



A TALE OF TWO MOUNTAINS

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Though each has what the other urgently needs, pride stands in the way of the happiness in this tale of two young rulers from disparate kingdoms.

B'tzslem elohim is the Hebrew phrase by which we understand that each person is created in God's image. Through *B'tzaelm elohim*, we realize that no person can claim superiority for any reason, including wealth or even royal standing! In fact, this story teaches that those in lowly circumstances (such as the keepers of the royal birds) may make better choices than those who have worldly advantages or royal standing.

USING THIS BOOK AT HOME

The Midnight Prince and the Desert Princes, through their stubbornness and pride, keep themselves from the very things that they need and desire most. This book asks the difficult question; how do we deal with others who are difficult or unpleasant, but who are also made in God's image? The ability to distinguish and understand traits in people, whether positive or problematic, leads to growth and insight in our own characters. With that in mind, consider the following with your children:

- What positive qualities do you think are most important in people?
- Are there ways that you can help to bring out the best in others?

- Does being created in God's image bring responsibilities? What might these responsibilities be?

A Tale of Two Mountains contains numerous moments when a small gesture or word could initiate a friendship or positively change the lives of the characters. How important is it for children to come to understand the value of people's unique features and identities, and the ways in which this makes life interesting and more enjoyable?

Encourage your children to make an effort to initiate conversation or a play experience with a child whom they have not had a previous relationship. That one gesture may lead to a beautiful friendship. Pj

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