

## Lesson 91

# **Kings of Israel and Judah**

The kings of Israel and Judah eventually led their nations away from God.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you because . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

Is there more than one true God? No. There is only one true God.  
Who deserves our praise and worship? Only God.  
What word means God cannot sin and hates all sin? Holy.  
God must punish sin because he is what? Just.

## Bible Treasure Hunt

Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read from the Scripture Sheet.

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

K-1st Lesson continues next.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

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### **Review**

Prepare a list of 5-10 names for the good/bad survey.

If you made the Thumb Sticks, have students bring them to use during lesson time.

Before class, prepare a list for your use of 5-10 names your students will recognize, such as celebrities, athletes, movie characters (e.g., superheroes, cartoon characters), Bible characters, or other well-known figures. Be sure to include some good and bad.

To start today, I'll say a name (of a superhero, movie character, etc.), and I want you to show me a thumbs up if you think they're good or a thumbs down if you think they're bad. Ready? Let's begin! Read each name from your list and wait for students to give thumbs up/down. Use the Thumb Sticks if you made them.

We may think someone is good because they are popular, funny, brave, or nice. We may think someone is bad because they are known for being mean, evil, or selfish.

Did you know that God gives a sort of thumbs up or thumbs down for the kings of Israel and Judah? Some of them were good and followed God while others did evil things.

God wanted the kings to be good leaders and set a good example of obeying God's commands. Usually, if the king worshipped and obeyed the Lord, the people would, too. But if the king turned away from the Lord and worshipped false gods, the people would also turn away.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've learned how David's son Solomon was a wise man and built the temple. But when Solomon started worshipping false gods, God said that the kingdom would be torn away from his son Rehoboam and given to someone else.

Use the King's Pronunciation Guide to assist you in pronouncing the names correctly.

The people didn't like Rehoboam because he was mean and wicked. They chose Jeroboam to be their king instead. This is when the kingdom of Israel was torn in two—the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. These two kingdoms lasted for hundreds of years as different kings took the throne, one after another. Point out where the path divides at #24 on the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.

Today we are going to look at some of the kings of Israel and Judah to see what God thought of them.

## **Kings of Israel**

Refer to the Flip Chart. We'll start with the kingdom of Israel. As you listen to the verses about these kings, you will see what they were like and how God judged if they were good or evil.

1 Kings 14:9, 15:26, 16:30

As you read the verses, have the class raise their Thumb Sticks or just use their own thumbs (up or down) for each king as you go.

Listen to the first verse, 1 Kings 14:9. It's about Israel's first king. Have the student bring the Bible up and turn to the sticky note. Show the students where 1 Kings is in the Bible then continue with the lesson using the Scripture Sheet. Read 1 Kings 14:9.

Was Jeroboam a good or evil king? Evil.

King Jeroboam made idols of false gods, which broke the Ten Commandments God wanted his people to obey.

Do you think Jeroboam would pass God's test of a good king? Does he get a thumbs up or a thumbs down? Have students show a thumbs down.

Let's see if Jeroboam's son, Nadab, did any better when he became king. Read 1 Kings 15:26.

Was Nadab good or evil? Evil.

Nadab also led the people to sin. Does he get a thumbs up or down? Thumbs down.

Let's try another one. Maybe a king named Ahab did better. Read 1 Kings 16:30.

Ahab was very evil; he sinned more than all the kings before him! He definitely gets a thumbs down! Have students show thumbs down.

We only looked at a few of the kings who led Israel. There were 19 kings in all, but one after another, they all did evil. The people of Israel also sinned against God just like their kings did.

## **Kings of Judah**

Refer to the Flip Chart. Let's look at the southern kingdom of Judah. These kings were part of King David's family. Let's find out how they did.

1 Kings 22:43; 2 Kings 18:3

King Solomon's son Rehoboam was the first king of Judah. He quit obeying God's law and did evil. Sadly, many of the people in Judah followed his example and disobeyed God, too.

Which thumb should we use for Rehoboam? Thumbs down.

Let's try another king. Listen as I read about Jehoshaphat. Read 1 Kings 22:43.

What did Jehoshaphat do, right or wrong? He did right in the eyes of the Lord.

Hey! A good king. You can give him a thumbs up! Have students show a thumbs up.

