



UNIT 13 | SESSION 4

THE REIGN OF AHAB

1 KINGS 20-22; 2 KINGS 1

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Kings 8:60

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

CHRIST CONNECTION: Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever.

STORY POINT: Ahab was an evil king, and God brought judgment on him.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Have you ever heard the expression “you reap what you sow”? Perhaps you feel the burn of those words as you think of times you made a hasty decision or took matters into your own hands, only to later watch things fall apart. In today’s text, Ahab made a series of poor choices which ultimately led to his demise.

First, the Lord gave King Ahab victory over the Arameans—not once, but twice—to remind Ahab that He is the Lord. When Israel won the second battle, they captured Ben-hadad, but Ahab disobeyed God and agreed to a treaty, releasing Ben-hadad.

Second, a man named Naboth owned a vineyard that caught Ahab’s interest. In his greed, Ahab and his wife Jezebel developed a wicked scheme to take Naboth’s vineyard. Their deception turned murderous when hired men lied about Naboth, saying he had cursed God and the king. Naboth was falsely convicted and sentenced to death.

A few years later, Ahab wanted to go to war against the Arameans once again. Ahab’s false prophets supported his decision, but Micaiah, a prophet of the true God, advised against it, since going to war against Aram would fail. Once again, Ahab acted stubbornly and went to war anyway. During the battle, he was struck by an arrow and died.

While God showed Ahab patience and gave him many warnings, Ahab ultimately refused to repent. Like Ahab, we can be greedy and stubborn. In our sin, we rebel against God and act according to our flesh. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23). Jesus lived a perfect life and died in the place of sinners so that we might be forgiven and be made right with God.

Encourage boys and girls to see that because Christ laid down His life for us, we can escape the punishment we deserve because of our sin. Teach kids that when we believe in Jesus and repent of sin, Christ removes our unrighteousness and changes our hearts so that we desire to follow God and His ways.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Before and After" activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ vacuum-sealed jar
- ☐ nail hammered in a piece of wood
- ☐ magnets, 2



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ dice

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "The Reign of Ahab" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 13, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ "Surh Family Photo" printable

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "There Is No Other (1 Kings 8:60)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)
- ☐ ball



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 does it mean to be stubborn or greedy? Do you think these would be good traits for a king to have? Why not?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Before and After” activity page.

SAY “Today, we will learn more about King Ahab. **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: STUBBORN

Form kids in a circle and pass around a vacuum-sealed jar. Invite kids to try to open the jar. Be sure the jar is tight enough that it cannot easily be opened. Then pass around a nail hammered almost completely into a piece of wood. Challenge kids to try to remove the nail. Again, the nail should not be able to be removed. Finally, pass around two magnets and challenge kids to get the repelling sides to join together.

SAY “No matter how hard we tried, we couldn’t get these items to do what we wanted them to do. Using only our strength or bare hands, the jar wouldn’t open, the nail wouldn’t become unstuck, and the repelling magnets couldn’t be joined together. This reminds me of what it means to be stubborn. A stubborn person will do what he or she wants, even when someone tries to give good advice. Today, we will see how King Ahab was stubborn and set in his evil ways. He refused to listen to God and turn away from sin.”

☐ OPTION 2: LISTEN CLOSELY



Form kids into a large circle. Tell kids that they will share their favorite food. Explain that kids will also need to remember the favorite food of everyone who was before them. For example, a kid may say, “My favorite food is pizza.” Then the next kid would say, “[Kid’s name] favorite food is pizza. My favorite food is watermelon.” Once everyone has spoken, challenge the kid who went first to say everyone’s favorite food. Play as time allows, switching up the topics each round.

SAY “You all did a great job listening to each other describe your favorite foods. In our Bible story, we will learn how King Ahab refused to listen to the Lord and obey Him. In fact, when God’s prophets would speak God’s words to Ahab, he would ignore them and go his own way. We’ll see that **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.**”

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





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m glad you’re here. As we gather together, we hear true stories from the Bible so we can know God and His Son, Jesus. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

Last week, we saw how King Ahab and his wife Jezebel led the people to worship false gods. In today’s story, we’ll learn how King Ahab continued to disobey God and act wickedly. **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] Let’s pray: ‘Dear God, You are worthy of our obedience. We can trust You because You always do what is right and good. Help us see that Jesus is the perfect King. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “Let’s say our big picture question together: **How many gods are there?** What is the answer? [Allow responses.] The answer is, **There is one true God who alone deserves worship.** Let’s say the answer again: **There is one true God who alone deserves worship.**

