

UNIT 15 | SESSION 1

JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS

2 KINGS 18-19; 2 CHRONICLES 14-24



CHRIST CONNECTION: Even good earthly kings sin. Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus will come back to earth to make everything right. He is our King forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

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

STORY POINT: Judah's good kings worshiped God.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Good kings and evil kings—both were seen throughout the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Depending on who was king, the people would either be led to worship the one true God or led the opposite direction toward idolatry and wickedness.

King Asa sought to do what was good in the eyes of the Lord and removed the places of idol worship. He commanded the people of Judah to worship and obey God. But once Asa died, Ahaziah became king and led the people to once again turn to idolatry. When he died, his mother Athalia made herself queen by force. She ruled as queen for six years and did evil in God's sight.

The priest Jehoiada planned to overthrow the evil queen. His men captured her and made one of Athalia's young sons, Joash, king. Following Jehoiada's lead, Joash tore down the temple of Baal and restored worship in the temple to God alone.

After Joash came King Hezekiah. He also sought to do what was right in the sight of the Lord. After cleaning out the temple so the people could worship, Hezekiah invited Judah and Israel to celebrate the feast of the Passover. Afterward, everyone went back to their towns and destroyed their places of worship to false gods.

When the king of Assyria came to attack Judah, King Hezekiah prayed to God, and Judah was saved. God sent an angel to destroy the Assyrian army.

The last good king of Judah was Josiah. King Josiah was only eight years old when he came into power, but he also did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Under his rule, the people renewed their covenant with God and remained faithful to Him.

The good kings of Judah led the people to worship the one true God. The Lord raised up kings who would lead Judah to turn away from idolatry and keep His commands. Judah would serve God under the rule of the good kings but returned to their sinful ways after the good kings died. Yet, despite the people's inconsistent worship of the Lord, God proved faithful to preserve His people. The line of Judah would one day give rise to the King of kings, who would make the way for people to worship God in spirit and truth.

Jesus is our good King who died and rose again to bring salvation. When we follow Jesus, He will always lead us to God and away from sin. Pray that boys and girls will have tender hearts, open to hear and receive the good news of Jesus Christ.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



LEARN

25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



BONUS

60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.

WELCOME



Match the kings and queen

- Big Picture Question Poster
- "Judah's Kings and Queens" printable, 1 per 3 or 4 children
- envelopes, 1 per 3 or 4 children
- large pom-poms



LEARN

Tell the Bible story

- "Judah's Good Kings" video (optional)

Review the Bible story

- Bible Story Picture Poster
- masking tape
- paper plates, 2

Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker
- toy crown



LOVE

Play out ways to worship God

- small basket or container

Pin the jewel on the crown

- poster board
- assorted jewel stickers

Clean the church

- child-sized broom and dustpan
- paper towels
- water in a spray bottle
- baby wipes



LIVE

Find the key passage phrase

- bookmark

Missions activity

- "North African and Middle Eastern Peoples Intro" missions video

Snack and transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Trace Crowns and Candles" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



BONUS

Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

Make a celebration treat

- sugar cookies, 1 per child
- icing
- small paper plates, 1 per child
- plastic spoons, 1 per child
- brightly colored sprinkles

Enjoy a play dough birthday cake

- birthday candles, 1 per child



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

MATCH THE KINGS AND QUEEN

Before the session print “Judah’s Kings and Queens” printable, one for each group of three or four children, on heavyweight paper. Cut the cards and the strip apart and put each set into an envelope. Post the Big Picture Question Poster nearby to discuss while playing. Provide the prepared envelope and large pom-poms to each group. Assist preschoolers in removing their cards from the bag and placing them onto the table within view. As you describe physical attributes from a queen or king card, encourage the groups to cover the match with a pom-pom. Continue play until all kings and queens have been covered. Post the Big Picture Question Poster nearby to discuss while playing.

SAY “ I am so glad you came to church today! We are learning about some of the kings and queens of Judah. **JUDAH’S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPPED GOD.** We can worship God, too! Our big picture question and answer says, **What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.** We know that the Lord is good to everyone. ”

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





LEARN the Bible Story

1 CHOOSE A SIDE



Assign two group leaders to opposite sides of the room. Designate one side as “right choices” and one side as “wrong choices.” Instruct the leader on the “right” side to hold up a thumbs-up and the leader on the “wrong” side to hold up a thumbs-down to help preschoolers differentiate the two sides. Name different scenarios that are right or wrong. Invite preschoolers to move to the side that represents what they think it is. Use some of the following examples or create your own. Right examples include being kind, telling the truth, sharing, helping others, worshiping God. Wrong examples include saying mean things, disobeying parents, telling lies, throwing toys.

