

A
PILGRIMAGE
THROUGH
THE
OLD TESTAMENT

** Year 2 of 3 **

Cold Harbor Road Church Of Christ
Mechanicsville, Virginia
Old Testament Curriculum

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Old Testament
Lesson 53: Worn Out Shoes And Old Wineskins
The Day The Sun Stood Still

Text: Joshua 8-10

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| Memory Verses: | Joshua 10:12 | Then spake Joshua to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. |
| | Joshua 10:14 | And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the Lord hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the Lord fought for Israel. |
| | II Corinthians 2:11 | Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the devil is crafty and deceiving. We must always ask God to help us in our decisions. • God keeps His promises to us when we believe and obey Him. |
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Outline:

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|---|-----------|
| I. Second attack on Ai. A. God encourages Joshua. B. Joshua's battle plan. C. Ai conquered. D. Rereading the law of God. | Joshua 8 |
| II. The Gibeonites deceive Israel. A. Worn shoes and old wineskins. B. A treaty is made. C. The Gibeonites made slaves. | Joshua 9 |
| III. The southern campaign. A. Five kings against Gibeon. B. Joshua to the rescue. C. Hailstones. D. The sun stands still. E. Five kings hang. F. Southern Palestine conquered. | Joshua 10 |

Facts:

1. Following Achan's death, the Lord restored His favor on Israel and encouraged Joshua to return to Ai, for victory awaited Israel this time. The spoils (loot) and cattle could be kept by Israel in this battle.
2. Thirty thousand of Joshua's chief warriors were sent by night to take position behind the western side of the city and Bethel for an ambush. Early the next morning, the main army advanced as far as the valley north of Ai, in plain view of its inhabitants.
3. That night, Joshua sent another 5,000 soldiers to join the troops in ambush, to cut off any reinforcements Ai might get from Bethel. This also neutralized Bethel's fighting potential, making it unnecessary to take this city until later. Ready to lead the assault in the morning, Joshua spent the night in the valley.
4. Having seen the Israelite troops across the valley, the King of Ai lead his army to attack Israel in the plain of Arabah, where they had successfully chased Israel before. Joshua and his main army fled as if they had been badly beaten. As the soldiers of Ai and Bethel followed Israel, their city was left defenseless.
5. God now told Joshua to hold up his spear toward Ai. This was a signal to those in waiting to attack the city. The ambush quickly poured into the city setting it ablaze. As the smoke filled the sky, the defenders of Ai realized they were trapped. Joshua's troops turned on their pursuers killing all of Ai and the reinforcements of Bethel (12,000 total).
6. The king of Ai was captured and hanged by Joshua. (Deuteronomy 21:22,23) His body was discarded in front of the city gate at sundown. A pile of stones covered him. The cattle and spoils were taken by Israel.
7. Rather than capitalize on their victory, God protected Israel now as they made a pilgrimage to Shechem, between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim to worship God. Six hundred years before, Abraham had erected his first altar in this same beautiful valley. Shechem guarded the entrance to this valley on the east. Seemingly, Shechem was friendly toward Israel at this time.
8. Their worship began with Joshua building an altar and offering sacrifices. (Exodus 24:4-8) This area marked the center of Canaan. All of God's commands, His blessings, and His curses were re-read before the entire camp of Israel. Joshua wrote upon the stones of the altar God's commands as Israel watched. The priests, as well as elders and judges, stood near the altar with the ark of the covenant as the law was read.
9. Thus, God's law was established in the heart of the promised land to be the law of the land. Israel had renewed its covenant vows with Jehovah once again. (Exodus 24:4-7, II Kings 23:2, Nehemiah 8,9)
10. Upon Israel's return to their "headquarters" in Gilgal, the Amorite city-states that control southern Canaan planned to unite against Israel. The Gibeonites defected with a plan of their own, which collapsed the united effort. Gibeon was a major city six to ten miles northwest of Jerusalem, one and a half miles southwest of Ai. It was an independent republic ruled by elders instead of a king.
11. When the Gibeonites heard what had happened at Jericho and Ai, out of fear, they resorted to trickery to save themselves. Pretending to be travelers from a far distant land, they went to Joshua at Gilgal and asked for peace between their nations. They dressed in worn out clothing and patched shoes. Their saddlebags were weather worn, their wineskins mended, and their bread was dry and moldy.

12. Guilty of not referring every decision to God by consulting the high priest's urim and thummin, (Numbers 27:21) Israel was tricked by the Gibeonites. They tasted their stale provisions.
13. Although the Israelites asked, how might they know they were not from neighboring territory, the Gibeonites continued their charade. They claimed they had heard of Israel's mighty God and the destruction that had befallen other kings and nations. They begged to be Israel's slaves rather than risk being destroyed by Jehovah.
14. Israel's leaders were convinced. They ratified a peace treaty with their visitors. Because the treaty was ratified in the holy name of Jehovah, it was sacred and they dared not break their oath or Israel would suffer God's wrath.
15. Three days later, Israel realized they had been deceived. Besides Gibeon, the cities of Chephizah, Be-eroth, and Kirjath-jearim were involved. They also realized that because of their oath, they could not touch these people, so they made them slaves of the tabernacle, cutting wood and carrying water for generations. (Deuteronomy 29:11)
16. The king of Jerusalem, Aboni-zedek, got word of Ai, Jericho, and now Gibeon. Out of fear of Israel, he assumed leadership in gathering four other allies to punish Gibeon for defecting and tried to prevent Israel from overtaking them. Those in Jerusalem were a mixture of Amorites, Hittites, and Hurrains. The other four kings were: King Hoham of Hebron, King Piram of Jarmuth, King Japhia of Lachish, King Debir of Eglon.
17. As these five Amorite kings attacked Gibeon, the Gibeonites sent messengers to Joshua begging for assistance. Covenant-bound, Israel came to their rescue. They travelled all night to get to Gibeon and surprised the Amorites at daybreak. God assured Joshua these five kings were already defeated and He provided a victory.
18. As Joshua's men began to slaughter the Amorites, they fled southwestward along the valleys toward Azekah. The Lord increased their panic by sending a deadly hailstorm upon them. More were killed by hailstones than by the sword. As they pursued, Joshua prayed to God to let the sun and moon stand still until the battle was won. God answered Joshua's prayer and held the sun and moon about one whole day until their pursuit was over. (Habbakuk 3:11)
19. God did not display His miraculous power recklessly but only in sufficient measure to achieve His goal and only in the sight of those who could be taught to recognize Him. In this case, Joshua (and God) knew his troops were already tired from their all-night march. Relief from the mid-day sun helped them. Besides, any storm between grain harvest through the summer months was considered a judgment from Jehovah. (I Samuel 12:17)
20. The five kings, in fear, escaped the battle and hid in a cave at Makkedah. Joshua found out and had a stone rolled in front of the cave to hold them until later. All of the five armies were wiped out except for just a few who made it back to their fortified cities. Joshua did not lose one soldier in the battle.
21. Joshua retrieved the five kings from the cave. He had his army captains put their feet on the kings' necks. As Joshua assured his men to be courageous for God would be with them, he plunged his sword into each of the five kings. Then he hung them on five trees until sundown. Finally he had his men throw their bodies in the cave where they were hiding and the mouth of the cave was sealed with stones.

22. In the next few days Joshua and his troops destroyed Makkedah and their king, Libnah and their king. They slaughtered Lachish, King Hiram of Gezer and all of his army, Eglon, Hebron, Debir and all the outlying villages. They had now conquered central and southern Canaan, from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza and from Goshen to Gibeon with God's divine assistance.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - loot - play money, pennies, chocolate coins, jewelry, craft jewels, silk, gold/silver "dishes," toy cattle
 - "sandbox city" with toy soldiers, warriors
 - soldier "gear" - helmet, sword, shield, breastplate, boots, spear, canteen
 - spyglass, binoculars
 - small model of the city on fire - red, yellow, orange tissue paper, cellophane, smoke, cotton batting tinted gray
 - noose, rope
 - small pile of gravel, small stones
 - altar - gravel and clay box
 - scroll, 10 commandments visual
 - ark of the covenant model
 - worn or patched clothing, worn sandals, old torn carrying bags or sacks (burlap), patched wineskins, dry or moldy bread (semi-toasted)
 - peace treaty - rolled paper with peace agreement, signatures and seal, wax and ring, sticker or stamp seal
 - slaves - ball and chain, bundle of sticks, pail of water
 - kings - crowns
 - hail - rock salt, golf balls, rock candy, craft beads or crystals
 - sun and moon models - styrofoam shapes
 - cave model - clay, papier maché, cone shape, a box with an opening
 - map - cities of central and southern Canaan.
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Encamped Along The Hills Of Light
- God Needs Helpers
- He's God The Whole World
- He's My Rock My Sword My Shield
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- I'm Not Afraid
- Joshua
- My God Is So Great
- Soldiers Of Christ Arise
- Sound The Battle Cry
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- The Ten Commandments
- This Is The Day That The Lord Hath Made
- Unto Thee O Lord
- Without Faith It's Impossible

Activities:

- *Locate Bible Cities:* Prepare a list of Bible cities from this and previous lessons, according to your class' knowledge. Have children locate the cities on a map and tell if they are in central, southern, or northern Canaan.
- *I Visited ...* Prepare a list of Bible places (cities, mountains, rivers, etc.) associated with this and previous lessons. Give students the name of the place and let them respond with an event that happened there.
- *Chalkboard Fun:* Sketch an event from this or previous lessons on the chalk or white board. Let students identify the event. Allow students to have a turn sketching events as well.
- *Play Act:* Act out today's lesson. Have props available.
- *Age-appropriate handwork*

Discussion Questions:

1. How did Israel's 2nd attack on Ai go? Why?
2. What was Joshua's battle plan?
3. For what purpose does Israel take a break from fighting? Where do they go? Who has been here before? What do they do there?
4. What do the Gibeonites do? Why? What is the result?
5. Why did God allow Israel to be tricked? Should we consult God before making decisions in our lives? Why? How? When?
6. How might the devil be crafty and deceiving us?
7. Have you been deceived before? What might you have done differently?
8. What miracle does God do as Joshua battles the Amorite kings? Why does He do this? Does He perform these type miracles today?
9. How many men did Joshua lose in battle? Why?
10. Is God with you?

Old Testament

Lesson 54: Joshua Conquers Northern Canaan

Text: Joshua 11-15

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| Memory Verses: | Joshua 11:23 | So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war. |
| | Joshua 13:33 | But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He said unto them. |
| | Psalms 20:7 | Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good things happened to Joshua, Caleb, and the Israelites because they trusted God and obeyed His commands exactly as He asked. • good things will happen to us when we trust God and obey His commands exactly as He has asked us. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. The northern conquests.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Northern kings unite.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. God delivers them to Israel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. The northern cities burned.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. The Anakim giants destroyed.</p> | Joshua 11 |
| <p>II. Defeated kings of Canaan.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Two that Moses conquered east of Jordan.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Thirty-one that Joshua conquered west of Jordan.</p> | Joshua 12 |
| <p>III. Dividing the land.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Territory not yet conquered.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Two and a half tribes east of Jordan.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. The Levites.</p> | Joshua 13 |
| <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Territory divided by lots.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E. Caleb gets Hebron.</p> | Joshua 14 |

Facts:

1. Upon hearing what Israel had done to central and southern Canaan, King Jabin of Hazor sent urgent messages to the northern kings asking that they mobilize their armies together to crush this Israelite nation. They all gathered their armies and camped at the springs of Merom.
2. These included the kingdoms of: Hazor, Madon, Shimron, Achshaph, the kingdoms of the northern hill country - upper Galilee, the kingdoms of Arabah - south of Chinneroth (Gennesaret - Mark 6:53). It also included the cities in the valleys between Samaria and Mt. Carmel, in the mountains of Dor (coastal hills) the kingdoms east and west in Canaan, the Amorites, the Hittites, Perizzites, Jebusites and the Hivites of Mt. Hermon and Mizpeh (valley of Lebanon).
3. Their troops covered the land around Merom as far as one could see. Yet in spite of this seemingly invincible foe, God assured Joshua not to be afraid for tomorrow He would deliver all of them to the Israelites. God told Joshua to cut the hamstring muscles on their horses and burn their chariots. As they attacked, Joshua did as God commanded and chased this great army as far as Zidon, eastward into the valley of Mizpeh until there was not one survivor.
4. The chief weapon of the Israelites was a sword. Joshua's army also used scimitars, bows and arrows, slings, spears, lances, and javelins. (Numbers 25:7,8, Joshua 8:18, 24:12, Judges 20:16, I Samuel 18:10, 11)
5. On the way back, Joshua captured and burned the city of Hazor and Jabin, their king. He attacked and destroyed all the other northern kingdoms and surrounding towns but did not burn them. Israel's troops were allowed to take all the loot and cattle for themselves but killed all the inhabitants as well as their kings.
6. The large majority of the promised land had now been conquered from Mt. Halak near Seir (homeland of the Edomites) to Lebanon at the foot of Mt. Hermon. This took about seven years to complete requiring courage and perseverance on the part of Joshua and his troops. Only the Gibeonites were given a peace treaty. Joshua nearly exterminated all descendants of Anak, the giants. Only a few retreated to Gaza, Gath, and Ashdod (the ancestors of Goliath). (II Samuel 21:16-22)
7. Chapter 12 of Joshua gives a list of all the kings in Canaan killed by either Moses or Joshua. Moses defeated those on the east side of Jordan, Sihon, and Og. Their lands were divided between Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh. Those on the west of Jordan, Joshua destroyed. There were thirty-one all together. Their lands were now divided by the rest of the tribes of Israel.
8. Joshua was now 90-100 years old. God gave Joshua a list of some isolated territories yet to be conquered and included in the division of the promised land. They included all the land of the Philistines (Gaza, Ashdod, Eshkalon, Gath, and Ekron), the Geshurites, from the brook of Egypt to Ekron, the land of the Awim Me-arah to Aphek, the land of the Giblites, and from Lebanon to Misrephoth-maim.
9. Joshua had to be content to see the complete conquest unfinished so God might develop the courage of each particular tribe. Some of these cities and villages were not conquered by Israel for centuries. Ephraim never conquered Gezer and the Benjamites never solely occupied Jerusalem.
10. Joshua gave, in geographic detail, the land assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh, Reuben, and Gad. The tribe of Levi was not given land; instead they were given the honor of the priesthood and God's care.
11. In the midst of dividing the rest of the land among the remaining tribes, Caleb approached Joshua. He reminded Joshua of the days when Moses sent them to spy

out the land and he had given a good report as had Joshua. Moses had promised Caleb a section of the land he had spied out. Caleb requested the great walled city of Hebron, where the Anakim giants had lived in the hills. Although Caleb was now eighty-five years old, his intentions were to continue God's fight to drive the descendants of Anak out of Canaan. Thus, Joshua granted this area to Caleb.

12. Caleb's father, Jephunneh, was a non-Israelite. He married a daughter of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. Caleb was their firstborn son and he eventually became chief of their tribe. Caleb was an outstanding example. There was no rivalry between him and Joshua. God kept him strong and courageous to claim his inheritance, Hebron, where Abraham had also lived and died. Later, Caleb willingly yielded his city to the Levites and lived in its suburbs. (Joshua 21:12)
13. While in Hebron (Arba), Caleb drove out descendants of Anak's three sons, Talmi, Sheshai, and Ahiman. Then he fought those left in Debir. Caleb offered his daughter, Achsah, as a wife to anyone who could conquer Kirjath-sepher. Othniel, Caleb's nephew won Achsah.
14. As Achsah leaves Caleb's house, she asked her father to give her an additional wedding present. Caleb had given them land in Negeb, a desert area, but Achsah asked for additional land with springs on it. So Caleb gave his daughter and Othniel additional land above and below the original land with springs. (This story is repeated in Judges 1:10-20)
15. Chapter 15 gives the detailed geographic borders of the land given to the tribe of Judah by sacred lot. Eleazar, Joshua, and the tribal leaders supervised the casting of lot although God determined the outcome. The method of denoting borders was by topographical landmarks from town to mountain to town to river, etc.
16. The cities of Judah included approximately 116 cities total. The principle city was Beersheba.
18. Neither Judah nor Benjamin were able to drive out the Jebusites from their fortified city on Zion. (Judges 1:8, 21, II Samuel 5:6, 7)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - kings - crowns, robes
 - troops - army hat, helmet, camouflage tunic, toy soldiers
 - map of Canaan
 - torch - papier maché with cellophane or colored tissue paper, flashlight inside
 - toy spear, bow and arrow, sling
 - loot and cattle - coins, jewelry, gold & silver dishes, toy animals
 - wedding prop - bouquet, lace dress, present
- Puppets/Dolls - Joshua, Caleb, Achsah, Othniel
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- 12 Sons Of Jacob
- Camping Toward Canaan's Land
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- God Is So Good
- God Is Watching Over You
- God's Love

- Hallelu Hallelu
- He's My Rock My Sword My Shield
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jordan River
- Joshua
- Joshua Was A Great Leader
- My God Is So Great
- Onward Christian Soldiers
- Seek Ye First
- The Very Best Life
- There's A Royal Banner
- We Shall Overcome

Activities:

- *Hot Rocks* - Create stepping stones from laminated colored paper, cardboard, styrofoam, etc. Have students line up against each other. Ask questions about today's lesson. If they answer correctly, they take one step forward . If incorrect, they "burn" their feet and must take a step back.
- *Spin and Learn* - Put questions in a bowl or on a stack of cards. Make a spinner out of a cool whip top and a game board. Students pull questions from the bowl (or stack). If they answer correctly, they move forward the number of spaces on the spinner. If incorrect, they stay where they are.
- Learning Center reinforcements
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How do the northern kingdoms react to Israel?
2. What was God's battle plan for Joshua?
3. How long did it take to conquer all of Canaan?
4. What type weapons did the Israelites use? How did their weapons compare to their opponents?
5. Which cities (kingdoms) did Joshua not completely conquer? Why?
6. How was the promised land divided among the tribes?
7. What did Caleb request of Joshua?
8. What qualities/ characteristics do you notice in Joshua? Caleb?
9. Which of these qualities do you see in yourself?
10. What does Caleb do while in Hebron? Who helps him? What was his "helper's" reward?

Old Testament

Lesson 55: Dividing The Land

Text: Joshua 16-22

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| Memory Verses: | Joshua 21:43,45 | And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which He swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. |
| | | There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass. |
| | Psalms 143:10 | Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God kept <u>all</u> His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses, and Joshua by making Israel a great nation and delivering to them the promised land. God, as well, will keep <u>all</u> His promises to us. • Jehovah God is the same God yesterday, today, and forever. |
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Outline:

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| I. | Land for Ephraim's tribe. | Joshua 16 |
| | A. Borders. | |
| II. | Land for half of Manasseh's tribe. | Joshua 17 |
| | A. Borders. | |
| | B. An extension of land. | |
| III. | Land for Benjamin's tribe. | Joshua 18 |
| | A. The tabernacle set up - Shiloh. | |
| | B. Scouts map out the land. | |
| | C. Benjamin's borders. | |
| IV. | Land for the remaining tribes. | Joshua 19 |
| | A. Simeon's borders. | |
| | B. Zebulun's borders. | |
| | C. Issachar's borders. | |
| | D. Asher's borders. | |
| | E. Naphtali's borders. | |
| | F. Dan's borders. | |
| V. | Cities of refuge. | Joshua 20 |
| VI. | Cities for the Levites. | Joshua 21 |

- VII. The trans-Jordan troops go home. Joshua 22
- A. An altar of remembrance.
 - B. Offenses between brethren.
 - C. Phinehas, the mediator.

Facts:

1. Joseph's double allotment was drawn as one and split between Ephraim and the remaining portion of Manasseh. Ephraim's territory was outlined first because he was granted the birthright. (Genesis 48:9-20) Ephraim's borders extended from the Jordan River at Jericho through the wilderness to Bethel, to Beth-horon to the Mediterranean Sea. It extended north to Joppa, west back to the Jordan River.
2. The Canaanite inhabitants of Gezer were never driven out by the Israelites. Eventually, it was captured by a pharaoh of Egypt who presented it to his daughter as a dowry when she married King Solomon. (I Kings 9:16)
3. Manasseh was Joseph's oldest son and had a larger tribe than Ephraim, requiring a larger territory. Zelophehad had five daughters who came to Eleazar and Joshua reminding them, because they had no brothers, they were entitled to their father's portion of land. (Numbers 27:1-7)
4. Archaeologists have discovered records of tax payments dated about 770 B.C. These were discovered in the palace of Jeroboam II. They include the names of Abiezer, Helek, Shechem, Shemida, Noah, and Hoglah.
5. Manasseh's borders extended from the Jordan River west to Shechem to Mt. Gerizim along the brook of Kanah to the Mediterranean Sea. It bordered Asher to the north and Issachar to the northeast back to the Jordan River. The northern border was less well defined because Manasseh, the stronger tribe, was allotted the resisting Canaanite fortresses. Yet the Canaanites were determined to stay and were not driven out. Eventually they worked as slaves for Manasseh.
6. The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh later come to Joshua wanting two allotments instead of one to split. Joshua was firm and did not give them an additional allotment, but encouraged them to clear the trees and settle the mountainous forest area of the central ridge, where the Perizzites and Rephaim lived. They complained that the Canaanites occupied the best land in the valley of Jezreel and were too strong militarily to beat. Joshua assured them, in spite of their military superiority, they could be driven out.
7. Shiloh was chosen for the tabernacle. (Shiloh means "rest." Genesis 49:10) This was the most central location for all the tribes. It was located between Bethel and Shechem.
8. Evidently, Joshua commissioned a twenty-one man expedition to describe and map out the remaining land. These seven tribes were slack about going out to conquer the remaining land. Three men from each tribe scouted out the unconquered land to report its size and natural divisions (boundaries).
9. The hand of God was evident in the drawing of lots for Benjamin, for his land linked Judah and Joseph's portion. (Benjamin and Joseph shared the same mother, but it was Judah that offered himself as hostage in Benjamin's stead. Genesis 43:8,9, 44: 18-34, Numbers 10:22-24, Deuteronomy 33:12) Benjamin's territory was the ultimate site for the temple in Jerusalem. Its borders extended from the Jordan River north to Bethel to Beth-horon, south to Kirjath-baal (also called Kirjath-jearim), east over Mt. Ephron to Jerusalem to Arabah to the northern portion of the Salt Sea (south of the Jordan).

10. Simeon's tribe was separated from their marching companions Reuben and Gad. We see here God beginning to fulfill Jacob's curse on Simeon (and Levi) as they are given the southern portion of Judah's land for Judah had been allotted too large a portion. (Genesis 49:7)
11. God's divine plan placed Leah's sons Zebulun, and Issachar above Rachel's sons' tribes to cement the union of Israel. Judah, Zebulun, and Issachar had encamped together in the wilderness. These ties persisted for centuries. (Mary and Joseph, of the tribe of Judah, dwelt in Zebulun's Nazareth.)
12. The tribe of Issachar received the next assignment, south of Zebulun and north of Manasseh.
13. Asher's allotment bordered the Mediterranean Sea on the west, Naphtali on the east and Zebulun to the south. It included the coastal region from Mt. Carmel north to Tyre and Sidon. Discovered inscriptions of Seti I and Rameses II contain references to a territory of people from Asher.
14. The sixth tribe to receive its allotment was Naphtali. Its territory bordered Asher to the west, Zebulun to the southwest, Issachar and Mt. Tabor to the south and the Jordan River/Sea of Galilee to the east. Surveying upper Galilee, the archaeologist, Y. Aharoni, discovered numerous small settlements settled in the fourteenth century he attributes to the tribe of Naphtali.
15. The last allotment went to the tribe of Dan. To further strengthen the union of Israel, God separated Dan from his brother Naphtali and camp mate Asher. He located Dan between Benjamin and the Mediterranean Sea. Later, we will see the Danites driven out by the Amorites. Some of them migrated north to capture Leshem (Laish) near Naphtali and settled there. (Judah 1:34, 17, 18)
16. God had promised Joshua any city he wanted. Joshua waited until last for his portion of land. He chose Timnath-serah, a city in the mountains of Ephraim near Shiloh and Shechem. Supervision of the sacred allotting to divide the land was done by Eleazar, Joshua, and the leader of each tribe at the entrance of the tabernacle in Shiloh.
17. Six cities of refuge were designated. All of these were levitical towns where one who had killed another unintentionally could run to be protected from the ancient rite of vendetta (blood revenge) by the relatives of the one killed. He was to present his case at the gate. Later, he was brought to trial before the community closest to the scene of the crime. If acquitted, he returned to the city of refuge until the high priest died, then he was free to return home (similar to our statute of limitations). Cities of refuge were Kedesh, Shechem, Hebron, Bezer, Ramoth-Gilead, and Golan. (Numbers 35:9-34, Deuteronomy 4:41-43, 19:1-3)
18. The distribution of territory to all the tribes but Levi fulfilled Jacob's curse. (Genesis 49:5-7) God overruled and preserved the Levites identity, however, because they stood with Moses during a crucial hour (Exodus 32:26) and because of Phinehas' action in regard to Zimri. (Numbers 25) Therefore, forty-eight cities with pasture land were given to the Levites, scattered throughout the promised land.
19. God faithfully kept His promises to Joshua (Joshua 1:5-9) and everything He promised them came true.
20. Joshua now dismissed the troops of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh with a blessing. He acknowledged their loyal fulfillment of their obligations in helping the other tribes. On their way home, they stopped before crossing the Jordan River to build a huge altar. It offended the other ten tribes to the east. They thought these

tribes were rebelling against God and feared God's punishment would reflect upon all of Israel.

21. Wisely, they sent a twenty-one man delegation headed by Phinehas to talk to these tribes and reason with them lest they have to purge these tribal brethren. The troops west of Jordan assured Phinehas with an oath before God that they had not built the altar in rebellion but in love and as a symbol to future generations that Jehovah was God to both those on the east and west of the Jordan River. This altar was not built to use for sacrifices, for the only altar acceptable to God for that was the one at the tabernacle. Thus, Phinehas and his delegation headed home, rejoicing.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - mountainous areas - tree cutouts, toy trees
 - tabernacle
 - spies expedition - map, compass, "survey" equipment
 - picture of Rameses II
 - wilderness campsite by tribes
 - altar - model
 - sword, helmet, spear
- Puppets/Dolls - Zelophehad's 5 daughters, 12 sons of Jacob
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- 12 Sons Of Jacob
- Bind Us Together Lord
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- Cheerfully Obey
- He Promised Love
- I Am Bound For The Promised Land
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jordan River
- Joshua
- Joshua Was A Great Leader
- My God Is So Great
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Seek Ye First
- Standing On The Promises
- Thank You Lord
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord

Activities:

- Use a map of the promised land with tribal divisions. It may be plain or color coded. Use "flags" with tribal names to designate borders.
- Create a puzzle map to be filled in as you discuss the divisions. Include bodies of water, major cities, mountains, and other landmarks.
- Make a map of the tribal divisions with clay, salt dough, puzzle pieces, etc.
- Application story/ activity dealing with keeping promises.
- *Tribal Match* - Match the names of the tribes with a description of their location in the promised land.
- *Blind Art* - Allow about 4 minutes. Let students close their eyes and draw the scouts mapping out the land.
- *Promise Keeping* - Using their Bibles, have students locate as many references as they can find where God kept His promises.

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. To whom did God keep promises?
2. To whom does God keep promises today?
3. Draw the tribal allotments.
4. Which tribes asked for another allotment? What was Joshua's reply?
5. What archaeological and historical discoveries support this section of Bible history?
6. Where was the tabernacle set up? Why there?
7. What was a city of refuge?
8. When Joshua dismisses the western troops, what happens? What is the result?
9. How do God's promises affect you?

Old Testament

Lesson 56: Joshua's Last Days

Text: Joshua 23,24

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|----------------|----------------|---|
| Memory Verses: | Joshua 24:15 | And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. |
| | Joshua 24:24 | And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and His voice will we obey. |
| | Proverbs 13:20 | He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God does not force Himself and His blessings on us. He gives us the choice: to serve Him and receive His blessings or to serve the devil and bear the consequences. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| I. Joshua's farewell to Israel's leaders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. God's might on their behalf. B. Finish conquering the land. C. Be faithful to Jehovah. | Joshua 23 |
| II. Joshua's farewell to Israel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Brief history. B. Be faithful to Jehovah. C. The covenant renewed. D. Joshua's death. E. Joseph's remains buried. F. Eleazar dies. | Joshua 24 |

Facts:

1. Joshua, knowing Israel's tendency to compromise with the heathen and grow complacent, used his remaining strength to stir Israel to renewed faithfulness and obedience for Jehovah.
2. Joshua summoned Israel's leaders to Shiloh, where the tabernacle was. He reviewed with them all God had done for them. He reminded them of how God had fought their enemies for them. He urged them to be completely devoted to God and not deviate from His laws. He warned them of God's rejection if they

- mixed and associated with the idolatrous Canaanites. Joshua told them not to even mention the names of their idol gods, much less worship them.
3. Joshua also strictly forewarned of the consequences of intermarrying with these heathen neighbors. Such association with sin would create a snare or a trap for them and cause them to lose God's blessings and protection. (Exodus 34:12-16, Leviticus 26:14-33, Numbers 33:55, Deuteronomy 7:3, 28:15-68)
 4. Joshua prepared them for his impending death. Again he reminded Israel's leaders that God had kept all His promises to them and blessed them in their new land. But, if they failed to keep their promises to God and be faithful, God's anger would be kindled against them and He would take away the promised land and all His blessings from them.
 5. Joshua now called the entire nation of Israel to him at Shechem to renew their covenant allegiance with Jehovah, just as Moses had done after the wilderness wanderings. (Deuteronomy 30:15-20) Shechem was where God had first promised Canaan to Abram, thus it was where Abram erected his first altar in the land. (Genesis 12:6, 7) Jacob also had erected an altar at Shechem and told his household to get rid of any idols. (Genesis 35:1-4) On a former occasion, Joshua had led a covenant renewal ceremony near Shechem at Mt. Ebal. (Joshua 8:30-35)
 6. Terah lived in the district northeast of the Euphrates River, including Haran. Ur of the Chaldees may well have been a town in the Armenian mountains north of Haran.
 7. Only two of Terah's three sons are mentioned; those who were ancestors to Israel. Abraham was father of Isaac, grandfather to Jacob; Nahor was grandfather to Rebekah and great grandfather of Leah and Rachel.
 8. A history of Israel and what God had done for Israel was recounted. Again, Joshua stipulated loyalty and reverence to Jehovah God. The first obligation of any treaty was prohibition of foreign alliance. Here, Israel was not to align themselves with idolatry or idol worshippers.
 9. Joshua challenged them to take a stand and make a clear cut choice. As for his family, they would serve God. The people of Israel chose to do the same. They recounted His blessings.
 10. Joshua reminded Israel Jehovah God is a jealous God. They could not rebel and forsake Him without suffering the consequences. All idols must be destroyed. Thus, Joshua committed them to a permanent binding contract with God Almighty. He recorded their reply in the book of laws. He also inscribed the statutes of the covenant renewal on a large stone he set under the oak tree marking a sacred place. (Deuteronomy 12:6, Joshua 24:9) Curses and blessings are pronounced and the people are dismissed to go home.
 11. Soon after this, Joshua's work for God was completed. He died at the age of 110 and was buried on his own estate at Timnath-serah in Ephraim on the north side of Mt. Gaash. Israel was faithful to God throughout Joshua's godly leadership.
 12. Joseph's remains had been brought by Israel to the promised land and buried in Shechem in the parcel of land bought by Jacob from the sons of Hamor for 100 pieces of silver. (Genesis 33:18-20, 50:24, 25, Exodus 13:19) This land was in territory assigned to the tribes of Joseph.
 13. Eleazar, the high priest also died and was buried in the hill country of Ephraim at Gibeah, a city given to his son Phinehas. This closes an era.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - old Joshua - gray hair, glasses, cane, staff, broken voice
 - previous visuals for major events in Israel's history:
 - conquering the land, Terah, Abraham, Nahor, Isaac, Jacob, Esau, 10 plagues, Red Sea, Jericho
 - trap - small animal trap, noose with a rope, handcuffs
 - map - Shiloh, Shechem, Mt. Gaash, Gibeah
 - treaty - paper document w/ signatures, seal
 - idol - knick-knack, statue, toy cow spray painted
 - statutes of the covenant - large stone
 - burials - tissues, handkerchief, flowers, headstone
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- 12 Sons Had Jacob
- A Common Love
- Books Of The Old Testament
- God Needs Helpers
- He's My King
- He's My Rock, My Sword, My Shield
- I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Joshua Was A Great Leader
- Live In Me Lord Jesus
- My God Is So Great
- O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
- O Worship The King
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Roll The Gospel Chariot Along
- The B-I-B-L-É
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Watch Your Eyes

Activities:

- Illustrate the lesson with stories / activities on:
 - promises kept / not kept
 - loyalty / disloyalty
 - choices good and bad
- Illustrate that how we live our lives shows God and others how much we really want to serve God
- *This Is Your Life* - Take events of Joshua's life. Write them on tongue depressors or craft sticks. Let students put the events in the order in which they happened.
- Have students write a paragraph about the life and times of Joshua. Tell how the account of his life has influenced you.
- *Your Choice* - Make up hard questions and easy questions pertaining to the book of Joshua. Put easy questions in low numbered pockets. As the questions get harder, put them in higher numbered pockets. Let students choose which pocket they would like to pull a question from. Continue the activity until all the questions have been used. Keep score.
- Use a drawing of a house. Cut to open the windows and door. Using photographs or magazine cut outs, paste pictures of each child's family members that serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15)
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God give us the choice to follow Him or not?
2. What choice have you made? Why?
3. Why did God keep all His promises to Israel and the patriarchs?
4. What does Joshua warn Israel's leaders about? How do these apply to us?
5. Why does Joshua renew the covenant between God and Israel? What promises were they making?
6. What were the consequences of not keeping their promises? Do these consequences apply to you?
7. Why does Joshua gather Israel at Shechem? Who had been there before?
8. What is significant about Joshua's leadership?
9. What type of leader are you? Are you a leader or a follower? Who are you leading? Following?
10. What promises have you made to God? Have you kept them all?

Old Testament

Lesson 57: When Judges Ruled

Text: Judges 1-3

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| Memory Verses: | Judges 2:2,3 | And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed My voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. |
| | Judges 2:16 | Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will allow our faith to be tested to see if we really love Him. • God wants us to learn from our mistakes, correct them, and not repeat them again. • God will punish us when we sin, but if we repent, He will forgive us. |
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Outline:

- I. Introduction.
- II. Israel's failure to complete the conquest. Judges 1
 - A. Judah and Simeon.
 - B. Benjamin and tribes of Joseph.
 - C. Zebulun and Asher.
 - D. Naphtali and Dan.
- III. God's judgment. Judges 2
 - A. The angel's rebuke.
 - B. A godly generation dies.
 - C. Their disobedience punished.
- IV. The southern campaign. Judges 3
 - A. The enemy left to test Israel.
 - B. Judge Othniel.
 - C. Judge Ehud.
 - D. Judge Shamgar.

Facts:

1. The book of Judges is the second book of history recording the 350 year period of Israel's history when they were led by judges. Serving as civil magistrates or heads of state, their leadership appears to overlap and be territorial for not all of them ruled over the entire nation. There are seven chief military judges and seven others briefly noticed. Although the author of Judges is anonymous, most Bible scholars attribute its writing to Samuel approximately 1185 B.C. He certainly was a crucial link between the period of judges and the appointed kings of Israel.
2. There is a stark contrast between the book of Joshua and Judges. Under Joshua, the people obediently conquered the land, but the recurring theme in Judges is Israel forsaking God, being enslaved by their enemies, their cry to God in repentance, and God raising up a judge to deliver them. Although God was their King, they did not listen to Him. Their short lived military successes and repeated failure to drive out the enemy directly resulted from their lack of faith and obedience. Israel continually failed to learn from their mistakes. These judges ruled from approximately 1400-1100 B.C.
3. Upon Joshua's death, the primary phase of conquering the promised land had been completed. Yet pockets of native resistance remained and God expected each tribe to finish driving them out. The tribe of Judah and Simeon were first to battle the Canaanites and Perizzites in their territory. Ten thousand were slain at Bezek and their king, King Adoni-bezek was captured. The Israelites cut off his thumbs and big toes. (Any physical mutilation disqualified a person from holding religious or civil office in ancient times.) King Adoni-bezek had done this same thing to seventy other kings. He knew this was just punishment from God. He died in Jerusalem.
4. Judah then captured Jerusalem and set it ablaze. They marched to the hill country and coastal areas of Palestine and Negeb. They slew the city of Hebron, promised to Caleb, as well as Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai. (Numbers 14:24, Joshua 15:13, 14)
5. Their next plan of attack was against Debir. Caleb promised his daughter, Achsah, to the soldier brave enough to lead the attack. Caleb's nephew, Othniel arose to the challenge. He conquered Debir and won Achsah as his bride.
6. Othniel was given the land of Debir which was largely desert. So Achsah asked her father for additional land with springs on it. This Caleb granted the newlyweds.
7. Moses' wife's relatives, the Kenites, preserved their identity, yet remained friendly with the Israelites. (I Samuel 30:29) The tribes of Judah and Simeon continued to conquer all of their territory except the people of the valley. Their chariots of iron became a great obstacle.
8. The tribe of Benjamin failed to exterminate the Jebusites. Ephraim and Manasseh conquered Bethel, also known as Luz. They captured a man and offered to spare his life and that of his family if he showed them passage through the city wall. He did, and they massacred all but this man and his family. Ephraim and Manasseh did not conquer at least six major cities in their territory, however.
9. The tribes of Zebulun, Asher, and Naphtali were also lax in conquering all of their territory. Thus, the Canaanites remained among them, reduced to slaves during periods of Israel's strength. The tribe of Dan pushed into the low lands of their territory, but were forced out and back into the hills by the Amorites. (We'll find later the majority of this tribe migrated to Laish, at the headwaters of the Jordan and settled there. Judges 18)

10. The idolatry of the Canaanites among Israel became tolerated and inter-marriage with the Canaanites became common. Thus, the angel of God appeared to Israel. He reminded them God was the one who delivered them from bondage in Egypt and brought them to this wonderful land. He had kept His promises to Israel, yet they had broken their pledge to Him. Because they had made treaties with the Canaanites and not destroyed their idols, God would no longer protect them from their enemies.
11. Israel wept over God's judgment upon them. The place of this occurrence was called "Bochim" meaning place where the people wept.
12. The next generation was just as ungrateful of God's blessing and miracles for they openly worshipped Baalim and Ashtaroath. (Baal was a fertility god thought to bring productivity to man, animals, and their field. Baalim is plural for the many local manifestations of Baal: Baal-peor, Baal-zeboul, etc. Ashtaroath was the female counterpart to Baal.)
13. Israel had abandoned Jehovah, and His anger was kindled against them. God chose to use Israel's enemies to chasten His rebellious people and bring them back to Him. When they cried to God in distress, God would have pity on them and send a judge to save them from their enemies.
14. But over and over again, as each judge died, the Israelites turned from God and relapsed into idolatry with their neighbors. The judges had no lasting effect on Israel. The Canaanites' continued presence was used as a test of Israel's faithfulness by God.

Judge Othniel

15. God allowed Israel, in their wickedness, to be conquered by King Cushanrishathaim of Mesopotamia. He oppressed them for eight years. Then, Israel began to cry to Jehovah for mercy. God had pity on Israel and sent Caleb's nephew, Othniel as their first judge to deliver them. Othniel had Israel repent before God for their sins, then he rallied Israel's forces against King Cushanrishathaim to free them.
16. For forty years, Israel had peace and was free from foreign domination. They served Jehovah. But when Othniel died, Israel turned once again to their sinful ways.

Judge Ehud

17. God allowed Israel to be conquered and oppressed by King Eglon of Moab for eighteen years. He forced Israel to pay him exorbitant taxes. Again, Israel cried to Jehovah for deliverance. So God gave them Ehud, son of Gera, from the tribe of Benjamin. (Ehud was left handed. Benjamites seemed to be left handed or ambidextrous. Judges 20:16, I Chronicles 12:2)
18. Ehud made a two edged dagger about eighteen inches long and hid it in his clothing, strapped to his right thigh. He and his men delivered the tax tribute (silver, gold, cattle) to King Eglon then started back home. He dismissed his men at the quarries (graven images) of Gilgal and returned to King Eglon alone. He told the king he had a secret message for him from God. In reverence, the king got up. (King Eglon was very fat.) He sent his staff away. As Ehud approached the king, he whipped out his dagger and plunged it deep into the king's belly. The blow was quick and forceful. Ehud left his weapon in the wound as the excrement oozed out. He quietly locked the doors behind him as he escaped.
19. When the king's servants returned, they found the doors locked, so as not to disturb him, they waited. Finally, they got a key to go in and check on him, only

to find him dead. Meanwhile, Ehud had reached the highlands of Ephraim. He blew a trumpet to call Israel to battle. They besieged the fjords of Jordan and slew 10,000 Moabites, freeing Israel from Moab's power. For eighty years, Israel again served God under Ehud's judgeship and was free from foreign invasion.

Judge Shamgar

20. Once again, Israel became friendly with their Canaanite neighbors and were delivered by God into the oppression of the Philistines. Again, in pity, Jehovah gave them Shamgar who delivered them from their oppressors by killing 600 Philistines with an ox goad. (An ox goad is thought to be a rod about eight feet long, covered with iron. One end had a spike; the other had a chisel blade used for cleaning the plow. It was used for driving cattle, but could also serve as a spear. I Samuel 13:21, Ecclesiastes 12:11, Acts 9:5) Shamgar could have been a contemporary of Deborah and Barak.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map of Israel's tribal territory
 - armor - sword, shield, spear, helmet
 - hands & feet w/ thumbs & big toes missing - paper, plaster, papier maché
 - sandbox village on "fire" - construction paper, tissue paper, cellophane
 - wells, springs - water in a cup or can
 - chariot - craft, paint black
 - city wall - create a maze in the classroom or make a model city with a wall
 - idol gods - statue, toy animal
 - Bochim - handkerchief, tissues, "tears"
 - taxes - gold, silver coins - real, paper, candy, toy animals
 - dagger - toy, cardboard
 - strap, rope
 - key - real, toy, paper
 - trumpet - horn, toy, party favor, cardboard, paper, throw away cylinder
 - ox goad - long rod/stick sprayed black
- Puppets/Dolls - Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, captured man, angel
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Are We Walkin' In The Enemy's Camp?
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- God Is Watching Over You
- He Paid A Debt
- Hear O Israel
- I Don't Wanta Be A Goat, Nope
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Into My Heart
- Jehovah Jireh
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- Our God Is So Big
- Roll The Gospel Chariot
- The B-I-B-L-E
- Till Every Tribe Shall Hear
- Unto Thee O Lord

Activities:

- Play act scenes of today's lesson.
- File Folder Activities: "Judges"
- Good and Bad Choices
- *I Know It Riddles* - Create riddles or clues about people, places, or things pertaining to today's lesson. Allow students to guess the answers. May be played as a team or individually.
- *Bible Jeopardy* - Create Jeopardy board. Put easy questions in lower numbered slots, harder questions in those slots with more points.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does God allow our faith to be tested? How might our faith be tested?
2. From what mistakes have you learned a valuable lesson?
3. Why do you suppose Israel continued to commit the same sin over and over?
4. What sin do you find yourself committing repeatedly? How might you overcome it?
5. What re-occurring events kept happening with Israel?
6. Why did Israel not drive out and destroy all the Canaanites under Joshua's leadership, before they settled the land?
7. What temptations did Israel face that God's people face today?
8. Name the three judges in today's lesson. Which was your favorite and why?

