

# Double Trouble

Key Word: **Behaving**

Key Verse: "... Even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." *Matthew 21:32b*

Double Trouble was the smallest of the litter of puppies, and the most mischievous. Jill couldn't resist the way his ears flopped over his face or how his tail wagged incessantly.

She named him Double Trouble, and he really grew fast. By the time he was six months old, Double Trouble was a big dog. He didn't realize he was a big dog, so he continued trying to climb on Jill's lap. Occasionally when he was full of joy and thrilled to see Jill, he would jump up and put his paws on her shoulders. "Oh, you!" she would laugh. "Double Trouble, that's what you are. Now get down this minute." But Double Trouble continued to lick all over Jill's face.

One day, when Double Trouble put his paws on Jill's shoulders, she fell over. Double Trouble licked and licked and licked at her face, but she didn't get up.

After that, Double Trouble was sent to a boot camp for dogs. There someone was very much in command, but Double Trouble took no notice at all. When the commander said, "Come here!" Double Trouble turned his back and sat down. When the commander said, "Sit!" Double Trouble immediately began to run around the hall. Soon Double Trouble noticed that each time a dog obeyed the commander, that dog would be given a special treat. He also noticed that the

commander ignored him when he disobeyed, and after a day or two Double Trouble got tired of misbehaving.

Eventually Double Trouble sat when the commander told him to sit. The commander made a fuss over him, and gave him a lovely treat. Double Trouble found he was even more delighted with the commander's praise than he was with the treat. After that, he began to do as he was told. He couldn't be good all at once, but gradually he got better and better until he was a perfectly behaved dog. Then came the biggest treat of all, for the commander said, "Double Trouble, you're the best dog I have. I think you can go home now, because Jill will be really safe with you."

So Double Trouble went home to Jill, a much more gentle, thoughtful, and considerate dog than when he had left. She was delighted to see him and made a great fuss of him. He could express his love for Jill so much better now. He never forgot his lessons at the boot camp, and he loved Jill so much that he took great care of her.

## Questions

1. Do you have a pet that misbehaves?
2. What is the best way to correct bad behavior?

- Unscrambler
- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. BROTHER     | 7. NEPHEW       |
| 2. FATHER      | 8. MOTHER       |
| 3. GRANDMOTHER | 9. UNCLE        |
| 4. AUNT        | 10. DAUGHTER    |
| 5. NEICE       | 11. COUSIN      |
| 6. SISTER      | 12. GRANDFATHER |
|                | 13. SON         |
- Fallen Letter Puzzle
- For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him.

## Answers

# Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story  
is from  
**Matthew 21:23-32**

# 2



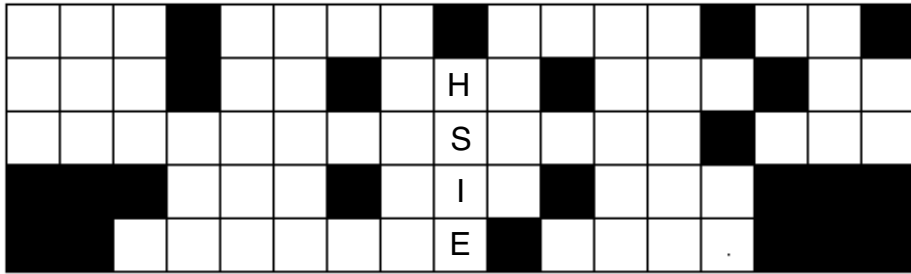
## Unscrambler

Unscramble the names of these family members below.

- |                |       |                 |       |
|----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. herbotr     | _____ | 8. ohtmer       | _____ |
| 2. afreht      | _____ | 9. cunle        | _____ |
| 3. ehtmoganrdr | _____ | 10. tduhearg    | _____ |
| 4. tuna        | _____ | 11. unciso      | _____ |
| 5. eienc       | _____ | 12. ragnftedhra | _____ |
| 6. tssrei      | _____ | 13. osn         | _____ |
| 7. pwenhe      | _____ |                 |       |

## Fallen Letter Puzzle

Place one letter from each column into the spaces above to rebuild the words.  
The phrase is a verse in today's Gospel story, Matthew 21:23-32. One column has been done for you!




## Tic Tac Toe

Play with a friend.

