

Elementary 2

Year 3 Book 4

E2 Year 3 Book 4

Kings and Prophets

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USGA

Teacher's Guide and Student Worksheets

ELEMENTARY 2 YEAR 3 BOOK 4

KINGS AND PROPHETS

INTRODUCTION

The main objectives for this quarter are:

- To learn about the consequences that the evil kings faced.
- To learn the importance of obeying God and keeping His commandments.
- To understand that God will return to you if you first repent and return to Him.

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Revised April 2016.
All Scripture is NKJV unless otherwise noted.

LESSON GUIDE

The E2 lessons can be separated into 3 sections with several subsections that, as a whole, are aimed to provide a comprehensive Bible study of the selected topic.

The first section is an **introduction** to the lesson and includes the Objectives, Memory Verse, Prayer, Overview, Background Knowledge for the Teachers, and Reaching Out to Your Students sections. This section is meant for the teacher to study while preparing the lesson so that the teacher will know in which direction to guide the students while teaching.

The second section includes the **main content** of the lesson that will be taught to the students during class. Here the teacher will find the Opener, Vocabulary, Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching, Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs, Check for Understanding, Life Application, and Activity sections.

Lastly, the students will have a homework assignment to take home and complete after class as a **review** of the lesson. The students are expected to bring back the homework assignment to the next class completed and with a parent signature.

This lesson guide will list each subsection and explain its purpose, as well as how teachers should use the information in that subsection.

I. Introduction to the Lesson

1. Objectives

These are the objectives that the lesson aims to fulfill. The teacher should always remember to reinforce ideas and teachings that will fulfill these objectives.

2. Memory Verse

The teacher should go over the memory verse at the beginning of class and ask the students to have it memorized by the end of class.

3. Prayer

Go over these points with the students before beginning prayer so that they will know what they should pray for, in addition to their own prayer requests.

4. Overview

A simple lesson overview that emphasizes the important points of the lesson.

5. Background Knowledge for Teachers

Relevant biblical background knowledge that can aid the teachers in understanding the lesson.

6. Reaching Out to Your Students

This section provides an insight into how the students might react to the lesson and how to help the students understand the lesson.

II. Main Lesson Content

1. Opener // 5 Minutes

The purpose of the Opener is to ease the students into the lesson by bringing up relevant topics that will relate to the Bible study. This will give students time to calm down before the teacher goes into the main content.

2. Vocabulary

The vocabulary is provided to explain some of the more difficult terms. The teacher can choose to go over the terms before beginning the Bible study or as the terms come up during the lesson.

3. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching // 30-35 Minutes

This is the main section of each lesson. It will provide an in-depth study of the selected topic and the students will also be provided worksheets to fill in as the teacher conducts the lesson. The teacher should look at the worksheets while preparing the lesson and print out a copy to use as an answer key during class. The aim of the worksheets is to keep the students focused and to let them actively participate instead of passively listen.

4. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs // 2-5 Minutes

It is important to tie each lesson back to the Ten Basic Beliefs to reinforce the students' knowledge of the Beliefs; therefore, this section will briefly tie back the lesson to the Basic Belief to which it relates.

5. Check for Understanding // 5 Minutes

This section tests the students' comprehension of the teachings they just learned in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

6. Life Application // 10 Minutes

The Life Application section aims to make the lesson content more life applicable and will allow the students to relate the lesson's teachings to events that happen in their daily lives. The goal is to give the students a chance to apply what they have learned in the lesson to their daily lives.

7. Activity // 10-15 Minutes

Each lesson will include one or two activities that relate back to a teaching or story in the Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching section.

III. Homework Assignment

Students are to take this home and return it the next week completed. There are four elements to the homework assignment: (1) Bible reading and prayer chart, (2) what they learned from the Bible, (3) memory verse, (4) and a lesson-specific assignment. The Bible reading and prayer chart is provided to track the students' progress during the week. In addition, the students will have to write down the memory verse and two things they learned from the Bible during that week. The last part of the homework assignment is specific to that week's lesson. It is advised that the students obtain a parent signature to make sure that the parents know what the students are learning each week.

IV. Suggested E2 Class Timeline

5 min.	Opening Prayer
5 min.	Opener
30-35 min.	Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching
2-5 min.	Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs
5 min.	Check for Understanding
10 min.	Life Application
10-15 min.	Activity
5 min.	Ending Prayer

Total: 1 hr. 12 min. - 1 hr. 20 min.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Upper Elementary/Primary Stage (Ages 9-11)

Characteristics	Pedagogic Application
Body 1. Generally healthy 2. Active 3. Begin to step into puberty stage, get hungry easily 4. Girls become taller than boys toward later stage 5. Increase in stamina	Encourage healthy eating habits Can plan for outdoor activities/fellowships sometimes Prepare snacks if their time in church is especially long Teach them how God values their character; build healthy self-esteem Have challenging and difficult activities
Mind 1. Like to collect things 2. Very creative 3. Begin to think and deduce 4. Like asking questions 5. Have good memory 6. Limited understanding of profound/abstract matters 7. Increased reading ability and comprehension	Include more challenging activities Provide creative and Bible-related activities Use pedagogy that enhance critical thinking Provide satisfactory and biblical answers Encourage memorization of Bible verses Need to explain abstract terms Nurture interest in reading the Bible/Christian materials
Mood 1. Express emotions easily 2. Short-tempered; lose patience easily 3. Like humor 4. May have feelings of withdrawal (may be scared, anxious, etc.)	Provide routines that help students to quiet down and get ready to focus Teach students how to control emotions and appropriate ways to express emotions Include some humor while teaching Show more care and concern; teach them the importance of relying on God
Social Skills 1. Loyal toward friends of the same age more than parents or teachers 2. Like to make friends of the same gender 3. Loyal to groups or teams 4. Enjoy competitive games or activities 5. Like to joke around; may make fun of others 6. Admire favorite teachers and classmates	Encourage friendship, but stress the importance of respecting parents and elders Can separate into girls and boys for group discussion Teach students how to discern negative peer pressure Provide competitive games where everyone can participate Encourage healthy jokes without hurting others' feelings; teach mutual respect Suggest some Christian biographies for students to read; set good examples for the students; share your personal faith and convictions
Spirituality 1. Express maturity in accepting the way of salvation 2. Worship heroes 3. Can study the Bible and pray 4. Can accept a deeper level of Bible teaching 5. Show concern over the souls of others	Talk about salvation seriously; share with them how God changed your life Teach stories of Bible heroes and spiritual characters; provide good Christian living examples Encourage daily spiritual cultivation (pray/read the Bible) Help the students to discover the teachings from the Bible Encourage students to pray and/or bring family members or friends to the Lord

MEMORY VERSES

1. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap." (Galatians 6:7)
2. "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)
3. "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" (1 Corinthians 15:33)
4. "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." (Psalm 27:4)
5. "You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down." (2 Samuel 22:28)
6. "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him." (2 Kings 18:5)
7. "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)
8. "Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might." (2 Kings 23:25a)
9. "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word." (Psalm 119:9)
10. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8)
11. "But the Lord said to me: 'Do not say, "I am a youth," for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.'" (Jeremiah 1:7)
12. "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." (Ezekiel 36:27)

LESSON 1

KING AHAB

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the life and death of King Ahab.
2. To understand that God will repay the good and the bad for what they have done.
3. To know that God sees everything and is faithful to His words.

MEMORY VERSE

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

(Galatians 6:7)

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for this blessed Sabbath day. You are the almighty God who sees everything and will judge us according to the good and bad that we do on earth. Teach us therefore, Lord, to live meaningful and God-fearing lives so that we may glorify You.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- Ahab's Reign of Evil
- The Challenge on Mount Carmel
- Ahab Brings about the Death of Naboth
- God's Words Come to Pass

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Second Coming

3. Life Application

- God Will Render to Us According to Our Words
- God Will Render to Us According to Our Deeds
- God Will Render to Us According to Our Faith
- God Will Render to Us According to the Way We Treat Others

4. Activity—The Seeing Arrow



Background Knowledge for Teachers

King Ahab

Described in the Bible as the most evil king of Israel (1 Ki 16:30), Ahab was the 7th king of Israel. Not only did he walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat by worshipping the golden calves, he took as wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Sidonians. Jezebel brought with her many pagan gods, and Ahab set up an altar and temple for Baal. He promoted idolatry and led the entire nation to sink into deep sin and wickedness. Ahab provoked the Lord to anger more than all the kings of Israel who were before him (1 Ki 16:33).

Queen Jezebel

Ahab's evil wife, Jezebel came from the Phoenician city of Tyre where her father had first served as high priest and eventually king. Jezebel worshipped the god Baal, the most popular Canaanite god. Baal idols were usually molded into the shape of a bull representing strength and fertility. Those who worshipped Baal believed that he was the god who brought the rains and bountiful harvests. So, when Elijah walked into the presence of Ahab and told him there would be no rain for several years, this overthrew their beliefs that Baal was in control.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Your students should be made aware that everything they do will have lasting consequences. Throughout the Bible, God repeatedly warns the kings, leaders, and people of the dangers of their disobedience and the consequences that will follow. Similarly, your students need to know clearly what the boundaries are so that they can avoid disobedience and punishment and reap a harvest from the good seeds they have sown.



Opener

5 Minutes

[Before class, prepare 2-3 packets of different vegetable seeds.]

Have you ever planted a garden before? If you want to grow watermelons, you cannot plant sunflower seeds. [Show seeds.] Or if you want juicy tomatoes and plant squash seeds, you won't get juicy tomatoes. This tells us that you have to plant the right seeds to get what you'd like.

The Bible says in Galatians 6:7-9 that we will reap what we sow. But this verse is not simply speaking of a garden. It is talking about our lives as well.

If we sow good things, such as kindness, generosity, love, and care, we will reap those good things back. People will be kind, generous, and loving to us as well. But more importantly, God will reward us for all the good things that we sow.

But if we are rude, mean, and show anger towards people, are we going to get good things? It's like planting cactus and thinking we will harvest cabbage. Of course we will not get good things. No, we will get bad things in return because we reap the things that we sow. And again, God will punish us according to the bad things that we have sown.

In our lesson today, we will look at what happened at the end of King Ahab's life and how God rendered to him according to what he sowed in his life.



Vocabulary

render: to provide or give



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. The students will fill in the blanks and answer the questions as you teach the lesson. Pause to allow the students to answer the questions. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

A. Ahab's Reign of Evil

When King Solomon died, the nation of Israel divided into two parts—the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom. Most of the kings who ruled during that time did not follow God. In the Northern Kingdom of Israel, wicked kings ruled. Jeroboam was the first

king, and he made two golden calves for the people to worship. Next came Nadab, Baasha, Elah, Zimri, and Omri.

Each king led the people of God down the wrong path. But during the time of Ahab, the Bible tells us that Ahab did more evil than any other king before him. Let's review some of the evils that King Ahab committed that angered God greatly.

- a. Ahab walked in the sins of Jeroboam by worshipping idols and the golden calves that King Jeroboam had made.



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

- b. Ahab took as wife Jezebel, the daughter of King Ethbaal of Sidon. Jezebel worshipped the god Baal and brought her pagan gods with her to Israel.
- c. In order to please his wife, Ahab built a temple and altars for her gods and even went into the temple to worship her gods. This brought great wickedness into the land of Israel because the people of God followed the king and began to worship Baal.

Because of Ahab's sins, God's wrath came upon Ahab. What punishment did God bring upon Ahab and the land?

Elijah said to Ahab, "There shall not be dew or rain these years, except at my word" (1 Ki 17:1). Since there was no rain, crops and vegetation could not grow and a severe famine spread throughout the land.

1 Kings 18:5 gives us an idea of the severity of the famine. Here, King Ahab instructed Obadiah, a servant who was in charge of Ahab's house but feared God, to go throughout the land, to all the springs of water and to all the brooks in search of grass. Without grass, the horses and mules would all die. So, Ahab and Obadiah each went their different ways looking for grass.

B. The Challenge on Mount Carmel

King Ahab not only worshipped Baal himself, he influenced the entire nation to depart from God and worship Baal. Ahab's wicked wife tried to remove the worship of the true God by massacring the prophets of God (1 Ki 18:4).

When Elijah saw the terrible condition of the hearts and faith of the people, his heart burned with zeal for the Lord. What did Elijah do to prove to Ahab and the people that the Lord was God? Yes, he challenged Ahab and the 850 false prophets to a contest on Mount Carmel; the God who sent fire down from heaven upon the sacrifice is the true God.

What was the result? Though the false prophets raved all afternoon for their god to send down fire, there was no reply, no voice. When it was Elijah's turn, he made a prayer to God. Instantly, fire flashed down from heaven and licked up the sacrifice and all the water that Elijah had poured upon it. When the people saw this, they confessed that the Lord was the true God, but Ahab remained stubborn.

What did Elijah immediately do to ensure that the false prophets and wickedness were removed from the land? He commanded the people to seize every one of the false prophets of Baal and to have them killed at the Kishon Brook (1 Ki 18:40).

C. Ahab Brings about the Death of Naboth

Another great evil that Ahab committed was in the incident of Naboth and his vineyard. Do you remember why Ahab wanted to buy Naboth's vineyard? It was close to his palace, so Ahab wanted it to use as a vegetable garden. Why did Naboth refuse to sell the land to Ahab? Naboth refused to sell the land because God prohibited His people from selling their land. The land was an inheritance from his fathers, so the land was to be kept in the family for generations.

When Queen Jezebel learned how Naboth refused to sell Ahab his vineyard, she felt that the king had the right and freedom to possess anything that he wanted. She came up with a plan to please her husband where Naboth was falsely accused and then murdered. Even though Ahab may not have been directly involved in conspiring against Naboth, he allowed his wife to influence the people and carry out this great wickedness.

God's Punishment upon the House of Ahab

God sees everything! God saw Ahab's rebellious and stubborn heart. God saw the murderous act that he had committed. God had been very patient with Ahab but God now had had enough. He sent Elijah to Ahab to tell him the terrible punishment that would befall him and his family. Read 1 Kings 21:17-24.

- In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs will lick the blood of Ahab.
- God will not allow a single one of his male descendants to survive. God was going to destroy his entire family as he did the family of King Jeroboam.
- God will allow the dogs to tear apart and eat the body of his wife Jezebel.

Ahab's Reaction to God's Judgment

If you were in Ahab's shoes, how would you respond to God's judgment? [Allow students to answer.]

When Ahab heard God's judgment, he realized that he was in big trouble! All along, when God warned him through His words and deeds, Ahab did not take God

seriously. He continuously ignored God's laws and did whatever he pleased. But now, God had had enough of his wickedness and Ahab knew that he had gone too far. Ahab humbled himself by tearing his clothes, putting on black clothes, and fasting.

When God saw Ahab's repentance, what did God decide to do? Read 1 Kings 21:29. What does this tell us about the God we worship? Our God is a just and merciful God. Ahab was without excuse for living a wicked life after knowing the truth and seeing God's marvelous deeds. For this wickedness, God had already decreed a punishment: Ahab, Jezebel, and their sons would be destroyed. God is a just God and would not lightly excuse Ahab from all his sins. However, since Ahab finally realized the magnitude of his transgressions and humbled himself before the Lord, God showed Ahab kindness and mercy by not punishing Ahab's sons until after Ahab's death.

D. God's Words Come to Pass

[Teacher Tip: Have students read 1 Kings 22 and act out the court scene and the battle scene.]

So, one day, it happened that King Jehoshaphat from Judah paid a visit to King Ahab. Do you remember how King Jehoshaphat and King Ahab are related? Yes, Jehoshaphat's son, Jehoram, had married Athaliah, Ahab's daughter. During the visit, Ahab asked Jehoshaphat if he would be willing to combine their military forces to recover Ramoth Gilead, a city that had been occupied by their enemies the Syrians. Jehoshaphat was willing, but he first wanted to find out from God what they should do. So, Ahab gathered his prophets. What kind of prophets do you think Ahab had? (False prophets.)

What did the prophets say? Read 1 Kings 22:6. All of Ahab's prophets told him what he wanted to hear—Ahab would go to battle and be victorious against the enemy. Jehoshaphat, however, knew that these prophets were not true prophets of God. So, he asked to inquire of a prophet of God. The prophet Micaiah was brought forth. How did the prophet Micaiah prophesy? Read 1 Kings 22:17.

Micaiah prophesied that Ahab would die during the battle. Ahab did not like to call for Micaiah because Micaiah never said anything that he liked to hear. Ahab's hard and evil heart made him only want to hear good things and not the truth.

Despite the prophecy, Ahab still planned to go to battle. But in case Micaiah's prophecy was true, what strategy did Ahab use? How did God outsmart Ahab's plan?

Read 1 Kings 22:29-35.

Ahab decided to disguise himself in an ordinary soldier's uniform. He thought that by not putting on his kingly robes to battle, he could avoid getting killed. But God sees everything and no one can hide from Him (cf. Heb 4:13).

During the battle, someone shot an arrow at random and it struck King Ahab between the joints of his armor.

This tells us that no matter how much we try to outsmart God, God's wisdom will always surpass human wisdom. The fact that the arrow did not strike anyone—not another soldier, the King of Syria, or King Jehoshaphat—but King Ahab tells us that God is sovereign and nothing is random or coincidental. God guided the arrow so that it struck Ahab where his armor was not protecting him. Ahab died and did not have victory in this battle, just as Micaiah had prophesied.

After Ahab was wounded, he bled so heavily that the blood ran down onto the floor of his chariot. In the evening, King Ahab died. After his burial, the soldiers took the king's chariot and armor to Samaria to be washed, and there the dogs licked up the blood of Ahab, just as Elijah had predicted.

God had also said that Ahab's family would be destroyed during his son's reign. When Jehoram, Ahab's son, was king, God chose Jehu, who was a commander in Israel's army, to take Jehoram's place. Jehu killed all of Ahab's sons and everyone who was in his house (2 Ki 10:11).

Jehu then went to Jezreel where Jezebel was. She put on make-up and did her hair to meet Jehu. But he called to the servants in the tower where she was, and they obeyed Jehu's instructions to throw her out the window. When the soldiers came back later to gather her body for burial, they found only her skull, feet, and the palms of her hands. The dogs had eaten her body just as Elijah had prophesied (2 Ki 9:30-37).

Not a single word that the Lord spoke against Ahab's royal house failed. The Lord had punished him exactly as He had said through his servant Elijah.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Second Coming

The Lord Jesus will descend from heaven on the last day to judge all people; the righteous will receive eternal life, while the wicked will be eternally condemned.

King Ahab lived a life full of wickedness and selfish deeds. In the end, God punished him for all the evil that he had brought upon the people of Israel and for the evil he had done towards others. Today, we must learn from the story of King Ahab and remember that God will repay us for whatever we have done, whether it is good or evil. On the last day, when Jesus Christ comes again, we will all be judged, so we must do our best to do good and to keep from doing evil.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

1. **Because of Ahab's sins, the land suffered drought and famine for three and a half years.** True.
2. **King Ahab's choice to marry Jezebel was a poor one because she badly influenced Ahab. She brought false gods into the land of Israel, killed the prophets of God, and had no fear for God.** True.
3. **The soldier who shot the arrow only killed Ahab by chance.** False; God guided the arrow to strike Ahab where the armor did not protect him.
4. **After Ahab repented, he did not need to bear any consequences for the sins he had committed because God forgave him for all his sins.** False; Ahab fell in battle, and Jehu exterminated his household.
5. **Seeing Ahab's repentance, God decided that he would allow his sons to continue to be kings.** False.

Questions to Think About

6. **Why did the Bible describe Ahab as a king who did more evil than any other king?** Ahab worshipped idols and the golden calves; he married Jezebel, a Gentile woman who worshipped pagan gods and did much evil; he influenced the people of Israel to worship Baal and persecute God's prophets.
7. **When we examine Ahab's life, we can clearly see that the God worship is what kind of God?** A loving, merciful, and just God.
8. **God is faithful to His word. Name at least two events from Ahab's life when God's words came to pass.** Rain would not fall until Elijah gave the word; Ahab would die in battle; the dogs would lick his blood after his death; the dogs would eat Ahab's wife; Ahab's sons would be destroyed after his death.



Life Application

10 Minutes

In today's story, we learn that God is both a loving and a just God. In Exodus 34:6-7, God told Moses that He was "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

From here, we can see there are two facets of God's nature; He is both a loving and a just God. How did God show His love to Ahab? God was very patient with Ahab and Jezebel. He gave them numerous opportunities to repent and return to Him. When God saw how Ahab humbled himself and repented, He delayed Ahab's punishment so that Ahab would not see his sons die.

But God is also a just God. God is fair and right in all His judgments. In Ahab's life, how do we see that God is just? [Allow students to answer.] Even though Ahab repented, this did not mean that God simply ignored what he and Jezebel had done in the past. God still held them accountable and punished them according to their sins.

Likewise, God will judge us according to all that we say and do on earth. To those who did good, who loved God and men, and who preached the gospel will be rewarded. However, for those who disobeyed the truth, who lived for their own enjoyment and pleasures, and who did not care for others will be punished. Sometimes, the reward/punishment may happen while we are still on this earth. But, it can also be delayed and happen at the Second Coming when we stand before God.

What will God hold us accountable for?

1. God Will Render to Us According to Our Words

Let us read Matthew 12:36-37. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

What areas of speech would we be judged for? (Idle, hurtful and unkind words, gossip, lies, etc.)

What does the Bible say about the kinds of words we should speak?

- **Colossians 4:6**
Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
- **Hebrews 13:15**
Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.
- **Ephesians 4:29**
Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

Scenario

"Hey Walt, I heard that you got one hundred percent on your English vocabulary test. That's awesome!" exclaims Fred. "It was pretty tough!" Walt replies. Fred becomes silent for a bit. "There's a rumor that you wrote some of the answers on your arm." Walt stares at his friend in total disbelief. "Do you believe that?" Walt asks.

Fred knows that his friend Walt did not cheat on the test. If you were Fred, what would you say to encourage and comfort Walt? (Fred can first affirm his faith in Walt and then assure Walt that he will stand by him. False rumors such as this often stem from people who are envious or jealous. God knows everything. As long as we are blameless in our actions, we do not need to worry about these rumors, as they will pass like the wind.)

2. God Will Render to Us According to Our Deeds

2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

How were the following people rewarded for their deeds?

- 2 Timothy 4:8—Paul preached the gospel and was rewarded the crown of righteousness.
- 2 Kings 4:8-10, 17—The Shunammite woman showed hospitality to Elisha and she was blessed with a son.
- Acts 9:36, 40-41—Dorcas (Tabitha) did many charitable works and was resurrected.
- Acts 10:1-2, 48—Cornelius feared God, prayed, and gave alms. God gave him an opportunity to be saved.

Scenario

It was the first snowstorm of the year and twelve inches of snow had fallen the night before. "Come on Jake, grab your coat and get ready. We're going to clean the driveway," shouts Dad.

Jake jumps down the stairs two by two, pulling on his coat, gloves, and hat.

Jake and his father work hard to clear a path in the huge pile of snow. As Jake stops to rest, he notices that their elderly neighbor, Mr. Walker is outside clearing his driveway, too. However, he isn't getting very far. Jake watches Mr. Walker huff and puff with every shovelful of snow.

What would you do if you were Jake? (Jesus gave us a new commandment to love others as He had loved us. Through our loving actions, everyone will know that we are different, that we are Jesus' disciples. Our deeds of care and concern can touch the hearts of others and be a testimony for the gospel.)

Think of some good things you can do that will be remembered by the Lord. [Allow students to respond.]

3. God Will Render to Us According to Our Faith

"Then He touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith let it be to you'" (Mt 9:29).

God will do according to our faith. Those with little faith will receive little; those with great faith will receive more.

How were the following people rewarded for their faith?

- Mat 9:27-29—The two blind men were healed according to their faith.
- 2 Kgs 5:1, 14—Due to his great faith, Naaman bathed seven times in the Jordan River and was healed of leprosy.
- Gen 6:22; 7:1—Noah was able to enter into the ark and be saved because he believed and obeyed God.

Draw or write down what 1 Peter 1:9 tells us is the greatest reward for our faith.

Scenario

"It's no use, I've prayed and prayed, and I still haven't gotten the Holy Spirit!" cries Beverly, her head buried in her hands. Eva, Beverly's friend, hugs her.

"I go out to the front to pray; I cry, I pray with all my heart and still nothing! Even kids younger than I get it! Why do I have to waste my time! It's clear that God does not love me!" Beverly wails.

If you were Eva, what uplifting words could you say to help Beverly have more faith in God? (Eva can encourage Beverly by reminding her that God is faithful. Beverly must continue to believe in God and His promises. Eva can use biblical examples, such as Abraham, who had to wait for twenty-five years before God gave him his son Isaac, or Noah, who waited a hundred years before he saw the flood. Through praying and waiting, God is testing Beverly's faith to see if she truly believes in Him. If Beverly holds fast to her faith and does not lose hope, she will experience God's blessings.)

4. God Will Render to Us According to the Way We Treat Others

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Lk 6:38).

How were the following people rewarded for the way they treated others?

- Gen 26:18-24—When the people of the land took over Isaac's two wells, he did not argue with them. The people later made peace with Isaac and God blessed him.
- Ruth 1:16-17; 4:13—Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi were both widows. Ruth chose to follow and take care of Naomi. God rewarded her with a new husband, who would provide for them, and a son.

Think about how you would like to be treated. Now choose one person to whom you will try to show this kind of treatment in the coming week.

Scenario

Miriam enjoys school, but lately she has been feeling downcast. A classmate of hers named Jessie just doesn't seem to like her. Jessie ignores Miriam, and when she passes out invitations to the girls in the class, she does not include Miriam. Miriam feels hurt by this and tells her mother about it.

If you were Miriam's mother, what could you say to comfort Miriam and help her treat others the way she wants to be treated? (No one likes to be left out or made to feel different. Miriam has two options: The first option is that she can choose to behave just like Jessie. She can ignore her and not include her in any of her activities. By choosing this option, their relationship will not have a chance to improve and Miriam will only feel worse over time. The other option is for Miriam to do what the Bible says: treat others the way she would like to be treated. If Miriam would like to be included and greeted by Jessie, then that is the way she should treat Jessie. Perhaps one day, Jessie will realize what a nice friend Miriam is. God sees and will reward and bless Miriam for her kind heart.)

**Activity****A Seeing Arrow***10-15 Minutes*

Objective: To understand that God's words are true.

In today's story, we learned how the random arrow that killed Ahab flew directly to an area unprotected by his armor. This did not happen by chance. Rather, it was God who guided the arrow to strike at exactly the right spot. With that, God's words spoken against Ahab were fulfilled.

Materials

- Plastic straws, one per student
- Heart shapes cut out from construction paper, two per student
- Strips of colored tape, four per student
- Glue
- Scissors
- Black markers

Instructions

1. Pass out one straw to each student. Cut the plastic straw to the desired length for the arrow.
2. Flatten one end of the straw where the arrowhead will sit. Glue the hearts back to back to the flat end of the straw.
3. Have each student cut out four strips of colored tape about two inches in length each. On the end opposite the arrowhead, attach two strips of colored tape to the back of the arrow and attach the other two strips on top.
4. Trim and shape the strips with a pair of scissors to form them into feathers.
5. Using the black marker, have each student write or draw pictures on the arrowhead of a time (or an event from the Bible) where God was faithful to His words and promises.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False; God directed the arrow to strike Ahab where he was unprotected.
3. False; Ahab still had to face the consequences of death.
4. D
5. B
6. D
7. God will render to us according to our good/bad deeds; our speech; our faith; and how we treat others.
8. Rain would not fall until Elijah gave the word; Ahab would die in battle; the dogs would lick Ahab's blood after his death; the dogs would eat Ahab's wife; Ahab's sons would be destroyed after his death.
9. He gave Ahab and Jezebel many opportunities to depart from idols and return to Him; when Ahab humbled himself and repented, He delayed part of Ahab's punishment by choosing to kill Ahab's sons after his death instead of during Ahab's lifetime.

King Ahab

A Ahab's Reign of Evil

Ahab did more evil than any other king before him. Write down the evils that King Ahab committed which angered God greatly.

- Ahab worshipped idols and the golden calves that King Jeroboam had made.
- Ahab took as wife Jezebel who worshipped the god Baal and brought her false gods to Israel.
- Ahab built a temple and altars for Jezebel's gods. The people of God followed the king and began to worship Baal.

How did God punish Ahab and the land? Read 1 Kings 17:1.

There was to be no rain until Elijah said so. With the drought came severe famine.

B The Challenge on Mount Carmel

Draw or write what Elijah did on Mount Carmel when he saw how Ahab and the entire nation departed from God to worship Baal. What did he do to ensure that the false prophets were removed from the land?

C Ahab Brings about the Death of Naboth

What did Jezebel and Ahab do after Naboth refused to sell his vineyard to Ahab?

Write down the punishment that God would bring upon Ahab's house.

- *In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs will lick the blood of Ahab.*
- *God will not allow a single one of his male descendants to survive.*
- *God will allow the dogs to tear apart and eat the body of his wife Jezebel.*

D God's Words Come to Pass

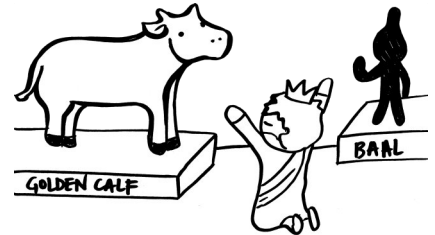
Draw the event that allowed God's words to be fulfilled.

King Ahab

AHAB'S Reign of Evil

Ahab did more evil than any other king before him.
Write down the evils that King Ahab committed that angered God greatly.

- a. Ahab _____ and the _____ that King Jeroboam had made.
- b. Ahab took as wife _____ who worshipped the god _____ and brought her false _____ to Israel.
- c. Ahab built a _____ and _____ for Jezebel's gods. The people of God followed the king and began to _____.



How did God punish Ahab and the land? Read 1 Kings 17:1.

Draw or write what Elijah did on Mount Carmel when he saw how Ahab and the entire nation departed from God to worship Baal. What did he do to ensure that the false prophets were removed from the land?



Challenge ON MT. CARMEL

Ahab Brings about the Death of Naboth

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Write down the punishment that God would bring upon Ahab's house.

-
-
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God's Words Come to Pass

Draw the event that allowed God's words to be fulfilled.

[1] God Will Render to Us According to Our Words

"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Mat 12:36-37).

What areas of speech would we be judged for?

What does the Bible say about the kinds of words we should speak?

- **Colossians 4:6**

Let your speech always be with _____, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

- **Hebrews 13:15**

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the _____ of _____ to God, that is, the fruit of our lips giving _____ to His name.

Let no **Corrupt** word
proceed out of your mouth,
but what is **NECESSARY**
for edification
that it may impart
GRACE to the hearers.
(Ephesians 4:29)

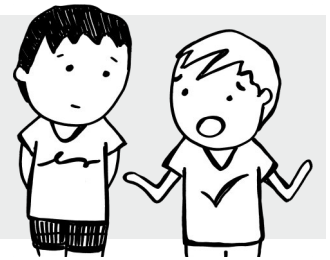
SCENARIO

"Hey Walt, I heard that you got one hundred percent on your English vocabulary test. That's awesome!" exclaims Fred.

"It was pretty tough!" Walt replies.

Fred becomes silent for a bit. "There's a rumor going around that you wrote some of the answers on your arm."

Walt stares at his friend in total disbelief. "Do you believe that?" Walt asks.



Fred knows that his friend Walt did not cheat on the test.

If you were Fred, what would you say to encourage and comfort Walt?

[2] God Will Render to Us According to Our Deeds

2 Corinthians 5:10 tells us that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

How were the following people rewarded for their deeds?

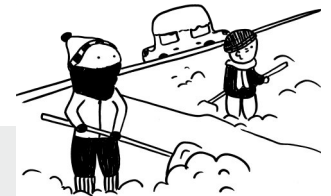
- 2 Tim 4:8—Paul preached the gospel and was rewarded the _____ of righteousness.
- 2 Kgs 4:8-10, 17—The Shunammite woman showed hospitality to Elisha and she was blessed with a _____.
- Ac 9:36, 40-41—Dorcas (Tabitha) did many charitable _____ and was _____.
- Ac 10:1-2, 48—Cornelius feared God, _____, and _____. God gave him an opportunity to be saved.

SCENARIO

It was the first snowstorm of the year and twelve inches of snow had fallen the night before.

"Come on Jake, grab your coat and get ready. We're going to clean the driveway," shouts Dad.

Jake jumps down the stairs two by two, pulling on his coat, gloves, and hat. Jake and his father work hard to clear a path in the huge pile of snow. As Jake stops to rest, he notices that their elderly neighbor, Mr. Walker is outside clearing his driveway, too. However, he isn't getting very far. Jake watches Mr. Walker huff and puff with every shovelful of snow.



What would you do if you were Jake? Think of some good things you can do that will be remembered by the Lord.

[3] God Will Render to Us According to Our Faith

Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you" (Mt 9:29).

How were the following people rewarded for their faith?

- Mat 9:27-29—The two blind men were _____ according to their faith.
- 2 Kgs 5:1, 14—Because of his great faith, Naaman bathed _____ times in the Jordan River and was healed of leprosy.
- Gen 6:22; 7:1—Noah was able to enter into the ark and be _____ because he _____ and _____ God.

Draw or write down what 1 Peter 1:9 tells us is the greatest reward for our faith.

SCENARIO

"It's no use, I've prayed and prayed, and I still haven't gotten the Holy Spirit!" cries Beverly, her head buried in her hands. Eva, Beverly's friend, hugs her.

"I go out to the front to pray; I cry, I pray with all my heart and still nothing! Even kids younger than I get it! Why do I have to waste my time! It's clear that God does not love me!"



If you were Eva, what uplifting words could you say to help Beverly have more faith in God?

[4] God Will Render to Us According to the Way We Treat Others

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you" (Lk 6:38).

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- Ruth 1:16-17; 4:13—Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi were both widows. Ruth chose to follow and take care of Naomi. God rewarded her with a new _____, who would provide for them, and a _____.

Think about how you would like to be treated. Now choose one person to whom you will try to show this kind of treatment in the coming week.

SCENARIO

Miriam enjoys school, but lately she has been feeling downcast. A classmate of hers named Jessie just doesn't seem to like her. Jessie ignores Miriam, and when she passes out invitations to the girls in the class, she does not include Miriam. Miriam feels hurt by this and tells her mother about it.



If you were Miriam's mother, what could you say to comfort Miriam and help her treat others the way she wants to be treated?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 1—King Ahab

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Galatians 6:7**)

True or False

1. Because of Ahab's sins, the land suffered drought and famine for three and a half years. _____
2. The soldier who shot the arrow was able to kill Ahab because he had a very good aim. _____
3. After Ahab repented, he did not need to bear any consequences for the sins he had committed because God forgave him for all his sins. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : King Ahab made a bad choice in marrying Queen Jezebel because _____.
 - a. She brought false gods into the land of Israel.
 - b. She killed the prophets of God.
 - c. She was arrogant, self-important, and evil and had no regard for God.
 - d. All of the above.
5. _____ : Since Ahab humbled himself before God and repented, God _____.
 - a. Decided to get rid of his wife Jezebel only.
 - b. Decided not to kill Ahab's sons in his lifetime.
 - c. Decided to allow Ahab's sons to continue to be kings.
 - d. All of the above.
6. _____ : The Bible describes Ahab as a king who did more evil than any other king because _____.
 - a. Ahab worshipped idols and the golden calves.
 - b. Ahab married Jezebel, a Gentile woman who worshipped pagan gods and did much evil.
 - c. Ahab influenced the people of Israel to worship Baal and persecuted God's prophets.
 - d. All of the above.

Short Answer

7. God will render to us according to what?
8. In our lesson on Ahab, we have learned that God is faithful to His word. Write down at least two events where God fulfilled His words.
9. What did God do in Ahab's life that shows He is a just and loving God?

LESSON 2

KING ASA



OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the strengths and weaknesses of King Asa.
2. To understand the importance of having lifelong trust in and obedience to God.
3. To realize that we should not rely on our own wisdom and insights.

MEMORY VERSE

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

(Psalm 121:1-2)

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for guiding us into Your presence on this holy Sabbath Day. Thank You, Lord, for being there for us whenever we have a problem. However, we have not always put our total trust in You, but have turned our trust to other people and things instead. Teach us that it is You alone who can truly deliver and protect, heal and bless. You are the Creator who made heaven and earth, and nothing is impossible with You.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Asa, the Loyal King
 - Asa removed idolatry in Judah
 - Asa fortified the cities of Judah
 - Asa relied on the Lord during battle
 - Asa and the people made a covenant to seek God
- b. Asa Fails the First Test
- c. Asa Fails the Second Test

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Bible

3. Life Application—Whom do you trust?

4. Activity—"Trust" Wall Hanging



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Queen Mother

The Bible has two references to the queen mother during Asa's reign: 1 Kings 15:13 and 2 Chronicles 15:16. 1 Kings states that King Asa removed his "grandmother" from being queen mother while 2 Chronicles states that he removed his "mother" from being queen mother. Regardless of whether the queen mother was his mother or grandmother, the significant point here is that King Asa considered maintaining loyalty to God as a priority over pleasing his family members.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Before children learn about trusting in a God they cannot see, children learn about trust firsthand from their parents, loved ones, and authority figures. Children learn about trust when they experience their parents supply their needs and wants. Through the deep love and affection shown to them, children are reassured that they will be protected and cared for. Children also know about trust through the examples of godly lives that are set for them and through their parents' responsible actions and kept promises. When children trust, they grow as healthy human beings, develop positive attitudes toward life, and have a lesser need to be in control to make things turn out right.

Similarly, in order for children to establish trust in God, they need to experience God in their lives. Through daily Bible reading and through everyday experiences, children can learn about the kind of God they worship. They will learn that God is a God who eagerly hears and answers prayers. By starting with trusting God in small things, children can learn to trust in God in bigger matters. Your students should be encouraged to keep a journal where they can record all their experiences of God and His marvelous works.



Opener

5 Minutes

Bean Bag Toss

Do you ever worry? What do you worry about? Is there anyone that you go to when you have worries?

Let's play a game. It's called the "People I Can Depend On" bean bag toss.

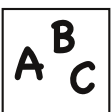
We will take turns tossing a bean bag into a pail. For each successful toss, I want you to complete the sentence: "I can trust a person who..."

Repeat the activity, but this time complete the sentence: "People can trust me because..."

Lastly, have the students complete this final sentence: "I can trust in God because..."

After the game, have students share the qualities God and the people they trust have in common.

Our story today is about a king who began his reign trusting and obeying God. He trusted God in the most difficult of times. Sadly, at the end of his life, he lost that trust in God and instead turned to others for help.



Vocabulary

fortify: to make strong

Asherah: a sea goddess and the mother of several gods, including Baal

loyal: to be true, faithful, and committed to someone or something



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students. The students will fill in the blanks and answer the questions as you teach the lesson. Pause to allow the students to answer the questions. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version for reference.

I. Asa, the Loyal King

We have learned before how the kingdom of Israel was divided into two separate nations. The kingdom of Israel in the north was ruled by Jeroboam, while Rehoboam ruled the kingdom of Judah in the south. After Rehoboam died, his son Abijam became king. After Abijam died, his son Asa became king, the third to reign in Judah.

The life of King Asa is recorded in two Bible passages: 1 Kings 15 and 2 Chronicles 14-16. Let's turn to 1 Kings 15:11, 14. What kind of king was Asa? He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just like King David. Let's look at 1 Kings 15:14 and see what else we can learn about King Asa. It mentions here that Asa was loyal to the Lord all his days.

What does being loyal mean? [Have students respond. Write responses on the board.] When we are loyal, we are faithful to someone or something, no matter in good or bad times and no matter how we feel. Asa was loyal to God, so his heart was faithful, committed, and true to God. He obeyed God's teachings and did what was pleasing to God.

Let's find out what Asa did to show his loyalty to God.

A. Asa Removed Idolatry in Judah

Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-5.

The people in Asa's kingdom had turned their hearts from the one true God to other gods. They were worshipping the same gods that the pagans were worshipping. This greatly displeased God. Asa reminded the people that they had to return to God and observe His laws. Anything that takes our heart off of God and has more control of our lives than God is idolatry. What are some things we may need to remove from our lives so that God is given first place in our lives? [Allow students to respond. Possible answers: TV, friends, video games, sports, etc.]

