gave us another example of taking small steps. He had been reading Barack Obama's biography, where he states that he wanted to make the US health system the best but in order to do that he had to use steps to achieve this, firstly making the step to make the health system good and then better, anything better than before is an improvement moving forward. It is always better to try rather than do nothing eg cleaning our beaches.

In today's society, media speech is used as a weapon, such as on Facebook and Twitter. There should be some accountability by the people who run these to monitor what is put on them, adverts should be removed, and maybe a small charge for people to use them and they are monitored to ensure no bullying or abuse. Social media can be dark and dangerous and we need to instead make it a force for good.

Stuart took as his Bible reading Acts 28 17-31, The Hope of Israel.

Thank you, Stuart, for an interesting and thought provoking service.

# Lancashire Hill Sunday School



## **Recipe**

### ***Tomato Tarts***

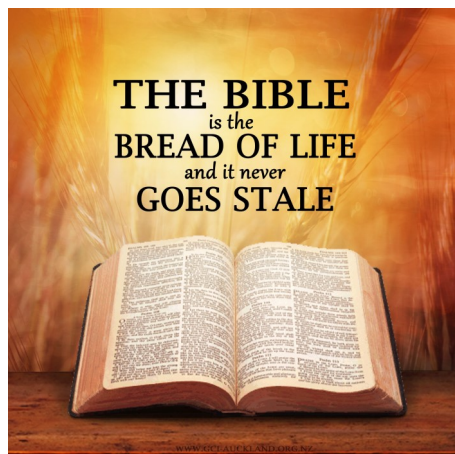
***500g all-butter puff pastry***  
***1 egg yolk, beaten***  
***200g Gruyère cheese, grated***  
***400g mixed tomatoes, thickly sliced***  
***Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper***  
***4 sprigs of thyme, leaves picked***  
***1tbsp rapeseed oil***

Preheat the oven to 220°C/200°F/425°F/gas mark 7

Roll the pastry into a large square, about 3mm thick, then cut out four 17.5cm circles and place on a lined baking tray. Mark a border with a knife about a little finger's width in from the edge, then brush with the beaten egg.

Pile the grated cheese in the centre of each disc, leaving the border free of cheese. Lay the tomatoes on top of the cheese. Season the tarts with the salt and pepper, then scatter the thyme leaves over the top, drizzle with the oil and bake for 15 minutes, until golden brown and cooked through.

Serve with a mixed salad.



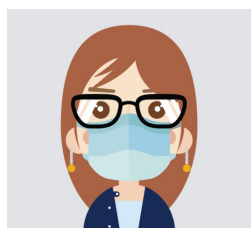
## FRIENDS OR FOES?



Sing a song of face-masks,  
Which one shall I choose?  
Should it match my sweater,  
Or look good with my shoes?



Sing a song of choosing,  
Which shall I wear today?  
I've blue and pink and musical,  
Or, maybe, even grey!



It isn't always easy  
With my glasses, hat and hair.  
It all gets in a tangle  
And I'm trying not to swear!!



Now, what about a vizor?  
Well, I could try that instead.  
But in church at Communion  
Then problems raise their head!



Sing a song of hoping  
That very soon we'll find  
That we won't need our face-masks  
And all problems left behind.



Sing a song of face-masks  
We know you've done your best.  
And thank-you for the help you've been.  
Now \_\_\_\_\_ have a nice long rest!!

Margaret M. Jones



The following articles are taken from The Parish Pump.

## 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

The story is told in Matthew 17, Mark 9 and Luke 9. The mountain may well have been one of the three high spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to 9,000 feet. This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

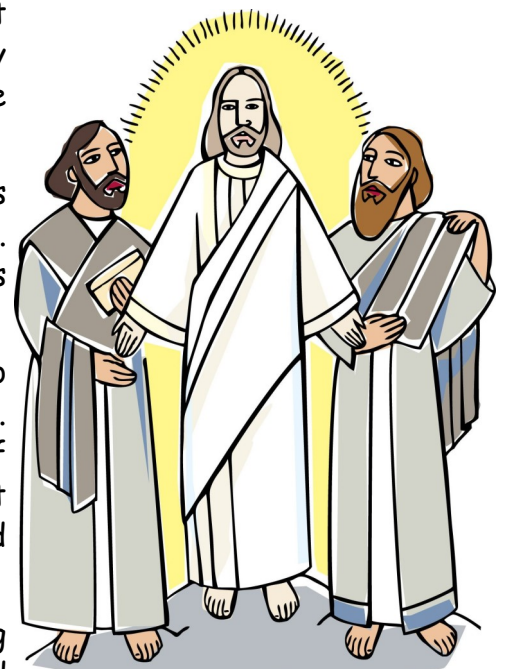
While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time - no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From our mountain-top experiences we all need to find a balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.



