

LESSON 1

GOOD KING JEHOSHAPHAT

BEFORE YOU TEACH

King Jehoshaphat

After the death of Solomon, the kingdom was divided into two: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Judah consisted of only two tribes: Judah and Benjamin. Jehoshaphat was the fourth king of Judah, reigning from 873 to 848 BC. Overall, he was a godly king who followed King David's example, sought God, obeyed His commandments, and carried out religious reforms. He removed the pagan altars and idols from Judah and set up a program of religious education for the whole nation. Later, he appointed judges in all the major cities to ensure justice throughout the land. He also had many military victories because he knew how to rely on God. When he faced his enemies -- the Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites -- he led the people of Judah in a fasting prayer of praise and petition. God heard King Jehoshaphat's prayer and defeated Judah's enemies even before they had to go into battle. God established Jehoshaphat's kingdom and showered him with riches and honor.

Despite his many virtues and achievements, Jehoshaphat did make a few mistakes in his lifetime. First, he formed an allegiance with Ahab, the evil king of Israel, by allowing his son Jehoram to marry Ahab's daughter, Athaliah. Second, towards the end of his reign, Jehoshaphat formed a partnership with Ahab's son Ahaziah to build ships.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

When faced with the threat of war, Jehoshaphat turned to God. He knew that he had no control over the situation and that only God could determine the outcome. He led the people of Judah in a fasting prayer for God's guidance. Their prayers were heard and answered. Their enemies ended up fighting and killing one another, so Judah did not have to go to war.

Students can learn from Jehoshaphat's humility before God and his method of praying. In his prayer, he acknowledged God's sovereignty and realized that the battle was God's and not his own. He also recognized his own weaknesses and relied completely on the Lord. Lastly, he praised God and waited patiently for His deliverance.

Students can learn to trust God in all matters, no matter how small and unimportant they may seem. Even though your students may not be fighting physical wars, they face everyday battles, such as temptations and peer pressure. Remind students that if God was willing and able to help King Jehoshaphat defeat such a large army of enemies, how much more would He be able to help them with their day-to-day challenges. Encourage them to ask for God's help because He will fight for them in ways they can't even imagine. Remind them that everything is in the hands of God and He always triumphs over all.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 20:1-30

BIBLE TRUTH

God delivered King Jehoshaphat from his enemies.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To trust and rely on God in all things.

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not be afraid nor dismayed for the battle is not yours, but God's."

(2 Chronicles 20:15)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, we give thanks for Your daily protection. We know we have Your Spirit in us to lead us. Please help us in times of weakness and deliver us from all evil, like You did for King Jehoshaphat. Let us learn to rely on You more and pray to You with the right attitude. We want to give all glory to Your name in everything that we do. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

Levite: an Israelite responsible for religious duties (i.e., looking after the tabernacle, and later on, the temple)

BIBLE STORY

Jehoshaphat Is King

After King Solomon died, the Israelites fought over the kingdom. Eventually, it was divided into two kingdoms, with Israel in the north and Judah in the south. These two kingdoms were mostly ruled by evil kings who did not follow God's commands and led the people to worship idols. However, the kingdom of Judah did have a few good kings. One of these good kings was King Jehoshaphat. He trusted God and did what was right. He followed King David's example, sought God, obeyed His commandments, and destroyed idols and their altars. He helped the people and taught them about God. Because he obeyed God, God protected him, helped him win many battles against Judah's enemies, and blessed him with riches and honor. For a while, the land of Judah enjoyed peace.

The Enemies Attack

One day, some messengers came with urgent news to tell King Jehoshaphat. They cried out, "A huge army is headed this way! There are more soldiers than we can count and they are planning to attack us!"

Everyone, including the king, was frightened by the news. Their enemies, which included people from Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, had joined together to attack the people of Judah. The enemies had a large and powerful army, while Judah only had a small army. Judah could not possibly fight against such great numbers. Boys and girls, can you imagine how scared the people of Judah must have been at this time? What were they going to do?

But, just as everyone was wondering and panicking, King Jehoshaphat remembered how God had helped him before. Even though the enemies were much stronger this time, he knew that God could protect the people of Judah better than any army ever could. King Jehoshaphat knew that victory was in God's hands. His best weapon was not a large army, but prayer. The king spoke to his officials, "Go and tell the people of Judah to join me in fasting and prayer."

