

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
	Kings of Judah Spinner p. 89	Two pages per student Metal brads scissors
Large Group	Large Group Time: Leader is Amanda. She will get you when she is ready.	
Classroom:	Ask questions from page 94	Bible Ask Questions
	Wall of worship: p. 95: Kids write ways to worship God and hang them up on the poster.	Construction Paper Scissors Tape
	Match Shadows	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** “ If you could make a rule at your home or school, what would it be? Why? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Shadow Match” activity page.

| **SAY** “ In today’s story, we’ll learn about the good kings of Judah who led the people to worship God and follow Him. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: KINGS OF JUDAH

Print the “Kings of Judah Spinner” printable on cardstock for each kid. Provide each kid with a printable. Lead kids to cut out both circles. Give kids a metal brad and lead them to push it through the Xs on the circles. Close the brad, leaving some space so kids can spin the top circle. Review each king’s name, sharing how these were the good kings of Judah. Point out Jesus and share how Jesus is the truly good King who came from the line of Judah. Tell kids that while Judah’s kings were good because they worshiped God, only Jesus is the perfect, sinless King.

| **SAY** “ Today, we will learn about Judah’s good kings: Asa, Joash, Hezekiah, and Josiah. We’ll see how **JUDAH’S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPED GOD.** ”

☐ OPTION 2: WHO WILL YOU FOLLOW?

