

Grades 1-3 Lesson Template

Where	Who and What	What you Need
Classroom	Teacher takes attendance Give students a sticker	Paper on table, check off who is here, put onto the clipboard
	See page 19 for both God vs Idols conversation and puzzle finding	Whiteboard/Wall Tape Index Cards Puzzle Pieces
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Bryan. He will get you when he is ready.	
Classroom:	Ask questions from page 24: 1. How did the kings of Israel lead the people away from God? 2. What do we do when we recognize an idol in our lives? 3. What might you be tempted to turn to above God?	Bible Ask Questions
	Where does it lead? Worksheet	Worksheet
	Option 2: Keep it away: Balloon activity	Balloon Painter's Tape
	Summer Scripture Bingo - Hand out to students to bring home for the summer if a student hasn't gotten it already.	Bingo Worksheet



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| SAY “What should we do if someone asks us to do something wrong? Why?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Where Does It Lead?” activity page.

| SAY “Through today’s story, we will learn that **ISRAEL’S KINGS DID EVIL IN GOD’S SIGHT AND WORSHIPED IDOLS**. These evil kings led the people to disobey God’s command to worship Him alone. We all disobey God when we sin, but God sent Jesus to save us from sin.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GOD OR IDOL?

Before this activity, use index cards to write out some characteristics of God such as living, hears us when we pray, answers prayer, speaks to us, saves people from sin, etc. Then, write some characteristics of idols such as: not alive, does not hear, does not answer prayers, silent, etc. On dry erase board, create two columns and label one God and the other Idol. Gather kids in one large group. Choose an index card from the stack and read it aloud. Invite a volunteer to tape the card under the correct heading on the dry erase board. Continue until all the cards have been placed under the correct headings. Then, review how God is the one true God.

| SAY “In today’s story, we will learn that **ISRAEL’S KINGS DID EVIL IN GOD’S SIGHT AND WORSHIPED IDOLS**. The evil kings led God’s people to disobey His command to worship Him alone. God is the only true God who loves us, hears us, answers us, and saves us from sin.”

☐ OPTION 2: GOLDEN CALF PUZZLE



Print a copy of the “Golden Calf Puzzle” printable. Prior to the session, cut out each piece and hide the pieces around the room. Invite kids to work together to find the pieces. Then challenge kids to place all the pieces together to complete the puzzle.

| SAY “Today, we will learn how King Jeroboam crafted two golden calves and told the people to worship them. But only God is worthy of worship. He has always existed and will exist forever as the God of the universe. When people worship created things instead of the Creator God, that is called idolatry. Idolatry is a sin because **there is one true God who alone deserves worship**.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 13. Remind kids that the Bible was written by many different people over thousands of years. Share how the Holy Spirit inspired each author to write God's words and that we can always trust the Bible.

Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5), where the temple was located, on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 13:8 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY 🗨️ Jeroboam was afraid the people would return to Judah because God's temple was in Jerusalem. Jeroboam didn't care if God was worshiped; he cared whether or not he would remain king of Israel. His heart did not love God or understand that God is worthy of all worship.

When we love things more than God or put things above God, we create idols in our hearts. However, we can repent and turn away from idols and worship the one true God. Jesus changes people's hearts to love God more than anything else. 🗨️

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ How did the kings of Israel lead the people away from God? 🗨️

Remind kids that **ISRAEL'S KINGS DID EVIL IN GOD'S SIGHT AND WORSHIPED IDOLS**. The kings' hearts were not concerned with worshiping God. Rather, they cared most about their power and status as king. We can be tempted to put ourselves first and make an idol out of our desires. Encourage kids to remember that God alone deserves all worship.