King Jehoshaphat Leads His People in Prayer

Although the people were afraid, they listened to King Jehoshaphat and gathered at the temple to pray. People from every town in Judah came to seek the Lord and crowded into the temple's courtyard.

King Jehoshaphat led the people in prayer. "Dear God," prayed the king. "You are a great God and the ruler of heaven and of earth. You have delivered us in the past,

and we have built this temple so that we can pray to you when we are in trouble. We are in great trouble now. We don't have the power to face such a huge army, but our eyes are on You. Please hear our prayers and save us."

Everyone prayed with the king and asked God to help them. How wonderful it must have been to see so many people united in prayer in God's temple! This powerful prayer reached God.

After the prayer, someone spoke up. He was a Levite named Jahaziel. The Spirit of God filled him and he had an encouraging message for the king and the people.

Jahaziel announced, "Listen to me. God says not to be afraid. The battle is not yours but God's. Go out tomorrow to meet the army. You will not have to fight them. God will be with you and He will take care of everything. Stand firm and see how God will deliver you from your enemies."

The people knew that God had heard and answered their prayers. Whatever God prepared would be the best solution, so they accepted God's instructions. After Jahaziel finished his message, everyone bowed down to worship, praise, and thank God.

The Enemies Battle

Early the next morning, King Jehoshaphat organized the people before going out to meet their enemies. The king chose some people to march in front of the army singing and praising God.

Before they set out, King Jehoshaphat reminded them of God's protection. "Believe in God and believe in His prophets," the king said. "If you do, He will establish us and we will prosper."

Everyone was encouraged by the king's words and knew that they could trust God. As the army marched towards the battle, the people began to sing and honor God, saying, "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever." Even though they didn't know what to expect, they knew God would guide them, so they marched on courageously.

While King Jehoshaphat's army was heading towards the battle site, the enemies were also getting ready to fight. However, God set ambushes against all these armies, which caused them all to fall. First, the armies of Moab and Ammon started fighting against the army of Mount Seir. Second, when the Moabites and Ammonites had completely killed and destroyed the army of Mount Seir, they started fighting each other.

Everyone Praises God

In the meantime, the army of Judah marched on. Eventually, they reached a place that looked over the wilderness where they would battle their enemies. Everyone could hardly believe their eyes. Their enemies were all dead. Not one of them had escaped. Judah had won the battle even before it started. Aside from this victory, God had one more surprise in store for the people of Judah. Among the dead bodies lay valuables and treasures. There was so much, it took the people three days to gather all the treasures that God had given them.

When they had gathered all these treasures, the people of Judah remembered how God had fulfilled His promise

to them. He had defeated their enemies before the army of Judah even stepped into battle. They praised and worshipped the Lord in the Valley of Berachah. Boys and girls, if any of you have ever experienced God's protection and blessing, you can imagine how happy the people of Judah must have felt.

King Jehoshaphat and all the people returned joyfully to Jerusalem, singing all the way back to the temple of God. When other kingdoms heard about this amazing deliverance by God's hand, they feared God and didn't dare to invade Judah. Because God listened to their prayer and saved them, King Jehoshaphat and his people were able to live in peace for a long time.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING**Fill In the Blanks and True or False**

1. King Jehoshaphat was the king of _____ (Judah).
2. When King Jehoshaphat learned about the attack, he told the people to join him in _____ (prayer).
3. As the army marched to the battlefield, the people sang _____ (praises) to God.
4. When the army of Judah reached a place that overlooked the wilderness, they found that their enemies had gone home. False; they found that all their enemies were dead.
5. Why did God answer the prayers of King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah? They prayed in unity, remembered what God had done for them in the past, and trusted that He would listen to their humble and sincere prayers.
6. The army didn't have to fight because God protected them. True.
7. Name three good things that King Jehoshaphat's did as king of Judah. He obeyed God's commandments, taught others about God, and destroyed idols.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

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

"Do not be afraid nor dismayed for the battle is not yours, but God's." (2 Chronicles 20:15)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Jehoshaphat
2. fast
3. Jahaziel
4. Berachah
5. A
6. Do not be afraid. The battle is not yours, but God's.
7. They sang and praised God.
8. He made it so that they fought and killed one another.
9. He answered their prayer. He protected them from their enemies. He won the battle for them. He gave them their enemies' treasures. He made them joyful. He gave them peace in the land.
10. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Spiritual Teaching (1)

King Jehoshaphat was a dedicated follower of God. He reminded the people to turn to God, to pray to Him, and to completely trust in God.

