

LESSON 3

UZZIAH: FROM ROYALTY TO LEPROSY

BEFORE YOU TEACH

King Uzziah

Also known as Azariah in 2 Kings, Uzziah became King when he was only sixteen, after his father Amaziah died. He was the 10th king of the Kingdom of Judah, and he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father Amaziah had done. However, he did not remove the high places, so the people still burned incense there. Uzziah's rule was largely successful because he sought after God, so God made him prosper. Consequently, Uzziah became proud and attempted to burn incense to the Lord, something that only priests were allowed to do. His pride resulted in him becoming leprosy, and he remained that way until his death. He reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Pride can be a concept that is difficult for students to understand. Most children nowadays are taught to be confident, and they are encouraged to strive to be the best in their studies, sports, etc. However, we need to instill the understanding that their talents, skills, and achievements have been given by God. They should learn to make good use of their talents to shine for the Lord, but also be careful not to let them affect their attitude towards the teachings and commandments of God.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 15:1-7; 2 Chronicles 26

BIBLE TRUTH

God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To know that all things come from God.
2. To learn that we should not be proud and sin against God.

MEMORY VERSE

"A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor."

(Proverbs 29:23)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for guiding us safely through another week. Today, we are gathered here to pray and learn Your words. Please help us to understand the Bible stories we are learning about today, and help us to be good children. Remind us that You are not pleased with those who are proud. We humbly ask that You listen to our prayers. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

leprosy: a skin disease where a person's skin becomes rotten as it gets eaten by bacteria

leper: a person who has leprosy

mighty men of valor: men who were very brave and skilled in fighting

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how King Joash repaired the temple. How old was King Joash when he became king? (Seven years old.) Joash's grandmother Queen Athaliah had seized the throne and killed all her grandsons, except for Joash. Joash's aunt and uncle, Jehosheba and the priest Jehoiada, saved him and raised him as their own son. For six years, Joash lived in the temple of God, learning all about how to serve and worship God. When the time came, the priest Jehoiada gathered everyone and crowned Joash king. Queen Athaliah found out and tried to stop it, but the guards found her and killed her. Now, it was time for Joash to turn the people back to God. Joash and the people made covenants with God, promising to worship and serve Him.

When Joash was older, he saw how the temple was in complete disrepair. It had been neglected for so long, and he set out to change that. He ordered a chest to be made so that people could offer their money to pay for the temple repairs. Everyone offered willingly and generously. Soon, there was enough money to pay for all the repairs and the temple was repaired. We learned that it is important for us to give from our hearts, willingly and joyously. In addition, we learned that even though we may be young, God can still use us to do amazing things!

BIBLE STORY

Uzziah Reigns in Judah

In the history of the kingdom of Judah, there were good kings and bad kings. If the king knew how to follow the commandments of God and did what was right, his kingdom was blessed and the people lived in peace. However, if the king did not follow the Lord's teaching and led the people to sin against God, their enemies attacked them and the people lived in fear. When King Amaziah died, his sixteen-year-old son Uzziah became the king of Judah. King Uzziah reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem, and he was a good king who did what was right in the sight of the Lord, like his father Amaziah. He often asked for God's guidance in the things he needed to do, so God blessed him and his kingdom prospered.

Boys and girls, can you share what kinds of blessings a king would hope to receive from God? (A strong city, protection from enemies, power and respect, etc.) Well, since King Uzziah was doing what was right in the eyes of God, the Lord blessed him with the ability to build many strong towers in Jerusalem to protect the city. King Uzziah also built many towers and dug many wells in the desert, because he had a lot of livestock and farmers who worked for him.

When King Uzziah went out to fight against the Philistines and other nations, God helped him, so his army was able to break down the enemies' city walls. Therefore, many of the nations around Judah were afraid of them. The Ammonites started to bring gifts to Uzziah, because they knew how strong King Uzziah's army was. Even people who lived as far as Egypt heard about the strength

of Judah.

Moreover, Uzziah had an army of mighty men of valor who went out to war in groups. This army had 2,600 chief officers and 307,500 soldiers. Boys and girls have you ever seen a sports stadium filled with people during a sporting match? Well, King Uzziah's army was at least ten times greater than all those people.

In addition to having a large number of fighting men, King Uzziah prepared shields, spears, helmets, body armor, bows, and slings. He also outfitted his towers with weapons that could shoot arrows and large stones. He did all this to protect his people from the attacks of their enemies. So, his fame spread far and wide, for God helped him in all that he did and he became strong.