Old Testament

Lesson 58: At The Hand Of A Woman: The Northern Conflict

Text: Judges 4,5

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| Memory Verses: | Judges 4:4 | And Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time. |
| | Judges 4:9 | And she said, I will surely go with thee: notwithstanding the journey that thou takest shall not be for thine honor; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman. And Deborah arose, and went with Barak to Kedesh. |
| | Judges 5:24 | Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent. |
| | Judges 5:31 | So let all Thine enemies perish, O Lord: but let them that love Him be as the sun when He goeth forth in His might. And the land had rest forty years. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's power is invincible. • God can use any of us in fulfilling His plans or goals (man, woman, boy, or girl) |
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Outline:

- I. Judge Deborah. Judges 4
 - A. Israel oppressed by King Jabin.
 - B. Deborah calls Barak.
 - C. Israel pursues Sisera and the Canaanites.
 - D. Jael tricks Sisera.
 - E. Jael kills Sisera.

- II. The song of Deborah and Barak. Judges 5
 - A. Praise to the Lord.
 - B. God's power over Sisera and his army.
 - C. Israel's fall into idolatry.
 - D. The conflict with Sisera.
 - E. Jael blessed for her courage.
 - F. God's invincible power.

Facts:

1. Israel again strayed from obeying Jehovah God and became idol worshippers. So again, God allowed Israel to be taken captive, this time by King Jabin of Hazor in Canaan. (Joshua had overtaken Hazor once before.) Hazor was the most important fortress in northern Canaan.
2. Jabin's commander in chief of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth. Sisera's equipment far exceeded Israel's.
3. For twenty years, God allowed Jabin to make life miserable for Israel. Sorry for their sin, Israel cried to God for mercy. God gave Israel a woman judge and prophetess named Deborah. Deborah was married to Lapidoth. She held court at a place called "Deborah's Palm Tree" between Ramah and Bethel in Ephraim.
4. To rally her people to war, she called Barak to lead them. Barak was from Kedesh in Naphtali. She told him to mobilize 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun. They met King Jabin's army at Mt. Tabor. God had assured Deborah He would draw Sisera's army to the Kishon River and defeat them there.
5. Barak wanted the assurance of a successful battle so he said he would go if Deborah would come too. She said she would go, but the victory would be credited to a woman. At Kedesh, 10,000 men volunteered to fight of the two northern tribes.
6. Now Heber, the Kenite was a descendant of Moses' father-in-law, Hobab. He had moved away from the rest of his family and camped near Kedesh. Heber informed Sisera that Barak had gathered an army together to fight him at Mt. Tabor. So Sisera assembled his own forces and all his chariots to put an end to this uprising. They marched toward the Kishon River.
7. Deborah saw Sisera and his army approaching. She summoned Barak and his army to run down the slopes of Mt. Tabor and attack. Jehovah threw Sisera and his army into a panic. He caused the Kishon River to sweep them away. (5:21) Barak chased Sisera and his army until all Sisera's soldiers were destroyed.
8. Sisera fled for his own life toward the tent of Heber. He thought he would be safe there. Jael, Heber's wife, saw a tired and frightened Sisera and offered him the safety of her home. She covered him with a mantle (rug, blanket, tent, curtain). He asked for water, but she gave him milk and covered him again.
9. Sisera realized the Israelites might pursue him this direction, so he asked Jael to tell them he was not there. When Jael was sure Sisera was asleep, she seized the opportunity to kill the enemy of Israel. She took a tent peg (stake) and drove it with a hammer through Sisera's temples into the ground. (At this time, it was the responsibility of women to pitch the tents.)
10. When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael went out to meet him and showed him Sisera. Although the act of Jael is described, the victory is ascribed to God. God is seen as the power behind all that takes place. In time, Israel destroyed all of King Jabin's people.
11. Chapter 5 reiterates in poetic form chapter 4. It is called the Song of Deborah. It was written in praise to God for avenging His people. Rulers of other nations are warned to heed the might of Jehovah God.
12. In contrast to the fertility gods of Canaan, Jehovah was associated with the arid regions of Sinai and Horeb. He was pictured marching out of Seir and Edom to deliver His people. All nature was convulsed as our awesome God demonstrated His power.

13. The Canaanites had secured control of the main roads so the Israelites took the byways (crooked paths) less frequented. Peasants deserted villages for the protection of walled cities.
14. Then Israel turned to idolatry. Raids of the enemy reached Israel, who were unarmed or did not allow their arms to be seen. There was gratitude for those leaders proven faithful in crisis time. The rich and noble rode on white horses. The poor journeyed on foot.
15. Israel praised God. The scene of victory was reflective of warriors returning from battle mingling among the women at the water troughs, telling of the victories they had, thanks to God.
16. The second part of the song describes the conflict with Sisera. Israel was thought of as a remnant that would rule the mighty. Amalek nomads had invaded central Canaan. Machir was a branch of the tribe of Manasseh west of Jordan. Those tribes that did not participate in the battle were taunted. (Judah, Gad, 1/2 Manasseh, Dan, Asher)
17. Sisera led a confederacy of kings against Israel. Taanach commanded one of the passages to the plain of Esdraelon, where the battle took place.
18. The men of Meroz did not help Israel as an ally. Instead, Jael, a woman, in bold devotion aided them. Jael risked her own life to kill Israel's enemy. His death was reason for rejoicing.
19. The scene shifted to Sisera's mother, concerned about her son. She wondered why he was so late returning from battle. The noble women encouraged her, saying it took time to divide the spoils of war. In ancient warfare, the warriors divided the captured women among themselves. The irony lay in that Sisera had died by the hand of a woman.
20. Thus, the poet ends with a prayer to God, that all His enemies perish as Sisera. May God's warriors be as the sun, annihilating the darkness with invincible power and strength from Jehovah God. Israel was faithful to Jehovah and avoided oppression for forty years (one generation).

Visuals:

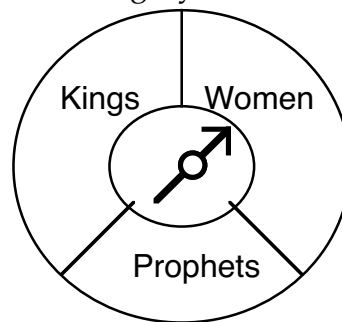
- Characterization props:
 - idols - statue, toy animal, totem pole
 - armor - sword, helmet, shield, spear
 - map - Hazor, Ramah, Bethel, Mt. Tabor, Naphtali, Zebulun, Kison River, Seir, Edom
 - chariot - toy, crafted, sprayed black or gray
 - palm tree - toy, crafted
 - fighting men - toy army figures
 - tent - pup tent, sheet draped over a card table, paper model
 - mantle - blanket, rug
 - milk - real milk in small cups, "pretend"
 - tent peg and mallet - large nail, stick, pencil, tent stake, toy hammer, real hammer, rubber mallet
- Puppets/Dolls - Sisera, Deborah, Barak, Jael
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Encamped Along The Hills Of Light
- Give Me Oil In My Lamp
- God Is Listening
- God Is Watching Over You
- Great Is The Lord
- He's My Rock My Sword My Shield
- Hear O Israel
- Humble Yourselves
- I Shall Not Be Moved
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jesus Is Dynamite
- Jesus Loves Me When I'm Good
- Love Him Love Him
- My Helping Hands
- Our God Is An Awesome God
- Our God Is So Big
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Standing In The Need Of Prayer
- Thank You Lord
- The Flag Song

Activities:

- Have students create their own poems/songs of praise to God.
- File Folder activity: "Judges"
- Use a story or activity to demonstrate: courage
letting God use us for His purposes
praise and thankfulness
standing up for right
- Have students talk about or write a brief report on a Bible person they admire and why. Touch on what qualities make them admirable and how might we be like them.
- Play act today's lesson with props.
- *Kings, Women, or Prophets* - Construct a large spinner from poster board and label the outside ring, "Kings, Women, and Prophets." As the students use the spinner they must name a Bible person for the category at which the arrow stops.



- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God use Deborah in His plans? Barak? Jael?
2. How can/does God use you in His plans?
3. What power is greater than Jehovah God's?
4. Why do you suppose Israel kept straying away from God?
5. Do you notice people straying from God today? Why do they do this? What can you do about it?
6. Were Heber and his wife, Jael on the same side?
7. Describe the emotions Jael may have been feeling as she tricked Sisera into feeling secure and then killed him for Israel's sake. Would you have had her courage?

8. Why do you suppose God used a woman to carry out His plan?
9. Why did only the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun fight Sisera?
10. How did Deborah show her thankfulness to God? How do you?

Old Testament

Lesson 59: Gideon – Mighty Man Of Valour

Text: Judges 6-8

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| Memory Verses: | Judges 6:12 | And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. |
| | Judges 6:16 | And the Lord said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. |
| | Judges 7:6 | And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water. |
| | Judges 8:23 | And Gideon said unto them, I will not rule over you, neither shall my son rule over you: the Lord shall rule over you. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • although we are only one, with God on our side, we will always be a winner. • God does not choose His leaders by their age, wealth, looks, or educational background, but by their humble spirit. God could use you as a leader some day. |
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Outline:

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|------|---|----------|
| I. | A sign for Gideon. | Judges 6 |
| | A. Israel oppressed by Midian. | |
| | B. The angel of God commissions Gideon. | |
| | C. Gideon's gift consumed by God. | |
| | D. Gideon destroys altar of Baal. | |
| | E. One more sign for Gideon. | |
| II. | A surprise attack. | Judges 7 |
| | A. God reduces Gideon's army. | |
| | B. The barley cake dream. | |
| | C. Trumpets, torches, and pitchers. | |
| | D. In hot pursuit. | |
| III. | Gideon, mighty man of valour. | Judges 8 |
| | A. Midianite princes taken. | |
| | B. Succoth and Penuel destroyed. | |
| | C. Gideon, the avenger. | |
| | D. Gideon turns down a crown. | |

E. The ephod.

Facts:

1. The cycle of sin and punishment found Israel once again oppressed by the Midianites for seven years. These cruel nomadic oppressors organized raids by caravans, plundering the countryside and destroying Israel's crops. They stole Israel's sheep and cattle leaving the land stripped and devastated. In poverty, Israel was forced to hide in dens and caves of the mountains and hide what little grain they could salvage in wine pits. The Amalekites of the Syrian desert, also nomads, prevailed upon Israel as well. Israel was virtually powerless against their foe. (The Midianites may be traced back to Keturah, Abraham's concubine.)
2. Israel eventually cried to God for relief. God again had pity on Israel and sent a prophet to predict God's mercy was at hand. Then God sent an angel to Gideon and his father, Joash, who were secretly threshing wheat by the wine press. He told Gideon God had selected him to deliver Israel. Gideon questioned the angel as to why God had allowed this oppression and where were the miracles of God they had heard about while growing up. He questioned why God would choose him, the youngest and poorest of the whole tribe of Manasseh.
3. Typically, God's chosen leaders exhibited a spirit of humility. Gideon was no exception. Gideon needed assurance this was truly Jehovah's plan for him. He asked the angel to wait until he could prepare a present for him. He hurried home to prepare a young goat and bake cakes of unleavened bread. He prepared a broth for the meat and carried it all back to the angel waiting under the oak tree. The angel had Gideon place it on a rock (improvising as an altar).
4. The angel touched it with his staff and fire from the rock consumed the gifts. The angel was gone and fear overcame Gideon for he realized this man was of God. (Exodus 33:20) God told him not to be afraid; he would not die. Gideon built an altar to commemorate God's message to him. (Shalom is Hebrew for "peace.")
5. God then told Gideon to take his father's best oxen, hitch it to the family's altar to Baal, pulling it down, and cut down the grove next to it. In its place, he was to erect an altar to Jehovah God. He must use the wood from the grove to offer the second oxen as a sacrifice to God. Gideon took ten of his servants and followed God's directions.
6. They did this at night to avoid the opposition. The next morning the city was angry at what they considered an act of sacrilege. They demanded Gideon be killed for such desecration, but Joash came to his son's defense. He asked why Baal needed their help to avenge his son. If Baal was a real god worthy of honor, he could avenge himself. Gideon was then nicknamed "Jerubbaal" meaning "let Baal take care of himself."
7. The Midianites and Amalekites joined forces to conquer Israel. They set up camp in the valley of Jezreel. This valley extended from Mt. Carmel to the Jordan valley. Because it led into the heart of Palestine, it was been a battleground throughout history. Gideon sounded the call to war. His own clan, the Abiezerites, rallied to his aid. The fighting men of Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali subsequently joined him.
8. Before they went, Gideon again sought a sign from God. He placed a fleece on the threshing floor. If, in the morning, it was wet with dew but the floor was dry, he knew God was with him. The next morning, Gideon wrung a bowl full of water from the fleece. To make doubly sure, Gideon asked God to make the

- ground wet with dew but the fleece dry. The next day, the Lord had done as Gideon requested and Gideon was sure God would bring them victory.
9. Gideon and his army camped at the well of Harod, at the foot of Mt. Gilead. The Midianites were camped close by at the Hill of Moreh. God told Gideon he had too many men; he must send those home that were afraid. Twenty-two thousand men go home, 10,000 remain. God told Gideon he still had too many men. He was to take them to the spring to drink.
 10. Gideon was to divide them into two groups: those that cupped the water in their hands and lapped it like dogs, and those that kneeled and drank from the stream. Three hundred drank from their hands; the others God had Gideon send home. Israel needed to realize it was not by their own strength the battle with Midian would be won.
 11. In the darkness of the night, Gideon sneaked down to the outposts of the Midianite camp with his page (or armor bearer), Phurah. They appeared innumerable, like an army of grasshoppers (locust) which invades and leaves the area desolate. Yet, they overheard a Midianite relay his dream of a barley cake tumbling upon a Midianite tent and destroying it. Barley was the cheapest grain in Palestine, applicable to the poverty of Israel at this time. Hearing their fear and the interpretation, Gideon returned confidently back to camp to prepare for the attack.
 12. Gideon divided his men into three groups, to simulate an attack from three sides simultaneously. He issued each man a trumpet and a clay pitcher (jar) with a torch inside. At the changing of the guard (the second watch, about 11:00 p.m.), Gideon and his men blew their trumpets and broke their pitchers so their torches flamed into the night. The other 200 men on either side did the same. They yelled "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon!"
 13. The Midianites were panic stricken. The Lord made them to fight and kill one another. Those that fled in the night, Gideon and his men pursued. He cut off all their escape routes to rid the land of Midianites.
 14. Oreb and Zeeb, two Midianite princes were captured and beheaded. Their heads were delivered as trophies to Gideon in victory. The men of Ephraim were angry they hadn't been called into battle early on. Since the victors divided the spoils, they suspected Gideon was cutting them out. Gideon's soft reply satisfied the men. He told them theirs were the greater accomplishments, catching these two princes.
 15. Gideon and his men crossed Jordan still in pursuit of King Zebah and King Zalmunna. Weak, they asked those of Succoth for food. They were denied. They went on to Penuel and asked for food, but were again denied. Fifteen miles southeast, Gideon caught the two kings in the desert area of Karkor. They didn't expect Gideon to pursue them that far. The 15,000 Midianite soldiers left were in terror.
 16. On the way back home, Gideon captured a young man from Succoth. Gideon had him write down the names of all the seventy-seven leaders of the city. When they arrived at Succoth, Gideon showed the leaders the captured kings then in recompense, he scraped the seventy-seven leaders to death with thorns and briars. Gideon went to Penuel and destroyed their prided city tower and killed all the males.
 17. Gideon asked King Zebah and King Zalmunna who they killed at Mt. Tabor. Arrogantly, they replied, men just like you. These were Gideon's own brothers.

Thus, the duty of blood revenge was Gideon's to do. To add humiliation to these kings, Gideon told his son Jether to kill them. But he was young and afraid, so Gideon slayed them himself. He took the moon shaped ornaments attached to their camels' collars. These ornaments were also worn by men and women for good luck.

18. Israel asked Gideon to be their king, but Gideon knew God was Israel's king so he refused them. Yet Gideon did request all the earrings taken from the Midianites. (All Ishmaelites wore gold earrings.) His warriors gladly donated the gold earrings valued at 1,700 shekels (approximately seventy pounds) plus crescents, pendants, royal clothing and gold chains from their camels. Of these, Gideon made an ephod and put it in Ophrah, his home town.
19. Israel was at peace for forty years and all during Gideon's lifetime. Gideon had seventy sons by his many wives. He also had a concubine in Shechem who gave him a son named Abimelech.
20. Gideon's ephod became an object of idolatry. It marked a tragic end to the career of a great man and his family would suffer as a result of it. (9:5) At Gideon's death, Israel again returned to worshipping Baal and forgot Jehovah.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - idol - statue, toy cow, stone face
 - Midianite raids - mask, sword, toy camel, loot
 - loot - toy sheep, cattle, donkeys, vegetables, fruit, jewelry, gold and silver coins, clothing, pots, jars
 - grain - artificial grass, weeds
 - meat with gravy or sauce, unleavened bread - crackers
 - rock, tissue paper "fire"
 - toy oxen, wooden idol
 - sword, helmet, shield - cardboard, trash can lid
 - fleece - lamb's wool, fake fur, cotton batting - 1 wet with water, 1 dry
 - map
 - spring/stream - blue sheet, shallow dish of water
 - barley cake - English muffin, corn muffin, rye bread
 - tent
 - trumpet - toy, party favor
 - pitcher - clay jar, play doh, salt dough
 - torch - candle, flashlight
 - captured princes - dolls' heads, clay heads, paper heads
 - 77 leaders - list of names
 - thorns, briars - piece of thorny bush
 - moon shapes - gold paper, plastic, craft jewels
 - gold earrings, hoops, jewels, chains
 - ephod - previously used model sprayed gold
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls - Gideon, Joash
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Are We Walking In The Enemy's Camp
- Bind Us Together
- Do You Love Jesus
- Father Abraham
- Gideon (2 Songs)
- I Need You Lord
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- I'm Yours Lord
- Jesus Is Dynamite
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- Our God Is So Big
- Psalms 19 - The Law Of The Lord
- Roll The Gospel Chariot
- Standing On The Promises
- Stepping In The Light
- There Is A Flag That Flies
- This Little Christian Light
- Would You Be Poured Out Like Wine

Activities:

- Video on Gideon in church library
- File Folder Activities: "Judges"
 - "Bible Lands - Geography"
 - "Israel"
- *Bible Charades* - Allow students to "act out" a scene from today's lesson or scenes from previous lessons while the other class members try to guess who they are and which scene it is. Depending on the age group, the teacher may write out brief descriptions of lesson scenes and let students pick one.
- *In Hot Pursuit* - Divide students into 2 teams: "the Midianites" and "Gideon's army." When a Midianite answers a question correctly, he/she advances 1 space. The same for Gideon's army. A simple obstacle course/map in the room will make it more interesting. Examples: cave (sheet or tent), altar (box or stacked blocks), Baal (piñata or statue), Mt. Carmel, Mt. Gilead (green or brown sheet suspended), Jordan valley or spring (blue sheet for water), fleece (lamb's wool or batting), Midianite camp (tent), Succoth/Penuel (food, tower)
- *Choose A Bible Friend* - Make a list of Bible people. Include those of today's lesson and others. Some should be good friends to have and some would not make good friends. Have students decide which they would choose for friends and which they would not and why. This may be done orally or written.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What made Gideon a "mighty man of valour"? How might you be like him?
2. Why did Israel collapse to Baal every time they lost a judge? How is this reflected today?
3. Why did Gideon ask for so many signs from God? What would you have done?
4. Explain the barley cake dream. Why was it significant?
5. Why did God choose soldiers by the way they drank water at the spring?
6. Why did Gideon attack the Midianites at night?
7. What was the purpose of Gideon avenging Succoth and Penuel?
8. Why did Gideon ask for the earrings of the Midianites? Was there anything wrong with this request? Why or why not?
9. Can God use you in His divine plans as He used Gideon? Why or why not?

Old Testament

Lesson 60: Abimelech and Jephthah

Text: Judges 9-12

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| Memory Verses: | Judges 9:56 | Thus God rendered the wickedness of Abimelech, which he did unto his father, in slaying his seventy brethren: |
| | Judges 11:30, 31 | And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the Lord's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. |
| | Psalms 116:5, 6 | Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful. The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a promise to God must be kept. Be careful you do not promise God something you do not intend to follow through. • ill-gotten gain or power is not a blessing from God, but a stumbling block of the devil. It is sure to lead to an unhappy end. |
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Outline:

- I. Abimelech's misuse of power. Judges 9
 - A. Abimelech assumes power.
 - B. Jotham's parable of the trees.
 - C. Gaal's conspiracy.
 - D. Abimelech is slain.

- II. Israel sins again. Judges 10
 - A. Judge Tola.
 - B. Judge Jair.
 - C. Israel oppressed by the Ammonites.

- III. Jephthah - King of Gilead. Judges 11
 - A. Jephthah rejected.
 - B. Gilead seeks Jephthah's help.
 - C. Jephthah intervenes with Ammon.

- D. Jephthah makes a vow.
- E. God gives victory to Jephthah - Gilead.
- F. Jephthah must keep his vow.

IV. Civil war among Israel.

Judges 12

- A. Gilead rises against Ephraim.
- B. Jephthah dies.
- C. Judge Ibzan.
- D. Judge Elon.
- E. Judge Abdon.

Facts:

1. Even though Abimelech numbered among the seventy-one sons of Gideon, as the son of a concubine, he was considered a part of his mother's family. (A secondary "wife" stayed with her own clan and was visited by her husband from time to time.) As he grew up, Abimelech sought to rule Israel and petitioned those of Shechem (his mother's family) for support. Abimelech implied to them that all of Gideon's sons were ambitious about ruling Israel. They expressed their loyalty to Abimelech by giving him seventy pieces of silver from the temple of Baal.
2. Abimelech used this money to eliminate his half brothers. He paid money hungry scoundrels to execute them. All but Jotham, the youngest was killed. Abimelech was then declared king by men of Shechem and Beth Millo. (Genesis 35:4, Joshua 24:26)
3. Jotham heard of this. He went to the top of Mt. Gerizim and spoke a parable to the men of Shechem:
Once there was an olive tree, asked of all the trees in the grove to be their king. But the olive tree refused for it had an important function already and did not wish to Lord over the other trees. Then they asked the fig tree to be king, but it, as well, refused for it had important fruit to produce and did not have time nor the desire to be "above" the others. They asked the grapevine to be king, but it, as well, refused for the same reasons. Finally, they asked the bramble bush to be king. Feeling self important, the bramble bush agreed. He asked the others to come trust his shade knowing he would in time choke them out or his dry thorns would easily catch fire and devour even the mighty cedars of Lebanon.
4. Jotham made his point: If the men of Shechem felt they had done right, forgetting all Gideon had done to protect them and supporting the murderer of his sons (Abimelech), then may they be happy together. But he warned this "bramble" king would prove destructive to them and they to him. Jotham then escaped beyond the reach of Abimelech's vengeance to Beer. (Many places in Palestine bear this name.)
5. Abimelech reigned for three years. God allowed animosity to develop between Abimelech and those of Shechem. The men of Shechem set up an ambush for Abimelech along the mountain top. As they waited for Abimelech to come along, they robbed the caravans and all those passing that route. (This indirectly deprived Abimelech of tribute and toll money of those travelers passing through Shechem.)
6. Gaal, son of Ebed, had moved to Shechem with his brothers and became a prominent citizen. At the harvest festival, Gaal perpetuated the revolt against Abimelech. Zebul, the town leader, warned Abimelech of the uprising. He

- suggested Abimelech come by night with his army and hide in the fields. At dawn, they should surround and attack.
7. Abimelech followed Zebul's advice. At dawn he and his soldiers moved in on all four sides. Gaal was caught off guard. Zebul taunted Gaal by saying he was afraid of shadows ("of men") on the mountains; must be a guilty conscience. When it became evident to Gaal, Abimelech was attacking, Zebul taunted Gaal again about his big mouth boasting.
 8. Gaal rallied his forces, but it was too late to hold back Abimelech. Abimelech showed no mercy to Shechem. He killed its inhabitants and sowed the city with salt, rendering the soil sterile and unable to produce. (Jeroboam years later, will rebuild this city. I Kings 12) Some fled to the tower of Baal-berith, but Abimelech and his men cut kindling wood at Mt. Zalmon and burned the tower to the ground. About 1,000 men and women perished in the flames.
 9. Then, Abimelech attacked Thebez, thirteen miles north of Shechem. Within the city was a fortified tower. As Abimelech prepared to burn it, as he had Baal-berith, a woman threw a piece of millstone off the roof, which crushed Abimelech's skull. A warrior's honor demanded he die in battle at the hand of a man. To die at the hand of a woman was a disgrace.
 10. Abimelech begged his armor bearer to slay him and never tell a woman conquered him. The armor bearer pierced him with his sword. When Abimelech's army realized he was dead, they disbanded and went home. Both the destruction of Abimelech and those of Shechem were just punishment from God for the murders of Gideon's sons.
 11. Israel's next judge was Tola. Tola was from the tribe of Issachar and ruled Israel twenty-three years. (Genesis 46:13, Numbers 26:23) The next twenty-two years were judged by Jair of Gilead, tribe of Manasseh. Jair had thirty sons of great rank and prominence with thirty cities of Gilead each bearing Jair's name. (Numbers 32:41)
 12. Upon Jair's death, Israel forgot Jehovah and turned once again to Baal and Ashtaroth. They also worshipped the god of Syria - Hadad or Rimmon, the god of Zidon, the god of Moab - Chemosh, the god of Ammon - Molech, and the god of the Philistines - Dagon and Baal-zebub. God allowed Israel to once again be oppressed and terrorized by the Philistines and the Ammonites for eighteen years. They led unmerciful raids on Judah, Benjamin and Manasseh and Ephraim.
 13. Once again Israel cried to God for deliverance from their enemies, but Jehovah reminded them that He had rescued them time and time before, yet they continued to abandon Him and served idol gods, so go cry to their "new gods" to save them. Israel destroyed their idols and acknowledged their sin. They begged for God's mercy.
 14. Israel found itself at war with Ammon, but without a leader. Jephthah of Gilead was a great warrior, but being the son of a harlot gave him inferior status within the family. His legitimate brothers chased him away to the land of Tob. There, he and his followers lived as bandits. When war breaks out with Ammon, the leaders of Gilead sent for Jephthah to be their leader.
 15. Jephthah was indignant that they should want his help when they had driven him away. They promised Jephthah if he would lead them against Ammon, they would make him their king. Jephthah accepted God and the people approved the agreement.

16. Jephthah sent messengers to Ammon to find out why they were attacking Israel. They claimed Israel stole their land when they came over from Egypt. Jephthah told them that when Israel came from Egypt, they requested passage through Amorite territory. King Sihon attacked them so Jehovah God helped them defeat King Sihon and He gave them the land. Besides this took place 300 years ago! Jephthah assured the king of Ammon Jehovah would show him who the land rightfully belonged to. The king ignored Jephthah.
17. God was with Jephthah as they attacked Ammon. Jephthah vowed to God whatever came from his house first to meet him after their victory he would sacrifice to God. Jephthah conquered the Ammonites (twenty cities). As he returned home in victory, his daughter, his only child, ran out to meet him. Remembering his vow, his joy changed to anguish. He tore his clothes in grief.
18. The vow was sacred and had to be carried out. Human sacrifices were forbidden in Israel, but Jephthah had lived on the fringes of society where heathen ideas prevailed. His daughter submitted to the vow without flinching. She requested a two month period to grieve her double tragedy (1-becoming a burnt offering and 2-dying childless and unmarried). After two months, Jephthah fulfilled his vow to God. It then became a custom for young Israelite girls to go away four days each year to grieve the fate of Jephthah's daughter.
19. The men of Ephraim, with a hostile attitude, crossed Jordan to approach Jephthah. They demanded to know why Jephthah did not enlist their aid in fighting Ammon. Jephthah insisted he had asked for their help and they failed to respond. Those of Ephraim accused Jephthah and his men of being outcasts and deserters. Civil war broke out. Jephthah and the Gileads defeated those of Ephraim.
20. They cut off the fjords of Jordan preventing fugitives of Ephraim from escaping. If one came through, they had to say "Shibboleth." It is thought that the Ephraimites could not pronounce the "H" in their dialect. So if they said "Sibboleth" instead of "Shibboleth" they were killed. Forty-two thousand Ephraimites died there. (Hebrews 11:32) Jephthah judged Israel six eventful years and was buried in Gilead.
21. Ibzan was Israel's next judge. Ibzan was from Bethlehem. He had thirty sons and thirty daughters whom he married outside his clan seemingly to strengthen his political ties outside of Bethlehem. (It is debated whether this is Bethlehem, Judah or Bethlehem Zebulun.) He judged Israel seven years.
22. Judge Elon served Israel next. Elon was from Zebulun and judged Israel ten years.
23. Next was Judge Abdon from Ephraim. Abdon had forty sons and thirty grandsons, all of great wealth and prominence. He judged Israel eight years.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - crown - toy, paper, plastic, crafted
 - 70 pieces of silver - play money, dimes, nickels, silver paper circles
 - scoundrels - mask, handkerchief, ski mask, stocking hat, cape
 - Mt. Gerizim - map, crafted model
 - trees - models, cut-outs, branches, 4 different leaves for olives, figs, grapes, thorns
 - ambush - "rock," chair, table to hid behind, rubber mask, sword, play money
 - attack - toy sword, helmet, shield, spear

- salt or sand
- kindling - bundle of sticks, pencils, tissue paper, or cellophane for fire
- millstone - large rounded stone, foam stone, pillow form, clay
- toy horse, donkeys
- idol gods - statues, toy animals sprayed gold or gray, piñata, rock with painted face
- messenger - name tag, tennis shoes, map
- Puppets/Dolls - Gail, Gideon, 7 judges, daughter
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Encamped Along The Hills Of Light
- God Had A Reason To Make Me
- Hard Fighting Soldier
- Humble Yourselves
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Thank God
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- I'm Yours Lord
- Into My Heart
- Responsibility Song
- Roll The Gospel Chariot
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- The Very Best Life
- To Christ Be True
- Whatever I Shall Be When I Grow Up
- Without Him

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Judges"
"Israel"
"Bible Lands - Geography"
- Have students do a report on the idol gods represented in today's lesson to further understand the evils associated with them during this period of history. (1 per student)
- *Tug Of War* - Divide students into 2 teams with a rope. Mark 1 foot lengths on the rope with marker or tape. Ask a question, the 1st front man able to answer correctly advances on the rope 1 foot. Then, the front opponents go to the back of the line and the next 2 opponents take their positions. Repeat the process until 1 team has an advantage at the end of a given time.
- *Verse Search* - Have students search the lesson text for specified persons, places or things of today's lesson. This may be done individually or as teams.
- *Hold-Up Cards* - Divide hold-up cards among students. (Hold-up cards are cards with names/pictures of Bible people, places, or things on them.) As you read today's story, students should listen for their hold-up card to be called. When called, they should briefly hold it up.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why/how did God use Abimelech as a judge for His people?
2. Explain the parable of the trees. How might this same parable be applicable today?

3. Who was Jotham? Gaal?
4. What was significant about Abimelech's death?
5. Why/how did God use Jephthah as a judge for His people?
6. What vow did he make to God? What is a vow?
7. What vow(s) have you made to God? Have you kept them?
8. What might be the consequences of making a vow to God and not keeping it?
9. Which Bible person studied today leaves you with the greatest impression? Why?
10. Give contemporary examples of ill-gotten gain or a misuse of power.

Old Testament

Lesson 61: Samson: God's Mighty Man Of Strength

Text: Judges 13-16

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| Memory Verses: | Judges 13:5 | For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. |
| | Judges 15:15 | And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith. |
| | Proverbs 16:32 | He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. |
| | Ephesians 5:31 | For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. |
| | Phillipians 4:13 | I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the value of Christian companionships and a Christian marriage partner. • although God blessed Samson with outside physical strength, imagine what greater accomplishments he might have made if he had been morally strong on the inside. |
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Outline:

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|-----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| I. | A visit from an angel. | Judges 13 |
| | A. A child is promised. | |
| | B. The angel appears to Manoah. | |
| | C. Manoah's sacrifice. | |
| | D. Samson is born. | |
| II. | Samson wants a wife. | Judges 14 |
| | A. A Philistine girl. | |
| | B. Samson kills a lion. | |
| | C. Honey in the carcass. | |
| | D. Samson asks a riddle. | |
| | E. Samson kills 30 Philistines. | |

- III. Samson's supernatural strength. Judges 15
A. Samson is denied his wife.
B. 300 foxes in the corn.
C. Samson bound and delivered.
D. Samson slays 1,000 Philistines.
- IV. Samson and Delilah. Judges 16
A. Samson carries away the city gates.
B. Enticement by Delilah.
C. Samson taken prisoner.
D. Samson triumphs in death.

Facts:

1. Once again, Israel sinned by worshipping idol gods, so again they were ruled by their enemies, the Philistines for forty years. Israel cried again to God and an angel appeared to Manoah's wife. Manoah was of the tribe of Dan and lived in the city of Zorah. They had no children.
2. The angel told Manoah's wife she would have a son. She was not to drink any wine, strong drink, or eat any food that was not clean (Numbers 6:2-21) for her son was to be a Nazarite, pure and dedicated to God from birth. His hair was not to be cut. God would use this child to begin the release of Israel from the Philistines. (The Philistine threat continued until the time of David.)
3. She ran to tell her husband the good news. Manoah prayed God would send his messenger back to give them more information concerning this promised child and how they should raise him. God heard Manoah's prayer and sent the angel back. The angel appeared to Manoah's wife as she sat in the fields. She ran to get Manoah. The angel repeated the instructions he had given Manoah's wife.
4. Manoah asked the angel to stay so he can show him proper hospitality. The angel agreed to stay but he told Manoah he won't be eating and any sacrifice must be made to Jehovah. Manoah asked the man his name. (Manoah does not yet realize he is an angel.) The angel told Manoah his name was secret.
5. Manoah offered a kid goat as a burnt offering along with a meat offering to God. As the smoke and flames of the sacrifice ascended heavenward, the angel ascended with it, erasing any doubt for Manoah, this visitor was from God. Manoah thought they would die for having seen God. (Exodus 33:20, Judges 6:22) His wife points out the acceptance of their sacrifice by God and the promised miracle of a son had not yet been fulfilled. The son was born to Manoah and his wife. They named him Samson meaning "sun." He grew, becoming a leader endued with the Holy Spirit.
6. While in Timnath, on the border of Judah, Samson decided he wanted to marry a Philistine girl he had met. Marriages were negotiated by parents. (Genesis 12:21) Samson's parents were not happy about him marrying a Philistine, but Samson kept insisting this was the girl for him. (God was using Samson's marriage proposal as a part of His plan to defeat the Philistines.)
7. As Samson returned to Timnath with his parents, Samson was attacked by a young lion. God gave Samson the strength to kill the lion with his bare hands. He went on to Timnath and wedding plans were made.
8. As Samson returned to Timnath for the wedding, he saw the dried carcass of the lion he had killed. In it was a bee hive with honey. He took some in his hands

- and shared it with his parents, but he did not tell them where he got it. (The Nazarite code forbade contact with a carcass.)
9. Samson made a feast at his bride's home with thirty other men. Samson gave his guests a riddle to solve. Riddles served as a form of entertainment. Samson limited the time for solving the riddle to the week of the wedding festivities. He wagers thirty linen garments and thirty festive garments if they solve it. If not, they must give him the garments. The riddle was: "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness." (Referring to the lion's carcass with honey.)
 10. For three days, the young Philistine men tried to figure out the riddle but could not. On the fourth day, they go to Samson's bride and tell her she must get the answer for them or they will burn down her father's house with her in it. She begged and cried to Samson until he finally told her on the seventh day. Of course, she told the young men.
 11. The spirit of God called Samson to go to Ashkelon. (twenty-three miles from the Mediterranean coast) Samson kills thirty men there and "paid" his wedding companions with garments taken from those thirty he killed, then returned home to his parents.
 12. Samson then took a young goat as a present to his wife intending to consummate their marriage. Her father told Samson he thought he hated his daughter, so he married her to Samson's companion. He offered Samson his younger daughter instead.
 13. In revenge, Samson caught 300 foxes. He tied their tails together in pairs with a torch between them. He lit the torches and let the foxes loose to run through the grain fields and olive groves of the Philistines destroying them. The Philistines blamed Samson's wife and father-in-law and burned them to death. To avenge their death, Samson killed more Philistines and then went to a cave near Etam of Judah, two miles southwest of Bethlehem.
 14. The Philistines in turn raided Lehi of Judah in search of Samson. Samson was from the tribe of Dan, so apparently the Judeans felt no obligation to protect him. As tribute to his mighty strength, 3,000 Judeans went after Samson. Samson agreed to let them bind him with new ropes if they would not harm him themselves.
 15. As they returned to Lehi, the Philistines were elated to see Samson bound. God again renewed Samson's strength. Samson broke the ropes like thread. He picked up a jawbone and killed 1,000 Philistines with it. He spoke a song of triumph.
 16. Samson was thirsty. He asked God to quench his thirst and God caused water to spring forth from a hollow in the jaw. Samson named this place Enhakkore, meaning "the spring of the caller." Samson judged Israel for twenty years.
 17. Samson's physical strength did not offset his moral weakness. Samson, in time, went to the Philistine city of Gaza to be with a prostitute. He was reported in the city so guards lay in wait to capture him at daybreak. At midnight, Samson left Gaza, took the city gates with their posts and carried them to the top of a mountain near Hebron.
 18. Samson fell in love again with another Philistine girl named Delilah. The Philistine leaders approached Delilah promising her 1,100 pieces of silver from each of them if she would get Samson to divulge his source of strength. Delilah begged Samson to tell her. Samson told her if he were bound with seven new

- bowstrings, he would be weak as other men. She bound him with the bowstrings but Samson broke them as if they were thread. Again, she begged Samson to tell her the source of his strength. Next, he told her if he were bound with new ropes he would be as other men. So she bound him with new ropes and again he broke them like thread. Delilah begged again for Samson to tell her what made him so strong. He told her if she were to weave his hair into her loom he would be weak. She wove his hair in her loom as he slept. As he was awakened he pulled the posts of the loom out of the ground, breaking it.
19. Delilah nagged Samson daily insisting that true love meant that there would be no secrets between them. Finally, Samson explained the vow of a Nazarite to her. He told her his hair had never been cut; if it were, his strength would be gone. As Samson slept in her lap, she had his hair cut off. The Philistines captured Samson, for his strength from God was gone. They gouged his eyes out and bound him with brass chains to grind grain in the prison.
 20. Slowly, his hair began to grow again. The Philistines celebrated Samson's captivity. They ascribed their victory over him to their idol Dagon. They had Samson brought to Dagon's temple that they might gloat and make fun of his humbled condition. Samson asked the boy leading him to help him find the supporting pillars that he might rest against them. The temple was filled with over 3,000 Philistines and their leaders.
 21. Although Samson was not the model of piety, the humiliation experienced seemed to make him conscious of his God-given mission. He asked God to give him strength one more time. Exerting all his might, Samson pushed the middle supporting pillars until they give way, bringing the temple roof crashing down. More Philistines were killed that day than all those Samson had killed during his lifetime. Losing his life as well that day, his relatives came for his body and buried him back home (Zorah) with his father, Manoah.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - idol god - statue, clay face, stone w/ face, piñata
 - grape juice (wine), grapes, raisins, bacon, sausage, hot dogs
 - hair, scissors
 - piece of meat, toy goat on altar - box, sugar cubes & clay, gravel & clay, blocks
 - baby Samson - baby doll
 - lion - stuffed, toy, crafted
 - carcass - clay form, dried chicken back
 - honeycomb, honey - let students taste
 - feast - tablecloth, plates, cups, candle, food
 - coat, garment, tunic - paper, cloth, pretend - possibly 1/student
 - goat, fox - stuffed, toy, clay, picture
 - torch - candle, flashlight in rolled paper, cellophane "fire"
 - jawbone - meat bone, clay form, papier maché, cardboard
 - bowl of water, cups
 - city gates - build simple miniature door frame with cardboard doors, clay, craft sticks, straws, dowel sticks, styrofoam
 - pieces of silver - silver coins, paper circles, play money
 - bowstrings - thin leather strips, twine, yarn
 - ropes - heavy strings, braided fabric

- loom - potholder loom, any craft loom, grid
- craft hair, shears
- chains - paper, toy cuffs, old chain necklace
- sunglasses for blind Samson
- temple model - cardboard, blocks, box with pillars (tissue rolls), toy people
- Puppets/Dolls - angel, Manoah, wife, Samson, Philistines, Delilah, Philistine girl
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Dear Lord & Father Of Mankind
- God Gave Us These
- God Had A Reason To Make Me
- God Has A Purpose
- God Made Me
- Growing
- More Love To Thee
- My Helping Hands
- Samson's Strength
- Song Of Samson
- The Beehive
- The Lord Has Been Mindful Of Me
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- The Very Best Life
- Without Him

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Samson"
"Judges"
- Make a time line of judges we've studied. Have students illustrate each one or their favorite judge.
- *I'm Thinking Of* - Create a box or a bag students can put their hand inside without the other students seeing what they are touching. Put "durable" visuals inside for them to touch and feel. Have them describe the visual relating it to a scene in the lesson without telling exactly what it is. Have other students try to guess what the visual is. Make sure each student gets a turn.
- *Riddles* - Make up riddles (or have older students make up their own riddles) pertaining to people, places or events in today's lesson (or the book of Judges). Let students figure them out. This may be done orally or written. This could also be done as a word association activity. Example: strength=Samson, sweet=honey
- *This Is Your Life* - Have students put in sequence pictures or written facts as they happened in Samson's life.
- *Who Made The Headlines?* Have students pretend they are news reporters. Have them write or tell events from today's lesson as if they were reporting the latest news bulletin. Use a toy microphone as they report their stories on location.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to marry a Christian? What problems would be overcome or avoided?
2. What moral strengths and weaknesses do you see in Samson? What moral strengths and weaknesses do you see in yourself?
3. How might you become stronger morally?