Mark 11:24 tells us that “whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

When we believe that we receive the things we ask for in prayer, it means our faith is pure. By having such a pure faith, we can often experience God's abundant blessings and receive the things we pray for, if they are in accordance with God's will. Jesus said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you” (Mt 17:20).

Do you know what the opposite of faith is? It is doubt! Doubt is the greatest barrier in prayer. It can be likened to turbulent waves that are tossed about by the wind. When we have doubt, our mind is not like a calm sea, but rather a tumultuous storm. We cannot concentrate, because doubt interferes with our determination in prayer. Therefore, we must remember to have a pure faith without doubt.

If we have faith, we have the passport into the kingdom of God. It is a stairway which led to heaven in Jacob's dream—with one end on earth and the other end stretching upward to heaven. Through this stairway of faith, not only can our supplications reach God, but God's grace can also shower down on us abundantly.

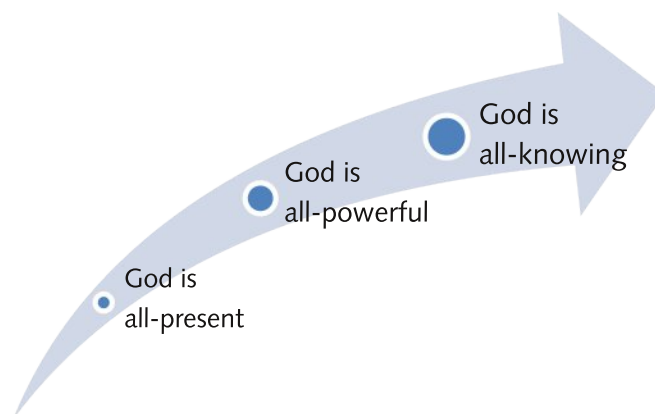
Do you remember when you were younger? You probably rejoiced when your parents promised to give you gifts, right? Although we never knew where the presents were or when they would be given, in simple faith, we trusted that our parents would keep their promise! This is the same kind of simple faith that we should have in God.

What does trusting in God mean?

It means having a simple faith, believing in God's word and His power, and completely trusting in Him.



Why do we need to pray to God to help us overcome the impossible?



Spiritual Teaching (2)

The Lord's Army

We were all chosen by God, called out from among the people of the world, and baptized into Christ. We are soldiers of the Lord! The Lord's army cannot be compared with the ranks of worldly armies. Rather, God's army is separate from the world!

A soldier's duty is to protect the nation, so a soldier should be brave and strong! Christian soldiers must be loyal to Jesus in order to gain victory for God's glory. They should also rely on God in every battle. Our enemy, the devil, is ferocious; we must not take this spiritual war lightly. We must fight it with the sword of the Spirit.

Life Application

Put on the whole armor of God! The Bible tells us that we must put on the whole armor of God. The sword of the Spirit is the weapon that we wield! When we wield the sword of the Spirit, what do we use to fight? We fight with the word of God!

1. What is the word of God?

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)
God's word—the Holy Bible—is the ultimate tool in learning how to live wisely!

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)
God's word is truth, plain and simple. We can have perfect confidence in the fact that His word is accurate. When followed, God's word guides us without fail in the paths that we need to walk.

We can be destroyed because of our lack of knowledge about God (Hos 4:6), but we will be blessed if we hear and keep the word of God (Lk 11:28). The knowledge is not just for us. We have to be ready to answer when other people ask us questions about our faith (1 Pet 3:15).

2. Why a sword?

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

The all-powerful sword of the living God is able to cut through every defense our enemy can raise—down to the very division of bone and marrow. As soldiers in God's army, it is our responsibility and duty to use His word to discern the truth and then follow it. When God's word shows us something wrong in ourselves, we can use this spiritual weapon to remove the offending thoughts and actions (2 Cor 10:4-5).

Notice that Jesus Christ used the Bible to counter Satan's attacks (Mt 4:4, 7, 10). We must also learn to live "by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Mt 4:4).

[Teachers: Hand out the worksheet on the next page and ask students to complete it. Go over it with the students after they have finished it.]

