

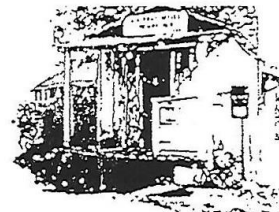


## The Acmar Soul Miner

*Searching for wisdom*

*As for hidden treasures...*

*For the Lord gives wisdom*



*Acmar United Methodist Church October 2022 Vol. 23 Issue 10 Acmar Post Office*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Perfect Out of Imperfection

Armando Galarraga was pitching a perfect game. On June 2, 2010, the Detroit Tigers' pitcher had retired 26 batters. No batter had made it to first base on a hit, base-on-balls or error. Three up ... three down. He's one batter away from a perfect game.

Perfect games are rare but not impossible. Fans are on their feet; umpires are focused. Jim Joyce, with twenty-three year's experience and voted top umpire by players in an ESPN poll, is the umpire at first base.

Cleveland Indians' shortstop, Jason Donald, hits a grounder between first and second. First baseman, Cabrera slides over to snag the ball. Galarraga runs toward first as the batter dashes toward first like a scared deer.

Cabrera spins and relays the ball to the pitcher who tags first. Just as Galarraga is lifting his arms in jubilation, the first base umpire splays his arms outward ... SAFE!

The twenty-eight-year-old pitcher from Venezuela pauses momentarily and gives a wry smile at the umpire. He takes a deep breath and calmly returns to the pitcher's mound to face the next batter.

It's an easy out on a ground ball to first. Game over. Detroit Tigers win 3-0. It was almost a perfect game.

The first base umpire, Jim Joyce, is sure he got it right. Doubt begins to creep in as he hears, "You blew it! Go look at the video!"

With his colleagues, he sees the replay for the first time. He chooses to give the media rare access to the umpires' locker room. He takes full responsibility for blowing the call. Detroit Tigers' manager and general manager agree but compassionately tell him to move on.

Joyce asks to speak with Galarraga. He hugs Joyce and says, "We're all human." Joyce says, "I'm sorry," in English and in Spanish.

The next day the two teams play again. Jim Joyce is the home plate umpire. Armando Galarraga walks to the plate. He shakes Joyce's hand and looks him in the eye as he hands him the line-up card. Joyce wipes his eyes and pats Galarraga on the shoulder.

Images from that moment change how Joyce and Galarraga are remembered. Words like sportsmanship, honesty, character, integrity, perfection and imperfection follow those two.

Galarraga said, "I know I pitched a perfect game. Maybe it's not in the record book but I'll tell my son, 'I pitched a perfect game.'"

Joyce says for him the word "perfect" means something entirely different now. "It means one guy was and one guy wasn't. I was the one who wasn't. But what does the word 'perfect' mean? Sometimes the word 'perfect' means to be able to accept imperfection."<sup>1</sup>

Galarraga is right in that he can tell his son that he pitched a perfect game. Joyce is right that the perfect game came out of imperfection. The game was not perfect because of the balls pitched and the outs.

It was perfect because Joyce's accountability, remorse and willingness to say, "I'm sorry," and Galarraga's sportsmanship, forgiveness and humbleness turned a disappointing situation into a positive, perfect one. God's grace turns our imperfection to perfect.