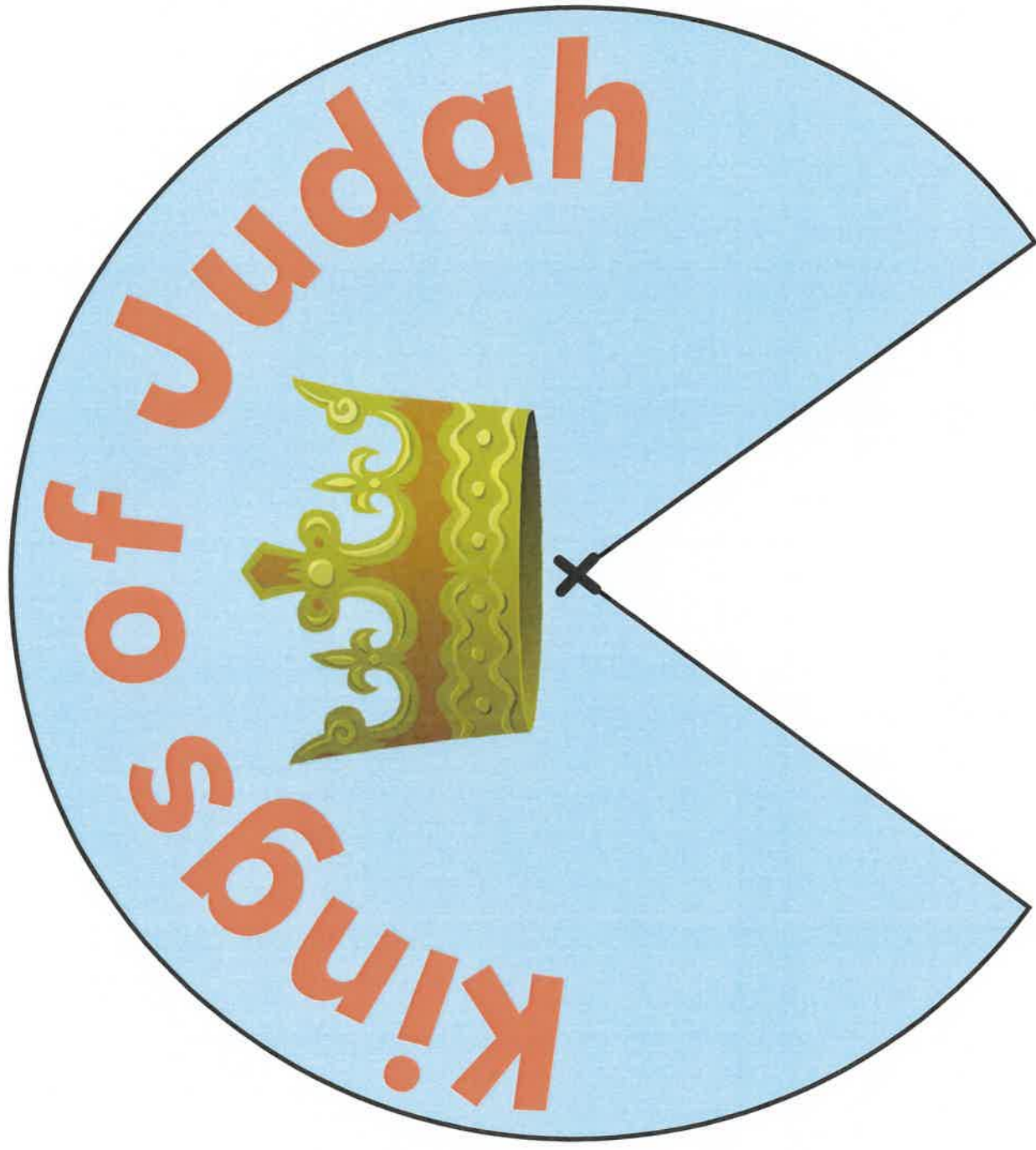


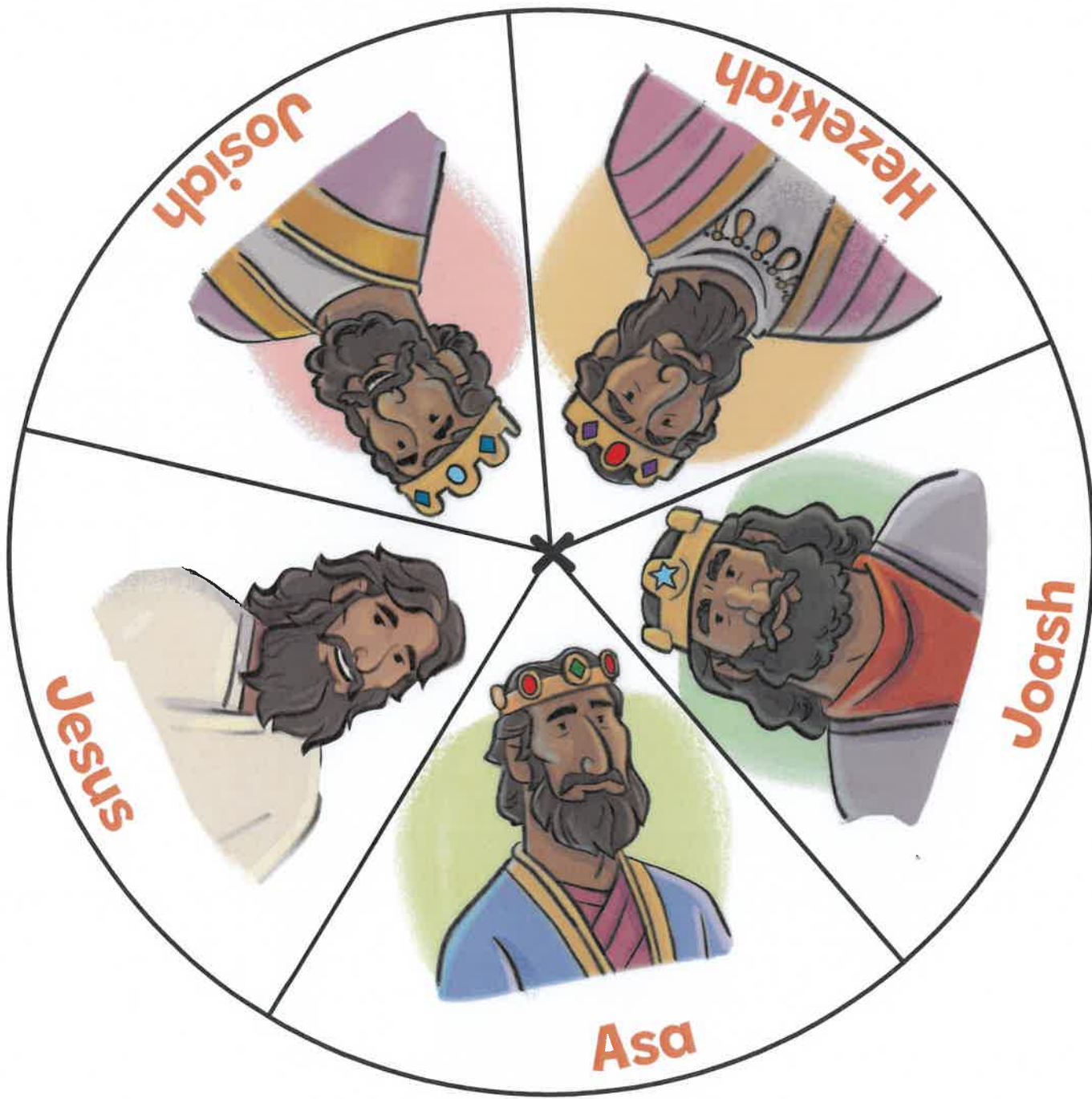
Select two kids, one to be the “good king” and the other to be the “bad king.” Allow kids to see who each kid represents, then instruct them to close their eyes and listen closely. Explain that the “good and bad kings” will take turns giving the kids instructions. Some examples could be “jump on one leg,” “rub your head and pat your tummy,” “take two steps forward,” etc. The kids are to follow the instructions of the “good king,” but not the instructions given by the “bad king.” Tell kids that if they listen and obey the “bad king,” or don’t listen to the “good king,” you will tap their shoulder and they must sit down. Play additional rounds, choosing different kids to be the “good and bad kings.”

| **SAY** “ You needed to listen closely to each voice to tell who was the good and bad king. In the Old Testament, many kings ruled God’s people. Some were good, and some were bad. The good kings told the people to worship God and obey Him. The people were right to listen to them because the good kings led the people to follow God. ”

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







Kings of Judah Spinner
Instructions: Print one copy per kid and use as directed in the leader guide.



