

ISRAEL'S EVIL KINGS

1 KINGS 14-15; 2 CHRONICLES 12-13



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus died to take away our sins so we can be with God forever.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Know the LORD is God. There is no other! 1 Kings 8:60

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Jeroboam made two golden calves (baby cows) for the people of Israel to worship.
- God helped the people of Judah win a fight against the people of Israel.
- The kings of Israel led people away from God, but Jesus is the forever King who points us to God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Jerusalem was a special city in Judah where people went to pray to God. King Jeroboam did not want the people of Israel to go to Jerusalem to worship, so he made two golden calves (baby cows) for the people to worship instead. God was not happy with Jeroboam; only God should be worshiped! God told a man named Ahijah (uh HIGH juh) to tell Jeroboam that he would not be king anymore. God helped the people of Judah win a fight against the people of Israel because of a promise He had made to King David. After King Jeroboam died, his son Nadab (NAY dab) became king, and then another man named Baasha (BAY uh shuh) was king after him. They were both bad kings who led the people away from God.



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 Poster 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 “The Farmer in the Dell.” As you sing, add arm gestures. (Point to your forehead when you sing “Know” and point upward when you sing, “LORD is God.” When you sing “There is no other,” shake your pointer finger back and forth making a “no” sign.)

“Know the LORD is God.
Know the LORD is God.
There is no other.
Know the LORD is God.”

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘Know the LORD is God. There is no other!’ God chose Jesus to be our forever King who points us to God. Who is our forever King? Jesus!”

2 WORSHIP WITH INSTRUMENTS

Gather maracas or drums. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders’ laps in a circle. Invite the leaders to play the instruments while listening to worship music on an electronic device. Encourage babies who can grasp to hold the instruments and shake them to make noise. Assist as needed. Say, “We are worshipping God!” as the babies play the instruments.

SAY “King Jeroboam led the people to worship something other than God. Was that a good choice? No. Jesus is our perfect King, and He points us to God. We can worship God.”

3 PLAY AN OPPOSITE GAME

Play a game with the babies where you demonstrate things that are opposite. Sit babies in horseshoe-shaped pillows or in leaders’ laps. Open and close your hands. Say, “Open” when you open your hands, and say, “Closed” when you close them. Stand up and then sit down. Say “Up” when you stand up, and say, “Down” when you sit down. Smile and then frown. Say, “Smile” when you smile, and say, “frown” when you frown.

SAY “The kings of Israel led people away from God. Was that what God wanted? No. God wants the opposite! He wants us to come to Him and to know that He is God! Jesus is the forever King who points us to God.”

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 1 Kings 12. 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 FIND A HIDDEN MESSAGE

Remind toddlers that the Israelites traveled to Jerusalem to pray. Print and display the "Temple Picture" printable in the room. Use masking tape to create a road on the floor that leads to the temple picture. Invite the toddlers to "travel" to the temple to "pray" using toy vehicles. Retell the Bible story.

SAY "The Israelites had to travel to pray. Do we have to travel to pray? No! Jesus is our forever King who points us to God. We can pray anywhere!"

3 WORSHIP TOGETHER

Offer scarves or ribbons and maracas, bells, or any other instrument. Play worship music on an electronic device. Invite toddlers to worship in their own way together. Choose songs that are different tempos to keep the toddlers' attention. Retell the story as the toddlers worship.

SAY "Jerusalem was a special city where people went to pray to God. King Jeroboam did not want the people of Israel to go to Jerusalem to worship, so he made two golden calves (baby cows) for the people to worship instead. Was God happy with Jeroboam? No! Only God should be worshiped."

4 ROLL A BALL

Invite the toddlers to sit in a circle. Offer a playground ball to one of the toddlers. Encourage the toddlers to roll the ball around the circle while repeating the key passage phrase. (Know the LORD is God. There is no other! 1 Kings 8:60) Repeat for different actions, such as roll, bounce, or toss the ball. Monitor closely to ensure the safety of all toddlers.

SAY "Jeroboam, Nadab, and Baasha led the people of Israel away from God. Was that a good thing? No. God sent Jesus to be our forever King who points us to God. Our key passage phrase reminds us to 'Know the LORD is God. There is no other.'"

5 WIPE AWAY "SIN"

Gather a dry erase board, marker, and eraser. Write the word SIN on the board. Invite a toddler to erase the word from the board. Repeat this activity with the rest of the toddlers, giving each an opportunity to erase the word sin. Retell the Bible story as toddlers erase.

SAY "Did the kings of Israel do right things or wrong things? Yes, the kings of Israel did the wrong things and sinned. They led people away from God! What did we wipe away with the eraser? The word sin. Jesus died to take away our sins so we can be with God forever."

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: MAKE A CHOICE

Gather the toddlers in a circle. Review the Bible story with the toddlers. Invite the toddlers to make choices. Ask them to choose to stand up or sit down, run in place or walk in place, yell or whisper, “Jesus.” Congratulate the toddlers on their choices.

SAY “In our Bible story, the kings made bad choices. Did they want the people to worship God only? No. The kings wanted the people to worship a baby cow instead! God sent Jesus to be our forever King who points us to God.”

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.” As you sing, add arm gestures. (Point to your forehead when you sing “Know” and point upward when you sing, “LORD is God.” When you sing “There is no other,” shake your pointer finger back and forth making a “no” sign.) Sing: “Know the LORD is God. / Know the LORD is God. / There is no other. / Know the LORD is God.”

SAY “Our key passage phrase says, ‘Know the LORD is God. There is no other!’ Who did God choose to be our forever King? Yes! God chose Jesus to be our forever King who points us to God.”

3 JUMP FOR JESUS

Invite the toddlers to stand in a circle. Encourage the toddlers to jump each time you say the word, “Jesus.” Review the Christ Connection. Say, “Jesus died to take away our sins so we can be with God forever.” Repeat the activity using different action items. (sit down, turn around, clap your hands, wave your arms)

SAY “Who died to take away our sins so we can be with God forever? Jesus! Jesus died to take away our sins so we can be with God forever.”

4 CREATE A COW

Distribute paper cups. Loop two pink chenille stem pieces out from the inside bottom of the cup and back in to make an “ear.” Tape in place on the inside of the cup. Repeat for the other ear. Instruct toddlers to turn their cups upside down and decorate their “cows.” Provide adhesive googly eyes and dot markers for toddlers to decorate. Use markers to draw a simple oval on each cup as the cow’s “nose.” Write Only God should be worshiped on each cup.

SAY “What did the king give God’s people to worship? Yes—two gold baby cows! God was not happy. Who is the only One we should worship? Yes! Only God should be worshiped.”

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.