B. Asa Fortified the Cities of Judah

Turn to 2 Chronicles 14:6-8.

Because Asa removed the wicked practices that were offensive to God, God gave the southern kingdom peace from their enemies. Why do you think peace is a great blessing to a country?

What did Asa do in times of peace? Asa used the peaceful times to strengthen and fortify the cities with walls, towers, gates, and bars. Why was this a wise thing to do? Asa used the times of peace to prepare for the day when enemies would come against them. The moment that enemies attack, it is already too late to try to prepare defenses.

Most likely, we will not face the attack of a physical army. However, as children of God, we have an enemy, Satan, who is always prowling around, seeking for an opportunity to attack us (1 Pet 5:8). The only way we can stand against his attacks is by strengthening our faith every day and obeying God's words. When God gives us times of peace, we should stay focused on Him and not neglect to pray, read the Bible, and memorize Scripture daily. Through fortifying our faith, we will have a greater resistance to temptation and sin.

C. Asa Relied on the Lord During Battle

Read 2 Chronicles 14:9-15.

When trouble did come, Asa was prepared for it. Who came to attack King Asa, and how large was his army? Zerah the leader of the Ethiopians came to attack King Asa and the kingdom of Judah. He had an army of one million men and three hundred chariots. How many fighting men did Asa have? (580,000.)

How did Asa show that his heart was loyal to God in this event? Read 2 Chronicles 14:11. As Asa faced the great Ethiopian army, he did not rely on his strong defenses. God was his shield and only defense, and he called on the mighty name of God to deliver him from his enemy. How did God enable him to be greatly victorious? Read 2 Chronicles 14:14-15.

If we want to overcome life's difficulties and troubles, we have to seek and trust God first in every circumstance. We should not rely on our own wisdom or abilities, but ask God to direct us, as He knows what is best for us.

D. Asa and the People Made a Covenant to Seek God

After the battle, God sent the prophet Azariah to encourage Asa. What was God's message to Asa? Read 2 Chronicles 15:2-7.

- God instructed Asa that if he continued to seek after Him, God would find him.
- For a long time, God had not abided with Israel because of her rebelliousness. As a result, there was no peace, problems troubled the land, crime increased, and there were constant wars.
- If Asa kept up the good work and remained strong, God would reward him for his work.

How did Asa respond to God's encouragement? Read 2 Chronicles 15:8-9, 16.

- When Asa heard God's encouragement, he was moved to cleanse his kingdom of evil.
- He removed his grandmother Maachah from being queen mother because she had built an idol of Asherah.
- He gathered all the people, and they offered a huge sacrifice from the plunder they had captured in the battle.
- They also made a covenant to worship only the Lord God with all their heart and soul.
- He brought back into the Temple the silver and gold bowls that were dedicated to the Lord.

These actions greatly pleased God, and He blessed Asa and the nation. How did God bless him? Read 2 Chronicles 15:10, 19. From the time they made the covenant to follow God, until the 35th year of Asa's reign, there was peace in the land for a period of twenty years. To have peace, we need to remove the things in our lives that keep us from having a heart fully committed to the Lord.

II. Asa Fails the First Test

On the 36th year of Asa's reign, King Baasha of Israel declared war against Judah. Sometimes troubles come upon us to test our faith and obedience to God. When the Ethiopians attacked Judah, we saw how King Asa put his faith completely on God.

How did King Asa respond to King Baasha's threats? Read 2 Chronicles 16:1-6.

Sadly, King Asa did not trust in God as he had before. On this occasion, Asa took the silver and gold from the temple and sent it to King Ben-hadad of Syria, asking him to break his alliance with the king of Israel and to help him instead. King Ben-hadad agreed, and he

mobilized his army to attack Israel. When Baasha king of Israel realized what was happening, he gave up his plan to attack Judah.

Although Asa was successful in stopping King Baasha's attack, God was not pleased that Asa had placed his trust in man instead of the Lord. What was worse, Asa had sought help from Ben-hadad, who was an enemy of Judah (Jer 17:5).

Asa Rejects God's Warning

God then sent the prophet Hanani to speak to King Asa. Read 2 Chronicles 16:7-10. What did the prophet say to King Asa?

- The prophet reminded Asa that because he had relied on the king of Syria instead of the Lord, Asa had allowed the king of Syria, his enemy, to escape.
- God reminded Asa how God had delivered him from the vast armies of the Ethiopians and the Libyans, but because he did not rely on the Lord, from now on, Asa would have wars in his kingdom.

How did Asa respond to God's correction? Read 2 Chronicles 16:10. Asa was so angry that he threw the prophet into jail, and he began to oppress the people.

III. Asa Fails The Second Test

In the 39th year of Asa's reign, Asa became seriously diseased in his feet, but Asa committed the same wrong again. Read 2 Chronicles 16:12. Once again, Asa placed his trust in man and sought the help of doctors instead of seeking God first. It is not wrong to go to a doctor, since there are times when God will use doctors to help heal our sicknesses, but we must also remember to rely on God in our times of sickness. Asa's actions displeased God because he didn't go to God for help, but placed his entire faith in the doctors.

Asa reigned in Judah for forty years. For thirty-four years, Asa was loyal and obedient to God, and as a result, his kingdom prospered and was at peace. However, in the last six years of his reign, Asa's heart turned from God. This reminds us the importance of holding onto our faith until the very end. It is not enough to have a good beginning. We can only be saved if we are true and loyal to God to the very end (Eccl 7:8; Heb 3:14).

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 to the students. Allow students to complete it. Then, explain that we can only be saved if we are true and loyal to God to the very end.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible

The Holy Bible, the word of God, not only gives us wisdom for salvation, but also gives us instruction on how to live lives pleasing and faithful to God. When Asa obeyed God and relied on God, God granted him periods of peace and protection. Likewise, when we follow the word of God and rely on Him, He will also grant us periods of peace. Then, we can use these periods of peace to strengthen our defenses against Satan by reading the Bible, praying, and memorizing Scripture.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What were some of the things that Asa did that pleased God?** He removed foreign altars and idols; he removed Maachah as queen mother; and he made a covenant to seek after God.
- 2. How did God bless Asa when he followed God's teachings? Why is this a great blessing?** He granted the kingdom of Judah periods of peace and protection. These times of peace allowed Asa to build up the defenses for when the enemies attacked.
- 3. Asa fortified the cities to protect against the enemies' attacks. How can we strengthen our faith against the attacks of Satan?** We can strengthen our faith by reading the Bible, praying to God, and memorizing Scripture.
- 4. Name the two times when King Asa relied on others rather than on God.** Asa relied on Ben-Hadad when the king of Israel came up against him. He also put his total trust in the doctors when his feet were diseased.
- 5. Why was God displeased that King Asa went to Ben-Hadad for help?** God was displeased when King Asa put his trust in man and not in God.
- 6. How did Asa react when the prophet Hanani came to speak to him about seeking help from the king of Syria?** He became upset and threw Hanani in jail. Then, he started oppressing the people.



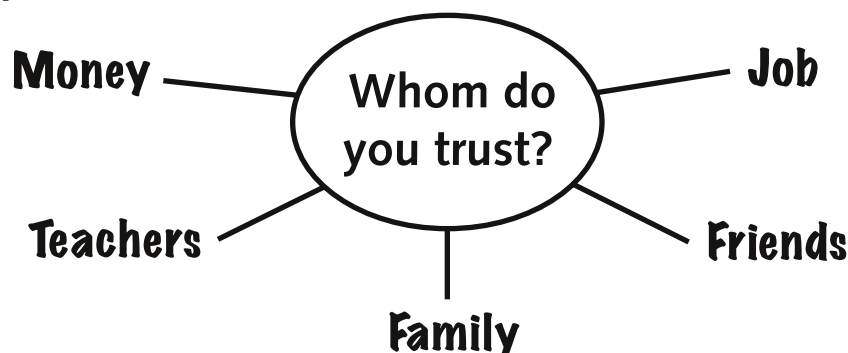
Life Application

10 Minutes

WHOM DO YOU TRUST?

Early in his reign, Asa trusted God and pleased God in all that he did. Unfortunately, towards the latter part of his reign, Asa's confidence and faith in God failed. He turned to other kings and doctors to help deliver his country and cure his diseased feet.

What are some of the things that people put their confidence or trust in today? [Have students brainstorm and write their answers on the board. Some possible answers: money, own abilities or knowledge, parents and friends, doctors, teachers, careers, etc.]



Why do we place our trust in these things instead of in God?

1. We Trust in Things/People We Can See

It's easy to trust in things or people that we can see. God, on the other hand, cannot be seen. Although God cannot be seen, His Spirit is everywhere, and He is all-powerful and all-knowing. While man's wisdom and resources are very limited, God can cause extraordinary and impossible things to happen.

2. To Be in Control

We all like to do things our own way and to be in control. Placing our trust in God seems harder because we have to humble ourselves, let go of our own will, and submit to God's way. But sometimes, doing things our own way can get us into a bigger mess than before. God doesn't want us to go through that. He wants us to trust in Him. Since He is our heavenly Father, He will always take care of us and do what is best for us.

3. To Get Quick Answers

We depend on man for the answers to our problems because we want quick answers, but quick answers may not be the best answers. Have you ever tried trusting in someone, who genuinely wants to help you, only to find out eventually that they can't help? Maybe you receive so many different views that you're not sure which one is the best for you, and you become more confused. Instead of quick answers, we ought to seek for real answers to our problems, answers that can come only from trusting in God.

4. We Forget that God Is Almighty

Although God has placed people in our lives to support or help us, He doesn't want us to rely on them solely. God wants us to remember that He is an almighty and powerful God and that, ultimately, He is in control of the outcome. In our daily lives, we need to think about God's wonderful deeds so that we will know to turn to Him in times of need.

I. Scenarios

Instructions

1. Have students read the following scenarios.
2. Divide the students into groups of two or three. Have each group pick and act out a scenario. Each group will work on the problem and decide the outcome to the scenario. They may choose to provide an outcome where the characters end up putting their trust in other things/people. Have them think about the consequences of making such a decision. Or, groups may choose to provide an outcome where the characters place their trust in God. Remind the students to try and find wise solutions and to have the mind of Christ as they explore the value of trust.
3. Allow enough time at the end for students to present their skits.

Scenario #1

You are on vacation at a place you've never visited before. You become separated from your parents and can't find them in the crowd. You are really worried and scared.

Scenario #2

Evan is new at the school. His teacher has placed him in a desk in front of a boy called Zach. Zach notices that Evan has large ears. "Hey, Dumbo," Zach hisses. Evan chooses to ignore him. However, every day, Zach teases Evan in this way, and when the teacher isn't looking, Zach throws things at him. Evan has told him to stop, but Zach seems to enjoy seeing Evan get upset.

Scenario #3

Abby has been scheduled to play the piano during the Friday night church service for the first time. Abby enjoys playing hymns, but she doesn't like playing in front of people because she gets very nervous and makes a lot of silly mistakes. Abby is so nervous that she has even dreamed of herself playing very badly.

II. What does the Bible say about trusting in God?

1. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit (Jer 17:7-8).
2. Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out His hand, both he who helps will fall, and he who is helped will fall down; they all will perish together (Isa 31:1, 3).



Activity

"Trust" Wall Hanging

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the teaching that we can trust in God in times of need.

Materials

- Long roll of butcher paper or individual pieces of blank paper
- Markers

Instructions

1. Lay a long roll of paper down in the middle of a large table. Alternatively, you can have students work alone on individual sheets of drawing paper.
2. Have the students write today's memory verse along the edges of the paper.
3. Ask students to draw pictures of a time when they trusted in God. It can be taken from their own lives or they can choose to draw a Bible character who turned to God in times of need.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False
3. True
5. A
6. B
7. C
8. We can strengthen our faith by reading the Bible, praying, and memorizing Scripture.
9. Answers may vary.

King Asa

The Bible describes Asa as a loyal king. How did Asa show his loyalty?

Instructions: Read the following Bible passages and fill in the blanks.

A. Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-5.

Asa removed idolatry in Judah.

What are some things you need to remove from your life so that God is first place in your life?

B. Read 2 Chronicles 14:6-8.

Asa fortified the cities of Judah with walls, towers, gates, and bars.

Why was this a wise thing to do? (Asa used the times of peace to prepare for the day when enemies would come against them. The moment that enemies attack, it is already too late to try to prepare defenses.)

How can we fortify our hearts to defend against Satan's attacks? (We can strengthen our faith every day by reading the Bible, praying, and memorizing Scripture.)

C. Read 2 Chronicles 14:9-15.

Asa relied on the Lord during battle.

How did Asa demonstrate his trust in God? (Asa did not rely on his strong defenses. He called on the mighty name of God to deliver him from his enemy.)

How can we rely on God in times of trouble? (We need to seek and trust God first in every circumstance. We should not rely on our own wisdom or abilities, but ask God to direct us, as He knows what is best.)

D. Read 2 Chronicles 15:2-7.

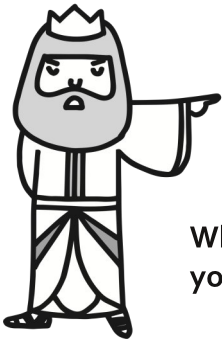
Asa and the people made a covenant to seek God.

How did God bless Asa and the nation of Judah? (God brought peace upon the land.)

King Asa

The Bible describes Asa as a loyal king. How did Asa show his loyalty?

Instructions: Read the following Bible passages and fill in the blanks.



A. Read 2 Chronicles 14:1-5.

Asa removed _____ in Judah.

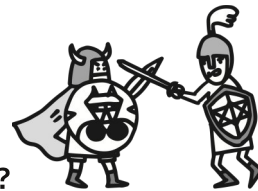
What are some things you need to remove from your life so that God is first place in your life?

B. Read 2 Chronicles 14:6-8.

Asa _____ the _____ of Judah with _____, _____, _____ and _____.

Why was this a wise thing to do?

How can we fortify our hearts to defend against Satan's attacks?



C. Read 2 Chronicles 14:9-15.

Asa _____ on the _____ during _____.

How did Asa demonstrate his trust in God?

How can we rely on God in times of trouble?

D. Read 2 Chronicles 15:2-7.

Asa and the people made a _____ to _____ God.

How did God bless Asa and the nation of Judah?

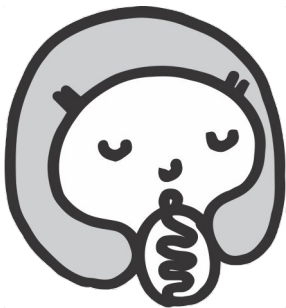
Asa Fails Two Tests



1. In the space below, draw or describe how King Asa failed the test in his 36th year.

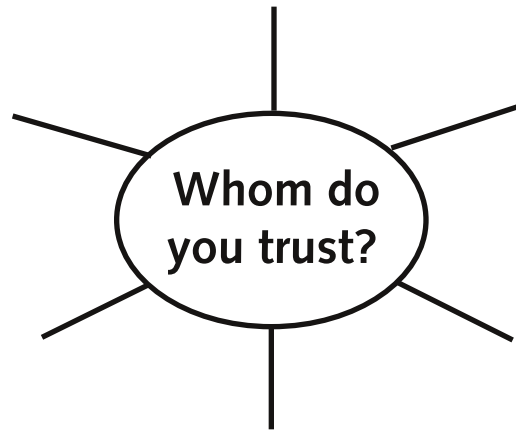
2. In the space below, draw or describe what caused King Asa to fail his second test.

3. Even though Asa trusted God in the beginning of his reign, what lessons can we learn from his later years?



Whom Do You Trust?

a. In the circle below, write down the things that people trust in today.



b. Why do we place our trust in these things instead of on God?

Scenarios

Scenario #1

You are on vacation at a place you've never visited before. You become separated from your parents and can't find them in the crowd. You are really worried and scared.



Scenario #2

Evan is new at the school. His teacher has placed him in a desk in front of a boy called Zach. Zach notices that Evan has large ears. "Hey, Dumbo," Zach hisses. Evan chooses to ignore him. However, every day, Zach teases Evan in this way, and when the teacher isn't looking, Zach throws things at him. Evan has told him to stop, but Zach seems to enjoy seeing Evan get upset.

Scenario #3

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What Does the Bible Say about Trusting God?

Instructions: Read the two Bible verses and fill in the contrasting consequences of those who trust and don't trust in God.

(Jeremiah 17:7-8)

Blessed is the man who _____ in the Lord, and whose _____ is the Lord. For he shall be like a _____ planted by the waters, which spreads out its _____ by the river, and will not _____ when _____ comes; but its leaf will be _____, and will not be _____ in the year of _____, nor will cease from yielding _____.



(Isaiah 31:1, 3)

Woe to those who go down to _____ for help, and _____ on _____, who _____ in _____ because they are many, and in _____ because they are very _____, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the Lord! Now the Egyptians are _____, and not God; and their horses are _____, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out His hand, both he who helps will _____, and he who is helped will _____; they all will perish together.

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 2—King Asa

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Psalm 121:1-2**)

True or False

1. Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of God; he removed foreign altars and idols and made a covenant to seek after God. _____
2. When Baasha, king of Israel, attacked Asa, King Asa fully trusted in God to deliver him. _____
3. Because King Asa did not seek after God and relied on Ben-Hadad for help, God punished him with wars. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : When Asa was loyal and obedient, God _____.
 - a. Granted peace throughout his kingdom
 - b. Granted him great riches and military power
 - c. Gave him many sons and daughters
5. _____ : When the prophet corrected Asa for seeking help from Ben-Hadad King of Syria, Asa _____.
 - a. Humbled himself and repented before God
 - b. Was angry with the prophet and had him put in prison
 - c. Sulked and refused to eat
6. _____ : Towards the end of his life, Asa did not trust in God _____.
 - a. When his enemies invaded the country
 - b. When his sons and daughters were captured by enemies
 - c. When he was afflicted with a disease in his feet

Short Answer

7. Asa fortified the cities to protect against attacks from enemies. How can we strengthen our faith against the attacks of Satan?

8. Why does God want us to rely on Him? Share a time when you relied on the Lord.

LESSON 3

KING JEHOSHAPHAT



OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the life and deeds of King Jehoshaphat.
2. To learn the importance of choosing friends wisely.
3. To understand that bad choices bring bad consequences.

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'"

(1 Corinthians 15:33)

PRAYER

Thank You, heavenly Father for the abundant blessings You have given to us each day. One of the gifts You have bestowed upon us is our group of friends who loves us and is there for us in times of happiness and sadness. Today, we will learn that not all friends are the same. Please give us a discerning mind to choose our friends wisely so that we can be always protected in Your love and in Your truth.



Overview

1. Bible Story & Spiritual Teaching

A. King Jehoshaphat's Strengths and Good Deeds

- He delighted in the way of the Lord
- He fortified Judah
- He did not worship Baal
- The people were taught the laws of God
- He appointed fair judges
- He trusted God in battle

B. King Jehoshaphat's Weaknesses

- He made a marriage alliance with King Ahab
- He helped King Ahab in battle
- He partnered with King Ahaziah

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Bible

3. Life Application—The Keys to Choosing Friends

4. Activity—Friendship Wreath



Background Knowledge for Teachers

King Jehoshaphat reigned as king of Judah from 872 to 848 BC, which is about eighty years after Solomon's reign. His name means "Jehovah shall judge." King Jehoshaphat was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he ruled for twenty-five years. It was obvious to all that Jehoshaphat was a man who did what was right in God's eyes. He did not seek to worship Baal, a false god that the kings of Israel were worshipping; rather, he wanted the people to return to worshipping God instead.

In spite of his strengths, Jehoshaphat also made some foolish decisions, in that he allied with wicked kings, particularly the infamous King Ahab. It does not appear that Jehoshaphat made these decisions from a rebellious heart, but rather an inconsistent and undiscerning mind. Furthermore, throughout history, it was common practice for the sons and daughters of kings of different lands to be given to each other in marriage in order to secure peace between nations. Also, the fact that Judah and Israel shared a common history also created a unique relationship. Both of these reasons, as well as other factors, might have appeared good to Jehoshaphat. Despite his motives, the alliance was displeasing to God and caused tragic consequences.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Friendships are gifts from God and are very important to our emotional and social well being. This is certainly true of children. At this age, boys usually bond in larger groups through common interests, such as physical activities, games, and so on. Girls generally bond in smaller intimate groups based on common interests and similar personalities. This is a time when girls seem to be “joined at the hip.” They start to confide in each other about thoughts and feelings and do almost everything together.

In Elementary 2, your students have already formed a concept of fairness and reciprocity. So, if they do something nice for a friend, they most likely expect that friend to do something nice for them in return or when the occasion arises.

Moreover, your students may choose their friends based on what they hold as important, such as family values, or on common interests or goals. Although they are beginning to have the ability to make good judgments when choosing friends, they still need guidance and help from their parents and teachers.

To help the students understand why God was upset with King Jehoshaphat when he helped King Ahab, have students examine what would happen if they were to help a troublemaker in class. Though it may seem as if they are being loyal and loving to their friend, it would still be wrong and displeasing to the teacher. Such actions will not only get their friend in trouble; they, too, would be seen as being “a partner in crime.”



Opener

5 Minutes

Have you ever experienced drinking or eating something only to find that a fly has been feasting on it before you have? What would you do?

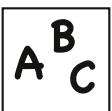
Although a fly seems small and harmless, we really shouldn't eat of food or drink that a fly has landed on. Flies often feed on anything they land on (e.g., garbage, manure, dead insects or animals, etc.) and when they hop onto our food, they will transmit bacteria onto it. This can potentially make us very sick.

Similarly, when a chemist or perfumer makes perfumed ointment, they skillfully mix precious spices, scents, herbs, and medicinal extracts into an olive oil base. The fragrance from these ointments naturally attracts flies. What do you think would happen to the ointment when flies get trapped in the ointment? Yes, it would spoil because the flies' decaying bodies will cause the ointment to spoil and stink, making it unable to be used.

In the same way that something as small as a fly can ruin our food or drink, or sweet-smelling perfume, likewise, a little weakness or error may cause us to go astray from God and sin against Him.

Let's turn to Ecclesiastes 10:1: “Dead flies putrefy the perfumer's ointment, and cause it to give off a foul odor; so does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor.”

Today, we will learn how a good king called Jehoshaphat made seemingly small and insignificant mistakes, which led to major, negative consequences.



Vocabulary

alliance: an agreement or treaty between two or more nations



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Ask the students to complete it as you go over the lesson. As you teach, pause to allow the students to complete the questions. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

King Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah. He lived at a time when the kingdom of Israel had split into two kingdoms: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. The northern kingdom of Israel consistently had evil kings, while the southern kingdom of Judah enjoyed a few good kings.

Jehoshaphat was one such good king. He began his reign over Judah when he was thirty-five years old and he ruled Judah for twenty-five years. It was obvious to all that he wanted to walk in the ways of the Lord and brought some changes in the land.

2 Chronicles 20:32 says, "And he walked in the way of his father Asa, and did not turn aside from it, doing what was right in the sight of the Lord."

Let's explore the Bible further to see what Jehoshaphat did that was right in God's eyes.

A. Jehoshaphat's Strengths and Good Deeds

1. He delighted in the ways of the Lord (2 Chron 17:6a).
2. Jehoshaphat placed garrisons and strengthened the cities of Judah and other places throughout the country and the cities that his father had conquered (2 Chron 17:2).
3. He did not seek to worship Baal, which the kings of Israel were worshipping. He took away all the idols that had again risen in the land, destroyed the altars that were used for idol worship, and called upon his people to worship the Lord (2 Chron 17:6b).
4. He sent the leaders and Levites to all the cities of Judah to teach and educate the people about the laws of God (2 Chron 17:7-9).
5. Jehoshaphat appointed judges to help with ruling and judging the people of the land. He warned the judges that they were to rely on God to be just: they were to be impartial; they were to be honest and act only out of fear of God (2 Chron 19:5-6).

What was the result of this? God blessed him with peace, power, and prosperity.

- a. The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the land around Judah so that they did not make war with King Jehoshaphat. God blessed him with peace, power, and prosperity. From history, whenever a king obeyed God, God would bless them with peace in the land (cf. 1 Kgs 4:24). But when they disobeyed God, God would allow neighboring countries to trouble them.
- b. The Philistines brought him presents and annual tribute (2 Chron 17:11). The Arabs brought 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.
- c. Jehoshaphat had a huge army stationed in Jerusalem (2 Chron 17:12-19). Besides Jerusalem, Jehoshaphat also placed troops in the fortified cities throughout Judah. In Jerusalem alone, Jehoshaphat's army consisted of 1,160,000 men. His army was double the size of his father King Asa's army, which had only 580,000 men (2 Chron 14:8). In fact, God made Jehoshaphat's army almost as strong as King David's army, which had 1,300,000 men.

Other notable things about King Jehoshaphat:

6. He trusted in God in battle

During Jehoshaphat's reign, the armies of Moab, Ammon and the other nations came together and declared war on Jehoshaphat. If you were King Jehoshaphat how would you have felt? What would you have done? [Have students respond.] Let's read 2 Chronicles 20:3-12 to learn the good example King Jehoshaphat set for us for when we meet with problems and difficulties.

- Although King Jehoshaphat was scared by the news, he did not rely on the strength of his own army nor did he seek the help of other nations to deliver him.
- He was determined to ask God for help.
- He announced to the people of Judah to fast and pray to God.
- He led all the men and women, the young and the old, who had gathered to the temple in a prayer service.

How did God answer Jehoshaphat? Have students read 2 Chronicles 20:15-17.

Because Jehoshaphat completely trusted and depended on

God for deliverance, God reassured Jehoshaphat saying, "Do not be afraid for the battle is not yours, but God's!" God then instructed them to go down to the battleground the next day, where they would not need to fight. Instead, they would see God's miraculous deliverance.

The next morning, as Jehoshaphat prepared his army, what did he do that was very unusual? Let's turn to 2 Chronicles 20:21. If you saw an army going out to battle in this way, would you think the army would have a chance at winning? What happened as a result of such action?

Early the next morning, Jehoshaphat obeyed God by bringing his army out to the battlefield. But Jehoshaphat did a very strange thing. He appointed the singers to march before the army singing, "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever."

And when the singers who marched before the army began to sing and praise God, the Lord caused the armies of Ammon and Moab to fight amongst themselves and destroy one another.

So, when the army of Judah arrived at the place overlooking the wilderness, they saw dead bodies lying all over the battlefield—not a single one of the enemy soldiers had escaped.

The Bible does not mention what happened to cause Jehoshaphat's enemies to turn on each other. But this demonstrates how God has authority over all of His creation and over every event. God not only rescued Jehoshaphat from this great army, He also gave Jehoshaphat and his army a large amount of spoil left by their enemies. There was so much treasure that it took them three days to cart it all away. When Jehoshaphat and his men returned to Jerusalem and to the house of the Lord, there was great joy and praising on stringed instruments, harps, and trumpets.

How did God continue to bless Jehoshaphat?

Let's turn to Chronicles 20:29. "And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel." Jehoshaphat's kingdom was quiet and enjoyed peace, for God had given him rest.

Sometimes, situations seem overwhelming and it may appear that there is no way for good to come from them. When we turn to other people or things without looking to God first to help us in our difficulty, we miss the opportunity to see God's great power turn that difficult situation into a blessing.

B. King Jehoshaphat's Weaknesses

Jehoshaphat had a heart devoted to God. He did many things that showed he put God first in his life. Despite this, Jehoshaphat had weaknesses that caused him to make poor judgments and choices that, in turn, led to very grave consequences.

1. He allied himself with King Ahab through marriage.

Read 2 Chronicles 21:5-6.

Trouble started when Jehoshaphat made an alliance with one king in particular, an alliance that he should never have made. He allowed his son, Jehoram, to marry Athaliah, the daughter of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel reigned over the northern kingdom of Israel. The wicked king and queen led the people of Israel to worship Baal and disobey God's laws. Under Ahab's rule, the nation sunk into deep spiritual darkness.

Athaliah grew up under the wicked influence of her parents. So, when Jehoram married Athaliah, he, too, came under the influence of this wicked family. He did what was evil in God's sight, and he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, just as his father King Ahab had done. When Jehoram became king, he killed all six of his brothers, and he brought the worship of Baal into the land of Judah.

But Jehoshaphat's bad decision to ally with Ahab and its negative consequences did not just end there. Later, this Jehoram's wicked wife Athaliah attempted to kill her own sons and grandchildren so that she could make herself queen. But, God saved Joash, one of her grandsons, who grew up to rule Judah and did what was right in the eyes of God (2 Chron 24:2).

2. He helped King Ahab in battle.

A few years after King Jehoshaphat made the marriage alliance with King Ahab, King Jehoshaphat went to Samaria to visit King Ahab. While there, King Ahab tried to persuade King Jehoshaphat to join forces with him to fight against the Syrians who had taken over Ramoth-Gilead. Do you think it was right for King Jehoshaphat to help King Ahab? [Have students respond.]

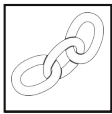
Let's read 2 Chronicles 18:3-5. King Jehoshaphat replied, "I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will be with you in the war." Jehoshaphat fully supported Ahab even though he was a wicked king. During the battle, King Ahab was killed, and Jehoshaphat narrowly escaped death.

Do you think such a friendship pleased God? Why or why not? Read 2 Chronicles 19:1-2. When King Jehoshaphat returned from the battle, the prophet Jehu came to tell him that God was angry and displeased with what he had done. Jehoshaphat had loved and helped a person who was wicked and who disobeyed and hated God. It was as if Jehoshaphat was helping a friend who was a troublemaker. God knew that it was dangerous for Jehoshaphat to join forces with the wicked King Ahab as this evil king could lead him astray. As a result, God's wrath was upon Jehoshaphat.

3. He partnered with King Ahaziah to build a fleet of ships

Read 2 Chronicles 20:35-37 and 1 Kings 22:49.

It appears that Jehoshaphat paid no attention to God's previous warning as, after the incident with King Ahab, Jehoshaphat made an alliance with King Ahaziah, Ahab's son who was also a very wicked man. The alliance seemed harmless. It was simply an agreement to build a fleet of trading ships together so that they could sail in search for gold. But God sent the prophet Eliezer to tell Jehoshaphat, "Because you have made an alliance with Ahaziah, the Lord will destroy what you have made." Consequently, God destroyed Jehoshaphat's ships before they could even set sail. Later, when Ahaziah again asked to partner with Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat learned his lesson and refused.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is the standard for living a life pleasing to God.

The life of King Jehoshaphat reminds us of the importance of placing the word of God as the standard of our lives. In spite of his weaknesses, Jehoshaphat was a man who sought to please God. Not only did he seek God personally, he encouraged his people to know God's words and carry out His will by implementing a nationwide religious education program.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

- 1. When Jehoshaphat learned the dreadful news that the armies of three nations were planning to attack him, he recruited the armies of other nations to fight.** False.
- 2. When Jehoshaphat and his army arrived at the battlefield, they discovered that the entire enemy army was dead.** True.
- 3. The mistake that Jehoshaphat committed repeatedly was that he married Gentile women.** False; he repeatedly made alliances with wicked kings.
- 4. God was pleased about Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab. Because of Jehoshaphat's good influence, Ahab became a better person and there was peace in the land.** False; King Ahab died in battle and Jehoshaphat almost lost his life.
- 5. Jehoshaphat appointed the choir to lead the army to battle because it helped calm the nerves of the soldiers.** False; he wanted to praise God.

Questions to Think About

- 6. How did God rescue Jehoshaphat from his enemies?** God turned Jehoshaphat's enemies against each other and they ended up destroying each other.
- 7. What were Jehoshaphat and the soldiers' response to God's help?** They praised Him.
- 8. What did Jehoshaphat do to enable the people to obey God's teachings, and what good things happened as a result?** He sent Levites and leaders throughout Judah to teach and educate the people about the laws of God. God blessed the land with peace and prosperity.



Life Application

10 Minutes

THE KEYS TO CHOOSING FRIENDS

In today's story, we learned that King Jehoshaphat was a man who desired to please God, but in his daily life, he repeatedly made the same mistake. Jehoshaphat had a tendency of allying with wicked kings. The partnership between Jehoshaphat and Ahab was unsuitable because Jehoshaphat served God and Ahab worshipped idols. Jehoshaphat inquired after God in everything, while Ahab rejected God and listened to his evil wife. Jehoshaphat lived in the light of God's words, while Ahab rejected God and lived in darkness.

We all like to have friends. The friends we choose in life can have a big impact on our lives. Our friends help us to be better people and help us to grow. Our friends can influence the type of clothes we wear, the type of music we listen to, our interests and habits, the way we act and treat others and so on. In other words, friends have a powerful impact on our lives and our future.

However, not all friends are the same. As Christians, we need to be careful in choosing our friends because there are friends that can have a negative influence on us. Their beliefs and the way they behave and speak may lead us away from the teachings of God. They may tempt us to do evil and sin against God. The Bible gives us warning about such friends. 1 Corinthians 15:33 says, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits.'" If we surround ourselves with godly friends we will stay within God's words and be protected from turning away from God.

Knowing how to choose friends is therefore very important. On the poster paper, write the title "Keys to Choosing Friends". With a partner, brainstorm ideas on what you would look for when choosing friends. Write each idea on a key template. Then, look up the Bible verses to see what else the Bible says about choosing friends. Glue the key templates to the poster paper.

1. Prov 12:26 - Choose the right friends so that we will not be led astray.
2. Prov 13:20 - Choose wise friends.
3. Prov 16:28 – Don't choose a friend who shares your secrets.
4. Prov 17:17 – Choose a friend who loves at all times.
5. Prov 22:11 – Choose a friend who has a good heart and speaks kindly.
6. Prov 22:24-25 – Don't choose friends who are easily angered or we will learn to be like them.
7. Prov 27:6 – Choose a friend who will tell us when we have done wrong.
8. Prov 27:9 – Choose a friend who gives good advice when we face difficulties.

Skits

Instructions: Divide the class into groups of 2-3. Have students read the following skits, and then come up with an ending to the skit of choice. At the end, have each group present their entire skit before the class. Discuss the outcome of each skit.

Skit 1

Richard liked his new school, and very soon, he made some good friends. His friends liked to hang out together; they played basketball, video games, and read comic books. Over time, one of his friends started to use swear words to express himself. It wasn't often, but now and then, he would use them when he missed a basket during basketball or when he lost in a video game. Richard noticed that little by little, the others started making this same choice. Richard didn't like the swearing, but he liked his friends. He decided that he would continue to hang out with them, but he told himself that he wasn't going to get caught up in the same bad habit.

Come up with an ending to this scenario. Consider some possible results that might occur if Richard stayed or left his group of friends.

Skit 2

Brianna was a girl who liked when others did things for her, but she did not make much of an effort for others. On special occasions, such as birthdays, her friends gave her gifts, but seldom did she give gifts in return. When her friends were sick, she didn't take the time to make them a get-well card or ask after them. When her friends asked to borrow something, Brianna would tell them to ask someone else instead.

During National Friendship Day at school, everyone had to make three cards to give to their friends. Brianna enjoyed the task of choosing three from among all her classmates. However, when all the cards had been made and shared out among classmates, Brianna was the only one who did not receive a card! She felt terrible. How could it be that no one saw her as their friend? Returning home, Brianna cried and cried. She asked her mother why nobody liked her and why she did not have true friends.

Come up with a scenario where Brianna talks with her mother. What might Brianna's mother say to teach her about being a good friend?

Skit 3

Jill is having a sleepover at her best friend Shirley's house. Together with the other girls who were invited, they spent an entire day eating, watching movies, and playing games. During their chats, one of the friends mentioned something that Jill had told Shirley and nobody else. Shirley had promised that she would keep it a secret. At that time, Jill looked at Shirley, wondering how this other friend could know her secret, too. Shirley just acted as if she hadn't heard anything.

Come up with an ending to this scenario. How might Jill be feeling at this time? What would you choose to do if you were Jill?

**Activity****Friendship Wreath***10-15 Minutes*

Objective: To reinforce the importance of being a good friend.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Pencils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers, colored pencil/crayons

Instructions

1. Have the students trace their own hand on a piece of colored construction paper, and then cut out the handprint.
2. Have the students write, "To be a better pal, I will..." in the palm of the handprint.
3. Then, on each finger, have students write or draw what they will do to be a better friend to others.
4. Have students share their ideas and thoughts.
5. Glue the handprints together in a circle to make a wreath, and display it on the classroom bulletin board or post it on the classroom wall.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; he repeatedly allied with wicked kings.
2. False; he wanted to praise God.
3. True
4. C
5. A
6. D
7. Jehoshaphat sent the leaders and Levites to all the cities of Judah to teach and educate the people about the laws of God. The kingdoms around Judah feared them and there was peace and prosperity.
8. They praised God.
9. Jehoshaphat served God, inquired after God in everything, and lived in the light of God's word. Ahab, on the other hand, lived in darkness. He worshipped idols, rejected God's words, and listened to his evil wife.

King Jehoshaphat

A. What were Jehoshaphat's strengths and good deeds?

Read the following Bible verses and fill in the blanks.

1. 2 Chron 17:6a _____
2. 2 Chron 17:2 _____
3. 2 Chron 17:6b _____
4. 2 Chron 17:7-9 _____
5. 2 Chron 19:5-6 _____
6. 2 Chron 20:3-12 _____

Draw the different ways that God blessed Jehoshaphat.

A. The fear of the Lord fell on all the kingdoms of the land around Judah so that they did not make war with King Jehoshaphat. God blessed him with peace, power, and prosperity.

B. The Philistines brought him presents and annual tribute (2 Chron 17:11). The Arabs donated 7,700 rams and 7,700 male goats.

C. God made Jehoshaphat's army as strong as King David's army (2 Chron 17:12-19).



B. What were Jehoshaphat's weaknesses?

Read the following Bible verses and fill in the blanks.

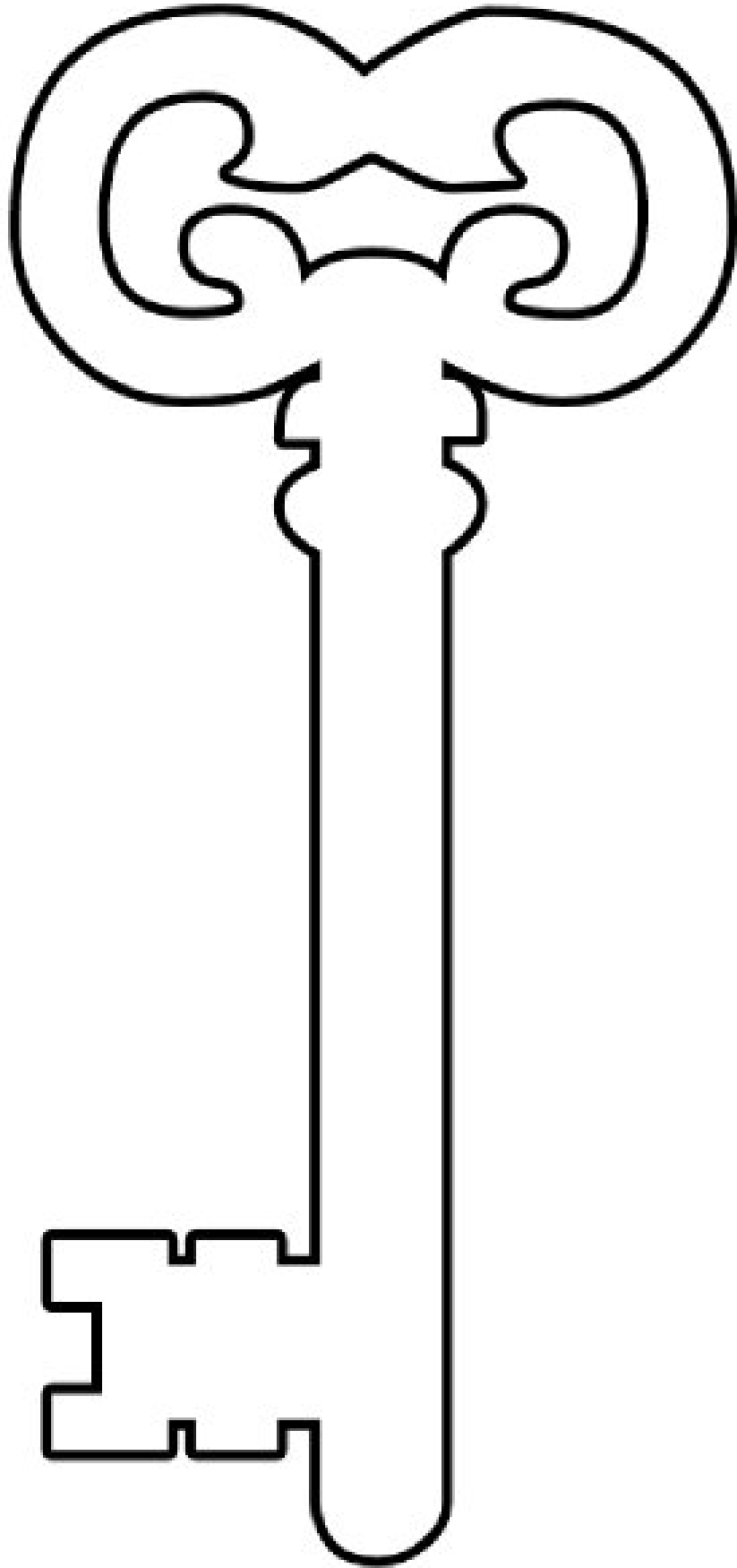
1. 2 Chron 21:5-6 _____
2. 2 Chron 18:2-3 _____
3. 2 Chron 20:35-37; 1 Kgs 22:49 _____



Draw how God showed his displeasure.

