

THE KINGS

Date: 6.2.24 | Title: The Divided Kingdom- A Little Bit of Good | Scripture: 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles, 2 Kings 22-23, and 2 Chronicles 34

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PRESCHOOL:

The Bible is a book about God.
God tells people to obey Him.
People can show love for God by obeying Him.

YOUNGER KIDS (K5-2ND GRADE):

The Bible is a book about God.
People can learn about and recognize God's authority.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.

OLDER KIDS (3RD-5TH GRADE):

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory.
God commands people to obey Him.
People can acknowledge and follow God's authority in their lives.



MEMORY VERSE

"And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left." 2 Kings 22:2

THE KINGS



BUSY BIN

As the kids arrive, they will pick up a snack and drink from the table. K5, 1st and 2nd graders will pick up the King Josiah Mini-Book and 3rd-5th graders will pick up “Josiah the King Boy” and “King Josiah Tears Down Idols” to work on as their teachers and friends arrive.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Last week we learned that all of the kings of Israel and most of the kings of Judah were bad. Only a few kings of Judah were good. Today we are going to focus on a few of the good kings and what made them good. Read 2 Kings 22:2, our memory verse, together. This verse tells us that King Josiah was considered a good king because he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. What things does God teach us are right for us to do in His sight?

THE KINGS

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

The books of 1 and 2 Kings tell the grim stories of the history of the Northern and Southern kingdoms. There is continual war and regular fighting between north and south (14:30; 15:6, 16). The narrator records the names of the kings who were reigning in each kingdom, as well as the length of their reign. The kings ruling Judah and Israel are usually corrupt, sinful and self-serving. They severely disobey God, enter a downward spiral both theologically and morally, and abandon any attempt to obey Deuteronomy. Out of 20 kings in the Northern Kingdom not one is a good king. All of them are bad- rotten leaders, spiritual apostates, idolaters, and pagan worshippers. The nation is unraveling and turning to false gods instead of trusting in the Lord. Overall, it is a time of apostasy and chaos that lasts for hundreds of years. During the history of the Northern Kingdom (931-722 B.C.) they have the same number of kings (20) the Southern kingdom has in 125 years longer (931-587 B.C.). The success of kings who rebel against God is not good.

While most kings in the Southern Kingdom of Judah are bad, there are a few who “did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God” (2 Chronicles 14:2 and 1 Kings 22:4)- Asa, the 3rd king of Judah (1 Kings 15:9-24 and 2 Chronicles 14-16) and his son, the 4th king of Judah, Jehoshaphat (1 Kings 22 and 2 Chronicles 17-20).

At the beginning of his reign Asa shows the characteristic of godliness even though he has idolatrous ancestors. He is the grandson of Rehoboam and his grandmother is Maacah (2 Chronicles 15:10), a confirmed idolatress who greatly influences Judah toward idolatry. Asa begins his reign by deposing his wicked and powerful grandmother and by destroying a fearful, impure image that she has set up. He then destroys idols that his father has worshipped (15:12), commanding the nation of Judah to seek the Lord, the God of their fathers (14:4). Asa trusts the Lord (2 Chronicles 14:9-15) and therefore defeats his enemies. In 2 Chronicles 15:1-13 we see how the Lord approves and encourages Asa in his faith and in his work of reformation. At the end of his life Asa’s time is marked by spiritual and physical decline (2 Chronicles 16).

Jehoshaphat is included in Matthew’s genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:8. He reigns for 25 years including 5 with his father. During this time, he takes away the high places and Asherah poles from Judah (2 Chronicles 17:6).

THE KINGS

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

He is one of the first men to sense the importance of religious education for the people and sends out in the 3rd year of his reign princes and priests and Levites to teach the people the Law of the Lord. They go through the cities of Judah in doing this work (2 Chronicles 17:7-9). Because of Jehoshaphat's godliness, "the fear of the Lord" falls on the surrounding nations. The wicked king Ahab shows hospitality to Jehoshaphat and tries to align with him. Jehoshaphat seems to lack in spiritual discernment. He makes the great and almost fatal mistake of associating with King Ahab of the northern kingdom, so much so that his son marries Athaliah, Ahab's daughter, who is as wicked as her mother Jezebel.

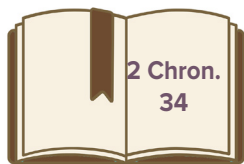
One king who stands out for his commitment to following God's law is King Josiah who reigns for 31 years. When palace officials murder King Amon (2 Kings 21:23), the 8-year-old Josiah is crowned king of Judah. Josiah has the political advantage not only to assert Judah's independence, but also to extend its influence into the northern tribes. His religious leadership ranks him with Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah (his great grandfather) as an outstanding righteous ruler. Gross idolatry-Baal alters, Asherah poles, star and planetary worship, child sacrifices to Molech, astrology, occultism, and the shedding of innocent blood- all permeate the land of Judah during the reign of Josiah's grandfather Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33:13). In the 8th year of his reign, he begins to seek after God and four years later initiates reforms. Images, altars, and all manner of idolatrous practices are destroyed not only in Jerusalem and Judah but farther. At the same time, offerings and contributions are collected throughout the nation for the restoration of the temple in Jerusalem, which has been neglected for a long period.