SAY 🗨️ What do we do when we recognize an idol in our lives? 🗨️

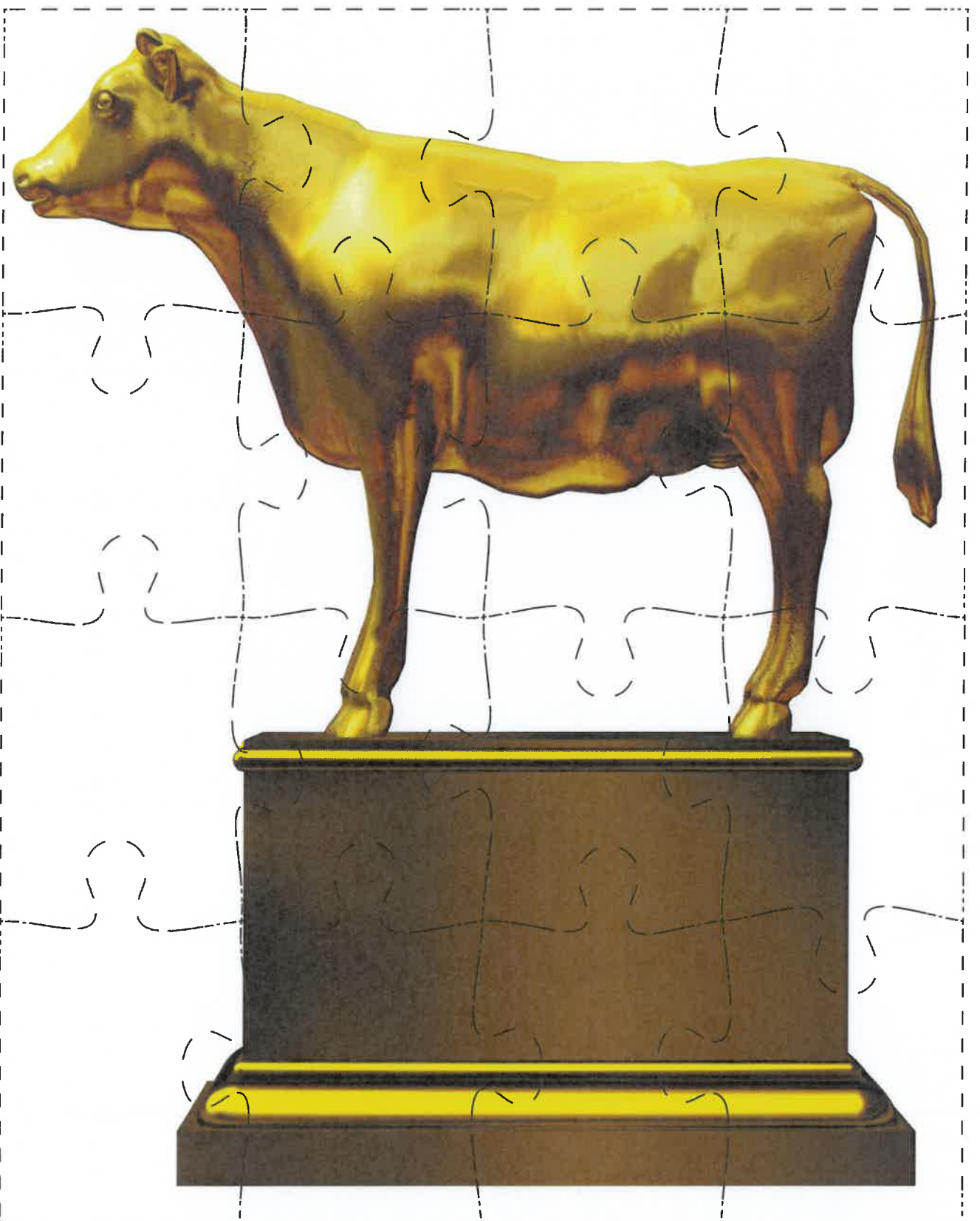
Tell kids that being able to recognize sin is a grace of God because we see our need to repent of the sin. Share how we can pray to God, repent of our sin, and ask God to forgive us. Then we can take steps to remove that idol from our lives or ask God to help us turn away from idols when we are tempted to turn to them. We can also ask a friend or an adult to pray for us and remind us of God's truth in the Bible.

SAY 🗨️ What might you be tempted to turn to above God? 🗨️

Answers will vary. Discuss how we are all tempted to turn to other things for comfort, peace, help, or joy. Tell kids that only God can truly be everything we need. Discuss how everything in this world will fail us because it doesn't last, can't save, and was never meant to bring us everlasting joy. Remind kids to seek God first in everything because He is the only God who saves and gives eternal life through His Son, Jesus.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**







LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE HOPSCOTCH

Before this activity, create a hopscotch board using painter's tape. Write the names of 10 Bible books, in order, on individual pieces of cardstock and tape the cardstock to the hopscotch board. Direct kids to line up and challenge them to take turns hopping down the board. Encourage kids to shout out the names of the books of the Bible they land on. For an added challenge, play using traditional hopscotch rules and a flat stone or bottle top. Allow enough time for each kid to complete the game at least once.

SAY “ The Bible is God’s Word to us. As we study the Bible, we grow in our knowledge of God. The more we know God and His Son, Jesus, the better we become at recognizing sin in our lives. Thankfully, God made the way for our sin to be forgiven: by faith in Jesus. ”

☐ OPTION 2: KEEP IT AWAY



Place a line of painter's tape across the room, dividing the room in half. Form kids into two groups and assign each group one half of the room. Inflate a balloon and direct groups to hit the balloon back and forth to one another. Assign each group five points. Set a 30 seconds timer, but don't tell kids how much time they have. Whichever team has the balloon on their side when the timer goes off will lose a point. Play as time allows, adjusting the timer each time. The team with the most points left wins.