- A. When King Jehoshaphat returned from the battle, the prophet Jehu came to tell him that God was angry and displeased with what he did and that God's wrath was upon him. Jehoshaphat loved and helped a person who was wicked and who disobeyed and hated God.

- B. God destroyed Jehoshaphat's ships before they could even set sail.



Keys to Choosing Friends

Look up the Bible verses to find the keys to choosing the right kind of friends. Write your answers on the keys.

1. Prov 12:26 _____
2. Prov 13:20 _____
3. Prov 16:28 _____
4. Prov 17:17 _____
5. Prov 22:11 _____
6. Prov 22:24-25 _____
7. Prov 27:6 _____
8. Prov 27:9 _____

~Skits~

Read the following skits. Then, in your groups, discuss and think of a possible outcome to your skit. Act out your skit to the class.

Skit 1

Richard liked his new school, and very soon, he made some good friends. His friends liked to hang out together; they played basketball, video games, and read comic books. Over time, one of his friends started to use swear words to express himself. It wasn't often, but now and then, he would use them when he missed a basket during basketball or when he lost in a video game. Richard noticed that little by little, the others started making this same choice. Richard didn't like the swearing, but he liked his friends. He decided that he would continue to hang out with them, but he told himself that he wasn't going to get caught up in the same bad habit.

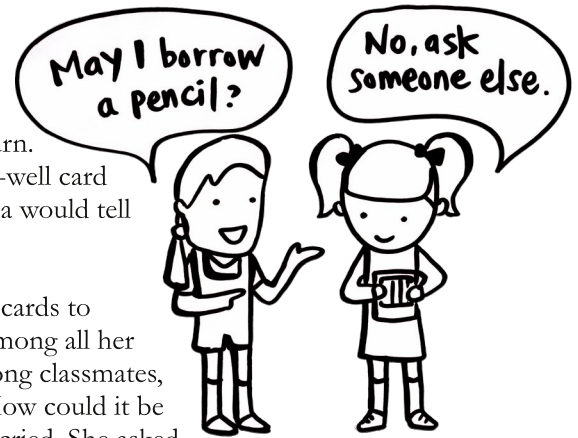
Come up with an ending to this scenario. Consider some possible results that might occur if Richard stayed or left his group of friends.



Skit 2

Brianna was a girl who liked when others did things for her, but she did not make much of an effort for others. On special occasions, such as birthdays, her friends gave her gifts, but seldom did she give gifts in return. When her friends were sick, she didn't take the time to make them a get-well card or ask after them. When her friends asked to borrow something, Brianna would tell them to ask someone else instead.

During National Friendship Day at school, everyone had to make three cards to give to their friends. Brianna enjoyed the task of choosing three from among all her classmates. However, when all the cards had been made and shared among classmates, Brianna was the only one who did not receive a card! She felt terrible. How could it be that no one saw her as their friend? Returning home, Brianna cried and cried. She asked her mother why nobody liked her and why she did not have true friends.

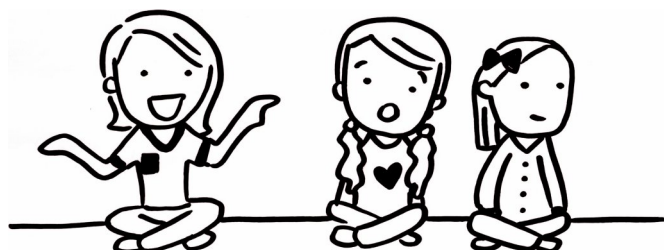


Come up with a scenario where Brianna talks with her mother. What might Brianna's mother say to teach her about being a good friend?

Skit 3

Jill is having a sleepover at her best friend Shirley's house. Together with the other girls who were invited, they spent an entire day eating, watching movies, and playing games. During their chats, one of the friends mentioned something that Jill had told Shirley and nobody else. Shirley had promised that she would keep it a secret. At that time, Jill looked at Shirley, wondering how this other friend could know her secret, too. Shirley just acted as if she hadn't heard anything.

Come up with an ending to this scenario. How might Jill be feeling at this time? What would you choose to do if you were Jill?



E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 3—King Jehoshaphat

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (1 Corinthians 15:33)

True or False

1. The mistake that Jehoshaphat committed repeatedly was that he married Gentile woman. _____
2. Jehoshaphat appointed the choir to lead the army to battle because it helped calm the nerves of the soldiers. _____
3. God rescued Jehoshaphat from his enemies by causing them to fight and kill each other. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : When Jehoshaphat heard that the armies of Moab, Ammon, and Mount Seir were coming up against him, _____.
 - a. He was so afraid that he fled for his life.
 - b. He recruited the armies of other nations to fight.
 - c. He fasted and prayed to God for deliverance.
5. _____ : God told the army of Judah to _____.
 - a. Position themselves, stand still, and see the salvation of God.
 - b. Charge and fight hard against the enemy.
 - c. Flee, because they will be defeated.
6. _____ : What were the consequences of Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab?
 - a. God was very displeased.
 - b. The people of Judah and his own family did evil in the sight of God by following the ways of Ahab.
 - c. He suffered the loss of his ships and family members.
 - d. All of the above.

Short Answer

7. What did Jehoshaphat do to enable the people to obey God's teachings, and what good things happened as a result?
8. What were Jehoshaphat and the soldiers' response to God's help?
9. Why was God displeased with Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab?

LESSON 4

KING JOASH AND JEHOIADA

OBJECTIVES

1. To nurture a heart of servitude in the house of God from a young age.
2. To heed the advice of those who are spiritually wiser.
3. To have a faith independent of others, based a personal relationship with God.

MEMORY VERSE

“One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

(Psalm 27:4)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for bringing us safely through another week to gather here and worship You. We know that our lives and faith are precious in Your eyes. Thank You, Lord, for the sacrifice our parents, brothers and sisters, ministers, and everyone around us have made to help us build our relationship with You. May You guide us through this lesson and help us apply the teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Bible Story & Spiritual Teaching

- A. Jehoiada Raises Joash
- B. Joash's Rise and Fall

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application

- a. A Lifelong Service
- b. Why Do I Worship?

4. Activity—Serving God Always with the Right Heart



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Below is a summary of events taking place from 1 Kings 16 to 2 Kings 11, covering the reign of the house of Ahab in the Northern Kingdom and the series of events that culminated in Joash's young anointing as king of Judah.

A Complicated Family

In the year that Joash was born, the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel were in a state of peace and alliance, though this was not forged through a common faith in the LORD God. Instead, this arose due to the dominance of the house of Omri (as recognized by historical writings) or, as recorded in the Bible, the house of Ahab. The strong political presence of the lineage of kings in the Northern Kingdom prompted a historical recording in the Mesha Stele, a Moabite inscription, mentioning the strength of house of Omri. 2 Kings 8:18 indicates that all sins pointed back to the house of Ahab, as Ahab was the one who married Jezebel, princess of the Sidonians, introducing the worship of Baal of Sidon to the people of Israel. Further credence is lent to the strong political presence in the north, as from 1 Kings 16 through 2 Kings, the lens of focus is almost entirely on the activities in the Northern Kingdom.

The house of Ahab's influence stretched to the Southern Kingdom when Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, made an alliance with Ahab, solidifying this alliance through the marriage of his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter Athaliah (2 Ki 8:17-18). This continued when Jehoram's son Ahaziah united his forces with Joram of Israel and went to war against Hazael, king of Syria. The duplication of names between the two kingdoms' monarchs was another indication of the close ties. However, as a fulfillment of the LORD's words to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:17-18, Jehu's assassinated both the kings of Judah and of Israel, leading to a period of religious purge and reformation.

Religious Reform: A Spiritual Revival?

As was God's intention, the king's political decisions were interlinked with the religious faith of the people. Therefore, the high priest and kings had to work in tandem. Despite the close allegiance between the North and the South, there was still a war between the false god, Baal, and the one true God, the LORD God. This eventually simmered down to the survival of the Davidic line and the covenant with *YHWH*, or the survival of Ahab and the religious adultery Israel and Judah played with Baal. God had intended for Jehu's anointing as king to bring about the purging of Baal, as well as the renewal of the chosen people's covenant with their God. However, in yet another political move for power, Jehu instead chose to follow Jeroboam of Nebat's steps in setting up golden calf idols as a substitute, and human alteration, of true worship of the true God.

From a family standpoint, it may seem odd that Athaliah would choose to murder all of her grandchildren. However, from her standpoint, it was an attempt to eradicate the Davidic line, and any ties to the LORD God. This makes Jehoshabeath and Jehoiada's risky decision to save their nephew Joash all the more admirable. Jehoshabeath's decision to save Joash may have been influenced by her marriage to the high priest, Jehoiada. Entering into such a marriage, while her father and brother king continued to worship Baal, showed an indication of religious worship, which was comparable to adultery at the time. There was not one religion being practiced exclusively, but a so-called "battle" of dominance between Baal and *YHWH*, with supporters and religious leaders on both sides. While the move to save the young baby and raise him could have been out of compassion, the decision to anoint him as king was out of trust and belief in God's covenant with David and His people. Therefore, Joash's survival was by all means representative of the faith the Levites had in *YHWH*. It is interesting to note that, at this time, Elisha was working very closely with the kings of Israel. As a "man of God," Elisha not only served as a confidant, but also likely as one trying to turn their hearts back towards the one true God. Joash's survival and Jehu's violent usurpation was an opportunity for true worship to be re-established, but neither event brought the opportunity to fruition. For Joash, his lack of faithfulness after the death of his father figure and spiritual leader Jehoiada meant that he was eventually buried outside of the tombs of David. This was a grave omission and an indication that, despite the good heart he had when repairing the house of God, this good heart never developed into a personal faith or zeal. Where even Ahab showed a repentant heart, it seems that Joash suffered the negative influences of those around him. When the princes of Judah came to him seeking to reinstate the worship of Baal as the primary religion, he easily gave in, forgetting all that he had learned as a child and the sacrifices the servants of the one true God had made for his survival. This conclusion was truly a pitiful end for a man whose childhood was shrouded with the faithfulness of many true servants of God.



Reaching Out to Your Students

At this age, your students most likely have a faith that is still reliant on their parents' faith. The frequency of their Bible reading, prayer, and church attendance all stem from the impetus of the parents and the strength of their faith. Students have also begun to see you, their teacher, as a role model, someone to whom they look up and even admire. This bond will only strengthen as you spend more time with your students. To reinforce the idea of an independent faith, you can remind your students that they cannot always rely on their parents to determine the strength of their faith. You can use your personal faith as an example. Wouldn't it be silly if your parents were still reminding you to pray every day, helping you to read the Bible, and bringing you to church every week? So, during the years between childhood and adulthood, that personal faith must develop. It can begin with the simplest of things, such as volunteering to say grace before meals, asking for the whole family to pray together, or sharing with their parents the Bible teachings they learned that day. At the same time, students should be reminded that a mature faith does not equate to a disobedient faith. As they grow up and mature in their faith, they still need to honor and respect those who are more spiritually mature than they are, and always seek to learn from the actions and speech of others.



Opener

5 Minutes

Ask the students to think of one person in church to whom they look up—someone they think does a great job as a servant of God. Ask them, “What is one way that person serves God that makes you want to serve God?” Let each student share an answer. Their answers will reveal what they view as an admirable service and a servitude goal that they may be striving to reach.

Now ask, “What would happen if that person had to move to another country today? Would there be someone who can pick up that work? Would you be able to pick up that work?”

Today’s lesson will be about how we can learn from and listen to the faithful servants of God in church today in order to be just like them. We must prepare ourselves to serve so that we can, by the grace of God, serve God all the days of our lives.



Vocabulary

treason: an act of betrayal with the intent to take over a kingdom

heir: a person who inherits from their father

covenant: a solemn agreement; promise



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Ask the students to complete it as you go over the lesson. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference. After this section, go over the worksheet with the students to ensure correct completion.

A few weeks ago, we learned about an exceedingly evil king. Does anyone remember his name? (Ahab.) What made King Ahab so evil? (He married a foreign wife who introduced the worship of Baal to the Israelites.) If we remember, Ahab was the king of Israel, the northern kingdom. However, there was still a kingdom ruled by David’s descendants called Judah, the southern kingdom.

After King Ahab died, Ahab’s eldest son Ahaziah took the throne for two years. When Ahaziah died, his brother took the throne, as he had no sons to succeed him. Meanwhile in the northern kingdom, Jehoshaphat, a king who had followed God for the most part, passed away after reigning for twenty-five years, and his son Jehoram married Ahab’s daughter Athaliah. [Ask students to look at the family tree on the worksheet.] Students, we can see that a family that worshipped a false god and a family that worshipped the one true God were now united. Did this alliance end well? Jehoram, whose father worshipped the one true God, followed his wife Athaliah in worshipping Baal. After Jehoram died in battle, his son Ahaziah became

king. Looking at your family tree, who do you think Ahaziah was named after? Maybe his uncle, who was also a worshipper of Baal!

So, as Ahaziah ruled over Judah, he worked closely with his uncle Jehoram, even going to battle with him against their enemies.

God then anointed a commander of the Israelite army to be the next king of the northern kingdom. He wanted to wipe out the worship of Baal. This commander’s name was Jehu, and Jehu killed both the king of Judah and the king of Israel, as well as all the sons of the king of Israel. Now, let’s cross out the names of those who had been killed. You can see now that almost everyone who worshipped Baal was killed! This made Athaliah furious! She was so angry that she set out to kill all of her grandchildren. One of her grandchildren was one-year-old Joash, son of Ahaziah. Joash’s aunt, who had married the high priest of the Lord, knew how important it was to save Joash, so she kept him safe from Athaliah. He could no longer live in the palace. Students, where do you think would be the safest place to hide him?

Joash’s aunt chose to hide him in the temple of God, where the Levites and priests protected Joash. Joash’s aunt’s name was Jehoshabeath. She was a good and faithful servant of God. Her husband was the high priest

Jehoiada. Together, they raised Joash as a loving mother and father would. For six years, Athaliah reigned over Judah because there was no king or male heir. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada knew it was time to anoint him as king. So, he gathered the Levites and heads of the houses of Israel and said to them, "Behold, the king's son! Let him reign." Judah and Jerusalem would no longer be under the control of a Baal worshipper! So, Jehoiada commanded the Levites and priests to guard the boy at all times, and then they crowned Joash and anointed him king. The people shouted, "Long live the king!" What do you think Athaliah did when she heard this noise?

Athaliah heard the noise and ran out, yelling, "Treason! Treason!" Jehoiada ordered the guards to take her out, away from the house of God. After taking her outside, they killed her, for she had done many evil things. Jehoiada knew how important it was for the people to worship the one true God, so he made a covenant, a serious promise, between himself, all the people, and the king that they should be the LORD's people. For all the days of Jehoiada's life, Joash did what was right in the eyes of God. He even decided to restore the house of God. He commanded the Levites to collect money from the people to pay for the repairs. However, the Levites failed to do this for over twenty years. When Joash checked again, he saw that nothing had been done. So, he commanded the Levites to collect money from the people and the people happily offered their money to repair the house of God and all that was in it. When the house of the LORD was repaired, the people regularly offered burnt offerings to the LORD.

Sadly, people grow older over time and eventually pass away, and that was what happened to Jehoiada. He died at the age of 130 years old, and the people buried Jehoiada among the kings in the City of David because of all the good he had done in Israel, for God and for God's house.

Unfortunately, after Jehoiada's death, Joash did not continue being faithful to God. He listened to the words of the princes of Judah who wanted to return to the worship of their false god Baal, just as in the days of Ahab and Jezebel. This angered God so much that he sent servants, such as Zechariah, the son of Joash's uncle Jehoiada, to prophesy about this. Zechariah said to Joash, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has forsaken you.'" This changed nothing, as the worshippers of Baal had the ear of the king, and they planned to have Zechariah killed. So, by the command of the king, they stoned Zechariah in the court of the house of the LORD! What a sad time this was. Joash did not seek God's help, even when the people were faced with battles against their enemies. Instead, he gave all the treasures and sacred gifts inside the house of God to their enemies instead. All these actions angered the servants who knew that Jehoiada and his son had been faithful servants of God. As a result, one day, Joash's own servants killed him in his bed. When the people buried Joash in the City of David, they did not bury him with the kings, as they had done with Jehoiada. What a sad end for such a promising king.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The believers must rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

Under the guidance of Jehoiada, Joash led a life of service to God, but once Jehoiada died, he started being influenced by those around him. These people were not as godly and Joash ended up committing many sins in the later years during his reign. At that time, the people in the Old Testament did not have the Holy Spirit. However, today, we have the blessing of being able to receive the Holy Spirit. This Spirit lives within us and works in us to guide us in our actions, our speech, and our thoughts. We must listen to the Holy Spirit and allow it to form us into people who honor God in their lifelong servitude.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **How old was Joash when he became king?** Seven years old.
2. **Who was trying to kill him as a baby, and why?** His grandmother Athaliah, because she was so angry that her son had been killed.
3. **Name one good thing Joash did as a king.** He repaired the house of God.
4. **Name one good thing Jehoiada did as the high priest.** He and his wife saved Joash; he led the people in making a covenant; he led Joash to be anointed as king.
5. **Name one evil thing Joash did.** He brought back the worship of Baal; he allowed Zechariah to be killed.
6. **Where was Joash buried?** In the City of David, but not with the kings.
7. **Where was Jehoiada buried?** In the City of David, among the kings.
8. **What covenant did Jehoiada lead the people into making?** To be the LORD's people.
9. **How long did Joash do good in God's eyes?** For as long as Jehoiada lived.



Life Application

10 Minutes

A LIFELONG SERVICE

If we want to serve God, it has to start with baby steps. We can begin with the smallest and, maybe, simplest things. Joash slipped up in a simple thing; he started to listen to the wrong advice, and allowed others to convince him that worshipping Baal was the right thing to do. How can we serve God faithfully and continuously?

Service to God

From a young age, Joash grew up in the house of God under the guidance of the high priest. This is a similar privilege many second, third, or fourth generation believing children receive now and may take for granted. But growing up in the LORD does not guarantee that we will remain in the LORD forever. Share with the students the importance of having a faith that grows, a faith that can be seen, and a faith that learns (Eph 3:17; Jas 2:26).

Joash had an initial zeal to repair the house of the LORD, but how much of this zeal originated from genuine faith and how much of it was from obligation as king of Judah? After all, he did leave the matter for twenty-three years before revisiting it. Furthermore, he committed the heinous offense of murdering a priest, his own kin, in the house of God. Remind students that they should not serve only because they have been assigned a duty or because they think people expect them to serve. Rather, they should serve out of a pure heart for God (1 Tim 1:5). Sing the hymn "The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows" with your students.

* * * * *

WHY DO I WORSHIP?

Many of your students are just slightly older than Joash was when he started off as king. Joash did what was right in God's eyes, but only for as long as Jehoiada lived. This highlights the importance for students to understand the "whys" of their faith and worship (Heb 5:12-6:1). "Why do I keep these rules? Why do I come to church?"

To help the students understand, pose these questions and challenge them with the question "Why?" Allow them to ask until they reach the root of the reason they do things, including worship and serve:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Why do I have to brush my teeth every day? | 5. Why do I preach to my friends? |
| 2. Why do I help cleaning up at church? | 6. Why do I need to sleep? |
| 3. Why do I do school homework? | 7. Why do I need to pray every day? |
| 4. Why do I do RE homework? | |



Activity

Serving God Always with the Right Heart

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the importance of being a good friend.

Materials

- Bookmark-sized pieces of cardboard
- Colored pencils
- Ribbon
- Photograph of the church building exterior

Instructions

1. Ask the students to draw the exterior of their local church on one side of the bookmark. Below it, ask them to write the memory verse: Psalm 27:4.
2. On the reverse side, ask students to write the character, aspect, or service they most admire and/or respect in their role model (chosen at the beginning of the lesson).
3. Ask the students to share what they wrote on the bookmark and why they chose to write that.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. seven, Jehoiada
2. Levites, money
3. 130, right, eyes, God
4. Check for signatures
5. Answers may vary.
6. Answers may vary. Students should encourage him not to listen to advice from people who worship false idols (the princes), but to advice from people who are spiritually wise (Zechariah).

King Joash and Jehoiada

For each name, write down whether this person served in the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah. Then, write down if this person worshipped Baal or the Lord. Lastly, if the person reigned as king, write down how many years the person reigned.



Compare and Contrast

Jehoiada

Joash

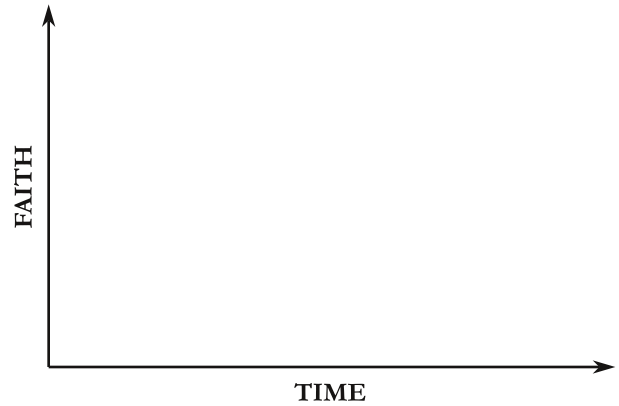
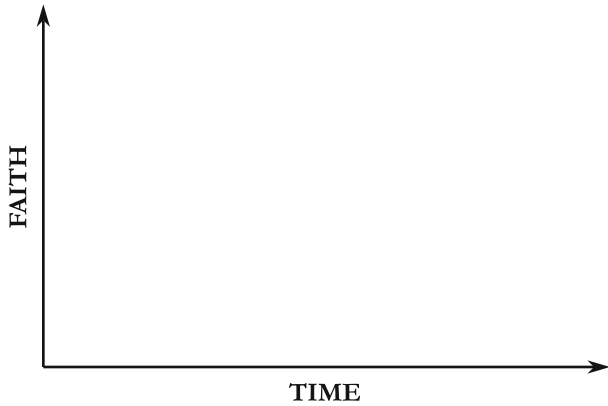
	Jehoiada	Joash
Occupation		
Years of service to God		
Most memorable act		
How did he die?		
Where was he buried?		



A Lifelong Service

Map out what you think **Jehoiada's** life of faith looked like.

• Map out what you think **Joash's** life of faith looked like.



HONORING PARENTS

Sally was angry with her parents. They had just told her that they wouldn't let her go to her church friend Chrissie's place. She wasn't a child anymore; she was about to enter junior high school and she was perfectly capable of making her own decisions! In fact, Sally sometimes felt she was already smarter than her mother, who had been raised without proper schooling. Sally's mother couldn't read the Bible very well, and she was always making embarrassing English grammar mistakes. Why couldn't Sally make this decision herself? She just wanted to spend some time with her friend. It just wasn't fair!



1. Was there anything wrong with Sally's thoughts? If so, what was wrong?
2. How can Sally improve her service to God by honoring her parents?

BIBLE WHIZ KID!

Daniel let out a great big yawn as his RE Teacher was explaining the lesson on Moses. Daniel had heard this story for at least the third time since kindergarten. Hearing it again would just be so boring. He knew what was going to happen anyways, and the Bible teachings would always be the same: "pray and read the Bible." RE classes were such a snooze-fest.



1. Was there anything wrong with Daniel's thoughts? If so, what was wrong?
2. How can Daniel improve his service to God through his learning of the word of God in class?

UGH! DO I REALLY NEED TO PREACH?

Melinda looked out of the corner of her eyes, and tried not to make eye contact with Harriett who was sitting next to her. Melinda couldn't wait for the lunch bell to ring so that she could run off and avoid a conversation with Harriett. Harriett was the new girl, and she was very talkative, especially about her Christian faith. Melinda knew that as a True Jesus Church member, she should speak up to Harriett, but she was afraid her classmates wouldn't think she was popular. Plus, she figured that Harriett would find the prayer in spirit to be awkward and off-putting.



1. Was there anything wrong with Melinda's thoughts? If so, what was wrong?
2. How can Melinda improve her service to God in personal evangelism?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 4—King Joash and Jehoiada

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Psalm 27:4**)

Fill In the Blank

1. Joash was _____ years old when he was anointed king by _____ and his sons
2. As king, Joash commanded the _____ to collect _____ for the repair of the house of God.
3. Jehoiada lived for _____ years old and, during his days, Joash did what was _____ in the _____ of _____.

Reflection

4. Share this week's Bible story and teachings with a parent and/or older sibling.

"I, _____, have shared the story of Joash and Jehoiada with _____."

_____ (Student Signature)

_____ (Listener Signature)

5. Ask your mother or father to share with you one aspect of their faith that they hope you can copy. Write it out below.

6. You are Jehoiada at 129 years old. You are about to pass away, but you want to share with Joash some final encouraging words to make sure that he stays on the path of worshipping the true God. Write your letter below.

My dear Joash,

LESSON 5

KING UZZIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the reign of King Uzziah.
2. To learn about the destructive nature of pride.
3. To understand that God exalts the humble, but brings down the proud.

MEMORY VERSE

"You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down."

(2 Samuel 22:28)

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, grant to us a humble and true heart. May Your Holy Spirit search into the deepest parts of our heart and remove the pride and sins that dwell within us. May You give us wisdom to see ourselves as we truly are and help us to be like You, full of compassion, kindness, and gentleness. Help us to know that every good and perfect gift is from above and all that we have is to be used for Your glory.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Uzziah's Accomplishments
 - He expanded his territory.
 - He fortified his country.
 - He strengthened his army.
- b. Uzziah's Downfall
- c. The End of Uzziah's Life

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Bible

3. Life Application

- a. Proud Dude and Humble Dude
- b. Proud People in the Bible
- c. Rid Our Hearts of Pride

4. Activity—"Don't Be Tangled Up in Pride" Maze



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Crowned king by the people, Uzziah, a son of Amaziah, reigned about fifty-two years during a period of prosperity in Judah second only to that of King Jehoshaphat since the time of Solomon. He was a vigorous and able ruler, and his name spread abroad, as far as the entrance of Egypt. In the earlier part of his reign, under the influence of Zechariah, he was faithful to God, and did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. But toward the end of his life, his heart was lifted up and he trespassed God's laws by entering the sanctuary to offer incense on the golden altar. The high priest Azariah, with a band of eighty priests, confronted him and he was suddenly struck with leprosy while in the act of offering incense. Uzziah remained a leper until the day of his death.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Children are not born knowing how to read words or solve math equations. They are not born with good manners or other social skills. Loving parents and teachers impart this knowledge to prepare children for adulthood, when they will have to make a living and be fruitful citizens in society. Likewise, children are not born with humility, but pride and self will. Humility is one of the most difficult virtues to learn because it requires a continual uprooting of self from the human heart.

Today, it may be difficult to raise children in a culture that encourages a false sense of self-importance, an attitude that conflicts with biblical principles. Children these days are encouraged to express themselves and to make a great noise about their rights and dignities. They are excited to offer their opinions on all kinds of issues. Western culture impresses upon children the idea that the loud and the proud will inherit the earth, not the meek and humble!

However, the Scriptures teach us that “God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.” Therefore, as parents and teachers, our greatest concern is not how well our children “compete” in the world, but where they “stand” with God. They need to be taught that as long as they seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, do all things for the glory of God, and strive to be Christ-like, God will bless and prosper their lives, providing them assurance for the life to come.



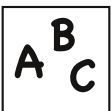
Opener

5 Minutes

Instructions: Pass out one balloon each to the students and have them blow it up as big as they can without bursting it.

Say to students: Did you know that some people are just like this balloon? They can get really puffed up and big headed. What does it mean to be puffed up? Yes, it means that we are prideful and haughty. We are prideful or haughty when we think that we are more important than others, or even more important than God. What happens to the balloon when it becomes too puffed up? That's right, it will burst. In the same way, God tells us that pride is a serious sin, and those who are proud will be brought low, and they will face destruction.

This is what happened to King Uzziah. Although Uzziah was a successful and famous king at first, ultimately, he met with a tragic ending due to pride.



Vocabulary

haughty: arrogant and proud



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Instruct the students to complete the worksheet as you go over the lesson. Pause when necessary to allow the students to write down the answers. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

King Uzziah was Judah's tenth king. He was also called Azariah (cf. 2 Ki 14:21-22; 15:1-6). Uzziah was crowned king when he was sixteen years old and he reigned for 52

years, which made him the longest reigning monarch in Judah so far.

Uzziah's name means “the Lord is my strength” and from reading 2 Chronicles 26:4-5, we learn that Uzziah put his trust in God and wanted to do what was right in the eyes of God. However, Uzziah's fear of God came from the influence of another person. Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada the priest, was a man close to God and who had understanding of the revelations of God. This God-fearing

priest instructed Uzziah also to fear God. When Uzziah sought the Lord, what was the result? (The Lord blessed Uzziah with prosperity.) As long as Uzziah sought the Lord, God gave him success in whatever he did.

Who are the main influences in your life? Do they influence you to be more like Jesus? (That is, people who influence you to be more like Jesus will teach you how to study His word and will try to set a godly example for you to follow.)

A. Uzziah's Accomplishments

1. He Expanded His Territory

Read 2 Chronicles 26:6-8. This passage describes how Uzziah conquered his enemies and expanded his territory. Which enemies did Uzziah subdue? He subdued the Philistines, the Arabians, the Meunites, and the Ammonites. Some of these enemies, such as the Philistines and Ammonites, were longstanding enemies of Israel, and yet, Uzziah was able to subdue them. He also broke down the walls of great cities such as Gath, Jabneh, Ashdod.

When we follow God's laws, God will cause our enemies to come under our feet. Moreover, when we follow God's laws, we can overcome Satan and we will have the strength to conquer our fleshly weaknesses.

When Uzziah became powerful, his fame spread far and wide. The Bible repeatedly mentions how Uzziah's fame spread (2 Chr 26:8, 15). Why do you think God caused Uzziah to be well known among the nations? [Allow students to answer.] One important reason why God caused Uzziah's fame and power to spread was because it allowed the other nations to see the greatness of the God of Israel. In the same way, the purpose of our lives is to glorify God and enable others to know about the God whom we worship. Furthermore, it shows how God blesses those who walk in His ways.

2. He Fortified His Country

How did Uzziah fortify his country?

- Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem as well as in the desert. The towers were tall and well fortified. A watchman would be posted on the towers to look out for danger and enemy attacks (2 Chr 26:9-10).
- Uzziah owned much livestock and also grew crops. He built great cisterns, which provided water for the crops and for his animals and which were an abundant resource for his people (2 Chr 26:10).

3. He Strengthened His Army

Uzziah created a large, powerful, and well-organized army. He had 2,600 chief officers who were in charge of an army of 307,500 men that made war with mighty power (2 Chr 26:11-13).

Uzziah issued weapons and armor to his entire army. His men were equipped with shields, spears, helmets, coats of mail, bows, and slings (2 Chr 26:14).

Brilliant and skillful men were employed to invent and produce war devices—machines that could shoot arrows and huge stones at the enemies from up high on the towers and battlements (2 Chr 26:15).

Uzziah organized and equipped his soldiers to fight battles and protect his country. Likewise, as Christian soldiers, we need to be equipped with the armor that God has given each of us to fight our spiritual battles. We must be watchful, prepared, and skilled as Uzziah was.

B. Uzziah's Downfall

God had blessed Uzziah with great success; Uzziah ruled a prosperous nation and led a great army. However, after achieving great strength, Uzziah's heart became puffed up with pride (2 Chr 26:16).

What is pride? [Allow students to share. Write their answers on the board.]

- When we trespass our duty and position
- When we think that we are better or more important than others (Rom 12:3)

Why did Uzziah become proud? [Allow students to respond.]

Let's read 2 Chronicles 26:15b. Here it says that Uzziah "was marvelously helped till he became strong."

Continue to read 2 Chronicles 26:5; 7; 13 to find out who helped him. These verses tell us that it was God who had made Uzziah's kingdom prosper, and it was God who had helped him be victorious over his enemies. Furthermore, it was Uzziah's mighty army and all the people in his kingdom who helped support and establish his kingdom.

Unfortunately, when he became strong, Uzziah forgot about God's grace and he thought that all his accomplishments came from his own doing. He felt that he could live above God's laws, and that he could do whatever he wanted.

What did Uzziah do that was wrong in God's sight?

Read 2 Chronicles 26:16. Uzziah decided to enter the temple of the Lord to personally offer incense on the altar. According to God's law, only priests who had been called and consecrated, or set apart, by God for this holy work were allowed to do this (Ex 30:30; 40:15; Lev 22:9; Num 3:10; 18:7).

When Uzziah entered the temple, the high priest Azariah, together with eighty other priests, went in and demanded that Uzziah leave the temple because he had trespassed against God's commandments.

How did Uzziah respond to Azariah's warning? Let's read verse 19. Uzziah became furious and he refused to set down the incense burner that he was holding. Instantly, God punished Uzziah by causing leprosy to break out on his forehead.

During biblical times, if God's people had leprosy, it was symbolic of sin. People with leprosy were considered unclean and could not live among people who did not have leprosy. When Azariah and the other priests saw the leprosy on Uzziah's forehead they grabbed him and ushered him out of the temple. God

had once commanded that besides Aaron and his sons, no one was to offer sacrifices. If they did, they were to be put to death. From this, we can see that God showed mercy to Uzziah, as God did not put Uzziah to death immediately (cf. Num 3:10; 18:7) By offering incense, Uzziah took on a role that God did not mean for him to have. He forgot that God has certain duties for a king, a priest, and a prophet. Uzziah's great power filled his head, leading him to feel that he could do anything he wanted, even if it meant trespassing God's laws.

C. The End of Uzziah's Life

Due to his pride, Uzziah was a leper until the day of his death. Uzziah had to live in isolation; he was cut off from his people and from the temple of God. His son Jotham was placed in charge of the king's affairs and of the judging of the people of the land.

Although Uzziah followed God early in his life, his pride ultimately caused him to stray from God's commandments. Uzziah fell from being a powerful and successful king to being a leper. He spent the last of his days filled with loneliness and shame.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is inspired by God and is the standard for Christian living.

To be blessed by God and not to fall into sin, we need to have a humble heart to obey and follow the teachings of the Bible in our daily lives.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

True or False

1. Zechariah, a God-fearing priest instructed Uzziah to also fear God. True.
2. Pride is when we trespass our duty and position and when we think that we are better or more important than others. True.
3. When Uzziah became proud, he felt that he could live above God's laws, and that he could do whatever he pleased. True.
4. The priests urged Uzziah to leave the temple because it was time to lock up. False.
5. Uzziah became famous and prosperous because he was a brilliant warrior and he had great ideas about how to run his country. False.
6. It is the duty of the priests and Levites to offer sacrifices. False.
7. Since Uzziah is the king, he has the authority to change any law as he wished. False.
8. To rid our hearts of pride, we should read the Bible and pray, be thankful, focus on God, learn from others, and learn through trials and difficulties. True.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Pride is one of the most common sin in man. It is also a sin that could remain hidden in our hearts and be hard to detect. From today's lesson, we learn that pride is a serious sin and very destructive; it can ruin our soul and affect our relationship with God and the people around us.

1. PROUD DUDE AND HUMBLE DUDE

[Divide students into groups of 2-3. Pass out poster paper and markers to each group.] Let's explore and compare the characteristics of a proud person and a humble person. On the poster paper, draw two large stick figures side by side. Write above the figures "Proud Dude" and "Humble Dude" (or "Dudette," if you prefer). Next, add features (eyes, mouth, ears, hands) to the figures. For each feature, compare and contrast how Proud/Humble Dude would behave and write down brief captions next to the figures.

a. Eyes

Who does Proud/Humble Dude look at most? How does Proud/Humble Dude see others?

As they draw the eyes on each, explain that Proud Dude tends to focus on himself. He sees other people occasionally, but when he does, it's often to see their mistakes, weaknesses, and failures. Humble Dude sees God first and then others.

b. Mouth

What things does Proud/Humble Dude talk about?

Proud Dude brags about himself constantly; he talks about his good grades, his accomplishments, his looks, and how he is the most popular kid in school. He complains about other people and talks about them behind their backs. Humble Dude often talks about how awesome God is. He is also known to brag about others. He can be heard saying, "Did you see her art project? It's amazing! What a gift!" Humble Dude uses his words to encourage everyone!

c. Ears

How does Proud/Humble Dude respond to what others tell him?

Proud Dude does not listen to others and he does not like to be told what to do. He doesn't like to hear that he is wrong, so he starts fights when he is corrected. He is pleased when others praise him and gets upset when others are praised. Humble Dude will listen carefully to what others say. He realizes that he makes mistakes sometimes, so he hears people out and apologizes.

d. Hands

[As you draw the hands, put a boxing glove on Proud Dude's hand. Humble Dude should have a balloon, a flower, or any other treat in his hand.]

When Proud Dude does not get what he wants, he often gets angry and starts quarrels with others. If Proud Dude does not like what he hears, he will insist on doing things his own way. Humble Dude will let go of his own way to make others happy.

e. Relationship with others

[Draw little stick figures surrounding each of them to represent their friends, family, pastors, teachers, etc.] How does Proud/Humble Dude get along with others?

Proud Dude may disobey or resent authority. He will often look down on those who are not as good as him and instead associate with people who are similar to him or with people he admires. But sometimes, because of pride, Proud Dude ends up with few friends or even alone. In contrast, Humble Dude gets along well with others, because humility builds relationships in which people feel loved and valued.

Finally, have students think about how God would think of each of them. How does God treat the proud and the humble? What does Proud/Humble Dude think of God? The Bible says that God detests pride, while humility and fear of the Lord will bring wealth, honor, and life.

God is displeased with people who have so much as a proud look, and He is even more displeased when these people show the pride of their heart through their actions. He will bring down those who are arrogant and overconfident. Instead, God delights in those who are humble and trust in Him.

What the Bible say about pride?

- 2 Sam 22:28--You will save the humble people; but Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down.
- 1 Pet 5:5--God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

2. PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

Turn to the following Bible passages to learn about some of the people who were brought down because of their pride.

a. Lucifer (Isa 14:12-15)

Lucifer was an angel of God, but he grew proud. He wanted to ascend above the clouds and be like God. As a result, God cast him down from heaven and into Sheol.

b. King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4:29-34)

Like Uzziah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon became proud of himself and his splendid kingdom. However, Nebuchadnezzar was not stricken with leprosy, but driven out into the fields where he ate grass as the animals did. His body was wet with dew; his hair grew like eagles' feathers and his nails like birds' claws. Worst of all, his mind was gone! At the end of seven years, when God saw that Nebuchadnezzar had humbled himself, his mind was restored and his kingdom returned to him.

c. Korah (Num 16:1-3, 28-33)

Korah and his followers were Levites who served in the tabernacle, but they rose up against Moses and Aaron and refused to follow their leadership. They demanded to be leaders, not realizing that it was God who had appointed Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelites. God therefore caused the ground to split open and swallow up Korah, his followers, their families and all their possessions.

d. Pharisee (Lk 18:10-14)

A Pharisee and a sinner went to the temple to pray. The proud and self-righteous Pharisee told God about how good he was; he fasted twice a week, gave tithes, never cheated, and didn't commit adultery. He thought himself much better than the tax collector, who stood far off. The Pharisee's proud and self-righteous attitude prevented his sins from being forgiven and his prayers from being heard by God.

e. Goliath (1 Sam 17:4-8, 43-44)

Goliath, the champion warrior of the Philistines, felt he had every reason to be proud. He was nine feet tall, possessed tremendous strength, and had been a warrior since his youth. He was not afraid of anything, not even the armies of Israel. So when David challenged him, Goliath looked at David with absolute contempt. How could a young boy like David overcome the great Goliath? But God was with David and, with a single stone, David brought down the proud and mighty Goliath.

f. The people after the flood (Gen 11:1-9)

After the flood, the people once again began to populate the earth. God had commanded mankind to be fruitful and increase in number, to fill the earth, and to be in authority over it. But rather than obeying God, the people wanted to stay in one spot and build a great tower to make a name for themselves. This was not what God wanted for them, so God confused their language so that they could not understand each other and caused them to be scattered abroad over the face of all the earth.

