

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 139: ELIHU CONTRADICTS JOB'S FRIENDS**  
**JOB 32:1-37:24**

Finally, these three men stopped arguing with Job, because he refused to admit that he was guilty. Elihu from Buz was there, and he had become upset with Job for blaming God instead of himself. He was also angry with Job's three friends for not being able to prove that Job was wrong. Elihu was younger than these three, and he let them speak first. But he became irritated when they could not answer Job, and he said to them: I am much younger than you, so I have shown respect by keeping silent. I once believed age was the source of wisdom; now I truly realize wisdom comes from God. Age is no guarantee of wisdom and understanding. That's why I ask you to listen to me. I eagerly listened to each of your arguments, but not one of you proved Job to be wrong. You shouldn't say, "We know what's right! Let God punish him." Job hasn't spoken against me, and so I won't answer him with your arguments. All of you are shocked; you don't know what to say. But am I to remain silent, just because you have stopped speaking? No! I will give my opinion, because I have so much to say, that I can't keep quiet. I am like a swollen wineskin, and I will burst if I don't speak. I don't know how to be unfair or to flatter anyone-- if I did, my Creator would quickly destroy me! Job, listen to me! Pay close attention. Everything I will say is true and sincere, just as surely as the Spirit of God All-Powerful gave me the breath of life. Now line up your arguments and prepare to face me. We each were made from clay, and God has no favorites, so don't be afraid of me or what I might do. I have heard you argue that you are innocent, guilty of nothing. You claim that God has made you his enemy, that he has bound your feet and blocked your path. But, Job, you're wrong-- God is greater than any human. So why do you challenge God to answer you? God speaks in different ways, and we don't always recognize his voice. Sometimes in the night, he uses terrifying dreams to give us warnings. God does this to make us turn from sin and pride and to protect us from being swept away to the world of the dead. Sometimes we are punished with a serious illness and aching joints. Merely the thought of our favorite food makes our stomachs sick, and we become so skinny that our bones stick out. We feel death and the grave taking us in their grip. One of a thousand angels then comes to our rescue by saying we are innocent. The angel shows kindness, commanding death to release us, because the price was paid. Our health is restored, we feel young again, and we ask God to accept us. Then we joyfully worship God, and we are rewarded because we are innocent. When that happens, we tell everyone, "I sinned and did wrong, but God forgave me and rescued me from death! Now I will see the light." God gives each of us chance after chance to be saved from death and brought into the light that gives life. So, Job, pay attention and don't interrupt, though I would gladly listen to anything you say that proves you are right. Otherwise, listen in silence to my wisdom. Elihu said: You

men think you are wise, but just listen to me! Think about my words, as you would taste food. Then we can decide the case and give a just verdict. Job claims he is innocent and God is guilty of mistreating him. Job also argues that God considers him a liar and that he is suffering severely even though he is innocent. But to tell the truth, Job is shameless! He spends his time with sinners, because he has said, "It doesn't pay to please God." If any of you are smart, you will listen and learn that God All-Powerful does what is right. God always treats everyone the way they deserve, and he is never unfair. From the very beginning, God has been in control of all the world. If God took back the breath that he breathed into us, we humans would die and return to the dirt. So be smart and listen! The mighty God is the one who brings about justice, and you are speaking badly against Him. Indeed, God is the one who condemns unfair rulers. And God created us all; he has no favorites, whether rich or poor. Even powerful rulers die in the darkness of night when they least expect it, just like the rest of us. God watches everything we do. No evil person can hide in the deepest darkness. And so, God doesn't need to set a time for judgment. Without asking for advice, God removes mighty leaders and puts others in their place. He knows what they are like, and he wipes them out in the middle of the night. And while others look on, he punishes them because they were evil and refused to obey him. The persons they mistreated had prayed for help, until God answered their prayers. When God does nothing, can any person or nation find fault with him? But still, he punishes rulers who abuse their people. Job, you should tell God that you are guilty and promise to do better. Then ask him to point out what you did wrong, so you won't do it again. Do you make the rules, or does God? You have to decide-- I can't do it for you; now make up your mind. Job, anyone with good sense can easily see that you are speaking nonsense and lack good judgment. So I pray for you to suffer as much as possible for talking like a sinner. You have rebelled against God, time after time, and have even insulted us. Elihu said: Job, are you really innocent in the sight of God? Don't you honestly believe it pays to obey him? I will give the answers to you and your friends. Look up to the heavens and think! Do your sins hurt God? Is any good you may have done at all helpful to him? The evil or good you do only affects other humans. In times of trouble, everyone begs the mighty God to have mercy. But after their Creator helps them through hard times, they forget about him, though he makes us wiser than animals or birds. God won't listen to the prayers of proud and evil people. If God All-Powerful refuses to answer their empty prayers, he will surely deny your impatient request to face him in court. Job, you were wrong to say God doesn't punish sin. Everything you have said adds up to nonsense. Elihu said: Be patient a while longer; I have something else to say in God's defense. God always does right-- and this knowledge comes straight from God. You can rest assured that what I say is true. Although God is mighty, he cares about everyone and makes fair decisions. The wicked are cut down, and those who are wronged receive justice. God watches over good people and places them in positions of power and honor forever.