SAY “ In 1 John 5:21, we learn that we are to guard ourselves from idols. This means we want to keep away from idols. Just as you didn't want to be the team with the balloon, we want to be children of God who turn away from worshipping idols. **ISRAEL'S KINGS DID EVIL IN GOD'S SIGHT AND WORSHIPED IDOLS,** but through faith in Jesus, we can receive hearts that love and worship God. ”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

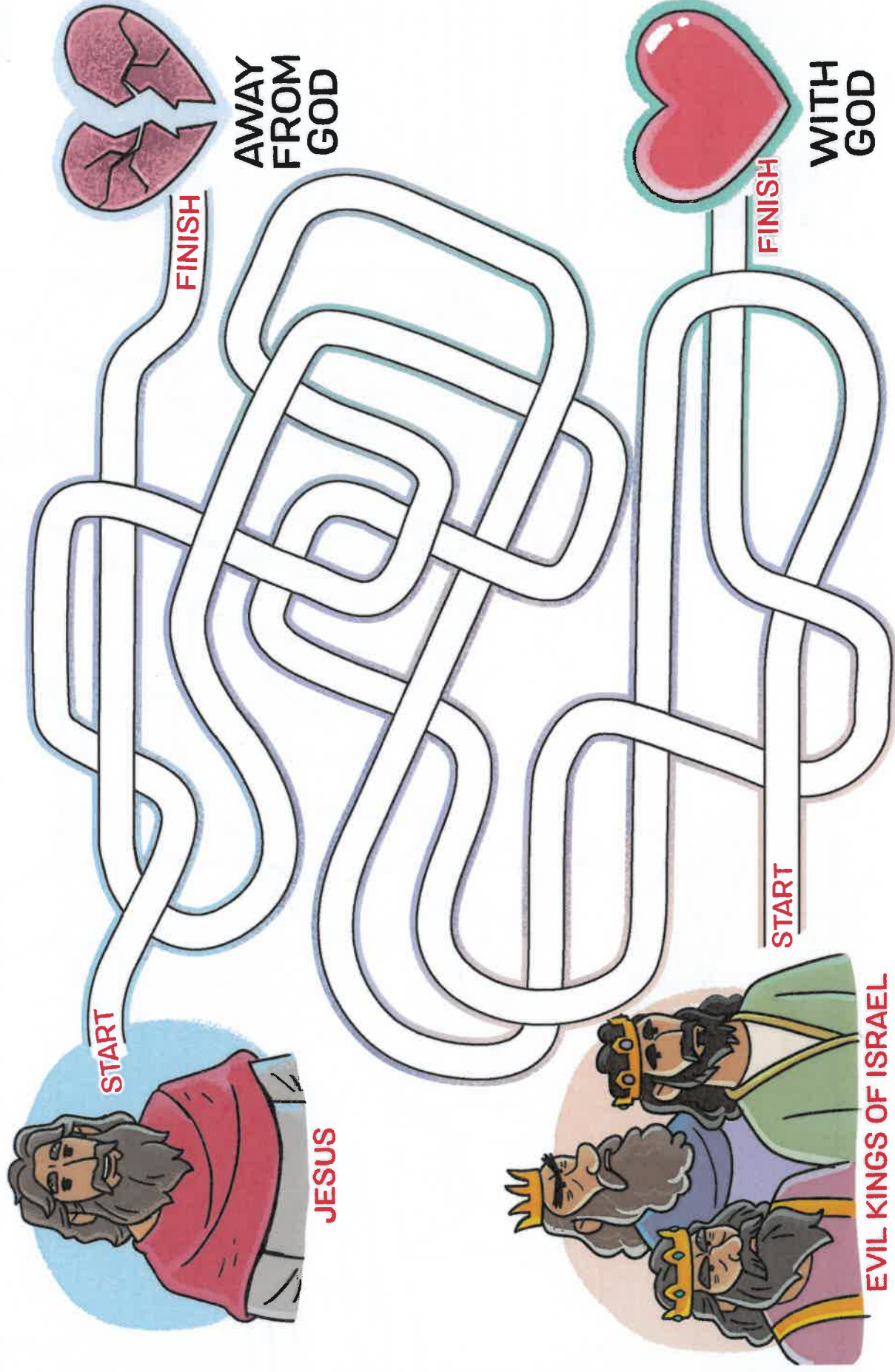
Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.

Where Does It Lead?

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the maze to find where each path leads.



NAME:



Israel's Evil Kings

1 Kings 14-15; 2 Chronicles 13

STORY POINT:

Israel's kings did evil in God's sight and worshiped idols.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The first kings of Israel led the people to disobey God and to worship idols. Israel's kings suffered the consequences of their sin. We all sin when we disobey God and worship other things. Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin and bring us back to God.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Kings 8:60

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

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



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