While renovating the temple, the Book of the Law is recovered. The reformation movement is now restimulated by the reading of this (2 Chron. 34:15) given by Moses. Not only has it been neglected, but copies could have even been purposely destroyed. Stirred by this, Josiah leads his nation in the observance of the Passover in a manner unprecedented in Judah's history.

With the king himself leading the reformation movement, changes in personnel occur. Priests serving by royal appointment of former kings and dedicated to idol worship are removed from office. Josiah makes temple revenues available for their support (2 Kings 23:8-9). In 609 BC Josiah's leadership abruptly ends in battle. National and religious hopes vanish with the funeral of this 39-year-old king so that all Judah has reason to join Jeremiah in lamenting for Josiah (35:25).

THE KINGS

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Tell the story: Use the Background Info for Leaders and The Biggest Story Storybook Bible: The Boy Who Sought the Lord.

Solomon's sin not only affects his life, but the lives of the people in the nation he rules. He has many foreign wives, and before long they are able to turn Solomon away from God. Solomon begins to worship the false gods that his wives worship, and the people in Israel then begin to worship the false gods too.

**TELL
THE
STORY**



When this happens, God is angry. God says to Solomon, "Since you have done this, I will take the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. You will be king the rest of your life, but when your son becomes king, he will lose everything except for one tribe." This is exactly what happens.

Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson

For the next hundreds of years, bad king after bad king reign over Israel and Judah. There are a few "good" kings here and there in Judah, but none of them are perfect. Today we will study 2 Chronicles 34 and read about a king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

One of the best kings in Judah was one of their last. Amazingly, Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign. Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of King David. In the eighth year of his reign, when he was still a boy, he began to seek after God. He paid attention to God, learned about God, and got more serious about serving God. Four years later, Josiah started to reform the worship in Judah. He tore down idols and smashed the altars and statues people were using for their false gods. Josiah was serious about worshipping the right God in the right way.

Re-Tell

The Bible
Story

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...

Several years later something even more amazing happened. While some of Josiah's men were repairing the temple, Hilkiah the priest found an old book- the Book of the Law! This was the inspired word that the Lord had given through Moses. Hilkiah had found their Bible!

THE KINGS

When Josiah heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes as a sign of grief and repentance. When they read their Bible, Josiah and his men realized the nation had been very disobedient. They knew God had a right to be angry with them. Josiah knew what to do. He made a covenant with the Lord to obey His word. Being repentant is more than feeling bad for our sins. True repentance means we change too. The people made the same promise as Josiah, and they began once again to follow God's holy word, keep His days holy, and serve Him in holy ways.

Re-tell the Bible Story: put events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc.

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today's story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true, change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL: King Solomon's sin leads to the division of the kingdom. The same problems of idolatry, foolishness, and pride keep king after king from finally and fully doing what a king ought to do. The kings are all unfaithful and face discipline. The years roll by and the kings get worse, leading the people of God further and further away from the blessing of God. The people need a faithful king who can keep the law of God perfectly. The people of God need a substitute who will solve the problem of sin once and for all. God's people need a better king. Through David's family, God sends His own Son, Jesus, to be the perfect King over God's people forever. Jesus is greater than Saul, David, Solomon or any of the divided kings. Jesus brings His people together and leads them back to God.

THE KINGS

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

THE KINGS

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

THE KINGS

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your 2nd-5th grade kids find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our kids to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture.

1. Who did God want to rule over the people as king?
2. Why did the people insist on having a man rule them as king?
3. How did the reign of Saul go?
4. How did the reign of David go?
5. How did the reign of Solomon go?
6. In what ways did they all fall short? How would having God as king be better?
7. What are some God’s commandments and expectations for his people in Deuteronomy?
8. What two kingdoms does the United Kingdom divide into?
9. How many tribes make up each kingdom?
10. Which kingdom has all bad kings? Which kingdom has a few good ones?
11. Who was one of the worst kings? What makes him the worst?
12. Name some of the good kings. What are some of the things that make them “good”?
13. What do we notice about all the “good” kings? Are they perfect? Can anyone be?
14. Is there still hope for God’s people? How do we know? (Think about God’s promise to David and the king that will eventually come from his family!)

THE KINGS

PRAYER PROMPTS

God thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus, as our perfect King! Help us to turn from our own sin and desire to rule and follow You alone!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the kids in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible by singing through the Books of the Bible song on our Books of the Bible Spotify playlist. Use the printed copies of the books of the Bible in your classroom to follow along. 3rd-5th graders, practice putting the books of the Bible in order using the popsicle sticks. Have several groups of kids compete against each other or work together to see how fast your class can order them.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will have no mission focus for the remainder of the school year. As we pray through what our next focus will be, please continue to give generously.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the kids in your group. Use the Memory Verse Idea Handout for some fun ways to work on the verse together.

THE KINGS



Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

THE KINGS



Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?