SAY You did a great job choosing! Today we will learn about some of Judah’s good kings. These kings did good by making the right choice to worship and follow God. made the right choice to worship and follow God. **”**

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 18–19; 2 Chronicles 14–24. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

JUDAH’S GOOD KINGS

SAY Lots of bad kings ruled in Israel, but the kingdom of Judah had some good kings who helped the people follow God.

One good king was King Asa. He loved God and told the people to worship Him. When a big, scary army came, Asa prayed to God for help. God helped Judah win because Asa trusted Him.

Later, there was a bad queen named Athalia. But a kind priest named Jehoiada made a plan, and the people made her grandson, Joash, the king. Joash was a good king and helped the people worship God the right way.

After some time, another good king named Hezekiah became king. He cleaned the temple so the people could worship God again. Everyone was so happy; they celebrated for two whole weeks! When a big army came to fight them, Hezekiah prayed to God, and God sent an angel to protect them.

The last good king was Josiah. He became king when he was just eight years old! Josiah found a special book that told the people how to follow God. He helped the people promise to follow God again. **”**

Christ Connection: Even good earthly kings sin. Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus will come back to earth to make everything right. He is our King forever.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Before the session, draw a smile on one paper plate and a frown on another. Place the plates on opposite walls of the room using masking tape. Encourage children to move to the smile if something good is happening and to the frown if something bad is happening after each statement. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster to review the story before play. Statements may include the following: The Kingdom of Judah had some good kings who helped the people follow God. (good) A big, scary army came. (bad) King Asa prayed to God for help, and God helped the kingdom of Judah. (good) Athalia was a bad queen! (bad) A kind priest helped Athalia's grandson, Joash, become a good king. (good) King Hezekiah cleaned the temple so people could worship God again. (good) King Josiah was a good king. He was eight years old when he became king, and he found the special book that told the people how to follow God. (good)

SAY **JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPED GOD!** You did a good job moving to show the good things and the bad things in the story! Do you remember the name of the one queen? [Allow responses.] Was she a good queen or a bad queen? [Allow responses.] Do you remember how old Josiah was when he became king? [Allow responses.] In a few years, all of you will be the same age Josiah was when he became king! **”**

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush":

The LORD is good to everyone,
Everyone, everyone.
The LORD is good to everyone,
Psalm 145:9

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 145:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase. Lead children to say the key passage phrase several times while passing a toy crown.

SAY **God gave us a gift when He created our earth. His works are countless. The earth is full of His creatures. We can thank God for His creation.** **”**

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for leaders at church who teach us to follow God.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God because of what we learned

1 PLAY OUT WAYS TO WORSHIP GOD



Write on strips of paper several ways to worship God. Fold each strip in half and place all the strips in a basket or other container. Examples: Sing songs to God, listen to songs about God on the radio, pray to God, go to church, work puzzles with Bible story pictures, look at pictures in a Bible, listen to a Bible story, give an offering, learn a Bible passage, tell someone about God, and so forth. Allow children to select a statement from the basket. Read each statement and encourage children to play out each opportunity to worship God.

SAY “**JUDAH’S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPPED GOD.** There are many ways we worship God each week. Worshiping God shows Him that we love Him. We worship God because He is holy, good, and loving.”

2 PIN THE JEWEL ON THE CROWN

Draw a large crown on poster board. Attach the poster board to a wall in the room. Give each child an adhesive gem. Invite one preschooler at a time to close his eyes as he attempts to place his gem on the crown. Celebrate children after they place their gems. Repeat the activity if desired. (Note: If your preschoolers would like, you can spin them around a few times before they place their gems on the crown. Ask for their permission prior to spinning any preschoolers.)

SAY “**In this game we placed jewels on a crown. Who wears crowns? [Allow responses.] Yes! Kings wear crowns. Judah was ruled by kings. Today we are learning about Judah’s good kings. JUDAH’S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPPED GOD.** These kings helped the people of Judah know what was right. The good kings of Judah led the people to worship God and follow Him.”

3 CLEAN THE CHURCH

Provide cleaning materials such as a child-sized broom and dustpan, paper towels, water in spray bottles, dust cloths, and baby wipes. Encourage the children to help clean up your classroom. Guide them to spray water on the paper towel and wipe off tables and chairs. Remind children of where materials belong and help them to put them away neatly.