The Penalty for Uzziah's Pride

Unfortunately, when King Uzziah became strong and famous, his heart became proud and this caused him to fall and sin against God. One day, he went into the temple of the Lord, because he wanted to burn incense on the altar. However, this was a sin, because only priests were allowed to burn incense to the Lord. A priest named Azariah went in after the king, together with eighty other priests of the Lord, to stop King Uzziah from doing this, because they knew that God would be not be pleased. Azariah and the other priests stopped King Uzziah and said, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron, who are consecrated to burn incense. Get out of the sanctuary, for you have trespassed! You shall have no honor from the

Lord God.”

King Uzziah became very angry and he refused to listen to what the priests had said to him. He held a censer in his hand, intent on burning incense. However, while he was angry with the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead. Azariah, the chief priest, and all the priests looked at him, and there, on his forehead, he was leprous! So they took him out of that place immediately. Uzziah also hurried to get out because he knew that the Lord had struck him.

Leprosy is a skin disease where a person’s skin slowly rots away, and it is easily passed on from one person to another. If a person were to touch someone with leprosy, then they would get the disease as well. Therefore, other people were too afraid to go near lepers. Those with leprosy were cast out and lived far away from others because they were considered unclean. So, King Uzziah was not able to live in the palace anymore. He had to live on his own in an isolated house, and he was cut off from

the house of the Lord. It was a sad ending for King Uzziah because he was a leper until the day of his death.

It is sad to see that a king who had been strong and powerful at the start could come to such a tragic end. Originally, everyone worked to serve him, and people sent him gifts and showed him respect because he was a powerful king. However, because of his pride, he refused to listen to the warning from the priest and tried to sin against God. As a punishment from God, he was struck with leprosy.

Let us all learn from the example of King Uzziah and understand that God dislikes those who are proud. When King Uzziah became great and powerful, he forgot about God’s commandment and thought that he could do anything he wanted, including disobey God’s law. Therefore, God had to punish him for his wrongdoing, and as a result, he lost his status as a king and became a leper.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. King Uzziah did what was _____ (right) in the eyes of God and he was crowned king when he was _____ (sixteen) years old.
2. King Uzziah’s father was a good king and his name was King _____ (Amaziah).
3. God blessed King Uzziah with the wisdom to build strong _____ (towers) to protect his city from the attacks of the enemies.
4. What did King Uzziah do to sin against God? He entered the temple and tried to burn incense to the Lord.
5. King Uzziah had honor and glory when he obeyed God, but after he sinned, he became _____ (leprous).

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

“A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.” (Proverbs 29:23)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. “A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.” (Proverbs 29:23)
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. False; the kingdom of Judah was powerful and prosperous.
6. False; King Uzziah had to live in an isolated house for the remainder of his life.
7. He was going to sin against God, because only priests were allowed to burn incense to God.
8. Lepers were considered unclean and leprosy was contagious.
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

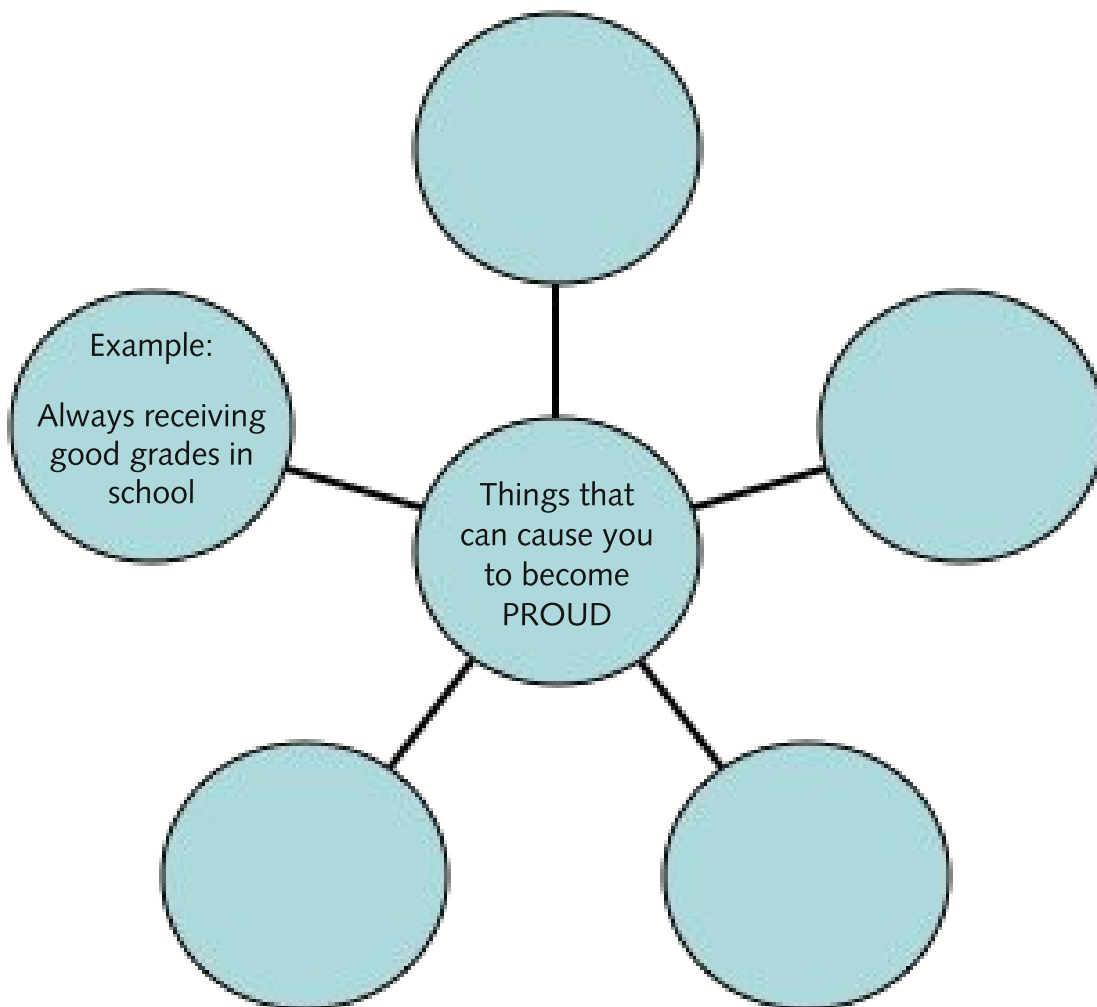
Spiritual Teaching (1)