***"You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)***

---

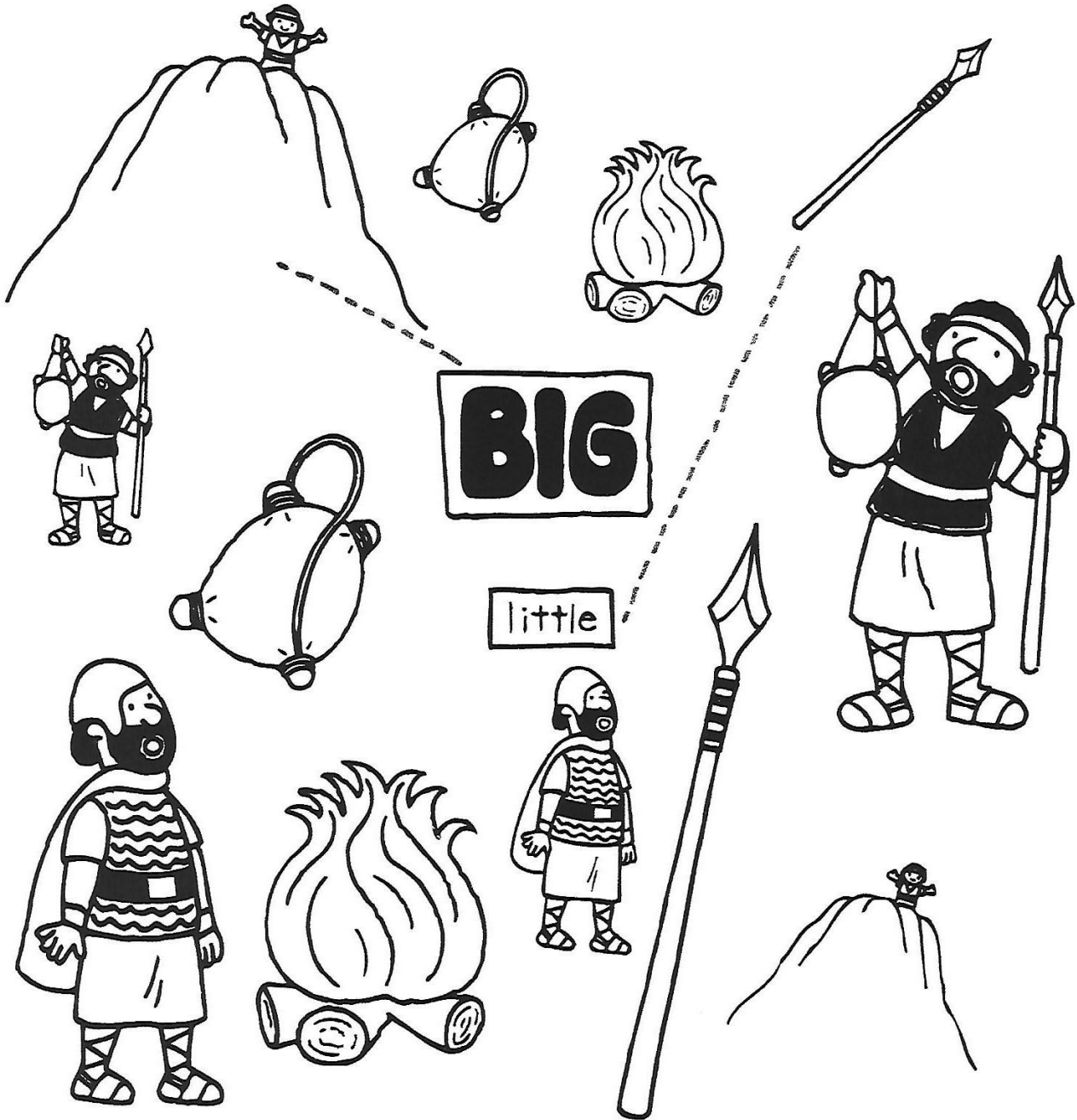
<sup>1</sup> Nelson, Amy K. Almost-Perfect Game. January 5, 2011. Replay on YouTube

# Children's Camp

Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles.

## Puzzle 23

Draw lines to show which pictures are BIG and which are little.



The wisdom of God.

We see it in verses but sometimes we have to dig to uncover the meaning.

**Look Here:**

**Saul said to David, "You are better than me. You treated me with kindness and I treated you with meanness." (1Sam 24:17).**

**Digging In:**

David showed love to King Saul, even when King Saul was unkind.

God will help us show love to people, too, even when they are unkind.

A person that treats someone with kindness is treating like God treats people.

## The Acmar Community Quilt

In the early 1980s, former miners and employees of Alabama Fuel & Iron began holding annual reunions at the church. These went on for years until their numbers dwindled. We know a good bit about the mines and miners, but not a lot about the lands after the mines closed. The following article appeared in *The Leeds News* on September 27, 1990.

### Acmar will hold annual miners reunion

By Amy Cardwell

Acmar, an area close to Moody, was once a booming mine town. The small mining community had all of the amenities one would expect, including: dry cleaners, ball teams and barber shops.

In the 1950s Acmar mining facilities were shut down. The community disappeared, the mines fell in and quickly filled with water, the ground was stripped and nothing was left of the bustling, thriving community.

C.W. Martin was an employee at Acmar for 16 years. He stated; "We had everything a town would need. The ball teams were especially good. These were professional people."

Since the 1950 shutdown, workers have begun reuniting once a year at Acmar reunions. "We've had reunions for eight years now and another one is coming up," Martin said. "We get together, hug, talk, and reminisce."

According to Martin, the first Acmar reunion brought around 300 previous Acmar employees. However, attendance has continually fallen and this year they expect about 150. This year things will be a little different for the former employees. Big plans are being made for the old Acmar mining area.

According to John Braswell of Alabama Mine Lands; "Money is given to the state to try to improve and repair dangerous problems caused by old mining areas. These hazards are particularly dangerous to the community now surrounding the area."