Life Application Worksheet Answer Key

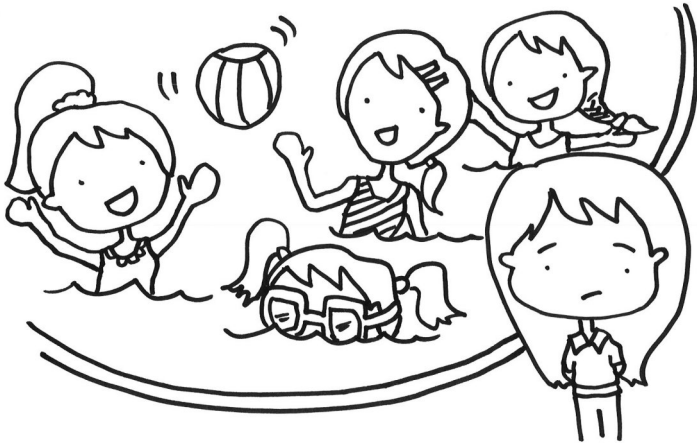
1. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Ex 20:8)
2. "But, speaking the truth in love." (Eph 4:15)
3. "Be self-controlled." (1 Pet 1:13 NIV)
4. "Obey your parents in all things." (Col 3:20)
5. "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess 5:17)
6. "In your anger, do not sin." (Eph 4:26 NIV)

Fighting with the Sword of the Spirit

Instructions: Look at the following scenarios and help the children fight with the word of God by choosing the right Bible verses for them.

Bible Verses

- "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thess 5:17)
- "In your anger, do not sin." (Eph 4:26 NIV)
- "But, speaking the truth in love." (Eph 4:15)
- "Obey your parents in all things." (Col 3:20)
- "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." (Ex 20:8)
- "Be self-controlled." (1 Pet 1:13 NIV)



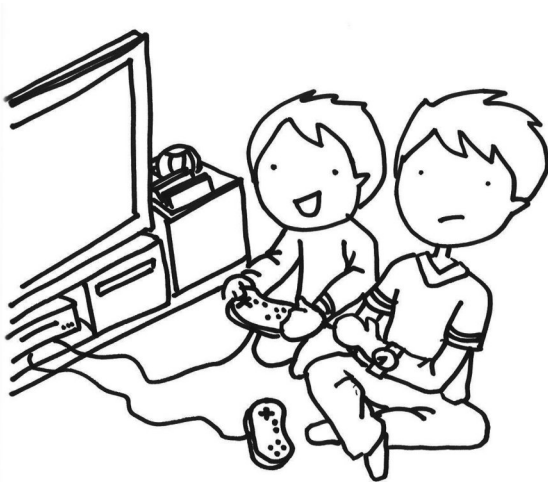
1. Betty's best friend Susan is having a special end-of-the-school-year pool party at her house on Saturday afternoon. Betty is thinking about asking her mother if she can attend only half of Sabbath day, miss the afternoon RE class and go to the party at lunchtime. But she knows this is not right.

Which verse does Betty need?

2. Julie's mother baked some chocolate chip cookies on a Sunday morning, and she specifically asked Julie and her older brother not to eat any of them until after lunch. When Julie's brother finished practicing his piano around 11 AM, he was so hungry that he went in the kitchen and took two pieces. When he was eating, Julie came in the kitchen and saw what her brother was doing. Julie's brother became so worried and told her not to tell their mother anything. He was afraid that he would get into trouble.

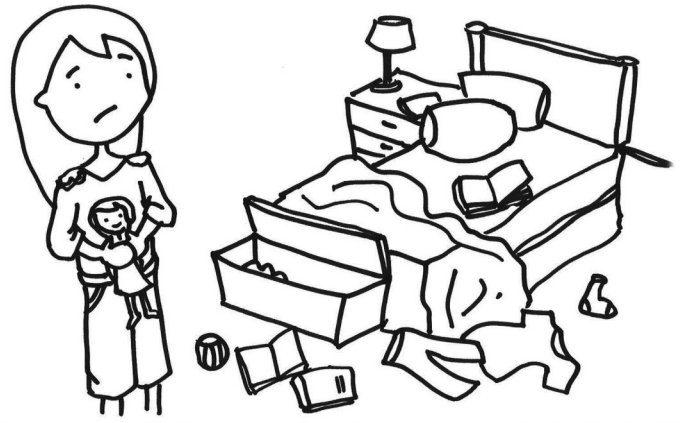


Which verse did Julie need?