## Jesus' Transfiguration

In commanding us to glorify Him, God is inviting us to enjoy Him. - *C S Lewis*



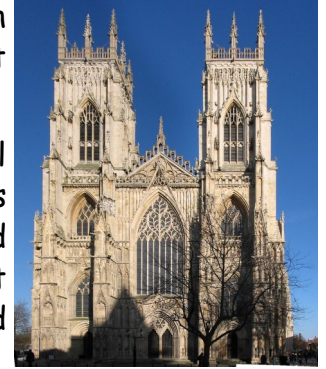
We may pray most when we say least, and we may pray least when we say most. - *Augustine*



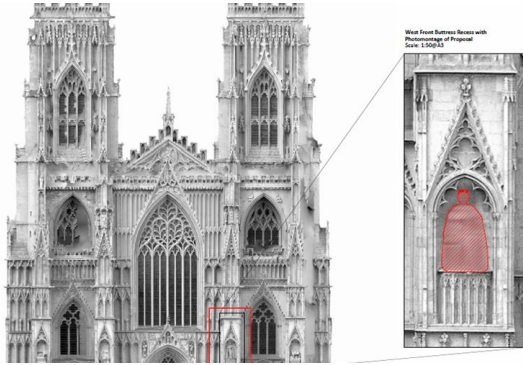
Never make the blunder of trying to forecast the way God is going to answer your prayer. - *Oswald Chambers*

## THE QUEEN ON YORK MINSTER

York Minster is to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year with a statue of the monarch, placed in a niche high on its medieval west front.



The figure of the queen will be slightly larger than life, and she will be holding the historic symbols of monarchy: the orb and sceptre. She will be the first British monarch to have reigned for 70 years.



The statue will be the centre point of a makeover of the open space in front of the Minster, where a new Queen Elizabeth Square is to be created. More details are expected in the autumn.

## 'ON HOLIDAY WITH JESUS'

August is the month when schools are off and many of us go on holiday. This year will be very different, with many opting for a 'staycation'! The good news is that Jesus offers us a true rest:

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' (Matthew 11: 28-29). Are you feeling tired or burdened and in need of a holiday? Jesus invites you to spend it with Him!

**The Invitation:** Our holiday destination is Jesus Himself: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened.' We can come just as we are, with all the burdens and sadness we carry from the last 18 months. Jesus doesn't offer a 'quick fix' to deal with our issues; He simply offers Himself!

**The Promise:** Jesus promises us the gift of refreshing, sustaining and everlasting rest. When we go on holiday, we usually look forward to doing very little and yet this is not the kind of rest Jesus offers. His rest involves taking up His yoke and learning from Him! A yoke was the wooden collar that ran across the shoulders of a pair of oxen to enable them to work the fields. Jesus says: 'My yokes fit well. They do not rub your neck and shoulders. Come to Me and get yoked to Me. Make an act of loyal obedience and trust in Me. And you will find a deep peace and satisfaction that you could never find anywhere else. I have come for you!'

What's so amazing about this holiday is that you can get rest by simply staying at home!





## SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

I found some words of wisdom in a newspaper recently, taken from an interview with Marcelo Bielsa, the Leeds United manager.

"The moments in my life when I have improved are closely related to failure. The moments in my life when I have regressed are closely related to success. Being successful deforms us as human beings. It relaxes us. It plays tricks on us. It makes us worse individuals. It feeds our egos. Failure forms us, makes us more solid, brings us closer to our convictions. It makes us more coherent."

Of course, no one wants to fail all the time, but this reminds us that we can learn from our failures and must not be carried away by success. That seems like a good Christian principle.

*Tony Horsfall of Charis Training*



## BREAD

Bread is a lot like the sun. It rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.

## BABY

A three-year-old walked over to a pregnant woman on the beach. "Why is your stomach so big?" he wondered out loud.

"I'm having a baby," the woman replied, amused.

The little boy, with a puzzled look, ventured: "Is it a good baby?"

The woman smiled. "Oh, yes. It's a real good baby."

With even more surprise the toddler asked: "Then why did you eat him?"



## THE PURPOSE OF THE FONT

That Sunday our Family Service included two baptisms and many young children were there. In his talk, the Vicar asked the children if any of them knew what the font was for - and the answer came back: "For washing babies' hair"!

# PUZZLES

<b>3</b>				<b>1</b>				
	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>8</b>		<b>5</b>	
							<b>1</b>	
	<b>9</b>			<b>2</b>				
<b>5</b>			<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>			<b>8</b>
				<b>3</b>			<b>4</b>	
	<b>8</b>							
	<b>3</b>		<b>5</b>			<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	
				<b>4</b>				<b>5</b>



Sudoku



1. The Bible was written in three languages - Hebrew, Koine Greek and which other language?
2. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382?
3. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
4. In what city was Jesus born?
5. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
6. Who was the older brother of Moses?
7. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?
8. Who, following Moses' death, became the leader of the children of Israel?
9. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
10. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known as?
11. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
12. In the bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
13. How many years did Noah live for after the flood?
14. There are only three angels named in the bible, Michael and Lucifer are two, name the other?
15. The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?