We need to remember to stay humble and not become proud when we accomplish great achievements.

Life Application (1)

Think and reflect about the things around us that may cause us to be proud.

Students can pair up and share with their partner some things that make them become proud. Ask them to fill in the chart below using their answers. After the students have completed their charts, go over their answers as a class to remind the students to be careful about becoming proud.







Spiritual Teaching (2)

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (Jas 4:6).

Life Application (2)

God wants all of us to know that He is the source of all our strength and blessings. We would not be able to achieve great things without the help of God. As long as we obey His teachings and behave, He will guide us and protect us from all evil. However, if we sin against God and become proud, thinking that we can do everything on our own, then God will not be pleased.

Instructions: In the table below, the left column shows something that a proud person would say. Fill in the table by writing what a humble person would say in the right column.

What a Proud Person Would Say		What a Humble Person Would Say
<p>1. “Look at all the beautiful and nice things I received from my parents. I deserve all these because I am such a good kid!”</p>		
<p>2. “I received very high grades for my tests because I have always been a clever and hardworking student!”</p>		
<p>3. “Look at all these medals! I won them in a running competition. I am the best runner in my school, and no one can run as fast as I can!”</p>		
<p>4. “I am good at many things. I am good at sports, music, and school. I also have good looks, too! I am simply the best!”</p>		

ACTIVITY

1**A Different Ending**

Objective: To encourage the students to consider the outcome of pride verses humility.

Materials

- Large, white construction paper
- Colored pencils

Instructions

1. Fold the construction paper in half to make a book.
2. Open the paper and, on the left side, write "The Result of Pride" on the top.
3. Below that title, draw a picture that represents the life of King Uzziah after he sinned against God. Underneath the picture, write a summary of his story.
4. On the right side, write "The Result of Humility: A Better Ending" at the top.
5. This page will be left to the student's imagination. The teacher needs to ask, "If King Uzziah had not sinned against God and remained faithful to God, how would his life have turned out?"
6. Draw a picture that represents the life King Uzziah would have had if he had not sinned, and write a short summary below the picture.

E1 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 3—Uzziah: From Royalty to Leprosy

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To know that all things come from God.
 2. To learn that we should not be proud and sin against God.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Proverbs 29:23)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. Please write out the memory verse without looking.

Multiple Choice

2. _____ : King Uzziah was the king of which nation?
- Israel
 - Judah
 - Assyria
3. _____ : Who was allowed to offer incense to God?
- The Ammonites
 - Army Commanders
 - Priests, the sons of Aaron
4. _____ : King Uzziah became a leper because _____.
- He was sick when he became king
 - He got the disease from other lepers
 - He was proud and sinned against God

True or False

5. During the time of King Uzziah, the people lived in a time of trouble and the land had no peace. _____
6. King Uzziah went back to his palace and stayed there as he recovered from his sickness. _____

Short Answer

7. Why did the priests stop King Uzziah from burning the incense to God?

8. Why were lepers cast away and not allowed to live with others?

Life Application

9. What main teaching did you learn from the story of King Uzziah?

10. How can we remind ourselves not to be proud?