4. Why didn't Manoah and his wife not immediately recognize the visitor as an angel from God?
5. Why did God give Samson supernatural strength? Does God do this today? Why?
6. How did Samson make a gamble? What's wrong with gambling? Why? Did any good come from it for Samson?
7. Name different forms of gambling and how they can be harmful.
8. What kinds of "girlfriends" did Samson pick? What kind of influence did they have on him? Why was he not strong enough to have influence for good over them?
9. How might you be influenced by the friends you pick? How does the phrase "love is blind" apply to Samson?
10. What did it take to make Samson conscious of his God-given mission? What is your God-given mission?

Old Testament Lesson 62: Lawless Times

Text: Judges 17-21

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| Memory Verses: | Judges 17:6 | In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes. |
| | Proverbs 14:12 | There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. |
| | Proverbs 15:3 | The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. |
| | Romans 6:23 | For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. |
| | I Corinthians 6:9 | Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sin in our lives brings sadness and heartache. It hurts others we care about as well. |
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Outline:

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| I. Micah A. Money stolen and returned. B. Images created. C. Hiring a Levite. | Judges 17 |
| II. The Danites. A. Five spies. B. They steal from Micah. C. Dan conquers Laish and sets up idols. | Judges 18 |
| III. The Levite and his concubine. A. The Levite goes after his concubine. B. No lodging in Gibeah. C. The Gibeahites abuse his concubine. D. He divides her into 12 pieces. | Judges 19 |
| IV. The Levite appeals to Israel. A. The Levite's appeal. | Judges 20 |

- B. Israel appeals to the Benjamites.
- C. Israel defeated.
- D. The Benjamites destroyed.

V. Preserving the tribe of Benjamin.

Judges 21

- A. Israel's vow.
- B. The attack on Jabesh-gilead.
- C. Benjamites catch a wife.

Facts:

1. Micah, a man from Ephraim, had stolen 1,100 pieces of silver from his mother. Not realizing her son was the thief, she had put a curse on the one who had taken her money. Micah, probably feared the power of his mother's curse, so he confessed to taking the silver. His mother decided the money should be used for religious purposes, possibly to avert the curse on her son, so she used it to have an idol (god) made.
2. She placed the idol in Micah's temple along with an ephod and teraphim Micah had made which also served as idols. Micah appointed one of his sons as a priest. Superstition, not faith in Jehovah prevailed.
3. A young Levite from Bethlehem, in Judah, comes to Ephraim looking for a place to live. Micah asked him to stay there and become his private family priest. He offered the priest ten shekels of silver a year, a suit of clothing and room and board. The young Levite agreed to his offer. Micah thought this would bring him favor in God's sight.
4. The tribe of Dan's land was still occupied by the powerful Philistines. They sent five spies to search for new territory to settle. During their search, they stayed at Micah's home. The spies recognize the Levite's voice. They asked why he was there and would their mission be successful. He gave an encouraging report.
5. The spies travelled on north to Laish (also Leshem). The people there lived a wealthy, quiet, Phoenician lifestyle with no strong internal government. They had no treaties as allies with neighboring tribes that would complicate an attack. The spies returned home suggesting that Dan should possess Laish. So, 600 warriors and their families travelled north as far as Kirjath-jearim and camped. (Joshua 9:17)
6. As they travelled on through the hills of Ephraim, they came to Micah's house. The five spies told of Micah's private shrine with idols and his own priest. As they stopped to greet Micah and his household, the five spies slipped into the temple and stole the silver idol, the ephod, and the teraphim. They persuaded the Levite to serve as a priest to their whole tribe rather than to one family. He accompanied them.
7. Micah, with the aid of his neighbors chased after the Danites and challenged them for stealing his priest and idols. The Danites threatened Micah and his neighbors with death if they tried to recover them. Outnumbered, Micah went home empty handed.
8. The Danites went on to slaughter and burn the city of Laish. They rebuilt the city for themselves and renamed it Dan. They set up Micah's idols in a temple. Jonathan may have been the name of the Levite. (Judges 17:7) Shiloh was the religious capital of Israel at the time, but the tribe of Dan maintained their idolatrous worship. This continued after King Solomon's reign with Jeroboam. (I Kings 12:29)

9. During this lawless time, when men did whatever they wanted, a Levite traveling through Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem-judah. She deserted him and went back to her father's house. The Levite in turn went after her. He was warmly welcomed by her father who entertained them for four days, reluctant to let them go.
10. On the fifth day, the father again tried to get them to stay, but in the afternoon the Levite insisted on leaving. They travelled as far as Jerusalem (also called Jebus) before dark. Because it was a heathen city with no Israelites, the Levite refused to stay there. He insisted on traveling on to Gibeah or Ramah to spend the night.
11. The sun was setting as they reached Gibeah (of the tribe of Benjamin). Expecting lodging and hospitality from one of the townspeople, they waited in the public square, but no one offered. Finally an old man of Ephraim on his way home from working in the fields, offered the travelers a place to stay the night. He fed them and their donkeys.
12. The men of Gibeah were like those of Sodom. (Genesis 19:8) They came to the old man's house wanting sexual relations with the Levite. The old man offered his own daughter and the Levite's concubine to the men as a means of protecting his guest. The Levite sent out his concubine to save himself. She was abused all night. At dawn, they let her go.
13. She was found dead by the Levite at the door. He took her home and divided her body into twelve pieces. He sent the pieces to the various tribes of Israel. The entire nation was roused to action against the men of Benjamin for this awful deed.
14. Israel prepared for war with 450,000 troops at Mizpeh, three miles from Gibeah. The Benjamites defended those of Gibeah. The Levite recounted the events that led to his concubine's death and he asked for their counsel. They rallied to attack and punished those of Gibeah. They sent word to the tribe of Benjamin for the offenders to be turned over to them. The tribe of Benjamin sent 26,000 warriors to join Gibeah's 700 men in defense. The Benjamites were skillful archers and slingers. (I Chronicles 12:2)
15. A tenth of Israel's army was a supply line for food. Judah's tribe was chosen to lead the battle. Their first attack on Benjamin, Israel lost, with 22,000 casualties. They asked God if they should battle Benjamin. He told them "yes." They regrouped and attacked again. Again, Israel lost the battle and 18,000 men. Israel went to Bethel. They wept, fast, and offered sacrifices to God. They asked again if they should battle with Benjamin. God, through Phinehas, the high priest, told Israel that tomorrow they would win.
16. Israel set up an ambush as Joshua had against Ai. (Joshua 8:4-29) They drew the Benjamites out of Gibeah while those lying in wait went in behind and torched the city. As the smoke rose, the retreating Israelites turned and fought. Eighteen thousand Benjamites died leaving only a small remnant of 600 that fled and found refuge at the rock of Rimmon, four miles east of Bethel. There, they stayed for four months.
17. Israel faced a new problem. Almost the entire tribe of Benjamin had been destroyed and the other tribes had vowed not to allow their daughters to marry those remaining Benjamites. Seeking some way of preserving this tribe from extinction, Israel checked to see if there were any who had not come to Mizpeh to do battle.
18. Jabesh-gilead had not responded to the fight. Israel had previously vowed to kill any who did not come, so Israel sent 12,000 men to kill all the males and married women of Jabesh-gilead. They brought back 400 virgin girls to Shiloh and in a

peace delegation, delivered them as wives to the Benjamites. There were not enough for all of them.

19. Eventually, they came up with an idea to get around their oath. During an annual feast at Shiloh, the girls would dance in the fields. They told the Benjamites without wives to hide in the vineyards until they saw the girls come out. They were to rush out and take one to be their wife. That way they would not have “given” their daughters to marry the Benjamites. If any complaints arose among relatives of the girls, the Israelite leaders would intercede for the Benjamites.
20. Thus, the Benjamite men got their wives and rebuilt their cities. Those of Israel who were gathered at Mizpeh went home. Throughout the history of Judges, God's hand can be traced, but human failure boldly stands out where they did not follow God.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map of Israel - 12 tribes
 - silver money - coins, paper circles, play money
 - idol god - silver sprayed statue
 - temple - stand or box for the statue
 - spies - mask, spy glass, binoculars, trench coat, hat sunglasses
 - treaty - rolled paper with a stamp or seal, ribbon
 - warriors - sword, bow, helmet, spear, shield
 - model of a house/ city on “fire” - construction, cellophane paper, sprayed cotton
 - traveling - suitcase, knapsack, donkey
 - vineyards - grapes, clusters
- Puppets/Dolls - Micah, mother, Levite, Danites, concubine, Gibeathites
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Awesome Power
- Bind Us Together
- By The Grace Of God I Am
- Dear Lord & Father Of Mankind
- God Is Watching Over You
- Hear O Israel
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- May I Call You Father
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- The Devil Wants Me To Sin
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- This Little Christian Light
- Whatever Shall I Be When I Grow Up
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: “Judges”
“Geography - Bible Lands”
- *Catch A Wife* - Organize younger students in 2 lines or a circle. Have students “catch a wife” as in Duck, Duck Goose or Red Rover, Red Rover.

- Using today's text as well as other scriptures, help students understand the temptations of Satan are the same today as in Old Testament times. Help them to realize spiritual/physical consequences of stealing, infidelity in marriage, homosexuality, not keeping a vow or promise idolatry, murder. Have older students research the scriptures on such topics. Younger students use an application story or activity.
- *Diamond Art* - Using a sheet of paper for each student, draw 3 large diamond shapes on each. Have students draw 3 quick pictures to tell today's lesson with markers or crayons.
- *I Will, I Won't* - The teacher or a student can be "it." "It" points to a student, calling them by name and says "person's name, I will" or "person's name, I won't 1,2,3." Before you get to 3, that person chosen must answer with a will/won't statement or they become "it." Example: I will pray/ I won't miss worship/ I will read God's word/ I won't say bad words. Vary the order of "I wills" and "I won'ts."
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

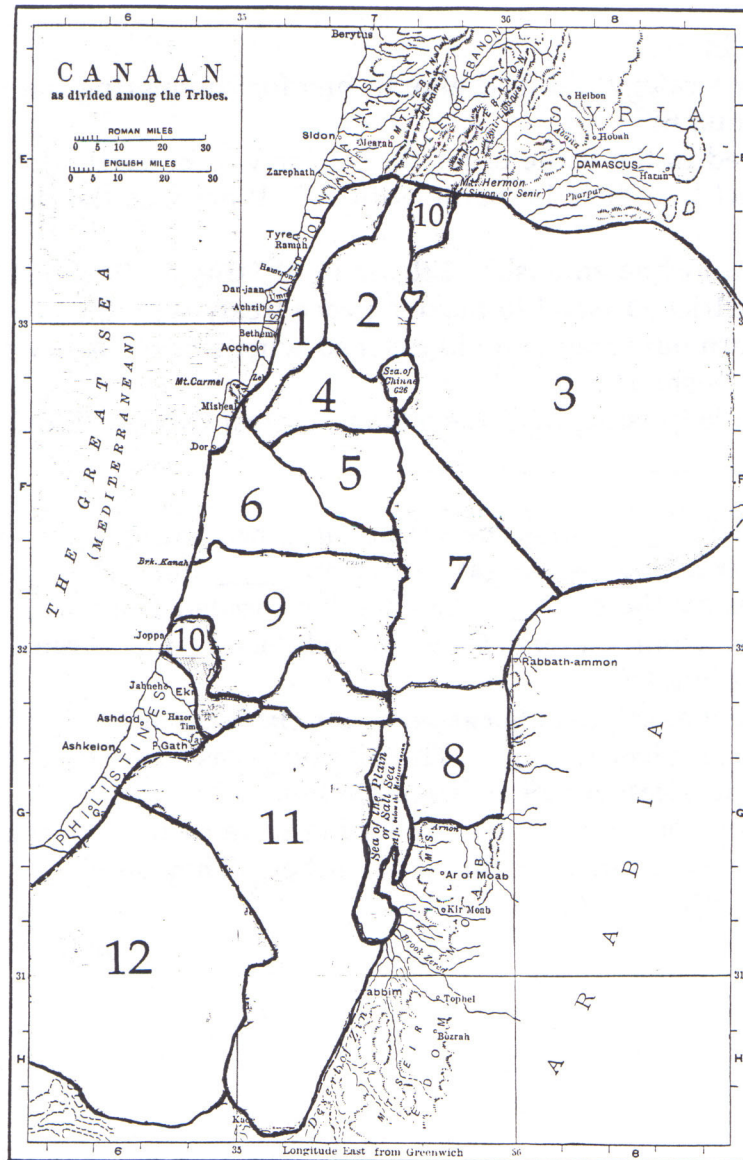
1. How seriously did the Israelites take vows they made? Give examples.
2. Did using the silver for "religious" purposes or having a private priest bring godly favour? Why?
3. Give examples of this same principle being done today.
4. Why were the Danites crowded out of their territory? What should they have done? (What had God told them to do?)
5. Why were so many Israelites doing whatever seemed right to them at the moment, rather than following God's law? Do we see this happening today? Give examples.
6. Describe the character traits of the Levites in today's lesson. How did they represent God?
7. How often do we reflect on how we represent God? Describe your own character traits.
8. Why was it necessary to fight the entire tribe of Benjamin? Why did Israel lose to them in their first two attacks?
9. What was important about preserving this tribe from extinction?

Old Testament

Lesson 63: Review Of Joshua And Judges

Text: Joshua, Judges

1. Joshua 1:5, 6 "I will be with thee: I will not _____ thee nor _____ thee. Be strong and of good _____."
2. Joshua 2:1 "And Joshua the son of _____ sent out of Shittim _____ men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even _____. And they went and came into an harlot's house named _____, and lodged there."
3. The harlot helped the spies escape (out the back door / by a ladder / by a red cord). She urged them to hide (2 / 3 / 4) days in (the cellar / the mountains / the desert). (Joshua 2)
4. Joshua 3:17 "And the _____ that bare the _____ of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on _____ ground in the midst of Jordan and all the _____ passed over on _____ ground until all the people were passed clean over Jordan."
5. Israel used (12 / 24 / 36) stones to create a memorial to God at Jordan for giving them safe passage. (Joshua 4)
6. Once entering the land of Canaan, Israel stopped receiving _____ from God for food. (Joshua 5)
7. Joshua 5:15 "And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, loose thy _____ from off thy _____; for the place whereon thou standeth is _____. And Joshua did so."
8. What military strategy did God give Joshua for conquering the walls of Jericho? (Joshua 6)
9. Who was saved in the battle of Jericho? Who was cursed? (Joshua 6)
10. Why did Israel lose their 1st battle with Ai? What was the punishment? (Joshua 7)
11. Which city did Joshua ambush? (Lebanon / Ai / Gilgal) (Joshua 8)
12. Which people tricked Israel to make a peace treaty with them by showing them their worn out shoes and old patched wine skins? (Amorites / Gibeonites / Canaanites) (Joshua 9)
13. How did God help Israel fight the 5 kings against Gibeon? (Joshua 10)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
14. Joshua 11:23 "So _____ took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an _____ unto Israel according to their divisions by their _____. And the land rested from war."
15. In dividing the promised land, Caleb picked the city of (Hebron / Gezer / Shechem). (Joshua 15)
16. The tabernacle was set up at (Jerusalem / Shechem / Shiloh). (Joshua 18)
17. The land was divided by _____. The dividing was supervised by (Joshua / Eleazar / the tribal leaders / all of these). (Joshua 13-22)
18. When the troops of the tribes east of Jordan were dismissed, they built an _____. This was offensive to the other tribes. They sent _____ to talk to them about it. (Joshua 22)
19. Dividing the land: fill in the map showing which tribes settled where. (Joshua 13-22)



20. Joshua 24:15b “As for _____ and my _____ we will _____ the _____.”
21. As Joshua bids farewell to Israel, he renews the _____ between them and God. He also encourages them to always be _____ to God. (Joshua 24)

Matching:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 22. Judge Othniel (Jud.3) | A. killed 600 Philistines with an ox goad |
| 23. Judge Ehud (Jud.3) | B. was from the tribe of Issachar; ruled Israel 23 years |
| 24. Judge Shamgar (Jud.3) | C. Caleb's (the spy's) nephew and son-in-law |
| 25. Judge Deborah (Jud.4) | D. kills fat King Eglon in his private chambers |
| 26. Judge Gideon (Jud.6-8) | E. was from Bethlehem with 30 sons, 30 daughters |
| 27. Judge Tola (Jud.10) | F. had 30 sons all named after him |
| 28. Judge Jair (Jud.10) | G. a woman judge who helped Barak in battle |
| 29. Judge Jephthah(Jud.11) | H. was from Ephraim; 40 sons |
| 30. Judge Ibzan (Jud.12) | I. issued a trumpet, clay pitcher, and a torch to his 300 soldiers for battle |
| 31. Judge Elon (Jud.12) | J. had to sacrifice his daughter because of his vow to God |
| 32. Judge Abdon (Jud.12) | K. God made physically strong through his hair |
| 33. Judge Samson (Jud.13-16) | L. was from Zebulun; judged Israel 10 years |
| 34. Judge Samuel (1 Sam. 7) | M. began to serve in God's tabernacle at a very early age |
35. The book of Judges covers a (350, 1000) year period of Israel's history led by territorial judges. It most likely was written by (Joshua, Samuel).
36. The recurring theme in Judges seems to be: Israel forsaking God; God allowing them to be slaves to their enemies; their cry to God in repentance; and God providing a judge to deliver them. (true, false)
37. In Barak of Israel's battle against Sisera of Hazor, (Deborah, Jael) killed Sisera with a (heavy rock, tent peg). Gideon asked God for a sign by making the fleece _____ and the ground _____ then vice versa. God reduced the number of his troops by picking those that (cupped water in their hands to drink / knelt to drink from the stream). (Judges 4-7)
38. Samson killed a (bear, lion) with his bare hands. He ties the tails of 300 (foxes, skunks) together with torches and sets them on fire to run through the cornfields. Samson is tricked by _____ to reveal the source of his supernatural strength. (Judges 14-16)

Answer Key

1. fail, forsake, courage
2. Nun, 2, Jericho, Rahab
3. by a red cord, the mountains
4. priests, ark, dry, Israelites, dry
5. 12
6. manna
7. shoe, foot, holy
8. The Israelites were to march around the city once a day for 6 days silently. Seven priests bearing the ark and trumpets would march with them. They would encompass the city 7 times on the 7th day then blow their trumpets while the people shouted.
9. Rahab and her family, the rebuilders of Jericho
10. Achan had taken a robe, silver and gold. Israel stoned Achan and his family and burned them with all their belongings.
11. Ai
12. Gibeonites
13. Hailstones, made the sun and moon stand still
14. Joshua, inheritance, tribes
15. Hebron
16. Shiloh
17. lots, all of these
18. altar, Phinehas
19. 1 - Asher, 2 - Naphtali, 3 - Manasseh, 4 - Zebulun, 5 - Issachar, 6 - Manasseh, 7 - Gad, 8 - Reuben, 9 - Ephraim, 10 - Dan, 11 - Judah, 12 - Simeon
20. me, house, serve, Lord
21. covenant (pledge), faithful

Matching:

- | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 22. C | 27. B | 32. H |
| 23. D | 28. F | 33. K |
| 24. A | 29. J | 34. M |
| 25. G | 30. E | |
| 26. I | 31. L | |

35. 350, Samuel
36. True
37. Jael, tent peg, wet, dry, cupped water in their hands to drink
38. lion, foxes, Delilah

Old Testament

Lesson 64: The Story Of True Love

Text: Ruth 1-4

| | | |
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| Memory Verses: | Ruth 1:16 | And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: |
| | Acts 10:34, 35 | Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him. |
| | Philippians 4:11, 12 | Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. |
| | I John 3:18 | My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth showed kindness and loyalty to Naomi when she was all alone; as a result, God blessed her. He will bless us when we show kindness and loyalty as well. • God commands us to be faithful marriage partners and seek the best for one another. • we see in the story of Ruth the theme of redemption and the providence of God guiding common people in common settings. No event in the life of God's people is insignificant because of His constant involvement. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| I. | Ruth's love and loyalty for Naomi. | Ruth 1 |
| | A. Elimelech and Naomi go to Moab. | |
| | B. Elimelech and sons die. | |
| | C. Opportunity for Ruth to leave Naomi. | |
| | D. Ruth's choice to support and return with Naomi. | |
| II. | Ruth cares for Naomi. | Ruth 2 |
| | A. Ruth gleanes the fields of Boaz. | |
| | B. Boaz shows favoritism to Ruth. | |

- III. Ruth's love is rewarded. Ruth 3
A. Ruth obeys Naomi.
B. Ruth lies at Boaz' feet.
- IV. Wedding bells for Ruth. Ruth 4
A. Boaz redeems Ruth.
B. Boaz marries Ruth.
C. A son named Obed.
D. Ancestors to David/Christ.

Facts:

1. The book of Ruth was written about a Moabite woman who rejected her pagan heritage to cling to the God of Israel. It is a story of unselfish love, devotion, redemption and ideal family life. God rewarded her with a husband, son and the ancestral line to King David and the Messiah. Ruth is a refreshing contrast to the immoral rebellion, idolatry, and foreign oppression during this period. (Judges 21:25) Ruth lived during the latter period of Judges (1100 B.C.) and covers a span of about twelve years. Written probably during the reign of David, it's author is unknown.
2. Rainfall in Palestine was never plentiful. Famine had driven Elimelech and his family from Judah to Moab, east of the Dead Sea. (The Moabites were descendants of Moab, son of Lot. Genesis 19:36, 37, Numbers 22:1-8) During their ten year stay in Moab, Elimelech died. His two sons, Mahlon (meaning sickly) and Chilion (meaning wasting) married Moabite women. Mahlon and Chilion also died, leaving their mother Naomi and their wives, Ruth and Orpah all widows.
3. Naomi learned the famine was over in Bethlehem-judah. Having family ties there, she decided to return home. She encouraged Ruth and Orpah to return to their parents' home. She knew they would want to remarry and did not think it wise to take them from their native land. Naomi prayed God would bless them. Yet, both girls wanted to go with Naomi. Jewish law dictated the next brother or kinsman marry the childless widow. But Naomi had no other sons to marry Ruth and Orpah. (Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
4. Naomi commended her daughters-in-law for their love and loyalty, but again encouraged them to return home. They cried together; Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi. Returning with Naomi to Judah would mean cultural as well as religious changes for Ruth, yet she renounced everything to care for Naomi. (In Moab, Ruth was expected to worship Chemosh. Numbers 21:29)
5. In biblical times, all property rights went to male relatives when a man died, not his widow. Therefore, a widow was left to depend on the helpfulness of others. If they chose not to be kind, she lived in extreme poverty and was often one of whom advantage was taken.
6. Their return to Bethlehem caused quite a stir. Naomi and Elimelech had left a happy family. Naomi's appearance was testimony to the hardship and sorrow she had suffered. Naomi means "pleasant"; Mara means "bitter." Their experiences in Moab had brought such grief, she thought she should not wear the name "Naomi." (Philippians 4:11, 12) Naomi saw God's hand in her tragedy as well as her return

- home. She was thankful to be home. It was the beginning of harvest, a good time to return.
7. Mosaic law also entitled the poor to gather grain the reapers left behind. (Leviticus 19:9, Deuteronomy 24:19) Ruth went to a field to gather grain. The field she went to belonged to Boaz, a wealthy landowner with many fine qualities. (Boaz was the son of Rahab. Joshua 2) He noticed Ruth and asked about her. His foreman told Boaz she was the foreigner from Moab that had returned with Naomi. Moabites were considered heathens and often despised by Israelites. He assured Boaz she asked permission and had worked diligently all day except for a short break in the hut erected in the field for rest and refreshment.
 8. Boaz went over to speak to her. He suggested she glean only from his field and follow his women workers who bind the sheaves. He told his workers to keep Ruth from harm, and he told her she was welcome to drink the water provided for his workers. Ruth was touched by his kindness. She asked why he was so nice to her. Boaz told Ruth he was aware of the sacrifices she had made to care for Naomi and he respected her loyalty. He prayed God would bless her for it. She thanked him.
 9. At lunchtime, Boaz invited Ruth to eat with him and his reapers. He made a point to see that she had plenty. When they went back to work, Boaz secretly told his reapers to leave barley behind on purpose for Ruth to pick up. By evening, when Ruth had separated the grain from the chaff, she had a good supply to take home to Naomi.
 10. It was enough to feed them for about five days. Naomi asked Ruth where she had worked. Ruth told her all about Boaz. Naomi encouraged Ruth to accept his generosity and return to his fields throughout the harvest season. This she did.
 11. In time, Naomi decided to arrange a marriage for Ruth so she would not remain a poor gleaner all her life. Keeping in mind Mosaic law and Boaz' kindnesses shown toward Ruth, Naomi decided Boaz would be the perfect husband for Ruth.
 12. Naomi planned a way Ruth might meet Boaz alone. She knew Boaz would spend the night at the threshing floor winnowing and guarding against thieves. (Winnowing - the grain was thrown into the air so that the breeze might carry away the chaff.) She told Ruth to bathe, put on perfume and nice clothes, and go down to the threshing floor unnoticed. After Boaz had eaten supper and lied down to sleep, go lift the cover and lie at his feet. The custom of a man placing a corner of his garment over a maiden as a token of marriage is an Arab practice.
 13. Ruth did as she was told. At midnight, Boaz awakened, realizing someone was there. Ruth told Boaz it was her and asked him to make her his wife, for he was her closest relative. Boaz realized Ruth would naturally be drawn to younger men, but even now she sought to provide Naomi with an heir. He told Ruth he was a nephew to Elimelech and Elimelech had a brother still living who was a closer relative. If the brother did not want to be the kinsman redeemer, Boaz would gladly assume it, but he must first go to him and ask.
 14. Boaz sent Ruth back to Naomi before day break, lest someone misunderstand her being there. He sent 1 1/2 bushels of barley in Ruth's shawl as a present to Naomi in recognition of her hand in Ruth's coming.
 15. Elimelech and Naomi, being of the tribe of Judah had rights to ancestral property. When Naomi's husband and sons died, she could not regain that property except for two laws. "Redemption of the land" obligated the next of kin to buy back property sold due to foreclosure or poverty, to keep it in the family. (Leviticus 25:25-28) "Leviritic marriage" required the nearest relative of a man

- to marry his widow. (Deuteronomy 25:5-10) Any child wore the name and claimed the inheritance of the former husband. Boaz accepted both of these obligations in this case as the kinsman-redeemer.
16. That day, Boaz went to the marketplace to meet with Elimelech's brother. He included ten elders of the village as witnesses. It was the concern of the community that a family be preserved from extinction, thus Naomi and Ruth were of public concern. Boaz informed his uncle of his right of redemption. Boaz also told him if he could not redeem it, Boaz would like to. The uncle refused his right, for to hold the land in trust for a son by Ruth, would involve loss of inheritance.
 17. The transfer was witnessed. A symbolic act of his uncle taking off his shoe and giving it to Boaz renounced his legal rights to walk on the land to possess it. A blessing was bestowed for many children.
 18. Boaz and Ruth were married. They were blessed with a son named Obed. Naomi lived with them and cared for Obed. She found great joy and happiness in Obed. It was also a consolation to her for the loss of her own sons.
 19. Obed became the father of Jesse, grandfather of King David, through whom would also come Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - Moab, Bethlehem
 - death - "coffin" boxes, flowers, handkerchief
 - suitcase, knapsack
 - grain/barley - tall grasses, oatmeal, cornmeal
 - binding for sheaves - string rope, twine
 - water and dipper
 - lunch - quarter sandwiches, juice or water
 - basket of "grain," lunch leftovers
 - bathe - bar of soap and washcloth, cologne, pretty dress
 - cover - robe, blanket, sheet
 - darken room, flashlight
 - shawl, tablecloth, fabric remnant
 - sandal - seal of transfer
 - marriage - veil, bouquet, wedding decorations, toy ring, dress up clothes
- Puppets/Dolls - Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, Obed (baby)
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox village
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is Watching Over You
- I've Been Redeemed
- Into My Heart
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Jesus Love Me
- Kindness
- Lean On Me
- Lord I Lift Your Name On High
- My Helping Hands

- Oh God, You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- Redeemed
- Ruth (2)
- Ruth And Naomi
- Seek Ye First
- This Little Christian Light
- We Bow Down

Activities:

- Make a collage picture from magazines/newspapers/old books showing people doing things that show: love, faithfulness, or being helpful to others.
- Discuss the value of our elderly: wisdom, patience, guidance, etc.
- *Showing Love To The Lonely* - Ask students to think of ways to show love to someone who is lonely. Have them think about times when someone might be lonely. Have them choose someone they can show love to. Uses one of their suggestions or suggest a way they can show love. Example: Make a simple gift and take it to them. Write a note expressing love and send it. Have students call or go visit this person. This activity may be done as a group or individually.
- *Barley Soup* - Warm a can of beef and barley soup. Use crackers, styrofoam cups and plastic spoons. Talk about Ruth picking barley and how she showed kindness to Naomi. Touch on: taking turns, love, please and thank you, helping others, sharing, families, devotion, etc.
- *This Is Your Life* - Have students put in sequence, facts or pictures of Ruth's life story.
- *Heart To Heart* - Make heart patterns. Cut in half. On one half put husbands of the Bible. On the other half put their wives' names. Have students match the Bible couples. Did they have a good marriage or a bad marriage. Why?
- Great opportunity to discuss "marriage" material with age appropriate students.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Naomi discourage Ruth and Orpah from going to Judah with her? Why was Ruth so determined to go with her anyway?
2. How might Ruth have felt when she first arrived in Bethlehem? How do you think she was treated?
3. What kind of impression did Ruth leave on others? What kind of impression do you leave on others?
4. Why was Boaz so nice to Ruth?
5. What caused Naomi to become a match maker? Why did she pick Boaz for Ruth?
6. Explain the Mosaical "redemption of the land" law. Explain the Mosaical "Leviratic marriage" law. (Leviticus 25:25-28, Deuteronomy 25:5-10)
7. Why did Elimelech's brother renounce his right of redemption and his right to Ruth? How did Boaz feel about his uncle's decision?
8. What happened to Naomi after Ruth and Boaz married?
9. How are Boaz and Ruth related to Christ? Who else were they related to?
10. What is real love?

Old Testament

Lesson 65: Hannah's Prayer

Text: I Samuel 1-2:11

| | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 1:11 | And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. |
| | I Samuel 1:27, 28 | For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him: Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we can begin to serve God while we are still young and be faithful to God all our lives. • God always listens and answers our prayers. |
|--------|--|

Outline:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>I. Samuel is born.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Elkanah and his wives.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Hannah's prayer.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Samuel is born.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Presented for service to God.</p> <p>II. Hannah's prayer of praise.</p> | <p>I Samuel 1</p> <p>I Samuel 2:1-11</p> |
|---|--|

Facts:

1. The books of Samuel and Kings are one continuous record. I Samuel's author is uncertain. It is thought Samuel wrote chapters 1-24. Then it was completed by Nathan and Gad or possibly Abiathar (all priests). I Samuel covers about ninety-four years (1105-1011 B.C.). Its key figures are Samuel, Saul, and David.
2. The book of I Samuel includes events studied in the period of Judges. It describes Israel's growing desire for a king "like other nations." Samuel was critical in this new phase of government from judgeship to kings. As both a judge and a prophet, Samuel had the tremendous task of rebuilding social and religious unity. From this time on, prophets sustained the spiritual life of Israel. God communicated through these prophets to Israel's ruler and the people. Old Testament prophets also served as the historians of their times. The book of Samuel clearly reveals that the success or failure of its kings was determined by their obedience to God.

3. Elkanah was a man from the tribe of Ephraim who lived in the city of Ramathaim-zophim. (Ramathaim-zophim means "twin heights." It is the dual form of Ramah meaning "high," later known as Arimathea.) Elkanah was a Levite and had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children but Hannah did not. (Deuteronomy 21:15-17)
4. Each year Elkanah and his family travelled to Shiloh to worship God and offer sacrifices. The priests at that time were Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. Elkanah brought a thank offering to God. (Leviticus 7:11-18) As they partook of this offering, he gave a portion to Peninnah and her children and an extra portion to Hannah, for he loved her the most.
5. Having no children was a painful disappointment to Hannah. Peninnah made fun of Hannah for being barren as they went to Shiloh to the point Hannah would cry and could not eat. Elkanah would try to make her feel better. He would ask Hannah wasn't he and his love as good as having ten sons?
6. After supper one evening, Hannah went to the tabernacle to pray. Eli was sitting at the entrance. In deep anguish and tears, she vowed to God that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to God in dedicated lifetime service as a Nazarite. (Her vow is twofold: lifelong Levitical service until age fifty and as a Nazarite. (Numbers 6:2) Samson, Samuel, and John the Baptist were all dedicated as Nazarites from birth.)
7. Eli watched Hannah as she prayed silently. Silent prayer was not characteristic of early Hebrew prayer, so Eli thought Hannah was drunk. He accused her but she quickly assured Eli she was not such a base woman. She told Eli she had come to pour out her heart to God. Eli encouraged Hannah and hoped that God granted her request. She went back to her family and ate.
8. They all worshipped God early the next morning then returned to Raman. In due time, Hannah and Elkanah had a baby boy named "Samuel" meaning "asked of God."
9. The next year as Elkanah's family goes to Shiloh, Hannah and Samuel stayed at home. Hannah told her husband when Samuel was weaned she would take him to the tabernacle to serve.
10. Even though Samuel was still very young, Hannah fulfilled her vow to God. She took to Shiloh three bulls to offer: one for the vow of the child, one for a burnt offering and one for a thank offering, along with an ephah (~ one bushel) of flour and a bottle of wine.
11. As she took Samuel to Eli, she reminded Eli of her praying in the tabernacle for a child. She placed Samuel in Eli's care to serve God for the rest of his life.
12. Hannah prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to God for her son. She rejoiced and praised God for His strength and refuge. She praised His fair judgment. She recognized all matters of life and death are in God's hands. He is pre-eminent over all.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - Ephraim, Raman, Shiloh
 - meat offering - any type meat, preferably beef, pretend or real
 - Peninnah's children - paper dolls
 - Hannah's tears - handkerchief, tissues
 - tabernacle model

- offering - bulls - toy cows, flour, grape juice, Kool Aid
- Puppets/Dolls - Elkanah, Hannah, Peninnah, Eli, Samuel
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Ere You Left Your Room This Morning
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is So Good
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- Humble Yourself
- I'm Happy Today
- If You're Happy & You Know It
- It Isn't Any Trouble
- Jesus Loves The Little Children
- On Bended Knee
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Samuel Pleased The Lord
- Samuel's Mother
- Take My Life And Let It Be
- The Lord Has Been Mindful Of Me
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Tiptoe Tiptoe
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Bow Down
- Whatever I Shall Be
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- Use application stories/ activities on: prayer, helping others
- *I Spent The Day With ...* - Imagine what it must have been like in Bible times. Have students choose a Bible person or delegate one to each student. Have them describe 3 things that happened on a day with their Bible person. This can be an oral or written activity.
- *Prayer Chain* - Cut strips of colored paper. Ask students to write on the strips their prayer requests or thanksgiving to God. If time allows have them illustrate. Offer their prayer requests and thanksgiving to God then staple or glue the strips together and display in the classroom.
- *Who's My Mother* - Make a list of Bible people of whom you know their mother's name. Give students the Bible person's name and have them give the mother's name. This may be done oral or written.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. When are we old enough to serve God?
2. Why did Elkanah have two wives?
3. How did Peninnah treat Hannah? Have you ever treated someone this way?
4. How did it make Hannah feel? How would it make you feel?
5. Did God listen to Hannah's prayer? Does God listen to your prayers?
6. How often do you pray? What are some things we can pray to God about?
7. What is a vow? What vow did Hannah make? What is important about a vow?
8. How might Hannah have felt leaving her young son with Eli? How might Samuel have felt?
9. How are you serving God? What other ways could you be serving God? What new way will you serve Him this week?

Old Testament

Lesson 66: God Calls Samuel

Text: I Samuel 2:12-3

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 2:30b | but now the Lord saith, Be it far from Me; for them that honour Me I will honour, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. |
| | I Samuel 3:10 | And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for Thy servant heareth. |
| | I Samuel 3:19 | And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. |
| | I Corinthians 15:58 | Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. |
| | I Timothy 4:12 | Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • even while we are young, we can serve God. • we are known to God and others by our actions, whether they be good or bad. God will reward or punish us as a result of those actions. • God wants parents to discipline their children and teach them respect for God. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. The need for a new leader.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Eli's sons sin.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. A coat for Samuel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Eli scolds his sons.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. A prophecy against Eli's family.</p> | <p>I Samuel 2</p> |
| <p>II. God calls Samuel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. A voice in the dark.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. God speaks to Samuel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Samuel becomes God's prophet.</p> | <p>I Samuel 3</p> |

Facts:

1. Eli's sons had not grown to love the Lord. Their sin was abhorrent in God's eyes. As acting priests of the tabernacle, Hophni and Phinehas would not settle for their allotted portion of a sacrifice, but take all the fleshhook (a large three-pronged fork) would hold. They also took their portion before the fat and blood were sacrificed to God. Apparently, these priests did not accept invitations to every family's meal, but wanted choice cuts of meat sent to their homes. To make sure they got this, they had their servants get these prize cuts of meat before the offerings were made to God.
2. If an Israelite argued with the servant, that it be offered to God first, the servant would take the meat by force. God was angry to be treated with such contempt and disregard.
3. Samuel, though a young boy, served as a helper in the tabernacle. Every year, when his mother and father would come from Ephraim to worship and sacrifice, Hannah would bring Samuel a new coat (robe) that she had made for him.
4. Eli had grown very old, but he was aware of his sons' seducing young women who assisted at the tabernacle (quite possibly they had introduced cultic prostitution of the Canaanites). Eli confronted his sons about their evil deeds. Eli warned them of the great punishment and vengeance God would render them but they ignored their father. Thus, God planned to kill them.
5. In time, God sent a representative from heaven to Eli. He asked Eli if God hadn't shown His powers to Israel in Egypt, if God hadn't chosen His ancestors to be honored as His priests, and if God had not provided amply for the priests through Israel's offerings. Then He asked Eli why he and his sons had been so greedy as to consume all the other offerings brought to God as well. He also asked Eli why he honored his sons more than God by letting them get away with such blatant, bad behavior. They had taken advantage and become fat at God's and Israel's expense.
6. God declared He would honor only those who honor Him and despise those who despised Him. He would cut Eli's family out of priestly service. They would die a violent death while still young. Hophni and Phinehas would die the same day. Eli's family would now live in poverty and sadness. God would raise up a priest from another family who would be faithful and obedient to Him. Eli's family would bow to this priest and beg for food and work.
7. Samuel, still a young boy, continued to grow and help Eli in the tabernacle. Eli was almost blind. As Eli and Samuel were sleeping, God called Samuel's name. He jumped up, thinking Eli was calling him and went to Eli. Eli told Samuel he did not call for him and sent him back to bed.
8. Samuel returned to bed and God called Samuel again. Samuel rose and went back to Eli to see what he needed. Eli again told Samuel he did not call and sent him back to bed. As Samuel settled in bed, God called him a third time. Still not realizing it was God, he went to Eli. Eli told Samuel to go back to bed and if he heard his name called again, say, "Speak, Lord; for Thy servant heareth."
9. God called Samuel a fourth time. Samuel replied as Eli told him to. God told Samuel He was about to carry out the promise He had made to Eli, to destroy his family, because Eli had indulged his sons and allowed them to act disgracefully without restraining (disciplining) them. No amount of sacrifices could change His decision.

10. Samuel laid still until morning when Eli called for him. Eli asked Samuel to tell him all of God's message and not to leave anything out. Samuel was afraid to tell Eli God's message, but he did. Eli knew God's justice would be done and accepted his fate.
11. Samuel continued to grow and heed his instruction. All of Israel knew he would be their prophet from God. As time went on, God spoke more often to Samuel in the tabernacle at Shiloh, and Samuel passed God's messages on to the people of Israel.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - meat hook - 3-pronged fork
 - meat
 - small linen ephod - robe, tunic
 - angel
 - violent death of Eli's family - sword
 - blanket, sheet, pillow
 - doors of the temple - model, box, Legos, "curtain"
- Puppets/Dolls - Hophni, Phinehas, Eli, Samuel, Hannah
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Be Thou My Vision
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is Calling You
- God Keeps His Promises
- I Need You Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- Lord Speak To Me
- O God You Are My God
- Purer In Heart O God
- Samuel Answered
- Samuel Listened
- Samuel Pleas'd The Lord
- Samuel's Mother
- Samuel, Samuel
- Study Your Bible Every Day
- Tiptoe Tiptoe In God's House
- When I Grow Up

Activities:

- Application story / activity on being a helper
love and respect for God
communication with God - prayer, His word
- *Service Project* - Brainstorm ways your students can serve God and help others. Help them plan to carry out at least one of these.
- *Character Clues* - Put clues about different Bible people from today's lesson (or previous lessons) in a container. Have students draw a clue and try to identify the Bible person. If they are incorrect, put that clue back in the container and go to the next student. At the end of the activity, total the number of clues they each got correct.
- *Beehive Fun* - Encourage students to think of how they should act as "bebelievers" in Christ. Give each student a drawing of a beehive. At the bottom, write, "Bee

Kind.” Have them write as many “bees” as they can think of that would please God. After 3-4 minutes, let them read their lists.

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who did not love God? What did they do to show they did not love God?
2. What things do you notice today that shows someone does not love or respect God? What should they do? What should you do?
3. How did Hannah show her love for Samuel? How did God show His love for Hannah?
4. What sins had Eli's sons committed? Why did they ignore their father?
5. Do you ever ignore your parents? How does that make God feel?
6. Many times, God gives us opportunity to serve Him and we ignore them. Can you think of opportunities when you could have served God, but chose not to?
7. What are some things (attitudes) that prevent us from serving God?
8. When Samuel was a boy, what was he doing to help God and Eli? What can you do for God?
9. Why did God speak to Samuel instead of Eli? How does God speak to us?
10. What kind of reputation did Samuel have with God and the people of Israel? What kind of reputation do you have with God and the people that see you every day?

