



UNIT 13 | SESSION 1

JEROBOAM DISOBEYED GOD

1 KINGS 12–13

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus brings us back to God.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Love the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 6:5

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people to worship.
- Jeroboam made a wrong choice.
- Jesus brings us back to God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Jeroboam (JER uh BOH uhm) was the king of Israel. He made two golden calves for the people to worship. “Look!” he said. “These golden calves are the gods who saved your families out of Egypt. You can worship them.” What Jeroboam did was wrong. It was God who led His people out of Egypt. One day, Jeroboam was getting ready to give an offering to a false god when a man came to him with a message from God. The man said God was going to judge the leaders who made offerings to false gods. Did Jeroboam listen to the man’s message? No! Because of his sin, Jeroboam’s kingdom would one day be destroyed.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 1 Kings 12. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “Mulberry Bush”:

“Love the Lord God with all your heart
All your heart, all your heart.
Love the Lord God with all your heart
And live with Him forever!”

SAY “We all make wrong choices, but Jesus brings us back to God. With Jesus, we can live with God forever and love Him with all our hearts.”

2 FIND A HIDDEN CROSS

Fill a box or small plastic tub with large pom-poms or cotton balls, a toy cow or calf, and a small cross. Find and hold up the cross for the babies to see, and then place it back in the box. Assist the babies in finding the cross again. Clap your hands when they find the cross. Make sure no child puts any item in his mouth. Replay, cleaning toys after each play.

SAY “King Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people to worship instead of God. Jeroboam made a wrong choice. When we make wrong choices, we can ask God to forgive us. Jesus brings us back to God.”

3 TOUCH AND FEEL

Read an animal touch-and-feel board book. Allow babies to touch the pages. Lay out different texture items (such as soft fur, scratchy paper, rough sandpaper, squishy balls, etc.) for babies to explore. Talk about the animals by describing their fur or skin and imitate their sound or call. As the baby chooses different items, mention how we can choose to listen to the Lord.

SAY “When we heard certain sounds, we knew the animal. Did you know that God hears our voice and He knows our name? Jesus brings us back to God so we can love God with all our hearts.”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 12. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 PLAY "I SPY"

Play "I Spy" using descriptions of classroom objects. Say, "God created me. God created you. God created something I see that is ____ (insert a description of the item)." Descriptions include color, size, position in the room, and so forth. The chant does not have to rhyme. Play as interest allows. Retell the Bible story.

SAY "King Jeroboam made two golden calves for the people to worship. When the people saw the calves, they were led away from worshiping God to worshiping the golden calves. God created everything, including you and me. We are to worship Him alone."

3 BOWL WITH BLOCKS

Set up two piles of foam or cardboard blocks. Make sure the piles are different in some way (one pile has more or less blocks, taller or smaller blocks, and so on). Invite the children to choose a pile and build towers with the blocks. Then, instruct the toddlers to knock down the blocks you identify. For safety, knock down towers away from the toddlers. Retell the story.

SAY "King Jeroboam made a choice not to listen to God. Jeroboam made a wrong choice. He led God's people to listen to him and not to God. We can do what is right and listen to and obey God."

4 PICK UP STICKS

Lay out a pile of sticks or thick wooden dowels in front of the toddlers. Invite the toddlers to take turns slowly and carefully picking up sticks without moving the other sticks. Congratulate the toddlers on their choices and techniques. Review the Bible story.

SAY "We all make choices. King Jeroboam made a wrong choice. We can choose to listen to and obey God. Jesus brings us back to God."

5 LISTEN TO THE MESSAGE

Invite the children to sit in front of you. Reread the Bible story. Whisper phrases from the Bible story. Include phrases not from the Bible story as well. Pause between phrases, allowing toddlers to stand if the phrase is from the Bible story or stay seated if it is not from the Bible story. Assist as necessary. Congratulate toddlers on their listening skills.

SAY "Jeroboam did not listen to God's message. But we can choose to listen to and obey God."

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1 KINGS 12–13

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KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Love the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 6:5

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CHRIST CONNECTION STOMP

Stomp, pat, clap, and point to the Christ connection truth. Say, “Je-sus [stomp, stomp] brings us [pat thighs twice] back to [clap twice] God [point up]!” Repeat, gaining in volume, intensity, and speed with each round.

SAY “In our Bible story, King Jeroboam made a wrong choice. We make wrong choices too. When we make wrong choices, Jesus brings us back to God.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Mulberry Bush”:

“Love the Lord God with all your heart

All your heart, all your heart.

Love the Lord God with all your heart

And live with Him forever!”

3 SEND A MESSAGE

Print Love the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 6:5 on each child’s paper. Distribute prepared papers, crayons, markers, stickers, stamps, and other art supplies for each child to use to decorate. As they decorate, retell the Bible story. After they have completed their “messages,” call on each child to think of a person to send their message to. Print that name on each child’s artwork and encourage him to deliver his message this week.

SAY “God sent a message to help Jeroboam. Sadly, Jeroboam did not listen to God’s message. Jeroboam made a wrong choice. When we make a wrong choice, Jesus brings us back to God.”

4 CHOOSE CAREFULLY



Lay out nature items (bark, pine cones, flowers, seeds, leaves, etc.) for toddlers to examine. Describe an item and encourage the children to choose the object you are describing. Play, congratulating toddlers on right choices. Retell the Bible story. Explain how Jeroboam made a wrong choice.

SAY “After listening to God’s message, Jeroboam did not make a good choice for God’s people, the Israelites. When we make a wrong choice, Jesus brings us back to God.”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.