There were 20 kings that came one after the other in Judah. Some were good and some were evil. Some of Judah's kings started off well by obeying the Lord but didn't stay faithful to God, like Joash. He became king when he was very young, and he had the help of a priest named Jehoiada. As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash followed the Lord. Let's give him a thumbs up. Thumbs up.

But wait! After the priest died, Joash began worshipping false gods and turned away from the Lord. Oh no! Since Joash turned to idols, we'll have to give him a thumbs down. Have students switch to a thumbs down.

That's so sad! Let's look at Hezekiah and find out how he did. Read 2 Kings 18:3.

King Hezekiah was careful to rule his kingdom well. He trusted the Lord and obeyed his commandments. King Hezekiah stayed so close to the Lord that the Bible tells us there was no other king of Judah like him. God was pleased with Hezekiah and how he faithfully obeyed the Lord for his whole life. Let's give him a great thumbs up! Have students shake their thumbs up and shout "Hooray!"

## A Holy God

Refer to the Flip Chart. In the kingdom of Judah, there were 20 kings. Only six of them cared about God and tried to do what was right. But 14 of them were evil. There were 19 kings in Israel, and none of them cared about God—they all did evil things.

How do you think God felt about all this evil going on? Allow discussion.

Remember, God loved the people of Israel and Judah and chose them to be his people. It must have made God very sad to see them turn away from him and worship false gods.

The Bible tells us that God is holy. That means he cannot sin and hates all sin. God is also just, which means he must punish sin. We'll see later how God finally brought punishment on both of these kingdoms because of their sin. But we'll also see how God showed mercy and love by giving them plenty of time to change their ways before punishment finally came.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## K-1st Lesson

### Review

If you made the Thumb Sticks, have students bring them to use during lesson time.

Before class, prepare a list for your use of 5–10 names your students will recognize, such as celebrities, athletes, movie characters (e.g., superheroes, cartoon characters), historical figures (e.g., presidents, Bible characters), or other well-known figures. Be sure to include some good and bad.

Prepare a list of 5–10 names for the good/bad survey.

To start today, I'll say a name (of a superhero, movie character, etc.), and I want you to show me a thumbs up if you think they're good or a thumbs down if you think they're bad. Ready? Let's begin! Read each name from your list and wait for students to give thumbs up/down. Use the Thumb Sticks if you made them.

We may think someone is good because they are popular, funny, brave, or nice. We may think someone is bad because they are known for being mean, evil, or selfish.

Did you know that God gives a sort of thumbs up or thumbs down for a list of kings in the Bible?

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. The books of 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles tell us about the kings of Israel and Judah. Each king was either good or evil depending on how they obeyed God. The good kings followed the Lord while the evil kings worshipped false gods and idols.

God had given the kings the responsibility to be good leaders and to set a good example of obeying God's commands. Usually, if the king worshipped and

obeyed the Lord, the people would, too. But if he turned away from the Lord and worshipped false gods, the people would also turn away.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've learned how David's son Solomon was a wise man and built the temple. But when Solomon started worshipping false gods, God said that the kingdom would be torn away from his son Rehoboam and given to someone else.

Use the King's Pronunciation Guide to assist you in pronouncing the names correctly.

The people didn't like Rehoboam because he was mean and wicked. They chose Jeroboam to be their king instead. This is when the kingdom of Israel was divided into the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom. These two kingdoms lasted for hundreds of years as different kings took the throne, one after another. Point out where the path divides at #24 on the Exodus to Malachi Timeline.

Today we are going to look at some of the kings of Israel and Judah to see what God thought of them.

## Kings of Israel

Refer to the Flip Chart. We'll start with the kingdom to the north—Israel. As you listen to the verses about these kings, you will see what they were like and how God judged if they were good or evil.

1 Kings 14:9, 15:26, 16:25, 30

As you read the verses, have the class raise their Thumb Sticks or just use their own thumbs (up or down) for each king as you go.

Listen to the first verse, 1 Kings 14:9. It's about Israel's first king. Have the student bring the Bible up and turn to the sticky note. Show the students where 1 Kings is in the Bible then continue with the lesson using the Scripture Sheet. Read 1 Kings 14:9.

Was Jeroboam a good or evil king? Evil.

What things did Jeroboam make that made the Lord angry? Other gods and metal images.

King Jeroboam made idols of false gods out of metal, which broke the Ten Commandments God wanted his people to obey.