Old Testament

Lesson 67: God Gives Israel A King

Text: I Samuel 4-10

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 4:22 | And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken. |
| | I Samuel 7:3 | And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve Him only: and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. |
| | I Samuel 10:24 | And Samuel said to all the people, See ye him whom the Lord hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the king. |
| | Proverbs 22:6 | Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. |
| | Romans 12:2 | And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trying to be like “everybody else” leads to trouble. It is the wrong reason for anything we may do. • parents must train their children to love and obey God. • God has a master plan we don't always see at first. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. The Philistines take God's ark.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Israel defeated by Philistines.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. The ark is captured.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Eli and his sons die.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Ichabod is born.</p> | I Samuel 4 |
| <p>II. Plagues of the Philistines.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. God's ark is put in Dagon's temple.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Dagon falls and breaks.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Philistines are plagued.</p> | I Samuel 5 |

- III. The ark is returned. I Samuel 6
 - A. The Philistine counsel.
 - B. The ark returns.
 - C. 50,070 die for looking in the ark.

- IV. Samuel becomes judge. I Samuel 7
 - A. Israel repents at Mizpeh.
 - B. Samuel becomes judge.
 - C. God speaks and the Philistines are defeated.

- V. Israel demands a king. I Samuel 8
 - A. Samuel's sons are corrupt.
 - B. Samuel goes to God for guidance.
 - C. Samuel warns Israel of a king.

- VI. Saul chosen for Israel's king. I Samuel 9
 - A. Saul looks for his father's donkeys.
 - B. Saul goes to Samuel.
 - C. Saul honored at the feast.

- VII. Saul proclaimed king. I Samuel 10
 - A. Saul is anointed and given 3 signs.
 - B. Saul prophesies.
 - C. Saul appointed king before Israel.

Facts:

1. Israel went to battle with the Philistines to drive them out of the Palestine region, but was defeated, losing 4,000 men. Their survivors returned to camp near Ebenezer to discuss why God allowed them to lose. The elders reasoned since the ark of the covenant symbolized God's presence and power, they should go to Shiloh and carry the ark into battle with them, then they would win. (They did not distinguish between the symbolism and the actual presence of God.) Hophni and Phinehas carry the ark.
2. At the sight of the ark, Israel's troops shouted for joy. (Numbers 10:35) The Philistines panicked as they were familiar with Jehovah's power. Nonetheless, they prepared for their most desperate fight and defeated Israel again. This time, they killed 30,000 men, captured the ark, and killed both of Eli's sons.
3. Eli (now ninety-eight years old, blind, and fat) was waiting by the city gates for news of the battle. When told about the massacre, the death of his sons, and then the capture of the ark, he fell backwards, broke his neck and died. Eli judged Israel forty years. When Phinehas' wife, who was pregnant, heard of the deaths of her husband and Eli, she went into labor. A boy was born. She named him Ichabod, meaning, "Where is God?" Then she died.
4. Meanwhile, the Philistines took the ark of God from Ebenezer, also known as the plain of Sharon, to Ashdod, thirty-three miles west of Jerusalem. They placed it in the temple of their idol, Dagon. The next morning, Dagon lay face down before the ark. They set him back up, but the next morning he was down again with his head and hands cut off.

5. Then, Jehovah began destroying those of Ashdod with emerods (tumors?). The Philistines realized they must get rid of the ark. They called a conference with the Philistines' five leaders. It was decided to send the ark to Gath. The people of Gath became plagued with disease. The longer the Philistines refused to recognize Jehovah's supremacy, the worse the plagues became, as they had for Pharaoh and the Egyptians. The Philistines tried to send the ark to Ekron, but their people did not want it. They begged their leaders to send the ark back to Israel, lest they all die.
6. The Philistines had the ark of God for seven months. Their priests and diviners deliberated over what a suitable guilt offering would be to return with the ark. They decided on five golden models of emerods and five golden models of rats which had plagued and ravaged their cities. They built a new cart and hitched two mother cows to it to carry the ark and offerings.
7. The cows' calves were put in the barn. The Philistines concluded the natural thing for the cows to do would be to go to their calves, but if the cows went to Beth-shemesh, it would be under the control of Jehovah God, and Jehovah would prove to have been the source of their plagues.
8. The cows went straight toward Beth-shemesh. The Philistine leaders followed. The Hebrews of Beth-shemesh were reaping wheat in the valley as the cows with the ark approach. They rejoiced to see the ark. The cows stopped on Joshua's land. The Israelites broke up the cart for firewood. They killed the cows and sacrificed them as a burnt offering to God.
9. The Levites lifted the ark to a large rock in the field. The Philistine leaders observed for a while, then went home. Fifty thousand and seventy men decided to look inside the ark. Because they do, God killed them. Mournfully realizing God's power and wrath, those left in Beth-shemesh sent word to those in Kirjath-jearim that the ark had been returned.
10. Those of Kirjath-jearim transported the ark to Abinadab's home. They put Eleazar in charge of it. It stayed there twenty years. After the destruction of Shiloh, the ark was never taken back there and it ceased to be a place of importance. Israel felt God had abandoned them. Samuel told them to receive God's favor they must get rid of the idol gods, such as Baal and Ashtaroth. They must worship only Jehovah.
11. Samuel was Israel's last judge. While gathered at Mizpeh, the Philistine army advanced for war. The Israelites begged Samuel to plead with God to save them. As the Philistines approached, God created a loud thunder, confused them, and Israel defeated them at the same place the ark was stolen.
12. Samuel placed a memorial stone between Mizpeh and Shen calling it "Ebenezer" meaning "the Lord helped us." The song, "Here I Lift My Ebenezer," comes from this passage. There was peace in the land for the remainder of Samuel's life.
13. Samuel became old and appointed his sons, Joel and Abiah as judges. Samuel failed to learn a lesson from Eli and his sons. Samuel's sons became greedy and unjust as Hophni and Phinehas. They accepted bribes. The leaders of Israel met with Samuel at Ramah telling him his sons were evil and they wanted a king "like other nations."
14. Samuel was very upset. After a lifetime of service he was told his sons were unworthy to succeed him. Instituting a king would separate civil and religious leadership. It also indicated the desire for an earthly king over their heavenly

- king. He went to God for advice. God told Samuel to give them what they wanted, but warn them of the demands an earthly king would make on them.
15. So Samuel warned Israel. A king would use their sons for military service and slave labor in his fields. He would force their daughters to make perfumes and cook. He would take their best fields, vineyards, and olive groves for his subjects. He would tax them. They would cry out to God because of his demands, but God would not show pity. Yet, the leaders of Israel did not care. They wanted a king anyway, so they could be like other nations.
 16. Kish was a wealthy, influential Benjamite. His son Saul was a tall, handsome, and humble man. One day, Kish's donkeys got out. Kish sent Saul and a servant to find them. They searched all the land of Ephraim and Benjamin, but did not find them. The servant suggested they go see the prophet (Samuel) and maybe he could tell them where the donkeys were.
 17. As they approached the city, they asked some women drawing water if the seer (prophet) was in town. They replied yes. As they entered the gates, they saw Samuel. God had told Samuel that day He would show him Israel's leader.
 18. Samuel had Saul and his servant accompany him to the feast. He honored them above all the thirty guests. He gave Saul the meat set aside for the guest of honor.
 19. Before Saul left, Samuel told Saul God had chosen him as Israel's king. He anointed Saul's head with oil and kissed him. Saul predicted three signs that would confirm this was God's divine call to kingship. Saul would meet two men at Rachel's tomb saying the donkeys were found and his father was concerned about him. Then three men at the oak of Tabor would be on their way to Bethel carrying three goats, three loaves, and wine. They would offer Saul bread. Third, at Gibeah-elohim, the hill of God, Saul would meet a group of prophets playing instruments and prophesying. Through the spirit of God, he would prophesy also. All of these happened that day.
 20. Samuel called all of Israel to Mizpeh. Sacred lots were cast and the tribe of Benjamin chosen, then the family of Matri and finally Saul. Saul was hiding in the baggage. When they brought him out he stood head and shoulders above the others. Samuel presented Saul as the king of Israel chosen by God. The people shouted, "God save the king."
 21. Samuel recorded the rules and regulations of the king to be kept in a safe place at Mizpeh. The Israelites returned to their homes.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map
 - armor-toy, crafted sword, helmet, shield, spear, toy soldiers - sandbox setting
 - model of the ark of the covenant
 - torn shirt
 - Ichabod - baby doll
 - Dagon/idol gods - statue, clay figure, bar soap carved figure
 - tumors - make dots of washable marker or glue on your hand or a doll
 - gold colored balls and mice
 - toy cows and cart, toy barn and calves, toy donkey
 - altar
 - amplified voice - loudly taped voice

“monument” stone
military service - sword, slave - paper chains, cuffs, cook - pot and spoon
fields - flour, grapes, olives, taxes - play money
water in a pitcher
feast - paper cups, plates, any kind of meat
3 toy goats, 3 pieces of bread, grape juice
lots - different lengths of sticks
crown - toy, paper, bulletin board border
scroll/ rules of the king - paper with a seal

- Puppets/Dolls - Eli, Samuel, Saul
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Because It Pleases God
- Dare To Do Right
- God Is Not Dead
- God Needs Helpers
- He's My King
- Hear O Israel
- Humble Yourself
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- I'm Not Afraid
- Our God Is So Big
- Sit At The Banqueting Table
- Standin' In The Need Of Prayer
- Thank You Lord
- Whisper A Prayer
- Yield Not To Temptation
- You Are Special

Activities:

- Video - “Tales From The Great Book - Give Us A King”
“Charlie Church Mouse - Being Spoiled”
- File Folder Activities: “Judges”
“Warfare - God's Armor - I Samuel 17/Luke 11”
- *Symbols* - Discuss and let students illustrate on paper or with craft materials symbols that represent God. Help them understand the difference in spiritual and pagan symbols.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Give examples of symbols of God that do not necessarily represent His presence.
2. What happened to Dagon? Why? How? What did this prove?
3. How did God punish the Philistines for taking the ark?
4. What did the cows have to do with returning the ark?
5. Why did the Israelites at Beth-shemesh look inside the ark? What was the result? How might this apply to us?
6. When did God abandon Israel? When did He care for Israel? How does this apply to us?
7. Why might Samuel's sons become evil like Eli's had? How could he have prevented that from happening?
8. As a result, how did it affect Samuel and his sons? How might this happen today?

9. What would a king do to Israel? Why did Kish lose his donkeys? Do you think Saul was just lucky to meet Samuel?
10. Why did Samuel honor Saul at the feast? Why does Saul hide in the baggage? What might this tell us about Saul?

Old Testament

Lesson 68: King Saul's Success And Failures

Text: I Samuel 11-15

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 12:14, 15 | If ye will fear the Lord, and serve Him, and obey His voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the Lord your God: But if ye will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then shall the hand of the Lord be against you, as it was against your fathers. |
| | I Samuel 12:24 | Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you. |
| | I Samuel 15:22b | Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. |
| | Romans 12:21 | Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we should be thankful for the abilities God has given us and use them to honor God. • God cannot tolerate disobedience, especially in His leaders. |
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Outline:

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| I. Saul's early successes. | I Samuel 11 |
| A. Nahash's offer. | |
| B. Jabesh appeals to Saul. | |
| C. Saul rescues Jabesh. | |
| D. Saul confirmed as Israel's king. | |
| II. Transition from Samuel to Saul. | I Samuel 12 |
| A. Samuel's integrity. | |
| B. Samuel reproves Israel with warning. | |
| C. God's power and mercy. | |
| III. Saul disobeys. | I Samuel 13 |
| A. Jonathan kills the garrison. | |
| B. A call to arms. | |
| C. Saul disobeys God. | |

- IV. Jonathan is brave. I Samuel 14
A. God helps Jonathan slay the Philistines.
B. A divine earthquake causes panic and confusion.
C. Saul's foolish vow.
- V. Saul fails as Israel's king. I Samuel 15
A. Saul sent to destroy the Amalekites.
B. He spares Agag and the spoils.
C. God rejects Saul.

Facts:

1. The Ammonites (related to Israel through Lot, Genesis 19:38) were a savage people, east of Gilead. Nahash and his army had come to overtake Jabesh-gilead. Those of Jabesh begged for peace; in exchange, they would be servants. Nahash demanded that they gouge out their right eye to permanently disable them from war. (A man's left eye was usually covered with his shield.) Those of Jabesh asked for seven days to see if they could muster allies to fight with them.
2. The plea for help came to King Saul as he was plowing his field. In anger, he cut up two oxen and had their parts delivered to all of Israel saying, if anyone failed to go with him and Samuel into battle against these Ammonites, this same fate would be upon their oxen. Three hundred and thirty thousand men came to help fight.
3. Using the same strategy as Gideon, Israel marched through the night surprising the Ammonites early in the morning in three detachments. Nahash and his army were so badly beaten, not two soldiers were left together. Saul was praised as their military leader and reconfirmed as their king. Peace offerings were sacrificed to God and all of Israel rejoices.
4. Samuel addressed Israel concerning his integrity as a judge. Politically and religiously, he had always been in good standing. He had never accepted a bribe to acquit a guilty party or stay a just execution.
5. Samuel reminded Israel of how good and merciful God had always been to them. In spite of their idolatry, he had repeatedly redeemed (rescued) them from their oppressors.
6. Now out of fear of King Nahash, God had given them an earthly king. Even though Jehovah was already their heavenly king. Samuel warned Israel to continue to obey God lest God punish them as before. God sent a sign to confirm Samuel's words with unseasonable rains and thundering. Israel was afraid. Samuel prayed for Israel's continued faithfulness.
7. Saul called 3,000 special troops from his army. Two thousand of them went with him to Michmash, nine miles north of Jerusalem. One thousand of them stayed with Jonathan at Gibeah. Jonathan killed the garrison, the political officer of the Philistines, at Geba. This was a sign of revolt. Saul was not pleased with his special troops so the entire army of Israel was summoned.
8. The Philistines also recruited a mighty army well equipped and as numerous as the grains of sand on the seashore. At the sight of them, Israel's troops were afraid. They hid among the rocks, caves, thickets, tombs, and cisterns. Some abandoned their post and went to Gad or Gilead. Those that stayed trembled with fear.

9. Samuel had instructed Saul to wait seven days. Samuel would come to offer sacrifices on Israel's behalf and ask for God's blessing. Saul grew impatient and nervous as he saw his troops slipping away. So he offered the sacrifices himself. Samuel arrived just as he finished and he asked Saul, "What have you done?"
10. Saul's sin was not in sacrificing, but in disobeying Samuel's command and being impatient. Israel had won wars because of their dedication and faith in God, not by numerical superiority. Samuel sharply reproved Saul for his lack of faith and obedience in time of crisis. It would cost him his reign as king and that of his descendants.
11. Saul and Jonathan were left with only 600 soldiers. Three groups of Philistines were sent out to raid and ravage the countryside. They also had secured the passage way at Michmash. The Philistines kept Israel at a disadvantage by not allowing them to have blacksmiths. Therefore, they had no iron weapons.
12. Jonathan and his armor bearer decided to secretly slip away on their own to take on the Philistines. They had faith God would fight for them. They resolved that when the Philistines spotted them, if they said to come and fight, that would be God's sign that He would defeat the Philistines, so they would advance and attack.
13. The Philistines made fun of them and challenged Jonathan to come and fight. Jonathan has his armor bearer follow right behind him. It was the function of the armor bearer to finish killing those his master had wounded or struck down. Within minutes, they had killed twenty Philistines. Panic came over the Philistine army. An earthquake increased their terror, causing the Philistines to kill each other in confusion.
14. Meanwhile, Saul's watchmen noticed the enemy's army begin to melt away. Saul had a head count taken among his men to see who was missing. Jonathan and his armor bearer were the only ones not there. Saul demanded the ark be brought for divine guidance, but the ark was in Kirjath-jearim. The confusion and shouting of the Philistines grew more intense. With a lack of patience in waiting for God's guidance, Saul and his 600 men rushed to the battle. Even those Israelites who had hidden joined the fight.
15. Saul put a curse upon anyone who ate before the battle was won. Weary and faint, his men pursued the battle about twenty miles without food in spite of finding honey in the forest and food among the spoils. Jonathan had not heard his father's curse and ate the honey. When Jonathan was told of Saul's curse, he thought it unwise, for it hurt the Israelite soldiers who would have fought better with nourishment. All day they fought.
16. By evening, the battle was won. The soldiers butchered the spoils and ate the meat raw. They were reported sinning by eating blood. Saul told them to bring the meat to him to kill and drain it. He built an altar to God. Saul suggested they pursue the Philistines all night. They asked God to help them. God did not reply. Saul realized someone had sinned among them. He vowed they must die. No one would tell him it was Jonathan. Sacred lots were cast showing Jonathan to be guilty. He told his father about eating the honey. He knew he must die. Saul agreed.
17. But the Israelites rose up and forbade it. They recognized God had used Jonathan in carrying out His will that day. They "ransomed" him by offering the life of an animal in place of his or a sum of money. Saul found his will to be limited by popular demand. While Israel was content with his rule, they

- successfully conquered the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, those of Zobah, the Philistines, and the Amalekites under Saul's leadership.
18. In time, God sent Saul a message through Samuel to destroy the Amalekites (descendants of Esau, Exodus 17:8-16, Exodus 36:12) completely and all their belongings. The Amalekites were nomads and constant enemies of Israel. Saul mobilized 210,000 men to fight. Before they attacked, Saul warned their allies, the Kenites, to flee from among the Amalekites lest they get caught in the crossfire. The Kenites heeded Saul's warning. Saul and his men massacred the Amalekites, but took King Agag captive and the spoils they wanted. (A remnant survived until King Hezekiah, I Chronicles 4:43)
 19. God told Samuel He was sorry He made Saul king. Saul had disobeyed Him again. Samuel cried. The next morning, Samuel found Saul at Gilgal erecting a monument to his victory. Saul told Samuel he had carried out God's command. Samuel drew Saul's attention to the oxen and sheep he had taken. Saul blamed the taking of the animals and loot on his men.
 20. Samuel told Saul he disobeyed God's command. God would rather have his obedience than the spoils as a sacrifice. Instead, his rebellion and stubbornness were as bad as witchcraft or worshipping idols. God would choose a new king. The same place Saul's kingship had been confirmed (11:4), it was to be taken from him.
 21. Saul admitted he had sinned, but he still blamed the people for what he had done. As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore Samuel's robe. Samuel made the analogy of how God had torn Israel from Saul today. Saul pleaded with Samuel to go worship with him. Samuel finally agreed.
 22. Samuel had King Agag brought out. King Agag thought he was being spared and was happy, but Samuel chopped him to pieces. Samuel went home to Ramah and Saul returned to Gibeah never to see each other again.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - armor - sword, helmet, shield, spear - toy, crafted, paper or cardboard
 - eye patch
 - divide clay ox
 - toy soldiers
 - storm - sound effects
 - map
 - altar - clay, gravel, box, Legos, bricks
 - earthquake - vibrator, rocks
 - watchman - toy spyglass, paper towel tube
 - honey
 - lots - straws
 - handkerchief, tissues
 - sheep, cows - toys, stuffed
 - torn garment
 - clay figure
- Puppets/Dolls - Samuel, Saul, Jonathan
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map

- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- God Is Watching Over You
- He Is Here
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Obey
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- My God Is So Great
- Responsibility Song
- Seek Ye First
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Trust And Obey
- Whisper A Prayer
- Without Him
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Have students think about their own abilities. Have them make a list of "Ways I can honor God" vs. "Ways I can honor myself" with those abilities. Examples: singing, leadership, helpfulness, hobbies, prayer, etc.
- *Human Tic-Tac-Toe* - Use masking tape to mark off a playing board on the floor. Divide into 2 teams. If a student answers a question correctly, they may choose a square to sit in. Teams take turns. The 1st team to get 3 in a row wins.
- *Scripture Search* - Choose several verses from today's lesson. Have students "search" their Bibles to find each verse.
- *Candy Hunt* - Write/type out about 20 questions from today's lesson. Cut and attach them to small candies with tape. Before class, hide them around the room. Have students find as many as they can. To keep the candy, they must answer the question correctly. The questions can be opinion questions such as: Why should we pray? Why should we come to Bible class? Why should we memorize Bible verses?
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did King Saul react to the demands of Nahash on those of Jabesh-gilead? Why? What happens?
2. What leaders had God provided Israel in the past? Who was their last judge? Their 1st king?
3. What abilities did God give King Saul? How did he use them?
4. How did Saul misuse his God-given abilities? What excuses did he make for his rebellious actions?
5. Do people today ever defend their disobedience by excuses? Give examples.
6. What good and bad ways can you use your abilities?
7. What excuses do you make for disobedience? How do your excuses make God feel?
8. Who showed great faith in God? Who used his abilities to honor God?
9. After battling the Amalekites, what was God (and Samuel) upset with Saul about? Why did Saul do what he did? What does Samuel tell Saul about his sacrifice?
10. Was Saul truly sorry for his sin? What was his real concern? Are we always truly sorrowful for our sins?

Old Testament

Lesson 69: David Meets Goliath

Text: I Samuel 16,17

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 16:7b | for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. |
| | I Samuel 17:45 | Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. |
| | Proverbs 3:5-7 | Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. |
| | Philippians 4:13 | I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will help us to be brave like David was, even when we must do something difficult. • God will help us accomplish hard tasks. Learn to rely on Him. |
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Outline:

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|-----|---|-------------|
| I. | David anointed as Saul's successor. | I Samuel 16 |
| | A. Samuel goes to Bethlehem. | |
| | B. Samuel anoints David. | |
| | C. David plays for Saul. | |
| II. | David kills Goliath. | I Samuel 17 |
| | A. Israel prepares to battle the Philistines. | |
| | B. Goliath's challenge. | |
| | C. David rises to the challenge. | |
| | D. David slays Goliath. | |
| | E. Saul inquires about David. | |

Facts:

1. God told Samuel to stop mourning for Saul and go with a horn full of olive oil to Bethlehem. There, he would find a man named Jesse. One of his sons, Samuel would anoint as king. Samuel told God Saul would kill him if he found out. God told Samuel to take a cow with him and tell Saul he must go to offer a sacrifice to God.
2. Samuel obeyed God. Upon his arrival in Bethlehem, the elders came to Samuel concerned that he had come to punish them for some offense. (7:16) Samuel

- assured them he had come in peace to sacrifice. He told them to purify themselves. He told Jesse and his sons to do the same and join them.
3. As they assembled together, Samuel assumed Eliab is the son of Jesse God had chosen because he was so tall. God tells Samuel He does not judge a man by outward appearance, but by what is within his thoughts and his heart. Jesse called his sons before Samuel one by one but none of them were chosen. Samuel asked if he had any more sons. Jesse told Samuel his youngest son was out in the fields watching the sheep. Samuel had Jesse send for him immediately.
 4. David was described as "ruddy" which usually denoted red hair and a fair complexion. David and Esau were the only two referred to by this term. Ruddy could also refer to his ability as a warrior or hunter. God told Samuel David was His choice and Samuel anointed him.
 5. The spirit of the Lord came upon David and left Saul. Saul was filled with a gloomy, suspicious, melancholy fear. He experienced depression and bordered on madness.
 6. Saul's wise men advised him to find a good harpist to play for him and relieve him of his mental stresses. The powerful influence of music upon one's state of mind was known even in these early times.
 7. One of Saul's servants suggested David, so Saul sent for him to come. Jesse sent David to King Saul along with a gift. Saul liked David so much, he had David become his armor bearer.
 8. The Philistine army gathered at Shochoh, fourteen miles west of Bethlehem, to battle the Israelites. Saul gathered his army at the valley of Elah (Oaks). Many battles in ancient times were decided by a contest between only two warriors. (Example: Achilles and Hector - Trojan War)
 9. The Philistines' champion warrior was Goliath, an Anakim giant living in Gath (perhaps over nine feet tall). (Joshua 11:21, 22) All of Goliath's defensive warfare attire was made of bronze. His spear head was of iron, weighing twenty to twenty-five pounds. His armor bearer walked ahead of him carrying a huge shield to protect his body. Goliath was thought to be the one who killed Phinehas and Hophni and took the ark to Dagon's temple.
 10. Goliath taunted Israel to send a warrior to fight him. If Goliath won, Israel would be their slaves or if by chance Israel's warrior won, the Philistines would be Israel's slaves. Saul and his army were frightened. For forty days, twice a day, Goliath would issue his challenge to Israel. No one budged.
 11. Three of David's seven older brothers (Eliab, Abinadab, and Shammah) were in Saul's army. David served in Saul's palace on a part time basis. He also was a shepherd to his father's sheep. Jesse sent David to take parched corn and ten loaves of bread to his brothers. ("Parched corn" was grain plucked as it ripened and roasted in a pan or on an iron plate. Arabs still eat parched corn as a staple in their diet.) David was to bring back some written proof he had fulfilled his mission.
 12. As David arrived at the camp early the next morning, the soldiers were leaving for the battlefield. He left his baggage with an officer and ran to find his brothers. As they were talking, David witnessed Goliath's morning challenge. Israel's troops retreated in fear. Talk was noised of the king's reward to anyone who could kill Goliath. David asked questions about this report.
 13. Eliab overheard his little brother, David's questions and comments. He reprimanded David for being there. He asked David who was watching the

- sheep while he was there. David continued to talk with the soldiers. He did not understand how they could allow this bully to insult Jehovah, the living God.
14. It was finally realized by someone that David was willing to fight Goliath and word was sent to King Saul. Saul sent for David. David offered to fight Goliath, but Saul protested because he was so young. David persisted. He told King Saul of how he had fought both lions and bears to protect his father's sheep. He assured Saul, the God who protected him from the bears and lions would protect him against Goliath. His faith in past events had given him courage to trust Jehovah's power in this crisis. (The Syrian bear is said to be especially ferocious, more dreaded than the lion.)
 15. Saul finally consented. He gave David his own armor to wear. David tried it on, but it was awkward to him, so he took it off. David took his shepherd's staff and sling. Benjamites were especially well trained in using a sling. (Judges 20:16) He chose five smooth stones from a stream and walked out to meet Goliath.
 16. Goliath was insulted that Israel would send a boy with a stick to fight him. He cursed David and told David he would feed him to the birds and wild beasts. David shouted back at Goliath, that he had come armed with a sword and spear, but David had come in the name of Jehovah God, whom Goliath had defied. That day, God's power would conquer Goliath and David would cut off his head and feed the birds and beasts the bodies of the Philistine army. Then all would know Israel's God. Israel would also realize Jehovah did not depend on stature or weapons to carry out His plans.
 17. Goliath approached. David ran to meet him. David reached into his shepherd's bag and pulled out a stone. He hurled it in his sling hitting Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell on his face. David ran over to Goliath, pulled out his sword, stabbed him, and cut his head off. Seeing Goliath dead, the Philistine army ran away in defeat. Israel's army chased after them as far as Gath and Ekron.
 18. The Philistine bodies were massacred and left along the road side to Shaaraim. Israel returned to plunder the Philistine camp. David kept Goliath's armor, but brought his head to Jerusalem. Upon return, Abner, captain of Saul's army brought David to Saul. King Saul asked David about his family. David told Saul he was Jesse's son of Bethlehem.
 19. David was rewarded monetarily for his defeat of Goliath. He also received one of Saul's daughter's for a wife and his family was exempt from paying taxes.
 20. Jerusalem at this time was still a non-Hebrew city (II Samuel 5:4) although some Hebrews lived there. A little later we'll find Goliath's sword at Nob. (I Samuel 21:9)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - container of olive oil
 - map
 - toy cow/altar - clay, gravel, box, Legos
 - toy sheep - craft, cotton, tube/paper face/cotton
 - harp - toy
 - present - wrapped box, gift bag
 - armor bearer - shield - toy, paper plate, cardboard/foil
 - toy soldiers
 - samples of brass & iron - compare weight

- armor - helmet, breastplate, sword, shield
- corn/bread - corn, popcorn, corn cereal, bread
- lion/bear - toys, stuffed, puppet, picture
- staff & sling - stick, yardstick, toy sling, long cloth or leather pouch
- 5 stones - pebbles, gravel, marbles, ping pong balls
- Goliath's head - doll head, ball/potato/orange with a face & hair/helmet
- Puppets/Dolls - Samuel, Jesse, Saul, Eliab, David, Goliath
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Awesome God
- David Was A Child Like Me
- Do All In The Name Of The Lord
- Humble Yourselves
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Little David Play On Your Harp
- Only A Boy Named David
- Shepherd Loves His Sheep
- Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus
- We Bow Down
- We Will Glorify
- Without Faith It's Impossible

Activities:

- Video - "Tales From The Great Book - David And Goliath"
- File Folder Activities: "David" (I Samuel 16-II Samuel & I Kings)
 "Kings"
 "Warfare - God's Armor" (I Samuel 17, Luke 11)
 "God's Warrior" (II Corinthians 6, Ephesians 6)
- *Who Am I?* - Compile a list of brief descriptions of Bible people in today's lesson. Allow students to guess who they are.
- *Scary Situations* - Discuss how God helped David in his scary situation. Describe scary situations your students could find themselves in. Expound on how God could help them. Examples: thunderstorm, dark, squeaks & creaks in the night, being lost, a bully.
- *Beat The Giants* - discuss the feelings/difficulties David faced meeting Goliath. Show how God used insignificant objects/ordinary people to carry out His will. Have students share the type of "giants" they face (things they are afraid of). Help them find scriptures/ways God will help them fight those giants. Have them choose one of their "giants" to fight this week or have them do something difficult (for them) to show love for someone else.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Samuel go to Bethlehem? What concern did the elders have with his coming?
2. What wrong assumption did Samuel make with Jesse's sons? Why? What did God tell Samuel?
3. Describe David. Why did God choose him?

4. Why were things not going well for King Saul? Could this happen to us? What would you do to change things?
5. How did David help King Saul?
6. What was Goliath's challenge to the Israelites? How did David use this situation to bring glory to God?
7. What kind of situations might you be able to turn around like David did and use as an opportunity to trust God or grow spiritually.
8. Why did David not use Saul's armor? How did God reward David's faith and trust in Him?
9. When Goliath bullied and threatened David, to whom did David turn with his trouble? Why?
10. To whom do you turn when you are bullied or threatened? When can God help you be brave?

Old Testament

Lesson 70: Friends Forever

Text: I Samuel 18,19

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|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 18:7 | And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands. |
| | I Samuel 18:14 | And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the Lord was with him. |
| | Proverbs 17:17 | A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity. |
| | I John 4:19, 20 | We love Him, because He first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friendship is a gift and blessing to treasure. God gives us good people to be our friends. • we can determine by God's word which are our true friends and which are not. • envy and jealousy do not please God. |
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Outline:

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|---|-------------|
| <p>I. Saul's jealousy.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Jonathan and David's friendship.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Saul envies David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Saul attempts to kill David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Saul attempts to have David killed.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E. God increases David's prosperity.</p> | I Samuel 18 |
| <p>II. David in exile.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Jonathan reveals his father's plan.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Jonathan reasons with Saul.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Saul's fury rises again.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Michal deceives her father.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E. David goes to Samuel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">F. The prophesies.</p> | I Samuel 19 |

Facts:

1. After meeting with King Saul, David met the king's son, Jonathan. A strong bond of love and friendship developed between them. Jonathan and David made a covenant (pledge) to their friendship.
2. To seal this pledge, Jonathan gave David his royal robe and garments, his sword, his bow, and his girdle (belt). To seal a covenant, the gift was to be anything of great value to the giver. It was sometimes called a "witness." If the giver broke his covenant, the receiver could produce the gift and remind the giver.
3. King Saul now kept David with him as his assistant, commander of his army. Everyone liked David and applauded his victories. The women of the town would come out dancing and singing for joy to celebrate and cheer. They sang: "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." This angered King Saul.
4. King Saul's jealousy began to fester. The next morning, God allowed an evil spirit to overtake Saul, throwing him into a rage. David tried to soothe him by playing his harp, but Saul threw his javelin at David. David narrowly escaped. As Saul's jealousy toward David grew, Saul banned David from his court and demoted him to captain. This controversy became increasingly public.
5. God was with David and made him increasingly successful and popular with all of Israel. This caused Saul to fear David even more.
6. He reasoned within himself that he would send David into battle where he would stand a good chance of being killed. He called David and offered him his oldest daughter, Merab, as a wife if he proved himself in battle against the Philistines. David questioned his worthiness of such an offer since he did not come from royalty.
7. Yet, David fought the Philistines and was victorious. He returned to marry Merab, but Saul married her to Adriel from Meholath instead. Meanwhile, one of Saul's other daughters, Michal, fell in love with David. Saul was delighted for he saw another opportunity to have David killed. Saul secretly had his men encourage David to accept the king's proposition to marry into royalty.
8. David told the men he was poor and of low esteem. Saul's men relayed this back to Saul. Saul told them to tell David vengeance on Israel's enemies, 100 dead Philistines (100 Philistine foreskins), would be dowry enough. Saul was hoping David would end up dead. Dowry was payment to the father by the bridegroom. Service could be rendered instead of money. (Genesis 29:20) This custom still prevails in the East.
9. Delighted, David accepted the challenge and before the allotted time had expired, David brought King Saul the foreskins of 200 Philistines. Thus, David married Michal.
10. King Saul realized that God remained with David. He noticed how popular he was with the people and how much his daughter loved David. He was Saul's most successful warrior and God continued to bless him.
11. Saul's jealousy increased to the point that he asked Jonathan and his aides to assassinate David. But Jonathan was true to his friend. He warned David of the danger. Jonathan told David to hide in the fields while he tried to reason with his father.
12. The next morning, Jonathan pleaded with his father not to harm David. He reminded his father David had always been loyal to him. David had risked his life to slay Goliath and other Philistines, to bring glory to Israel. David had

- served him faithfully. Surely it would be wrong to kill him. Saul listened to his son and finally vowed he would not slay David.
13. Jonathan called for David to tell him the good news. They went to Saul and things seemed fine. David resumed command of his troops to fight the Philistines and was again victorious. As David sat playing his harp for Saul, once again evil overcame Saul and he threw his javelin at David. David dodged Saul's spear and fled for his life.
 14. Saul sent troops to watch David's house and kill him if they saw him. His wife, Michal, encouraged David to escape before the morning. She let him down through a window. Then she took an image and puts it in his bed. She made a pillow of goats' hair and covered the idol.
 15. Saul's soldiers came to arrest David, but Michal tells them David was sick in bed. They relayed the message to Saul who wanted them to bring David to him in his bed. When they came back to lift him, they discovered the idol.
 16. David fled to Ramah where Samuel was. He told Samuel of King Saul's actions. Samuel took David to Naioth to stay with him. "Naioth" means "dwellings" and may have been a school for prophets Samuel had with him. Word soon travelled to King Saul that David was with Samuel. He sent soldiers to get him.
 17. As they arrived, Samuel and the prophets were prophesying. God caused the soldiers to prophesy as well. Word got back to King Saul of this so he sent more soldiers for David. God caused them to prophesy as well. This happened a third time with more soldiers.
 18. Saul himself went to Ramah. At the well of Sechu he asked someone where he might find David and Samuel. They told him Naioth. On the way, Saul too began to prophesy. He stripped off his clothes and laid naked prophesying before Samuel as the others. Saul's men were surprised. They wondered if Saul was also a prophet.
 19. Before the call of Samuel as a prophet (I Samuel 3:1), prophecy was rare in Israel or elsewhere. It seemed evident these groups of prophets arose during the time of Samuel. How widespread they became is uncertain.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - King - crown, robe
 - David - harp
 - Jonathan - sword, bow
 - Michal - scarf, shawl
 - Samuel - towel, turbine
 - army attire or equipment - hat, canteen, toy soldiers
 - harp - toy, crafted of wood, cardboard, string, rubber bands
 - javelin - toy spear, arrow, stick, yard stick, dowel
 - marriage - flower, bouquet, veil, dress
 - armor - toy helmet, sword, shield, spear
 - Philistines - toy soldiers, paper dolls
 - David's house - decorate a box, paper or cardboard model, string, rope, or cord
 - idol - statue, wood or stone carving, balloon face/form
 - map - Ramah
- Puppets/Dolls - King Saul, David, Jonathan, Michal, Samuel
- Flannelgraphs

- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Common Love
- A Helper I Will Be
- Bind Us Together Lord
- Blest Be The Tie That Binds
- David Was A Child Like Me
- I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
- Jesus Is A Friend
- Let The Beauty Of Jesus Be Seen In You
- Little David Play On Your Harp
- Love, Love, Love, Love
- Only A Boy Named David
- Showing Love
- This Is My Commandment
- Trust And Obey

Activities:

- Charlie Church Mouse video - "Be A Friend" (in church library)
- File Folder Activities: "David"
"Kings"
"Warfare"
- *Friends* - Have students cut out connecting paper dolls. Mount them on another sheet of construction paper. Allow them to add names and details to their "friends." Help them write statements about how they have helped their friend or how their friend helped them. *Variation:* This can also be done by tracing students on butcher block paper and connecting them on a classroom wall. Have them discuss how they are friends to each other.
- *Collage Pictures* - Have students cut out of magazines, pictures showing friends helping each other. This can be done individually or as a group.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. To what extent was Jonathan a friend to David? How did he take the initiative to be a friend?
2. With whom are you good friends? Who took the initiative? On what do you base your friendship? Would you do for your friend what Jonathan did for David?
3. Since Jonathan had more to lose than King Saul if David became the next king, how do you explain Jonathan's attitude? How do you explain Saul's attitude?
4. How do you think Jonathan felt about the way his father was treating his friend? Did David do anything to deserve such treatment?
5. How do you think God felt about the way Saul treated David?
6. Why was David so successful in spite of King Saul?
7. How did David's wife help him in this lesson? How do you think Michal felt about the way her father was treating David?
8. Why did the soldiers not bring David back to Saul when they went to Ramah? What happens as a result? Why?
9. Tell of a time you were lonely and needed a friend.
10. Tell how you should treat someone who needs a friend. Give examples.

Old Testament

Lesson 71: Three Arrows

Text: I Samuel 20,21

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 20:17 | And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul. |
| | Matthew 7:12 | Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. |
| | Galatians 6:10 | As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. |
| | I John 3:11, 16 | For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • friendship is a gift and blessing from God to be treasured. Jonathan proved his friendship by his actions. We can do the same. • we can be loyal to our word even under difficult circumstances. Friendship is a two way street. • friendship demands choices. Jesus is always your best friend. |
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Outline:

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|-----|---|-------------|
| I. | Three arrows. | I Samuel 20 |
| | A. David questions Jonathan. | |
| | B. They renew their covenant. | |
| | C. The new moon celebration. | |
| | D. Three arrows. | |
| | E. Sad goodbyes. | |
| II. | David goes to Nob. | I Samuel 21 |
| | A. David goes to Ahimelech, the priest. | |
| | B. Bread and Goliath's sword. | |
| | C. David pretends to be insane. | |

Facts:

1. David fled Naioth to find Jonathan. He asked Jonathan why his father was so determined to kill him; had he sinned against him in some way? Jonathan protested and assured David his father was not after David or he would know about it. David reminded Jonathan that King Saul knew well their strong friendship. He concluded Saul was keeping his intentions secret from Jonathan. Jonathan asked how he could help David.
2. David told Jonathan that the next day began the New Moon Festival. (Numbers 10:10, Numbers 28:11-15, II Kings 4:23) David had always observed this celebration with King Saul since appointed to his court, but tomorrow he would hide in the fields. If King Saul asked where he was, Jonathan would tell him David had asked permission to go to Bethlehem to sacrifice with his own family. (As a member of the royal household, David's presence was expected by Saul at the sacrificial meal.)
3. If Saul was okay with David's going to Bethlehem, he would know all was well. But if Saul became angry, David would know Saul still wanted him dead. He asked Jonathan to do this favor for him or kill him himself, but not to betray him to King Saul. Jonathan quickly agreed to help David. They renewed their covenant of friendship.
4. Jonathan told David to hide in the fields. He would talk to his father about David and do as they had planned. Once Jonathan knew his father's feelings, he would come to the field and shoot three arrows, then send a boy after them. If Jonathan said to the boy, "They are on the side," all would be well and safe for David to return. But if Jonathan told the boy, "The arrows are beyond you," David would know his life was in danger.
5. No suspicion would have been raised by Jonathan's archery practice since he was a warrior. These pre-arranged signs were in case of spies. David went to the fields to hide.
6. At the sacrificial meal the next day, King Saul sat in the place of honor. Abner and Jonathan sat with him, but David's place was empty. King Saul assumed David must be ceremonially unclean so he said nothing. (Leviticus 15:16) When David was missing the second day of the festival, he asked Jonathan where David was. Jonathan told Saul he gave him permission to go to Bethlehem and celebrate with his family.
7. King Saul erupted in rage. He yelled at Jonathan telling him as long as David was alive he was a threat to Jonathan assuming the throne as king of Israel. Although Jonathan also suspected David was God's choice as Saul's successor, he defended his friend to his father.
8. In anger, Saul turned and hurled his javelin at Jonathan to kill him. In hurt and anger, Jonathan left without eating, ashamed of his father's behavior.
9. The next morning, Jonathan went to the fields. He shot three arrows and told the boy with him to go farther; they were beyond him (intended for David to hear). As the boy returned, Jonathan gave him his artillery and sent him back to the city.
10. Once the boy was gone, David came out of his hiding place. In reverence and loyalty to the king's son, he knelt down, touching the ground with his forehead. They cried with one another, knowing David would have to leave. Eventually, Jonathan reminded David that God would be with them and their families forever. In sorrow, they went their separate ways.