3. RID OUR HEARTS OF PRIDE

a. Read the Bible and Pray

We need to constantly give our hearts daily check-ups to see whether what we say, think or do comes from pride. If pride has crept into our hearts we need to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and word of God to put to death the sin of pride.

b. Be Thankful

King Uzziah received many marvelous blessings from God, but at the end, he forgot that it was God who supplied everything and he did not give thanks to God. We need to be mindful that our accomplishments are not our own doing but that every good and perfect gift is from above.

c. Keep Our Eyes on God

When we focus on how great and almighty God is, we will realize that we are truly nothing in comparison. For without God we cannot do anything.

d. Learn from Others

If we think we know everything, then we will be unable to see the merits and strengths of others and learn from them. But if we empty ourselves and regard others better than ourselves, we will maintain a humble attitude and learn valuable lessons from others.

e. Experience Trials and Difficulties

God taught Uzziah a very hard lesson when he was punished with leprosy. Sometimes God makes us face difficulties to remind us that we are not great and powerful and that we need to trust and rely on the Lord.



Activity

"Don't Be Tangled Up in Pride" Maze

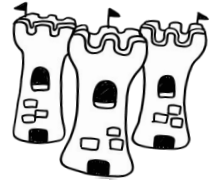
10-15 Minutes

Refer to activity worksheet.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. True
3. False; the priests urged Uzziah to leave because he was about to trespass against God's word
4. D
5. A
6. B
7. See Life Application: "Prideful People in the Bible"
8. Uzziah was no longer able to experience the blessings that God had given him. He lost the honor, fame, and success that he had enjoyed for so many years, and he even lost the right to rule his country. He became a leper, isolated until the day of his death.
9. Read the Bible and pray, be thankful, keep our eyes on God, remember that our blessings and talents come from God, learn from trials and difficulties and from others, etc.

KING UZZIAH



A. Uzziah's Accomplishments

Use the word pool to fill in the blanks.

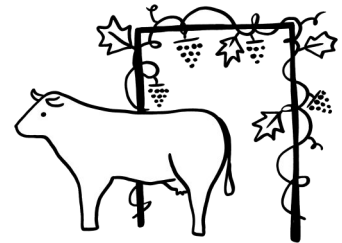
war devices	armor	Philistines	army	towers	crops
Arabians	livestock	Meunites	weapons	enemies	Ammonites

1. He Expanded His Territory

Uzziah conquered his enemies which included the _____, the _____, the _____, and the _____ [2 Chr 26:6-8].

2. He Fortified His Country

- a. Uzziah built _____ in Jerusalem as well as in the desert [2 Chr 26:9-10]
- b. Uzziah owned much _____ and he grew _____ [2 Chr 26:10].



3. He Strengthened His Army

- a. Uzziah established a large and powerful _____.
- b. Uzziah issued _____ and _____ to his entire army [2 Chr 26:14].
- c. Brilliant and skillful men were employed to invent and produce _____ [2 Chr 26:15].

B. Uzziah's Downfall

When Uzziah became strong and successful, his heart became puffed up with pride.

What is pride?

- o _____
- o _____



Why did Uzziah become proud?

Uzziah forgot that it was _____, his _____, and his _____ who had helped him to become strong [2 Chr 26:5, 7, 13].

Draw a picture or use your own words to describe what Uzziah did that was wrong in God's sight.

C. The End of Uzziah's Life

Describe what happened to Uzziah as a result of pride. Explain why pride is such a dreadful sin.

Pride

Fill in the blanks to see what the Bible says about pride.

- You will _____ the _____ people; but Your eyes are on the _____, that You may _____ (2 Sam 22:28).
- God _____ the _____, but gives _____ to the _____ (1 Pet 5:5).

PRIDEFUL PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE

Turn to the following Bible passages to find out who was brought down because of pride.

- (Isaiah 14:12-15) I was an angel of God but I grew proud and wanted to be like God. Who am I? _____
- (Dan 4:29-34) I was the king of the great and mighty Babylon. I became proud and God drove me out into the fields to live as an animal. Who am I? _____
- (Num 16:28-33) I am a Levite and served in the tabernacle. I refused to accept the leadership of Moses and Aaron and wanted to be a leader myself. I was swallowed up by the ground. Who am I? _____
- (Lk 18:10-14) I was praying in the temple at the same time as a tax collector. I fast twice a week and give tithes, and am much better than the tax collector. My self-righteous attitude prevented my prayers from reaching God. Who am I? _____
- (1 Sam 17:4-8, 43-44) I am a champion warrior for the Philistines. I am nine feet tall, possess tremendous strength and have been a warrior since my youth. I am afraid of nothing, not even the armies of Israel. This young lad called David killed me with a single stone. Who am I? _____
- (Gen 11:1-9) After the flood, God told us to have children and fill the earth, but we wanted to stay together in one spot. So, we built a great tower to make a name for ourselves. God was not pleased, so He confused our language and scattered us to different parts of the earth. Who are we? _____

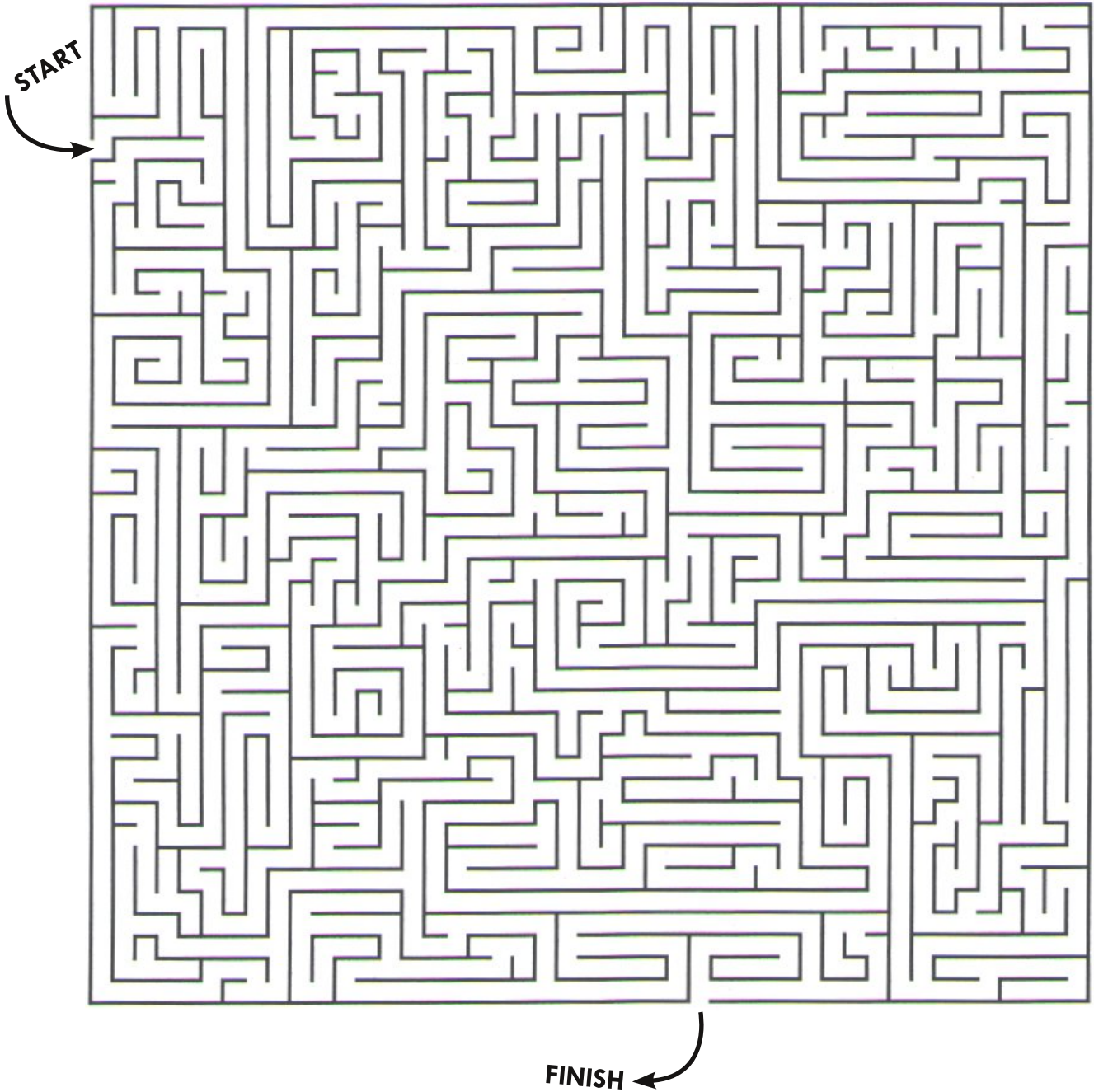


RID OUR HEARTS OF PRIDE

Write down the different ways we can rid our hearts of pride.

-
-
-
-
-





E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 5—King Uzziah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (2 Samuel 22:28)

True or False

1. Zechariah, a God-fearing priest, instructed Uzziah also to fear God. _____
2. When Uzziah became proud, he felt that he could live above God's laws. _____
3. The priests urged Uzziah to leave the temple because it was time to lock up. _____

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : Why was Uzziah famous and prosperous?
 - a. He sought after the Lord.
 - b. God helped him overcome his enemies and expand his kingdom.
 - c. Uzziah's mighty army and all his people helped establish his country.
 - d. All of the above.
5. _____ : What caused Uzziah to fall?
 - a. He forgot about God's grace and became proud.
 - b. He became too busy and failed to pray each day.
 - c. His country became so great that he could not run it properly.
 - d. He began to worship idols.
6. _____ : Whose duty was it to burn incense?
 - a. Levites
 - b. Priests
 - c. Levites and priests
 - d. Levites, priests, and the king

Short Answer

7. Name three biblical examples of people who became proud.
8. The Bible says that God will bring down the proud. How was Uzziah brought down?
9. How can we rid our hearts of pride?

LESSON 6

KING HEZEKIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To have the heart that we can never do “enough” for God.
2. To have a heart of humility in our achievements.
3. To have the courage to stand up for God in conduct and word among our peers.

MEMORY VERSE

“He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him.”

(2 Kings 18:5)

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for bringing us safely through another week to worship together in Your name. Thank You for all the blessings that You have given us and for allowing us to be able to make achievements for Your glory. All that we have achieved is because of You, God. May You continue to guide us and keep us humble in our daily lives.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. Hezekiah Keeps the Passover
- b. Hezekiah Prays to God
- c. Hezekiah Becomes Proud

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Bible

3. Life Application

- a. The Courage to Stand Up for God
- b. Trusting in Hard Times
- c. How Much Time Do I Have for You, God?

4. Activity—Time Capsule; Class Scheduler



Background Knowledge for Teachers

No King like Hezekiah

Hezekiah was son to Ahaz and possibly served in a co-regency with his father before becoming king in 716 BC. For many, the most memorable event of King Hezekiah’s life is his prayer to the LORD upon contracting a terminal illness and the LORD’s response in the form of a miracle which caused the shadow to go backward 10 degrees. Indeed, Hezekiah’s reign was filled with great miracles, and he also achieved both social and religious victories. Thus, the Bible records Hezekiah as prospering in all his works (2 Chr 32:30). It is easy to forget that King Hezekiah’s “golden age” of reign was amidst a period of evil, and his reign itself was bookended by the evil reigns of his father, Ahaz, and his son, Manasseh. Family religious idolatry aside, Hezekiah also reigned in a period of political turmoil. With Judah’s own brethren in the north being captured by the Assyrians (2 Ki 17:6-41), Hezekiah had to face a trial, the likes of which no other faithful king of Judah before him had faced. Moreover, his contraction of the terminal illness occurred at the same time Assyria was threatening to take Jerusalem—how much pressure there must have been on this king of Judah!

“YHWH is my strength”

The name Hezekiah means “YHWH is my strength/strengthens me.” We often interpret Hezekiah’s life as one that can be divided into two periods: pre-illness (fourteen years of reign) and post-healing by God (promised additional fifteen years). Many view the latter period as if Hezekiah were living on “borrowed time,” often citing the birth of Manasseh and his subsequent evil reign for fifty-five years as an example of Hezekiah’s thereafter wayward walk of faith. However, the prayer that Hezekiah prayed (2 Ki 20:2-4; Isa 38:2-6) did not directly ask

for his life to be spared or lengthened. In fact the Hebrew word for prayer used, *tefilah*, denotes self-reflection or self-judgment rather than the English connotation of imploring or beseeching that is often associated with “prayer” today. It is also important to note that the LORD’s answer implies Hezekiah had many matters on his mind apart from his life, including the state of the nation of Judah and the city, as it was about to be laid siege upon by the king of Assyria. With no heir, and his leadership possibly in question, this prayer is likely to be just as much a prayer of trust as it is a prayer of bitterness—trust that God would not leave His children without a leader and shepherd. Indeed, even within the oral Torah, there is discussion that Hezekiah was in a circumstance where he could have possibly been the Messiah to the people. He is considered as one who restored the study of the Law in schools, strengthening not only his relationship, but also the relationship of the people, with the LORD (Sanhedrin, 94b, 99a). In 2 Chronicles 32:25, the chronicler provides retrospectively the ultimate outcome of Hezekiah’s added fifteen years, saying that because of his pride, he did not make the most of his time. As a test from God to see what was truly in his heart, God withdrew from Hezekiah, and truly, Hezekiah in his latter reign did succumb to pride (2 Chr 32:31; 2 Ki 20:12-18). Hezekiah’s life serves as a sober example to all servants of God that no matter how great the works, God will always look at and test the heart—He will ask an account of the time that He has given us.



Reaching Out to Your Students

The life of Hezekiah is deeply seated in critical points of Jewish history and nuances of his story can be lost if not placed within their historical context. For the benefit of the students’ understanding, the lesson will focus on three aspects of his life: 1) his restoration of temple worship, including the Passover, amidst the faithlessness of Judah’s sister nation Israel; 2) his healing; and 3) his pride in showing off his treasures. In their pre-adolescent years, it is important for students to have ingrained in their Christian identity the importance and necessity of standing apart from others and standing up for God in their actions and speech. Hezekiah was a king who knew how to do this from day one of his reign. However, when reflecting on Hezekiah’s life, students can also learn the importance of a lifelong service to God. This means that they should not hold the concept that they have done “enough” for God, whether in holy work or in daily conduct. Furthermore, there will be “sacrifices” they will have to make for the sake of being a Christian. These are two critical concepts that can be difficult to explain in a concrete manner, so personal testimonies and analogies to their school life can help students understand the two concepts.



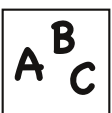
Opener

5 Minutes

Ask the students what their favorite hobbies are; some may say sports, drawing, or reading. Now, pose this hypothetical question: “If they could meet one person who was really good at their hobby, who would it be and why?”

The students will probably list classmates, teachers, parents, or famous athletes or celebrities, all of whom possess a talent the students believe is unique. Now, what if the Bible told us that there was one person unlike any other who shared the same role. Surely there are many, many things we can learn from him! That person is King Hezekiah (refer to the memory verse). Today, we will learn about three short stories from King Hezekiah’s life:

1. His first day as king, and how he showed that he was someone who trusted in God
2. A time he trusted in God, even when there was a lot of pressure around him
3. A time when he failed and forgot God



Vocabulary

siege: an act of war during which the enemy cuts off all of your supplies (food, water) to starve you and take over your city

bitterly: (with reference to the Hebrew meaning) an attitude of being sad and crying loudly

Passover: the annual feast the people of God kept to remember how God saved and delivered them from Egypt

consecrate: to make holy



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. Instruct students to complete it as you go over the lesson, pausing where necessary to allow the students to write down the answers. At the end of the Bible story section, go over the worksheet with the students for completion and correctness. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

We have learned about many kings this year, but today we will learn of a king of Judah who trusted God like no other king of Judah had done, before or after him, and his name is Hezekiah.

If you were given all the power and money to do what you wanted at your school, what would you do? [Allow students to write their answers on the worksheet.] It's easy to think only about ourselves or only wanting to have fun when we have all that wealth and power. Yet, that was not what King Hezekiah did. Let us turn to 2 Chronicles 29:3.

In the first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah thought of God. Hezekiah wanted to open the doors of the house of God, because his father, who worshipped idols when he was king, had shut up those doors. So, we can see that Hezekiah was thinking about God and the people. He knew how important it was to make sure the people had a strong and healthy relationship with God. So, he told all the priests and Levites to consecrate themselves, or make themselves holy, because there was going to be an even bigger task that he wanted them to do. He wanted to trust in God and he wanted the people to trust in God as well.

Let's read 2 Kings 18:4-6. One of the commandments Hezekiah kept was the Passover, an important feast that was supposed to remind the people of how God had saved them from the Egyptians so long ago. How did Hezekiah bring back Passover worship? Let's look at 2 Chronicles 30:1-2. Wow! This is something no king of Judah had ever done before, inviting not only the people in Judah, but also the people in Israel to worship God in the temple in Jerusalem and to keep the Passover. This was what made Hezekiah so special. He wasn't worried about power or money; he just wanted to make sure all of the people of God were worshipping God the right way. So, this was a great way he showed that he trusted in God.

Fourteen years later... Hezekiah still trusted in God, but this time he was facing many troubles and growing pressure from everywhere. First, the kingdom of Israel had

been taken by a nation called Assyria because they would not worship God faithfully. Now, Assyria was coming for Judah, coming straight for the gates of Jerusalem! Hezekiah not only had enemies heading towards the city, he had also become very sick, so sick that the prophet Isaiah told him that he would die! Making matters worse, the Assyrian soldiers went to Jerusalem and tried to scare the people in Jerusalem, saying that God would not be able to protect them from such a great nation as Assyria. Hezekiah was so worried that he tore his clothes and cried, what if the people left God again? What if they stopped coming to the temple, or stopped keeping the Passover or any of the other commandments of God? That would be horrible. So, what does a person who trusts in God do when he feels like there is nothing he can do? He prays! Let's read Hezekiah's prayer in Isaiah 38:3-4. God heard Hezekiah's prayer; not only did He heal Hezekiah, He also delivered the people from the Assyrians! Praise God!

Unfortunately, Hezekiah, satisfied with all that he had already done for God, became proud, only seeing all the great treasures he had as a king and not remembering that all of this was in fact from God (2 Chr 32:25). One day, another great nation called Babylon came to see him, and to boast about his greatness, he showed them all his treasures and riches. Thus, God spoke to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah that, one day, all the treasures and some of his sons would be taken away from Jerusalem by the same Babylon because Hezekiah forgot that he served God, and that everything came from God.

During his lifetime, Hezekiah achieved many wonderful things for God and followed God obediently, but he also made many mistakes due to his weaknesses. We can learn many lessons from both his strengths and his weaknesses, and remember always what it means to trust in God.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is inspired by God and is the standard for Christian living.

We can learn from Hezekiah's story as it has been recorded in the Bible. His story contains many teachings from which we can learn. Hezekiah started out his reign as king on a positive note, but ended it on a negative note. In our servitude to God as His faithful followers, we have the Bible as a guide to how we should act in certain situations and how we should live our lives as His children. Whenever we have a question or problem, we can always turn to God in prayer and to the Bible.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What was the first thing Hezekiah did as king?** Open and repair the doors of the house of God.
2. **What else did he do to repair the people's relationship with God?** He removed the high places, broke pillars, cut down wooden images, broke to pieces the bronze serpent, consecrated the priests and Levites, and commanded all of Judah and Israel to keep the Passover.
3. **Which nation came to attack Jerusalem?** Assyria.
4. **Did Hezekiah ask to be healed in his prayer?** No.
5. **How did Hezekiah trust in God?** He held fast to God, not departing from Him, and kept His commandments.
6. **What happened to Hezekiah's heart after he was healed?** Hezekiah became proud.
7. **What is one pressure you face today, for which you know you need to trust in God?** Answers may vary.



Life Application

10 Minutes

THE COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR GOD

Hezekiah's move to re-establish true worship for Judah and Israel was something no one before him had attempted, and it was a goal towards which he worked from the beginning of his reign. The courage to stick to what is right in God's eyes can be a challenge, but it is a challenge the students must embrace from their youth.

Draw two columns on the whiteboard, or a piece of paper, and ask students to list out all the bad habits of their school friends (e.g., swearing, cheating on tests, making fun of the teacher, bullying fellow students, watching too much TV, addicted to games, etc.). Write these in one column. In the other column, write the exact opposite of these bad habits and pose this scenario to the students: If you were a new student who had just joined that school, and did all the opposites of the bad habits, would the other students accept you or make fun of you?

1. How many of you would be courageous enough not to join in on the bad habits of your classmates?
2. What would God want you to do as His heavenly child?

The point is not to have no friends at all or to become a social outcast. However, remind them of the example of Hezekiah and how much courage he must have needed to do what was different from his father and from those around him, but what he knew was right. Refer to the fourth verse of the hymn "Make Me a Channel of Blessings." Share from experience how much harder this will get once the students start junior high school, and emphasize how it is imperative that they start building up this courage and trust in God now.

TRUSTING IN HARD TIMES – HOLD ON, NEVER DEPART

Your students are starting to develop their own sense of independence and with this development comes burdens and pressures. Referring to Hezekiah's efforts to trust in God, remind them that the journey of faith will not always be an easy one. Sometimes, like Hezekiah, we will cry because we don't know what to do next. At these times, we must remember that God is by our side (1 Pet 5:7). Remind the students that at times like this, they need to hold on to a fundamental action—prayer—and never depart from this. In addition, if the students ever need someone with whom to talk, their parents and RE teachers are always willing to listen.

HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE FOR YOU, GOD?

Ask the students to color in the first test tube based on how much God has given them (hint: it should be OVERFLOWING). Now, ask them to color in the second test tube with how much work they've done for God, whether in church or in their Christian conduct. There really is no comparison. Read Psalm 116:12. Students must constantly have this question in the back of their heads. God gave Hezekiah fifteen more years to serve Him, and while none of the students have even lived for fifteen years, they can determine to live the next fifteen years, and onward, for God, putting Him first in their lives always.

Refer to both activities for further expansion on the life application. Experiences on how teachers have grown in their love and service to God from a young age are also highly encouraged.

Life Application Worksheet Scenario Answers

Being Different

1. Yes! Joseph knew he had to be a Christian outside of church and in front of his friends—this requires courage. He also asked Colin to church. Joseph had fears, but that is natural.
2. Responses may vary. Possible responses: not swearing, not gossiping, the clothes they wear, what shows they watch or games they play, what they do on Friday nights and Saturdays, what they do during winter and summer breaks (spiritual convocation)
3. Joseph can be more courageous by praying as he would normally, instead of in fear that someone would catch him praying. He can also be more courageous by asking God for the courage and wisdom to explain to Colin about prayer from the Bible.

Miss Popular

1. No, it is not wrong that Caroline brought her bag to school.
2. The compliments she received, and her heart wanting to show it off even more.
3. She can remember that she received the bag as a gift from her parents. She did not do anything to earn it nor did she pay for it, so there is no reason to show it off. If and when others compliment her, she can thank them, but not take it to heart or let it make her even more boastful.



Activity

Time Capsule: Keeping Hold of Our Trust in God; Class Scheduler

10-15 Minutes

1. Time Capsule

Objective: To strengthen our resolve to trust in God and to continue to have courage to do what is right in God's eyes.

Materials

- A box with a lock on it
- Stickers
- Paper
- Pen

Instructions

1. Ask the students to write a letter to their future self that includes a verse that they read in today's lesson. In the letter, the students have to encourage their future selves not to be bogged down by any pressures or to be too timid to stand out as a Christian. Rather, they must make the best use of their time and remember the teaching of Hezekiah and how important it is to trust in God. (Teachers can write their own letter, too!)
2. Seal the letters with a sticker.
3. Lock the letters in a box, and label it with a sign that says, "Do not open until [one year after today's date]." Teachers can set reminders in their calendars.
4. When the date on the box arrives, return the letters to the students. If a student has moved to a different church, it is encouraged to mail the letter to the student.

2. Class Scheduler – Duty for God

Objective: To teach students that there is always something that they can do for God at any time and that they should be constantly serving God.

For the activity, students will create a clock that can be used to list out church duties that the students can participate in on any given Sabbath. Each clock hand, which will have the student's name on it, will always be pointed at a particular duty each week. A similar clock can be created with good Christian behavior that students can practice at home written on the face.

Materials

- Cardstock
- Markers
- Brass fasteners
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Ask students to brainstorm various ways they can serve God in church (e.g., say grace, clean the classroom, lead prayer, lead hymns, help the elderly members, etc.; if done on a personal basis, students can brainstorm good Christian behavior, e.g., "do not swear," "preach to friend," etc.)
2. Write the different works around the clock face, one for each hour.
3. Write each student's name on the clock hands and decorate.
4. Using the scissor, poke a hole through the center of the clock and through the circles on the clock hands.
5. Take the brass fastener and fasten together the clock hands and the clock face.
6. Arrange each hand to point to a specific duty for the students to carry out that week.
 - a. The teacher can determine how many clocks to make and how many hands to put on each clock, but if there is more than one clock, each clock should have the same set of duties written on it. Students can be divided between each clock so that it allow for duties to be assigned in pairs or groups.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Held fast, did not depart, kept God's commandments
2. Showed all the treasures to the Babylonians
3. Answers may vary.
4. Answers may vary.
5. Answers may vary. Examples:
 Year 1 "I'm really nervous about starting as King but I want my people to have a good relationship with the true God!"
 Year 14 "I don't know what to do, I feel so sad and can't do this on my own..."
 Year 29 "I've lived a great life; look at how rich I am!"

KING HEZEKIAH

Write 2 Chronicles 29:3 below.

"In the first year of his reign, in the first month, he opened the doors of the house of the LORD and repaired them."

If I Were a King... My "To Do" List [2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chronicles 30:1]

ME	KING HEZEKIAH
1. Build a house	1. Removed the high places
2. Eat all my favorite foods	2. Broke the sacred pillars
3. Invite all my friends over	3. Cut down the wooden image
4. Lock up all the bullies/enemies	4. Broke in pieces the bronze serpent
5. Etc.	5. Called all of Judah and Israel to keep the Passover

How did King Hezekiah trust in the Lord? [2 Kings 18:6]

1. Held fast to the Lord
2. Did not depart from following Him
3. Kept His commandments

Write down Hezekiah's prayer [Isaiah 38:3] and God's response [Isaiah 38:4-6]

King Hezekiah's Prayer

Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.

God's Response

I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city.

Draw the pressures Hezekiah was facing around him.

- health issues
- worried that his people would not follow him in worshipping God and instead worship false idols
- enemies attacking

Write 2 Chronicles 32:25a.

But Hezekiah did not repay according to the favor shown him, for his heart was lifted up.

God & I

- "God" test tube should overflow
- "Me" test tube should be less than half full.

God & I

The heart should be filled to a level with a percentage value to indicate how much we do things for God and how much for ourselves.



KING HEZEKIAH

Write 2 Chronicles 29:3 below.

[_____]

ME	KING HEZEKIAH
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

How did King Hezekiah trust in the Lord? (2 Kings 18:6)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write down Hezekiah's prayer (Isaiah 38:3) and God's response (Isaiah 38:4-6)

King Hezekiah's Prayer



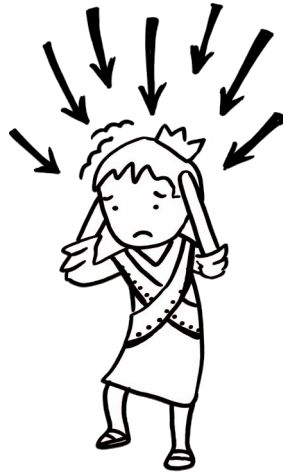
God's Response



**Trusting IN
HARDTIMES—**

HOLD ON, NEVER DEPART

Draw the pressures Hezekiah was facing around him.

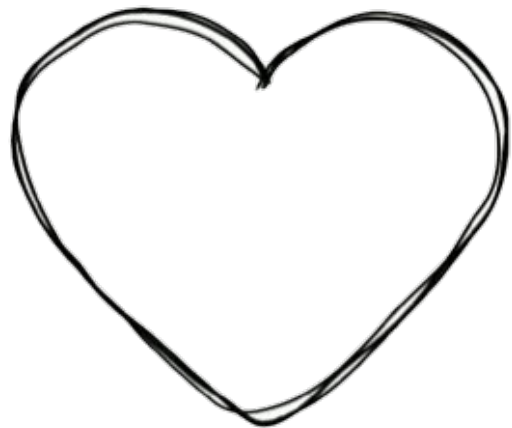
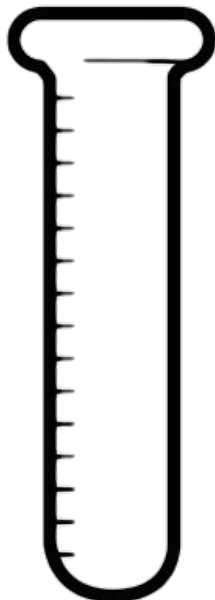
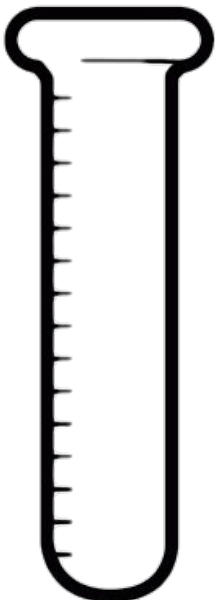


Write 2 Chronicles 32:25a.

Courage
TO STAND UP FOR GOD

God & I

God & I

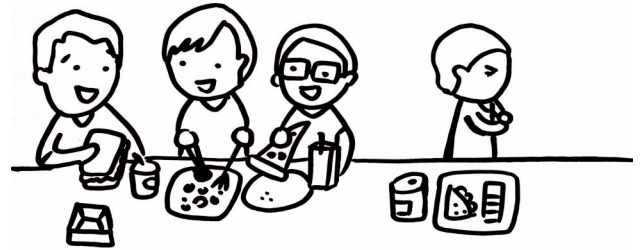


Being Different

Joseph felt his hands getting sweaty and he peeked to the left and to the right to make sure his friends weren't looking. It was lunchtime, and in front of him was the meal that his mother had prepared for him, but this was the dreaded part of lunch time... saying a silent prayer to thank God. The first time he had done it at school, his best friend Colin had noticed and given him a weird look. Nowadays, Joseph usually waited until all his friends were in an animated conversation before he would dare to say a prayer. His RE teachers taught in class that we always need to thank God for our food, but Joseph really didn't want to. He found it hard enough to make friends and to be seen as part of the "popular" group. Now was his chance! Joseph quickly closed his eyes, and turned away from the rest of the group, "In the name of Jesus I pray, thank You, God, for the food Mom has prepared for me. Thank You for everything. Amen." He peeked to the left and to his right—no one had seen—and breathed a sigh of relief.

Joseph's hands were sweaty again, but this time he wasn't on the playground with his friends. This time he was in church, standing up with the rest of the congregation singing a hymn. Colin, his friend from school, was standing next to him, peeking to the left and right while holding a hymn book in his hands. Joseph had invited Colin for service and Colin, curious as to what a Christian church was like, agreed to come along. The one thing Joseph didn't know how to bring up was the prayer. Joseph's Bible knowledge wasn't strong and he wasn't sure how to bring up the topic of speaking in tongues. Even though he had received the Holy Spirit and spoken in tongues, he did not know how to describe it and was afraid of how Colin would react. Would Colin stop being friends with him, see him as an alien, or welcome the prayer? Joseph's heart started pounding as the hymn finished... how was he going to stand out?

1. Do you think Joseph has shown courage? In what way?
2. Have you ever been in Joseph's position before? In what areas are you afraid of being different from your non-church friends?
3. What can Joseph do to be even more courageous for God?

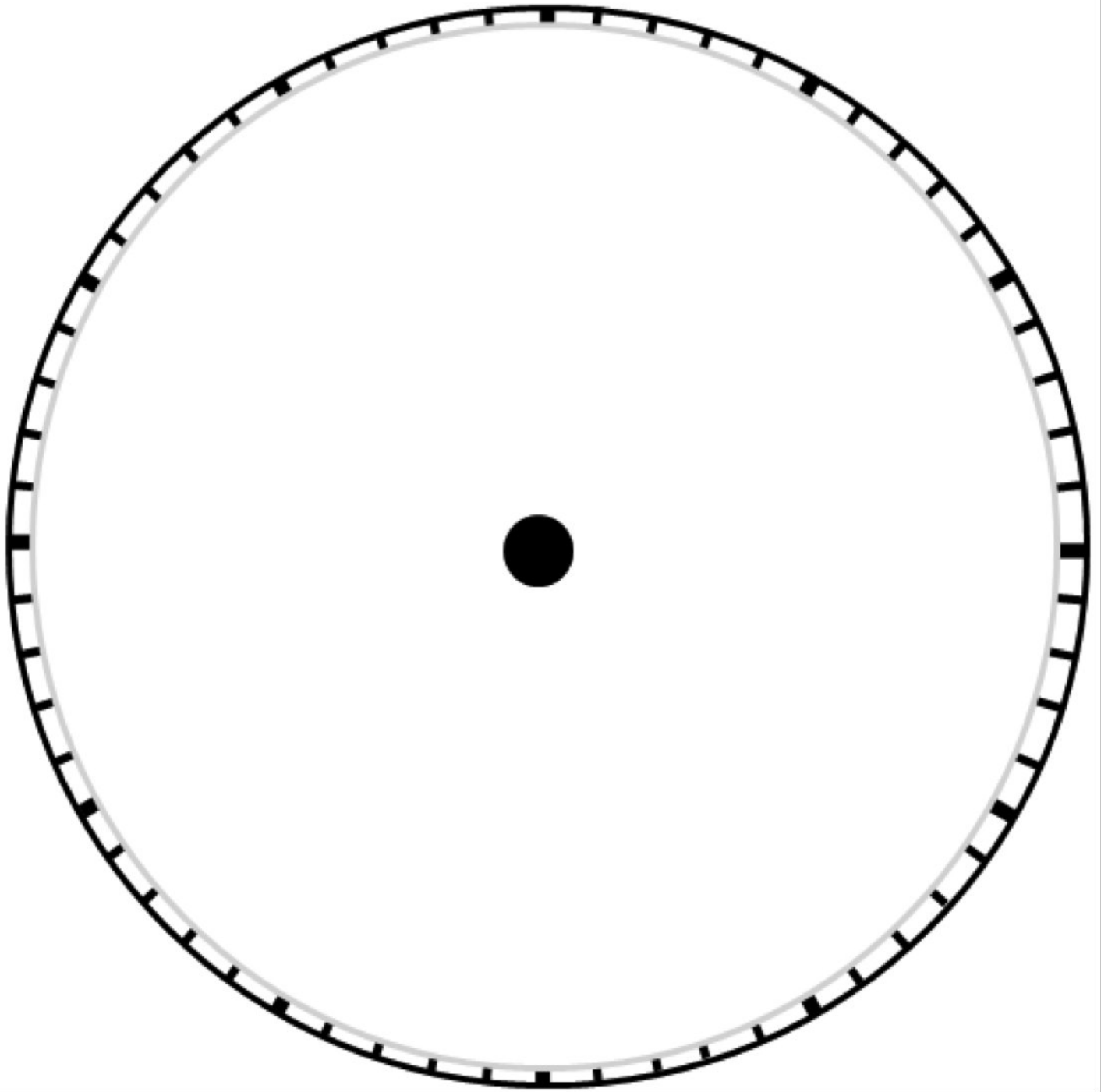


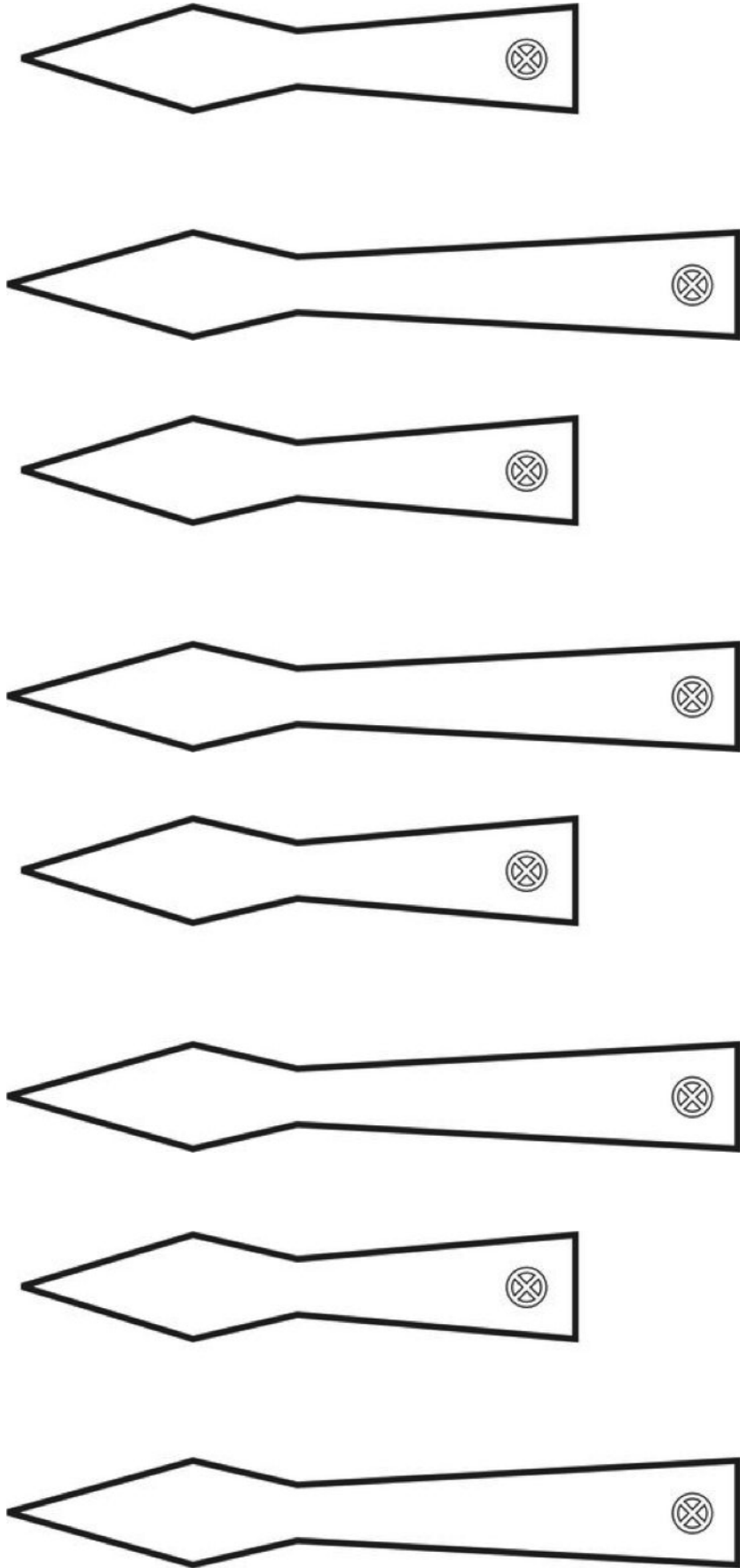
Miss Popular

Caroline was so excited to go back to school after summer break. She couldn't wait to see her friends, but most of all, she wanted to show her friends the present her parents bought her. It was a new bag—bright, shiny, and new. When she reached the playground and found her friends, her friend Anna was the first to notice the bag. "That is so cool! I really like your bag, Caroline." Upon hearing that compliment, Caroline beamed in her heart with happiness. "What does the inside look like?" She casually opened her bag, as more of her friends were looking at her. "Oh, I wish I had that bag!" For the rest of the day, Caroline and her new bag was the talk of her class. She walked home with a big smile on her face—that was the best day she had ever had in school!