But when people are prisoners of suffering and pain, God points out their sin and their pride, then he warns them to turn back to him. And if they obey, they will be successful and happy from then on. But if they foolishly refuse, they will be rewarded with a violent death. Godless people are too angry to ask God for help when he punishes them. So they die young in shameful disgrace. Hard times and trouble are God's way of getting our attention! And at this very moment, God deeply desires to lead you from trouble and to spread your table with your favorite food. Now that the judgment for your sins has fallen upon you, don't let your anger and the pain you endured make you sneer at God. Your reputation and riches cannot protect you from distress, nor can you find safety in the dark world below. Be on guard! Don't turn to evil as a way of escape. God's power is unlimited. He needs no teachers to guide or correct him. Others have praised God for what he has done, so join with them. From down here on earth, everyone has looked up and seen how great God is-- God is more than we imagine; no one can count the years he has lived. God gathers moisture into the clouds and supplies us with rain. Who can understand how God scatters the clouds and speaks from his home in the thunderstorm? And when God sends lightning, it can be seen at the bottom of the sea. By producing such rainstorms, God rules the world and provides us with food. Each flash of lightning is one of his arrows striking its target, and the thunder tells of his anger against sin. I am frightened and tremble all over, when I hear the roaring voice of God in the thunder, and when I see his lightning flash across the sky. God's majestic voice thunders his commands, creating miracles too marvelous for us to understand. Snow and heavy rainstorms make us stop and think about God's power, and they force animals to seek shelter. The windstorms of winter strike, and the breath of God freezes streams and rivers. Rain clouds filled with lightning appear at God's command, traveling across the sky to release their cargo-- sometimes as punishment for sin, sometimes as kindness. Job, consider carefully the many wonders of God. Can you explain why lightning flashes at the orders of God who knows all things? Or how he hangs the clouds in empty space? You almost melt in the heat of fierce desert winds when the sky is like brass. God can spread out the clouds to get relief from the heat, but can you? Tell us what to say to God! Our minds are in the dark, and we don't know how to argue our case. Should I risk my life by telling God that I want to speak? No one can stare at the sun after a breeze has blown the clouds from the sky. Yet the glorious splendor of God All-Powerful is brighter by far. God cannot be seen-- but his power is great, and he is always fair. And so we humans fear God, because he shows no respect for those who are proud and think they know so much.

**139. ELIHU CONTRADICTS JOB'S FRIENDS**  
(JOB 32:1-37:24)



"I am like a swollen wineskin, and I will burst if I don't speak."  
JOB 32:19-20

# 139. ELIHU CONTRADICTS JOB'S FRIENDS

JOB 32:1-37:24

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Surely God will never do wickedly."* JOB 34:12

## **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. Elihu was upset because Job was blaming God and not himself. TRUE or FALSE
2. Elihu was also angry at Job's three friends who could not answer him or prove him to be wrong. TRUE or FALSE
3. Elihu waited to speak to Job because his other three friends were much younger than he was. TRUE or FALSE
4. Elihu told Job that God does NOT give us chance after chance to be saved from death and to be brought into the light. TRUE or FALSE
5. Elihu told Job that he was speaking nonsense, and lacked good judgment. TRUE or FALSE

## **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

1. When we sin, do our sins hurt God, or does it only affect other humans?
2. Is God always right?
3. Does God always make fair decisions?
4. When people are suffering and in pain, then God points out their sins, and warns them to turn back to Him. What happens when they turn from their sins and obey Him? Will they be successful and happy?
5. God won't listen to the prayers of proud and evil people.
6. Do you think that Job was wrong for accusing God of treating him badly? Yes!

# Lesson 139

## Make an Itsy Bitsy Prayer Book

### Itsy Bitsy Prayer Books

Print and color this cute little Lord's Prayer booklet. The printable templates are at the bottom of this page.