11. David travelled to Nob, a Levite city to see Ahimelech, the priest (one mile north of Jerusalem). Ahimelech asked David why he was alone. David lied by telling Ahimelech he was on a private mission and would meet up with his men later.
12. David asked Ahimelech for food and five loaves of bread. Ahimelech had only the shewbread from the tabernacle to offer David "and his men," if they were ceremonially clean. David assured Ahimelech they were, so Ahimelech gave David the holy bread set aside for the priests to eat.
13. Then, David asked Ahimelech for a spear or sword to use. He explained he left in such a rush on the king's order he forgot his weapon. Ahimelech told David all he had there was Goliath's sword stored away. David told him that would be perfect. Then David hurried on for he feared Saul would catch up to him and it just so happened Doeg, Saul's chief herdsman was also at Nob for ceremonial purification.
14. David moved on to Gath, a Philistine city. The king's officers there recognized David as the mighty commander from Israel's army, the one Israel honored in their dances and sang about his many victories. "Saul hath slain his 1000's and David his 10,000's."
15. After overhearing their comments about him, David was afraid of what their king, King Achish, might do to him, so he pretended to be insane. He began to scratch on doors like an animal and foam at the mouth, letting spit roll down his beard. Upon seeing this, King Achish told his men to get rid of David. He did not intend to entertain such a mad man in his house.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - sacrificial meal - 4 place settings, real or pretend food
 - spear - stick, yardstick, toy or crafted arrow
 - bow and 3 arrows - toy, crafted, stick & string, paper points
 - tissues, handkerchiefs
 - 5 loaves (or pieces) of bread
 - sword - toy
 - spital - mix making soda & vinegar
- Puppets/Dolls - David, Jonathan, King Saul, Ahimelech, King Achish
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Are We Walking In The Enemies Camp
- Be With Me Lord
- Bind Us Together Lord
- Bless Be The Tie That Binds
- Books Of The Old Testament
- David Was A Child Like Me
- God Is Watching Over You
- He's My Rock, My Sword, My Shield
- Only A Boy Named David
- Responsibility Song
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- This Is My Commandment

Activities:

- Video: "Be A Friend"
"Value People"
- File Folder Activities: "David"
"Geography - Bible Lands"
- *For Our Friends* - Help students brainstorm ideas of how they can show love for a friend, especially with a spiritual emphasis. Help them follow through his week. Examples: share the gospel, invite them to worship, share clothing, a toy, cookies, write a short letter
- *Folks We Trust* - Help students reflect on those "friends" we trust and depend on but may never know their names. Examples: their doctor, inspectors, chemists, farmers, auto manufacturer, nurse, bridge builders, police, fire people, elders. (Help them express their appreciation.)
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Define "friendship." Who is your best friend and why?
2. How did Jonathan once again prove his friendship to David?
3. How have you proven your friendship to someone?
4. Why was King Saul so intent on killing David?
5. How did King Saul's behavior make Jonathan feel? Why?
6. How did Ahimelech show love and friendship to David?
7. Why does David pretend to be insane?
8. How can you tell the difference in a good friend and someone who pretends to be your friend?
9. How did God provide for David? How does God provide for you?
10. What can endanger a friendship?

Old Testament

Lesson 72: Saul Loses His Hem

Text: I Samuel 22-24

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 24:4 | And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily. |
| | I Samuel 24:17 | And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil. |
| | Matthew 5:44 | But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; |
| | Romans 12:17, 18 | Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to treat those that are unkind to you with kindness. God will be glorified and He will reward you in the end. • revenge is the Lord's responsibility, not ours. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| <p>I. Saul slays the priests.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. David joined by family and comrades.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Doeg tells on Ahimelech.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Saul has all the priests from Nob killed.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Doeg executes Saul's commands.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E. Abiathar escapes.</p> | I Samuel 22 |
| <p>II. In hot pursuit.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. David rescues Keilah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Saul pursues David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Jonathan visits David at Ziph.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Saul pursues David further.</p> | I Samuel 23 |
| <p>III. Saul finds David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Saul goes to Engedi after David.</p> | I Samuel 24 |

- B. David cuts off Saul's hem.
- C. Saul concedes to David.

Facts:

1. David left Gath and went to Adullam where his family and relatives from Bethlehem joined him. (In the east, it was not uncommon for an entire family to be executed for one member deemed guilty. The massacre at Nob showed David's family what could happen to them.) David soon had 400 men. He sought royal protection for his parents in Mizpeh, Moab while he lived in caves.
2. The prophet Gad told David to go to Judah, so David went to the forest of Hareth in Judah. Word soon reached Saul at Gibeah. Saul's council and troops were largely men from his own tribe, the Benjamites. He facetiously petitioned for their loyalty.
3. Doeg, the Edomite, spoke up and told King Saul he saw David at Nob talking to Ahimelech, the priest. He told Saul that Ahimelech gave David food and Goliath's sword and consulted God for him. Saul summoned Ahimelech, his family and all of the priests of Nob.
4. Saul accused Ahimelech of conspiring against him with David to revolt. Ahimelech reminded King Saul that David was his faithful servant and highly honored among his warriors as well as his household. It was unfair of Saul to falsely accuse him and his family of plotting against the king.
5. Saul ordered Ahimelech, all his family, and all eighty-five priests killed for conspiring against him and being allies to David. Yet, the soldiers refused to kill the priests of God, so King Saul ordered Doeg to kill them and he did. Then he went to Nob and massacred all the men, women, children, and animals. Only Abiathar, one of Ahimelech's sons escaped and fled to David with the sacred ephod to Adullam. In Saul's fury and madness, he destroyed an innocent city within his own tribe with a vengeance.
6. Abiathar told David all that Saul and Doeg have done. David felt responsible for causing the deaths of these innocent people. David told Abiathar to stay with him and he would protect Abiathar with his own life.
7. Word came to David the Philistines were robbing the threshing floors at Keilah. David asked God if he should attack the Philistines. God told him yes. David's men were afraid so David consulted God again. God assured David He would help them conquer the Philistines. This they did, rescuing Keilah and confiscating the Philistines' cattle. Abiathar went too. (Keilah is a place of importance during Nehemiah's time period.)
8. Saul soon learned that David was at Keilah and mobilized his army to go after David. Meanwhile, David learned that Saul knew of his location and was en route to capture him. David had Abiathar consult God through the ephod. God told David Saul was coming and those of Keilah would give him up to Saul. So David and his 600 men left Keilah for the wilderness caves of Ziph. Saul aborted his mission to Keilah when he learned David was no longer there.
9. Ziph was a wild, uncultivated tract between Mt. Hebron and Mt. Carmel near the Dead Sea. Six cities existed in this desolate area. Limestone plateaus covered this area among the barrenness with a multitude of caves. King Saul came looking for David at Ziph, but God did not allow Saul to find him.
10. With humility and unselfish love, Jonathan came to David at Hebron. Jonathan encouraged David not to be afraid of his father, for God was with him. He told David that God would make him Israel's next king and as his friend Jonathan

- would be there to support him. They renewed their covenant of friendship and Jonathan went home.
11. Meanwhile, the men of Ziph betrayed David to King Saul. They told Saul that David was hiding in the caves of Hachilah, along the southern desert tract of the Dead Sea. If he came, they would help him catch David. Saul was pleased. He told them to pinpoint more exactly David's location, for he was very crafty and sly. Then King Saul would come and search until he found him.
 12. David learned that Saul was on his way to Ziph, so David and his men went further south into the wilderness of Maon. King Saul pursued David to Maon. They were on opposite sides of the same mountain in close proximity. King Saul received word that the Philistines were attacking Israel again so he called off his search for David and returned home to fight Philistines. Since that time, David's camping spot has been called "Selahammahlekoth" meaning "the rock of escape." David now moved on to the caves of Engedi.
 13. Engedi was a well watered oasis east of the desert of Judah known for its waterfalls that seem to skip like a goat from one ledge to another, hence the name, "Fountain of the Kid." The wild goats still climb its rocky cliffs. "Sheepcotes" are rough stone walls at the entrances of the caves that protected the sheep from wild beasts or served as shelter in bad weather.
 14. After battling the Philistines, King Saul resumed his search for David in the wilderness of Engedi. He took with him 3,000 top warriors. As they searched among the caves, Saul stopped at one of the caves to go to the bathroom. Little did he know David and his men were hiding deep within that cave.
 15. David's men encouraged David to seize this opportunity to kill Saul. David crept forward and quietly slit the hem of Saul's robe off. (Saul had probably laid his robe to the side.) Then David felt guilty. He admitted to his men it was wrong to attack the king chosen by Jehovah. For this reason, none of David's men attacked Saul.
 16. Once King Saul had traveled on, David came out of the cave and shouted at King Saul. He got Saul's attention and David bowed to him. He asked King Saul why he listened to people that said he was trying to hurt him. He told Saul it was not true. God had just given David opportunity to kill Saul, but he did not. His men had encouraged him to kill Saul, but he did not. He showed King Saul the hem he had cut off as proof of his words.
 17. David told King Saul that God may avenge him for trying to kill David, but he would never harm God's anointed king. David reminded Saul of the proverb, "wickedness proceedeth from the wicked." Yet despite Saul's wickedness, David would not harm him. He asked Saul why he was wasting his time chasing some one as worthless as a dead dog or a flea. God would ultimately judge them according to their deeds. God would rescue David from Saul because he was righteous.
 18. Saul called back to verify it was David. He began to cry. He admitted to David that David was the better man for he repaid good for evil. He conceded that David had opportunity to kill him, but did not. He asked God to bless David for his kindness shown him. He also admitted that he realized David was to be his successor to Israel's throne. He asked David not to kill his family or any of his descendants. David promised Saul he would not harm them. Saul returned home.

19. Many of the psalms that David wrote appear to be of this time period during Saul's pursuits.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - Gath, Adullam, Mizpeh, Hareth, Nob, Keilah, Ziph, Hachilah, Engedi, Maon
 - toy soldiers
 - sword, helmet, shield, spear
 - ephod - fabric or tunic vest with 12 plastic jewels glued on
 - toy cows, bulls, goats, sheep
 - caves - tent, clay models, large cardboard display with door openings cut for students to fit through
 - coat, cape, robe/knife/strip of matching fabric
 - tissue, handkerchief
- Puppets/Dolls - David, King Saul, Doeg, Ahimelech, Abiathar, Jonathan
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- David Was A Child Like Me
- David Was A Great Leader
- His Banner Over Me Is Love
- I Don't Wanta Be A Goat
- I Love You Lord
- Kindness
- Little David Play On Your Harp
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Thank You Lord
- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment
- Watch Your Eyes
- We Bow Down
- We Will Glorify
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Video: "Charlie Church Mouse - What's Valuable In Life"
- Guide students to focus on how David and Jesus showed kindness to those who were unkind to them. Help them list ways they could show kindness to those that are unkind to them (showing good for evil).
- *Fact Finding Board* - Create a board or poster with pockets. Put important character names on the pockets from today's lesson. Write facts about these Bible people on craft sticks, tongue depressors, or strips of colored paper. Let students match the facts to the people.
- *Memory Matching Blocks* - Write out words of today's memory verse on cards. Have students put the words in order individually, in pairs or as a group. Variation: Match students with a partner. Give each pair a set of "blocks" (cards) with the words to today's memory verse on them. Place cards face down. Take turns turning over the cards. The student who turns over the 1st word of today's memory verse "plays" his card in the center and takes another turn. The object is to get the memory verse words in order.

- *Prayer Reminders* - Give each student 7 index cards. Write the days of the week at the top. Discuss how David always talked to God especially about big decisions. Have students write about things they will talk to God about on each day. You may need to brainstorm some things we talk to God about before you start. Attach cards together for students to keep.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What did David do as King Saul pursues to kill him? What would you have done?
2. How do kids your age try to get revenge?
3. What do you think God wants us to do to those that are unkind to us?
4. Why did King Saul lash out so harshly at Ahimelech? Explain why the soldiers refuse to obey King Saul's command to kill the priests. Why did Doeg do it for Saul?
5. Did Abiathar blame David for what happened to his family? Do we ever blame others for bad things that happen to us? Is that fair (right)?
6. Why were David's men not eager to go to Keilah and fight?
7. To whom did David repeatedly go for advice? To whom do you go for direction and advice?
8. How did David deal with the opportunity to get revenge? How do you?
9. Who was always watching over David? Who watches over you?

Old Testament
Lesson 73: Abigail Repays David
Saul Loses His Spear

Text: I Samuel 25,26

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 26:23 | The Lord render to every man his righteousness and his faithfulness: for the Lord delivered thee into my hand to day, but I would not stretch forth mine hand against the Lord's anointed. |
| | Proverbs 20:22 | Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and He shall save thee. |
| | I Thessalonians 5:15 | See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. |
| | I Peter 3:9 | Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing; but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must always treat others fairly and honestly as David and Abigail did to please God. • God can help us be kind to others even when it is hard. |
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Outline:

- I. Overcoming evil with good. I Samuel 25
 - A. Samuel dies.
 - B. David appeals to Nabal for food.
 - C. David refused / provoked.
 - D. Abigail shows kindness to David.
 - E. Nabal dies.
 - F. David marries Abigail.

- II. David shows kindness to King Saul again. I Samuel 26
 - A. Saul pursues David.
 - B. David takes Saul's spear and water.
 - C. Saul admits his sin.

Facts:

1. Samuel died and all of Israel mourned his death. Each tribe sent delegates to his funeral. He was buried at the family estate in Ramah.
2. Paran was the desert that separated Palestine from the Sinai Peninsula. A wealthy sheep rancher, from Maon named Nabal, kept his sheep about a mile north of the

- village of Carmel. He had 3,000 sheep and 1,000 goats. Nabal was a descendant of Caleb. He was a stubborn, selfish, ill-mannered man. His wife, Abigail, was beautiful and very intelligent. ("Nabal" means "fool.")
3. David and his men had come to settle the Paran wilderness. As many roving bands do in this area even today, David and his men had voluntarily protected Nabal's sheep and shepherds from notorious robbers. When it was time to shear the sheep, this was a time of celebration. Generally, this was also a time when "protection money" would have been given by the wealthy farmer.
 4. David sent ten of his men to Carmel with blessings of prosperity for Nabal and asked for some contribution or gift of thanks for the protection David and his men had given his sheep and servants. Water was a precious commodity in this dry area. Nabal refused David's request with disdain and insults.
 5. David, insulted by Nabal, planned to retaliate. He and 400 of his men armed to fight head for Nabal's home. Two hundred men remained with their belongings. Meanwhile, one of Nabal's servants went to Abigail explaining how good David and his men had been to them, how they protected them from harm night and day, never stealing anything from them, yet, Nabal had returned their kindness with insults. He feared David would attack them if something wasn't done quickly to avert the situation.
 6. Wisely, Abigail gathered 200 loaves of bread, two bottles of wine, five sheep, two bushels of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins and 200 fig cakes. She packed all of this on donkeys and sent her servants ahead, telling her husband nothing of this. As she met David and his men along the way, she quickly dismounted and bowed to David. She accepted all the blame for what had happened and begged David to hear what she had to say.
 7. She admitted her husband's actions were foolish. She told David that she was not aware of his messengers until after they had gone. She hoped her gifts would keep David from shedding blood needlessly and taking vengeance. Somehow, Abigail knew of David's rise to the throne. Many looked upon David in exile as the hope of Israel. Abigail apologized for her bold approach. She recognized God was with David.
 8. Abigail also argued that blood shed at this point would work against David. Abigail also pointed out to David his conscience would bother him if he killed needlessly. David listened to Abigail. He realized God had sent her to stop him. He thanked her for coming, for her advice, and for all the food she had brought to them.
 9. When Abigail got home, Nabal had thrown a huge party and was drunk so she waited until morning to tell Nabal what she had done. She told Nabal and ten days later he died. David heard of Nabal's death. He knew God had avenged his enemy for him.
 10. David wasted no time in asking Abigail to marry him. She accepted. David also married Ahino-am of Jezreel, daughter of Animaaz, who later was captured by the Amalekites at Ziklag, (I Samuel 14:50, 30:5) while King Saul forced his daughter Michal to marry a man from Gallim named Phalti.
 11. The Ziphites told King Saul David was hiding in the hills of Hachilah. Saul took 3,000 chosen troops and again pursued David. As Saul camped on the edge of the wilderness, David was aware of his arrival and sent out spies to watch him. One night, David went to Saul's camp. All the soldiers slept around Saul. His spear stuck in the ground next to his pillow.

12. David asked Ahimelech and Abishai if either of them would volunteer to go into Saul's camp with him. Abishai volunteered to join him. As they entered the camp, all the men were in a deep sleep. (The same term is used of Adam while the Lord created Eve. Genesis 2:21) Abishai wanted to put Saul's own spear through him, but David would not allow it because Saul was chosen by God as Israel's king. David's generosity toward Saul was contrasted with Saul's jealous hatred of David.
13. Instead, David took Saul's spear and his water jug. They climbed to the opposite mountain top a safe distance away. David shouted to wake up Abner. He taunted Abner of being such a valiant warrior, who did not wake up to protect his king when the enemy came into camp and could have killed Saul. He could have been punished by death for his carelessness. David told Abner to look around for Saul's spear and water.
14. Saul recognized David's voice. He asked to confirm his suspicions. David confirmed it was him. Again, he asked Saul why he was still hunting him. If God was prompting Saul to pursue him, then David said he would seek God's pardon with a suitable offering. If men were building these barriers between David and Saul, then may they be cursed by God.
15. David went on to say to Saul he had been driven out of his own home and away from God's people for no reason. In foreign lands, it was the custom to worship the "gods" of that area. David did not want to worship the heathen gods of the lands in which he was hiding from Saul. Why was he still hunting David as he would a partridge (bird) in the mountains? No Hebrew wanted to die outside of the land of Israel.
16. Saul confessed again he had wronged David. He told him again to come home, he would not harm him. David offered up Saul's spear. He told Saul to send a young man over to get it. David reminded Saul that the Lord rewards those who do good and are loyal. Since he had spared Saul's life, may God spare David and rescue him from his troubles. Saul again acknowledged David as a great leader and conqueror. They each went their separate ways.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - Samuel's death - doll in a box, flowers, tissues, handkerchief, mound of dirt with a "marker"
 - toy sheep and goats
 - toy soldiers
 - baskets of bread, bottles of grape juice, cooked lamb, basket of grain (cereal, cornmeal), raisins, Fig Newtons
 - wedding - veil, flowers, dress, favors, decorations
 - spies - eyeglasses, binoculars
 - Saul's camp - crafted model, clay, sand, dirt, sleeping bags, toy spear, stick, water jug, camp fire, toothpicks
 - spear - stick
 - water jug - canteen, water bottle
- Puppets/Dolls - Nabal, Abigail, David, servant, Saul, Abner
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map

- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Angry Words
- Are We Walking In The Enemies Camp
- David Was A Child Like Me
- Farther Along
- God Is So Good
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Am Crucified With Christ
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Love You With The Love Of The Lord
- I Tried And I Tried
- I'm Yours Lord
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Kindness
- Love Love Love Love
- Seek Ye First
- Showing Love
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Thank You Lord
- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment

Activities:

- Contrast fair and unfair situations both in the Bible and current situations.
- *Create A Filmstrip* - Demonstrate briefly how an overhead projector works. Have students share their favorite parts of today's story. Give each student a transparency. Have each one illustrate 1 scene of the lesson. Older students may want to write captions or conversations on their "filmstrip slide." When students are finished retell the story in sequence using their transparencies on the overhead projector. Later you can tape them to light poster or construction paper to display.
- *Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down* - Play a true/false activity. Make a list of true and false statements about today's lesson. If the statement is true, students are to show a "thumbs up." If the statement is false, students show a "thumbs down." This can be done as a group or as teams.
- *Evil Overcomers* - Using butcher block paper, trace outlines of students pretending they are a Bible person who overcame evil with good. Have students illustrate the Bible person they chose with facial features and their robe. Have them write a Bible verse or sentence that expresses how their Bible character overcame evil with good. Each student should pick someone different not necessarily from today's lessons. Example: Abigail/David
Variation - The same principle could be done by putting the Bible person's name and what they did on a seasonal pattern. Example: fall leaf, snowflakes, butterflies, sea shells.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How was Nabal unfair to David and his men?
2. How did this make David and his men feel toward Nabal?
3. What did Abigail do? Why?
4. How did David react to Abigail's actions?
5. How did God use Nabal? Abigail? How did God reward Nabal? Abigail?
6. Why would it have been wrong for David to carry out his revenge?
7. Give examples of how you have been treated unfairly and how it made you feel. Give examples of how you may have treated someone else unfairly and how it made you feel.

8. How should we treat others? Why?
9. What did David and Abishai disagree on? What was David's reasoning?
10. What important points did David tell King Saul while he had opportunity to speak with him? How did King Saul react?

Old Testament

Lesson 74: Saul's Last Days

Text: I Samuel 27-31

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| Memory Verses: | I Samuel 28:18 | Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the Lord, nor executedst His fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the Lord done this thing unto thee this day. |
| | Psalms 46:1 | God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. |
| | Psalms 119:11 | Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. |
| | Proverbs 6:16-19 | These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. |
| | Proverbs 14:12 | There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. |
| | Proverbs 16:18 | Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God helped David in times of trouble because of his obedience and faithfulness. God will help us as well when we obey Him. • God had given Saul a wonderful ability and responsibility, but he failed to use it for God's purpose. God has given each of us a special ability to use to His glory. We must use our talents as David did for God and not as Saul used his. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- I. David lives among Philistines.
 - A. David lives with Philistines.
 - B. Saul stops hunting David.
 - C. David raids Israel's enemies.

I Samuel 27

- II. The witch of Endor. I Samuel 28
 - A. Saul forsaken by God.
 - B. Saul seeks to talk to Samuel.
 - C. Saul is frightened by his fate.

- III. Achish sends David back with commendations. I Samuel 29
 - A. Israel to fight the Philistines.
 - B. David not allowed to fight.

- IV. Share and share alike. I Samuel 30
 - A. The Amalekites raid Ziklag.
 - B. David recovers his family and spoils.

- V. King Saul dies in battle. I Samuel 31
 - A. The Philistines slaughter Israel's army.
 - B. Saul and his sons die in battle.
 - C. Jabesh-gilead recovers the bodies for burial.

Facts:

1. To avoid King Saul hunting him, David decided to live among the Philistines. He and his 600 men and their families lived in Gath, under King Achish's protection. Saul soon learned of David's location and abandoned his pursuit. King Achish asked David if he would move to a country district outside the city of Gath called Ziklag.
2. David and his men raided the Geshurites, the Gezrites, and the Amalekites, living near Shur on the road to Egypt. They killed all the inhabitants and took for themselves the sheep, oxen, donkeys, camel, and clothing. David made King Achish feel he did this to protect King Achish and his people from their enemies.
3. The Philistines organized to go to war against Israel again. King Achish asked David and his men to come help them fight. David's answer was ambiguous, meaning he could but, with no promise of loyalty to fight against Israel. The Philistines camped at Shunem while Saul and his armies camped at Gilboa. (Judges 7:1) King Saul was terrified at the huge armies of his enemies. He sought God's guidance, but God refused to answer him.
4. King Saul had banned all mediums and wizards from Israel. Because God was no longer with Saul, he sought out a medium (witch) to call up Samuel from the dead. One was located in Endor. Saul went to her at night wearing a disguise. Not knowing who he was, she told him she would be risking execution by King Saul if she were to help him. He swore an oath to her that he would not betray her to "the king."
5. When she brought up Samuel, she realized who Saul was. King Saul calmed her and asked her to continue. Samuel asked Saul why he had disturbed him. Saul told Samuel he was in trouble, for the Philistines were ready for war and God would not tell him what to do so he had to call up Samuel for advice.
6. Samuel told Saul that God was with his rival, David, because of Saul's disobedience. He confirmed that Saul and his army would be soundly defeated on the next day by the Philistines. Saul and his sons would join Samuel in death. Saul was paralyzed with fear and faint from hunger. The witch of Endor told

- King Saul she did what he asked of her. She begged him to eat before he left. Saul was so distraught he refused, but eventually his men convinced him to eat. She killed the fatted calf and made bread for them.
7. Meanwhile, the Philistines mobilized their troops at Aphek. David and his men joined King Achish in the rear. The Philistine prince asked King Achish why Israelites were with him. The prince demanded King Achish send David and his men away for fear they would turn on them in battle and rejoin Israel's troops.
 8. With sincere regret, King Achish told David he wished he could go with them into battle, but the Philistine prince would not allow it. David wondered what he had done to deserve such distrust. King Achish assured David he had done nothing wrong, but he must go back early the next morning.
 9. After a three day journey home (seventy miles), David and his men found their city (Ziklag) raided and burned by Amalekites. All their families were captured. They wept bitterly for their loss, knowing their families would be sold as slaves. David's men were so upset they talked of killing David. David had Abiathar ask God by means of the ephod if he should pursue the Amalekites. God assured David he should and he would recover all that had been taken.
 10. David and his 600 men went after the Amalekites. When they reached brook Besor (five miles south of Ziklag), 200 men were too exhausted to continue. The others forged on. They happened upon an Egyptian slave who had become sick and left in the field three days ago without food. (A sick slave was of no more importance than a crippled horse.) His master was an Amalekite who had raided Ziklag.
 11. David gave the slave a fig cake, two clusters of raisins, and water. He asked the slave to show them where the Amalekites were. He agreed to do so if David would not kill him or send him back to his master. David agreed.
 12. As they approached the Amalekites camp, there was a grand celebration with drinking and dancing over their vast amount of booty. David and his men attacked. They waged war through the night and all the next day. Only 400 Amalekite men escaped by camel. David and his men recovered their families and all their belongings. They took all the flocks and herds for they would be the most acceptable gifts for those of Judah who had protected David from Saul.
 13. As they picked up those left at brook Besor, some of David's men did not want to share their booty with the 200 who stayed behind but just return their families to them. David reminded them it was God who had kept them safe and defeated their enemy, so the booty would be shared equally among all of them. This he made a law among them for all time.
 14. Upon getting to Ziklag, David sent a portion of the flocks and herds to the elders of Judah in several cities where David and his men had stayed.
 15. In the meantime, the Philistines slaughtered Israel's troops at Mt. Gilboa. (Four significant battles were fought here: The battle of Kishon with Deborah and Barak (Judges 4:15-5:21), the battle of Jezreel with Gideon's 300 against the Midianites (Judges 7), this battle of Mt. Gilboa, and the battle of Megiddo with Josiah (II Kings 23:29).
 16. Saul's three sons, Jonathan, Abinidab, and Malchishua were killed. Saul was badly wounded by an arrow. He asked his armor bearer to kill him before the enemy captured and tortured him, but his armor bearer was afraid. Saul fell on his own sword. (This is one of four suicides recorded in the Bible. II Samuel 17:23, I Kings 16:18, Matthew 27:5) His armor bearer fell upon his sword as well.

17. When those Israelites left in the cities learned of Saul's death and Israel's defeat, they abandoned their cities and fled. The Philistines took over their cities. The next day as the Philistines were stripping the dead, they found King Saul's body and those of his three sons on Mt. Gilboa.
18. They cut off Saul's head, possibly in retaliation for Goliath and stripped him of his armor. They publicized his death throughout the land. His armor was placed in the temple of the Phoenician goddess Ashtaroath. (Excavations by the University Museum of Philadelphia in Bethshan have apparently unearthed this temple, built by Ramses II.) Saul's body and those of his sons were attached to the Bethshan wall as a mockery.
19. Those warriors of Jabesh-gilead travelled through the night to recover the bodies of Saul and his sons. They cremated them and buried their remains beneath the oak tree at Jabesh, fasting and mourning for seven days.
20. Except in the case of criminals (Joshua 7:25), cremation was not a common practice among the Israelites. (It was practiced among the Philistines.) It may have been they feared the Philistines would dig up the bodies and add further insult. Saul's life was a tragedy. Although he was courageous and generous, his disobedience to God limited his military success and final leadership of Israel. Saul ruled Israel forty years. (Acts 13:21)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - cities where David stayed, Mt. Gilboa, Gath, Ziklag, Shunem, Gilboa, Endor, Aphek, brook Besor
 - weapons and armor - toy sword, helmet, shield, spear, horse, chariot
 - booty - toy sheep, donkeys, camels, clothing
 - army men - toy soldiers, Israel vs. Philistines, paper doll warriors
 - dress-up disguise - wig, scarf, eye patch, robe, mask
 - witch - "crystal "ball" - upside down bowl, darkened room
 - Samuel - ragged clothes, covered face
 - meal - meat, bread - real, play food, magazines cut outs
 - model of Ziklag, burned - clay or dirt base, fireplace ashes, partially burned paper, clay houses
 - ephod - model
 - slave - gold earring, simple dress, weak and sickly
 - fig newton, raisins, water
 - arrow, sword
 - model cities - clay or block walls, paper houses, toy people
 - Saul's head - doll's head, potato head, fruit (orange) face
- Puppets/Dolls - David, Saul, Saul's sons
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Awesome God
- Climb Climb Up Sunshine Mountain
- Dare To Do Right

- David Was A Child Like Me
- I Don't Wanna Be A Goat
- I Love You Lord
- I Want To Go To Heaven
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- If I don't Get To Heaven
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- Onward Christian Soldiers
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Prepare To Meet Thy God
- Seek Ye First
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- What Will Your Answer Be?
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- Video: "Charlie Church Mouse - What's Valuable In Life"
"Charlie Church Mouse - Plan Ahead In Life"
- File Folder Activity - "David"
- *Blacklight* - Tell today's lesson using a black light. Visual silhouettes can be made from black paper and fluorescent chalk or paint. Set up in a cardboard box.
- *Life Response* - To teach students the Bible has answers for every day situations, describe a situation that could happen to them. Have students respond with "I will..." and a Bible verse which tells what they should do. Older students may be able to look up an answer in their Bibles. Younger students may be given verses from which to choose.
Examples: when it is dark - Isaiah 12:2
when I'm worried about a test at school - Phillipians 4:6
when I'm tempted to do wrong - Matthew 26:41
- *Wheel Of Fortune* - Using today's memory verses on the board, make 1 box for each letter of each word. Have students take turns guessing letters until they make a mistake. The child who can correctly read the verse 1st is the winner. **This is a good review technique for memory verses.**
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God help David in times of trouble?
2. Why would God not help King Saul?
3. Will God help you in times of trouble? Why or why not?
4. Why did David live among Philistines? Why did he and his men raid other cities?
5. Who was the witch of Endor? Why did Saul come to her? What did she do for him?
6. Why was David not allowed to fight with King Achish? Did God have anything to do with this decision?
7. What lesson did David teach his men on sharing?
8. What did the Philistines do with King Saul and his sons? Who came to spare their dignity?
9. What did David do when he had an important decision to make? What do you do?
10. What would have made Saul a more successful person? How might that apply to you?

Old Testament

Lesson 75: David, The King God Loved

Text: II Samuel 1-5

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| Memory Verses: | II Samuel 1:12 | And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the Lord, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword. |
| | II Samuel 5:12 | And David perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that He had exalted His kingdom for His people Israel's sake. |
| | Proverbs 3:6 | In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. |
| | Acts 13:22 | And when He had removed him, He raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also He gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after Mine own heart, which shall fulfil all My will. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David always talked to God about important day to day decisions. God blessed David as a result. We can also talk to God about all our decisions and know God will bless us as well when we follow Him. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. Saul's death.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Introduction.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. The Amalekite tells of Saul.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. David grieves Saul's death.</p> | II Samuel 1 |
| <p>II. David made king.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. David, king of Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Ish-bosheth, king of Israel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Abner slays Asahel.</p> | II Samuel 2 |
| <p>III. Civil war rages on.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. David blessed by God.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Abner's revolt.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. David mourns Abner.</p> | II Samuel 3 |
| <p>IV. Ish-bosheth beheaded by his captains.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Ish-bosheth slain.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. David slays Baanah and Rechab.</p> | II Samuel 4 |

- V. David made king of Israel and Judah. II Samuel 5
A. David anointed of Israel.
B. Jerusalem, Israel's capitol.
C. God blesses David.

Facts:

1. II Samuel is a continuation of I Samuel. Originally one book, the English translators divided it. It is thought that Nathan and Gad penned its record by the inspiration of God about 900 B.C. (II Chronicles 29:29) Primarily, II Samuel records David's triumphs, transgressions, and troubles as king over a forty year reign. David fell midway in time between Abraham and Christ, the Messiah (1,000 years). David was a very versatile individual, known as a "man after God's own heart." He confessed his imperfections and allowed God to use him to His glory.
2. An Amalekite from Saul's army came to David with signs of mourning. He announced Saul and Jonathan's death to David. David asked for proof. The Amalekite gave David Saul's crown and armlet saying he had found Saul wounded in the battle field and Saul had asked him to end his misery so he killed him knowing he could not survive. Self-condemned, David had the man killed for slaying God's anointed king.
3. This man had probably found Saul slain on the battlefield before the Philistines came through to strip search the dead. His story was faked in part expecting David to reward him for killing his rival. David and his men mourned the deaths of Saul, Jonathan, and those of Israel that had died with tears and fasting. David composed a song to honor both Saul and Jonathan recorded in II Samuel 1 and in the book of Jasher (the history of the wars of Israel, Joshua 10:13, I Kings 8:53). The one whom Saul had hated the most, mourned his death the most.
4. David asked God if he should move back to Judah. God told him yes he should move back to Hebron. David moved all his family and those of his men to the vineyards of Hebron (twenty miles south of Jerusalem) where he was crowned King of Judah. Hebron means "brotherhood." David thanked those of Jabesh-gilead for providing a decent burial for Saul and his sons. He asked God's blessings upon them for their kindness and loyalty. He asked them to be his subjects as Saul's successor.
5. Abner, Saul's captain (also his cousin) had crowned Saul's son Ish-bosheth (Ishbaal) as king of Israel at Mahanaim. This territory included Gilead, Ashuri, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and the rest of Israel. Thus, the nation of Israel was divided. Ish-bosheth reigned as king two years, David as king of Judah seven and a half years.
6. In time, Abner and Joab, captain of David's army met at the pool of Gibeon. They agreed to war games between twelve soldiers from each side to the death. Each soldier grabbed his opponent's hair and stabbed him with his sword, so that all of them died. The two armies then began to fight. By the end of the day, Abner's troops had lost to Joab.
7. Joab's brothers, Abishai and Asahel were among his troops. Asahel was as swift as a deer. He began relentlessly chasing Abner. Upon realizing who was chasing him, Abner called to Asahel to pursue someone else. Asahel refused.

- Abner again shouted to him to go elsewhere, for he could not bear to face Joab if he had to kill his younger brother. Asahel continued to chase Abner, so Abner shoved the back of his spear through Asahel's abdomen. Asahel fell to his death.
8. Joab and Abishai pursued Abner until dusk to the hill of Ammah. By this time, Abner's troops from Benjamin had regrouped and met him there. Abner shouted to Joab to call off their fight and let there be no more killing for they were brothers. Joab agreed. Immediately, Abner and his men retreated across the Jordan valley to Mahanaim. Joab and his troops returned home as well. Joab counts twenty casualties, where Abner suffered 360 losses, mostly of the tribe of Benjamin. Joab buried his brother, Asahel, at Bethlehem beside his father, then travelled on to Hebron.
 9. Civil war continued for a long time. David's position became stronger as Ish-bosheth's weakened. God blessed David with sons:
 - Ahino-am bore Amnon
 - Abigail bore Chileab (also called Daniel - I Chronicles 3:1)
 - Maacah bore Absalom
 - Haggith bore Adonijah
 - Abital bore Shephatiah
 - Eglah bore Ithream
 10. As war raged on, Abner became a more powerful leader in Israel. Taking advantage of this, he took liberty of Rizpah one of Saul's concubines. When Ish-bosheth questioned Abner about his actions, Abner became enraged. He vowed to help David gain Ish-bosheth's kingdom. Ish-bosheth said nothing for fear of Abner.
 11. Abner sent messengers to David to negotiate a deal for Israel's kingdom. David refused to negotiate until Abner brought him his wife, Michal (Saul's daughter). Ish-bosheth sent for her. Phaltiel, her husband, followed her to Bahurim in tears. Abner sent him home. Meanwhile, Abner laid the groundwork to convince Israel David was God's chosen leader for them. He went to David to report his progress accompanied by twenty men.
 12. David prepared a feast for Abner. Abner promised David when he returned, Israel would make David their king. Upon Abner's leaving, Joab returned from a raid. He did not understand how David could make peace with their enemy. He accused Abner of being a spy. Without David knowing, Joab sent for Abner to come back. As Abner arrived at Hebron's city gates, Joab took Abner aside as if to speak privately with him. Instead, he avenged the death of his brother by killing Abner. (An underlying motive may have been jealousy or what Joab considered to be protecting King David and Judah.)
 13. David vowed he had nothing to do with Abner's death, that Joab and his family were solely responsible. He committed their misdeeds to God's judgment. David and those with him buried Abner at Hebron and mourned his death with tears and fasting. David grew in favor with those of Israel and Judah.
 14. With Abner gone, Ish-bosheth was terribly afraid. His troops were now commanded by Baanah and Rechab, the sons of Rimmon. These brothers came to Ish-bosheth's home one day as he was napping. (Between 12:00 and 4:00 p.m., it was common to take a siesta.) They entered as if they had come for a sack of wheat (the "delivery man" approach). They sneaked into the king's bedroom, beheading him. Baanah and Rechab fled to Hebron presenting Ish-bosheth's

- head to David expecting his praise. Instead, David had them killed. His servants cut off the brothers' hands and feet before hanging them at the pool of Hebron. Ish-bosheth's head was buried in Abner's tomb.
15. Jonathan had a son named Mephibosheth. At the time Saul and Jonathan were killed, he was five years old. As the news of the battle came, Mephibosheth's nurse fled with him. While running, she fell and dropped him causing Mephibosheth to be lame.
 16. Israel's leaders came to Hebron pledging their loyalty to David as their "shepherd" and king. A binding agreement was made, reuniting all the tribes of Israel and Judah as one kingdom. David ruled another thirty-three years in Jerusalem (forty years total). The city of Jerusalem was occupied by Jebusites. David and his men went to reclaim this city. In their self-assurance, the Jebusites boasted that their blind and lame men could conquer the Israelites. David had his men enter the city by means of their water tunnel (shaft). This victory marked an important point in Israel's history. Archaeologists have discovered this gutter or water shaft leading down through the rock on which the city was built to a pool of spring water opposite the village of Siloam.
 17. David made Jerusalem Israel's new capital. It was also called "the city of David" and "Zion." In time, Solomon would try to create a wealthy commercial capitol of Jerusalem, but it was most suitable as a mighty fortress, due to its rocky, barren topography. David expanded the city northward from Millo. King Hiram of Tyre sent his best craftsmen and cedar lumber to build David a palace. David came to realize his becoming king and the blessings of great recognition and success were to exalt God's chosen people above other nations and show his great love for them.
 18. David was blessed with more wives, concubines, and children. Those born in Jerusalem were: Shammuah, Shobab, Nathan, Solomon, Ibhar, Elishua, Nepheg, Japhia, Elishama, Eliada, and Eliphelet.
 19. Learning David was Israel's new king, the Philistines came to overtake him. David was warned of their coming and asked God if he should fight them. God told David he should fight them as God would defeat them. The battle took place at Baal-perazim. David credited God for their victory. He said God burst through his enemies as waters breaking through a dam. After the battle, David and his troops confiscated the abandoned Philistine idols brought to war and burned them.
 20. The Philistines remobilized and came again to the valley of Rephaim. David again asked God if he should fight. God told David to attack them from behind the mulberry (balsam) trees. When he heard a marching sound in the tops of the trees he was to attack. David followed God's instructions and successfully destroyed the Philistines from Geba to Gazer.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - Amalekite soldier - armor
 - David - crown
 - Abner, Joab - helmet, general's hat
 - Ish-bosheth- crown
 - Asahel - t. shoe

signs of mourning - tissues, handkerchief, torn shirt, dirt
crown, armlet - toy or crafter
map - Hebron, northern and southern kingdoms
toy soldiers, Pool of Gibeon - container of water
wives and children - dolls, paper dolls, baby dolls
city gates - glued craft sticks, building blocks
Ish-bosheth's bed - toy bed, box with a cover
Ish-bosheth's head - doll's head, face painted on ball, potato
hand - blown up latex glove, clay
binding contract - paper with a seal, signatures
craftsmen - toy building tools, hammer, blocks of wood, toy building blocks
palace model - model of Jerusalem - paper, cardboard
trees - toy, cut outs, cut branches

- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox village - Hebron, Jerusalem
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Cheerfully Obey
- Climb Climb Up Sunshine Mountain
- David Was A Child Like Me
- David Was A Great Leader
- God Is Listening
- Great Is The Lord
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- My God And I
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Thank You Lord
- The Lord Has A Will
- Trust And Obey
- Without Him

Activities:

- Video: "Charlie Church Mouse - Be A Friend"
- File Folder Activity: "David"
- *Prayer Glove* - Make a "prayer glove" with a small note pad and pen or pencil attached to the palm. Write down students' prayer requests or specific things we need to pray about on the pad. (sticky notes do well) This may be done as a group or individually. It may also be used each future class period.
- *Where Could We Pray?* - Research scriptures of where David, Jesus, etc. prayed. discuss what makes a good place to pray. Make a list. Provide each student with a piece of drawing paper. Have them draw the floor plan of their house/yard. Encourage them to mark (with a sticker or marker) good places to stop and pray.
- *Spin a Verse* - For memory verse review, divide a large poster board circle into several pie shapes. Print a Bible reference or beginning of a verse on each shape. Fasten a spinner to the circle. Let students take turns spinning and repeating the verse they land on. See who remembers the most.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What did David always do when he had an important decision to make?
2. What do you do when you have decisions to make?
3. Why did David have those killed that claimed to have killed Saul and his sons?
4. How did David feel about Saul's death? What might he have been tempted to do when something bad happened to someone who had been so mean to him? What would you have done?
5. What are people tempted to do when God gives them great honor? How should they act? How did David act? Abner?
6. How was Ish-bosheth betrayed by his 3 captains? Why?
7. What did David do when he became king over Israel and Judah?
8. Why was victory over the Jebusites important to Israel?
9. How did God bless David for his good choices? Why?
10. How does God bless you? When does God bless you?

Old Testament
Lesson 76: Uzzah Touches The Ark
David Cares For Mephibosheth

Text: II Samuel 6-9

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| Memory Verses: | II Samuel 6:6, 7 | And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. |
| | II Samuel 9:11b | As for Mephibosheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons. |
| | Matthew 7:21 | Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. |
| | Galatians 6:10 | As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must obey God exactly as He has told us to even in the smallest details. • God is pleased when we show kindness to others and share what we have. |
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Outline:

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| I. The ark comes to Jerusalem. A. Uzzah touches the ark and dies. B. David brings the ark to Jerusalem. C. Michal is disgusted with David. | II Samuel 6 |
| II. David shows his love for God. A. David wants to build God a house. B. God says no. C. God promises David great blessings. D. David's prayer of praise and thanksgiving. | II Samuel 7 |
| III. David conquers his enemies. A. Philistines and Moabites. B. Zobah and Syria. | II Samuel 8 |

C. The spoils were dedicated to God.

IV. David cares for Jonathan's son.

II Samuel 9

A. David sends for Mephibosheth.

B. He provides for him as his own.

Facts:

1. David organized 30,000 chosen men to go to Abinadab's house in Gibeah to retrieve the ark and bring it to Jerusalem. The ark was placed on a new cart by Abinadab's sons, Uzzah and Ahio. (It should have been carried on the shoulders of the Levites. Numbers 3:31, 7:9) David and the men of Israel followed playing instruments.
2. As they reached Nacon's threshing floor, the oxen pulling the cart stumbled. Uzzah steadied the ark so it would not fall. God was angered at Uzzah for touching the ark and not carrying it as commanded in the first place, so He struck Uzzah dead. David was displeased with God for killing Uzzah and afraid of God. He feared moving the ark on to Jerusalem, so he left it at the home of Obed-edom for three months. God greatly blessed Obed-edom while it was there. Obed-edom was a Levite of Gath-rimmon (Joshua 21:25, I Chronicles 15:18)
3. Seeing Obed-edom blessed, David again took men to retrieve the ark for Jerusalem. Having carried the ark six paces safely, David knew it was okay with God to take the ark on to Jerusalem. He sacrificed an oxen and lambs. Wearing an ephod, he danced before God in thanksgiving. They arrived in Jerusalem shouting and blowing trumpets. Michal, Saul's daughter saw David dancing and was disgusted by his actions.
4. The ark was put inside the tabernacle tent prepared by David. He offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. He blessed all those present, giving each of them a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, wine, and a cake of raisins. As they left for home, David went to his own family to bless them. Michal came out to meet David. She expressed her contempt for his dancing in the streets as a degrading act for a king. David retorted that in spite of how it appeared to Michal, he was showing his love for God as Israel's leader and he did not care how it looked to her. David then estranged himself from Michal disgracing her by leaving her childless from that day forward.
5. God continued to bless David. There was peace in the land. David told Nathan, the prophet, he would like to build a house for God. He felt ashamed that he lived in a beautiful cedar palace, while God was still in a tent. Nathan told him to go ahead for God was with him.
6. God came to Nathan that night telling him He did not want David to build Him a temple. He was pleased with David and would continue to make him even a greater king than he was at this time, but God would appoint one of David's sons to build His house. God promised David's family line would rule God's people forever. Although Solomon brought a partial fulfillment to this promise, the righteous king that would rule forever through David's lineage was Jesus, the long awaited Messiah. Nathan, thus went to David with all that God had told him.
7. David went to the tabernacle and prayed. He thanked God for such abundant blessings on such an insignificant person as him. David praised God for His tremendous generosity and His omnipotent greatness. He prayed that Israel, God's chosen nation, might bring Him honor and glory as well as his own descendants.

