



VOLUME 5 SUGGESTED THEMES

Unit 13: A Troubled Kingdom

How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

Theme Idea: Photography Studio: God's people chose evil kings that led them away from the worship of the one true God. To illustrate the waywardness of the people, use the theme of a photography studio to discuss how "out of focus" Israel had become. Decorate for this theme using various photography backdrops and props. Use vintage and modern cameras, and display framed photographs around the teaching area.

- Session 1: Two photographers have been on a photo shoot on a boat. They discuss the difficulty of getting a good shot because of the waves. Tie this to how Solomon's sin was out of control.
- Session 2: The photographers struggled to capture images during a nighttime fireworks shoot. Similarly, the people of Israel were spiritually lost in the darkness of their sin, unable to see clearly or follow the Lord.
- Session 3: The photographers are confident they'll capture great shots on a clear, sunny day. Just as the sunlight reveals everything, God clearly showed His power on Mount Carmel, proving He alone is the true God.
- Session 4: The photographers are working on a project of shooting everyday moments that are meaningful to them, such as their morning cup of hot chocolate, a good book, and a mailbox full of letters. They discuss how small moments and choices we make can make a big difference in the direction our lives go. Connect that to the idea that Ahab made a lot of bad choices that led him away from God and ultimately to a life of misery.



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Unit 14: The Northern Kingdom

Why do Christians continue to sin? Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

Theme Idea: Movie Set: The people continued in their rebellion, but God showed His love for them by sending prophets to turn them from their sin. Use the theme of a movie set to tie into the idea that God is our divine director and scriptwriter. Decorate for this theme by rolling out a red carpet. Hang large, clapperboards with the Bible story titles. Set up a director's chair, megaphone, and spotlight.

- Session 1: The director and assistant director welcome kids to the movie set, where they'll learn about Elisha, one of God's greatest prophets. Just as a director guides every scene, God directed Elisha's life, empowering him to do amazing things through obedience and trust.
- Session 2: The director and assistant director remind kids that not every movie scene is perfect on the first try—sometimes it takes multiple takes. Just like Jonah didn't follow God's direction right away, God didn't give up on him and gave him another chance.
- Session 3: The directors explain how a good movie needs a strong script to guide the actors. Just like a script writer plans every scene, God has a perfect plan for His world—yet we often stray from it. Still, God remains faithful, even when we are not, and helps us follow His direction.
- Session 4: One actor on the movie set refused to follow direction, speaking lines from a different film and ignoring the script—so the directors had to remove him. This mirrors how God's people rejected Him by worshiping other gods and refusing to obey, leading to their exile as a consequence of turning from the one true God.



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Unit 15: The Southern Kingdom

What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

Theme Idea: Bakery: This bakery-themed unit explores the journey of Judah, comparing the people to dough shaped by God's hands. Though they made mistakes, God lovingly refined them through discipline and restoration, ultimately bringing them back from exile as a picture of His promised restoration for all who turn to Him. Decorate with a sign that says **God's Bakery: The Bread of Life**. Hang up menus with quotes from Scripture, such as *God's Word is the Bread of Life* or *Taste and see that the Lord is good*. Use decorations like a gingham-checked tablecloths or pastel-colored bunting to mimic a cozy bakery setting.

- Session 1: Two bakers talk about how kneading dough takes pressure and effort to help it rise. Similarly, Judah's good kings pushed the people to turn from idols and worship God—challenging at the time, but ultimately for their good.
- Session 2: Two bakers realize their dough recipe includes the wrong ingredients, like sand! This reminds us how God's people mixed true worship with idolatry, straying from God's perfect plan.
- Session 3: The bakers wait as their prepared dough rises, knowing it needs time before baking. This mirrors how God promised restoration to Judah after exile—though they were disciplined, He was still at work, preparing them for renewal.
- Session 4: The dough is ready for the oven, just as God's people entered the fiery trial of exile in Babylon. Like heat transforms dough into bread, God used this difficult time to refine and prepare His people for restoration.
- Session 5: The two bakers pull bread out of the oven. Once the bread is baked, it is enjoyed. Connect this to how God restored His people, they were able to return home and rebuild their nation. After years of waiting expectantly for God to rescue them, they were able to enjoy His blessings.