1. Was it wrong for Caroline to bring her bag to school?
2. What made Caroline proud of her bag?
3. How could Caroline not be proud and still enjoy the new bag she had received?





E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 6—King Hezekiah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(2 Kings 18:5)**

What does the memory verse mean?

1. Write down three ways that Hezekiah trusted in God.

2. What did Hezekiah do that showed his pride?

Your turn!

3. Write down three difficulties you have in your life right now that require you to trust in God.

4. Give an example of one area in which you have become proud, or a time when you forgot about God.

Put yourself in his shoes!

Write a statement to express how you think Hezekiah is feeling at each stage of his life:

- Year 1 (opening the doors of the house of God)

- Year 14 (sick and under attack from Assyria)

- Year 29 (proud and not doing enough for God)

LESSON 7

KING MANASSEH

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn from the mistakes of King Manasseh by reflecting on our sins and mistakes.
2. To remember that no matter what wrong we have committed, God always wants us to turn back to Him, acknowledge that we have sinned, and repent from the bottom of our hearts.
3. To understand that we must bear the consequences of the sins that we've committed.

MEMORY VERSE

“For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”

(2 Corinthians 7:10)

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, we thank You for gathering us together to worship You. Today, we are learning about King Manasseh, who did very bad things. He disobeyed God and did so many evil things. God, we have all done wrong and we do not deserve Your love and grace. Yet, You wait with open arms of love, waiting for us to humble ourselves and turn back to You with our whole heart so that You can pour Your grace on us. God, please help us to realize our sins. Please help us remember that You are always waiting for us to find our way back to You. Thank You for your great love and mercy. Amen.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

a. Manasseh's Life

- Manasseh's Background
- Manasseh's Sins
- Warning & Discipline from God
- Manasseh's Repentance

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—Salvation

3. Life Application

- a. Circle of Obedience
- b. Hand of Prayer

4. Activity—Family Traffic Signs



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Prophet Isaiah told the dying King Hezekiah, “Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.” Upon hearing this, Hezekiah turned to God in prayer. God heard Hezekiah's prayer and added fifteen more years to his life (Isa 38:1-5). After his life and death experience, and knowing he only had fifteen more years to live, Hezekiah had much to teach his young son (Isa 38:19).

Instead of the ways of God, Manasseh preferred pagan Gentile traditions and rituals. He rebuilt the high places and the altars for Baal worship that his father had destroyed. He made a wooden image of Asherah and placed it in the temple of God. He worshipped the stars instead of the God of heaven—he even built altars for them in the two courts of God's temple in Jerusalem! In addition, Manasseh dabbled in witchcraft and sorcery. He caused his sons to pass through the fire, which was, at that time, a sacrifice to the god Molech. As if his actions were not already evil enough, he also killed the prophets of God and shed so much innocent blood that the Bible said it filled Jerusalem from one end to the other.

As king, Manasseh's poor character corrupted and ruined the entire nation of Judah, not just during his reign but also for generations after him. He was described as the king who did more evil than the nations that God had destroyed. To fully understand the extent of Manasseh's sins, we need to look further down in history. The repercussions of his sins echoed throughout the reign of his descendants.

- Jeremiah declared during his time that Manasseh's sins had yet to be expiated (Jer 15:4; 2 Ki 23:26).
- From Ezekiel's vision of the glory of God departing the temple (Eze 8), it's clear that the influence of over half a century of pagan cults and idol worship was slow to disappear.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Manasseh's example teaches us many lessons about parents and children. It also highlights the importance of praying, attending religious education classes, and helping each child find roots in his/her faith.

Hezekiah was one of the few good and godly kings in the history of Judah, so it makes us wonder why his son turned out so bad.

We need to remember that while parents have a great responsibility to train their children in the ways of God, ultimately, each person must answer to God for himself or herself. Most of our RE students are most likely growing up in a Christ-centered home. Their parents may teach and model the things of God. However, there will come a point where the students must yield their selves to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord in the choices they make. Our parents' faith will not get us into heaven.

Hezekiah was a great example of a godly person, but Manasseh rebelled against his father and against God during his teenage years. The teenage years are a period of intense growth, not only physically, but also emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. This is the time when children start to "try on" different looks and identities. They also start to separate from their parents and yearn for independence. During this awkward period, students go through many struggles, and tend to butt heads with their parents as they start to form and assert their own opinions. Therefore, a good role model outside of the family for them to turn to for guidance and advice is more critical than ever.

As their RE teacher, we should open a line of communication with them right now, before they hit the teenage years. Alongside their parents, help them establish good habits in praying and reading the Bible so that when the time comes, they will be able to form a moral code in accordance with the teachings of the Bible.



Opener

5 Minutes

While King Hezekiah made mistakes, he was a good king in that he did many good things to guide the people of Judah to God. This lesson focuses on the reign of his son, Manasseh.

Sin & Repentance Glass

Materials

- Glass of water
- Food coloring
- Bleach
- Spoon

Note: Before showing this to the class, conduct the activity on your own to find the right balance of dye and bleach.

1. Show the class a glass of water. "When we receive baptism, we are cleansed of all our sins, so we are like this clear cup of water."
2. "Unfortunately, throughout our lives, we make mistakes and sin against God." Add one drop of food coloring and watch as the food coloring spreads in the water. "We become stained and are no longer clear and clean."
3. "However, if we truly repent from our hearts, God in His loving mercy will forgive us." Slowly pour in the bleach and stir gently with a spoon until the water turns clear again.
4. "God may have forgiven us. However, after we sin, our lives will not be the same again. Sometimes, even the lives of other people around us may be affected." Smell the water; it appears clear, but now it smells of bleach.

Our lesson today about King Manasseh is one such example. He started off as a clear glass of water. Everyone starts off as a clear glass of water after we believe and are baptized. However, his glass of water was dyed darker and darker by the sins he committed. Yet, God's love and grace are greater than all our sins. As long as we turn back to Him with all our heart, He will forgive us of our sins. We can be like the clear glass of water again.

However, we must know that even though God may forgive us, there will be consequences after we sin. Just as the glass of water smells different now after the dye has been cleared away; it is no longer the same clear glass of water as before. If we are truly repentant, then we will accept the consequences and try our best to live a life worthy of God's calling. Today, we will learn about Manasseh's life: his reign as king, the mistakes he made, and his return to God.



Vocabulary

abomination: (adj.) exceptionally loathsome, disgusting, hateful, sinful and wicked; (n.) something that is forbidden, a very serious offense

host of heaven: In most Bible passages, the "host of heaven" refers to heavenly bodies—the sun, moon, and stars—in general, or to stars in particular (Neh 9:6). God specifically told His people not to worship them (Dt 4:19). In some instances, the "host of heaven" refers to angels (1 Ki 22:19).

soothsaying: the practice of foretelling future events by use of supernatural powers; fortune-telling

sorcery: the practice of casting spells or magic, using supernatural powers or powers of evil spirits

spiritist/medium: a person thought to have the power to communicate with the spirits of the dead

seduce: to attract or lead someone away from proper behavior or thinking

calamity: a disaster or event that brings terrible loss and suffering



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Ask the students to follow along as you go over the lesson, pausing where necessary to allow students to write the answers. Go over the worksheet at the end of the section to ensure completeness and correctness. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

After King Hezekiah passed away, his son Manasseh succeeded him as king of Judah. Was Manasseh a good king like his father Hezekiah?

Manasseh's Background

King Manasseh's story can be found in:

- 2 Kings 21
- 2 Chronicles 33

Read 2 Kings 21:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-2, then fill in the information:

- Manasseh's father: Hezekiah
- Manasseh's mother: Hephzibah
- He began ruling as the age of: 12 years old
- His reign lasted for: 55 years

At twelve years of age, Manasseh was just a boy when the kingdom was handed over to him for ruling. The Bible tells us that he did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than the other nations that God had destroyed because of their evil doings (2 Ki 21:9). Does it seem strange that such a good king as Hezekiah could have a son who did such evil things? [Let the students think and respond.]

If Manasseh was so evil, why was he able to reign for fifty-five years? This is the longest reign recorded in the history of Judah!

Manasseh's Sins

What were some of the sins that Manasseh committed as king? Read 2 Chronicles 33:3-7 and 2 Kings 21:3-7, 16, and write them down.

1. Built altars/high places to Baal and idols (vv. 3, 5):

His father Hezekiah had just torn them all down when he was king, now Manasseh was bringing Judah back into idolatry.

2. Carved wooden images of idols and worshipped false gods (vv. 3, 7):

The worst king of Israel, King Ahab, worshipped the false gods Baal and Asherah. Manasseh worshipped

both of those and more. 2 Kings 21:3 says he worshipped and served all the host of heaven.

3. Set the altars and wooden images of idols in the house of God (v. 5):

It's bad enough that Manasseh worshipped idols and carved images of them (breaking the first and second commandments). However, that was not enough for him. He went one step further and put the false idol images and altars inside the courts of the house of God. He corrupted the place meant only for worshipping the one true God.

4. Made his sons pass through fire (v. 6):

This was a practice of the Canaanites. They worshipped the false god Molech by sacrificing and burning their children.

5. Practiced soothsaying and witchcraft and consulted mediums and spiritists (v. 6):

By doing this, he was inviting Satan into the nation of Judah. All these practices have the influence of Satan; that's why God has strict commandments to forbid His people from practicing these.

6. Killed innocent people (v. 16):

Although the Bible does not specifically say which people he killed, we are told that they were innocent. Maybe they were prophets who warned Manasseh about the evil he was doing. Maybe they were just general people who wanted to worship God and would not follow Manasseh in worshipping idols. Whichever the case, the Bible clearly states that the people were innocent and not deserving of death.

How wicked and grievous were Manasseh's sins! 2 Kings 21:9 says that Manasseh seduced the people to do more evil than the other nations that God had destroyed. Manasseh practiced evil, and he led the children of God to follow him. God wanted the kings to lead His people to be separate and holy to God, to be different from the other nations. Now, not only were they not separate and holy, but they also committed more evil than the other nations.

Warning & Discipline from God

It's important to note that even though Manasseh did such great evil, God never gave up on him. [Ask students to read 2 Kings 21:11-15 aloud.]

God spoke to Manasseh and the people and warned them of the consequences of their sins. He warned them of the calamity that would come upon them if they continued in their ways.

Did Manasseh heed God's warning? Let's continue to read 2 Kings 21:16 and 2 Chronicles 33:10.

Despite these warnings and God's patience, Manasseh refused to listen and change. Not only did he ignore the warnings, he persecuted and killed the faithful servants of God. Seeing that there was no other way to change Manasseh's heart, God released severe discipline upon Manasseh and the nation of Judah.

Let's read 2 Chronicles 33:11 and see what happened. God sent the king of Assyria to punish Manasseh and the nation of Judah. They took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters and carried him off to Babylon. The terrible condition that Manasseh suffered at the hands of the Assyrians made him realize the severity of his sins. He realized that none of the false gods he built altars for or carved wooden images he created could save him. It was then that he finally decided to turn back to the one and only true God—the God his father had taught him to worship.

Manasseh's Repentance

In pain and suffering, Manasseh finally turned back to God. What did he do to show that he had learned his lesson? Let's read 2 Chronicles 33:12-13.

Manasseh humbled himself greatly and prayed in humility a prayer of repentance. God, with His everlasting love and mercy, gave Manasseh another chance. We may wonder why God would forgive such an evil king and all the abominations and great wickedness he did. Yet, it is this loving nature of God that saved every one of us today as well.

We should not think we are better than Manasseh. We have all made mistakes and will continue to make mistakes. There is still one thing that we can learn from Manasseh. When we make mistakes, we must turn back to God whole-heartedly and accept our punishment, the consequences of our sins.

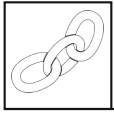
Manasseh truly learned his lesson this time. After returning to Jerusalem, he built up the city and removed the false gods, idols, and all the altars that he had built for them (2 Chr 33:14-15). He repaired the altar of God and tried to turn the nation back to worshipping God (2 Chr 33:16). However, Manasseh learned that it's much easier to corrupt people than to lead people to obey God. As we can read in verse 17, despite all his efforts, the people did not truly turn back to worshipping God.

Just as the glass of water from our activity will never be the same again because of the food coloring and bleach, after we sin, even if God forgives us of our sins, there will

still be consequences.

Manasseh had to face the humiliation of being taken by a hook and bound, but that was not all. More importantly, he had to face the consequence of returning to the nation of Judah where the whole nation was already corrupt, evil, and worshipping numerous false gods now.

His decisions in the early years of his reign had a lasting effect of the nation of Judah. No matter how much effort he put towards trying to turn the people back to God, the people only worshipped God in appearance and not with a true heart. The effects of the evil influence at the start of his reign affected the nation until Manasseh's grandson, Josiah, and to the last king of Judah, Zedekiah!



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation is given by the grace of God through faith. Believers must rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

We have already received the greatest gift from God in saving grace. However, most of us take it for granted. In Philippians 2:12, Paul reminds us, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." We need to **work out** our own salvation with **fear** and **trembling**.

What do you think it means to "work out"? [Allow students to respond; possible answers: put forth effort, train, sweat, have a goal in mind to achieve, etc.]

Why do you think Paul tells us to do it with **fear** and **trembling**? [Allow students to respond.] The road to salvation is narrow and difficult, so we need to remind ourselves to be watchful and to watch every step.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **How old was Manasseh when he became king?** He was twelve years old.
2. **How long did Manasseh reign as king in Judah?** He reigned for fifty-five years.
3. **Who was Manasseh's father?** His father was King Hezekiah.
4. **What did Manasseh do that was evil?**
 - Built high places, built altars for Baal and other idols, made wooden images, made and set carved image of Asherah in the house of God
 - Worshipped the host of heaven – even built altars for them in the courts of the house of God
 - Made his sons pass through fire
 - Practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, consulted spiritists and mediums
 - Killed many innocent people
5. **Which nation did God send to invade Judah and what did they do?** He sent the Assyrians. They came, captured Manasseh, took him with hooks, bound him in bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.
6. **Why did God forgive Manasseh?** Manasseh humbled himself, prayed to God, and truly repented.
7. **How can you tell Manasseh truly repented?** Manasseh removed all the idols, repaired the altar of the Lord, offered sacrifices to God, and commanded the people to worship God.
8. **Did Manasseh's efforts to turn the people back to God work?** No. The people didn't worship God with their hearts, and offered sacrifices to God on the high places meant for idols.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Circle of Obedience

We are not that different from Manasseh and the people of God in the Old Testament. We may not have prophets who come with warnings, but we do have preachers, teachers and... our parents! Was there ever a time when one of your teachers or your parents warned you to help you avoid punishment, but you ignored them? Use a hula-hoop to make a circle on the floor. If a hula-hoop is not available, use masking tape or painter's tape to create the circle. Have a student come up for each scenario/question.

QUESTIONS

If students disagree, they must stand outside of the circle.

If students agree, they must stand inside the circle.

- When Jesus was a child, He always obeyed His human parents.
[Agree – the Bible tells us that He grew up in favor with God and men. Favor with “men” shows that he was an obedient child.]
- When Jesus was a grown-up, He always obeyed His “Father in heaven.”
[Agree – whether as a child or as an adult, Jesus was obedient to His parents on earth and to God, our Father in heaven.]
- Once you disobey, you aren't allowed back inside the circle.
[Disagree – you can always repent, change, and obey to get back in the circle (have student go inside).]

SCENARIOS

First explain to the students that the circle on the floor is called the “circle of obedience.” After reading each scenario, ask the student if they are inside or outside of the “circle of obedience.”

If they are outside, ask them to share why they are outside, and how they can get back in the circle.

If they are inside, ask them what they have done to be in the circle.

- You come home after playing sports after school and you are famished. After having a drink, you see a bowl of hard candy on the table. You look around and see that your mother is not around, so you quickly grab two handfuls and eat them all.
[Outside the circle. You have disobeyed your parents by eating the candy. Even though your parents are not there to say no, you know that they would say no if you asked them for the candy. Knowing that they would say no and still eating it anyway is a form of disobedience.]
- There is a new student in your class and the teacher has asked you to help him and show him around the school during lunch. You want to go join your friends at lunch, but don't want to bring him, so you point to the direction of the main building at school and quickly leave to go find your friends.
[Outside the circle. You did what the teacher asked, but unwillingly and poorly. God cares what kind of attitude we have when we obey.]
- You really want to level up in the game you are playing on your phone, but your parents tell you to do your homework first before playing. You feel you can do both, so you keep your phone under your homework book. You play your game for five minutes and then do your homework for ten minutes.
[Outside the circle. Your parents said to do homework first, before playing games. The point is not whether or not you can finish your homework. This kind of obedience is like the people of Judah, obeying in appearance but not with their whole heart. You hide your phone because you know it's wrong and you want your parents to think you are doing your homework first.]

- You spent all your pocket money this week, but there's a new vending machine at school with your favorite chocolate bar. You ask your mother for more money, but she says no. Next morning before school, you see some coins on the table. Even though no one will miss them, you decide not to take them.
[Inside the circle. When you obey your parents and do what is right, your life may not go the way you want. You may not get everything you want, but it's through small acts of obedience that we learn. If we disobey in such a small matter because we think no one is watching, then over time, we will disobey on bigger and more serious things.]
- You have a new teacher this year at school. You feel like he picks on you a great deal. You don't like the way he always seems to point out your faults and order you around. One morning, you are in a bad mood and when the teacher orders you to do something, you reply, "Why should I listen to you?"
[Outside the circle. When your parents allow you to attend school, they are putting you under the care and authority of your teachers. Honoring your parents means obeying your teacher, too. Teachers are there to help, guide, and teach you, even if their methods are harsh at times. You will meet all sorts of people throughout your life, and you will not get along with all of them, but your job now is to be respectful and do your best.]

"Hand" of Prayer

From the story of Manasseh, we can see how much a king can affect a nation. Our leaders, of the church and of the country, will also have a big impact on us. Most of the time, our prayers are filled with requests for ourselves. How do we remind ourselves always to pray for other people, especially our leaders?



1. **Thumb** – For the people who are closest to you (family).
2. **Index Finger** – For the people who point you in the right direction, to whom you turn for wisdom or support (teachers, preachers).
3. **Middle Finger** (tallest finger) – For the people who lead us (government, church leaders).
4. **Ring Finger** (weakest finger) – For those who are weak, in need or in pain.
5. **Pinkie** (smallest finger) – For our selves and our own needs.

Write in your "hand" of prayer the names of people for whom you will pray. Remember to go through each finger before you end your prayers!



Activity

Family Traffic Signs

10-15 Minutes

Why does the government place traffic signs on the road? They are in place to keep us safe and to prevent accidents. God's rules are the same. The commandments are for our benefit, not for God's benefit. If people don't follow the traffic signs when they drive, the road would be chaotic and dangerous. In our lives, if we don't follow God's commandments and teachings in the Bible, we would not know where to go and how to live. God also gave us parents to help guide us. We must obey our parents, because it is one of God's commandments that we obey our parents in the Lord. More importantly, if we can't even obey our parents, how can we learn to obey God?

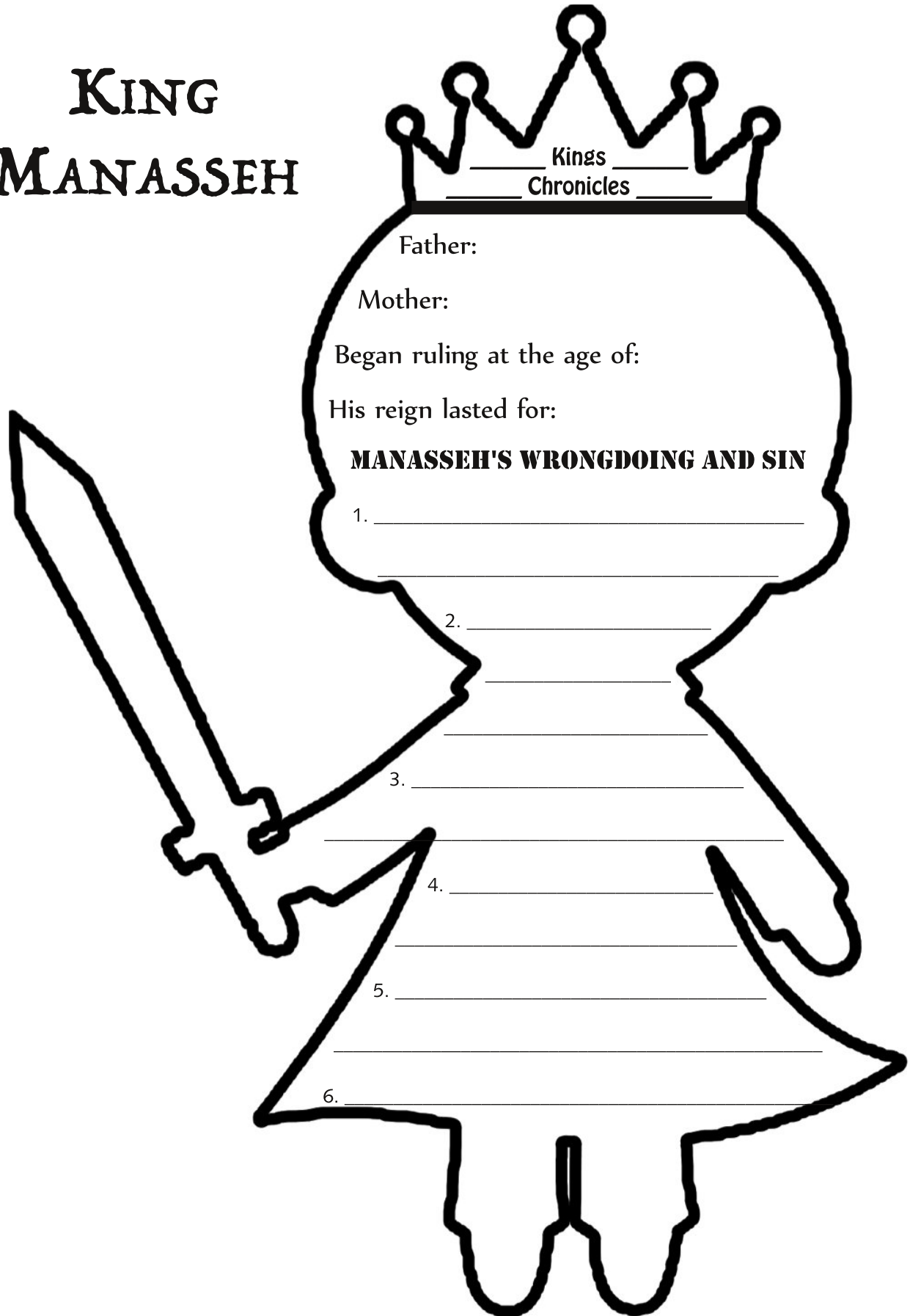
Here are a few traffic signs. Do you know what they mean? Why do drivers need to follow them? Can you list a few family rules at home? Can you think of a reason why these rules are in place?

Split the students into groups to fill in the worksheet and report back to the class what they have discussed.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. D
3. C
4. Because Manasseh humbled himself, prayed to God, and truly repented.
5. He removed all the idols, repaired the altar of the Lord, offered sacrifices to God, and commanded the people to worship God.
6. The people continued to offer sacrifices to God on the high places meant for idols because they didn't worship God with their hearts. It's easier to teach and lead people to do evil than to teach and lead them to do good.

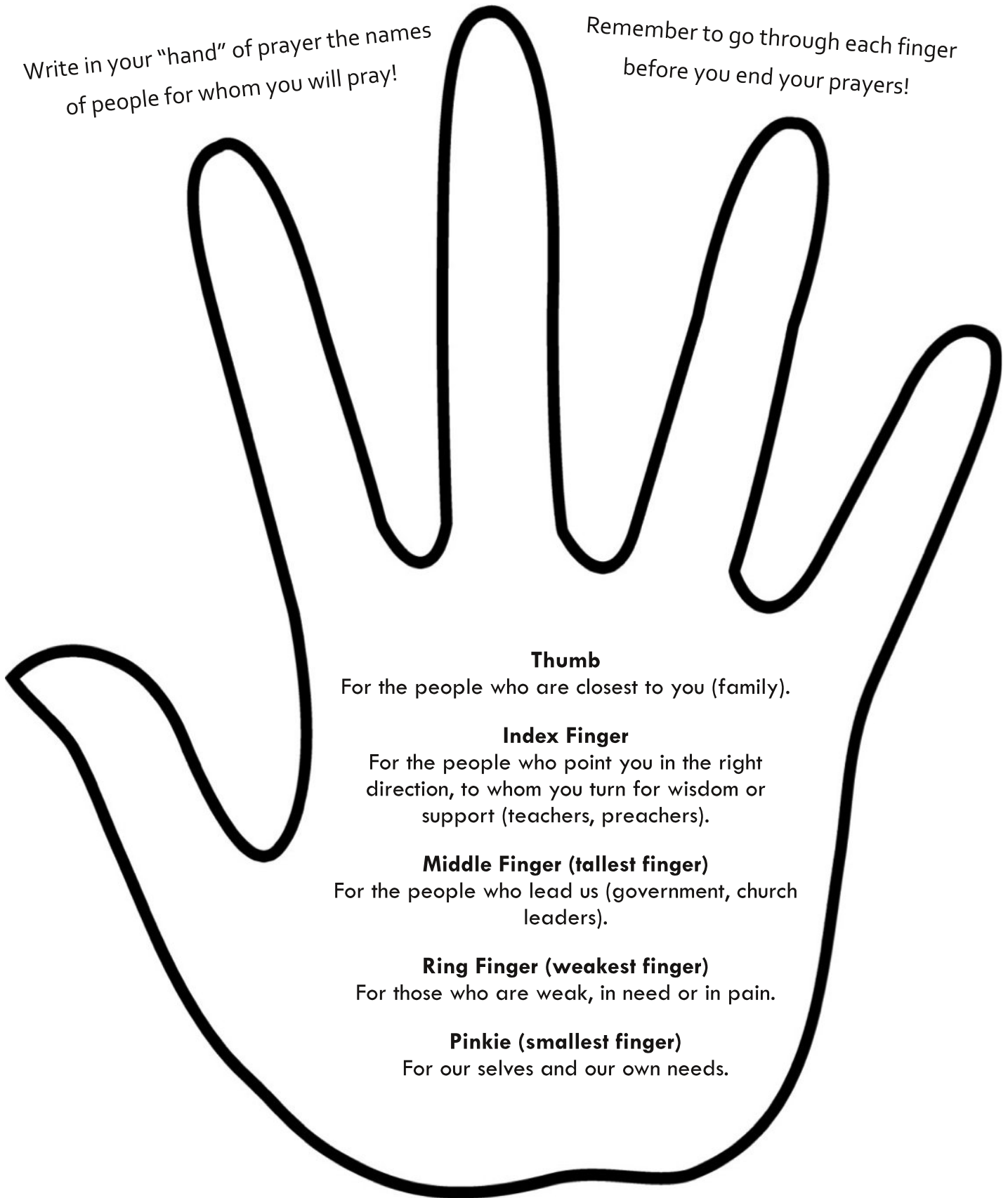
KING MANASSEH



Hand of Prayer

Write in your "hand" of prayer the names of people for whom you will pray!

Remember to go through each finger before you end your prayers!



Thumb

For the people who are closest to you (family).

Index Finger

For the people who point you in the right direction, to whom you turn for wisdom or support (teachers, preachers).

Middle Finger (tallest finger)

For the people who lead us (government, church leaders).

Ring Finger (weakest finger)

For those who are weak, in need or in pain.

Pinkie (smallest finger)

For our selves and our own needs.

FAMILY TRAFFIC SIGNS

Why does the government place traffic signs on the road? They are in place to keep us safe and to prevent accidents. God's rules are the same. The commandments are for our benefit, not for God's benefit.

If people don't follow the traffic signs when they drive, the road would be chaotic and dangerous.

If we don't follow God's commandments and teachings in the Bible, we would not know where to go and how to live.

God also gave us parents to help guide us. We must obey our parents, because it is one of God's commandments that we obey our parents in the Lord. More importantly, if we can't even obey our parents, how can we learn to obey God?

Here are a few traffic signs. Do you know what they mean? Why do drivers need to follow them?

Can you list a few family rules at home? Can you think of a reason why these rules are in place?



Family Rule #1

Reason for this rule:



Family Rule #2

Reason for this rule:



Family Rule #3

Reason for this rule:



Family Rule #4

Reason for this rule:

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 7—King Manasseh

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (2 Corinthians 7:10)

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : How long did Manasseh rule for?
 - a. 12 years
 - b. 30 years
 - c. 55 years
 - d. None of the above

2. _____ : What sins did Manasseh commit?
 - a. Created altars and carved images for false gods
 - b. Practiced sorcery, witchcraft and consulted mediums
 - c. Killed innocent people
 - d. All of the above

3. _____ : Which nation did God send to punish Manasseh?
 - a. Babylon
 - b. Egypt
 - c. Assyria
 - d. None of the above

Short Answer

4. Why did God forgive Manasseh?

5. What did Manasseh do after he repented?

6. Why didn't Manasseh's efforts turn the people back to God?

Manasseh's Prayer of Repentance

The Bible doesn't record what Manasseh said in his prayer of repentance. If you were Manasseh, how would you have prayed to ask God to forgive and help you?

Write your prayer of repentance:

A large, rounded rectangular box with ten horizontal lines inside, intended for writing a prayer of repentance.



LESSON 8

KING JOSIAH

OBJECTIVES

- To learn King Josiah turned to God with all his heart, mind and soul.
- To understand that the word of God is a mirror that reflects the condition of our hearts.
- To know we should remove all impurity and sin within our heart completely and diligently.

MEMORY VERSE

“Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might.”

(2 Kings 23:25a)

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord, for gathering us before You on this holy Sabbath to learn Your words. Your words are precious, as they teach us how we should live a life that is pleasing to You. Through them, we receive eternal life. Give us a tender, humble, and repentant heart to receive Your words and to practice them in our daily lives. May we love Your laws and follow them with all our heart, as Josiah did.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- Josiah Purges the Land
- Josiah Responds to the Book of the Law
- Josiah makes a Covenant with the Lord and Observes the Passover
- Josiah Dies in Battle

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—The Holy Bible

3. Life Application

- Respond to God's Word
- Desire to Follow God's Word
- Get Rid of Sins

4. Activity—Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. His grandfather, Manasseh, had been an evil king for the majority of his fifty-year reign, making Judah even more wicked than the other nations who did not know God or His word. He had built altars to star gods and practiced witchcraft, placed an idol in God's temple, sacrificed his son to an idol, and killed many innocent people (2 Ki 21:2-9). Consequently, Josiah's father Amon had also been an evil king who worshipped idols and did not walk in God's ways (2 Ki 21:20-22). His officials assassinated him a short two years after he succeeded the throne, so Josiah, a young boy, became king.

Miraculously, Josiah did not turn out like his father or grandfather. Guided by a good mother and God-fearing advisers, Josiah found his way to God at the age of 16. By age 20, he had made massive reforms throughout Judah to rid the kingdom of idols. When he was 26, Josiah ordered the repair of the damaged and neglected temple. The idols that had been placed in the temple area were also removed. During the renovation, the priest Hilkiah came across a copy of the Book of the Law, which is believed to be the Book of Deuteronomy.

Josiah is known as one of the best kings of Judah and there was no king like him.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Josiah held onto his faith for his entire life. He is a wonderful example to our students. He set the stage at a young age, showing that it is never too early to live out your faith in God. 1 Timothy 4:12 records: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Our youth is not an excuse for our wrongful behavior. Everyone, including our six- to eight-year-old students can glorify God. Motivate your students by asking them how they can set examples for others in the areas of speech, actions, love, spirit, faith, and purity. By discussing concrete ideas, students will know how to apply this verse to their lives. When they can successfully demonstrate an active faith at a young age, it will become a natural part of their lives as they mature.



Opener

5 Minutes

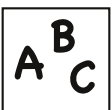
[Before the class, prepare building blocks that can snap into place, such as LEGO bricks.]

Instructions

1. Divide the class into two teams. The game will be played in three rounds, and each team will play once in each round.
2. Line up the first team along one side of the room. The second team will wait to the side.
3. Place the building pieces on the opposite side of the room on the ground or on a table.
4. When you give the signal to begin, one student from the first team will run to the other side of the room, grab a piece, and place it on the ground, run back, and tag the next student to repeat.
5. Give the first team 45 seconds to build as tall a structure as they can.
6. Then, allow the second team 45 seconds to follow the same pattern as the first, except this time, the team will take apart the structure one piece at a time. [Emphasize the last bit of instruction.]
7. For the second round, each team has 30 seconds to repeat their actions, starting with the first team.
8. For the last round, each team has 15 seconds to repeat their actions.

This constant building and tearing down of the structure is similar to the faith of the kings of Israel and Judah. When a righteous king reigned, he would try to build up the faith of the Israelites by getting rid of the altars and idols in the land. But when a wicked king came along after him, he would start to destroy the good work of the previous king. He would rebuild altars and idols and lead the people into idol worship. Then, when a good king came back into power, he would try to rebuild the nation's faith all over again. God's people were in a cycle of building and tearing down, building and tearing down. But God eventually had enough! As a consequence for their wickedness and unfaithfulness, God caused them to be captives in a foreign land.

Today, our story is about a righteous king called Josiah who did all he could to rebuild the faith of the Israelites.



Vocabulary

- reform:** to improve (someone or something) by removing or correcting problems
- shrines:** a place where people go to worship
- Molech:** god of the Ammonites; the worship of Molech involved killing one's children as an offering
- Baal:** false god whose name means "lord" or "master"; Canaanites believed that Baal had absolute control over nature, such as the harvest and the weather
- Asherah:** Canaanite goddess of fertility made of wood and associated with sacred trees or groves
- Topeth:** district in the Valley of Hinnom, southeast of Jerusalem, set aside for child sacrifice
- convicted:** the state of being guilty of committing a wrong



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

King Josiah

Josiah became king at an age close to yours—eight! He reigned for 31 years in Jerusalem. Josiah came from a line of wicked kings. His grandfather Manasseh and his father Amon were exceptionally wicked kings who sacrificed to idols and sinned greatly against God. Despite this, Josiah turned out completely different from his forefathers. Let's read 2 Chronicles 34:1-2 to learn what kind of a young man Josiah was. Josiah was a godly person who did what was right in God's eyes. At age 16, Josiah began to search for the God whom King David worshipped to find out who this God was.

1. Josiah Purges the Land

Let us continue to read 2 Chronicles 34:3-7. Here it tells us that at the age of twenty, after seeing the evil practices throughout the country, Josiah decided to bring the kingdom of Judah in line with God's commands. This meant that he had to clean and remove all the sinful articles from the land from top to bottom. This was no easy task. It would require great courage, determination, and strength.

[Teaching Tip: Divide the class into groups of 2-3. Give each group a sheet of poster paper and markers. Divide the passage recorded in 2 Kings 23:4-20 into sections and assign a section to each group. Have each group read the Bible passage and then write or draw the actions that Josiah took. Invite each group to share their answers.]

Josiah's Reforms (2 Ki 23:4-20)

1. He destroyed all the equipment used to worship Baal, Asherah, and the host of heaven (4).
2. He killed the idolatrous priests who burned incense to Baal and other idols (5).
3. He removed the idol Asherah from the Temple of God (6).
4. He tore down the houses of the perverted people in the Temple (7).
5. He brought back the priests of the Lord who were living in other cities of Judah and tore down the shrines (8).
6. He destroyed the altar of Topheth that was used to burn sons and daughters to the god Molech (10).
7. He removed the horses and burned the chariots that had been dedicated to the sun god (11).
8. He tore down the altars that were on the palace roof and in the Temple courts (12).
9. He removed the shrines that King Solomon had built for the gods (13).
10. He broke down the sacred pillars and cut down the wooden images, and filled their places with the bones of men (14).
11. He tore down, burned, and crushed to powder the altar that was at Bethel. This was the altar that King Jeroboam built when he led Israel to sin (15).
12. He took out the bones that were in the tombs on the mountain and burned them (16).
13. He destroyed the shrines built by the wicked kings of Israel (19).
14. He executed all the false priests upon their own altars (20).

Why did the Bible describe Josiah's actions in such detail? By listing down all his actions, we can see that Josiah was diligent in digging out and ridding Judah of every sin and wickedness. These sinful practices had been continuing through the reigns of different kings and Josiah was careful not to leave anything remaining.

In order to draw near to God, we need to be diligent to remove every sin that is within us. We cannot keep sinning, thinking that it is just a small sin that is of no consequence. No sin is a small sin. God wants us to wholeheartedly repent and cleanse ourselves of all that is evil and obey His laws.

2. Josiah Responds to the Book of the Law

Later, when he was at the age of 26, King Josiah told his scribe Shaphan to instruct Hilkiah the high priest to hire men to repair the temple of God. While the temple was being repaired, Hilkiah found the Book of the Law. Because of the long line of evil kings, God's laws had been lost and forgotten. As a result, the lives of the leaders, prophets, and the people were filled with sin and did not reflect the lives that God had told them to live.

Today, have we forgotten about God's laws? Where can your Bible be found? Perhaps our Bibles may not be lost, but is it sitting in our bookcase collecting dust or is it something we pick up and read every day?

When God's word was rediscovered, Shaphan the scribe read the scroll to Josiah. How did Josiah respond to God's words? Let us read 2 Kings 22:10-13. When Josiah heard God's words, he tore his clothes. He immediately sent messengers to inquire of the Lord. They left and traveled to Huldah the prophetess to ask about what they should do. God sent a warning to Josiah: Because the people of Judah had rejected God and worshipped other gods, His

wrath would burn against the land and would not be stopped. But as for Josiah, because he had torn his clothes and humbled himself before God, he would not see or experience the destruction and evil that was to come upon the land.

With one reading of the law, Josiah responded immediately to God's laws. How have we responded to God's laws? Are we touched by God's words or do we remain hardhearted? 2 Kings 22:19 tells us that to be sensitive to God's words, our heart needs to be tender, humble, and repentant.

3. Josiah Makes a Covenant with the Lord and Observes the Passover

After this, Josiah summoned the elders, priests, and Levites, and all the people, great and small, to the Temple. There, he read the scroll to them and, together with the people, Josiah made a pledge to the Lord to follow His commandments. Josiah then issued an order for the people to observe the Passover feast. Josiah gave 30,000 lambs and young goats and 3,000 young bulls for the people as their Passover offering. The king's officials and the Levite leaders also offered many animals so that the Levites and the priests had Passover offerings. Everyone in Jerusalem took part in the Passover and no Passover had been celebrated like it.

4. Josiah Dies in Battle

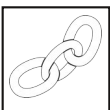
[Teacher Tip: Prepare a map to show the locations of Egypt, Judah, Assyria, and Carchemish.]

Afterward, King Necho of Egypt led his army north to help the Assyrians fight against the Babylonian army at Carchemish. To get to Assyria, King Necho had to pass through Judah, but King Josiah refused to let him pass and instead declared war against King Necho. Let's read 2 Chronicles 35:21 to see what King Necho's messengers said to Josiah. Necho said, "I don't want to fight with you. I have come only to fight my enemy. Leave me alone! God has told me to hurry! Don't meddle with God or He will destroy you for He is with me."

King Necho understood that it was God who wanted him to fight with the Babylonians, but Josiah refused to turn back. He did not believe that Necho's message was from God because Necho was a Gentile king, so Josiah led his army into battle against the Egyptian army. During the battle, an enemy arrow struck King Josiah and he was fatally wounded. He was taken back to Jerusalem, where he died and all of Judah and Jerusalem mourned for him.

FOR TEACHERS

First discuss "Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs" and "Check for Understanding." Then hand out the Spiritual Teaching and Life Application worksheet to the students. Ask students to refer to the worksheet after you discuss each Life Application point.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The Holy Bible is the standard for living a life pleasing to God.