8. David subdued the Philistines by conquering Methegam-mah (or Gath) which was the control station for the five Philistine cities. Gath was also where Goliath was from and where David lived with political asylum for awhile. David destroyed Moab killing all the adults the height of two cords. Those left (one-third) became his taxpaying servants.
9. God blessed David with military victories everywhere he went.
10. David recovered great amounts of gold, silver, and brass from these cities. All these gifts David dedicated to God. David continued to conquer Ammon, Amalek, and Edom. He placed tax collectors in these cities.
11. David was a fair ruler. Joab was general of his army. Jehosaphat was secretary of state, Zadok and Ahimelech were Israel's high priests and Seraiah was scribe. Benaiah was captain of his body guards (foreign mercenaries) and David's own sons were his chief assistants.
12. In time, David began to wonder if any of Saul's family were still living. For Jonathan's sake, he wanted to show kindness to them. He called one of Saul's former servants, Ziba to him. He asked Ziba of any remaining members of Saul's family. Ziba told David of Mephibosheth, Jonathan's lame son, who lived in Lodebar at Machir's house. Thus, David sent for him.
13. Mephibosheth came fearing King David. David gave Mephibosheth all the land formerly owned by Saul and appointed Ziba and his sons and servants to farm the land for Mephibosheth, producing food for his family. Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. He was happy to do what David asked of him.
14. David also insisted Mephibosheth come to the palace to live as one of David's own sons. All his needs were provided for. Mephibosheth was surprised David would be so kind to him. He referred to himself as nothing more than a "dead dog." Yet, Mephibosheth moved to the palace in Jerusalem. He had a son of his own named Micha.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - toy soldiers
 - model of the ark
 - toy wagon/oxen
 - 6 paces - paper footprints on the floor
 - trumpets - toy, paper funnels
 - tabernacle model
 - bread, meat, grape juice, raisins
 - childless - an empty toy crib, baby blanket
 - David's palace - model, picture
 - Nathan & his bed - doll/toy bed or blanket
 - crutch or cane for Mephibosheth
 - armor - sword, helmet, spear
 - map
 - taxes - play money, money pouch, coins
 - toy horse/chariot
 - gold, silver, brass items - spray painted
 - 15 sons/20 servants - paper dolls
- Puppets/Dolls - Nathan, David, Uzzah, Obed-edom, Michal, Ziba, Mephibosheth
- Flannelgraphs

- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Building Up The Temple
- Count Your Blessings
- David Was A Child Like Me
- Glorify Thy Name
- I Love You Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Kindness
- Little David Play On Your Harp
- Lord My Desire
- Love Love Love Love
- On Bended Knee
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Responsibility Song
- Seek Ye First
- Showing Love
- Thank You Lord
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- File Folder Activities - "David"
- Video - "Charlie Church Mouse - Be A Friend"
- Create a class project (age appropriate) that students can show their love for God. Example: Clean the classroom, pick up around church grounds, straighten song books and pew Bibles after worship.
- *Showing Love* - As David showed love and care for Mephibosheth, have students individually or as a group show love for someone less fortunate, a shut in, an elderly member, someone sick, a friend, etc. Example: Make cookies, take a fruit basket, visit and sing, make a card, write a letter.
- *Count Your Blessings* - God blessed David for his faithful obedience. Have students list or illustrate how God has blessed them. See how many they can recognize. Help them relate those blessings to their obedience to God.
- *Details* - The minor detail of not carrying the ark properly cost Uzzah his life. Help students brainstorm instances in life where details are very important and sometimes life threatening. Then relate why it is so important to follow the details of God's law.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did David decide to move the ark to Jerusalem? How did God feel about that?
2. Why did God punish Uzzah so severely for touching the ark? How did David react?
3. What did Michal get upset about? How did David respond?
4. Why did God not want David to build Him a temple? To whom did God plan to give that job? Why?
5. How did God bless David's family line?
6. What kinds of things did David pray to God about? What things do you pray about?
7. In what ways did God bless David? Why did God bless David? How has God blessed you?

8. Why did David tax those he conquered? What kind of ruler was David?
9. Why was David concerned about Saul's family? What did David do with Mephibosheth?
10. How can you show kindness to others like David did to Mephibosheth? To whom would you show this kindness?

Old Testament

Lesson 77: David's Sin With Bathsheba

Text: II Samuel 10-12

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| Memory Verses: | II Samuel 12:13, 14 | And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord. And Nathan said unto David, The Lord also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die. |
| | Matthew 5:27, 28 | Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. |
| | Acts 8:22 | Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. |
| | Romans 14:12 | So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. |
| | II Corinthians 5:10 | For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we cannot hide sin from God. He sees everything we do and knows everything we are thinking inside. • two wrongs don't make a right. Lust and adultery are wrong. We must hold marriage vows sacred. • a sincere repentance is necessary to obtain God's mercy and forgiveness for sin. |
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Outline:

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| I. God repays the Ammonites and their allies. | II Samuel 10 |
| A. David's messengers mistreated. | |
| B. The Syrians and Ammonites defeated. | |

- II. David's sins multiply. II Samuel 11
- A. David sins with Bathsheba.
 - B. David calls Uriah home.
 - C. David sends Uriah to die in battle.
 - D. David marries Bathsheba.
- III. David bears the consequences. II Samuel 12
- A. Parable of the ewe lamb.
 - B. David confesses his sin.
 - C. David wept and fasted.
 - D. The baby dies.
 - E. Solomon is born.
 - F. Rabbah is overtaken.

Facts:

1. King Nahash of Ammon died and Hanun, his son assumed his throne. David sent his condolences to Hanun by messengers, for King Nahash had been kind to David. Hanun's assistants convinced him that David had sent these messengers as spies. So Hanun insulted and mistreated them by shaving off half their beards and cutting their robes off exposing their lower bodies, sending them home half naked.
2. Even today, cutting off an Arab's beard is a great embarrassment. Many would rather die. When David heard what had happened, he was angry. He told his messengers to stay in Jericho until their beards grew out.
3. Meanwhile, the Ammonites knew David would mobilize an attack, so they hired 20,000 Syrian mercenaries from Rehob and Zoba. David sent Joab with all of Israel's army to attack. While the Ammonites defended their city, the mercenaries defended their fields. Joab chose the best warriors to fight the Syrians with him in the fields. His brother Abishai led the attack on the Ammonites in the city.
4. As Joab attacked the Syrians, they turned and fled. The Ammonites saw the Syrians running and retreated as well. Joab returned to Jerusalem. The Ammonites and Syrians regrouped and summoned additional troops from King Hadarezer.
5. This time, David led Israel's troops himself to Helam to fight. The Syrian warriors again ran away leaving 700 chariot drivers dead and 40,000 horsemen including Captain Shobach. Hadarezer's troops surrendered to David and became his servants. The Syrians did not want to help the Ammonites any more.
6. In the spring of the next year, David sent Joab and his army to destroy the Ammonites. They began with the city of Rabbah (present day Amman).
7. Possibly, David was having trouble sleeping one night for he got up and went for a walk on the palace roof. As he looked out over the city, he spied a beautiful woman taking her bath. He inquired as to who she was. He was told she was Bathsheba, daughter of Eliam, wife of Uriah the Hittite. David sent for her to come to the palace and there he committed adultery with her, then sent her home.
8. In time, Bathsheba discovered she was pregnant and sent word to King David. In an effort to cover up his sin, David dispatched a messenger to Joab to send Uriah home to him. When he arrived, David asked Uriah to report on how the war was going. David told Uriah to take a few days off, go home, relax, be with your wife.

- He sent meat as a present to Uriah. Being a loyal soldier, Uriah protected the palace gates with the other servants of the king instead of going home.
9. David's plan was foiled. He called Uriah in and asked why he did not go home to his wife. Uriah explained it would not seem right or fair to enjoy time at home with his wife while the other soldiers were out defending the country not able to come home. David had Uriah stay the day and invited him to dinner. David got Uriah drunk hoping he would go home to his wife, but again Uriah slept at the palace gates. David was foiled again.
 10. David resorted to sending an order to Joab by Uriah. He told Joab to place Uriah in the heat of battle, then retreat from him, allowing him no defense, hoping he would be killed. Joab followed the king's order and that day Uriah died in battle.
 11. Joab sent word to the king of how the battle was going and that Uriah had been killed among others. David sent word back to Joab not to be discouraged.
 12. Meanwhile, Bathsheba mourned her husband's death. David promptly took Bathsheba to be his wife in hopes of covering any suspicions of a premarital relationship. God knew of David's sins and He was displeased.
 13. God sent Nathan the prophet to tell David a parable. He told of a very rich man with many flocks and herds and a very poor man with only one ewe lamb whom he fed and nourished from his own table and cuddled as a baby. A guest came to the rich man's home. Instead of killing one of his own flock, he took the poor man's only ewe, cooked it and served it to his guest.
 14. David was enraged at such injustice! He vowed the rich man should repay four ewes for the one he stole and should be put to death. (Exodus 22:1) Then, Nathan told David he was the rich man. Jehovah God had spared David from Saul's sword, made him king over all of Israel, given him a magnificent palace and many wives. God had planned to give David even more, but he had shown contempt for God's laws by arranging Uriah's death and stealing Uriah's wife.
 15. Nathan prophesied that the sword would plague David's family from that time on because of his sin. David's family would rebel against him and his wives would be taken by another man openly. All of Israel would know of it. David now admitted his sin before Nathan and God. Nathan told David God would forgive him and he would not suffer death for this sin, but he had brought reproach upon God's holy nation and given his enemies reason to speak evil of him. As a result, the child would die.
 16. Sin has two results. It separates man from God, but if confessed and repented of, this can be forgiven. It also produces evil effects in the world through and these remain for all to see.
 17. Nathan went home. Jehovah made the baby very sick. David begged God to spare the child. He wept, prayed, and fasted for seven days, until the baby died. His aides were afraid to tell him of the infant's death, but when David saw them contemplating how to break the news, he knew God has kept His promise. He got up, washed, dressed, and went to the tabernacle to worship God. He then returned to eat.
 18. David's aides approached him in confusion as to why he mourned so before the child's death but not afterward. David replied that he had hoped God would be merciful and allow the child to live, but since He did not, there was nothing he could do now to bring him back. David would join him one day. David comforted Bathsheba. She conceived again and bore a son named Solomon. God

loved Solomon. David nicknamed Solomon, "Jedidiah" meaning "beloved (because) of the Lord." (Solomon means "peace.")

19. Meanwhile, Joab was wrapping up the war with the Ammonites. He sent word to David to come with the rest of his army and claim the victory. David went to the harbors of Rabbah and claimed victory over them. A tremendous amount of spoils were carried back to Jerusalem including the magnificent crown of Rabbah's king which David placed on his own head. He killed the Ammonites and returned home.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - beard - cotton batting, "Santa" beard, scissors, toy razor, shaving cream
 - cut off robe - tunic, "costume"
 - toy soldiers/armor - sword, helmet, shield, spear, breastplate
 - white flag - stick and handkerchief
 - palace model - cardboard, blocks
 - wash cloth, soap, dish of water, towel
 - note to Joab
 - tissues for mourning
 - wedding bells, bouquet, veil (David & Bathsheba)
 - toy sheep
 - crown - toy, paper, cardboard, gemstones, sequins
 - spoils/loot - play money, coins, silver and gold items, fancy garments
- Puppets/Dolls - King Hanun, David, Bathsheba, Uriah, Nathan
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Amazing Grace
- Be Careful Little Eyes
- David Was A Child Like Me
- Don't Drink Booze
- God Will Answer Every Prayer
- He Is Here
- He's Got The Whole World
- I Don't Wanna Be A Goat
- If You Miss Me Walking Up There
- May I Call You Father
- On Bended Knee I Come
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Standin In The Need Of Prayer
- Take The Blame
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Thank You Lord
- Unto Perfection
- Whatever I Shall Be
- Where Could I Go
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "God's Promises"
 - "My Choice"
 - "David"
- *Sand Painting* - Mount a coloring page on cardboard. Use glue sticks and colored sand to create a take home picture.

- *Word Association* - Say a word. Let students guess who or what that word is associated with in today's lesson. Make a list ahead of time. This may be played individually or in teams.
- *Life Response* - Use this activity to review memory verses and show students the Bible has answers for every day situations. Describe a situation that could happen to them. Have them respond with a Bible verse that tells what they should do. Example: When I'm tempted to do something wrong (Matthew 26:41) When something happens and I want to get mad at God (I Thessalonians 5:18) More than one verse may be used for each situation.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did King Hanun insult King David and the Israelite nation? How did David react? What is the result?
2. What did David see walking on the palace rooftop? How did he react? Whose fault was this?
3. How did David's actions have a ripple effect?
4. What did David do to try to solve his dilemma? Why were these "solutions" wrong?
5. Give examples of how other sins can multiply. Take these same situations and show what should have been done.
6. From whom could David not hide his sins? From whom can you not hide your sins?
7. What do you think Joab thought of the king's order? Why did he follow this order?
8. Who was Nathan? What was Nathan's purpose in this lesson?
9. What was David's punishment for his sins?
10. Why did the baby die? Why did David no longer mourn after its death?

Old Testament

Lesson 78: Amnon's Sin Against Tamar

Text: II Samuel 13,14

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| Memory Verses: | II Samuel 13:1 | And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. |
| | Romans 6:12 | Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. |
| | Romans 8:13 | For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. |
| | Romans 12:17 | Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. |
| | Galatians 6:7 | Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not to allow others to influence them to sin. • loving your children means disciplining them when they do wrong. A lack of discipline and correction leads them to assume sin is ok. |
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Outline:

- I. Sin in David's family. II Samuel 13
 - A. Amnon loves Tamar.
 - B. Amnon defiles Tamar.
 - C. Absalom gets revenge.
 - D. David mourns his son's death.

- II. Joab seeks pardon for Absalom. II Samuel 14
 - A. The woman of Tekoah.
 - B. A plea for Absalom.
 - C. Absalom comes home.
 - D. David forgives Absalom.

Facts:

1. Absalom and Tamar were David's children by Maacah (daughter of the king of Geshur). Amnon was David's son by Ahinoam of Jezreel. (II Samuel 3:2, 3)
Marriage by children of the same father, but different mothers had been an early Hebrew custom, but forbidden by levitical law. (Leviticus 18:9)

2. Tamar was very beautiful and Amnon was very attracted to her. He desired her to the point he became ill. His crafty cousin, Jonadab, noticed his distressed spirit and asked Amnon what was wrong. He confessed his desire for Tamar.
3. Jonadab came up with a plan for Amnon. He told Amnon to go back to bed and pretend he was sick. When David came to check on him, he was to ask his father to let Tamar cook some food and feed him. Amnon did exactly as Jonadab had suggested and David agreed to it.
4. Tamar went to Amnon's quarters, prepared the food, baked the bread, and served him, but he refused to eat! He ordered everyone out of the room but Tamar. He told Tamar to bring him the food once again but when she did he grabbed her.
5. Realizing his intentions, Tamar begged Amnon to let her go. She begged him to speak with their father about marrying her for she assured him David would allow it. Amnon did not listen to her. He overpowered her and defiled her. (Although the law forbade marriage within a family, it may not have been strictly observed at this time.)
6. His love now turned to hate. He threw her out and locked the door. She cried in protest of his treatment, but Amnon ignored her. She tore her colorful robe, put ashes upon her head and left in tears.
7. Tamar's brother, Absalom discovered what Amnon had done. He attempted to console her. She stayed in Absalom's quarters under his protection. When King David learned of what had happened he was very angry but did nothing. (He had been guilty of adultery. His indulgent affection toward his son caused him more grief later.)
8. Absalom showed no outward sign of revenge in spite of his hatred for Amnon's actions. Two years later, Absalom invited his father and all his brothers to celebrate a feast with him in Ephraim (Baal-hazor) during sheep shearing. David thanked his son for such an invitation, but refused.
9. Absalom persisted in his invitation. He asked David to send Amnon. Reluctantly, David finally gave in and agreed to send all his sons to Ephraim. Absalom ordered his men to kill Amnon upon his signal. Upon Amnon's death, Absalom's other brothers fled back to Jerusalem.
10. David received a report that Absalom had killed all his brothers. David and his servants mourned. Jonadab arrived soon to tell David Amnon was the only one dead. Absalom had sought revenge for his sister Tamar, but the rest of David's sons were not harmed. They arrived shortly weeping and grieving Amnon's death with their father.
11. Meanwhile, Absalom fled to his grandfather, King Talmai of Geshur (his mother's father). He stayed there three years, while day after day David's grieving for Amnon subsided and his longing for his son Absalom grew greater.
12. Joab perceived David's longing for Absalom. He went to Tekoah, his home territory, to get a wise woman. (Because Joab grew up in this area, he may have known her from earlier days.) Joab told her to get an appointment with King David and he would tell her what to say. Joab had her dress as if she were distraught and in mourning.
13. She begged for King David's help. She told him she was a widow. Her two sons had fought in the fields and one was killed. The rest of the family wanted to execute the murderous brother, which would leave her completely alone. The

- extinction of a family was the most dreaded misfortune. A son to carry on the family name was of utmost importance.
14. King David told her not to worry, he would protect her son. She asked him to take an oath before God of this promise which he did. Then she applied her “story” to Absalom. She placed David in the position of her imaginary persecutors.
 15. She asked David why he did not do for all of Israel what he was willing to do for her. She implored him to bring home his banished son and find a way to forgive him. David had punished Israel by cutting off his own heir, punishing Absalom for a crime he committed to render justice for the dishonor done to his sister. The woman of Tekoah told David she knew he would make a just decision.
 16. David asked the woman if Joab had set this up. She admitted he had, but for his own benefit. David sent for Joab and told him Absalom could come home, but he didn’t want to see him. Joab thanked David for granting his request.
 17. Absalom was as handsome as his father. He received a lot of attention. Once a year he cut his hair, for it weighed approximately three pounds and was too heavy. Absalom had three sons and one beautiful daughter he named Tamar. (This Tamar would later become the wife of Rehoboam, Solomon's son.)
 18. Absalom had been in Jerusalem two years without seeing his father. He sent word to Joab three times to intercede for him with David, but Joab ignored Absalom's requests. Absalom had his servants set fire to Joab's barley field. Joab came to Absalom about his field. Absalom told Joab he did it because Joab would not talk to his father for him. He told Joab to find out why David would allow him to come back from Geshur, but not see him. He said if he was guilty of murder let his father kill him.
 19. Joab went to King David on behalf of Absalom. David allowed Absalom to come to him. As he bowed before the king, David kissed his son.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - heart, cupid
 - pillow and blanket
 - tissue, handkerchief
 - toy sheep - cotton batting, balls, “simulated” sheep skin
 - feast - real or artificial food, magazine cutouts glued on a paper plate
 - map - Jerusalem, Ephraim, Geshur, Tekoah
- Puppets/Dolls - Absalom, Tamar, Amnon, David, Joab, women of Tekoah
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be With Me Lord
- Bind Us Together Lord
- Bring Christ Your Broken Life
- Dare To Do Right
- He Touched Me
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- Jesus Loves Me
- May I Call You Father
- O Be Careful
- Take The Blame
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord

- The Very Best Life
- This Is My Commandment
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Will Glorify

Activities:

- File Folder Activity: "My Choice" (right and wrong choices)
- Videos: "Charlie Church Mouse - Forgiveness"
"Charlie Church Mouse - Being Spoiled"
"Charlie Church Mouse - Value People"
- *Bible Pursuit* - Create a pie shaped activity board out of poster board. Cut pie shaped wedges to fill the activity board. On the wedges, put words of the memory verse or facts of the lesson for students to put in order, or questions on the wedges to match with answers on the activity board. Put wedges in a bag and let students pick wedges until all the wedges have been chosen.
- *Circle Of Trust* - Focus on fostering trust between children and adults. On construction paper, have students draw or glue a picture of themselves in the center of a circle. Add pictures or drawings of parents and other significant adults (community helpers, teachers) in the child's life that they can go to for help. Help students learn how to be trusting as well as develop caution and safety awareness.
- *Stop And Go* - Make a large model of a traffic light using tissue paper or colored cellophane for the lights. Indicate "stop," "wait," or "go" by shining a flashlight from behind. Have students, based on the signal indicated, give scripture verses related to the idea of stopping (refraining from doing certain things), waiting, or going. Examples: Psalms 37:7, Proverbs 4:14, Proverbs 20:22, Proverbs 22:6, Matthew 28:19, I Thessalonians 5:22
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who were Amnon, Absalom, Tamar and Jonadab? How were they related?
2. What was Jonadab's plan for Amnon? How did it eventually lead to Amnon's death? Did he ever dream such could happen?
3. How could our bad choices lead to bad things happening to us? Are we ever influenced by others to do things we shouldn't?
4. How can we overcome the influence of another to do wrong? Is all influence by others bad? How can we tell which is good and which is bad?
5. What could Tamar have done differently?
6. Why did Absalom wait two years to get revenge for the dishonoring of his sister? Should Absalom have taken justice for this crime into his own hands?
7. To where did Absalom flee? Why?
8. How did the woman from Tekoah help Joab?
9. Why did David not want to see Absalom? Why must Absalom petition the king through Joab?
10. Why did Absalom burn Joab's field? What impression do you get of Absalom?
11. How did David react to seeing his son once again?

Old Testament

Lesson 79: Absalom's Rebellion

Text: II Samuel 15-18

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| Memory Verses: | II Samuel 18:5 | And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom. |
| | Proverbs 17:11 | An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. |
| | Ephesians 6:1, 2 | Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are consequences to pay for the wrong things we do. • rebellion against your parents makes God angry. • God watches over those who are faithful and obedient to Him. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. Absalom's conspiracy.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Absalom plots to win Israel from David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. David flees Jerusalem.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. David sends the ark back.</p> | II Samuel 15 |
| <p>II. Presents and curses for David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Ziba acquires Mephibosheth's possessions.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Shimei throws stones at David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Absalom follows Ahithophel's counsel.</p> | II Samuel 16 |
| <p>III. Absalom is tricked by Hushai.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Absalom changes advisors.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Informants get to David.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Ahithophel dies.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Absalom goes after his father.</p> | II Samuel 17 |
| <p>IV. Caught in the trees.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. David dispatches his troops.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Absalom is killed.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. David mourns his son.</p> | II Samuel 18 |

Facts:

1. Absalom began a vigorous campaign to win the loyalty of Israel away from his father. He bought chariots and horses and hired fifty foot soldiers to run ahead of him. He would be at the city gate early every morning expressing interest to each individual of their trial case. He would say if he were made judge (king), he would rule in that individual's favor and justice would be swift. Absalom would petition them to go back to their tribe as an ambassador for his cause.
2. After forty years, Absalom asked his father's permission to go to Hebron to sacrifice and fulfill a vow he had made to God while at Geshur. His father granted Absalom's request. Absalom sent spies throughout the tribes of Israel to incite rebellion against his father. His message read, "When you hear the trumpets, Absalom has been crowned King in Hebron."
3. Absalom took 200 men with him from Jerusalem as he went to sacrifice. They knew nothing of his plans. He sent for Ahithophel of Giloh, one of David's counselors. Ahithophel was also Bathsheba's grandfather, Absalom's great grandfather. Ahithophel supported Absalom in his revolt against David which earned him an increasing number of followers. (It is thought that Ahithophel wished to avenge the disgrace David had brought to his family as well as Uriah's death.)
4. Word reached King David of Absalom's conspiracy and his large following. David decided to flee Jerusalem with his troops and all of his household but ten concubines. Six hundred Gittites, Cherethites and Pelethites joined him. These were men who joined David as he fled from King Saul. They migrated with him to Gath, Ziklag, Hebron and Jerusalem, acting as additional warriors and bodyguards.
5. David stopped the Gittites and encouraged them to return home. Although David appreciated their loyalty, he did not want to obligate them to the dangers facing him. Ittai, leader of the Gittites vowed he would not leave David no matter what the cost, so David allowed them to join him.
6. There was much sadness as King David and those with him left Jerusalem. Abiathar and Zadok, the priests, took the ark of the covenant to the brook Kideon until all had passed to the other side. David told Zadok to take the ark back to Jerusalem. If the Lord willed, David would return to it some day. He also told Zadok he would camp at the fjord of the Jordan River and wait for a report from him.
7. David took the road toward the Mt. of Olives, weeping as he went. Those with him mourned as well. David prayed that Ahithophel would give Absalom foolish advice. At the top of the mountain, they found Hushai, another one of David's counselors, waiting for David in mourning. David told Hushai instead of coming with them to go to Jerusalem, earn Absalom's trust, counter the advice of Ahithophel, and act as an informant to Zadok and Abiathar. This, David's friend did.
8. As David continued on his journey, Ziba, Mephibosheth's servant, caught up with David. He had, for David and his company, 200 loaves of bread, 100 clusters of raisins, 100 summer fruits, and a bottle of wine all on two donkeys. David was surprised. David asked where Mephibosheth was. Ziba told David that Mephibosheth stayed in Jerusalem with the intentions of regaining the throne. Ziba hoped to gain favor in David's eyes. Believing Ziba's story, David granted Ziba Mephibosheth's estate.
9. As David and his people passed Bahurim, a relative of Saul, Shimei, son of Gera, came out shouting cursing and insults at David. He threw stones at King David and his

- men out of anger and called David a man of Belial meaning “You are good for nothing.” He accused David of murdering Saul and assuming the throne unjustly.
10. Abishai wanted to decapitate Shimei for the way he was treating David, but David would not allow any harm to come to Shimei for he regarded these actions as a test from God. He admitted Shimei's curses were nothing to compare to your own son trying to kill you. As they continued on, Shimei kept pace with them on the hillside cursing and throwing stones and dust at David.
 11. Meanwhile, Absalom and Ahithophel arrived back at Jerusalem from Hebron. Hushai immediately went to meet Absalom, playing the part of a supporter. He repeatedly exclaimed, “God save the king.” Absalom questioned his loyalty, but Hushai convinced him he supported whomever it seemed God and Israel supported. Thus he was now ready to help Absalom.
 12. Absalom consulted Ahithophel on his next move. Ahithophel told him to assume the right to the throne by a public seizure of David's concubines. This was in keeping with ancient custom of a takeover. Following this advice would prohibit any reconciliation between father and son. Yet Absalom risked all by erecting a tent on top of the palace for everyone to see. Absalom listened to Ahithophel, just as David had, as if it was the word of God.
 13. Ahithophel advised Absalom to give him 12,000 warriors to quickly surround David's forces while they were weary and unorganized. He hoped to create a panic among them, causing them to flee David, making him an easy target. David would have been only twelve to fifteen miles from Jerusalem. With him dead, it would be easy to restore his followers to Absalom. Absalom thought this was a good idea.
 14. Absalom asked Hushai's opinion of this plan just to make sure. Hushai suggested this was not a good plan. He argued that David was a very seasoned warrior and would fight like a cornered bear. The Syrian bear was known to be particularly ferocious. David would also not be among his troops as an easy target. Hushai suggested as Absalom's men approached, David would kill enough of his men to create panic among Absalom's warriors.
 15. Instead, Hushai suggested Absalom send Israel's entire army, with Absalom leading them personally. He suggested Absalom plan to kill David and all his forces. Absalom liked Hushai's idea best. (God arranged for Absalom to choose Hushai's advice over Ahithophel's to carry out His own intent upon Absalom.) Hushai quickly reported the plan to Zadok and Abiathar so David could move on into the wilderness and be prepared.
 16. Jonathan and Ahimaaz relayed the message on to David. Unfortunately, they were spotted and reported to Absalom by a boy of the city. They were not discovered by Absalom's men being hidden in a well by a man and his wife. David was notified and able to secure a better position before dawn. David arrived in Mahanaim and was warmly received. His and his men's needs were taken care of.
 17. Meanwhile, Absalom had crossed the Jordan River and was camped at Gilead. Ahithophel, feeling publically disgraced by Absalom rejecting his advice, put his affairs in order and hung himself. He was buried beside his father.
 18. David divided his army into three regiments led by Joab, Abishai, and Ittai. Although David wanted to lead them himself, his men refused to allow it, knowing it was David that Absalom was after. As David saw them off to battle, he entreated his three captains to deal gently with his “boy” Absalom.

19. Thus, the battle raged and 20,000 of Absalom's men died the first day. As the battle went on, Absalom fled from a group of David's men. As he passed under a thick oak tree, Absalom's head got caught in the branches. He was jerked from his mule, who ran on, leaving Absalom dangling in mid air. It was reported to Joab.
20. Joab asked why the soldier did not kill Absalom. He would have rewarded him ten shekels of silver and a belt. The soldier reproved Joab saying he would not betray David's wishes. So Joab himself plunged three daggers into Absalom's heart, as his men finished Absalom off. The trumpet was blown, ending the battle. Absalom's body was thrown into a pit and stones piled upon it.
21. Zadok's son, Ahimaaz, wanted to tell David the "good" news. Joab said, "No." Instead, Joab chose a man from Cush to be his messenger. Ahimaaz took a shorter path along the Jordan to David and arrived first. David sat at the gate awaiting news of the battle. Ahimaaz told David his rebellious enemies had been destroyed. David asked specifically how Absalom was. Ahimaaz did not tell him, but the man from Cush did. David was heart broken over the death of his son.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - toy horses, soldiers, chariots
 - trumpet - toy, horn, crafted, paper towel roll
 - messenger - piece of paper with "writing," scroll
 - ark of covenant model
 - map
 - tissues, handkerchief
 - bread for each student, raisins, fruit, grape juice
 - Shimei - gravel, pebbles, foam "stones," gray or brown bean bags
 - sword - toy, crafted
 - bear - stuffed, toy, picture
 - well with a cloth - circular container 2 dolls or puppets could fit into
 - city gate - toy gate, fencing, crafted
 - toy soldiers, armor, battle equipment
 - tree - toy, bush, branch mounted in pot
- Puppets/Dolls - Absalom, David, Ziba, Shimei, Ahithophel, Hushai, Joab
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Bind Us Together Lord
- David Was A Child Like Me
- He's My Rock, My Sword, My Shield
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Into My Heart
- Lord My Desire
- O Be Careful
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Lord Has A Will
- Trust And Obey
- Where Could I Go

Activities:

- *David vs. Absalom* - have students list contrasting traits and qualities of David's life vs. Absalom's life. Then list traits they had in common. This can be done orally or written.
Variation: Have students continue by comparing themselves to their own mom or dad. Talk about characteristics that please God and those that displease God.
- *Matching* - Research Bible references that have to do with rebellion. Have students match the reference with a key phrase from the verse. Help students understand how God feels about acts of rebellion.
- *Bible Verse Baseball* - Designate a student as "pitcher" or the teacher may want to reserve that position for herself/himself. Going clockwise or dividing into teams, the pitcher gives the batter 2 words of a memory verse. The batter must quote the rest of the verse perfectly and give the reference to score a home run. The verse without the reference is a 3-base hit. The verse with no more than 3 mistakes is a 2-base hit. More than 3 errors is a 1-base hit. If the batter cannot quote the verse at all he makes a strike. Give each batter 3 "pitches." Rewards may be: peanuts, cracker jacks, bubble gum, popcorn, pennant, etc.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Absalom plot to do? Why would he do that? Was Absalom successful?
2. Why did David decide to leave Jerusalem? Where did he go? Who went with him?
3. Why did Ziba bring food and gifts to King David?
4. Why did Shimei throw stones at King David? How did David react to Shimei? How would you have reacted?
5. What kind of advice do Absalom's advisors give him? Whose advisors did they used to be?
6. Give an example of when someone gave you good advice and/or bad advice. Who is someone that would always give you good advice?
7. Why did Ahithophel commit suicide? Why is this never a good solution to any problem?
8. What happened to Absalom? How did this make King David feel? Was this part of God's plan?
9. What do you think caused Absalom to be so rebellious to his father? Is there anything King David could have done to change that?
10. How do you treat your parents? How do you think that makes God feel? Why?

Old Testament

Lesson 80: Nearing The End Of David's Reign

Text: II Samuel 19-24

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| Memory Verses: | II Samuel 22:4 | I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. |
| | II Samuel 22:47 | The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. |
| | II Samuel 24:14 | And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the Lord; for His mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. |
| | I John 1:7-10 | <p>But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.</p> <p>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.</p> <p>If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</p> <p>If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.</p> |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the hand of God protects us and God is merciful toward us when we are loyal to Him and always strive to do His will. • the Lord blesses us continually. We must thank Him for those blessings. • when we sin, we must confess our faults and accept the punishment due us. |
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Outline:

- I. David returns to Jerusalem as king.
 - A. David mourns for Absalom.
 - B. David reinstated as king of Israel.
 - C. Shimei and Mephibosheth excused.
 - D. Chimham joins the king's staff.

II Samuel 19

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| II. | Sheba's revolt. | II Samuel 20 |
| | A. Sheba leads a revolt. | |
| | B. Joab kills Amasa. | |
| | C. Joab pursues Sheba to Abel. | |
| | D. A wise woman delivers Sheba's head. | |
| III. | Recompense is made. | II Samuel 21 |
| | A. Three years of famine. | |
| | B. The Gibeonites hang 7 sons of Saul. | |
| | C. Four giants slain. | |
| IV. | A song of thanksgiving. | II Samuel 22 |
| V. | David's mighty men. | II Samuel 23 |
| VI. | David accepts God's judgment. | II Samuel 24 |
| | A. A census is taken. | |
| | B. David repents. | |
| | C. Three days of pestilence. | |

Facts:

1. King David mourned the death of his son, Absalom. As his army returned from their victory in battle, their joy turned to shame and sadness for their king. Joab appealed to David to conceal his mourning in the best interest of the nation. Joab feared a revolt if David continued to show a lack of appreciation for their bravery on his behalf. David heeded Joab's advice and went to the city gates to congratulate his soldiers.
2. Much discussion flourished across Israel and Judah as to whether they would reinstate David as their king. Not all were in unanimous agreement. So David sent Zadok and Abiathar, the priests, to sway the elders of Judah in his favor. These men were of great influence. David also, as a bold stroke of military policy, offered Amasa (general of Absalom's army) the commander-in-chief position of David's army, demoting Joab. David wished to obtain the allegiance of the rebel army as well as punish Joab for taking Absalom's life. Amasa accepted David's offer and convinced Judah's leaders to reinstate David as king.
3. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin came out to receive David and all those with him. They welcomed him back to Jerusalem. Shimei came to David asking for forgiveness of his terrible actions. Mephibosheth came out to greet David. David asked Mephibosheth why he did not come with him. Mephibosheth told David he intended to come, but Ziba had deceived him and did not assist him in making the journey. David forgave him and restored half of his land back to him. Mephibosheth was content just to have David back home.
4. Upon almost reaching Jerusalem, the ten tribes of Israel displayed jealousy in not being included in moving the king back to Jerusalem. Sheba, a wicked son of Bichri, a Benjamite, blew his trumpet and called the ten tribes of Israel to revolt against David. They followed him.

5. Meanwhile, Absalom had taken ten of David's concubines and as such David did not restore them to his house, but provided them a place to live as widows the rest of their lives.
6. King David told Amasa (Joab's cousin) to mobilize his army within three days, but Amasa was not able to do so. David told Abishai (Joab's brother) to take his body guard and go after Sheba. Abishai went with the body guard and Joab after Sheba. At Gibeon, they met Amasa. Joab approached Amasa as if to greet him with a kiss and stabbed him in the stomach. (It is still customary among Arabs and Turks to hold another's beard as you greet them with a kiss.)
7. As Amasa lay dead in a pool of blood, one of Joab's men called for Amasa's troops to join them and fight for David. They dragged Amasa's body out of the road and covered him in a nearby field, then followed Joab to capture Sheba. They found Sheba in the city of Abel. Joab's men began battering the walls to force an entry way.
8. A wise woman called for Joab and asked him why he was about to destroy a peace loving city. She suggested he should ask those of Abel if they intended to fight for Sheba or not. (Deuteronomy 20:10) Joab told her he only wanted Sheba, of Ephraim, who had revolted against King David. The woman went to those of Abel with Joab's request. They cut off Sheba's head and threw it out to Joab. Joab returned to Jerusalem with his troops and retained his old job as commander-in-chief of David's army.
9. Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, was put in charge of the king's body guards. Adoram was in charge of the forced labor groups. Jehoshaphat was Israel's historian. Sheva was secretary and Zadok and Abiathar were Israel's chief priests. Ira was David's personal priest.
10. During David's reign, there was a three year famine due to Saul ignoring the covenant made by Joshua (Joshua 9) with the Gibeonites and in his zeal as Israel's king, he murdered seven of them, thus defiling the land. (Deuteronomy 21:7-9) David prayed about the famine. When he realized the source of the problem, he summoned those of Gibeon and asked what retribution could be made to rid Israel of this guilt.
11. The Gibeonites requested seven of Saul's sons. (Numbers 35:31, 32) David delivered the Gibeonites five sons of Merab (raised by Michal) and two sons of Rizpah. David was careful to keep his oath to Jonathan and spare Mephibosheth. The Gibeonites took them to the mountains and hanged them at the beginning of the barley harvest.
12. Rizpah, mother of two of those executed, took sack cloth and made a tent upon the rocky mountain top. She stood watch over the bodies from April to October, the entire harvest time. David was moved by her maternal devotion and he had the men's bones buried in Saul's father's grave (Kish) at Zelah. He also obtained the remains of Saul and Jonathan from Jabesh-gilead and gave them a decent burial at their family sepulchre.
13. Four battles with the Philistine giants are mentioned wherein David's valiant warriors killed four mighty giants. Abishai, son of Zeruah, rescued David from Ishbi-benob, a giant with a spearhead weighing over twelve pounds. Sibbechai killed Saph, another giant. Elhanan killed Goliath's brother, and at Gath, David's nephew, Jonathan, killed a giant with six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. (This kind of deformity was not so unusual in ancient times.)

14. David saw how the hand of God protected him from harm and he composed a song to God thanking Him for His deliverance from his enemies and God's many blessings. Salvation in ancient times often referred to deliverance from enemies.
15. David's last words were in poetic form expressing glory to God for giving him a successful reign as king of Israel. God was a covenant making God. Covenants were made with both individuals and nations.
16. While David lived in the cave of Adullam, the Philistines occupied Bethlehem. David mentioned how he would love some water from Bethlehem's well. Three of his warriors broke through enemy lines to get him water from the well. David poured out the water and did not drink it, for it was as the blood of the men who had risked their lives for it.
17. Abishai, Joab's brother, was mentioned for his bravery and leadership. He killed 300 warriors single handedly. Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, killed two giants, a lion, and an armed Egyptian. He was David's chief body guard. Thirty seven heroes in all are mentioned by name including Uriah the Hittite. Interestingly, Joab, in spite of his dog-like devotion to David, was not mentioned with honor.
18. Census taking has always been frowned upon in the middle east, for that generally meant more taxation or military drafting. David was moved to take a census of Israel. (I Chronicles 21:1) In spite of Joab's trying to talk David out of it, Joab and the other officers spent nine months and twenty days counting all the men of Israel. They reported to King David 800,000 men of age in Israel and 500,000 in Judah.
19. Then David's conscience began to bother him and he asked God to forgive him for his foolish actions. The Lord told Gad, the prophet, David had a choice of punishment for his deed: 1) seven years of famine 2) be chased by his enemies for three months or 3) three days of pestilence throughout the land. David chose three days of pestilence for he knew God was more merciful than man.
20. So God sent a pestilence upon Israel killing 70,000 men. When the death angel reached Jerusalem, God stopped the plague and killed no more. David saw the angel by the threshing floor of Araunah. David told the angel he was the one who had sinned. He and his family should be the ones punished.
21. Gad told David to build an altar on Araunah's threshing floor. Araunah is surprised at David's arrival. David asked to buy his threshing floor to build an altar to God. Araunah offered it free of charge as well as anything he owned that David might need. David could not accept Araunah's generosity. To carry out God's will, David paid Araunah fifty shekels of silver, built the altar and offered burnt and peace offerings to God. The plague was stopped. Discipleship "costs" something of us. (A Jebusite is an original inhabitant of Jerusalem. This threshing floor is believed to be identified by archaeologists near the site of Solomon's temple.)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
handkerchief, tissues
armor, sword, helmet, shield, spear - toy or crafted
rejoicing over David's return - party horns, favors, confetti

David - crown, robe/ Amasa - armor, cloth to cover him/ Joab - armor,
dagger/ Shimei - rocks/ Mephibosheth - crutch/ Barzillai - cane, walker,
white beard, glasses/ Sheba - mad face, trumpet/ Abishai - armor
model of city walls for Abel - craft sticks, cardboard, styrofoam
battering ram - Lincoln log, pencil, stick
burials - toothpick cross, dirt or rocks
12 lb. rock
clay model of hand & foot with 6 fingers & 6 toes
heroes - toy soldiers, ornaments, award stickers, pins, ribbons
census - long rolled paper with names & numbers
death angel in black or gray "dress"
threshing floor - pile of grain, oats, cornmeal, cereal
silver coins
altar model

- Puppets/Dolls - wise woman, king's officers, Gibeonites, 7 sons, 10 wives, Rizpah
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Angry Words
- God Is My Father
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Call Upon The Lord (II Samuel 22:4)
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- My God Is So Big
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Seek Ye First
- Thank You Lord
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Yield Not To Temptation

Activities:

- Have students create their own song or poem of thanksgiving to God. This can be done individually or as a group.
- Have students create a picture of how God has protected them.
- Illustrate memory verses with pictures to help young students learn the words to the verse. Then create a flip chart with each illustrated verse. Add to it week by week.
- *Pocketful Of Prayers* - Create a "pocket" from 1 1/2 paper plates. Staple together or punch holes and lace with yarn. Have students draw pictures or express in words on cards or small pieces of paper things to pray about (things they are thankful for, concerns, praise for God). Put them into their "pockets" These can be added to each week or taken home.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Joab advise the king to stop openly mourning his son's death?
2. How did the nation react to reinstating David as king? What political tactics did David use?