SAY “**JUDAH’S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPPED GOD.** Hezekiah was one of the good kings. He cleaned the temple by removing idols so the people could worship God again. I am so glad we can help clean our church and make it a good place to worship God together. When Hezekiah cleaned the temple, the people were so happy, they celebrated for two whole weeks!”

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





LIVE for God out of love

1 FIND THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place a bookmark at Psalm 145:9 in a Bible. Hide the Bible in a designated area. Invite preschoolers to look for the Bible. When a child finds it, gather together and prompt her to open the Bible to the bookmark. Read the key passage (Psalm 145:9) and invite boys and girls to repeat it after you. Place the bookmark back in the Bible and play again as time allows. Consider letting older preschoolers hide the Bible as you play additional rounds.

SAY **JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPPED GOD.** One of Judah's good kings was named Josiah. He became king when he was only eight years old! When Josiah found a book called the book of the Law that told people how to live for God, he knew the people were not following God like they should. Josiah helped the people know how to follow God again. **“”**

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Show the “North African and Middle Eastern Peoples Intro” missions video. (Note: There is no narration for this video. It is meant to show snapshot images of the people and cultures of North Africa and the Middle East.) Ask preschoolers to name some animals they saw in the video. Then ask what some of the people were doing in the video. Tell preschoolers that people living in this area have experienced many sad events in their lives. Missionaries must be creative to think of new ways to tell the people about Jesus. Pray for the people experiencing sad times and for the missionaries who are trying to tell the good news about Jesus. Pray that leaders from the different people groups will learn about Jesus and help their people know more about Jesus.

SAY **Northern Africa and the Middle East are places where some people are very rich, and some people are very poor. There are more than 800 different people groups in the area. Many of the people groups have never heard about Jesus.** **“”**

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY **Even good earthly kings sin. Jesus is our perfect King who never sinned. Jesus will come back to earth to make everything right. He is our King forever.** **“”**

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time



1 NAME HELPERS

Greet the children in group time. Ask the children to name people who help them. Guide them to think of parents, teachers, babysitters, and other adults. Remind them that police officers, firefighters, and other adults are also helpers. Tell the children that in our country, we also have leaders who help make decisions that should take care of the people. Ask the children to listen to the story and remember the names of the good kings and a bad queen.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to 2 Kings 18–19; 2 Chronicles 14–24. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS

- The kingdom of Judah was ruled by some good kings who helped the people follow God.
- King Asa loved God and told the people to worship Him. Asa trusted God to help Judah win battles against other armies.
- King Joash helped the people worship God the right way.
- Hezekiah was a good king too. He cleaned the temple so people could worship God. When they faced a big army, God sent an angel to protect Judah.
- The last good king was Josiah. He was eight years old when he became king, and he helped the people promise to follow God again.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush”:

The LORD is good to everyone,
Everyone, everyone.
The LORD is good to everyone,
Psalm 145:9

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 145:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Lead children to say the key passage phrase while holding their hands in different ways of worship as you say the key passage.

5 PRAY

Pray, asking God for good leaders who love and follow Him.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 CREATE PALACES



Cut several different shapes from construction paper (rectangles, circles, squares, triangles). Give each preschooler a sheet of construction paper and a glue stick. Encourage children to make palaces by gluing the shapes to their papers.

SAY **JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS WORSHIPED GOD.** Kings often live in palaces. What would you like about living in a palace? [Allow responses.] What would you dislike about living in a palace? [Allow responses.]

7 MAKE A CELEBRATION TREAT



Post an Allergy Alert. Give each child a sugar cookie on a small paper plate. Dip a plastic spoon into a container of icing and give each child enough icing to ice their cookie. Then provide brightly colored sprinkles for preschoolers to add to their iced cookies. Remind the children that the people celebrated for two whole weeks when King Hezekiah cleaned the temple. Comment that the people were happy to be able to worship God again.

SAY **The people celebrated because the temple was repaired and cleaned! They were very happy to worship God together again. We can come to church every week. We should be happy and thank God for our church, too. Your pretty cookies can be our celebration treat.**

8 ENJOY A PLAY DOUGH BIRTHDAY CAKE

Give each child a ball of play dough and encourage him to make a pretend birthday cake for Josiah. Emphasize to preschoolers that these are pretend cakes and that they should not try to eat them. Give each child a candle to add to their birthday cakes. Encourage the preschoolers to pretend to blow out their candles.

SAY **Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. He was a good king, and he found a special book that told the people how to follow God. Eight is not very old to be a king, but Josiah helped the people of Judah. Even though you are a child, you can tell other people that God is good to everyone. Let's say our key passage phrase together: 'The LORD is good to everyone. Psalm 145:9'**

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.