We’ve learned how the kings of Israel led the people to worship idols like the nations around them. But God called His people to be different than the surrounding nations. God told His people to worship Him because He is the one true God. God wanted the people of Israel to show the other nations what He is like and live in ways that would bring Him glory. In our story, we will learn how Ahab and Israel’s enemies faced God’s judgment because they did not worship Him as the one true God. But even when Israel was disobedient, God remained faithful to them and worked in ways to show that He alone is God. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “We’ve seen how Israel had wicked kings—Jeroboam, Nadab, and Baasha—who led the people to worship idols. Later, King Ahab became king over the kingdom of Israel. Ahab was even more wicked, leading the people to turn away from God and follow Baal, a false god. But God was faithful to His people, wanting them to see that He alone is God. So, the Lord sent the prophet Elijah to confront Ahab and the prophets of Baal. Through Elijah’s prayer, God sent fire from heaven, proving He is the one true God. Today, we will see how the wicked ways of Ahab were coming to an end as God would bring judgment on him. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 20:1-34; 21:1-16; 22:1-40; 2 Kings 1:1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Reign of Ahab.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE REIGN OF AHAB

“ King Ahab was at war with King Ben-hadad of Aram, a nation to the northeast of Israel. **A prophet of the Lord came to Ahab and said, “This is what the LORD says, ‘Do you see Ben-hadad’s huge army? Watch this: I am handing it over to you today so that you may know I am the LORD.’”** Ahab led the men to battle. Israel won, but Ben-hadad escaped.

Ben-hadad’s servants told him that Israel had only won because they had fought in the hills. They believed that if they went to war with Israel in the plains, that they would be able to defeat them. **The prophet of God came to Ahab again and said, “Because the Arameans have said that the LORD can’t win unless the battle is in the mountains, I will hand their huge army over to you. You will win, and you will know that I am the LORD.”** The Israelites camped in front of them like two little flocks of goats, while the Arameans filled the landscape. **Israel won the battle, and they captured Ben-hadad.**

Ben-hadad offered to make a deal in exchange for his life. Ahab knew he was supposed to defeat the Arameans, but he disobeyed. **He agreed to receive the land the Arameans took from Israel in exchange for Ben-hadad’s release.**

Sometime later, Ahab decided he wanted a vineyard that belonged to a man named Naboth. Naboth refused to sell this land, and Ahab was mad, because he was greedy and wanted that land. Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, said to him, “Now, exercise your royal power over Israel. For I will give you the vineyard of Naboth.” Then Jezebel hired men to lie about Naboth. They said that Naboth had cursed God and the king, a crime punishable by death. Naboth was killed, and Ahab took his vineyard.

A few years later, Ahab wanted to go to war against the Arameans again because they still had some of Israel’s land. He asked his false prophets, and they all agreed it was a good idea. But **the prophet of the true God, Micaiah, told Ahab the truth. Going to war against Aram would fail, and the king would die. Micaiah said, “I saw all of Israel alone scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the LORD said, ‘They have no one to lead them.’”** King Ahab was stubborn and **decided to go to war anyway. He was struck by an arrow during the battle, and he died, just as the prophet of the Lord said.**

Christ Connection: Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use props: Display a plastic sword when you share how Israel went to battle. Hold up grapes when you share about Naboth’s vineyard.

Remind kids: Remind kids that, unlike King Ahab, Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Share how Jesus takes care of His followers and willingly laid down His life to save people from sin.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

| and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever. ” |

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Even though Ahab was a bad king, God gave him victory in battle against some of his enemies. God allowed King Ahab and Israel to conquer Ben-hadad’s army so that people would know that God is the one true God. Yet, even after this victory, Ahab did not follow God or listen to Him. Instead, we learned how Ahab was stubborn, greedy, and evil. How did we see that Ahab was stubborn? [Allow responses.] Ahab refused to follow God’s commands. He released Ben-hadad when he was not supposed to. We also saw how Ahab refused to listen to the prophet Micaiah, who told him not to go to war with Aram. But again, Ahab did not listen.

How did we see that Ahab was greedy? [Allow responses.] Even though Ahab was king and had so much, he still wanted more. He and his wife, Jezebel, made up lies about Naboth so they could take his vineyard. God told Ahab that he had done what was evil in His sight and that Ahab would be punished for his evil deeds. But Ahab did not take God’s warning seriously.

AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM. Eventually, King Ahab died in the battle against Aram, just as God said. Ahab refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. But Jesus is the perfect King. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ We can be stubborn, greedy, and disobedient because we are all sinners. God sent Jesus to be our good Shepherd and follow Him. When we trust in Jesus, we turn away from our sinful ways. Jesus saves those who trust in Him from the punishment of sin. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 13, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why is death a consequence for sin, even though we were not the ones who sinned in the first place?
2. Why did Jesus take the punishment we deserve for our sin?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display the “Surh Family Photo.” Remind kids that the Surh family started a church in Columbus, Ohio, called Chroma Church. Tell kids that the church desires to reach the nations by ministering to the many different people groups living in the Columbus area. They want their church to be diverse, just like heaven will be with people from all nations.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

SAY “Chroma Church is under the leadership of Pastor Isaac Surh. The church is passionate about diversity and justice. They want to help people who are not treated fairly or who are in need. Chroma Church hopes to share the gospel with many people in Columbus, including the Somali people. More than 500 independent Somali businesses are part of the diverse local culture in the Columbus area, including retail shops, restaurants, and specialized trades.”

