

## Chapter 1

Some Jews abandoned their religion and made a pact with King Antiochus Epiphanes, a Seleucid king of the Greeks. Antiochus conquered many lands, including Israel. He plundered the Temple and forced the Jews to renounce their religion.

But many Jews courageously stood firm and were punished with death.

This was a sad and terrible time for Israel.

Dear God, please help us stay faithful to you

## Chapter 2

Mattathias was a Jew loyal to his religion at a time when most people were not loyal.

When the king's representative came to the town of Mattathias and started forcing people to take part in pagan ceremonies, Mattathias killed the representative.

Mattathias then called on everyone loyal to God to join him in the desert.

Mattathias soon had a small army which gradually won control of many parts of the country and restored observance of God's law.

When Mattathias was coming to the end of his life he appointed his son Judas as his army successor.

Dear God, help us to be loyal to you like Mattathias

## Chapter 3

Judas led the people in many successful battles. He often said that it is easy for a great number of soldiers to be defeated by a few.