Josiah recognized that the writings in the Book of the Law were not men's words, but words inspired by God. This understanding was manifested in his love, reverence, and complete obedience to God and His words. The Holy Bible is inspired by God and should be the compass for all our thoughts, words, and actions.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **How old was Josiah when he was crowned king?** Eight.
2. **What does it mean to have idols in our heart?** In our hearts, we hold these things or people as more important than God.
3. **What are some of the idols that people may have in their hearts today?** Friends, family members, celebrities, athletes, media, etc.
4. **What did Hilkiah the high priest find in the temple?** The Book of the Law.
5. **How did King Josiah respond to the hearing of God's law?** He humbled himself, tore his clothes, and sent messengers to inquire of the Lord.
6. **What did Josiah do that showed he wanted to obey God's commandments?** He cleansed and rid the land of idol worshipping and wickedness. He turned the people back to worshipping God.
7. **What can we learn from the way Josiah completely cleansed Judah of idol worship?** We need to remove the sins and weaknesses in our hearts completely and diligently.
8. **How did Josiah respond when King Necho of Egypt told him that he needed to pass through Judah because God wanted him to fight the Babylonians?** He did not believe that the message was from God, and consequently died during the battle with Necho.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Respond to God's Words

The Bible that we hold in our hands is our most treasured possession. It is God-breathed; it instructs and teaches us how to live our lives; and it will make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Today, many people read the Bible, but few respond to the Bible as Josiah did. How did Josiah respond to the laws of God? Yes, he was appalled to see how distant his and the Israelites' lives were from God's words. He was so ashamed and grieved that he tore his clothes.

Josiah did not treat sin lightly; he didn't make excuses, blame somebody else, or pretend that Judah's sins were not so bad. God's words pricked his heart, and he responded immediately.

The word of God is a mirror that reflects the condition of our hearts. This means that when we listen to God's words, we should always ask ourselves, "What is God saying to me? What does God want me to change in my life?" The Bible stories we hear are not for our entertainment. They carry life and power, convict us of our wrong, cleanse our inner filth, and revive our soul.

Let us look at examples of Bible characters that responded or failed to respond to God's words.

- a. Acts 2:36-37
When the multitude heard the word of God on the Day of Pentecost, they were cut to the heart and immediately asked Peter what they should do.
- b. 2 Samuel 12:7, 13
As soon as the prophet Nathan rebuked King David for committing adultery and murder, David recognized that he had sinned against the Lord and fully repented for his sins.
- c. Acts 8:26-30; 35-38
After Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch, the eunuch believed and was instantly baptized.

- d. **Jonah 3:3-6**
After Jonah preached to the city of Nineveh but for one day, the entire city—from the king to the animals in the stalls—put on sackcloth, fasted, and repented of their sins.
- e. **Jeremiah 36:23-24**
When Jehoiakim king of Judah heard the word of God that was read to him, he cut the scroll up with a knife and tossed it into the fire. He neither feared nor repented at God's judgment.
- f. **Matthew 26:14-16**
Although Jesus gave Judas many reminders to turn from his wicked ways, Judas chose to ignore them and eventually betrayed him.
- g. **1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-9**
Saul was instructed to kill the Amalekites and everything that belonged to them. Yet, Saul chose to disobey God and follow his own will.

* * * * *

2. Desire to Follow God's Words

Josiah followed God's words not because he had to but because he wanted to. When we realize how much our parents have loved and done everything to provide for us, our desire would be to make them happy. What are some ways that we can please our parents? [Allow students to respond.] When we love and obey them and do special things for them, our parents know that we love them. This is the same with God. Josiah obeyed God not because he was afraid of being punished, but because he recognized how great, loving, and powerful God was. He wanted to make sure he and his people led lives that would please and glorify God.

Scenario

Nico loves to play basketball and was hoping to try out for the school team. The only snag is that the team meets on Saturdays for practices and games. Nico's parents told him that he could play sports any day of the week except Saturday, which was for the Lord.

Nico still wants to join the basketball team, yet, he feels compelled to go to church. His parents and teachers have reminded him that if he misses church, God will not be pleased and he might be punished. As Nico's friend, how would you help him?

* * * * *

3. Get Rid of Sins

Josiah knew that to draw near to God, he had to remove all the idols from Judah.

If we wish to draw near to God, we also have to remove the idols and the obstacles that separate us from God. The idols are the things that we hold in our hearts as more important than God. Are there things that we hold most dear in our hearts?

Scenario

Mateo's friends at school love rap music. At first, Mateo was not interested, but when his friends played the songs and showed him some cool dance moves, he grew to like it more. Soon, Mateo would listen to the music whenever he could, even while doing his homework. He knew the lyrics so well that they would sometimes pop into his head during an RE lesson or even prayer. His friends at church have noticed a change in Mateo and are worried about his behavior. As Mateo's friend, what would you do to help him?



Activity

Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To create a visual reminder on how to study the word of God.

Materials

- Light-colored construction paper, one sheet per student
- Pencil
- Markers
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Pass out a piece of construction paper to each student.
2. Without spreading fingers too far apart, have the students trace around their hand and then cut out the shape.
3. Have volunteers read the provided verses. As a class, discuss each one.
4. As the verses are discussed, have each student write the words (Hear, Read, Study, Memorize, Meditate) on the fingers, as illustrated.
5. On the other side of the hand, write the corresponding verse references.
6. Have students decorate their hand. When finished, encourage the students to keep this in their Bibles to use as a bookmark. It will serve as a reminder to do all five steps to understand the Bible fully so that the word of God can enrich their lives.

Bible Verses

- Hear (Rom 10:17) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- Read (Rev 1:3a) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy.
- Study (Acts 17:11) These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
- Memorize (Ps 119:11,13) Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth.
- Meditate (Ps 119:15) I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways.

Hear

Read

Study

Memorize

Meditate



HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Josiah was a good king who did what was right in God's eyes. There was no king in Judah like him.
2. False; Josiah was eight when he was crowned king.
3. True
4. False; To obey God's laws means to follow them at all times.
5. A
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. Answers may vary.

KING JOSIAH

Respond to God's Words

Match up the Bible verses with the characters who responded or failed to respond to God's words.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| a. Acts 2:36-37 | King Jehoiakim cuts up the scroll and throws it into the fire. |
| b. 2 Sam 12:7, 13 | Saul does not obey instructions to kill the Amalekites. |
| c. Acts 8:26-30; 35-38 | The Ethiopian eunuch believes in the gospel and is baptized. |
| d. Jonah 3:3-6 | The multitude at the Day of Pentecost ask Peter what to do. |
| e. Jer 36:23-24 | King David repents of his sin with Bathsheba. |
| f. Mt 26:14-16 | The city of Nineveh repents of their sins. |
| g. 1 Sam 15:1-3, 7-9 | Judas did not repent of his plans to betray the Lord. |

Desire to Follow God's Words

Nico loves to play basketball and was hoping to try out for the school team. The only snag is that the team meets on Saturdays for practices and games. Nico's parents told him that he could play sports any day of the week except Saturday, which was for the Lord.

Nico still wants to join the basketball team, yet, he feels compelled to go to church. His parents and teachers have reminded him that if he misses church, God will not be pleased and he might be punished.



As Nico's friend, how would you help him?

Get Rid of Sins



Mateo's friends at school love rap music. At first, Mateo was not interested, but when his friends played the songs and showed him some cool dance moves, he grew to like it more. Soon, Mateo would listen to the music whenever he could, even while doing his homework. He knew the lyrics so well that they would sometimes pop into his head during an RE lesson or even prayer. His friends at church have noticed a change in Mateo and are worried about his behavior.

As Mateo's friend, what would you do to help him?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 8—King Josiah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (2 Kings 23:25a)

True or False

1. Josiah's grandfather and father were wicked kings; Josiah also turned out to be a wicked king. _____
2. Josiah was 10 years old when he was crowned king. _____
3. The idols in our lives are the things or the people that are more important than God. _____
4. To obey God's laws means that we listen to God's words and do them only when we want to. _____

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : When the temple was being repaired, Hilkiah the high priest found _____.
 - a. The Book of the Law
 - b. A jar of manna
 - c. A wooden idol
6. _____ : When Josiah heard the laws of God _____.
 - a. He became angry and threw the scroll into the fire.
 - b. He completely ignored God's words and blamed the people for worshipping idols.
 - c. He humbled himself, tore his clothes, and sent messengers to inquire of God.
7. _____ : When King Necho of Egypt told Josiah that he needed to pass through Judah because God wanted him to fight the Babylonians, _____.
 - a. Josiah allowed him to pass through Judah freely.
 - b. Josiah did not believe that the message was from God, so he fought with King Necho.
 - c. Josiah asked King Necho to prove that God gave him a message since he was a Gentile king.
8. _____ : When Huldah the prophetess told Josiah that because he humbled his heart, he would be spared from the disasters that would come upon Judah,
 - a. Josiah was glad and relieved that he would not be punished.
 - b. Josiah left the people to bear the punishment alone.
 - c. Josiah rid the land of idol worshipping and wickedness and turned the people back to worshipping God.

Short Answer

9. What are the idols that can be found in people's hearts today? What idols might be in your heart that need to be removed?

LESSON 9

PROPHET DANIEL

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God wants us to have a clean life so that we can glorify Him with our bodies.
2. To know that God honors those who have courage to stand up for what is right.

MEMORY VERSE

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”

(Psalm 119:9)

PRAYER

Dear God, thank You for safely guiding us through the past week so that we can come to church to worship You and to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters. Today, we will learn about Daniel and his three friends, who determined to stay holy in a foreign land. May God continue to strengthen us so that we, too, can determine to stay holy in this world.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- a. To know the historical background and political situation of Israel (Dan 1:1-2).
- b. To know Daniel's background and his biographical sketch.
- c. Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself—not with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which the king drank.

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application

- a. Keep Ourselves Holy and Sanctified
- b. Be Strong and Courageous in God

4. Activity—What Should I Do?



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Babylonian Empire

In 722 B.C., about 200 years after the division of the kingdom, the Assyrians conquered the northern kingdom of Israel. Later, the Babylonians rebelled against the Assyrian Empire and then overthrew the Assyrian capital of Nineveh in 612 B.C. In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar, who inherited the throne from his father and became the king of Babylon, invaded the southern kingdom of Judah and made Judah its vassal state. He took prominent young men of the city to Babylon. Among this group were Daniel and his three friends. Nebuchadnezzar trained these young men in a rigorous education program. Later in 597 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city of Jerusalem. Yet, Judah did not fall to the Babylonians and Jerusalem was not destroyed until 586 B.C. Later in 539 B.C., the Medo-Persian Empire overthrew Babylon.

Daniel

Daniel was born during Josiah's reign and grew up during his reforms. He was a Jewish youth of noble birth when he was carried off in 605 B.C. to Babylon in the first captivity under Nebuchadnezzar. As a captive, Daniel ministered as a prophet and government official for the Babylonian Empire. He interpreted dreams for Nebuchadnezzar and advised him in many situations. Daniel's role was not as prominent as Nebuchadnezzar's successors. When the Medes and Persians conquered Babylon, Daniel regained importance under King Darius. Daniel lived in the midst of all these momentous events. What direct impact he had on the community of exiles cannot be known, but he was a force for good as far as the Babylonians were concerned. Daniel was a close confidant of Nebuchadnezzar throughout his reign (605–562 B.C.).

Later, Daniel served with equal distinction Cyrus, the enlightened Persian ruler who conquered Babylon. One of the first policies Cyrus implemented after subduing Babylon was to allow the Jews to return to their homeland and rebuild their way of life. It is more than likely that Daniel had some influence on Cyrus's decision. The Book of Daniel is a testimony to how God works out His purposes through His servants, even in the courts of pagan rulers (see 2:21; 4:18).

Daniel and His Friends

As young noblemen, Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, were taken from their home nation to a foreign land, likely never to see Jerusalem again. This alienating experience was furthered by having to change their names. Nebuchadnezzar thought that the changing of their names would make them Babylonians. The name Daniel meant "God is my judge" in Hebrew. His name was changed to Belteshazzar, meaning "he whom Bel favors." Bel was the chief Babylonian god. Hananiah meant "the Lord shows grace." His new name, Shadrach, meant "under the command of Aku," the moon god. Mishael meant "who is like God?" His new name was Meshach, which meant "who is like Aku?" Azariah meant "the Lord helps." His new name, Abed-nego, meant "servant of Nebo," the fire god. Of course, merely changing their names did not shift the loyalty of these men away from God. Daniel was described as a "man greatly beloved" (Dan 10:11) by men and surely by God. His loyalty to God and to God's chosen people was shown in his steadfast prayers to God and intercessions for His people. His friends likewise manifested loyalty "to the death" for the one true God. None allowed their present circumstances (persecution or worldly success) to affect their faith or deter them from keeping God's commands, though they had long been away from their homeland. Such a steadfast faith can be seen in the young and old. As teachers, what and how we teach can mold our students to have a similar steadfast faith towards our God almighty.

Unclean Food and Animals in the Old Testament

The items in this list can be divided into two categories: live animals that are used as food (Lev 11:2-23) and animals that have been exposed to carcasses (Lev 11:24-42).

- a. Blood (Lev 17:11; Dt 12:13)
- b. The fat of animals (Lev 7:23, 31)
- c. Livestock that has been killed by wild beasts (Lev 7:23-27)
- d. Animals that eat carrion (Lev 11:13-19)
- e. The internal organs of animals (Ex 29:13, 22)
- f. Scaleless and finless aquatic animals (Lev 11:9-12)
- g. Animals that do not have cloven hooves, but chew the cud (Lev 11:3-8)
- h. Insects, excluding locusts, grasshoppers, and crickets (Lev 11:22-23)
- i. The fruit received in the land of Canaan, for the first three years (Lev 19:23-24)
- j. A mother bird that has lost her chicks (Dt 22:6-7)
- k. Food in a house that has not been covered while in the presence of a dead body (Num 19:11-22)
- l. A young goat that has been boiled in its mother's milk (Ex 23:19)



Reaching Out to Your Students

When Daniel and his friends were brought into the foreign nation, they lost any form of familiarity or comfort they once had. There was no place for true worship, and the culture and language were completely different.

Elementary 2 students may form friendships and be immersed in the world's thought patterns and culture easily. It can seem foreign and scary to them, especially if they have emigrated from another country. It cannot be emphasized enough how important it is with whom your students make friends. Teach them that church friends will be the most important friends they'll ever have because they can share the same values and always pray together.

Your students will also face an environment in which they can apply the Ten Commandments. Daniel and his friends could have easily been tempted to eat the king's food. They could have come up with excuses to justify their actions. However, they knew that they would be disobeying God. They were determined to put God first in their lives and stand firm in their faith, no matter what! Your students are faced with many situations that might cause them to compromise their faith. When things that are important to them are denied, they may see it as unreasonable. Making excuses comes easily to them, and it seems sensible and reasonable. At this time, it is very important to stress putting God first in their lives. Putting God first means thinking about whether their actions please God before they do them.



Opener

5 Minutes

Dear brothers and sisters, how are you this week? Do you like to come to church and attend Sabbath on Saturday? Thanks to God's blessings, we can come to church every Sabbath to worship our true God. But have you thought about what it would be like if we lived in a country that didn't give us the freedom to worship God?



Vocabulary

defile: to make foul, dirty or unclean

delicacy: something delightful or pleasing, especially a choice food

eunuch: a castrated man



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheets to the students and prepare pictures of the story.

Judah and Its Prophecies

Today, we will learn about the life of Daniel, the prophet of Judah and the author of the Book of Daniel. As a noble, Daniel was born during the reign of King Josiah in the kingdom of Judah. Does everyone remember whether King Josiah was a good or an evil king? (He was a good king.) What did he do that pleased God? (1. He destroyed the idolatrous images that his father Manasseh had made. 2. He instructed the people to tithe ten percent of their wealth to God. 3. He cleaned and repaired the long-abandoned temple. 4. He commanded the entire nation to keep the Passover, to remember the grace of the true God. Refer to 2 Chronicles 35.) King Josiah was the last king of Judah to please God. He followed God's will, obeyed God's teachings, and determined to lead the people back to God and to revive their faith. Daniel grew up in this devout and God-fearing environment. He was diligent in studying the Scriptures of God that were available to him. He was also a man of fervent prayer.

After King Josiah passed away, the people set his son Jehoahaz as king, a position that he held for only three months. Why? Unlike his father, King Jehoahaz did not keep God's word, so he was taken away by the king of Egypt and later died in Egypt. In order to keep control of the kingdom of Judah, the Egyptians set Jehoahaz's older brother Jehoiakim as king. Was Jehoiakim a good king or an evil king? (He was an evil king.) Jehoiakim did not rely on God, and even worshipped the sun and the stars, as well as idols. So, God sent forth prophet Jeremiah to warn

King Jehoiakim, but did he listen and repent? Not only did he not listen or repent, he even cut the scroll upon which the warning from God had been written, and threw the scroll in a fire (Jer 36). Then, he sent people to seize prophet Jeremiah. King Jehoiakim did not worship God and committed many evil acts, eventually incurring God's wrath. In the year 605 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked the kingdom of Judah, taking away King Jehoiakim and others from Judah back to Babylon. One of these captured individuals was Daniel, who was only seventeen years old then.

FOR TEACHERS

Fill in the table in the Bible Discovery worksheet.

Daniel: A Man Greatly Beloved

As a result of Judah's destruction, Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, were carried away to Babylon. Ever since the day he was carried away to when he passed away in his nineties, Daniel never returned to Judah. Forced to leave home and live in a foreign land as a captive was a difficult life to bear. Moreover, in Babylon, a land full of idols and idol worshippers, the captives faced even more difficulties and pressure. However, God cares for those who obey Him and who determine not to defile themselves, as Daniel did. The Bible describes Daniel as one who was "greatly beloved" (Dan 9:23), testifying that Daniel led an exceptionally godly life. What kind of person was Daniel? Not only was he handsome and strong, he also had wisdom and understanding from God. Daniel was courageous and faithful to God; he constantly pursued purity and holiness in his life, maintaining his habit of daily prayer and Scripture reading even after being captured

and carried away to Babylon. He also refused to allow the influences of the idolatrous environment to affect him (Dan 6:10). This was not a simple feat to accomplish. Boys and girls, do we have the habit of daily prayer and Bible reading? [Ask volunteers to share.]

Living in Sanctity and Honor

The Babylonians' religious beliefs involved the worship of many idols, so when Daniel was carried away to Babylon, he endured many sufferings for the sake of his faith. For example, since Daniel's three friends only worshipped the true God, they refused to worship idols, and were punished by being thrown into a fiery furnace. Likewise, Daniel was once thrown into a den of lions for refusing to worship idols, but the all-powerful God protected Daniel and kept his life. To win the favor of those he had conquered and to select the outstanding individuals among them, the king of Babylon commanded the chief eunuch, that is, the person who was in charge of all those who served the king, to pick out the most handsome and intelligent individuals from those that had been captured. He was to choose young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace. These young men would learn the language and literature of the Babylonians, as well as eat and drink the king's delicacies. This training lasted for three years, after which the young men would begin their service to the king. As it turns out, Daniel and his three friends were among those that had been chosen for this special training, so they went to live in the palace. After they had been chosen, the chief eunuch changed their traditional Hebrew names to Babylonian names. Daniel's name meant "God is my Judge"; his name was changed to Beltshazzar, which meant "Bel protects the king."

FOR TEACHERS

Write down the names of Daniel and his three friends, and the names that they were given.

Students, don't you think it was so great that Daniel would be able to enjoy the king's delicacies and have a new Babylonian name? [Ask students to share.] The meanings of the Hebrew names given to Daniel and his three friends had a connection with their worship of the true God. Yet, as a way to make Daniel and the others forget their home country and their faith so that they would worship the false gods of Babylon, the king of Babylon ordered their names to be changed to ones which had meanings related to Babylonian idols. After all the work that he had done, did the king succeed in his plan?

Daniel and his three friends may have changed names, but their hearts and minds became even more watchful. They

knew that they must be determined to keep themselves pure and holy (Dan 1:8). As a result, Daniel refused to defile himself by eating of the king's food and drinking of the king's wine; instead, he requested that the chief eunuch only provide vegetables and water for him to eat and drink. Why did Daniel refuse to eat of the king's food? [Ask students to provide answers.]

1. The king's food may have already been offered to idols.
2. The king's food may have contained food that was unlawful for Jewish people to eat.

In order to obey God's will and maintain his holiness, Daniel courageously made the difficult decision not to eat the king's delicacies. However, in doing so, Daniel and his three friends did not only refuse the temptation of the king's food, but they also rejected the king's good intentions. What consequences might this have caused for Daniel and his friends? [Ask students to share. Possible answers: mocked and laughed at by their peers; the king could be angry and force them to eat; etc.] Despite all the bad things that could happen, Daniel and his three friends still held fast to their principles, willing to risk their lives rather than turn their back on God. God takes care of those who faithfully serve Him, so when the chief eunuch heard Daniel's request, he did not force Daniel to eat the king's food. Rather, he said, "I fear that my lord the king will see that you are skinnier than the others and blame me. Then my life would be in danger." Daniel then replied, "Let us eat the vegetables and drink the water for ten days. Then, compare our appearances with the others. After that, you can decide how you would like to deal with us." After the ten days were up, do you think Daniel and his friends were starved, pale, and without energy? [Ask students to share.] Not at all. In fact, they looked stronger and healthier than those who had eaten the king's food, so the chief eunuch agreed to let them eat only vegetables and drink only water. Under God's careful watch and protection, the four of them studied in the palace, learning the language and literature of the Babylonians. God blessed them with wisdom to understand all that they were learning. Most importantly, God especially blessed Daniel with the wisdom to interpret visions and dreams.

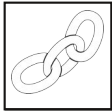
Blessed with Understanding and Wisdom

Three years later, after personally being interviewed by King Nebuchadnezzar, what was the result (Dan 1:18-20)? The king discovered that the wisdom and understanding of these four youths from Judah were ten times greater than that of all the magicians and astrologers in his nation. No one could compare to them and the king greatly admired them, so they were kept in the king's presence to serve him. We can see that God blessed them in all aspects, allowing them to grow in both their body and mind, which distinguished them from everyone else

around them.

Daniel received the king's favor, and thus he began his political career in a foreign nation. Four kings reigned in the duration of his office, and each king greatly appreciated his skills and morals. It is also because he had the gift of interpreting dreams that God let him go from a captive of a destroyed nation to an individual serving in the palace court, and rising step by step to becoming an honorable, peerless governor. Daniel served in the court

for seventy years, from when he first arrived in Babylon to his time serving two kings in the Medo-Persian Empire. In this period of time, he kept his faith and worked to testify in his life of faith, enabling the kings to know that only the Lord God is over the heavens and earth. God remembered Daniel's faithfulness, and gave him health and longevity, allowing him to live more than ninety years, during which he saw the Jews who were captured return home after the seventy years of captivity had been fulfilled. In the end, Daniel left the world in peace.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Believers should rely on the **Holy Spirit** to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

Daniel lived in a foreign country for many years, but because he determined to remain faithful to God, to pray to God three times each day and to continue in his spiritual cultivation, God watched over him. This is how he was able to maintain his purity and holiness while in a nation that worshipped idols, and moreover, allowed his deeds and accomplishments to glorify the true God. He never stopped making prayers of intercession for his Israelite brethren. Daniel lived each day of his life in a godly manner, a feat that is both remarkable and precious.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Fill In the Blank

1. In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim king of Judah, the army of Babylon took Daniel and his friends and other Jewish captives to Babylon.
2. The king ordered some of the captured Israelite young men to be trained in the Babylonian language and literature for three years.
3. Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's food and wine so he asked the chief official to give him vegetables to eat and water to drink.

Short Answer

4. **What happened to Daniel and his three friends after the ten days of trial without the king's food and wine?** They appeared healthier and stronger than the men who had eaten the king's food.
5. **Why did Nebuchadnezzar choose Daniel and his friends to serve him?** He found Daniel and his friends to be ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in knowledge and wisdom. In addition, God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds to them and gave Daniel the understanding of visions and dreams.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Keep Ourselves Holy and Sanctified

In the Old Testament law, Moses kept God's word and instructed the Israelites to distinguish between holy and profane, and clean and unclean. The Israelites were also to be careful regarding food, to differentiate between clean and unclean, and to recognize what they could and could not eat (Lev 11:47). This was important for the Israelites to sanctify themselves so that they wouldn't assimilate with pagan idol worshippers and eat food that had been worshipped to idols. Look up the verses below and write down which foods are clean and allowed to eat and which foods are unclean and forbidden to eat.

A. Clean and Unclean Animals in the Old Testament

Look up the verses below and write down which foods are unclean and forbidden to eat.

1. Leviticus 17:14; Deuteronomy 12:23 (Blood)
2. Leviticus 7:23, 31 (The fat of ox, sheep, or goat)
3. Leviticus 7:23-27 (The fat of an animal that dies naturally or killed by beasts)
4. Leviticus 11:13-19 (Various specific birds)
5. Exodus 29:13, 22 (Various parts containing fat)
6. Leviticus 11:9-12 (Aquatic animals that do not have fins and scales)
7. Leviticus 11:3-8 (Those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves)
8. Leviticus 11:22-23 (Flying insects that are not locusts, crickets, or grasshoppers)

B. Teachings in the New Testament from Jesus and the Disciples Regarding Food

As Jesus taught, the things that truly defile are the thoughts that come from within a person's heart. Jesus said, "Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from the outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods? What comes out of a man, that defiles a man" (Mk 7:18-19). So, we must be determined to maintain purity in our daily lives, whether it is what we see, what we hear, what we say, or anything else. In all that we do, we must strive to act according to God's will and in ways that would please Him.

1. Mark 7:15, 18-23 (Whatever enters a man from the outside cannot defile him.)
2. Acts 10:9-16; 15:16-20 (God has cleansed all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. Abstain from things strangled and from blood.)
3. Romans 14:14-23 (Do not destroy with food the one for whom Christ has died. The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.)
4. 2 Corinthians 6:17 (Come out from among them and be separate.)

2. Be Strong and Courageous in God

Daniel lived a colorful life. Later generations not only admired his accomplishments, but admired his faithfulness to God and his courage as well. While in the palace, he was able to enjoy the pleasures of a high status and wealth, but he did not let it affect him. He continued to live a simple life of reliance on God, staying faithful to and serving Him while living a life pleasing to God. From the instant he was carried away to Babylon, Daniel gave a beautiful testimony. What was his testimony? (He determined not to eat of the king's delicacies and turned out to be even healthier than the others who had.) In our daily lives, we may face many of the same trials that Daniel faced.

For example:

1. Our friends invite us to their houses to eat food that has been offered to idols.
2. When we go out to eat, we discover that the soup has pig's blood in it.
3. Our friends lend us books or movies that contain things we aren't supposed to be looking at.

While some kids may not eat food offered to idols or watch inappropriate materials, they will still be tempted in one way or another. Young Daniel made a determination from deep within his heart to keep God's commandments and not waver even one step. So, even if he was offered the best, as long as it went against God's teachings, he refused to take it. He viewed God as even more precious than all the wealth and pleasures that the world could offer. As a result, Daniel relied on God and passed the first test, and then the second and third and so on. He never failed to keep his faith and overcome all the temptations and trials that came before him. Can we follow in the example of Daniel and steadfastly keep God's word?

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us."

(2 Corinthians 4:7)



Activity

What Should I Do?

10-15 Minutes

Ask the students to write down how they can hold fast to God's commandments when they encounter temptations. Provide scenarios for the students that draw upon real-life situations. Divide students into small groups. Ask them to discuss what they would do in that particular situation, and then ask volunteers to come up and act out their responses.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; Daniel and his three friends, along with many other Israelites, were taken captive and unwillingly brought to Babylon.
2. True
3. three
4. vegetables, water
5. They appeared healthier and stronger than the men who had eaten the king's food.
6. He found Daniel and his friends to be ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in knowledge and wisdom. In addition, God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds to them and gave Daniel the understanding of visions and dreams.
7. Answers may vary.

PROPHET DANIEL

1. Complete the table by filling in the shaded boxes with the correct information.

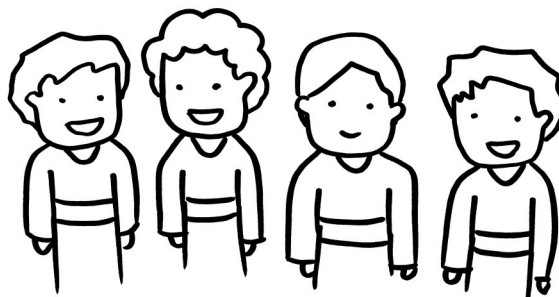
Captured Kings	Josiah			Jehoiachin	Hezekiah
Captured Prophets				Ezekiel	
Where Did They Go?				Babylon	Babylon

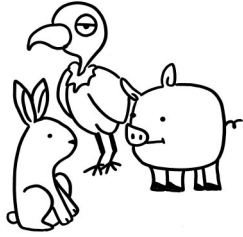
2. What kind of men did King Nebuchadnezzar instruct his chief eunuch to choose?

"He was to choose young men in whom there was _____, but _____,
 _____, _____ and
 _____, who had ability to serve in the king's palace."

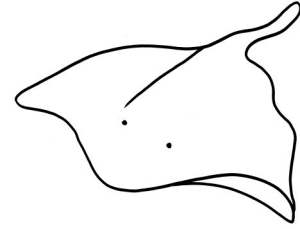
3. Write down Daniel and his friends' names and their represented meanings.

HEBREW		BABYLONIAN	
Names	Meaning	Names	Meaning
Daniel		Beltshazzar	
Hananiah		Shadrach	
Mishael		Meshach	
Azariah		Abed-Nego	





CLEAN +
UNCLEAN
ANIMALS



Look up the verses below and write down which foods are unclean and forbidden to eat.

- Leviticus 17:14; Deuteronomy 12:23
- Leviticus 7:23, 31
- Leviticus 7:23-27
- Leviticus 11:13-19
- Exodus 29:13, 22
- Leviticus 11:9-12
- Leviticus 11:3-8
- Leviticus 11:22-23

Teachings from Jesus Christ and His Disciples in the New Testament Regarding Food

Look up the verses below and write down what Jesus Christ teaches us about food.

- Mark 7:15, 18-23
- Acts 10:9-16; 15:16-20
- Romans 14:14-23
- 2 Corinthians 6:17

Compare the New Testament and Old Testament

- a. Do you see any animals that the Israelites are not allowed to eat in the New Testament?

- b. What is Jesus Christ's teachings regarding food?

- c. How should we act in our daily lives?

SCENARIO

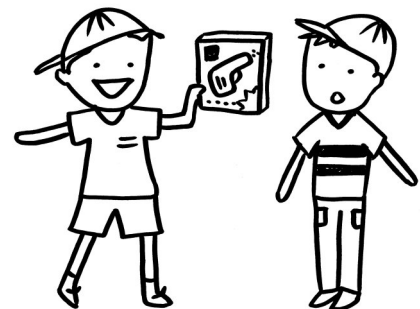
Heather did not visit her grandmother often, but she knew that she wasn't a believer. Rather, her grandmother worshipped Buddha and would light incense for their ancestors. As Heather stepped into her grandmother's house, she could hear her grandmother talking to her mother in the kitchen. "I just came back from the temple not too long ago. How was your day?" Heather stepped into the kitchen and saw large quantities of food on the counter, untouched and uneaten. She assumed that those were foods that her grandmother had brought with her to the temple. "Are you hungry, Heather? Here, take this pear." Heather's grandmother picked up a pear from the counter and offered it to Heather. Frozen, Heather wasn't sure what to do. She knew that she wasn't supposed to eat food that had been offered to idols, but she also didn't want to disrespect her grandmother. In the end, Heather replied in a firm voice, "Thank you, but I've learned in RE class that we cannot eat food that has been offered to idols. I can show you a few verses in the Bible if you'd like to see."

How did Heather stay holy and sanctified?

**SCENARIO**

"Come check this out!" Jason's friend Harrison called over to him. Jason hurried over and saw that Harrison was holding a copy of that first-person shooter game everyone was talking about. "I just bought this with my allowance money yesterday! Wanna come over after school and play?" Harrison asked. Jason had always been a fan of action movies, but something about the game didn't feel right. He thought for a second. Everyone at school was talking about this game and he always felt left out when they talked about it. On one hand, playing the game would make him seem "cooler," but on the other hand, Jason had this feeling about the game. He looked at the game and saw that it was rated for adults. Jason realized that it was probably violent and filled with scenes that he shouldn't be watching. "Thanks for inviting me, Jason, but I'm going to pass this time. I know I'm not supposed to play these kinds of games. Let me know if you have other games, though!"

How did Jason stay strong and courageous?



E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 9—Prophet Daniel

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Psalm 119:9**)

True or False

1. _____ Daniel and his three friends went willingly with the Babylonians to Babylon.
2. _____ King Nebuchadnezzar changed the names of Daniel and his three friends in hopes to make them forget about God.

Fill In the Blank

3. The king ordered some of the captured Israelite young men, including Daniel and his three friends, to be trained in the Babylonian language and literature for _____ years.
4. Daniel and his three friends resolved not to be defiled with the king's food and wine, so Daniel asked the chief official to give them only _____ to eat and _____ to drink.

Short Answer

5. What happened to Daniel and his three friends after the ten days of trial without the king's food and wine?

6. Why did Nebuchadnezzar choose Daniel and his friends to serve him?

7. How can you be like Daniel and his three friends and be courageous for God in your daily lives?

LESSON 10

PROPHET ISAIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that repentance requires us to return and do what is right.
2. To make the determination to serve the Lord throughout our whole life.
3. To understand what it means to be a living sacrifice for the Lord.

MEMORY VERSE

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’”

(Isaiah 6:8)

PRAYER

Thank You, Lord for guiding us through the past week so that we can come to church to worship You and fellowship together. Please help us to learn from the example of Isaiah and determine to make our servitude lifelong. May You continue to strengthen us and open our minds so that we will retain the teachings from our lesson today.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- a. Isaiah's Vision
- b. Isaiah's Calling
- c. Isaiah's Service

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application—Be a Living Sacrifice

4. Activity—Memory Verse Ring Tower



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Prior to the period when Isaiah served as prophet, the political and social states of Judah and Israel both prospered and flourished. Under the guidance of King Uzziah, Judah experienced a period of wealth and riches, and the northern kingdom of Israel experienced a period of great territorial expansion, returning to the days of King Solomon, under the rule of King Jeroboam II. Yet, this seemingly prosperous time created inequality among the rich and the poor, resulting in a large gap between the classes.

Isaiah was born during the reign of King Uzziah, the most stable and prosperous period in the history of Judah. King Uzziah devoutly worshipped and honored God in all things. It is unfortunate that in his later years, his great pride caused him to receive punishment from God in the form of leprosy. Isolated, he reigned collaboratively with his son Jotham for twelve years, with his son ruling in his place. The year that Uzziah died, God called forth Isaiah to serve as His prophet to speak His messages to the kingdom of Judah, which faced pressure from their powerful enemies to the north.

The name Isaiah means, “Lord is salvation.” Isaiah counted Amos, Hosea, and Micah among his contemporaries. In addition, his wife also served as prophetess, and he had at least two sons: Shear-Jashub, meaning “a remnant shall return,” and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, meaning “quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil” (Is 7:3; 8:3). Isaiah served as prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Though King Uzziah and King Jotham managed to restore the worship of God during their reigns, they did not remove the high places. Furthermore, they indulged in luxurious, extravagant lifestyles. When King Ahaz ascended to the throne, he took away the worship of God and broke the commandments in an attempt to rid the name of God from the hearts of all the people. Isaiah publicly rebuked his sin, but King Ahaz paid no heed

to his warnings. Lastly, despite Hezekiah's numerous efforts in advocating religious restoration, his son Manasseh dealt in even more corruption than all the evil kings before him.

Isaiah's message focused on two points:

1. His message addresses the coming judgment of God upon His people and upon the surrounding nations.
2. He also speaks messages of hope and salvation through His prophecies about the return of the remnant of Israel, as well as about the coming Messiah.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Elementary 2 students should be able to understand the story of the calling of Isaiah. However, it is also important to instill in students the idea that even though they are not prophets like Isaiah, they, too, are servants of God. Even though they are young, they can already start preparing and cultivating themselves to serve. To make the lesson more applicable, try to bridge the gap between the students and Isaiah by having the students think about how they plan to serve the Lord in the future and what they can do to prepare.



Opener

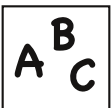
5 Minutes

[Write the words, "Here am I! Send me!" on the board.]

Ask students, "Who do you think said these famous words?" [Wait for students to respond.]

Yes, the prophet Isaiah spoke these well-known words. Isaiah served as prophet of Judah during a time when the people were disobedient to God and unwilling to turn back. It was a difficult job, but he was still willing to do it.

Today, we are going to learn about how the Lord called Isaiah to serve Him and about why we should also say to God, "Here am I! Send me!"



Vocabulary

seraphim: angels who serve as the caretakers of God's throne and who continuously sing His praises

reverence: feelings of respect or honor shown to another

vassal: a person under the authority of another to whom he pays taxes in exchange for protection



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

Prophet Isaiah's name means, "the Lord is salvation." He was born during the reign of King Uzziah, a time of wealth and prosperity in the kingdom of Judah. Good King Uzziah did what was right in the eyes of God. As a result, God blessed him, allowing the country to experience a period of peace and riches. However, due to Uzziah's great self-pride, he refused to listen to the priest's warnings and burned incense on the altar to God. God punished his act of pride with leprosy, and he was no longer able to serve as king.

Our story today begins in the year that King Uzziah dies. Let's turn to Isaiah 6:1-4.

FOR TEACHERS

Pass out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1. Ask each student to draw what is being described in the passage.

Isaiah's Vision

In the year that King Uzziah died, Isaiah saw a marvelous

vision. In this vision, Isaiah saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and His robe and glory completely filled the temple. Standing above the throne were seraphim, each with six wings, two covering their faces, two covering their feet, and two being used to fly around the temple. They continually proclaimed praises, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts." The sound of their praises shook the posts of the temple door and the temple was filled with smoke. What do you think seraphim are? [Allow students to respond.]

Yes, seraphim are angels of the Lord, and they are special because they have the duty of praising Him. Seraphim have six wings; they use two to cover their faces, two to cover their feet, and two to fly. Each of these actions has a symbolic meaning; let us look at each of them.

1. Covering the face

A person's face is related to their identity because we are able to recognize a person based on what they look like. For the seraphim, to hide their face before God is a symbol of reverence to the Lord and of their humility in serving. When we serve others, we first need to understand whom we are serving. When we are serving the Lord, the person we are serving is God. If we understand that we are serving God, then our actions will also reflect that same attitude of reverence towards Him. God is so glorious and holy, but He has chosen us to be His special people! As a result, we must come before God in humility and hide ourselves. So, how exactly can we hide our faces before God? Let us think about how we behave during church services or classes. Are we talking to our friends or passing notes? This would not be showing God reverence and honor. It would not be hiding our faces! Instead, we should make sure that we are able to show God honor through singing praises to Him from our hearts and writing down important teachings from the sermon or class. Can you think of any other ways we can show reverence and honor to God in our life? [Allow students to respond.]

2. Covering the feet

The action of covering the feet is also similar to covering the face. When we serve before God, we have to hide our footprints, or what we have done. We should not leave a mark for people to remember us by. This means that we should not be bragging to our friends about what we are doing for the church or looking down on others who are unable to do the same. Instead, we should serve the Lord in secret. For example, when we see a piece of trash on the ground, we can quietly pick it up and throw it away. Even though people may not see us, God will remember what we have done for Him.

3. Two wings to fly

The last set of wings represents the need for us to serve the Lord with quickness and alertness! This means that we have to make sure we are prepared for when God calls for us. For example, if we were to serve as a religious education teacher in the future, we would have to make sure we are familiar with the Bible and the teachings in it. Knowing how to lead as a religious education teacher does not happen overnight; it is something that we have to put in effort to accomplish. This is true of all other types of holy work as well. Even though right now, we may think that we are very young, but we can actually start preparing right now for when God is going to use us!

Apart from these three importance teachings about servitude, we also have to make sure that we are a holy vessel for the Lord. The word "Seraphim" means burning ones, so this is a reminder that we actually have to purify ourselves and be holy to serve. We have to examine ourselves to make sure that we, as living sacrifices, are holy and usable by God. Prophet Isaiah also comes to realize this truth after seeing the vision. Let's read Isaiah 6:5-7.