Pray that God will use Chroma Church to be a light in the darkness and be able to offer help to people who are experiencing injustice, poverty, and those being treated badly in other ways. Pray for Chroma to be a church for people of many different ethnicities.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Kings 8:60 together.

SAY “King Ahab refused to recognize God as the one true God. Eventually, he faced judgment for his sin. Yet, God sent Jesus—the perfect image of the one true God—to save us from sin and sin’s judgment. When we trust in Jesus, we can rightly worship God as the one true God.”

Form kids in a circle and give a ball to one kid in the circle. Challenge the kid with the ball to say the first word of the key passage, then toss the ball to another kid in the circle. Continue until kids have said the entire key passage, including the reference. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “There Is No Other (1 Kings 8:60).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Thank You that we can be saved and forgiven of sin through faith in Jesus. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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





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 1 Kings 22. Review the divisions of the Old Testament books: Law, History, Poetry, Minor Prophets, and Major Prophets. Remind kids that 1 Kings is in the History division.

Consider pointing out the location of Aram (B9) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 22:17 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “ The prophet Micaiah said that Israel had no one to lead them. Ahab was wicked and did not listen to the Lord. Ahab was stubborn and set against God’s ways. But God’s ways are always what is best. God loves His people and always does what is right.

When Jesus came to earth, He also said people were like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). Jesus saw how people were lost in their sin. Jesus came to rescue people and show them that He is the Good Shepherd who had come to lay down His life to save them from sin. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why should we obey God and His Word? ”

Remind kids that God’s words are always true and right. Tell kids that the Bible is God’s Word to us and leads us away from sin and toward God’s Son, Jesus. Explain how we need the Word of God to help us recognize our sin and repent of it. Share how God’s words will always happen just as He says because God never lies. Through faith in Jesus, we can obey God and live in ways that please Him.

SAY “ Have you ever acted stubborn or greedy? When? ”

Answers will vary. Discuss how we can all act stubborn or greedy because we all sin. Tell kids that when we disobey our parents, do what is wrong, or ignore God’s words, we act stubbornly. When we take more than we need or have been given, or when we have a selfish desire for what others have, we show greed. Tell kids that those who trust in Jesus recognize how much God loves them and has given them. Believers desire to live in ways that show obedience to God and generosity to others.

SAY “ Ahab faced God’s judgment because of his sin. How can we be saved from God’s judgment for our sin? ”

Remind kids that all sin deserves God’s judgment because He is holy. Tell kids that only those who trust in Jesus will be saved from God’s judgment. Share how we can confess our sin, repent of our sin, and follow Jesus. Emphasize how the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of believers to convict them of sin and help them obey God.

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





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BIBLE ROLL

Before this activity, make a list of tasks for kids to complete when each number of the dice is rolled. For example, 1: Name a person in the Bible. 2: Name a book found in the Old Testament. 3: Name a book found in the New Testament. 4: Name a division of the Old Testament. 5: Find [book's name] in the Bible. 6: Name or describe a story found in the Bible. Invite kids to each take a turn rolling the dice and answering the corresponding question. If a kid does not know the answer, help her answer and invite her to roll again. Continue until each kid has had at least one turn. For larger groups, consider forming kids into multiple smaller groups.

SAY “ God’s prophets spoke God’s words to King Ahab, but he didn’t always listen. God has spoken to us through His Son, Jesus, and the Bible. Jesus called people to repent and turn to God. When we read our Bible, we learn that when we repent and trust in Jesus, we will be saved from the punishment for sin. God is good to give us His Word and show us the way to be saved. ”

☐ OPTION 2: WHO IS IT?



Play a review game by reading aloud descriptions or actions of the different people from the Bible story. Form kids into two teams and challenge each team to work together to determine who you are referring to. If the team gets it right, award a point. The team with the most points wins. Consider starting with the examples below. Then create more of your own.

- He refused to sell his vineyard.
- She was the wife of Ahab.
- He told Ahab not to go to war with Aram.
- He made a deal with Ahab in exchange for his release.
- He took Naboth’s vineyard.
- She hired men to lie about Naboth.

SAY “ Today, we learned that **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.** We all deserve to die for our sin, just as Ahab did, but God sent Jesus to pay for our sins. When we trust in Jesus, we will be saved from the punishment we deserve. ”

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.