3. Who came out to welcome David back? Why did trouble arise?
4. Why did Joab kill his cousin Amasa? Why did those of Abel behead Sheba?
5. Why was Israel punished with famine during David's reign for something King Saul did to the Gibeonites?
6. Why did David deliver seven of Saul's sons to the Gibeonites, knowing they would die? What did Rizpah do? Why?
7. Give examples of how God always protected David. Why did God do this?
8. Does God protect you? How? Why? Does God protect everyone? Why?
9. David always thanked God for His protection and His blessings. For what would you thank God? In what ways can you thank God?
10. What did David do that he shouldn't have? What was his punishment? What was David's attitude? What is your attitude when you must be punished for wrong doing?

Old Testament

Lesson 81: Solomon Appointed King

Text: I Kings 1,2

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| Memory Verses: | I Kings 1:30 | Even as I swear unto thee by the Lord God of Israel, saying, Assuredly Solomon thy son shall reign after me, and he shall sit upon my throne in my stead; even so will I certainly do this day. |
| | I Kings 2:12 | Then sat Solomon upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was established greatly. |
| | Proverbs 4:1 | Hear ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. |
| | Proverbs 16:18 | Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of making wise choices. All choices have a good or bad result and a consequence. • Solomon listened to his father and obeyed him. |
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Outline:

- I. David makes Solomon king. I Kings 1
 - A. Introduction.
 - B. A nurse for King David.
 - C. Adonijah tries a takeover.
 - D. Solomon anointed king.
 - E. Adonijah forgiven.

- II. David's charge to Solomon fulfilled. I Kings 2
 - A. David's last instructions to Solomon.
 - B. Solomon succeeds the throne.
 - C. Solomon carries out David's instructions.

Facts:

1. The books of I and II Kings (originally one book) are a continuation of the account of I and II Samuel. The author by the inspiration of God is thought to be the prophet Jeremiah. He wrote Kings during the Babylonian captivity sometime between 561-536 B.C.
2. I and II Kings covers a 400 year account (1000-600 B.C.) of the history of the kings of Israel and Judah. It opens with the reign of Solomon and Israel at its peak of glory. In 931 B.C., the kingdom divided and we read of the twin history of the northern and southern kingdoms in a dual monarchy. By the end of II Kings, God's chosen nation was in ruin and captivity. The lives of these kings teach the

age old principle that faithfulness to God's covenant and obedience produced blessings, but unfaithfulness resulted in God's punishment. The great prophets of this period were Elijah and Elisha.

3. I Kings covers a 120 year period - Solomon through Ahaziah's reign. The book opens with David, seventy years old. Solomon was nineteen years old. He had received his religious training from Nathan, the prophet, who loved Solomon and had fondly nicknamed him, "Jedidiah," meaning "God's darling." David paved the way for Solomon's age of peace, prosperity, and prominence by subduing Israel's enemies, extending their boundaries and pulling Israel together as a nation. Solomon was a magnificent king. His kingdom stretched over 60,000 square miles, ten times what David had inherited from Saul.
4. David's forty year reign, his misfortunes with Saul, and Absalom's rebellion had taken their toll. David lay dying at 70 years of age. His servants suggested a maiden to warm and care for him. This was an accepted medical practice even down to the middle ages. No immorality was implied. Abishag of Shunam, a city in Issachar was chosen for her beauty and virginity.
5. Meanwhile, Adonijah, David's oldest surviving son, determined he had the right to assume the throne and crowned himself king. Adonijah was spoiled and undisciplined. He convinced Joab and Abiathar to join in his conspiracy. Adonijah invited all but Nathan, Benaiah, David's loyal army officers and Solomon to a royal feast.
6. Nathan went to Bathsheba to expose Adonijah's actions. He urged her to appeal directly to David to name his successor before he died. He told her exactly what to say and promised to confirm her story. Bathsheba approached David with the news of Adonijah and asked if he hadn't vowed that Solomon would succeed him. Nathan came and confirmed Bathsheba's story of Adonijah. They also exposed Joab and Abiathar as co-conspirators. Nathan asked David if he knew of Adonijah's actions and supported him.
7. David officially pronounced to Bathsheba, Zadok, and Nathan that Solomon, by the God of Israel, was his choice for king. Bathsheba conveyed her gratitude to David for his decision. (If Adonijah had successfully succeeded David, Bathsheba and Solomon most likely would have been executed.) Zadok and Nathan were ordered to take Solomon's and David's officers to Gihon to anoint Solomon king. Solomon was to ride David's own mule to signify Solomon as the chosen successor. Once anointed, the trumpets were to be blown and they were to shout, "God save King Solomon." Benaiah expressed his support for David's decision and they left immediately to carry out David's orders.
8. At Gihon, Zadok anointed Solomon with oil from the tabernacle, the trumpets were blown and the people shouted. They all accompanied Solomon back to Jerusalem in joyful celebration. As Adonijah and his guests were finishing their feast, they heard the commotion.
9. Jonathan, Abiathar's son, brought them the news of Solomon's anointment as king. He told them Solomon was on the throne and those of Israel were congratulating King David.
10. Adonijah's conspiracy had just collapsed. They all fled in fear for their lives, for they knew they would be dealt with as traitors against the state. Adonijah ran for asylum in the tabernacle holding on to the horns of the altar. Solomon was merciful to admonish and place him under watchful observation.

11. Upon his death bed, David gave his son, Solomon, a final charge to always obey the laws of Jehovah. God would prosper Solomon accordingly. David also instructed Solomon to liquidate his enemies, specifically Joab and Shimei. Joab had murdered Abner and Amasa, David's captains during peace times. Shimei had put a terrible curse upon David on the way to Mahanaim during Absalom's rebellion. (II Samuel 16) He also told Solomon to make permanent guests of Barzillai's sons, showing them the kindness Barzillai had shown David during Absalom's revolt. (II Samuel 19:31)
12. David died and although he was born in Bethlehem, he was buried in Jerusalem, the city he had made Israel's capitol, later known as the "city of David." David had reigned over Hebron (Judah), the southern sector seven years and over all of Israel thirty-three years, 1010-971 B.C.
13. In due time, Adonijah came up with a subtle plot to again gain right to the throne. He approached Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, with seemingly a harmless request. He asked Bathsheba to speak to Solomon on his behalf for Abishag, David's nurse to become his wife. Innocently, Bathsheba went to Solomon with the request. (Although David had not had relations with Abishag, she was still considered an inheritor and with her would go the rights to the throne.)
14. Solomon received his mother with honor and had a throne provided for her beside him. As she submitted Adonijah's request, Solomon saw through Adonijah's plot. This time, Solomon could not be merciful. Solomon immediately sent Benaiah to execute Adonijah. Knowing Abiathar was a part of Adonijah's conspiracy, Solomon removed him from his office as priest and sent him back to his home village, Anathoth disgraced. Solomon spared his life because of Abiathar's faithfulness to David during Absalom's rebellion. (II Samuel 15:24) This also fulfilled God's promise to Eli in I Samuel 2:31-35.
15. Receiving word of Adonijah and Abiathar, Joab knew his fate was sealed and he was next. He ran to the tabernacle at Gibeon for asylum, holding on the horns of the altar. Solomon sent Benaiah to execute him. Benaiah called him to come out of the tabernacle, but Joab refused. Benaiah went back to Solomon for instructions. Solomon told Benaiah to kill him in the tabernacle.
16. Thus, Benaiah carried out King Solomon's orders and buried Joab in his house. To be buried on one's own property was a mark of distinction, as in the case of Samuel. (I Samuel 25:1) Joab lived east of Bethlehem in the wilderness of Judea. Benaiah was now appointed to Joab's position as commander of Solomon's arm and Zadok takes Abiathar's position as high priest.
17. Next, Solomon ordered Shimei to build a house within the city limits of Jerusalem and not to leave its boundaries or he would die. The brook Kidron divided Judah from Benjamin, thus Shimei was forbidden to return to his own tribe, the Benjamites. Shimei agreed to Solomon's terms and was placed under strict surveillance. For three years he was faithful to his promise, but when two of his slaves ran away, he went to retrieve them at Gath.
18. His actions were reported to Solomon. Solomon now completed the charge made to him by David and put Shimei to death. All threats of a looming curse or threats of an overthrow to the throne were removed. Solomon now settled in to a peaceful and prosperous reign as king of Israel.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map
 - doll bed, pillow and blanket for David
 - feast - paper plates, cups, real or pretend food
 - toy horse, mule - stick horse or crafted
 - oil - baby oil, vegetable oil in clear container
 - trumpet - toy, crafted, funnel, cardboard tube
 - tabernacle - tent, model, sheet over table
 - throne - chair
 - model of Jerusalem - cardboard box, for city walls, paper houses, small boxes with door or window
 - shackles - paper chains, toy cuffs
- Puppets/Dolls - David, Abishag, Adonijah, Solomon, Joab, Bathsheba, Nathan, Abiathar, Shimei
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Books Of The Old Testament
- Cheerfully Obey
- Glorify Thy Name
- He Is My Everything
- Heroes Ten
- Praise Him Praise Him
- Seek Ye First
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Are Called To Be God's People
- We Bow Down

Activities:

- *Choices* - To get students thinking about choices, use an activity with grouping. For example, ask students to group in an area of the classroom if:
 - ✓ they like to read
 - ✓ they like to ride bikes
 - ✓ they read their Bible daily
 - ✓ they talk to others about God
 - ✓ they wear a brand of clothing, etc.Talk about choices they must make every day and why they choose what they do. Which choices in life are most important. In which choices God is interested.
- *Matching* - Using index cards, write names or put pictures of Bible people students have studied. On other cards, write a choice each of those Bible people made (good and bad). Have them match the person with their choice. Discuss their choices. Why were they good or bad. What other choice did they have?
- With age appropriate students this is a good opportunity to expose and explain the fallacy of "situation ethics."
- *Cluck Cluck* - Prior to class, tape words to today's memory verse to the bottoms of the students' chairs. At the appropriate time, tell them they are sitting on a surprise. As they discover their word(s), have them put the words of the verse(s) in order. (Optional - a small surprise or reward may be attached to the word. The

words may be written on cards or envelopes.) Pictures may be substituted for some of the words in the verse.

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What do all choices have in common? (a result and consequence)
2. What are I and II Kings about?
3. As David lay dying, what choice did he have to make? Whom did he choose?
4. How did this affect his brother?
5. Who anointed Solomon king?
6. What last instructions did David give Solomon?
7. How did Adonijah seal his own fate?
8. What bad choices did Abiathar and Joab make? What were the consequences? What choice would have brought them happiness?
9. What bad choice did Shimei make? What were the consequences? How could he have made a better choice?
10. Name some good choices you have made that brought you happiness. Name some bad choices you have made that resulted in unhappy consequences.
11. What could you do to help you make good choices?

Old Testament
Lesson 82: Solomon Given Wisdom
Whose Baby?

Text: I Kings 3,4

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---|
| Memory Verses: | I Kings 3:9, 10 | Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. |
| | I Kings 3:25 | And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other. |
| | John 15:7 | If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. |
| | James 1:5 | If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • praying to God is something we should do often and regularly, for it makes God happy. • we can pray to God about anything, anywhere. God cares about each one of us. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| I. The wisdom of Solomon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Solomon marries. B. Solomon asks for wisdom. C. Two women and a baby. | I Kings 3 |
| II. The rise of Solomon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Solomon's court. B. The borders of his kingdom. C. Daily provisions. D. Solomon's horses. E. Solomon's wisdom. | I Kings 4 |

Facts:

1. Young King Solomon formed an alliance with the Egyptian Pharaoh by marrying one of his daughters, a political move on his part. He brought her to Jerusalem

- to live until he could finish building his own palace, the temple of God, and the walled fortress around Jerusalem.
2. The Israelites sacrificed their offerings on family / tribal altars in the hills, a practice handed down from the period of judges, since there was no central location for worship at this time. "Bamoth" or "high places" is from the Canaanite word meaning an elevated platform on which cultic statues were placed. During Solomon's early reign, these altars were dedicated to worshipping only Jehovah God and were located at Gibeon where the tabernacle had been.
 3. Solomon went to Gibeon and offered to God 1,000 burnt offerings. That night, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream. He told him to ask for anything he would like. Solomon could have obtained anything he wished! Solomon loved God as David had and had followed in his footsteps. He acknowledged God's kindnesses to his father, David.
 4. Solomon was only about twenty years old when he was crowned king, so no doubt, he felt his own immaturity in relation to the magnitude of his responsibility. Thus, he asked God to give him an understanding heart, a heart inclined to do God's will, so that he could govern God's people wisely and fairly, and discern between good and evil. He so wanted to do a good job.
 5. Jehovah was very pleased with Solomon's choice. His writings bear testimony of this wisdom with which God had blessed him. (Proverbs 8:11-36) Because Solomon did not ask for a long life, or riches or the defeat of his enemies, God blessed Solomon with greater wisdom than any man on earth as well as riches, honor and a long life if he continued to obey God's laws.
 6. Solomon awakened from his dream, went back to Jerusalem to offer burnt offerings and peace offerings to God at the tabernacle. He then invited all his officials to a great banquet of celebration.
 7. In due time, Solomon's wisdom was put to the test. Two women came to the king to settle an argument. They shared the same house and both recently gave birth to sons. As they were sleeping, one rolled over on her baby, smothering it and in the night, she switched the babies. As the other mother tried to feed her baby, she discovered it was dead, but in the light of the morning, she realized the dead baby was not her child. Thus, they both claimed the living child as their own.
 8. Solomon appealed to the sympathies of the real mother. He called for a sword. He instructed his servant to cut the living baby in half and give each mother a half. The real mother quickly protested the killing of her child and asked King Solomon to give the child to the other woman. The other woman agreed to let the baby be divided. Thus, Solomon awarded custody of the child to the real mother who did not want her baby killed.
 9. All of Israel marveled at their young king, for it was evident the wisdom of God was with him and his judgments were fair.
 10. Those among Solomon's royal cabinet were:
 - Azariah, Zadok's son as priest
 - Elihoreph and Ahiah, Shisha's sons as scribes
 - Jehoshaphat, Ahilud's son as official historian
 - Benaiah, Jehoiada's son as chief commander of Solomon's army
 - Zadok and Abiathar as high priests
 - Azariah, Nathan's son as secretary of state

- Zabud, Nathan's son as Solomon's personal minister and best friend
Ahishar managed the palace affairs
Adoniram, Abda's son managed the tax collection and slave labor force
11. Solomon also maintained twelve other officers , one from each tribe who were responsible for gathering food from among his tribe, one month out of the year, to provide for the king's household. The daily needs of the palace were: 195 bushels of flour, 390 bushels of meal, 10 grain-fed oxen, 20 pasture-fed oxen, 100 sheep plus occasional deer, gazelles, and fattened fowl.
 12. Solomon's vast empire extended from the Euphrates River to Egypt. Any small kingdoms within his territory of Israel and Judah had become tax paying vassals. Although Assyria (to the north) and Egypt (to the south) were both great empires themselves, at this time, they were both in a state of decline. Tiphseh was a very important crossing point on the Euphrates River. Solomon made great use of this central trade port and waterway. Throughout his reign God's people enjoyed peace, safety, and prosperity.
 13. Much of Solomon's wealth was invested in horses. He owned 40,000 chariot horses and employed 12,000 chariot drivers. As those monthly tribal tax officers provided for King Solomon's court, they also provided straw and barley for his royal horses.
 14. God continued to bless Solomon beyond measure in wisdom and understanding. His wisdom exceeded all those considered wise men of all the surrounding nations. His famed wisdom attracted important and influential visitors far and wide. Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - wedding - veil, flowers, white dress, etc.
 - altar - clay, rocks, Legos, sugar cubes, etc.
 - map - Jerusalem, Egypt, Gibeon
 - dream - pillow
 - bright light - flashlight
 - happy face - smiley sticker
 - wisdom - graduation cap, diploma, fat books
 - riches - gold coins, play money
 - honor - crown, robe, scepter, bow
 - long life - long beard, cane, glasses, white wig
 - mat, pillow, sword, knife
- Puppets/Dolls - Solomon(crown), queen(crown, tiara), 2 woman(scarves), baby
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Cheerfully Obey
- God Is Watching Over You
- He Is My Everything
- I Like To Talk To God
- I Love The Lord Messiah
- I'm Yours Lord

- Take My Life, Lead Me, Lord
- Thank You Lord
- The Lord Has Been Mindful Of Me
- Trust And Obey
- Unto Perfection
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- *Prayer Booklet* - fold sheet(s) of paper and staple together. Include a cover of construction paper. Draw or cut pictures from magazines of things students should pray about. Or use pictures of places you can pray. For older students you might have them write different kinds of prayers. Examples: a prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer for help, a prayer for the sick, a prayer for forgiveness, requests for others. Show them how to give their prayer life "balance."
- *Puzzles* - Create puzzles from laminated pictures of things for which we can thank God. Cut each picture into appropriate size pieces and put in separate envelopes. Give each student a separate one to work.
- *Words of Wisdom* - Point out to students which books of the Bible Solomon wrote. Have them take a few minutes to scan through some of his writings, inspired by God, and have them list their favorite "words of wisdom" with their references. Have them share these with the rest of the class. This may be done in class or as an assignment outside of class.
- *Singing Prayers* - Discuss with students songs we sing to God that are prayers.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who did Solomon marry? Why did he marry her?
2. Why did Solomon offer 1,000 sacrifices and how did God react?
3. For what did Solomon ask God? Why?
4. What kind of attitude did Solomon display? What key phrases tell you this?
5. How did God react to Solomon's choice? Why?
6. How did Solomon use his gift of wisdom to glorify God? (Give specific examples.)
7. How did Solomon figure out which woman was the real mother of the living baby?
8. With what gifts/talents has God blessed you? How do you use those gifts to His glory?
9. About what kinds of things can you talk to God? How specifically do we approach God?
10. How does it make God feel when we talk to Him? How often does He want us to come to Him in prayer? What develops when we talk to God often?
11. Is prayer a magic way of getting everything you want? Explain.

Old Testament

Lesson 83: Solomon Builds The Temple

Text: I Kings 5-9

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|--|
| Memory Verses: | I Kings 6:12, 13 | Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in My statutes, and execute My judgments, and keep all My commandments to walk in them; then will I perform My word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel. |
| | I Kings 8:23 | And he said, Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath, who keepest covenant and mercy with thy servants that walk before thee with all their heart: |
| | Psalms 122:1 | I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. |
| | John 4:23, 24 | But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is important to God that we regularly assemble together to worship Him with other believers. Coming together to worship God should be a time to which we look forward. • we must seek to give God our very best, as Solomon did. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- I. Preparations for building God's temple. I Kings 5
 - A. Phoenician craftsmen and timber.
 - B. Solomon's labor force.

- II. Under construction. I Kings 6
 - A. Plans and measurements.
 - B. God's charge to Solomon.
 - C. Finishing features and ornamentation.

- III. Finishing up the temple. I Kings 7
 - A. Building Solomon's palace.
 - B. Temple furnishings.

- IV. Dedicating the temple to God. I Kings 8
 - A. The Feast Of Dedication.
 - B. Solomon's sermon and prayer.
 - C. Sacrifices.

- V. God warns Solomon. I Kings 9
 - A. God's covenant with Solomon.
 - B. Solomon's trade agreement with Hiram.
 - C. Solomon's cities.
 - D. Pharaoh's daughter is moved / Millo built.
 - E. Solomon's navy.

Facts:

1. King Hiram, the Phoenician king of Tyre, had admired King David so when Solomon became his successor, King Hiram sent congratulations and best wishes. Solomon sought to extend the peace and trade agreements his father had established with King Hiram. (II Samuel 5:11, II Chronicles 2:3, 4) Solomon solicited Hiram's aid in building the temple.
2. Solomon asked for his Lebanon cedars as timber for the temple construction. He would send workers to help along side King Hiram's skilled timber men. King Hiram agreed to provide as much cedars and fir (cypress) as Solomon wanted. In exchange, Solomon sent King Hiram an estimated 130,000 bushels of wheat and 120 gallons of olive oil for his household annually. While the western slopes of the Lebanon mountains must have been covered with cedars in Solomon's day, it is sparsely covered today. These trees take hundreds of years to grow and are valuable for building because of the beauty of the wood and because their extreme bitterness repels insects and worms, postponing decay.
3. Solomon drafted 30,000 laborers throughout the land of Israel rotating 10,000 a month in Lebanon, 20,000 off duty at home. Adoniram supervised this effort and in time became detested. (12:18) Solomon had, in addition, 70,000 transporters, 80,000 stonecutters working in the north and 3,300 foremen. (The Canaanites were permanent slaves.) Those of Gebal helped Solomon and Hiram's builders cut timber, make boards, and prepare the stone.
4. In the spring of the fourth year of Solomon's reign (959 B.C.), the actual construction began (480 years after the exodus from Egypt). Solomon used the same general floor plan as the tabernacle but made it twice the size. The temple measured ninety feet long by thirty feet wide by forty five feet high. The entry porch was thirty feet by fifteen feet. Narrow window openings allowed air and light to filter throughout. Side rooms were built along both sides of the temple in a triple decker arrangement with connecting stairs for the priests.
5. The stones used for the temple were pre-finished at the quarry so the entire structure was assembled without the clanging sound of building tools. The stone was covered from floor to ceiling on the inside of the temple with carved cedar panels.

6. Solomon had an altar made of cedar overlaid with gold. Gold chains protected the entrance to the Most Holy Place. Fifteen foot angels of olive wood covered with gold reached from wall to wall with their wings touching in the center of the room forming an arch over the ark. The floor of the temple was overlaid with gold. With intense vigor and manpower, this magnificent structure to God was completed in seven years.
7. During the process of temple construction, God reaffirmed His conditional covenant with Solomon, that if Solomon obeyed His commands, He would honor the temple with His presence. (In due time, Israel forsook God for idolatry. The Babylonians will destroy Solomon's beautiful temple about 586 B.C. (II Kings 25:8, 9))
8. Once the temple was completed, Solomon built his own palace. It took nearly twice as long to build (thirteen years). One of its buildings was called the House of the Forest of Lebanon (Hall of Cedars). It is thought that this building was an armory for defense.
9. Another portion of his palace was called the Hall of Pillars. It was a seventy-five feet by forty-five feet porch covered with a canopy supported by pillars.
10. King Solomon hired a skilled bronze craftsman named Hiram. Hiram constructed two bronze pillars approximately twenty-seven feet high, eighteen feet around, and four inches thick with lily shaped capitals, decorative chains, and two rows of pomegranate designs. Hiram set these pillars at the entrance of the temple. He named them Jachin and Boaz meaning "to establish strength."
11. All the utensils and furniture within the temple were of solid gold. This included the altar, table of shewbread, ten lampstands, utensils, hinges on the doors to the Most Holy Place, and the entry doors to the temple. When all was finally finished, Solomon deposited his father's silver, gold, and vessels dedicated for God's purpose into the temple.
12. Approximately eleven months after the completion of the temple, at the feast of dedication, Solomon had the priests retrieve the ark of the covenant from Bethlehem (city of David) to place it in the temple. There were countless sacrifices made by Solomon and the people of Israel to honor God. Only the tablets of stone were in the ark at this time. As the priests placed the ark in the Most Holy Place and were walking out, the glory of the Lord's presence filled the temple in the form of a cloud.
13. Solomon then stood before the nation of Israel to bless them and rejoiced at the fulfillment of God's divine plan carried out. God had kept His promise to David that his son would have the honor of building God's temple.
14. Solomon turned to the altar of God and kneeling with outstretched hands, he publically prayed to Jehovah, praising Him for the fulfillment of His promise, thanking Him for His all powerful presence among them and humbly admitting that no matter how glorious the temple may seem to man, it in no way could compare to the magnificence of heaven. Solomon petitioned God for His continued presence and protection, justice for the righteous and the wicked, deliverance from their enemies upon repentance, relief from calamity upon repentance, help for obedient foreigners (proselytes), victory in battle, and mercy on His people as a nation.
15. Solomon closed the ceremonies with additional praises to God and he encouraged Israel to be obedient and faithful to God always, that God would abide with Israel and bless them forever. They offered 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep and goats as burnt offerings and peace offerings to Jehovah. The Feast of Tabernacles followed the Feast of Dedication commemorating the years of wandering. Their celebrations to God lasted fourteen days then they joyfully dispersed to their own homes.

16. God again appeared to Solomon with the promise that if he and his family were faithful followers, as his father, David had been, God would honor the temple and Solomon's sons would reign after him. But, if he or his children were unfaithful idolaters, God would banish Israel from the land He had given them and see to the destruction of the temple Solomon and Israel had taken such pride in building. He would make an example of them to other nations so that foreigners would whistle (hiss) in awe at their devastation and God's wrath upon them. (3:4, 5, II Chronicles 7:12-22)
 17. Solomon would soon be guilty of forsaking Jehovah for idol worship. (11:4, 5) The history of Israel validates this warning. Babylon destroyed the temple 586-585 B.C., never again to attain its old glory.
 18. At the end of twenty years of construction, Solomon settled his trade agreement with King Hiram of Tyre by giving him twenty northern Galilean cities in payment for Tyre's lumber and gold shipments. A temporary rift occurred when King Hiram was displeased with the cities he received in the deal. The gold alone that Solomon had gotten from Tyre was estimated at \$3,500,000.
 19. Besides God's temple and Solomon's palace, Solomon engineered the expansion of Jerusalem by terracing the "Millo" and rebuilding the cities of Hazor, Megiddo, Gezer, lower Beth-horon, Baalath, and Tadmor. He had cities built for grain storage and pleasure cities near Jerusalem and Lebanon. (This was all done by slave laborers.) Megiddo has been excavated by the University of Chicago and the Oriental Institute revealing extensive stone stables able to house 300-500 horses plus chariots and horsemen from the strata of Solomon's era.
 20. Solomon moved the Egyptian princess he married (3:1) from Bethlehem to her own palace outside of Jerusalem. Because of her heathen religious background, her presence would have been offensive to many Israelites, living within the dwelling place of the ark. (II Chronicles 8:11) Yet, her Egyptian influence is depicted in unearthed artifacts of some of Solomon's construction. Historians now identify her father as King Haremheb with the nineteenth dynasty of Egypt.
 21. Solomon also had a naval shipyard in Ezion-geber, a seaport on the eastern side of the Red Sea. King Hiram supplied Solomon with experienced sailors to work with Solomon's crews. They navigated to Ophir (southwestern Arabia, possibly India) and back carrying gold shipments valued at more than \$12,000,000.
- Note: For a further exposé on the historical and scientific findings supporting this period, see Brother Russell Young's research paper in the handwork packet for this lesson.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:

Design a layout of Solomon's building plans. It could be a simple "blueprint" map or "constructed" models.

It needs to include:

God's temple and courtyard and wall

Solomon's palace - house of cedars, hall of pillars, judgment hall, courtyard, wall

queen's palace

the millo

Hazor

Megiddo - stables

Gezer

Ezion-geber - shipyard

Tyre - Lebanon mountains

the quarry - rocks, gravel

the Galilean cities

cedar trees - a piece of real cedar in some form

wheat and oil - long grass, flour, olive oil, vegetable oil, baby oil

labor force - toy men, toy carpentry tools

toy blocks, sugar cubes, clay

cedar boards, craft sticks covered with gold paint

temple furnishings - toys or crafted

angels - ornaments, knick knacks, crafted

pillars - toilet or paper towel rolls sprayed gold or wrapped with gold paper

gold shipments - gold coins, play money, pennies, blocks, sprayed gold

stables - toy barn, fencing, horses

ships - toy boats, crafted boats, shallow dish of water

- Puppets/Dolls - King Solomon, King Hiram
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Building Up The Temple
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is So Good
- I Love The Lord Messiah
- I Want To Be A Worker
- Lord My Desire
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- On Bended Knee
- Our God Is So Big
- The Lord Is In His Holy Temple
- There Is Power In Prayer
- This Is The Way We Go To Church
- Tiptoe, Tiptoe In God's House
- We Shall Assemble

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Worship"
- *Your Best For God* - In an activity similar to "Charades," have students show how they would give God their very best.
- *Sightseeing Through Solomon's Kingdom* - Using your visual layout of Solomon's empire, create questions that apply to the different places or specific buildings of today's lesson. Mount the question as a flag on a toothpick with a marshmallow, Hershey kiss, or gumdrop base. Let students take turns picking questions and "posting" them in the correct spot on the visual map or model.
- *Archaeological Research* - Encourage older students to do outside reports, researching a variety of archaeological findings that support the Bible. Or have them share pictures and reports on additional information about Solomon's temple and his kingdom. Help them to understand chronological dating, strata levels, archaeological digs and excavations, dynasties, artifacts, etc.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did King David's close friendship and good relations with King Hiram benefit others and glorify God? Why is it important for you to maintain a pleasant disposition and good relations with others? When would this not be good?
2. Describe the work and preparations that went into building God's holy temple.
3. How do we know all this really happened?
4. Whose house did Solomon put first in his building plans? Why? What would you have done?
5. In spite of all Solomon's work to make the temple of God the best he could make it, why did God need to remind Solomon twice how important it was to stay faithful to Him?
6. Describe Solomon's other building complexes.
7. What special celebration did Israel observe at the new temple? What was the most special item brought into the temple? What happened when it was brought in?
8. Where does God live today? Why does he want us to come worship Him together?
10. About what did Solomon pray to God? About what do you pray to God? How specific should your prayer be? Why is praying important?
11. Why could the Egyptian princess Solomon married not live at his palace with him? What might this tell us about whom we choose to marry?

Old Testament

Lesson 84: A Special Visitor

Text: I Kings 10,11

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| Memory Verses: | I Kings 10:6, 7 | <p>And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.</p> <p>Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.</p> |
| | Matthew 6:19, 20 | <p>Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:</p> <p>But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal;</p> |
| | Mark 10:25 | <p>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.</p> |
| | I Timothy 6:10 | <p>For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.</p> |

| | |
|--------|---|
| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • although God blessed Solomon with great wisdom, Solomon did not always make wise choices. We must choose to make wise choices to please God. • the devil often uses material wealth and fame to lead us away from honoring and serving God. |
|--------|---|

Outline:

- I. Solomon's visitor.
 - A. Queen of Sheba.
 - B. Solomon's wealth and powerful empire.

I Kings 10

- II. The decline of Solomon. I Kings 11
- A. Solomon's wives lead him to idolatry.
 - B. God's anger kindled.
 - C. Solomon's adversaries.
 - D. Solomon succeeded by Rehoboam.

Facts:

1. As Solomon's fame spread throughout the world, the Queen of Sheba, ruler of the Sabaeans (Job 1:15) the greater territory of the Yemen, came to see for herself if all she had heard about Solomon was true. In those days, it was considered a "royal sport" for those of great reputation to test one another's abilities. Her curiosity was not disappointed. He explained to her all her questions with great wisdom.
2. As diplomatic protocol dictated, the queen presented Solomon with costly gifts of spices, gold and jewels. She saw his magnificent palace, wonderful foods at his tables, many servants in fine apparel, and the many offerings Solomon made to Jehovah.
3. The queen had thought the reports of Solomon were exaggerated, but having seen for herself, she told Solomon his wisdom and prosperity far exceeded the rumors. She noticed the happiness of Solomon's servants. She recognized God's hand in Solomon's successful reign. Then she added to her gifts for Solomon 120 talents of gold with an estimated value of \$3,500,000.
4. Solomon negotiated another trade agreement with Tyre for a supply of algum trees and gemstones. He used the trees for temple pillars and pillars for his palace, harps, and stringed instruments. The wood was most beautiful. After showing the queen of Sheba great hospitality and answering all her questions, Solomon sent her off to her own land with many gifts as well.
5. Every year, Solomon collected 666 talents of gold, amounting to about \$20,000,000 besides tariffs from trade with the Arabian kings and surrounding territories.
6. Solomon had a huge ivory throne made overlaid with the best gold. Six steps approached it flanked by twelve lions (presumably representing the twelve tribes). No other was as splendid. It symbolized justice, rulership, and judgment.
7. All of Solomon's cups were of gold. His complete dining service in the Hall of the Forest of Lebanon was of gold. Once every three years, his merchant fleet would bring a vast load of gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. Solomon was the greatest king that ever lived. His court was always open to native and foreign admirers who sought his God-given wisdom. They brought him annual taxes of silver, gold dishes, beautiful garments, armor, spices, horses, and mules.
8. Solomon's great stables housed many horses, 1,400 chariots, and 12,000 horsemen. He brought his horses in droves from Egypt (Cilicia) at wholesale prices (\$150 each). Many of these were resold to Hittite and Syrian kings. In anticipation of this monarchy, the Old Testament law forbade the kings of Israel to buy horses from Egypt. (Deuteronomy 17:16)
9. The old law also forbade the marrying of many wives, especially foreign (Deuteronomy 17:17), because God knew their influence would lead His people into idolatry. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, but in time these pagan wives turned Solomon's heart from God, as well as his world of great luxury.

10. He built temples to their pagan gods and worshipped with them, Ashtoreth, Milcom, Chemosh, and Molech. (Molech demanded human sacrifices, primarily small children.)
11. God was very angry with Solomon. Twice God had warned Solomon against idolatry and yet, Solomon had forsaken God. God told Solomon because of his sin, He would splinter and divide his vast kingdom. He would take the leadership from Solomon's family and give it to an adversary. Only for David's sake would he wait until after Solomon's death to divide the kingdom. Yet, he would receive punishments from internal and external enemies.
12. Hadad of Edom, who had escaped Joab's massacre at Edom and lived in Egypt, grew in power. He returned to his home and became a thorn in the side of Solomon. Hadad was very close to the pharaoh of Egypt. Rezon, little by little became an increasing threat to Solomon, as he and his bandits of Damascus dominated the trade routes to the east. David had destroyed his home at Zobah years ago. He and Hadad hated Israel intensely. Another rebel within Israel was Jeroboam. Jeroboam was of Zereda in Ephraim and a very talented craftsman. Solomon had put him in charge of his labor forces rebuilding the walls of the city.
13. As Jeroboam was leaving Jerusalem one day, the prophet, Ahijah, approached him wearing a new garment. Ahijah tore his new garment into twelve pieces giving Jeroboam ten pieces and keeping two. Ahijah told Jeroboam God would in similar fashion tear the kingdom of Israel from Solomon giving ten tribes to Jeroboam to rule. The tribe of Benjamin and Judah were viewed as one and would remain for Solomon's son, Rehoboam to rule so David's descendants could continue to reign in Jerusalem. Ahijah told Jeroboam this would come to pass upon Solomon's death because of his sinful idolatry and disobedience. David's descendants would be disciplined but not destroyed.
14. God promised to place Jeroboam upon Israel's throne as absolute power. He made a covenant with Jeroboam that if he would be faithful and obedient to God's commands, his descendants would rule forever as God had once promised David.
15. Solomon tried to kill Jeroboam, but Jeroboam fled to King Shishak of Egypt for protection. Solomon ruled forty years before he died and was buried in the city of David with his father. Rehoboam assumed the throne for a very short time as Ahijah's prophecy now would be fulfilled.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - gifts - boxes of spices - cinnamon, nutmeg, etc.
 - gold - coins, play money, gold foil coins
 - jewels - craft, plastic gemstones, sequins, foil confetti, old costume jewelry
 - palace model
 - trade agreement - signed paper with a seal
 - algum trees - tree/shrub branches, toy trees, clay trees, etc.
 - pillars - dowels, tissue paper rolls
 - harp - toy, crafted sticks and string, shoe box and rubber bands
 - armor/shield - toy, trash can lid, paper plate with foil
 - throne - "special" chair sprayed gold, toy or crafted lions
 - gold dishes/cups - spray paint toy dishes or paper plates/cups (styrofoam will not accept spray paint)

toy barn/stable, horses, chariots
idol gods - statue, clay model
12 pieces of a torn shirt or fabric remnant

- Puppets/Dolls - Ahijah-turban, Solomon-crown, queen of Sheba-crown/satin or lace, Hadad, Rezon, Jeroboam-all w/ swords, Rehoboam-crown,wives
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Building Up The Temple
- Count Your Blessings
- God Is So Good
- God Is The Fountain Whence
- Happy Feet And Hands Can Help
- Humble Yourself
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- May I Call You Father
- Our God Is So Big
- Seek Ye First
- Thank You Lord
- This Is The Day That The Lord Hath Made
- Tiptoe Tiptoe In God's House
- We Shall Assemble
- We Will Glorify The King Of Kings

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Kings," "My Choice"
- Videos: (in our library) "Charlie Church Mouse - What's Valuable In Life"
"Charlie Church Mouse - Being Spoiled"
- *Place Value* - Create a "weights and measure" activity teaching students where we should place the weightier value. Make picture cards or use items depicting spiritual wealth vs. material wealth or fame. Have students take turns picking cards or items and making comparisons as to which they would place the most value. (And which would God place the most value!)
- Create a musical tune for learning today's memory verses.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who came to visit King Solomon? Why? What questions might she have asked Solomon?
2. How did Solomon acquire such a magnificent kingdom?
3. What was the greatest gift God gave Solomon? How did Solomon use that gift?
4. What is your greatest gift? How do you use that gift?
5. Why would God forbid the buying of horses from Egypt under Old Testament law? (Deuteronomy 17:16, 17) Or the marrying of many / foreign wives?
6. Can we pick out the laws of God we want to keep and ignore the ones we don't like? Why?
7. What were the consequences for Solomon ignoring God's laws he did not like?
8. What are some consequences you have had for not being obedient?

Old Testament Lesson 85: The Nation Is Divided

Text: I Kings 12-14

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| Memory Verses: | I Kings 12:13 | And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; |
| | Matthew 6:33 | But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. |
| | Luke 9:62 | And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. |
| | Luke 10:27 | And He answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. |
| | James 1:22 | But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God loves all of us and wants us to be happy and likeable people. If we follow God's commands, His plan will help us achieve that goal. Rehoboam and Jeroboam tried to gain acceptance their own way and suffered the consequences for it. • we need to study and know God's word so we are not misled to worship God in an unacceptable manner as the Israelites were by their kings. |
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Outline:

- I. The nation of Israel is divided. I Kings 12
 - A. Rehoboam's inauguration.
 - B. Rehoboam refuses wise counsel.
 - C. The revolt of ten tribes.
 - D. Jeroboam becomes king of the northern kingdom.

- II. Jeroboam leads Israel to sin. I Kings 13
 - A. Jeroboam doesn't like God's message.
 - B. Two prophets.
 - C. Jeroboam, a stubborn and wicked king.

- III. God's judgment upon two wicked kings. I Kings 14
- A. Jeroboam's wife visits Ahijah.
 - B. Ahijah prophesies doom for Jeroboam and family.
 - C. Abijah and Jeroboam die.
 - D. Rehoboam's wicked reign.
 - E. Rehoboam dies.

Facts:

1. Upon Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam, went to Shechem, in Ephraim to rally his inauguration as the new king of Israel. Through informants, Jeroboam received the news in Egypt and returned to Shechem. He deliberately became the spokesman for the Israelites in voicing their grievances. They petitioned for less economic load and social oppression. The heavy taxation imposed by Solomon upon the people coupled with God's divine hand of discipline put Rehoboam's leadership to the test.
2. Rehoboam requested three days to think over their petition. This seemed reasonable, so the people left. Rehoboam consulted the elders (older men) of Solomon's court. They advised him to admit the validity of their complaints and promise reformation in due time. Rehoboam asked the advice of his friends. They told Rehoboam to be more harsh than his father was and regard their complaints as plotting, treasonous acts.
3. Rehoboam followed the advice of his friends and vowed to punish them with scorpions, rather than a mere whip. (A whip was a leather strap, but a scorpion was a strap with barbed, steel points imbedded in it, used on slaves.) Rehoboam's threatening speech was highly insulting to Israel so they revolted against him and all desert him as their king except for the tribe of Judah. Of course, this was God's plan to fulfill Ahijah's prophecy and His promise to Jeroboam. (Judah's faithfulness to Rehoboam fulfilled God's promise to David. I Kings 11:36)
4. Not yet realizing the division of Israel to be final, Rehoboam unwisely sent Adoram to draft more labor forces among the northern tribes. (II Samuel 20:24, I Kings 4:6) The people stoned Adoram to death. King Rehoboam narrowly escaped the same fate. Upon arriving back in Jerusalem, Rehoboam summoned all the able bodied warriors of Judah and Benjamin (180,000) to force the other tribes to acknowledge him as their king. God sent Shemaiah, the prophet, with the message to Rehoboam and Judah not to fight their kinsmen in Israel, but to disband and go home because God would defeat Rehoboam. Thus, civil bloodshed was averted.
5. Jeroboam was asked to be king of the northern tribes. He made Shechem, in Ephraim his capital. (This capital later moved to Samaria. I Kings 16:24) Although God was with Jeroboam, Jeroboam did not truly trust God and resorted to religious apostasy to further distance Israel's separation from Jerusalem and David's descendants. To eliminate the need to worship in Jerusalem, Jeroboam's counselors advised him to build two golden calves for Israel to worship.
6. One was set up at Bethel, the other at Dan. He built places of worship on hills and ordained priests from non-Levite families. He changed the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles from the seventh month to the eighth month at Bethel

- instead of Jerusalem. He offered sacrifices on the altar at Bethel instead of the priests. (Leviticus 23:24)
7. So God sent a prophet from Judah to Bethel. As Jeroboam started to burn incense on the altar, the prophet shouted to the altar the prophecy that a child from David's family, named Josiah, would be born who would sacrifice the priests of Jeroboam's shrines in the hills. Men would be burned upon it and to prove this prophecy was from Jehovah, he said the altar would split and the ashes spill out, sealing Jeroboam's impending doom. (II Kings 23:15-20)
 8. King Jeroboam, in anger, stretched out his hand to order the prophet's arrest, but his arm became withered or paralyzed into position. The altar cracked open and the ashes poured out. Jeroboam pleaded for mercy. The prophet prayed for God to restore his arm which God did. Jeroboam invited the prophet to his palace for food and a reward but the prophet stuck to God's instructions and refused to eat or drink anything at Bethel. Such socialization appeared to compromise God's displeasure with Jeroboam and the northern tribes.
 9. Instead, the prophet started for home. Meanwhile, an older prophet of Bethel heard what had happened from his sons. He had them saddle his donkey and went after the prophet from Judah. He found him along the way sitting under an oak tree. He invited the Judean prophet to a meal at his home, but the prophet declined for God told him not to eat at Bethel.
 10. The older prophet told the Judean prophet he was also a prophet. He lied and said God had told him to take the Judean prophet home and feed him. So the Judean prophet went to his house. As they were sitting, eating, Jehovah spoke to the older prophet who must deliver the Judean prophet's penalty of death for disobeying God. As the Judean prophet left for home, a lion killed him. In order to make clear this was God's judgment upon the prophet and not an accident, the lion did not shred the prophet's body nor harm his donkey, but calmly stood beside them.
 11. Report of this was made by sojourners to Bethel where the old prophet lived. He saddled his donkey to retrieve the body of the Judean prophet and give him an honorable burial in his own grave. He lamented and mourned the sorrowful fate of his fellow prophet realizing he caused this to happen. He instructed his sons, upon his death, to bury him with the Judean prophet.
 12. Despite these happenings, Jeroboam continued his evil doings. He created more priests from the common people and continued to promote idolatry. Due to such blatant disobedience to God, Jeroboam's family and kingdom would soon be destroyed.
 13. Abijah, Jeroboam's son became very sick as a disciplinary act of God. (Not to be confused with Abijam, Rehoboam's son.) Jeroboam had failed to heed God's more subtle warnings so He now struck directly at Jeroboam's most precious possession. Jeroboam had his wife disguise herself and go to the prophet Ahijah at Shiloh to see what the future held for their sons. She took with her gifts of fig bars, honey, and ten loaves of bread.
 14. Ahijah now was very old and unable to see. God came to Ahijah and told him that Jeroboam's queen would come disguised as someone else asking about her son's future, for he was sick. When she arrived, he identified her, welcomed her in and asked her why she was pretending to be someone else. God had Ahijah give a message to the queen for her husband Jeroboam.