Some of the hazards found around the Acmar area included a high wall that children or hunters could possibly fall from, open entrances that once led miners underground and a pile of coal waste that was still burning.

The state organization has closed the entrances and extinguished the waste fire. They are planning to restore the high wall to its natural contour. Braswell also pointed out that the AML has recently finished restoring a high wall in Markeeta, which is about one and one half miles from Acmar.

The money to correct these problems is funded by the Federal Government in the form of grants. The grant for Acmar was applied for on December the sixth of 1989, and approved December 27 the same year. "This grant was approved to correct 13 public safety hazards caused by past coal mining near Moody, including a burning coal refuse pile, a high wall, a subsidence void, three equipment facilities, and seven abandoned mine portals. It was also to correct environmental problems originating from a small abandoned coal waste pile," stated Braswell. Perhaps the former Acmar employees will find this something to talk about and celebrate as they come together for their reunion this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Over the past several years, many local property owners have been contacted and steps have been taken to alleviate any lingering safety hazards.

(As a Soul Miner footnote, there actually was a lot left of the Acmar community after the mines closed, and we're still here today!)



| October 2022  |   |  |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
| Audio<br>Sermon<br>Podcasts<br>Website  | <i>Soul Miner</i><br>on the<br>Website in<br>Gallery  |  | <br>10-12-2022 |   |   | 1<br>OKTOBERFEST<br>Moody Park<br>10 a – 5 p   |
| 2<br>CHURCH 9 a<br>Communion<br><br>Jeff Baker | 3   | 4  | 5<br>BIBLE STUDY<br>10:00 am<br>MCA 3-5 p<br>White's Chapel                                     | 6   | 7<br><br>Midge<br>Turner | 8<br><br>Greg<br>Bosworth |
| 9<br><br>CHURCH 9 a                            | 10<br><br>Happy Columbus Day | 11<br><br>Donna<br>Turner | 12<br>BIBLE STUDY<br>10:00 am<br>CHURCH<br>SUPPER 6 pm  | 13<br><br>BINGO 10<br>Senior Center | 14  | 15   |
| 16<br>CHURCH 9 a<br>Lauren<br>Howard  | 17  | 18   | 19<br>BIBLE STUDY<br>10:00 am<br>MCA 3-5 p<br>White's Chapel                                    | 20  | 21  | 22<br><br>Matt Byers      |
| 23<br><br>CHURCH 9 a                           | 24  | 25<br><br>Blake<br>Howard | 26<br>BIBLE STUDY<br>10:00 am<br>Mayberry<br>Series   | 27  | 28  | 29   |
| 30<br><br>CHURCH 9 a                         | 31<br><br>HALLOWEEN        |  |   |   |   |  |

### Soul Food for October

Sat., October 1      Colossians 3:1-3, 12-17  
 Mon. October 3      Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
 Tue., October 4      Psalm 66:1-12  
 Wed., October 5      2 Timothy 2:8-15  
 Thur., October 6      Luke 17:11-19  
 Fri., October 7      Mark 1:40-45  
 Sat., October 8      Psalm 92:12-15

Acmar UMC / P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road  
Moody, AL 35004      Phone: 205 640 4325  
 Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. Rd. 10  
 Take County Rd. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;  
 Travel 1 mile; Turn right on Acmar Rd.; travel 2 miles;  
 Left onto Old Acton Rd., Church is on the left

Mon., October 10      Jeremiah 31:27-34  
 Tue., October 11      Psalm 119:97-104  
 Wed., October 12      2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5  
 Thur., October 13      Luke 18:1-8  
 Fri., October 14      Mark 4:35-41  
 Sat., October 15      Hebrews 12:1-3

Mon., October 24      Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4  
 Tue., October 25      Psalm 119:137-144  
 Wed., October 26      2 Thessalonians 1:1-12  
 Thur., October 27      Luke 19:1-10  
 Fri., October 28      2 Corinthians 12:1-10  
 Sat., October 29      Joshua 1:1-9

Mon., October 17      Joel 2:23-32  
 Tue., October 18      Psalm 65  
 Wed., October 19      2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
 Thur., October 20      Luke 18:9-14  
 Fri., October 21      Psalm 27:1-3  
 Sat., October 22      Hebrews 10:23-25

Mon., October 31      Haggai 1:15b – 2:9  
 Tue., November 1      Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
 Wed., November 2      2 Thessalonians 2:1-17  
 Thur., November 3      Luke 20:27-38  
 Fri., November 4  
 Sat., November 5