

JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS

2 KINGS 18-19; 2 CHRONICLES 14-24



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus is our King forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The LORD is good to everyone. Psalm 145:9

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Lots of bad kings ruled in Israel, but Judah had some good kings who helped them follow God.
- Some kings in Judah loved, worshiped, and trusted in God. God protected His people.
- King Josiah found a special book to help him know how to lead the people to follow God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Lots of bad kings ruled in Israel, but Judah had some good kings who helped the people follow God. King Asa was a good king who loved God and told the people to worship Him. God helped Judah win a battle because Asa prayed and trusted God. The next good king was Joash, who helped the people worship God the right way. After Joash was another good king named Hezekiah. He cleaned the temple so the people could worship God again. When an army came to fight Judah, Hezekiah prayed, and God sent an angel to protect them. The last good king was Josiah. He became king at just eight years old! Josiah found a special book that told the people how to follow God. Josiah led the people to follow God again.



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 2 Kings 18. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A HYMN

Sing to the tune of “Amazing Grace”:

“The LORD is good to everyone.
The LORD is good to all.
The LORD is good to everyone.
The LORD is good to all.”

SAY “Who is the Lord good to? Yes! Our key passage phrase says, “The LORD is good to everyone.” That includes me and you!”

2 UNCOVER THE BIBLE

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Cover a durable Bible storybook with a blanket. As a baby shows interest, ask: “What’s under the blanket?” Help her pull the blanket off the Bible. Every time a baby uncovers the Bible, say, “The Bible is God’s Word!” Reset the blanket and replay as interest allows.

SAY “You found the Bible! What did King Josiah find? That’s right—King Josiah found a special book to help him know how to lead the people to follow God!”

3 IDENTIFY HELPERS

Lay the “Helpers” printable and foam blocks on a crawling mat. Secure the pictures with heavy, clear tape and/or laminate them. Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows near the pictures. Ask the babies, “Who helps us follow God?” Help the babies set the blocks on the pictures. Read the first gospel gem as the babies place blocks on the pictures.

SAY “Who helps us follow God? That’s right! You mom and dad and other leaders help you follow God! Lots of bad kings ruled in Israel, but Judah had some good kings who helped them follow God. Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus is our King forever.”

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.



LEARNING Activities

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

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 18. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 STICK CROWNS ON PAPER

Draw a crown on a sheet of construction paper (one per toddler). Write Judah had some good kings who helped the people follow God. Help a toddler choose a sticker to place on the crown. For each sticker the toddler chooses, remind her of one of the kings in today's story and what that king did.

SAY “ Did Judah have some good kings? Yes, Judah's good kings helped the people follow God. Who is the perfect King? Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus is our King forever. ”

3 FIND THE BIBLE

Hide several Bible storybooks around the classroom. Lead toddlers to find the Bibles. Open your Bible, and review the Bible story as the toddlers continue finding the Bibles. As toddlers discover each Bible, encourage toddlers to look through it. Comment on pictures and words that remind them the Bible is a special book that helps us know how to follow God.

SAY “ What did you find? Yes, you found the Bible! King Josiah found a special book that helped the people know how to follow God. The Bible tells us the Lord is good to everyone. ”

4 COUNT TO EIGHT

Set out eight soft blocks. Guide toddlers to stack the blocks into a tower or lay them side by side. Count each block aloud as it is placed. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster as you read the Bible story, pausing at the word eight for toddlers to count their blocks and say, “Eight!”

SAY “ How many blocks do we have? Yes, we have eight blocks! King Josiah was only 8 years old when he became king. Josiah led the people to follow God again. ”

5 CLEAN THE ROOM

Using a spray bottle filled with water, lightly spritz surfaces in the room. As toddlers approach you, invite them to help you clean. Give them a clean cloth or small sponge to wipe up the water. Use this time to retell the Bible story as the toddlers clean.

SAY “ We are cleaning our room! King Hezekiah cleaned the temple so the people could worship God again. Was King Hezekiah a good king? Yes! When an army came to fight Judah, Hezekiah prayed, and God sent an angel to protect them. Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus is our King forever. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: PLAY FOLLOW-THE-LEADER

Guide the toddlers to follow you as you march around the room. As you arrive at different places in the room, lead them to complete actions, such as putting away the play food and dishes or shouting, “Praise God!” Allow other toddlers to lead, instructing the rest of the group to follow not just the steps, but the way the leader moves.

SAY “Judah had some good kings who helped the people follow God. Was Joash a good king? Yes! King Joash helped the people worship God the right way.”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Merrily, We Roll Along.” On the word “everyone,” extend your arms with palms up and fan your hands to show everyone. Then on the word “kings,” place your hands on your head with fingers fanned up to show a crown. “The LORD is good to everyone, everyone, everyone. / The LORD is good to everyone. / Psalm 145 verse 9. / Judah had some good kings, some good kings, some good kings. / Judah had some good kings, / And the people followed God.”

SAY “What did Judah’s kings help the people do? Yes, they helped the people follow God.”

3 FOLLOW MY LEAD AND PRAY ALOUD

Lead toddlers to follow you in a variety of actions, mostly with their hands/arms, such as clapping, raising arms to sky, touching elbows, touching toes, and so forth. Call out each motion as you model it. End with clasping hands in front, like a praying pose, followed by a very short prayer. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “Did some of Judah’s kings lead the people to pray? Yes, Judah’s kings helped the people pray and follow God. The Bible tells us ‘The LORD is good to everyone.’”

4 DRAW LINES



Set out a shallow tray of sand or flour on a tablecloth. Guide toddlers to draw lines in the tray. Draw the first letter of one of the kings’ names from today’s story (A for Asa, J for Joash, and H for Hezekiah). Use this time to review the story, saying each king’s name and how he helped people follow God. End by drawing the letter J for our forever King—King Jesus!

SAY “What did these good kings do? That’s right, these good kings helped the people follow God. Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus is our King forever.”

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.