FOR TEACHERS

Pass out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2.

Isaiah's Calling

After seeing this glorious vision of God, Isaiah was feeling insignificant and unworthy in the presence of the Lord. He said, "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips." Then, one of the seraphim flew to Isaiah, holding in his hand a live coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. The seraphim took this live coal and touched Isaiah's mouth with it, saying, "The Lord has taken your iniquity away." Why do you think God sent one of the seraphim to touch a live coal to Isaiah's lips? [Wait for students to respond.]

A seraph took a live coal from the altar, an item that has the power to cleanse and to remit sins (Mal 3:2; Mt 3:11), and he touched Isaiah's mouth with it. Thus, Isaiah received cleansing from his sins and became worthy to speak for God. Live coal is used to make fire, and fire represents God's wrath or His way of refining men. As men use fire to burn up the impurities from a metal, God uses His fire to burn up the impurities in men to create better vessels for His use (Isa 48:10; Mal 3:3; 1 Pet 1:7). Isaiah was unclean and from the actions of the seraphim, we can see that this is because of his lips. In our daily life, we use our lips often to talk to the people around us and

to God. However, when we think about the words that we use, are these words edifying or do they bring people down? Our lips, or mouths, are one of the most difficult things to control because many times the words that come out of our mouths can hurt a person's feelings or they could be a lie. This is why the seraphim brought the burning coal from the altar to Isaiah's lips! After having his lips purified, Isaiah heard the calling of the Lord. Let's read Isaiah 6:8.

Then, Isaiah heard God say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" God spoke these words to Isaiah because God wanted to call Isaiah to serve as His prophet and spread the message of His will. Isaiah responded to God's calling saying, "Here am I! Send me." [Ask students to repeat this phrase.]

Isaiah was able to respond this way because he understood that God's will was for him to go out and serve. He was ready to be sent out and to do the work of the Lord. From that point on, the spirit of God moved Isaiah many times to allow him to understand all that would happen to Judah in the coming years. Isaiah faithfully and courageously spread these warnings from God. In his sixty years as prophet, three kings came and went: Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. Let us learn about the service of Isaiah during the reign of these kings.

Isaiah's Service

I. During the Reign of King Ahaz

When Ahaz reigned as king in Judah, a kingdom called Assyria was very strong and was conquering all of its neighboring countries. As a result, the small neighboring countries all feared that they would perish at the hands of the Assyrians. One day, messengers from Syria and Israel paid a visit to King Ahaz seeking an alliance to fight against the Assyrians. However, King Ahaz believed that Assyria was too far from Judah, so he refused their offer, causing the two countries to be extremely upset. In retaliation, Syria and Israel allied together to attack Jerusalem, killing many people along the way, and occupying many of Judah's cities.

When King Ahaz heard that they were coming to attack, he became flustered. He quickly tried to find reinforcements! However, instead of turning to the Lord for help, he went to go ask his greatest enemies, the Assyrians. Upon hearing of this plan, Isaiah went to the king and advised him, saying that Assyria was even more evil than both Syria and Israel combined and that to ask for their help would bring about great consequences. Furthermore, Isaiah reminded King Ahaz that he should rely on God and have faith in God. However, idol-worshipper Ahaz would not listen to a word that Isaiah said (2 Ki 16:5-9; 2 Chr 28:5). In the end, the Assyrians defeated Syria and Israel, but Judah paid the price and had

to become a vassal kingdom of Assyria's. This meant that they had to pay a great amount of gold and silver to Assyria, and that the people would be under the influence of Assyria. As a result of the Assyrian influence, the people of God began to worship the idols of the Assyrians. Isaiah saw this and felt great pain in his heart that the people of God had gone astray. He would often use harsh words to rebuke and also warn the people that since they had strayed away from the Lord, the kingdom of Judah would soon be destroyed. However, the people would not listen to him.

II. During the Reign of King Hezekiah

After King Ahaz passed away, Hezekiah became king. Not long after, the Assyrians destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, and they continued their conquest by marching towards Judah. They surrounded the capital of Judah, Jerusalem. The commander of the Assyrian army stood outside the walls of Jerusalem crying out and proclaiming that the true God of the Israelites would not be able to protect them and telling them to surrender quickly. Upon hearing about this upcoming attack, a distressed King Hezekiah went to the temple to pray to God and sent a messenger to inquire of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah comforted the messenger by saying, "The Assyrian army has destroyed many nations and cast their gods into the fire, but they were not gods. They were only images of wood and stone. Our true God has already clearly told us that He will save Jerusalem from danger."

Did the words of Prophet Isaiah come true? [Allow students to respond.] Yes, the words of the prophet came true! Let's read Isaiah 37:33-36.

The angel of the Lord went out and killed 185,000 men in the camp of the Assyrians. When people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. God was the great protector and deliverer!

III. The Hope of the Prophet

God was able to save the kingdom of Judah from this danger. Yet, when the disaster passed, the people once again forgot God and fell back into a life of indulgence. Prophet Isaiah became increasingly distressed and worried for the people. If the people did not worship and obey God and His will, then the kingdom would soon perish and the people would be carried away to a foreign land. However, God still loved His children, so He revealed to Isaiah that after the disaster and trials had passed, He would raise up a person that would guide the Israelites to return to God. This person would be none other than Jesus Christ. He would be born more than seven hundred years after Isaiah's prophecy, and He would be the one to save the Israelites, as well as all those who came to believe in Him!



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Believers should rely on the **Holy Spirit** to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

God will pour out the Holy Spirit to guide those who believe in Him and to give them the power to separate themselves from the unclean things of the world. They will also have the wisdom to understand God's word and to serve God.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. How was the prophet Isaiah called to serve?

- The prophet saw a vision in the year that King Uzziah died.
- In the vision, God was sitting on a throne and the train of His robe filled the temple.
- Above the throne, seraphim were flying and praising God.

2. What does the prophet Isaiah's name mean? The Lord is salvation.

3. How many wings did the seraphim have? What does each pair of wings represent? 6 wings: 2 to cover their face to show reverence; 2 to cover their feet to show humility; and 2 to fly with to show preparedness and alertness.

4. Why did the seraph touch Isaiah's mouth with a live coal? Isaiah believed that he was of impure lips and unfit to serve the Lord. So, the seraph touched the live coal to Isaiah's lips to cleanse his mouth so that he could become worthy to speak for God. God uses fire to burn impurities out of His servants, and this was a way to refine Isaiah.

5. During the reign of King Ahaz, which two countries came to attack the kingdom of Judah? The kingdom of Syria and Israel came to attack.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Be A Living Sacrifice

Just like Isaiah, we also have been called by the Lord to serve Him.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Romans 12:1-2)

From this verse, we can see that God wants us to be a living sacrifice to Him. However what does this mean? Let us dig a little deeper into what it means to be a living sacrifice for the Lord!

First, let us define what it means to be living, or not dead. In the Book of Revelation, it talks about a church that seems alive on the outside but is actually dead on the inside (Rev 3:1-6). The church in Sardis was one that was Christian in name only. Even though they had actions and deeds, they failed to follow the commands of God with their whole heart. Today, we may also be like this. We go to church on Saturdays, not to worship God, but rather to hang out with our friends. Or, we sing hymns of worship to the Lord, but do not truly think about what we are singing or for whom we are singing. Let us examine our hearts and ask, "Am I spiritually alive?"

Second, our living sacrifice to the Lord needs to be holy. God tells us often that as His people we have to be holy because He is holy. So what does it mean to be holy? (Pure, clean, sanctified, etc.) In all aspects of our life, we have to pursue after holiness, such as watching the words we say or the things that we see with our eyes. What are three things you can do to pursue after holiness? (Possible answers: Spend only one hour on the computer; speak words that build others up; pray to God before I go to school every morning; etc.)

Third, our offering has to be one that is acceptable and pleasing to the Lord. Let's look at an example in the Bible. Genesis 4:1-5 records the story of two brothers: Cain and Abel. God was pleased with Abel's offering, but not Cain's.

Why? Even though both Cain and Abel had offered to the Lord, Abel offered the best that he had to God. Today, we also have to make sure that we also give an offering to the Lord that is the best. For example, when we are doing our cleaning duties at church, do we rush through it just to get it over with? Or do we really take our time to clean our classroom so that it is neat and presentable? God is looking to see not only if we are serving Him, but also how we are serving Him. What are some ways that we can improve in our servitude so that God will be pleased with our sacrifice?

From these three characteristics, we can see that God looks not only at our actions, but also most importantly, at our hearts. Let us really ask God to help us make our whole life a living sacrifice to Him that is alive, holy, and pleasing to Him!

[Read the testimony at the bottom of Life Application Worksheet #1 and discuss the following questions:

Questions to Think About

1. If Jesus Christ appeared to you, what would you do?
2. Why did the sister hold on to the garment of Jesus Christ?
3. Do you have the same determination to hold on to the garment? Why or why not?]

[Pass out Life Application Worksheet #2. Read each scenario and discuss the questions.]



Activity

Memory Verse Ring Tower

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To help the students memorize the memory verse.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencils/markers
- Stapler or tape

Ring Tower Instructions

1. Distribute two sheets of construction paper to each student.
2. Have students fold the construction paper in half lengthwise, and then repeat. Do this for both sheets of construction paper.
3. Cut the folds of the construction paper. You should end up with eight strips of paper, four per sheet.
4. Divide the memory verse into eight parts (include the Bible book, chapter, and verse).
5. On each strip of paper, write down one part.
6. Form each strip into a ring, with the words showing on the outside, and then staple or tape the ends to secure them. You will have a total of eight rings.

How to Play

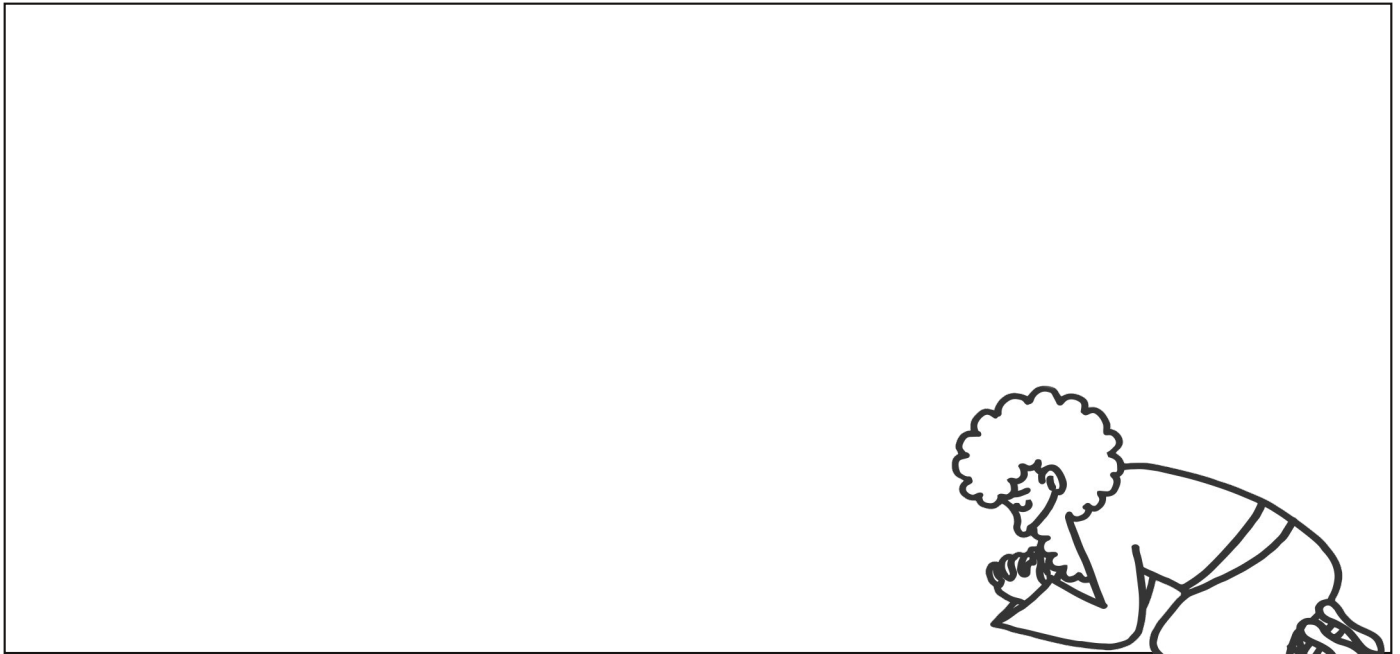
1. Have each student mix up their rings.
2. Then, one by one, the students create a ring tower by stacking the rings in the order of the memory verse.
 - You can decide whether the students begin the tower with the first part or the last part of the memory verse.
 - You can have students race each other or time them to see how fast they can stack the rings.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. True
2. False; Isaiah saw a vision in the year that King Uzziah died.
3. Uzziah, God, seraphim
4. The seraphim each had six wings.
5. Two to cover their face to show reverence; two to cover their feet to show humility; and two to fly with to show preparedness and alertness.
6. The seraph touched the live coal to Isaiah's lips to cleanse his mouth so that he could become worthy to speak for God.
7. Answers may vary.

ISAIAH'S VISION

Draw a picture of the vision described in Isaiah 6:1-4.



Holy, holy, holy is
the LORD of hosts!

Two wings to cover
their _____
represents _____

Two wings to _____
represents _____



Two wings to cover
their _____
represents _____

Isaiah's Calling

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean _____."

Isaiah's _____ were unclean because _____.

Then one seraphim took a piece of coal from the _____ and put it on his lips to purify it.

Then, Isaiah heard God say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Isaiah responded to God's calling, saying, "Here am I! _____ me."



Isaiah's Service

During the Reign of King Ahaz

What crisis happened during the reign of King Ahaz? Who went to attack him?

What warning did Isaiah give to King Ahaz and the Israelites?

During the Reign of King Hezekiah

What crisis happened during the reign of King Hezekiah? Who went to attack him?

How was the crisis resolved?



*God used the prophet Isaiah to do His great works!
Let us also prepare ourselves to serve our God in heaven!*

BE A LIVING SACRIFICE

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."(Romans 12:1-2)

Characteristics of a Living Sacrifice

Living

means _____

Example: The church in Sardis (Rev 3:1-6) was spiritually dead! They seemed alive on the outside, but on the inside, they were spiritually lifeless.

I am spiritually _____.

I know this because...

Holy

means _____

Here are three things I can do to pursue holiness!

First, I can...

Second, I can...

Third, I can...

Acceptable

means _____

Example: Cain and Abel (Gen 4:1-5)

God was pleased with Abel's offering and not Cain's, because _____.

Here are three ways I can improve in my servitude to the Lord!

First, I can...

Second, I can...

Third, I can...



Testimony

During a church seminar, a sister was greatly encouraged by the pastor to pray earnestly and be filled with the Holy Spirit. A few minutes after the prayer began, a bright light suddenly shone into her eyes. At first, she thought the light was coming in through the window, so she decided to ignore it and lowered her head. However, the light continued to shine into her eyes persistently. She then lifted her head and realized that this was no ordinary light.

A few minutes later, a person in a white garment walked towards her. His face was somewhat unclear. He pointed to her and said, "I live in you." At that moment, she was overwhelmed with rivers of living water that welled up from the depths of her heart. She stretched out her arms to grab hold of His garment. She felt incredible joy at that moment. Then He said, "I must leave." She wanted to call to the sisters in front of her to ask them to help her hold on to His garment. At this point, her head was almost touching the carpet, and she exclaimed, "No, no, please, God, no!" She said, "It was so difficult for me to grab hold of Your garment. It is impossible for me to let it go!" Once again, Jesus said, "I must leave." She continued to hold His garment, and said, "No, no, no!" A sister then approached her and said, "Hallelujah, Amen!" She then let go of His garment and He disappeared, ending the vision.



The vision became a reminder to the sister about the love of God and it once again motivated her to serve the Lord with all her heart.



BEING A LIVING SACRIFICE

Sarah was a good girl. Her friends at school loved her, and at church, she always did what her RE teachers told her. She served the Lord and never missed a Sabbath service. She was also proud of the fact that she had already read the whole Bible on her own! However, Sarah was a completely different person at home. She had a horrible relationship with her parents, and as a result, she would ignore her parents and also talk back to them. Sarah hated that they would always try to get in her business, even though she was doing well in school. They would always ask so many questions! She didn't think that they needed to know about every single detail of her life. At night, Sarah's parents would always make her pray and read the Bible with them every night, even though she was pretty sure she could do it herself! It was so annoying!

Discussion Questions

1. Would you consider Sarah a good Christian? Why or why not?
2. What would you say to encourage Sarah to be a living sacrifice in all parts of her life?
3. What parts of your life do you need to work on so that you can be a living sacrifice for God? Be specific!

BEING A HOLY SACRIFICE

Paul loved to sing hymns. Whenever they sang hymns during RE class, he would always sing the loudest. This was what he was known for, and of course, he also joined the choir at church! It always made him feel good to be praising God. Paul, however, had a secret that even his parents didn't know about. What was it? He loved to swear! He only did it at school while hanging out with his friends, and it shouldn't be a big deal because his friends all swore as well. In the beginning, he only did it to fit in, but over time, he had come to like the feeling of the words leaving his mouth. It made him feel like he was grownup. He would often justify it to himself saying that they're only words and that his good actions speak louder than words.

**Discussion Questions**

1. What is wrong with Paul's heart of serving?

2. What would you say to Paul to help him improve in his servitude?

3. What are some changes you need to make to ensure that you are a holy sacrifice to the Lord?

BEING AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE

Jordan was assigned to clean the restroom after RE class. However, at the same time, he saw that the older boys were already out of class and playing his favorite game, basketball. He wanted to join them, so he quickly cleaned the restroom and ran out to play. Later on, his teacher went to check the restroom to see if Jordan had missed anything and found that there was still a pile of trash on the ground and that there was no more toilet paper in a few of the stalls.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Was Jordan's sacrifice acceptable? Why or why not?

2. What should Jordan have done?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 10—Prophet Isaiah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Isaiah 6:8**)

True or False

1. _____ Prophet Isaiah's name means "the Lord is salvation."
2. _____ In the year King Hezekiah died, Prophet Isaiah saw a vision of the Lord.

Fill In the Blank

3. How was the prophet Isaiah called to serve? The prophet saw the vision in the year that King _____ died. In the vision, _____ was sitting on a throne and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above the throne, _____ were flying and praising God.

Short Answer

4. How many wings did the seraphim have?

5. What does each pair of wings represent?

6. Why did the seraph touch Isaiah's mouth with a live coal?

7. How can we make a sacrifice that is holy, pleasing, and acceptable to the Lord in our actions?

LESSON 11

PROPHET JEREMIAH

OBJECTIVES

1. To know that God formed me before I was born and that I belong to Him.
2. To understand that God has set me apart, so I need to be holy, blameless.
3. To realize that God has given me a calling in life that I will need to respond to without fear.

MEMORY VERSE

“But the Lord said to me: ‘Do not say, “I am a youth,” for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.’”

(Jeremiah 1:7)

PRAYER

Thank You, God, for guiding us through the past week so that we can come to church to worship You and to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters. May You continue to strengthen us so that we can face trials and resist temptations in our daily life.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- A. God Calls Jeremiah
- B. Pagan Worship
- C. Jeremiah's Main Message
- D. Jeremiah Witnesses the Destruction
- E. The Suffering of Jeremiah
- F. Jeremiah's Relationship with God
- G. Conclusion

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application

- a. I Belong to Him. I Am Set Apart.
- b. Every Christian Has a Calling!

4. Activity—Evangelical Fliers



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah candidly reveals his inner turmoil concerning his call to prophetic ministry. Indeed, the prophet's anguish over the message of judgment upon his people and the coming destruction of the land was at times overwhelming (4:19–22). Yet despite his anguish, Jeremiah fulfilled his ministry of proclaiming God's judgment against the people of Judah for their idolatry, their unfaithfulness to the covenant, and their obstinate disobedience of His will. Long acknowledged as one of the great prophets of the Old Testament, Jeremiah serves to this day as an example of someone who remained faithful to the word of God despite countless hardships.

Author and Date

Jeremiah was born in Anathoth, just three miles northeast of Jerusalem in the hill country of Benjamin. His father was Hilkiyah. Jeremiah's ministry extended from 626 to 586 B.C., making him a contemporary of Zephaniah, Ezekiel, and Habakkuk. The prophet's writing ministry began in the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign in 605 B.C., though portions of the book may have been written earlier. The book was completed sometime after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Historical Background

Jeremiah's ministry covered a very critical time in the history of the ancient Middle East. When Josiah king of Judah died at the hands of the Egyptian army, Judah became subject to Egypt and its ruler Pharaoh Necho. The

people of Judah chose Jehoahaz to succeed Josiah. However, three months later, Necho appointed Jehoiakim (Eliakim) to rule as his vassal on the throne in Jerusalem. Having lost their freedom, the people of Judah turned not to God but to the idols they had worshipped in the days of Manasseh and Amon. This idolatry was the reason for Jeremiah's proclamations of God's judgment. In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar defeated Pharaoh Necho at Carchemish, and Jehoiakim immediately submitted to the Babylonian king, who permitted him to remain on the throne as a vassal. Three years later, Jehoiakim rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and was deposed (2 Ki 24:1-2). Jehoiachin replaced Jehoiakim on the throne for a short time, but Nebuchadnezzar then exiled him to Babylon. Thousands of political and religious leaders were carried to Babylon with Jehoiachin in 597 B.C. (2 Ki 24:14-16). Nebuchadnezzar made Jehoiakim's brother Zedekiah the new ruler of Judah. In 589 B.C., Zedekiah led a rebellion against Babylon, and Nebuchadnezzar's reprisal was swift. His army entered Judah and destroyed all resisting fortified settlements. Nebuchadnezzar's army turned aside from besieging Jerusalem when the Egyptian army appeared in southwest Palestine in the summer of 588 B.C. But the Egyptians soon withdrew, and Nebuchadnezzar resumed his siege. Several times during the siege of Jerusalem, Zedekiah came to Jeremiah for counsel from the Lord. The prophet advised him to surrender, but Zedekiah would not listen. Jerusalem's walls were breached in the fourth month of 586 B.C. One month later, the temple was burned, along with the palaces, houses, and other administrative buildings. An additional 4,600 Jerusalemites were deported to Babylon. Gedaliah was appointed governor of Judah at Riblah. Jeremiah, who had been imprisoned by Zedekiah, was released and sent to serve under Gedaliah. Gedaliah was assassinated and his supporters fled to Egypt, fearful of Nebuchadnezzar's revenge. Jeremiah went with them to Egypt against his will, and there he continued to confront the Jews for their idolatry and unfaithfulness.



Reaching Out to Your Students

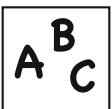
The goal of this class is to lead students to understand that we are God's vessels to do His work. Students may feel discouraged or less confident when facing challenges from school, friends, or even conflicts of faith. Therefore, we can share appropriate life testimonies and also the word of the Bible to encourage them. In addition, emphasize to the students the importance of praying for the fullness of the Holy Spirit, as it is the origin of true strength and wisdom, which can help us overcome our obstacles.



Opener

5 Minutes

Last week, we learned about prophet Isaiah. How long did Isaiah serve as a prophet of God? (Around sixty years.) He served God for many years, continuously warning the people of Judah. Once, when Jerusalem was under the siege of the Assyrians, prophet Isaiah prayed for Jerusalem. That night, the angel of the Lord went out and brought death to 185,000 of the Assyrian troops, saving Jerusalem from destruction.



Vocabulary

courage: the strength to do something that scares you or that others don't dare to do



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Pass out the Bible Discovery worksheet. Answers are in bold and underlined. Pause to allow students to complete. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

God Calls Jeremiah

Prophet Jeremiah was born into and grew up in a priestly

family. His father was the high priest Hilkiah, and his family lived in the town of Anathoth in Benjamin, close to Jerusalem. Since young, Jeremiah learned from his father methods of worshipping God in the temple and attended many services, as he was to carry on his father's priestly duties when he became older.

In the 13th year of King Josiah of Judah (ca. 627 B.C.), God called Jeremiah to serve as a prophet. How did God

call Jeremiah? What was Jeremiah's response to God's call? Let's turn to Jeremiah 1:4-9.

⁴Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I **knew** you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a **prophet** to the nations." ⁶Then said I: "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a **youth**." ⁷But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be **afraid** of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the Lord. ⁹Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put My **words** in your mouth."

What can we learn from this passage? From verse 5, God had already set Jeremiah apart as a prophet before he was born. God did wonderful things for Jeremiah. He knew him. He formed him. He set him apart and appointed him as a prophet to the nations. He did all this long before Jeremiah came out of his mother's womb!

Because God called Jeremiah, God wanted him to take His words to all Israel and to the nations. God had appointed Jeremiah to proclaim the destruction and building of nations as well.

As recorded in Jeremiah 1:8-9, the Lord reached out His hand, touched Jeremiah's mouth, and said, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth." God also told Jeremiah that even though the people would attack him because of the words he would say, God would always remain with him and help him at all times.

How Many Kings Did Jeremiah Serve?

He served through the rule of five kings of Judah: **King Josiah, King Jehoahaz, King Jehoiakim, King Jehoiachin, and King Zedekiah**. He went on to serve during the time of Jerusalem's destruction by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. (Jer 1:3; 52:7-11).

Pagan Worship

What did Jeremiah see while he was growing up? Please turn to 2 Kings 23:14-15.

¹⁴And he broke in pieces the sacred **pillars** and cut down the wooden **images**, and filled their places with the bones of men. ¹⁵Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that **altar** and the **high** place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and burned the wooden image.

While growing up, Jeremiah saw the tearing down of pagan high places of worship—altars, pillars, images and even shrines that were built during Solomon's time (2 Ki 23:10-15).

What were high places? They were places of worship on elevated pieces of ground or raised altars in low land, such as a valley. High places were originally dedicated to idol worship, especially among the Moabites (Is 16:12). These shrines often included an altar and a sacred object, such as a stone pillar or wooden pole in various shapes, identified with the object of worship (e.g., animals or goddesses).

Jeremiah's Main Message

When Jeremiah started work as a prophet, Judah's King Josiah was only 21 years old. During his reign, King Josiah had already begun to make major reforms to bring Judah back to proper worship for God (2 Chr 34:3).

Let's study Jeremiah 11:8. Jeremiah devoted himself to preaching "**the words of this covenant**" to the people in Jerusalem and throughout Judah. To remain God's people, the Israelites had to make a beautiful promise, a covenant, with God. They belonged to God, so they were to serve Him only. However, God's people would not listen to this message.

Jeremiah Reveals the Sins of God's People

Students, do you remember King Hezekiah? Was he a good king? Yes, he was a good king! About a century earlier, King Hezekiah led religious reforms in Judah (2 Ki 18:4), but his son Manasseh led the nation in the evil practice of child sacrifice and worship of the "queen of heaven" (Jer 7:18; 44:19). This continued into Jeremiah's time (Jer 7:31; 19:5; 32:35).

When God called Jeremiah to do His work, he was appointed to reveal the sins of the people and the consequences of ignoring them.

Firstly, God told Jeremiah that there were going to be invaders from the north because the people had broken their covenant with God (Jer 1:14-15). They had forsaken God by worshipping the false god called Baal, building altars to him to burn their children as offerings (Jer 2:8; 7:9; 19:4-5). God hated this, but His people would not listen to the warning of the prophet Jeremiah.

Secondly, Jeremiah told the people of their persistent sins. What were they? They were: **pride, idolatry; adultery; oppressing foreigners, orphans and widows; lying and slandering; and breaking the Sabbath** (Jer 44:1-30; 5:7-9; 7:5-6; 9:4-6; 17:19-27).

He also rebuked the priests and prophets for not taking up the responsibility of teaching the people. He warned the people, "If you do not repent, God will use the Babylonians to destroy the kingdom of Judah." Jeremiah stood alone declaring God's message of judgment on a nation that had rejected God. He courageously and faithfully proclaimed God's word to the people, even when no one listened.

As a result of the sins they had committed, God would not be with them anymore. The entire nation would now be faced with the consequence of famine and starvation. Invaders would come and they would be taken captive into a foreign land (Jer 14:12; 25:8-9)

Jeremiah Warns King Jehoiakim

The reigning King Jehoiakim was afraid that the empire of Babylon would come to attack Judah. He refused to seek help from God, and instead chose to rely on Egypt. After learning this, Prophet Jeremiah then asked his scribe Baruch to take a scroll and write on it all the words that God had spoken to Jeremiah about Israel, Judah, and all the nations, to be read to the people. Let's read Jeremiah 36:3. "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

God had hoped His people would repent from doing evil and worshipping idols and turn back to Him so that He would change His mind and spare them from the disaster. Wanting to know what the scroll contained, King Jehoiakim sent Jehudi to get the scroll and read it to him. Jehudi only read aloud three or four columns from the scroll when Jehoiakim took his knife and cut off what had been read from the scroll and tossed it into the fire. This was repeated until the fire had burned the entire scroll. The king was not afraid of God's words. Instead of repenting and turning away from his wickedness and turning to God for forgiveness, Jehoiakim commanded his son to go and capture Jeremiah and Baruch. Jeremiah and Baruch could not be found because the Lord had hidden them away (Jer 36:26).

Destroying the scroll didn't stop God's punishment from happening. Eventually, the Babylonians attacked Jerusalem, and captured Jehoiakim, carrying him away to Babylon. His son Jehoiachin, who succeeded the throne, was also carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar after his short reign of three months. His uncle, Zedekiah, succeeded him.

Zedekiah Refuses to Listen to Prophet Jeremiah

After the Babylonians carried away King Jehoiakim and

King Jehoiachin, the Israelites still did not repent and return to God. Then, during his reign, King Zedekiah broke his loyalty oath to the king of Babylon. Ignoring Jeremiah's entreaties and warnings, he secretly sought an alliance with the king of Egypt to fight against the Babylonians. In the ninth year of his reign, Zedekiah declared an open revolt against the Babylonians. Once again, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon led an army to crush the revolt. The Babylonian army arrived at the gates of Jerusalem and laid siege there. In desperation, Zedekiah sent word to Jeremiah, asking him to pray to God for deliverance. Jeremiah asked King Zedekiah to surrender and spare the lives of all the inhabitants of the city. Zedekiah did not listen to Jeremiah's advice and he refused to surrender.

Meanwhile, Nebuchadnezzar temporarily retreated because he had heard that the large Egyptian army was marching against him. Jeremiah was now accused of being an agent of the enemy and put in prison. King Zedekiah believed that the trouble was over, but when he asked prophet Jeremiah what the future held for his kingdom, Jeremiah again replied, "You shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon!" After an 18-month siege, the Babylonian armies broke through the walls of Jerusalem and took the city.

Let's read 2 Kings 25:3-4.

By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain.

Zedekiah left his city and ran for his life! Let's continue reading verses 5-7.

But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him. Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

King Zedekiah was captured and sentenced to banishment after his sons were put to death in his presence. He was thrown into prison and his eyeballs plucked. Besides taking captive the people in Jerusalem, the Babylonians also carried away the sacred things of the temple. The Babylonians set fire to the city of Jerusalem, the temple,

the king's palace, and the houses of the chief princes and principal men. The entire kingdom of Judah became a place of desolation.

History is full of powerful kings who refused to listen to God. Instead of repenting and submitting to God's will, they repeatedly chose to put their desires over His desires.

Jeremiah Witnesses the Destruction

Jeremiah saw everything that God had warned. In fact, Babylon attacked Judah's cities so many times that Jerusalem was utterly destroyed. Jeremiah was in so much sorrow seeing God's people being taken captive as a result of forsaking Him. It was a terrible time (Jer 39:1).

The Suffering of Jeremiah

Jeremiah experienced many hardships as a prophet. His own relatives conspired against him (Jer 12:6).

In Jerusalem, a priest named Pashhur beat Jeremiah and put him in the stocks in the high gate of Benjamin for a day (Jer 20:1-2). After this, Jeremiah cried because of the hardship that had come for speaking God's words. He became a laughingstock and a target of mockery.

After some time, evil men received the king's approval to arrest Jeremiah for speaking God's prophecies about the coming disaster. They lowered him by ropes into a cistern, and then put him into a layer of mud. When another official heard about this, he pleaded with the king to allow him to rescue Jeremiah before he died of hunger at the bottom of the cistern (Jer 38:1-13).

Despite all the suffering and persecution that Jeremiah experienced as a prophet of God, he continued with boldness because God's words became like fire in his heart. God's word is full of truth and power; Jeremiah was unable to hold them back (Jer 20:9).

Though Jeremiah experienced great suffering as a worker of God, God loved him deeply. God said, "I will make you to this people a fortified bronze wall; and they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you" (Jer 15:20-21).

Jeremiah's Relationship with God

Jeremiah had a very close relationship with God. Even though there were times he felt sad and lost, he learned to trust God during his many trials. In Jeremiah 32:17, he wrote, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You." Jeremiah understood that no matter what happened, God

was still in charge—He is God and He is sovereign.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit" (Jer 17:7-8).

Conclusion

Nebuchadnezzar released Jeremiah from the prison and invited him to live in Babylon not as a captive, but as an honored guest. Jeremiah chose to stay behind with the common people who had been left in Judah. He was eventually taken to Egypt, together with the rest of the people who were afraid to live in the land, against his will.

Jeremiah had a traumatic life. He had been beaten, mocked, and imprisoned several times, because he chose to obey God and separate himself from the wickedness of the people in Judah. He was also spiritually wounded and shed a lot of tears, not only for his people, but also for the hardships that he had to endure.

From historical records, we can see that prophet Jeremiah served over 40 years. During that period of time, he wrote both Jeremiah and Lamentations—lamenting the fall of Jerusalem and the afflictions of God's people because of God's wrath. His life was one of weeping and lamenting because of what he had to endure and experience, and because God had chosen him to be His servant and prophet. Yet, he was a faithful worker for the Lord.

FOR TEACHERS

Allow the students time to finish the worksheet. Review the answers to ensure correctness.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

By grace we have been saved through faith. We must rely on the **Holy Spirit** to pursue purity, to put the teachings of the Bible into practice, and to fear God and love all men.

The people of Israel were God's chosen people, but they did not want to hear what the prophet had to say, and his constant warning of judgment annoyed them. This is true of the world today, as we who are the believers of Christ try to spread the gospel to non-believers and preach about the impending judgment, only for our efforts to be rejected or ignored. However, we must persevere in proclaiming the truth in order to save even a few lives from the terrible judgment that will inevitably come.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

Fill In the Blank

1. Jeremiah's father, Hilkiah was a priest.
2. God began to speak to Jeremiah on the thirteenth year of King Jehoiakim's reign.
3. When the Lord called Jeremiah, he answered that he did not know how to speak and that he was too young to take such an important task.
4. The Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth and said that He had put His words in his mouth.

Questions to Think About

5. **What would happen to a nation that repented after the Lord warned about its destruction?** God would change His mind and spare it from the disaster.
6. **What did God hope for the people of Israel to do after learning about this warning?** God hoped for the Israelites to repent from doing evil and worshipping idols and to turn back to Him.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. I Belong to Him. I Am Set Apart.

The Call of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-9)

The call of Jeremiah is rich in its teachings.

God is the Lord of life. God formed Jeremiah in the womb. Jeremiah had biological parents, of course, but God Himself was the one who fashioned him and knit him together in his mother's womb. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." I knew you—what a beautiful thing for God to say to His children!

In other words, God made a personal commitment to you even before you were born! What a blessing to know that God knows you, God loves you, and God has entered into a personal relationship with you!

- A. "Before I was born, God already knew me."
- B. If I want to know who I am, I have to know whose I am. That means, I belong to Jesus Christ.
- C. Jeremiah's life was set apart and dedicated to holy service long before he was born. God chose him for ministry.

How can I apply this to my life?

1. Long before I was born, God knew me already.
2. I belong to Jesus Christ; He is my Lord and King.
3. My life is set apart to do work for God, my King.

Let's read Ephesians 1:3-4. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [...] He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

It said God chose us before the creation of the world. **What is the purpose of God choosing us?** So that we can be holy and blameless in His sight!

How can we be holy and blameless in His sight?

Let's read the first half of John 15:16. "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." This verse tells us that to be holy and blameless, we must bear fruit.

Now let's look at Galatians 5:22-23. This verse tells us that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

* * * * *

2. Every Christian Has a Calling!

Everyone who believes in Christ has a special calling to a particular area of ministry. Jeremiah was not just set apart for salvation; he was set apart for serving God as a prophet. God had work for him to do. Jeremiah had a mission to accomplish and a message to deliver to his generation.

"See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant" (Jer 1:10). The prophet's job description includes six tasks.

- To "root out" is to dig up nations by the roots and turn them under.
- To "pull down" is to tear down a standing structure, like knocking down a city wall or toppling a tower.
- To "destroy" is another word for knocking things down.
- To "throw down" is to demolish, to bring to complete ruin.

Once the Lord roots out, pulls down, destroys, and throws down a nation, there is not much left.

But when everything has been torn down and plowed under, God will start afresh. He will begin a new work. He will "build;" He will "plant." He will bring renewal out of demolition.

Of course, not everyone is a Jeremiah; Jeremiah's calling is not for everyone. But you do have a calling.

God not only knew you and chose you, but He also has a plan for your life. Right now you're still young, and you're still trying to figure out what God's plan is for you.

If you are not sure, there are at least four things you must do.

1. Spend time in prayer and read the Bible daily.
2. Serve your family and church members.
3. Go to church to worship.
4. Be God's witness in the world.

The next thing you can do is to ask Him to reveal His will for your life.

Do Not Fear When God Calls You!

Jeremiah knew what God wanted him to do after he received his divine call. But he had two main concerns. "Ah, Lord God," he said, "Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth" (Jer 1:6). He was not sure what to say or how to say it.

When God gives his servants a clear calling, He does not accept any excuses. God told Jeremiah, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you'" (Jer 1:7). After this command, God

reached out His hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth. With this, God's words were now in Jeremiah's mouth (Jer 1:9).

God did not disqualify Jeremiah on the basis of his youth and inexperience. God wanted Jeremiah to know that when He calls someone to do a job, He gives him or her all the abilities needed to do the job. There is nothing for us to fear.

Once you know what God has called you to do, trust Him to equip you to do it. He will give you everything you need to do that job.

In Jeremiah 1:7-8, God reassured Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you."

God commanded Jeremiah not to fear and promised to rescue him. Jeremiah had the promise of God's presence. It was not easy for Jeremiah to speak God's words—God's people eventually went from idolatry to exile. It was a desolate time. But Jeremiah remained faithful.

If God has done all that for you, will you go wherever he tells you to go, and say whatever he wants you to say?



Activity

Evangelical Fliers

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To cultivate the students' imaginations and evangelism methods through drawing.

After learning about the story of the prophet Jeremiah, we know that he spoke the warnings of God to the people, only to be mocked and attacked. However, he did not lose heart because of this and continued to spread the message of Judah's impending destruction, encouraging them to repent before it happened. Can we also learn from Jeremiah's example and courageously speak the word of God?

Materials

- Poster paper
- Markers
- Colored pencils

Instructions

1. The students will try their hand at making an evangelical poster. The content can be the sinful things that people do nowadays, such as robbing, stealing, fighting, swearing, testifying falsely against others, not worshipping the one true God, creating and worshipping idols, not sympathizing with others, not attending service, watching too much TV, not helping the elderly and disabled, etc. Each of these can be drawn on the poster, and upon completion, the students can create a warning message for the poster that will spread the message that God is going to destroy this world, but that we can repent and return to God.
2. Choose a few volunteers to share about their posters so that everyone can see what others have made.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. seventeen
2. scroll, fire
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. God hoped for the Israelites to repent from doing evil and worshipping idols and to turn back to Him.)
8. Answers may vary.

PROPHET JEREMIAH

A **Jeremiah 1:4-9**

⁴Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:
⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I _____ you;
 before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a
 _____ to the nations."
⁶Then said I: "Ah, Lord
 God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a _____."
⁷But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for
 you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I
 command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be _____
 of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you," says the
 Lord. ⁹Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched
 my mouth, and the Lord said to me: "Behold, I have put
 My _____ in your mouth."

B **How many kings did Jeremiah serve?**

He served five kings

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

Pagan Worship

C **What did Jeremiah see around him as he was growing up? (2 Kings 23:14-15)**

¹⁴And he broke in pieces the sacred _____ and cut down the wooden _____, and
 filled their places with the bones of men. ¹⁵Moreover the altar that was at Bethel, and the high place
 which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel sin, had made, both that _____ and the
 _____ place he broke down; and he burned the high place and crushed it to powder, and
 burned the wooden image.