#### Materials:

- paper
- printer
- scissors
- something to color with

#### Instructions:

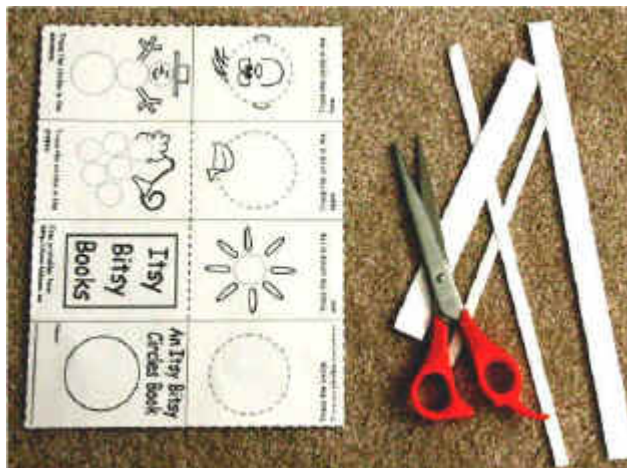
Assembly sounds harder than it is. Once you've done it once, it all makes a lot more sense and you can whip these Itsy Bitsy Books up quickly... it's nice that there are no staples or glue required.

#### PRAYER

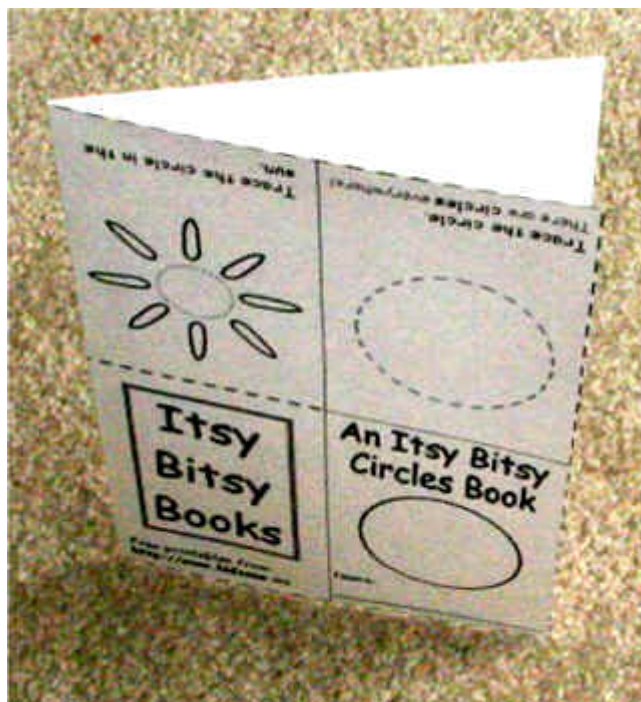
Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust the Lord no matter what, even through difficult trials. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

The photos are actually for the [Itsy Bitsy shapes books](#) on the KidZone site, but the assembly works the same for this book.

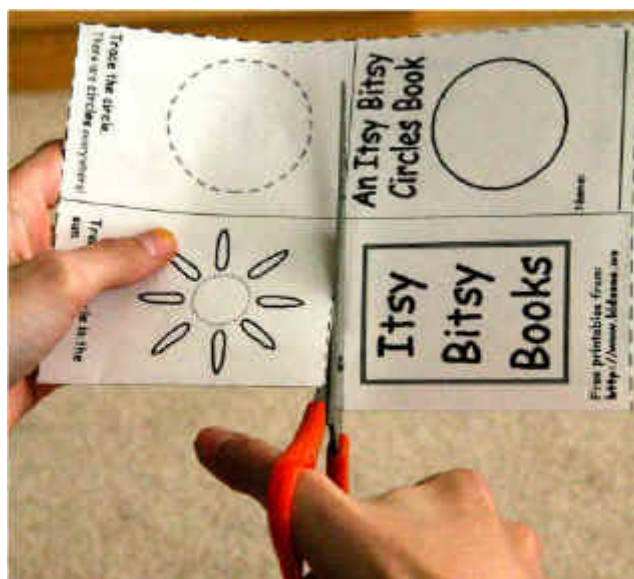
- Cut around the outside dotted line.



- Fold in half along the center solid line, so you can still read the words.



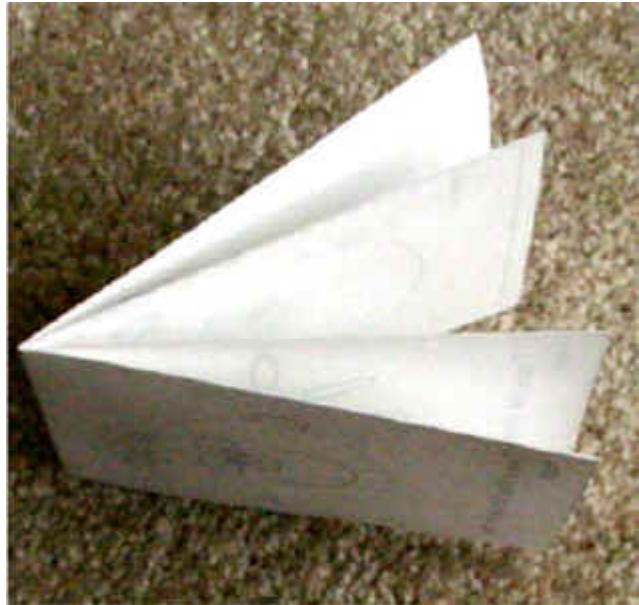
- Cut along the dotted line in the center.