3. John wanted to play video games for another hour at his friend's house. But, his mother told him that one hour was enough and that he needed to come home.

Which verse did John need?



4. June is lazy sometimes and her mother has been telling her to clean up her room. Today, when June came back from school, her mother told her that there was no school tomorrow due to a teacher's conference and that June needed to clean her room. However, June just wanted to play.

Which verse did June need?



5. It was time for RE prayer, but Mark didn't really want to go to the chapel and pray with all the students and teachers. He was trying to delay going into the chapel by hiding in the bathroom.

Which verse did Mark need?



6. It was tennis practice time again on Sunday and Ethan was very excited when he woke up. However, just one hour before they were going to leave for practice, his coach called and cancelled the class due to an impending storm. Ethan was very upset and stormed back to his room.

Which verse did Ethan need?

ACTIVITY

1

Guess Who? Guess What?

Objective: To review the story of King Jehoshaphat.

Materials

- Construction paper in two colors
- Marker
- Watch or timer
- Bell

Preparations

1. Cut the construction paper into the size of index cards. Make 10 cards per color (more if you have a larger class size).
2. On one set, write "Who?" On the other set, write "What?"
3. Fill out the back of the cards based on the list below, or come up with your own key words related to the Bible story.

Who?

King Jehoshaphat
 God
 Ammonites
 Moabites
 Messengers
 Army
 Jahaziel

What?

Praying
 Fighting
 Fasting
 Marching
 Singing
 Temple
 Battle

Instructions

1. Place the cards on the table with the "Who?" and "What?" sides facing up.
2. Divide the class into two groups.
3. Call one student from each group to come up to the front.
4. The two students play rock, paper, scissors. The winner selects a card from one of the stacks.
5. Once the student reads the card, the student has 30 seconds to act out or draw the word. Keep the time on a watch or timer, and ring the bell when the 30 seconds are up.
6. That student's team gets two tries to guess the word. If they guess correctly, they receive a point. If they do not guess correctly, the opposing team has one chance to guess.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until all the cards are used up or all students have competed at least once.

2

Joyful Noisemaker

Objective: To make a musical instrument that can help students remember to sing praises to God at all time.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Single hole punch
- Markers
- Chenille wires
- Scissors
- Jingle bells (six per student)
- Thick paper plates
- Craft knife

Preparations

1. Before class, use a craft knife or scissors to cut an opening at the top of each paper plate to use as a handle.
2. Cut chenille wire into 2-inch (5 cm) strips, six per student.
3. Punch six evenly-spaced holes around the edge of the plate.

Instructions

1. Provide a paper plate for each student.
2. Ask students to cut out various small shapes and sizes from the construction paper.
3. Glue the shapes onto the back of the plate.
4. Thread a short strip of chenille wire into a bell. Then, thread the wire holding the bell through one of the six holes along the edge of the plate. Next, twist the ends of the wire together to secure the bell. Repeat this process for each of the remaining bells.
5. Select one or two hymns to be sung as a group. Students can use their "joyful noisemaker" as they sing.
6. Encourage the students to praise God all the time.

E1 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 1—Good King Jehoshaphat

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God delivered King Jehoshaphat from his enemies.

Lesson Objective: To trust and rely on God in all things.

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

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

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(2 Chronicles 20:15)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Unscramble the Word

Jahaziel Berachah Staf Jehoshaphat

1. _____ King AJHOSEPHAT was a good ruler in the kingdom of Judah.
2. _____ People from every town in Judah gathered to SATF and pray.
3. _____ The Spirit of God came upon ALIHAIZE to encourage everyone.
4. _____ The people of Judah praised God in the Valley of REBCHAHA.

Multiple Choice

5. ____ : What three places did Judah's enemies come from?
 - a. Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir
 - b. Ammon, Moab, and Mount Sinai
 - c. Ammon, Moab, and Mount Serra

Short Answer

6. What instructions did the Spirit of God speak through the Levite?

7. What did the people of Judah do as they marched to battle?

8. How did God win the battle against the enemies of Judah?

9. List at least three ways God helped the king and his people in this story.

Life Application

10. If King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah had not prayed to God and God had not been a part of this story, what could have happened? Write two or three sentences giving this story a different ending.