D **What was Jeremiah's main message?**

Jeremiah devoted himself to
 preaching " _____

 _____."

E **The People Committed These Sins**

1. P _____

2. I _____

3. A _____

4. O _____

_____, _____,

and _____

5. L _____ and s _____

6. B _____

the _____



I Belong to Him. I Am Set Apart.

The Call of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-9)

The call of Jeremiah is rich in its teachings.

God is the Lord of life. God formed Jeremiah in the womb. Jeremiah had biological parents, of course, but God Himself was the one who fashioned him and knit him together in his mother’s womb. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.” I knew you—what a beautiful thing for God to say to His children!

In other words, God made a personal commitment to you even before you were born! What a blessing to know that God knows you, God loves you, and God has entered into a personal relationship with you!

- A. “Before I was _____, God already _____ me.”
- B. If I want to know who I am, I have to know whose I am. That means, I _____ to Jesus Christ.
- C. Jeremiah’s life was _____ and dedicated to _____ service long before he was born. God chose him for ministry.

How can I apply this to my life?

- 1. Long before I was born, God _____ me already.
- 2. I _____ to Jesus Christ; He is my Lord and King.
- 3. My life is _____ to do work for God, my King.



Let’s read Ephesians 1:3-4. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. [...] He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”

It said God chose us before the creation of the world. What is the purpose of God choosing us? So that we can be _____ and _____ in His sight!

How can we be holy and blameless in His sight?

Let’s read the first half of John 15:16. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.” This verse tells us that to be holy and blameless, we must bear fruit.

Now let’s look at Galatians 5:22-23. This verse tells us that the fruit of the Holy Spirit is:



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Everyone who believes in Christ has a special calling to a particular area of ministry. Jeremiah was not just set apart for salvation; he was set apart for serving God as a prophet. God had work for him to do. Jeremiah had a mission to accomplish and a message to deliver to his generation.

"See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to _____ and to _____, to _____ and to _____, to _____ and to _____" (Jer 1:10).

The prophet's job description includes six tasks.

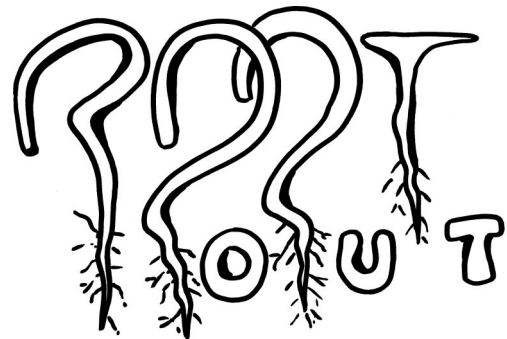
- To "root out" is to dig up nations by the roots and turn them under.
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If you are not sure, there are at least four things you must do.

1. Spend time in _____ and read the _____ daily.
2. _____ your family and church members.
3. Go to church to _____.
4. Be God's _____ in the world.



The next thing you can do is to ask Him to reveal His will for your life.

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Jeremiah knew what God wanted him to do after he received his divine call. But he had two main concerns. "Ah, Lord God," he said, "Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth" (Jer 1:6). He was not sure what to say or how to say it.

In Jeremiah 1:7-8, God reassured Jeremiah, "Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you."



God commanded Jeremiah not to fear and promised to rescue him. Jeremiah had the promise of God's presence. It was not easy for Jeremiah to speak God's words—God's people eventually went from idolatry to exile. It was a desolate time. But Jeremiah remained faithful.

If God has done all that for you, will you go wherever he tells you to go, and say whatever he wants you to say?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 11—Prophet Jeremiah

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Jeremiah 1:7**)

Fill In the Blank

1. Jeremiah was only around _____ years old when God called him to be His prophet.
2. In order to warn the people about God's destruction, Jeremiah instructed Baruch to write God's message on a _____, but King Jehoiakim cut it up and threw it into the _____.

Multiple Choice

3. _____ : Jeremiah's father, Hilkiyah was a _____.
 - a. Prophet
 - b. Levite
 - c. Priest
4. _____ : God began to speak to Jeremiah, on the thirteenth year of king _____'s reign.
 - a. Josiah
 - b. Jehoiakim
 - c. Jehoiachin
5. _____ : When the Lord called Jeremiah, he answered that he did not know how to speak and that _____.
 - a. He was too busy.
 - b. He was only a child.
 - c. He was afraid to take such an important task.
6. _____ : The Lord touched Jeremiah's mouth and said that He had put _____ in Jeremiah's mouth.
 - a. His words
 - b. His blessings
 - c. His curses

Short Answer

7. What did God hope for the people of Israel to do after learning about this warning?
8. Share about a time when you thought you were too young to do something. What can you learn from the example of prophet Jeremiah?

LESSON 12

PROPHET EZEKIEL

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn about the prophet Ezekiel, the watchman for Israel.
2. To know that there are severe consequences of having a rebellious and stony heart.
3. To learn of the importance of being a watchman for the people around us.

MEMORY VERSE

“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

(Ezekiel 36:27)

PRAYER

Thank You, God, for guiding us into Your presence on this holy Sabbath day. You have given us many reminders and warnings through Your word, Your Spirit, ministers, our parents and teachers so that we are safe in You. Remove any rebelliousness and stubbornness within us so that we can hear Your words and obey them. Let us take warning from the Israelites who did not pay attention to God’s warnings until it was too late.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery and Spiritual Teaching

- A. The Vision and the Scroll
 - The Four Living Creatures
 - The Scroll
- B. A Watchman for the House of Israel
- C. Messages to the House of Israel
 - Clay tablet
 - Laying on his sides
 - Shaving off his hair and beard
 - Going into captivity
- D. The People’s Response
- E. The Hope in the Night

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application

- a. The Spiritual Watchman
- b. Replace a Heart of Stone with a Heart of Flesh

4. Activity—Bible Charades



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel’s name means “God strengthens,” which sums up the basic message of the book: in spite of the captivity, God’s strength will carry His people through these dark times and restore them to Him.

The son of Buzi, Ezekiel was born and raised in the land of Judah in a priestly family. In 605 B.C., when Ezekiel had already started preparing to become a priest in God’s temple, King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and took many of Jerusalem’s wisest men to Babylon. Among the captives were Daniel and his three friends.

Then in 597 B.C., Babylon attacked Judah a second time, this time carrying away Ezekiel and 10,000 other captives. By this time, the nation was on the brink of complete destruction.

While in Babylon, God called Ezekiel to be a prophet at the age of thirty. While he preached to the exiles in Babylon, the prophet Jeremiah was with the Jews in Judah and Daniel was serving in Nebuchadnezzar’s court.

Although Jeremiah and Ezekiel worked in different locations, both preached the same message: the city of Judah would soon fall to the

Babylonians. The captives in Babylon shared with those in Jerusalem the same stubborn belief that Jerusalem would not fall and that they would soon return to their land. God wanted Ezekiel to help the captives see why they had been taken captive—their idolatry, acts of social injustice, and immorality had brought the judgment and discipline of God upon them. The prophet also reminded them that they needed to return to God, as God would restore them and give them renewed hope. The words of the prophets came to fulfillment when eventually in 586 B.C., the Babylonians invaded Judah a third and final time and completely razed the city, burned down the temple and deported the rest of the people.

Conquering a Fortified City

There were five ways of conquering a fortified city:

1. By entering the city from above through the high walls. This was done by scaling the walls, usually with ladders.
2. By breaking through the walls using hammers, axes, spears, swords, or special instruments, such as battering rams.
3. By entering the city from below by digging under the city walls.
4. By laying siege upon the city: starving the inhabitants until they surrendered and died.
5. Through trickery or deception.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Children should be reminded to be watchful of behaviors and attitudes that do not align with the Bible. If such behaviors persist, our hearts become hardened and unresponsive to God's message. While they work on improvement, remind your students to maintain positivity when they fail. God will forgive our sins and hardheartedness if we turn back to Him and purify our unrighteousness. If we submit to Him, our hearts will soften and we will find that obeying God is not difficult but a delight.



Opener

5 Minutes

[Before class, prepare a picture of a smoke detector or check if the classroom area has one installed.]

Ask the students, "Can you think of everyday objects that are used as alarms or that warn us of danger?" [Allow students time to answer. Possible answers: an alarm clock, smoke detector, traffic light, etc.]

Hold up a smoke detector, or a picture of a smoke detector, and ask the students if they know what it is. Once they identify the device, ask them what its purpose is (to let us know if there is smoke in the room). Next, ask the students if they have ever heard a smoke alarm go off. Why do you think alarms are so loud? (They are designed to grab our attention, regardless of whether we are awake or sleeping.) There are typically several smoke detectors placed throughout the house to keep us safe. However, some people get busy and forget to check the battery in their smoke detectors or some know that they have to change the battery but are too lazy to do so. Such behaviors are unwise and could jeopardize their safety.

God has given us and the Israelites a number of alarms or warnings throughout the Bible. In ancient Israel, these alarms came in the form of prophets, priests, or watchmen. God sent His servants to keep the people spiritually safe. They gave powerful warnings in the hope of grabbing the people's attention and waking them up from their spiritual slumber. Sadly, the people of God were annoyed by the warnings and refused to listen, putting their lives in great danger.

Today, we will study about the watchman who was sent to sound the alarm to the people of Judah.



Vocabulary

rebellion: to oppose or to refuse to obey the rules of a person in authority, the government, or God

watchman: a person who keeps watch or guard over a building, street, or city

siege: a situation in which police or soldiers surround a city, building, etc, in order to take control of it

battering ram: a military device consisting of a heavy beam with an iron ram's head, or sharp metal tip; attackers swung the device back and forth to batter down, pound, or punch castle gates, doors, and walls

pestilence: a contagious disease that causes many people to die

famine: a situation in which there is an extreme shortage of food, frequently resulting in numerous casualties



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students now. Pause at the appropriate sections to allow students to complete the worksheet. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference.

The Vision and the Scroll

To prepare Ezekiel to serve as a prophet, God showed Ezekiel a vision so that he could know God and His will better. Let's read Ezekiel 1:1-11 to learn what Ezekiel saw.

Last week, we learned how the prophet Jeremiah was sent to warn the people of a great disaster that would come upon the land of Judah because of their sins. The people of Judah had become so comfortable in their sins; they had departed from God to pursue other gods, power, and money and had formed alliances with foreign powers. Despite Jeremiah's tears and pleas, the house of Judah not only refused to listen, they despised God's word and mistreated the prophet. Does anyone remember what King Jehoiakim did with the scroll that contained God's word? That's right; he cut up the scroll with a knife and cast it into the fire. How did they treat Jeremiah? Jeremiah suffered terrible things in the hands of the leaders. He was flogged and thrown into prison and, on one occasion, the princes threw Jeremiah into a dungeon full of mud, hoping that he would starve to death. Despite these persecutions, Jeremiah continued to be a faithful and loving messenger of God.

Today, we are going to learn how God warned the people of Judah through another prophet—the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel was born and raised in the land of Judah. He grew up in a priests' family, which meant that Ezekiel learned how to serve as a priest in God's temple from a young age. However, when the Babylonians came and attacked the city of Judah for a second time, Ezekiel and 10,000 other captives were taken to Babylon. While Ezekiel was in Babylon, false prophets rose up, telling the captives that Jerusalem would not fall and that they would soon return to their homeland. This was certainly not true. It was at this crucial time that God called Ezekiel to be His prophet to dispel false hopes and to deliver the message that punishment and destruction for their sins was certain to pass in the years to come.

The Four Living Creatures

Each of the four living creatures had the face of a man, lion, ox, and eagle. In addition, they each had four wings, under which were four hands, one on each side. Their legs were straight with soles of calves' feet. God used the characteristics of each animal to show Ezekiel His perfect nature and the qualities that a true believer should have.

- Man
Man is created in the likeness of God, full of righteousness and holiness.
- Lion
The lion is the king of beasts; it is a powerful and fearless animal. We need to have the power and courage to overcome sin and preach God's words.
- Ox
We should imitate the diligence, patience, and long-suffering of the ox.
- Eagle
An eagle is a bird that flies to great heights and has keen eyesight. We need to rise above the things of the world and have spiritual wisdom.

The Scroll

Ezekiel then saw a hand holding out a scroll to him. In those days, a scroll was an ancient book made of one long page and rolled up from both ends. Normally, scrolls had writing on only one side. However, in this case, the scroll had writing on both sides containing

God's warnings, sorrows, and judgment that would come upon Judah.

God then instructed Ezekiel to eat the scroll (Ezek 3:1-3). Why do you think God wanted Ezekiel to eat the scroll? What do you think it tasted like?

We know that the scroll contained God's words and that Ezekiel first had to understand and know God's will before telling the people. He had to allow God's word to sink deep into his heart before he carried out his mission.

A Watchman for the House of Israel

God then spoke to Ezekiel, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel." Read Ezekiel 3:17-21. What is a watchman? [Allow students to respond.]

In ancient times, many great cities had thick, high walls around them for protection. The city of Jerusalem was one such city. A watchman was a guard who would stand upon the walls of Jerusalem and, from the vantage point in the tower, and look out upon the land. The watchman would peer forward and look into the distance to watch for messengers, unusual activity, or mostly importantly, any sign of an enemy or approaching army. If the watchman noticed enemies creeping up the wall or slipping into the city, he would blow the trumpet and sound the alarm. So, this was an extremely important job!

Ezekiel's role was to be a spiritual watchman. The prophet had the duty to deliver God's message to the people: Unless the citizens of Israel and Judah acknowledged their sins, turned from them, repented, and obeyed God's law, they would die in their sins. What would happen if Ezekiel did not give warning to the wicked? Just as a watchman on the wall would pay with his life if he failed to warn the city of approaching enemies, God told Ezekiel that he would be judged along with the wicked if he didn't pass on God's messages to the Israelites. So, regardless of whether the Israelites listened to the messages or not, Ezekiel had the very important task of warning the people.

Messages to the House of Israel

Have you ever played charades? [Allow students to respond.] Charades is a game in which a player uses silent gestures instead of speaking to convey the clue to the other players. This is what Ezekiel did. Instead of simply declaring God's words and messages, God told Ezekiel to act them out in the midst of His people. God gave Ezekiel specific instructions about what to say and do and each action had a meaning that would portray what was to happen to Jerusalem.

Why do you think God asked Ezekiel to use this unique method? By this time, the people of Israel were so stubborn that no matter what Ezekiel said, they would turn a deaf ear to him. Acting out the message would arouse the curiosity of the Israelites, causing them to inquire about what Ezekiel was doing (Ezek 12:9).

FOR TEACHERS

As you read the Bible passages, have the students take turns to be Ezekiel by performing the actions. Invite the class to guess the meaning of the actions. Prepare props such as a brick, an iron plate, a card with the numbers 390/40 written on each side, a piece of bread, a quart of water, and a plastic or foam sword for more effect.

1. Clay Tablet

Read and perform Ezekiel 4:1-3.

Ezekiel was to take a clay tablet and draw a map of Jerusalem on it. He then put a siege wall against it and set up enemy camps and battering rams around it. He took an iron plate and placed it as a wall between him and the city. All this he did to show how the enemy army would capture Jerusalem.

2. Laying on His Sides

Read and perform Ezekiel 4:4-17.

After this God instructed Ezekiel to lie first on his left side for 390 days to signify the number of years Ezekiel would bear the sins of Israel. Ezekiel was to then turn over and lay on his right side for 40 days, which represented the forty years that Ezekiel would bear the sins of Judah. God restrained Ezekiel from moving or turning over from one side to the other until the full 430 days had been fulfilled.

During this time, Ezekiel only had bread to eat and water to drink from time to time. The amount of food he ate was measured and limited by weight, and he was only allowed to drink a certain amount of water as well. While all the people were watching, Ezekiel was to bake the bread over a fire, using cow dung. This showed how great hardship would fall upon the people during the siege; there would be a great lack of both water and bread to the point that everything was rationed.

3. Shaving Off His Hair and Beard

Read and perform Ezekiel 5:1-10.

God instructed Ezekiel to shave off his hair and beard, and then using scales, he was to divide his hair into three equal parts. He burned one-third on the clay tablet that represented Jerusalem. Ezekiel took another

third and struck around it with a sword, and the last third he scattered in the wind. In addition, God told Ezekiel to save a few strands to tie to his robe.

Through these actions, God told the people that because they worshipped idols, God would not spare them nor pity them. One third of the people would die of pestilence and famine; the enemy would kill another third when they tried to escape from Jerusalem; the last third would be carried away to different lands as captives. However, the tiny bits of hair Ezekiel put in his robe were the small remnant of faithful people that God would keep safe.

4. *Going into Captivity*

Read and perform Ezekiel 12:3-10.

To show the people what being in exile would be like, Ezekiel was to pack whatever he could carry, and then leave his home to go somewhere else. By day, Ezekiel was to prepare his possessions and then at night, he had to dig through a wall and carry his possessions through the hole, with his face covered and unable to see. When the people asked what all this meant, Ezekiel told them that this would be the way that their King Zedekiah and his people would be driven out of their homes and taken into exile to Babylon.

The People's Response

Have you ever covered your ears because you refused to listen to what was being said to you? This was what the Israelites were doing when God spoke to them.

In Ezekiel 2:3-8, God repeatedly described the Israelites as a rebellious nation, a rebellious house who rebelled against Him. They were such a stubborn and stiff-necked people that they blocked their ears and refused to listen to God.

When they saw Ezekiel's actions, they were curious enough to ask Ezekiel what he was doing and what these

actions meant, but when Ezekiel told them God's messages, they did not believe him. They said that the prophecies and visions would not happen at this time and that the visions would not come true (Ezek 12:22). They would rather listen to the false messages that the false prophets were preaching. Even the elders and leaders said, "the Lord doesn't see us; He has gone away" and they persisted in their sins (Ezek 8:12; 9:9). Their stubbornness and rebellion left God no choice but to bring judgment upon them.

The Hope in the Night

In the fifth year of Ezekiel's service as prophet, the Babylonian army besieged Jerusalem for the third and final time. Only when Judah was completely destroyed—its temple in ruins and its people taken as captives—did the people finally realize that Ezekiel had preached the truth. God will do as He had said.

Though the city lay in ruins, and its people were captured to a foreign land, God still loved His people. Have you ever experienced doing wrong and getting punished? How did you feel when you were punished? What did you wish for most at the time? [Allow students to respond.] Yes, you might have wished that you never disobeyed your parents or did what you were not supposed to do. Perhaps the thing you wished for most is for your pain to go away and for your parents to comfort you and assure you that they still loved you. That is what God did. God is just and righteous, and when His people commit sins, He will judge and punish them. Yet, God still loves His people dearly.

When the people were in captivity, God sent His prophet to comfort them and tell them that if they returned to Him, He would forgive them and restore them to their homeland, where they could once again enjoy His blessings. God promised to make a new covenant of peace with them. He would remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh so that they could keep His commandments.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Receiving the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our heavenly inheritance and is evidenced by speaking in tongues. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we can be sanctified and be transformed from our old sinful nature to a Christ-like nature.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **When Ezekiel ate of the scroll it tasted very bitter.** False; it tasted like honey.
2. **The vision of the four creatures and the scroll enabled Ezekiel to know God and His will better.** True.
3. **Ezekiel lay on his side for 430 days to show the number of years the people would be punished.** False; he lay on his side for 430 days to show the number of years he would bear the sins of Judah and Israel.
4. **To show the people what being in exile would be like, God told Ezekiel to pack whatever he could carry during the day and dig through a wall at night.** True.
5. **As a watchman, Ezekiel had to declare God's message only when the people were ready to listen to him.** False; Ezekiel had to declare God's message when he received them, regardless of whether the people would listen.
6. **God instructed Ezekiel to act out the messages because the people loved Bible charades.** False; He instructed Ezekiel to act them out because the people were a rebellious nation that refused to listen to what Ezekiel had spoken.
7. **If Ezekiel did not pass on God's warning to the people, God would judge him.** True.
8. **To change a heart of stone to a heart of flesh, we need to repent, be filled with God's Spirit and words, put away our own will, and obey God.** True.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. THE SPIRITUAL WATCHMAN

Ezekiel was called by God to be the watchman for the house of Israel. This was not an easy task. What kinds of difficulties do you think Ezekiel encountered as a watchman? [Write responses on the board.]

- He had to completely deny himself and obey God fully.
- He had to endure mocking and ridicule.
- He had to declare God's words faithfully, regardless of whether the people wanted to hear it or not.
- He had to be watchful at all times.

Today, we need to stand on the walls and be the spiritual watchmen of Israel. It may be the walls of our family, the walls of our church, or the walls of our school. As watchmen, not only do we have to sound the trumpet and declare God's teachings, we need to pray for others, too. Perhaps we think that we are too young to be watchmen, or that we don't have the courage to tell others about God. In fact, there are times when we only have to say a few simple words or say a prayer to bring others back to God. It may even be through our good behavior and example that allows others to see God in us, which will lead others to God.

As a watchman on the walls of your family, to whom do you need to sound the trumpet and why?

As a watchman on the walls of the church, to whom do you need to sound the trumpet?

As a watchman on the walls of your school, to whom do you need to sound the trumpet?

2. REPLACE A HEART OF STONE WITH A HEART OF FLESH

God said that the hearts of His people were like hearts of stone, because regardless what God told them, they refused to listen. Are our hearts like a heart of stone or a heart of flesh? God can work in our hearts if we give it to Him and be obedient to Him, but He cannot do anything if we do not trust in Him completely. The hard places will stay in our hearts until we allow God to help us get rid of them. If we choose to harden our hearts and refuse to listen to God's instructions, as the Israelites did, God may teach us a very painful lesson, or possibly even reject us.

What kind of heart is a heart of stone?

- A heart that keeps sinning
- Has a lot of worldly values
- Unrepentant
- Proud
- Has hurt, pain, hatred, doubt that is not given to God

What kind of heart is a heart of flesh?

- A humble heart
- Full of good thoughts
- A heart that is soft and can be molded for God
- Holds God as King

To change my heart of stone to a heart of flesh, I need to...

- Repent
- Read the word of God
- Put away my own will
- Be filled with the Spirit of God
- Do what God says
- Guard my heart from ungodly thoughts



Activity

Bible Charades

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To act out clues using only silent gestures for team members to guess.

Instructions

1. Come up with different categories. Examples have been listed below.
 - Characters from the Bible (Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, etc.)
 - Events (Jerusalem is destroyed and taken captive, Ezekiel is called to be a watchman, etc.)
 - Bible objects (the four living creatures, the scroll of God, etc.)
 - Books of the Bible
2. Write down each clue on a small piece of paper. Place the clues in a basket, bowl, or box, or simply hand a clue to each student who comes up to act.
3. Divide the students into two groups.
4. Appoint a time keeper who will set and watch the timer for each clue. A good time to set would be around thirty seconds to one minute.
5. Determine which team will go first.
6. During each round, one person from one team will go up to act out a clue silently.
 - If the team is correct, they score a point.
 - If the team is incorrect, the other team has a chance to answer and score a point.
7. Switch teams after each clue.
8. Continue the game until all clues have been acted out, or until time allows.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. False; the scroll tasted like honey.
2. True
3. False; Ezekiel was not allowed to turn at all during those 430 days.
4. True
5. A
6. A
7. B
8. C

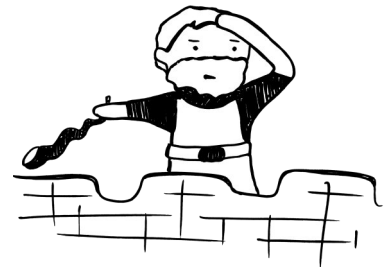
PROPHET EZEKIEL

A. The Vision and the Scroll

- Describe with words or draw a picture of each of the four living creatures.
- Why did God show the vision to Ezekiel and tell him to eat the scroll?

B. A Watchman of the House of Israel

- What did Ezekiel have to do as a watchman?
- What would happen to Ezekiel if he failed to do this?



C. Messages to the House of Israel

Fill in the blanks.

- Ezekiel was to take a _____ and draw a _____ of _____ on it to show how Jerusalem would be given over to the enemies.
- Ezekiel had to lie on his left side for _____ days and on his right side for _____ days. These were the years Ezekiel would _____ the _____ of Israel and Judah.
- Ezekiel had to _____ his _____ and the hair on his _____.
- Ezekiel had to _____ his bags, _____ through a _____, and go through the _____ to show what it was like to be in exile.



D. The People's Response

Despite so many warnings, the people _____ to _____ because they were a _____ and _____ nation.

E. The Hope In the Night

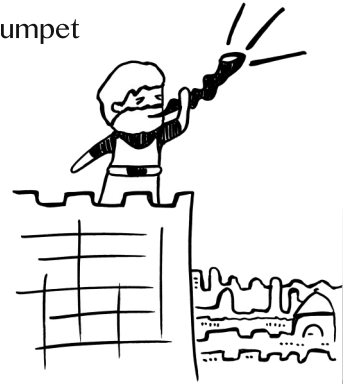
God promised to take away their _____ of _____ and give them a _____ of _____.

A. A Spiritual Watchman

1. Ezekiel was called by God to be the watchman for the house of Israel. What kinds of difficulties might Ezekiel face?

2. As a watchman on the walls of your family, to whom do you need to sound the trumpet and why?

3. As a watchman on the walls of the church, to whom do you need to sound the trumpet?



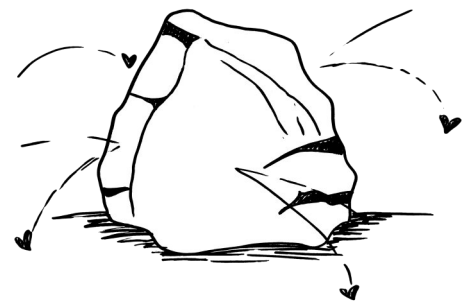
4. As a watchman on the walls of your school, to whom do you need to sound the trumpet?

B. Replace a Heart of Stone with a Heart of Flesh

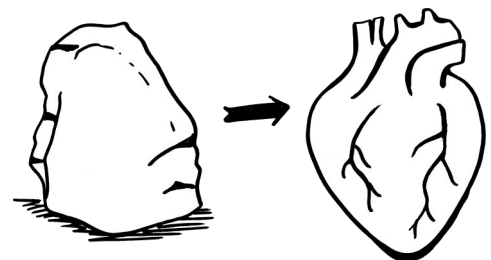
1. God's people had hearts like stone.

a. What kind of heart is a heart of stone?

b. Write or draw what is in our heart that makes it hard.



2. Describe a heart of flesh.



3. To change my heart of stone to a heart of flesh, I need to...

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 12—Prophet Ezekiel

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Ezekiel 36:27)**

True or False

1. When Ezekiel ate the scroll it tasted very bitter. _____
2. The vision of the four creatures and the scroll enabled Ezekiel to know God and His will better. _____
3. As Ezekiel lay on his side for those 430 days, he was allowed to roll around and take a walk whenever he needed to stretch. _____
4. To show the people what being in exile would be like, God told Ezekiel to pack whatever he could carry during the day and dig through a wall in the midst of the people at night. _____

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : As a watchman, Ezekiel declared God's message to the people _____.
 - a. No matter if they listened or not
 - b. Only when they were ready to listen to him
 - c. Only when the message would not offend them
6. _____ : God instructed Ezekiel to act out the messages because _____.
 - a. It would attract the attention of the hard-hearted people.
 - b. Ezekiel was good at acting.
 - c. God wanted to try a new method of declaring the message.
7. _____ : The Babylonians came and invaded Judah _____.
 - a. 2 times
 - b. 3 times
 - c. 4 times
8. _____ : To change a heart of stone to a heart of flesh, we need to _____.
 - a. Repent and be filled with God's Spirit and words
 - b. Put away our own will and obey God
 - c. All of the above

Short Answer

9. Today, each of us is a spiritual watchman. Who are the people we need to declare God's messages to?

REVIEW

Teachers can reference this lesson to give them some ideas about questions to ask during a review lesson. The review can be in any format: a standard written quiz, a Jeopardy-style game, a board game, etc. The important thing is to give the students a chance to review all the things they have learned in the past quarter. You can draw your review questions from the **Check for Understanding** sections in each lesson, as well as the **homework assignments**. Remember to include some **life application questions** to allow the students to apply what they have learned to their lives.

ANSWER KEY

I. Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

- sows, reap
- help, Lord
- company, habits
- beauty, inquire
- humble, haughty
- trusted, none
- salvation, death
- heart, soul
- cleanse, word
- voice, send
- command, speak
- Spirit, walk

II. The Kings: Actions and Consequences

King Ahab	D8
King Asa	A5
King Jehoshaphat	F1
King Joash	C6
King Uzziah	H4
King Hezekiah	G2
King Joash	B3
King Manasseh	E7

III. "The Prophets" Crossword

<i>Across</i>	<i>Down</i>
2. watchman	1. Babylonian
6. scroll	3. Jerusalem
8. mind	4. wisdom
10. sanctified	5. Hezekiah
11. send	7. suffering
12. born	9. words
13. seraphim	14. eagle
16. young	15. coal

IV. Short Answer and Life Application

- When we speak with grace, we use words that are kind and edifying to others. We do not use mean or coarse words that will hurt, and we do not use bad words like swear words. When we act with righteousness, we act in the likeness of Christ and do as He would. We preach the gospel to those around us. When we believe with faith, we trust that God hears our prayers, even if He doesn't give us an answer right away. We trust that God has the best plan for us and that He has His time for everything. When we care with compassion, we treat others in the same caring way we expect others to treat us. We do not push, yell,

make fun of, or exclude. We show to others the love that God has shown to us.

- We may put your trust in our parents, our friends, our teachers, or other important people in our life. We may put our trust in things that we can see and touch, or things that are familiar to us. We may put our trust in doctors or other working professionals. However, when situations arise and we need help, it is important first to turn to God. God is our Father, and He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Whenever or wherever we need Him, He will be there. God lays out the path for us, so we should turn to Him when we are lost.
- A good friend will have a positive influence on us, while a bad friend will influence us to do bad things that may be against God's commandments. A good friend is patient, gives us good advice, has a good heart, speaks kind and encouraging words, but also tells us when we are wrong. It is important to surround ourselves with good friends like these. Likewise, spiritual friends in church can help us fight spiritual battles.
- God's people are holy and sanctified, and they are separated from the world. So, Daniel and his three friends had to maintain their holiness since they were God's people. In school, we may face many pressures to talk like our friends who use bad words, or treat others in a mean way just because our friends are doing it. However, as God's children, we should not be like others who do not exhibit holiness. God does not want bad words to come out of our mouths. God does not want us to treat others poorly. God does not want us to lie or cheat on our homework or tests. Rather, God wants us to speak kindly and treat others kindly, and be honest on our homework and tests. That way, we can remain His holy children.
- When God first called Jeremiah, Jeremiah thought that he was too young to serve as prophet. He felt unequipped and unworthy, so God put His words into Jeremiah's mouth to show that He was with him. Today, God may not call us to serve as prophets as Jeremiah did, but we have been commissioned to preach the word of God. However, we must first spend time in prayer and reading the Bible, so we are sure of what we preach. We must also serve our family, church members, and others with the love of God. In addition, we must come to church to worship God and to learn more about Him. When we do all of these faithfully, then we can be great witnesses for God.

I. Memory Verse Fill In the Blank

Instructions: Complete the memory verses by filling the blanks in with the missing words.

speak	trusted	death	send	beauty	Lord
word	inquire	habits	haughty	help	salvation
humble	soul	cleanse	reap	voice	Spirit
none	heart	sows	company	walk	command

1. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man _____, that he will also _____." (Galatians 6:7)
2. "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my _____? My help comes from the _____, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)
3. "Do not be deceived: 'Evil _____ corrupts good _____.'" (1 Corinthians 15:33)
4. "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the _____ of the Lord, and to _____ in His temple." (Psalm 27:4)
5. "You will save the _____ people; but Your eyes are on the _____, that You may bring them down." (2 Samuel 22:28)
6. "He _____ in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was _____ like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him." (2 Kings 18:5)
7. "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to _____, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces _____." (2 Corinthians 7:10)
8. "Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his _____, with all his _____, and with all his might." (2 Kings 23:25a)
9. "How can a young man _____ his way? By taking heed according to Your _____." (Psalm 119:9)
10. "Also I heard the _____ of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I _____, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" (Isaiah 6:8)
11. "But the Lord said to me: 'Do not say, "I am a youth," for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I _____ you, you shall _____.'" (Jeremiah 1:7)
12. "I will put My _____ within you and cause you to _____ in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." (Ezekiel 36:27)

II. The Kings: Actions and Consequences

There were many kings throughout the history of Judah and Israel. Some were good and some were evil, but many made mistakes as king.

Instructions: Match the kings below to the actions they committed and what happened as a result of their actions by writing the letters and the numbers in the correct spaces.

King Ahab

King Asa

King Jehoshaphat

King Joash

King Uzziah

King Hezekiah

King Josiah

King Manasseh

Actions

(A) I relied on the king of Syria to protect me against King Baasha of Israel.

(B) I did not believe that God would work through the gentile King Necho of Egypt, so I didn't let his army pass through Judah.

(C) After Jehoiada's death, I returned to idol worship and ordered Zechariah to be stoned to death.

(D) I married an idol worshipper named Jezebel and led Israel to worship idols.

(E) Unlike my father, I was an exceedingly wicked king, killing innocent people and practicing witchcraft as well as idolatry.

(F) I allied with the evil King Ahab through my son's marriage and helped Ahab in battle.

(G) I became proud after serving God for so long that I forgot all my wealth and success came from God. So, I boasted to the Babylonians about my wealth.

(H) When I went to offer incense in the temple against God's commandment, the high priest Azariah tried to stop me, but I refused.

Results

1 God's wrath came upon me for helping a wicked king.

2 The prophet Isaiah told me that Babylon would take away some of my sons and all of my treasures.

3 I died in battle against the Egyptian army.

4 God struck me with leprosy on my forehead. I could no longer rule as king, and I had to live in isolation for the rest of my life.

5 I became diseased in my feet and died within a year.

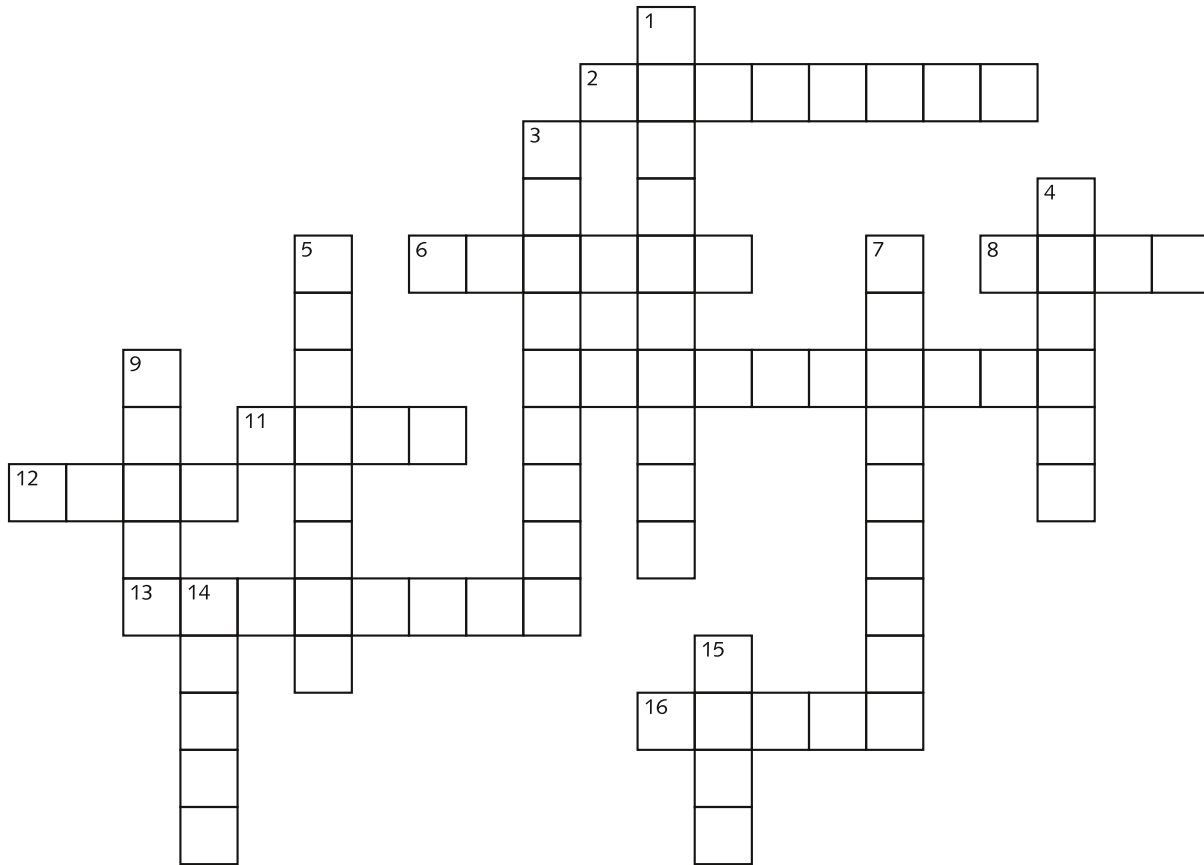
6 I was killed by my own servants while in my bed.

7 I was taken by the Assyrian army in hooks, bound, and taken to Babylon.

8 God's word came to pass and I died in battle, struck between my armor by a random arrow.

III. "The Prophets" Crossword Puzzle

Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel served God faithfully as His prophets. Fill in the blanks in the clue provided to complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

- 1. King Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel and his friends _____ names to make them forget about God.
- 3. Daniel and his three friends refused to eat and drink the king's food to stay holy and _____.
- 4. God blessed Daniel and his three friends and they grew in body and _____.
- 5. In his vision, Isaiah saw _____, each with six wings.
- 7. When God asked, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Isaiah answered, "Here am I! _____ me."
- 9. God had chosen Jeremiah to serve as His prophet even before he was _____.
- 14. God instructed Ezekiel to eat a _____ containing His warnings, sorrows, and judgment; it tasted like honey.
- 15. Ezekiel's role as prophet was to be a spiritual _____ for God's people.

DOWN

- 2. King Nebuchadnezzar instructed his chief eunuch to find men who had no blemish, were good-looking, possessed knowledge, quick to understand and gifted in all _____.
- 6. A seraph took a live _____ and touched it to Isaiah's lips to cleanse Isaiah.
- 8. Isaiah served as prophet during the reigns of kings Ahaz, Jotham, and _____.
- 10. Jeremiah believed that he was too _____ to serve as a prophet of God.
- 11. To show that He was with Jeremiah when he spoke, God put His _____ into Jeremiah's mouth.
- 12. Jeremiah experienced a great deal of _____ and persecution when he served as God's prophet, but he remained determined to preach the word of God.
- 13. In his vision, Ezekiel saw four living creatures, each with the face of a man, a lion, an ox, and an _____.
- 16. Silently and with gestures, Ezekiel acted out the coming siege of _____.

IV. Short Answer and Life Application

Instructions: Answer the questions.

God Will Render to Us...

1. King Ahab did not treat others well, and God rendered to him according to his deeds. God looks at our words, our actions, our faith, and our treatment of others. Choose one and answer: How can you speak with grace, act with righteousness, believe with faith, and care with compassion?

Who Do You Trust?

2. King Asa started out as a loyal king, but later he put his trust in people, not in God. What are some things that you may put your trust in instead of God? Why is important to put your trust in God instead of relying on those other things?

Choosing Good Friends

3. King Jehoshaphat was a good king who made bad decisions because he chose bad friends. Today, God wants you to choose good friends. What do you believe makes a good friend in God's eyes? Do you have good friends around you?

Staying Holy

4. Daniel and his three friends determined to stay holy when in a foreign land. Why was it important for them to stay holy? How can you determine to stay holy at school?

God's Calling

5. God had chosen Jeremiah to be His prophet while Jeremiah was still in his mother's womb. How did Jeremiah answer God's calling? Today, God has also called you. What important things must you do as a Christian?

"Serve the LORD with gladness;
Come before His presence with singing."

Ps 100:2



Kings and Prophets

Elementary 2

Year 3 Book 4

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