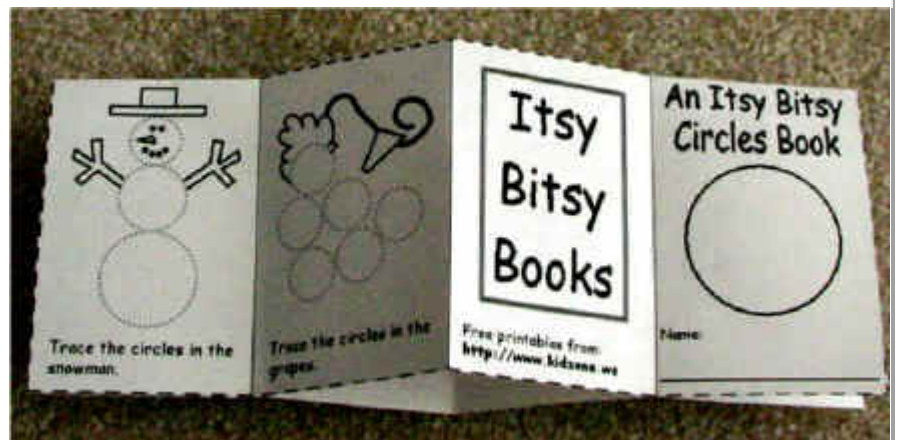
- Fold each side in half again along the solid lines so you end up with a "fan fold".



- Fold in half.
- THEN
- Unfold everything!



- Fold in half lengthwise so you can see a long strip of images on both sides.



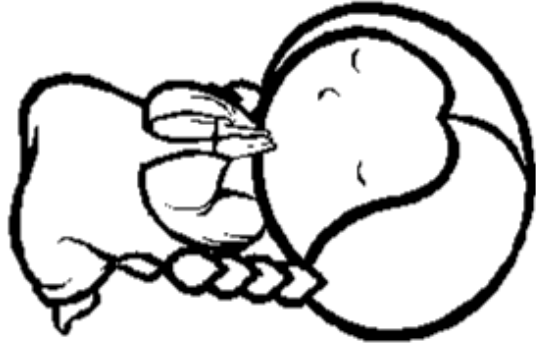
- Hold each end of the booklet and push together so the title page and back page are in place.



- Crease firmly to finish the booklet.



Our Father, who art in  
heaven, hallowed be Thy  
name.



## The Lord's Prayer



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

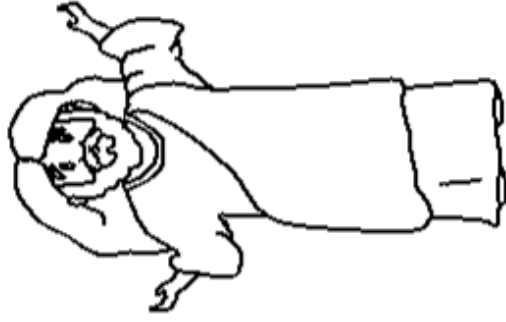
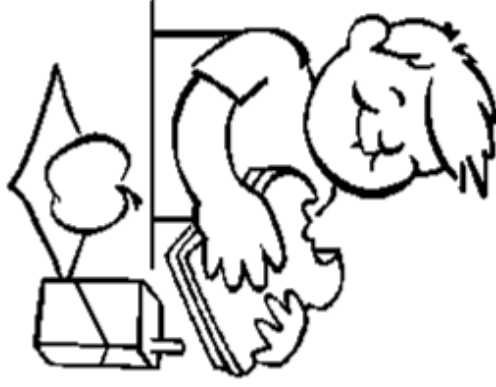
Thy kingdom come, Thy  
will be done on earth as  
it is in heaven.



DLTK-Bible  
Itsy Bitsy Books

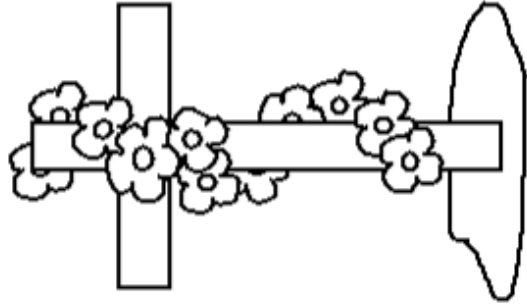
Free printables from:  
<http://www.dltk-bible.com>

Give us this day our daily  
bread.



For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the  
glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive  
those who trespass  
against us.



And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver  
us from evil.