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 Kings 18. Explain that the book of 2 Kings is found in the Old Testament. The books of 1 and 2 Kings are in the History division of the Old Testament because they give an account of Israel and Judah's continued sin and the rebellion against a holy God.

Consider pointing out the location of Judah (I4) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Kings 18:3-6 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🗨️ Hezekiah was a good king who tore down the idols in Judah and encouraged the people to worship the one true God. Can you think of anything in your life that you might care about more than God? [Allow responses.] We all have things that we care about like our family, our friends, or even a favorite toy. These things are all good, but God deserves all our worship. Nothing is more important or greater than God. Anything that we care about more than Him is an idol. The good kings of Judah recognized that only God is to be worshiped. Like Hezekiah, we can ask God to help us remove any idols in our lives. 🙏

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY 🗨️ Why did the people of Judah fall back into sin when the good kings died? 🙏

Explain that the people of Judah tried to keep the law, but they could not do it in their own power. Tell the kids that Scripture reminds us how Jesus has done what the law could not; He has freed believers from the power of sin forever (Romans 8:3-4). Share how we cannot perfectly keep the law, but through the Holy Spirit, God gives believers power to obey Him.

SAY 🗨️ When Josiah read God's law, he learned what God commanded His people. How do we know God's commands? 🙏

Tell kids that the Bible is God's Word to us. Discuss how when we read the Bible we learn more about God, His commands, and how He made the way to save sinful people. While the law does not save us, Christians obey God's words to show they love Him and others. Reading the Bible is how we come to understand how God's ways are always right and good.

SAY 🗨️ The good kings of Judah worshiped God. How can we worship God? 🙏

Share how believers worship God with their heart, soul, mind, and strength. Worship of God is seeing God for who He is and loving Him more than anything else. Tell kids that we can show this through our actions, thoughts, and words. When we read our Bibles, we show that we love God and want to spend time with Him. When we care for others, we show we love God because we are doing what He loves.



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





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: STORY POINT CROWNS

Before the session, choose three different colors of paper and cut out five crowns from each color, for a total of 15 crowns. On each color set, write one word of the story point on individual crowns: **JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPED GOD**. Hide the crowns around the room. Form the kids into three teams and assign them a color. Explain to the teams that they must race to find their crowns and put the story point together. The first team to assemble their story point wins. Finish by reviewing the story point together.

SAY “ These crowns remind us of the good kings that led the people to worship God. The good kings point us to Jesus, who alone was sinless. Jesus is the King of kings, who died on the cross to save us from sin. When we trust in Jesus, we are able to worship God with hearts that love and obey Him. ”

☐ OPTION 2: WALL OF WORSHIP



Tape a large piece of brown craft paper to a wall. Provide each kid with a piece of red construction paper. Lead kids to draw hearts on their paper, and inside the hearts, write or draw pictures of ways they can worship God. Invite kids to share how they can worship God at home, at school, at church or any other location. For example, kids may write: I can sing praises at home, or I can help others and show God's love. Then direct kids to cut out their hearts and tape them to the brown craft paper. Invite kids to share what they wrote or drew.

SAY “ King Asa, King Joash, King Hezekiah, and King Josiah led the people to worship God. We are called to worship God too. He is worthy of all worship. Because of Jesus, believers can worship God no matter where they are or what they're doing. Through our thoughts, actions, and words, we can show that we love and value God most of all. ”

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:

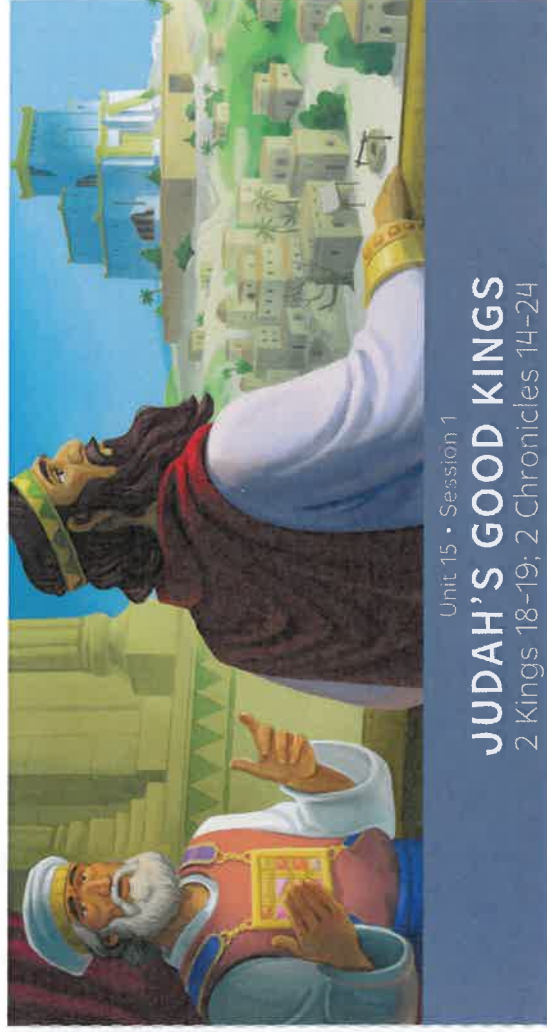
- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

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.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS

2 Kings 18-19; 2 Chronicles 14-24

WHAT IS GOD LIKE? GOD IS HOLY, GOOD, AND LOVING.

King Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of God. He commanded the people to worship God. When an enemy army came, Asa prayed, "LORD, we are counting on you to help us. You can give us victory." The Lord answered his prayer, and Asa was loyal to God his entire life.

Years later, Ahaziah (ay huh ZIGH uh) became king over Judah. When Ahaziah died, his mother, Athaliah (ath uh LIGH uh), made herself queen by force. One of Ahaziah's young sons, Joash, was hidden from Athaliah. The priest Jehoiada (jih HOY uh duh) made a plan to overthrow Queen Athaliah. They captured her and placed a crown on Joash's head, making him king. Joash did what was right in the Lord's sight.

Many years after Joash, Hezekiah became king over Judah. He did what was right in the Lord's sight. One of his first acts as king was to clean out the temple so the people could worship the Lord. Hezekiah invited Judah and Israel to celebrate the feast of the Passover.

After this, the same king of Assyria who had destroyed Israel came to attack Judah. King Hezekiah prayed to God, and God sent an angel to destroy the Assyrian army. Judah was saved!

The last good king of Judah was Josiah. Even though he was only eight years old when he became king, he did what was right in the eyes of God. Josiah and the people promised to keep the commands found in the law.

Christ Connection: Judah's good kings led the people to God and away from sin. Yet when they died, the people returned to their sinful ways. Jesus is our good King who died and rose again, and always leads us to God and away from sin.



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!

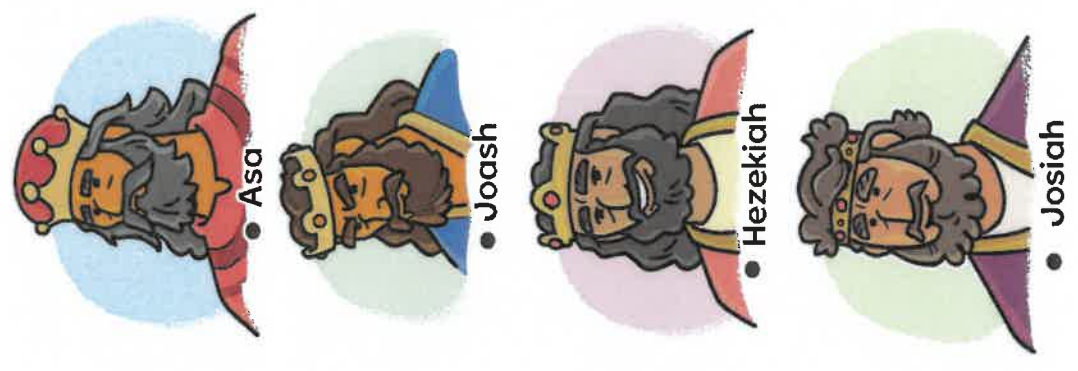


The Southern Kingdom | Use the map and your Bible to answer the questions about the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

1. What are the coordinates for Bethlehem? _____
2. Look up Matthew 2:1. Who was born in Bethlehem? _____
3. What city is located at H5? _____
4. What important structure was located in Jerusalem? _____
5. What sea is located to the right of Judah? _____
6. Where is Beer-sheba located? _____
7. Look up 2 Kings 23:8. What king tore down the high places of idol worship in Beer-sheba? _____

Connect It! Draw a line from each king of Judah to what he did from today's Bible story.

- He smashed down the places of idol worship and read the words of the law to the people.
- He rebuilt the altar that was in front of the Lord's temple.
- He invited the people to celebrate the feast of the Passover.
- He tore down the temple of Baal.



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