## WORDSEARCH

Can you find in this grid  
the words listed below?  
The words can be found in  
any direction.



L N U N W R O L A O L L E W O  
S P W P E T E R A D I A N T T  
I B E L O V E D W E L L I N G  
N O I T A R U G I F S N A R T  
A O I O D S A N O S T N T O N  
I W T M N S U D O X E N N H E  
I L A M F F E N B V H S U W W  
O A U C L A A F O E P N O O E  
M E U T I O N C S L O D M M M  
L N M O D O W E E I R N D H G  
T A M N N O M A A J P J S O E  
N P D O N A S W L A O P S M O  
S R L O J E E O I H T A E J E  
I E A O D N I K N A M I T S U  
A I E E N G A J G E I A D E A

Beloved

Covenant

Dwelling

Elijah

Exodus

Face

James

John

Law

Mankind

Moses

Mount

Mountain

New

Peter

Pleased

prophets

Radiant

Sealing

Sinai

Son

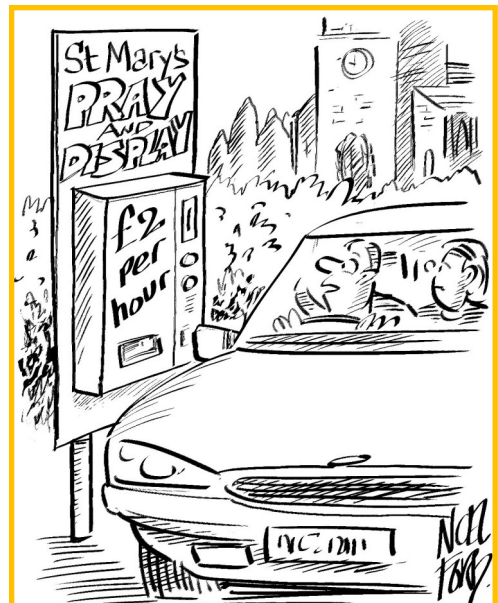
Transfiguration

Well



RON

Suddenly, Jim caught sight of his mum



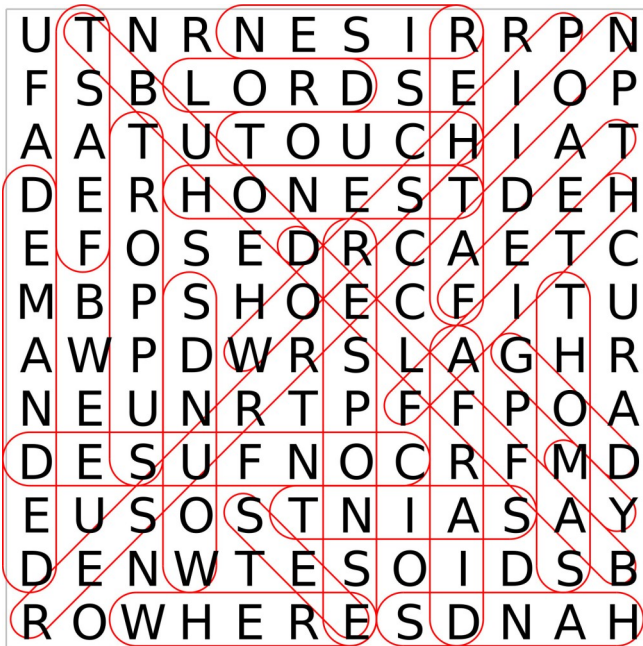
Yet another of the vicar's money-raising wheezes, I see

## ANSWERS FROM LAST NEWSLETTER

5	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	3	1	4	6	2
4	<b>6</b>	8	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	9	7	1	3
2	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	4	<b>6</b>	7	8	5	9
1	5	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	2	6	3	8
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	7	1
8	2	7	6	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	9	4
7	1	5	3	<b>4</b>	8	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	6
3	4	2	9	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	1	<b>8</b>	5
9	8	6	1	2	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	7



## SUDOKU ANSWERS



1. Luke
2. On the Mount
3. Caiaphas
4. Paul
5. He was a fisherman
6. Honour your father and mother
7. Daniel
8. 'Jesus wept' John, chapter 11, verse 35
9. Jochebed Exodus 6:20
10. The Ark of the Covenant 2 Samuel 6:4
11. Methuselah. He lived 969 years. (Genesis 5:27)
12. Amen (Revelation 22:21)
13. Jehu (2 Kings 9 9:20)
14. Paul (Acts 18 1:3)
15. Nine feet nine inches (1 Samuel 17:4)

## WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

## QUICK BIBLE QUIZ