Do you think Jeroboam would pass God's test of a good king? Does he get a thumbs up or a thumbs down? Have students show a thumbs down.

Let's see if Jeroboam's son, Nadab, did any better when he became king. Read 1 Kings 15:26.

Was Nadab good or evil? Evil.

Nadab was another evil king who led the people to sin. Does he get a thumbs up or down? Thumbs down.

Let's try another one. This king's name was Omri. Read 1 Kings 16:25.

Did King Omri do good or evil? He did evil.

What else does this verse say about Omri? He did more what? He did more evil than all the kings before him!

This king was worse than all the others before him! You can give Omri a thumbs down. Have students show thumbs down.

So far, all of Israel's kings were evil. Maybe Omri's son Ahab did better. Read 1 Kings 16:30.

Ahab was very evil; he also sinned more than his father or the kings before him. He definitely gets a thumbs down! Have students show thumbs down.

We only looked at a few of the kings who led Israel. There were 19 kings in all, but one after another, they all did evil. None of Israel's kings did what was right. The people of Israel also sinned against God just like their kings did.

## **Kings of Judah**

Refer to the Flip Chart. Let's look at the kingdom of Judah now. These kings were part of King David's family. Let's find out how they did.

1 Kings 15:11, 22:43; 2 Kings 18:3–5, 24:19

King Solomon's son Rehoboam was the first king of Judah. We already know that he was mean to the people. Rehoboam quit obeying God's law and did evil. Sadly, many of the people in Judah followed his example and disobeyed God, too.

Which thumb should we use for Rehoboam? Thumbs down.

Let's try another king. Listen as I read about Asa. Read 1 Kings 15:11.

What did King Asa do? He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.

He did what was right! Finally, we found a good king who followed the ways of the Lord. Now you can use your thumbs up. Have students show a thumbs up.

Remember that the kings of Judah were from King David's family, his descendants. That's why this verse says Asa followed the Lord as his father (or ancestor) David had done. Let's see if there were any other good kings in David's line who ruled Judah.

Read 1 Kings 22:43. Jehoshaphat was King Asa's son. What does this verse say Jehoshaphat did? He did right in the eyes of the Lord.

Another good king. You can give him a thumbs up! Have students show a thumbs up.

There were 20 kings that came one after the other in Judah. Some were good and some were evil. Some of Judah's kings started off well, obeying the Lord, but they didn't stay faithful to God. Joash became king when he was very young, and he had the help of a priest named Jehoiada. As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash followed the Lord. Which thumb should we give him? Thumbs up.

But wait! After the priest died, Joash listened to the wrong people and took their bad advice. He began worshipping false gods and turned away from the Lord.

Oh no! Since Joash turned to idols, which thumb should you hold up now? Have students switch to a thumbs down.

That's so sad! Let's look at Hezekiah and find out how he did. Read 2 Kings 18:3-5.  
Who did Hezekiah trust in? The Lord.

King Hezekiah was careful to rule his kingdom well. He trusted the Lord and obeyed his commandments. King Hezekiah stayed so close to the Lord that the Bible tells us there was no other king of Judah like him. God was pleased with Hezekiah and how he faithfully obeyed the Lord for his whole life. Let's give him a great thumbs up! Have students shake their thumbs up and shout "Hooray!"

Let's read about the last king of Judah, King Zedekiah. Read 2 Kings 24:19.

What did Zedekiah do? Zedekiah did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Yes, he was another evil king. He gets a thumbs down. Have students show a thumbs down.

## A Holy God

Refer to the Flip Chart. In the kingdom of Judah, there were 20 kings. Only six of them cared about God and tried to do what was right. But 14 of them were evil. There were 19 kings in Israel, and none of them cared about God. They all did evil by turning away from God and worshipping idols and false gods.

How do you think God felt about all this evil going on? Allow discussion.

Remember, God loved the people of Israel and Judah very much and chose them to be his people. It must have made him very sad to see them turn away from him and worship false gods.

What do you think God would have to do to all these people who were sinning against him? Allow discussion.

The Bible tells us that God is holy. That means he cannot sin and hates all sin. God is also just, which means he must punish sin. We'll see later how God finally brought punishment on both of these kingdoms because of

their sin. But we'll also see how God showed mercy and love by giving them plenty of time to change their ways before punishment finally came.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

## **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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