15. He told her God had promoted Jeroboam from commoner to king. He had taken the kingdom from David's family to be Jeroboam's, but Jeroboam had not obeyed God's commands. In fact, Jeroboam had been the most disobedient king yet. His idol gods had made Jehovah furious, so to punish him, God would kill all Jeroboam's sons and sweep away his family like manure in the stables. Those that died in the city would be eaten by dogs and those that died in the fields would be eaten by birds to utterly disgrace him.
16. Jeroboam's wife would never again see her son alive. Ahijah told her as she stepped into the city her sick child would die. Israel would mourn his death and give him an honorable burial, but he was the only good thing in Jeroboam's family. A long range prediction was made of Israel in captivity (Samaria 722 B.C. and Jerusalem 586/585 B.C.) due to their incurable idolatry.
17. As the queen went home to Tirzah, her son died just as Ahijah had said. Jeroboam reigned twenty-two years. When he died, his son, Nadab, reigned in his place. (II Chronicles 13:15-20)
18. Meanwhile, Rehoboam, son of Solomon and Naamah (an Ammonite) reigned one year with his father and sixteen years on his own in Jerusalem over Judah and Benjamin, the southern tribes. During his reign, the people also built "high places" or elevations which lent themselves to idol worship. Moral decline and sexual sin were rampant. Worship of the Canaanites infiltrated the Israelites and they became as the heathen nations God had driven out.
19. In the fifth year of Rehoboam's reign, King Shishak of Egypt attacked and conquered Jerusalem. Shishak was the founder of the twenty second dynasty (945-924 B.C.). This was the first serious foreign invasion since the days of Saul. He pillaged the temple of God and the king's palace. He stole everything of value including the gold shields Solomon had made. Later, Rehoboam substituted bronze shields in their places. There was constant war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam. Upon Rehoboam's death, he was buried in Jerusalem and his son Abijam took control of his throne. (II Chronicles 12:13-16)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map - Shechem, Egypt, Judah, Jerusalem, Bethel, Dan
 - crowns for kings
 - tax money - play money, pennies
 - forced labor - toy tools
 - old men/prophet - beard, glasses, cane, gray wig
 - young men/prophet - turban, black beard
 - scorpion - "leather" whip: roll a brown paper strip longways into a long roll.
 - Tape or glue. With scissors, cut one end into strips. Attach silver paper spikes (triangles) on the ends.
 - stones - pebbles, gravel
 - armor - helmet, toy sword, shield
 - Shemaiah - turban
 - idols - toy cows painted gold
 - incense/altar
 - oak tree - toy tree, branch, bush
 - lion, donkey - toy, stuffed

- queen's disguise - veil, wig, glasses
fig newtons, honey, prunes, bread, biscuits, crackers
- Puppets/Dolls - Rehoboam, Jeroboam, Shemaiah, Abijah, queen
 - Flannelgraphs
 - Flipchart
 - Sandbox Map
 - Storybook
 - Video

Songs:

- Awesome God
- Cheerfully Obey
- Don't Drink Booze
- He's Got The Whole World
- Humble Yourself
- I Don't Want To Be A Goat, Nope
- I Have Decided
- I Know The Lord With Find A Way
- I Wish I Had A Little Bitty Box
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- I'm Yours Lord
- I've Got My Head In Heaven
- If I Don't Get To Heaven
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- Oh Be Careful Little Eyes
- The Devil Wants Me To Sin
- The Very Best Life
- This Little Light Of Mine
- We Will Glorify
- Who Will Follow Jesus

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Kings"
- *United We Stand, Divided We Fall* - On poster board or butcher block paper, chart Israel and its kings as a united kingdom and as divided kingdoms. Chart the northern kings vs. the southern kings. Help students distinguish between the good kings and the bad (disobedient) kings. Help students grasp an understanding of this split and why it occurred. Use stickers or pictures where possible.
- *Success and Popularity* - Solomon, Rehoboam, and Jeroboam all wanted to be successful and well liked by the people. This became so important to them they abandoned God's plan for success and popularity for one of their own. Help students to see why their sinful plans did not get them what they wanted, but brought unwanted consequences. Have students demonstrate (role play) how God's plan for success would have worked better for these kings and will work in our favor as well. (What makes someone really likeable?)
- *Study To Show Thyself Approved* -The Israelites followed the direction of Rehoboam and Jeroboam even when they had forsaken God's commands. Create a list of situations for students to determine when or how the person in the story stopped following God's command and what they should have done or said to stay on track. With older students, have them search the scriptures for the verses that would apply to their situation.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who became king of Israel after Solomon? What happened? Why?
2. Who gave Rehoboam good advice? Who gave him bad advice? Give an example of how this could relate to us.
3. How did the kingdom of Israel divide? How did Rehoboam react to this?

4. Why did Jeroboam forsake God and resort to idol worship? What did God do as a result of this?
5. Why was the Judean prophet not to eat with Jeroboam or anyone else at Bethel? Of what command does this remind you in the New Testament?
6. How did the old prophet of Bethel trick the Judean prophet? Why did he do this? What is the result? Why is the Judean prophet punished by death?
7. Give an example of how this principle might apply to us today.
8. Which king of Israel was God with? Why? How do you think He felt?
9. Do you think God is pleased with the way you serve and worship Him? Why? What could you do to please God more?
10. Do people in America worship idols? Explain.

Old Testament
Lesson 86: Bad News For Bad People
Good News For Good People

Text: I Kings 15-17

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| Memory Verses: | I Kings 17:5 | So he went and did according unto the word of the Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. |
| | I Kings 17:24 | And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth. |
| | Matthew 6:31, 32 | Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. |
| | Philippians 4:6,7 | Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will give us courage, as He did Elijah, when we are afraid, if we pray to Him. • God cares for us, as He did Elijah, and will provide for our needs. • choosing to worship someone or something other than Jehovah carries spiritual consequences. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. Kings of Israel and Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Abijam's wicked reign over Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Asa's good reign over Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Jehoshaphat reigns over Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Nadab's wicked reign over Israel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E. Baasha's wicked reign over Israel.</p> | I Kings 15 |
| <p>II. Israel's wicked kings.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Jehu's prophecy.</p> | I Kings 16 |

- B. Elah reigns over Israel.
- C. Zimri reigns over Israel.
- D. Omri reigns over Israel.
- E. Ahab reigns over Israel.
- F. Joshua's curse fulfilled.

III. Elijah, the prophet of God.

I Kings 17

- A. Elijah prophesies of a drought.
- B. God cares for Elijah at Cherith brook.
- C. The widow at Zarephath.
- D. God helps Elijah raise her son.

Facts:

1. Abijam, Rehoboam's son took the throne of Judah and reigned for three years (913-911 B.C.). As his father had lacked devotion to Jehovah, so did Abijam. Yet, as God had promised, in spite of their wickedness, God did not withdraw His mercy from Judah for David's sake. (11:36) War continued between the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah.
2. Asa followed his father, Abijam, as king of Judah for forty-one years. Yet, Asa was determined to do what pleased Jehovah, as David had done. He eliminated idol worship and banished the Sodomites from his kingdom. He even removed Maachah, his grandmother as queen, because she had introduced idolatry into Judah. He burned her graven images by the Brook Kidron (Cedron) northeast of Jerusalem. (Jesus crossed this brook during His night of agony in Gethsemane. John 18:1) He restored the treasures of the Lord to the temple.
3. Baasha, king of Israel declared war against King Asa and Judah. He sought to fortify Ramah as his headquarters four or five miles north of Jerusalem (Asa's capital). This would also cut off trade with Jerusalem. King Asa took the treasures he had restored to the temple and of his palace to send to King Ben-hadad of Syria (Damascus) in hopes of gaining him as an ally.
4. King Ben-hadad agreed to help Asa. He sent his troops to attack the towns in the vicinity of the Sea of Galilee and they destroyed several cities. Baasha received word of the attacks while still working on the fortifications of Ramah. He quickly returned to Tirzah, his capital, frightened by the powerful Syrian assistance Asa had acquired.
5. Meanwhile, King Asa took every able bodied man with him to demolish and dismantle Ramah. They hauled the materials back with them to use rebuilding the city of Geba in Benjamin and Mizpah. In his old age, King Asa's feet became diseased. He died and was buried in Jerusalem with his father's family. Jehoshaphat, his godly son reigned in his stead.
6. Over in Israel, Nadab, Jeroboam's son reigned as king two years. Like his father, he was wicked and contributed to the idol worship in Israel. Baasha plotted against Nadab and assassinated him while he was with his army fighting Philistines. Baasha then killed all of Jeroboam's descendants, fulfilling Ahijah's prophecy. (14:10, 14) Baasha reigned twenty-four years in an evil fashion.
7. God's anger was kindled against King Baasha. Though the northern kingdom was unfaithful to God, He, in His infinite mercy, extended warning of His chastisement to King Baasha through Jehu, the prophet. Because he had chosen

- to sin against God as Jeroboam had, he and his family would suffer the same fate. Baasha and his family line would be destroyed and eaten by the dogs or the birds. (14:11)
8. Upon Baasha's death, his son, Elah, reigned a short two years (886-885 B.C.). Zimri, one of his captains, plotted against Elah. While Elah was drunk at Arza's house (Elah's palace seaward), Zimri walked in and killed Elah. (Arza was most likely a part of this conspiracy.) Zimri then declared himself king of Israel.
 9. Zimri immediately killed all Elah's relatives and friends. This fulfilled Jehu's prophecy to Baasha (16:1-4). Yet, Zimri's reign was the shortest of all the kings of Israel, only seven days (885 B.C.). When Israel's army, who had been attacking the Philistines at Gebbethon, heard Zimri had assassinated King Elah, they decided among themselves they would rather have their captain, Omri, as king.
 10. Omri led his troops back to Tirzah, Israel's capital. When Zimri realized he was defeated, he locked himself in the palace and burned it to the ground, dying in the flames. He, too, had sinned before God and had displeased Him.
 11. For a time (five years), Israel's kingdom split in two. Half of the northern tribes follow Omri, half follow Tibni. Omri's followers prevailed and slayed Tibni, making Omri king of Israel for twelve years, 884-874. (Josephus - Antiq. VIII 12.1) After reigning six years, Omri purchased the hill of Samaria from its owner, Shemer, for two talents of silver (~\$4,000). He built a fortified city for his new capital and named it after the former owner, Shemer. Omri was also wicked and God was very displeased with him. Omri died and was buried in Samaria.
 12. Omri's son, Ahab, began to rule Israel. He reigned twenty-two years and was the most wicked king of all (874-853 B.C.). He married the princess of King Ethbaal of Sidon. The cruel and evil worship of the idol god, Baal, was rampant in Tyre and Sidon, thus it was infiltrated into Israel by Jezebel, Ahab's queen. Jezebel was chief priestess to the Tyrian Baal, Melkarth. Worship to Melkarth required child sacrifices. Baal, by those that worshipped the idol, was believed to be lord of the land, who brought rain and fertility. Ahab erected a temple and an altar for Baal in Israel's capital, Samaria, for his queen, as well as other idols. God was more angry with Ahab than any king before him.
 13. During Ahab's reign, Hiel, from Bethel rebuilt the city of Jericho, which Joshua and the Israelites had destroyed. As he laid the foundations, his oldest son, Abiram died. As he completed it by setting its gates, his youngest son, Segub died. This fulfilled the curse of the Lord through Joshua. (Joshua 6:26)
 14. So in the darkness of Israel's spiritual days, the Lord raised up a prophet from Tishbe in Gilead named Elijah. Jehovah sent Elijah with the prophecy of a three and a half year drought upon Israel as punishment for their idolatry. They needed to be reminded that God controlled the elements, fertility, and life itself, not Baal.
 15. Then God told Elijah to go east from Samaria to the Brook Cherith, which fed into the Jordan River. This would be a suitable hiding place from Ahab and Jezebel and give him water to drink during this time of famine and the ravens would bring him food twice a day. This, Elijah did. In time, the brook dried up, so God told Elijah to go to Zarephath, a small village on the Mediterranean Sea between Tyre and Sidon. There a widow would feed him.
 16. Elijah went to Zarephath, where he saw a widow gathering sticks at the city gates. He asked her for a cup of water. As she went for it, he asked that she

bring him bread as well. Though his request was not unreasonable under ordinary circumstances, she had been gathering sticks to prepare her very last meal for her and her son. (This obviously tested her faith.)

17. Recognizing Elijah as a man of God, she told Elijah she only had a handful of meal and a little oil. She was about to prepare for her and her son then they would face starvation. Elijah told her to go ahead and prepare it, a loaf of bread for him first, then God would provide enough for her and her son as well. With unquestioning obedience, she did as Elijah told her to do. (This woman's great faith is recognized by Christ in Luke 4:26.) God provided this widow with an unlimited supply of meal and oil to feed them throughout the years of famine.
18. One day, the widow's son became very sick and died. In ancient days, sickness and/or death was regarded at times as a judgment of God for sin. The widow asked Elijah if she was being punished for sin because her son has died. Elijah took the boy's body upstairs to his own room and laid him on his bed. He earnestly prayed to God to restore the child's life and bring him back to his mother. He stretched himself upon the boy three times. God heard Elijah's prayer and gave him life again. Elijah took him down to his mother. She knew for certain that Elijah was a true prophet of God. (This is the first genuine instance of the resurrection of the dead in the Old Testament.)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - war - armor, sword, shield, helmet, spear
 - idol gods - figures, gold painted animals
 - temple treasure - gold and silver coins, gold and silver cups, dishes
 - map - Brook Kidron, Ramah, Syria, Sea of Galilee, Geloah, Mizpah, Tirzah, Samaria, Tyre, Sidon, Jericho, Brook Cherith, Zarephath
 - building tools (Ramah, Jericho) - toys, wood blocks, Legos, Lincoln logs
 - castle - toy, crafted
 - flames - tissue paper, colored foil
 - black bird - toy, craft, bread crumbs, biscuits
 - cup of water, bread
 - handful of meal or flour, small jar of oil
 - boy's death - sheet to cover him
 - bed -rug or blanket
- Puppets/Dolls - Elijah, widow, son
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Bread Enough
- Don't Drink Booze
- Elijah Prayed
- Elijah Was A Man Of God
- Elijah Was A Prophet
- Happiness Is
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- Our God He Is Alive
- Stand Up And Shout It

- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- Unto Perfection
- We Bow Down
- When I Grow Up
- Without Him
- You Can Build A Bridge

Activities:

- Continue to fill in chart of kings in the northern and southern kingdoms.
- Make puppet kings from ice cream cone shapes, paper cups or hand puppets. Make good kings with “nice” faces and bad kings with “mean” faces. Set them on different sides so students distinguish between the north and south kingdoms. Variation: Make crowns from paper or poster board and name tags for kings. As you tell the lesson place a crown and tag on the students pretending they are King _____. Let them make the “nice” or “mean” faces.
- *Sticky Situations* - List situations that cause fear in your students' lives. List ways God can help them deal with those fears. Help them develop a prayer to God concerning their fears. Find scriptures that will help them have courage. Examples: Hebrews 13:6, Isaiah 12:2, Psalms 145:18, Isaiah 41:10
- *God Cares* - Keeping Matthew 6:31, 32 in mind, help students list things people worry about most. Help them apply God's promises to love and care for His people. Use Old Testament examples of God's caring for those faithful to Him. Help them to understand what we “think our need (want) is” and what God knows our need is, is not always the same. Help them develop a prayer or poem of thanksgiving to God for His care on heart shaped colored paper.
- *Research Paper* - Have older students do some research on false gods such as Baal, Melkarth, Asherah, other idol gods from previous or future lessons. Introduce them to several Bible resource materials they could use to find their information. Help them understand the difference between Jehovah God and these false gods. Discuss why people were tempted to worship false gods and what false gods there are today that people worship. Help them to see why they are fakes. Variation: Some students may be drawn more to geography. Have them research the geographical areas of Israel and Judah. Give them a list of places to find. Examples: What was the most important river? What sea borders Israel on the west? What was the capital of Judah? What three capitals did Israel have? Locate them on the map.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God feel seeing His chosen people (His holy nation) worshipping idol gods?
2. How does God feel when He sees us doing other things when it's time to worship Him? What things might be “more important” than coming to worship God?
3. How did God hold Israel's leaders accountable for allowing and encouraging the people to worship idols? Will God hold us accountable if we put other things before Him? How?
4. Who was Israel's most wicked king of all? What made him the most wicked?
5. Who had to deliver some bad news to King Ahab? What do you think his reaction might have been?

6. How do you think Elijah felt about telling King Ahab this news? What did he have to do after he delivered the message to the king? Where? Why?
7. Have you ever been afraid? What made you afraid? What did you do?
8. Where did Elijah go for courage? How did this person take care of Elijah?
9. To whom can you go for courage? About what do people worry most?
10. Will God always give us what we think we need? Why?
11. Why did Elijah ask the widow to give him her last bit of food? Why did God provide for the widow and her son? Will He do the same for you?

Old Testament

Lesson 87: Battle Of The Gods

Text: I Kings 18

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| Memory Verses: | I Kings 18:37, 39 | Hear me, o Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God. |
| | Psalms 34:15 | The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. |
| | Matthew 4:10 | Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jehovah is the one and only God. He is always in control of the heavens and things on earth. He cares for our needs and answers our prayers just as He did for Elijah. |
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Outline:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. The contest at Mount Carmel. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Elijah meets Obadiah. B. Elijah's challenge to Israel. C. Elijah's challenge to Baal's prophets. D. Fire falls from heaven. E. The drought is ended. | I Kings 18 |
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Facts:

1. After three and a half years of drought, God told Elijah to go tell King Ahab He would send rain soon. Elijah went to Samaria to give the king God's message. Meanwhile, the drought and famine had become so severe, King Ahab called Obadiah, his servant in charge of palace affairs. He told Obadiah to go looking for any possible grazing spots to save his horses and mules. Ahab went searching in one direction while Obadiah went another. (Luke 4:25, James 5:17)
2. Obadiah was a God fearing man, not to be confused with the author of Obadiah, the book. He once hid 100 prophets of Jehovah from the wrath of Queen Jezebel

- in two caves. He fed them bread and water. Jezebel had been so angry because of the famine and that Elijah had not been found, that she vents her anger on the prophets of Jehovah by killing them.
3. Elijah met Obadiah along the way. Elijah told Obadiah to tell King Ahab he wanted to see him. Obadiah protested that bearing such news to Ahab could cost him his life, especially if the spirit of the Lord were to carry Elijah away after Obadiah told Ahab Elijah was there. Obadiah told Elijah Ahab had searched every nation from one end to the other looking for him. Elijah assured Obadiah he was there to confront King Ahab that day, so Obadiah went to get the king. (II Kings 2)
 4. King Ahab came, accusing Elijah of causing the drought upon Israel. Elijah cast the challenge back at Ahab reminding him that it had been Ahab and his family that had refused to obey Jehovah and had worshipped the idol Baal. That had caused God to send the drought upon Israel.
 5. Elijah told King Ahab to gather all the people of Israel and the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah to Mount Carmel. Ahab sent for them. Mt. Carmel was a mountain range of great beauty with many peaks and ravines. It extended about thirteen miles southeasterly and dropped sharply into the Mediterranean Sea near Haifa. Upon one of its peaks, Elijah chose to stage the "battle of the gods." This location was of geographic prominence but more importantly, it was debated ground between Israel and the Phoenicians, for the Canaanites believed Mt. Carmel was the special dwelling place of their gods.
 6. When all were assembled, Elijah asked Israel how long they were going to waver between serving these fake idol gods and serving Jehovah. He challenged them to make a decision either to serve Jehovah God or Baal, but the other must be completely renounced and abandoned. No compromise was possible. (Such people always reap God's blessings, despite temporary unpopularity with the world.) The Israelites stood in silence.
 7. So Elijah now challenged Baal's and Asherah's prophets to bring two young bulls for offerings. They could choose either one they wanted. They were to put wood on their altar and the bull for sacrifice; Elijah would do the same, but they were each to pray to their god to send fire to light the wood. This would prove which god was the true god. Everyone agreed to the terms of the contest.
 8. Elijah allowed the 450 prophets of Baal to go first. They prepared their altar. All morning long, they prayed and shouted to Baal. Nothing happened. They began to dance around the altar, but nothing happens. By noon, Elijah began to amusingly mock them. Exhausting excuses for them, he suggested maybe Baal was talking to someone else, or off on a hunt, or on vacation, or maybe he was asleep. He told them to shout louder to get Baal's attention!
 9. With increasingly frantic measures all afternoon, the Baal prophets tried to coax Baal to answer them with fire. They shouted louder. They cut themselves until the blood gushed out and worked themselves into a frenzy, but in spite of all their endeavors, Baal did not respond.
 10. At evening, confidently, with a calm assurance, Elijah called the people over to the altar of Jehovah God. He repaired the torn down altar with twelve stones, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Though politically and socially divided, in the mind of God, they were still one people. Around the altar, Elijah dug a

- trench large enough to hold two measures (bushels) of seed, approximately three feet wide. He piled wood and the bull on the altar.
11. With everything in place, Elijah made the strange request that the altar be soaked with four barrels of water three times so that the trench was overflowing. So confident was Elijah of the outcome, he made it appear as difficult as possible for himself to win in order that Israel may clearly see the power of Jehovah over the powerless Baal.
 12. At the customary time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah went to the altar and briefly prayed to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel to prove to Israel once again He was their God and Elijah was His servant. This would prove that all Elijah had done had been done at God's command, that they may know He was the one and only God who had brought them back to Himself.
 13. Fire flashed from heaven. So intense was the fire that it devoured the bull, the wood, the stones of the altar, the dust and even licked up all the water in the trench. The matter was settled. Recalling the terms of their spiritual dual and in awe of the master's hand, the Israelites fell to the ground on their faces shouting, "Jehovah is God!"
 14. Elijah had Israel seize all the prophets of Baal and Asherah and take them to the Kishon Brook where Elijah killed them. Their death was penalty prescribed by God for idol worship (Deuteronomy 13:13-15) and a reprisal for Jezebel slaying the prophets of Jehovah. Kishon was a brook on Mt. Tabor that flowed down into the Mediterranean Sea.
 15. To further prove that the drought had not been a mere coincidence but a disciplinary measure of God, it now ended. (James 5:17, 18) Elijah told King Ahab to go and eat for he heard rain coming. Ahab went to prepare a feast as Elijah went further up Mt. Carmel to pray. The dazzling waters of the Mediterranean could be plainly seen from Mt. Carmel.
 16. Elijah sent his servant six times to look out over the sea for signs of rain. The seventh time he spotted a small cloud about the size of a man's hand. He told his servant to hurry Ahab down the mountain in his chariot before he was caught in the rain storm that was coming.
 17. The sky quickly became black with storm clouds and a strong wind brought torrents of rain. Ahab headed for his winter capital, Jezreel, located on Mt. Gilboa. God gave Elijah special strength enabling him to run ahead of Ahab's chariot to the gates of Jezreel.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - pictures of the results of a drought or famine
 - horse/ mule - toy, stuffed animal
 - bread/ water - crackers, biscuits, bread, small cups
 - map - Mt. Carmel, Mediterranean Sea, Kishon, Mt. Tabor, Jezreel
 - idol Baal - small statue, clay, trophy
 - 2 toy bulls
 - 2 altars - clay, gravel with toothpicks for wood
 - hunt - bow and arrow
 - vacation - sunglasses, hat, snorkel, sand bucket, ski goggles
 - asleep - pillow, blanket

toy sword, knives
handcuffs - toy or paper
cloud - cotton batting the size of your hand
wind - small fan
dark skies - turn off light
rain - misting bottle with water, cassette tape of rain storm
Ahab and chariot - toy chariot, crafted

- Puppets/Dolls - Elijah, Ahab, Obadiah, prophets of Baal
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Elijah Prayed
- Elijah Stood Alone
- Elijah Was A Prophet
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is Not Dead
- God Is So Good
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- It Only Takes A Spark
- My God Is So Great
- O God You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- Our God He Is Alive
- Stand Up And Shout It
- Unto Thee O Lord
- Whisper A Prayer
- Would You Be Poured Out

Activities:

- List or act out ways we can show God our love, honor, and allegiance. Younger students may want to draw a picture.
- *Reporting The News* - Have students be television or newspaper reporters. Let them "interview" those on the scene of this great contest. Use a toy or crafted microphone (toilet tissue roll with a ball of aluminum foil). Some older students may want to write news articles of the events.
- *Prophet, Priest, or King* - Prepare a list of names of those that were either a prophet, priest, or king. As you give the names, let students tell you which they were. Option: To help students become more aware of the activities of a prophet, priest, or king, make a list of questions asking who would do that particular job. Examples: Who would have offered your sacrifice? Who tells people about a future event? Who lives at the palace? Saul was the first ____.
- *Weather Watch* - Using a concordance, prepare a list of Bible references that speak of types of weather. Have students draw a reference "out of the hat" to look up and read. Have them tell how the verse shows that God controls the weather. Examples: Psalms 107:29, Psalms 135:7, Psalms 147:8, Psalms 147:16, Psalms 147:16, Job 5:10, Job 38:22, 23, Job 38:28, Matthew 5:45, Luke 8:25
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why had God sent a drought in Israel? What was the result?

2. Who did Elijah meet on the way to see the king? Why was he afraid to deliver Elijah's message?
3. Why did Elijah want to gather everyone on top of Mt. Carmel?
4. What did Elijah ask the people? What challenge did he issue to the prophets of Baal?
5. What did the prophets of Baal do to try to get Baal to answer them? Why didn't Baal answer his prophets?
6. Did God answer Elijah? How?
7. At what point did the people realize Baal had no power? Do the false gods of today have any power?
8. What false gods are there today?
9. Why did Elijah make it as difficult as possible for his sacrifice to burn?
10. How did God prove even further that He was in charge of everything and He maintains all power?
11. Who is your God? How do you show Him you know He is the only true God?

Old Testament

Lesson 88: Elijah Flees Jezebel

Text: I Kings 19,20

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| Memory Verses: | I Kings 20:28 | And there came a man of God, and spake unto the king of Israel, and said, Thus saith the Lord, Because the Syrians have said, The Lord is God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys, therefore will I deliver all this great multitude into thine hand, and he shall know that I am the Lord. |
| | Isaiah 41:10 | Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. |
| | Matthew 7:7 | Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: |
| | James 4:14, 15 | Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is always with us no matter where we are or what we do. He will protect us and provide for us when we are afraid just as He did for Elijah. • we cannot be merciful or tolerant of those that do evil. |
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Outline:

- I. The call of Elisha.
 - A. Threats on Elijah.
 - B. Discouraged Elijah is comforted.
 - C. Another job to do.
 - D. Elisha anointed.

I Kings 19

- II. War with Syria. I Kings 20
- A. Samaria seized by Syria.
 - B. A prophet warns Ahab.
 - C. God slays the Syrians.
 - D. Ahab spares Ben-hadad.
 - E. Gods' judgment against Ahab.

Facts:

1. When Queen Jezebel was told by King Ahab her prophets had been slaughtered by Elijah, she was furious! She sent word to Elijah she intended to kill him within twenty four hours. Her reputation as priestess of Baal was at stake. In fear, Elijah fled from the northern kingdom to the most southern point of the southern kingdom, Beersheba. Beersheba was the end of civilized territory. So as not to be detected by any of Jezebel's spies, he went on a bit further into the wilderness.
2. In absolute discouragement and despair, not realizing God's providential plans, Elijah prayed under a juniper tree (broom bush) that he might die. Overwrought, Elijah fell asleep. God, with tender care, sent an angel to awaken Elijah and provide him with hot bread baking on stones and water. Elijah ate a bit, then laid back down. A second time the angel touched Elijah telling him to eat more for he had a long journey ahead of him.
3. Strengthened by the miraculous provisions, Elijah traveled forty days and nights to Mt. Horeb, a mountain in Arabia in the vicinity of Mt. Sinai. (Exodus 3:1, 33:6) There, among its rocky cliffs, Elijah lived in a cave, hiding as a fugitive from Jezebel. Yet Baal had been defeated and God was not finished with Elijah.
4. God came to Elijah and asked him what he was doing there. In loneliness and emotional distress, Elijah bewailed that he had worked hard for God, but the Israelites had turned against God by tearing down His altars and killing His prophets. Elijah explained to God he was the only prophet left and they wanted to kill him. (Romans 11:2-4)
5. God told Elijah to stand before Him on the mountain. As the Lord passed by, a mighty windstorm hit the mountain with such a forceful blast the rocks were blasted loose. The Lord was unaffected. An earthquake hit, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. Then, there was a roaring fire, but again, the Lord was not in the fire.
6. The sound of a gentle stillness contrasted these powerful events as God tenderly whispered to Elijah, "Why are you here, Elijah?" Elijah wrapped his face in his mantle (coat) as he exited the cave. He gave God the same explanation he had before. God now issued Elijah a three-fold commission: 1) to go back by the desert road to Damascus to anoint Hazael as the new king of Syria (II Kings 8:7-15) 2) to anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as Israel's new king (II Kings 9:1-10) 3) to anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat, as his own successor. These three, differing in vocation and character would unite in humbling and destroying Ahab's household.
7. God told Elijah anyone who escaped Hazael would be killed by Jehu and anyone escaping Jehu would be killed by Elisha. Incidentally, there were 7,000 men of Israel that had not bowed to Baal. Elijah was not the only one.

8. Elijah went as God told him. He found Elisha plowing his father's fields with twelve teams of oxen. (Elisha must have been a very wealthy man.) Elijah threw his mantle over Elisha, a symbolic act signifying that Elijah's power and authority was about to rest upon the younger prophet, Elisha.
9. Elisha understood the sign. He left his own oxen standing in the field and ran after Elijah who had begun to walk away. He told Elijah he would go with him, but he would like to tell his parents good-bye first. Elijah responded curtly to Elisha. Despite Elijah's rough rebuff, Elisha was permitted a brief adieu with his family and friends. A feast was prepared from Elisha's team of oxen and his plow provided wood for fire to cook them. Then, Elisha went with Elijah.
10. Meanwhile, King Ben-hadad I, with thirty-two allied nations, resumed the struggle against Israel and besieged Samaria, its capital. He offered conditions of peace to Ahab, demanding Ahab's wives, children, his silver and gold. Ahab reluctantly agreed to surrender them. Then, King Ben-hadad sent his messengers back with more demands. The next day, he would send his servants to search and pillage King Ahab's palace and the homes of the Israelites, taking whatever they liked.
11. Ahab summoned his advisors. They discussed their options and diplomatically sent word that they rejected the terms of surrender. King Ben-hadad arrogantly boasted that he had more soldiers under his command than there were handfuls of dust in Samaria. (James 4:13-15) Ahab retorted that he should not boast of victory prematurely.
12. Ahab's reply reached Ben-hadad and the other kings while they were drinking in their tents. (Drunkness often creates a false sense of assurance. Proverbs 20:1) Ben-hadad ordered the battle to commence. His warriors made preparation.
13. Meanwhile, an unnamed prophet from God came to Ahab. He drew Ahab's attention to the vast number of warriors under Ben-hadad. He told Ahab, God would give him victory over Ben-hadad's warriors as well as his allies to again prove His power and His love for His people. King Ahab gathered 232 warriors from the provinces and 7,000 regular troops. By now, they were grouped and ready to attack.
14. As Ahab's troops unexpectedly approached, Ben-hadad's scouts reported their coming. King Ben-hadad and his allies were still drinking. He told his scout to take Ahab's army alive. Ahab's men each killed a Syrian soldier. The Syrians began to panic and flee. As Israel pursued them, they slaughtered the majority of Syria's army and captured most all their chariots and horses. King Ben-hadad managed to escape.
15. The prophet came to King Ahab again telling him to prepare for another attack for in time Ben-hadad would return. Ben-hadad's officers reasoned that Jehovah must be a god of the hills and that was why Israel beat them in the hill country. They told Ben-hadad to regroup with the same number of warriors. They would surely conquer Israel in the plains since their gods were gods who protected their valleys. Jehovah would soon teach them He was not limited in any way to any territory.
16. The following spring, he marched his army to Aphek. His forces filled the countryside. Israel mustered their army which appeared as two small flocks of goats in comparison to Syria. God's prophet told Ahab they would win this war as well to show Syria Jehovah had no limitations. After a seven day delay the

- battle began. Israel killed 100,000 Syrians the first day. They fled within the city wall of Aphek, but God caused the wall to fall on them and kill 27,000 more. Defeated, Ben-hadad hid in one of the houses.
17. The victory was not complete until the leader was executed. Ben-hadad's servants suggested he throw himself at Ahab's mercy. Israel's kings were historically more merciful than enemy nations. In sackcloth and ropes (penitent submission), they came to Ahab. Flattered by their compliance, he allowed Ben-hadad to live and made a covenant with him. This was a "slap in the face" to Israel's army and in direct opposition to God who delivered to them their enemy. Instead of seizing the opportunity God had provided to curse Syria, Ahab allowed Ben-hadad to go in peace.
 18. Meanwhile, the schools of the prophets were well established in Israel. A prophet had been directed by God to deliver a sermon of rebuke in a parable. He asked another prophet to hit him, but the prophet refused. Because he refused, he was punished by being slain by a lion. The first prophet asked another prophet to hit him. This prophet did as he was asked leaving the first prophet wounded.
 19. The wounded prophet disguised himself and waited for the king by the road side. As King Ahab came by, he called out to the king and told him he served in the battle with Syria. A Syrian prisoner had been placed in his charge with the stipulation that if the prisoner escaped, he must die himself or pay a talent of silver (\$2,000). While he was busy, the prisoner did escape. (This, of course, is a hypothetical situation for the benefit of King Ahab.)
 20. King Ahab immediately passed judgment on the "soldier" as guilty and ordered him to choose his punishment. The prophet removed his disguise. Ahab recognized him as a prophet of Jehovah. The prophet told Ahab he was the "condemned soldier" for letting Ben-hadad (the Syrian prisoner) go. Ahab had the opportunity to end the struggle between Syria and Israel put in his lap by God, but because Ben-hadad was free, the struggle would continue with disastrous results. Ahab would be doomed to die in Ben-hadad's place. Ahab went home angry and sullen.
 21. God's followers must not extend tolerance, even in the name of mercy, to Satan's forces.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - map or sandbox map
 - juniper tree - toy, bushy plant, crafted tree
 - angel - ornament, figurine, doll, toy
 - bread & water - crackers, biscuits, rolls, pieces of sliced bread
 - walking stick
 - cave - clay model, papier maché, sheet over table
 - windstorm - small fan, tape with sound effects
 - earthquake - vibrator, tape with sound effects
 - fire - tissue paper flames, colored foil, construction paper
 - mantle - coat, fabric, sheet, towel
 - oxen - toy cows, toy farm equipment, fencing
 - Ahab's wives, children, silver & gold - dolls, play money, coins

- toy soldiers and armor
- chariots and horses - toy, crafted
- Aphek's Wall - toy blocks, foam blocks
- wounded prophet - boxing glove, toy sword/"shiner" - eye makeup/strip bandage
- Puppets/Dolls - Elijah, Elisha, King Ahab, King Ben-hadad, prophets
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be With Me Lord
- Climb Climb Up Sunshine Mountain
- Elijah Was A Man Of God
- Elijah Was A Prophet
- God Is Watching Over You
- He's Got The Whole World
- Hear O Israel
- Humble Yourselves
- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- Jesus, Lord Of Us All
- My God Is So Great
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- There's A Light On The Hill
- We Shall Assemble On The Mountain

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Men of the Bible"
"Wicked People"
"Kings"
"Church Leaders"
- *Picture This* - Discuss with students a time when they were afraid or someone made them afraid. Have students illustrate or write a brief description of their experience. Help them to see how God protected them. God is with us in difficult situations just as He was with Elijah. Option: Older students may want to research their concordance for scriptures that reinforce God cares for us and is always there for us to turn to when we are afraid. Option: Older students may also look up biblical examples of others who were afraid in difficult situations and how God cared for them. See who can find the most. This could be an individual or team effort.
- *Practical Patterning* - God had chosen Elisha to replace Elijah as His prophet upon Elijah's "retirement." Discuss how God prepared him for the job and how we prepare ourselves to be leaders and workers for God in His church. Make sure students know who the leaders of the congregation are and what their responsibilities are. Guide them to think about what leadership position in the church to which they will aspire. Who might their role model be? Don't forget missionaries, elders' and preachers' wives.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why was Elijah afraid of Queen Jezebel? What did Elijah do because he was afraid?
2. How did God care for Elijah? What did God ask Elijah?
3. How did God show Elijah He was always in charge of everything? Is God still in charge of everything? Explain.

4. What job did God give Elijah to do next? Who did he find first? Where?
5. How did Elisha react to being chosen as Elijah's successor?
6. Who wanted to overtake Samaria and the tribes of Israel? What happened?
7. Why did God help King Ahab?
8. Why was God angry with King Ahab for letting King Ben-hadad go free?
9. How did God use His prophet to deliver His message (judgment) to King Ahab?
10. How does God protect us and care for us? Does He care about our needs as much as He did for Elijah and the Israelites? Explain.

Old Testament

Lesson 89: Naboth's Vineyard

Text: I Kings 21,22

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| Memory Verses: | I Kings 22:14 | And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak. |
| | Leviticus 19:11 | Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another. |
| | Philippians 4:11 | Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. |
| | I John 2:15 | Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to identify honest ways to get things he/she wants and how to be satisfied if they cannot have something. Pleasing God is worth more than things and true friendships are worth more than money. • evil companions corrupt good morals. • God does not lie to us and He does not want us to lie to others. |
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Outline:

- I. Naboth's vineyard. I Kings 21
 - A. Naboth refuses to sell.
 - B. Jezebel plots Naboth's death.
 - C. Ahab possesses the vineyard.
 - D. Elijah prophesies God's judgment on Ahab and Jezebel.

- II. King Ahab dies in battle. I Kings 22
 - A. Ahab seeks to recover Ramoth Gilead.
 - B. Four hundred heather prophets vs. Micaiah.
 - C. Ahab disguises himself.
 - D. King Ahab killed.
 - E. Ahaziah succeeds his father.

Facts:

1. Naboth, a God fearing Israelite, had a vineyard next to King Ahab's winter palace in Jezreel. King Ahab asked Naboth to sell him the vineyard or let him trade for another piece of land. Ahab wanted the vineyard for a garden next to the palace. Naboth refused the king as God had forbidden the Israelites to sell

- land inherited through their family. Naboth's vineyard was to go to his sons and grandchildren some day. (Leviticus 25:23-28, Numbers 36:7)
2. King Ahab went back to the palace pouting and sullen over Naboth's rejection. Still angry, he refused to eat and went to bed with his face to the wall. Jezebel noticed his mood and asked him what was wrong. When he told her, she asked him, "What right does a subject have to deny you anything you want?" She told him to get up and eat, and not worry for she would see to it he got Naboth's vineyard.
 3. Jezebel forged letters bearing the royal insignia to the leaders of Jezreel commanding a fast. She told them to bring Naboth to trial with two scoundrels to falsely accuse him (lie) of cursing God and King Ahab. The penalty for such a crime was stoning. (Leviticus 24:16, John 10:33) The leaders did as the queen had ordered them. There were always men ready to give false testimony for money. Thus, as a result of the mock trial, Naboth was stoned for a crime he did not commit. Upon his death, Ahab claimed Naboth's vineyard for himself.
 4. God had witnessed the evil of Ahab and Jezebel. He called upon Elijah to deliver His judgment of doom. Ahab realized his sin had found him out as Elijah approached him. Elijah told Ahab God was very angry with him and would destroy him and his male descendants as He did King Jeroboam's and King Baasha's for their evil deeds. (I Kings 14:10, 11, 16:3, 4) The dogs would eat the bodies of Jezebel and Ahab's descendants within the city. Those dying outside the city, the vultures would devour. (II Kings 9:30-37)
 5. Although idolatry had become established by the first three kings of Israel (after the kingdoms divided) beginning with Jeroboam, it became rampant with Omri and his son Ahab. Dominated by his evil companion, Jezebel, Ahab became noted as the most evil king of Israel, consumed by idolatry and material gain.
 6. Yet, hearing Elijah's prophecy, Ahab had a temporary change of heart. He tore his clothing, dressed in sack cloth and ashes, and expressed a spirit of humility before Jehovah. His repentance moved God to mercy. God removed His curse from Ahab, but not Jezebel or his descendants who showed no remorse.
 7. For three years, there were no hostilities between Israel and Syria. Good King Jehoshaphat, for political purposes, disregarded the gulf between the two nations as he went to visit King Ahab. As they were talking, Ahab remarked that the Syrians still occupied Ramoth-gilead, one of the chief cities of Gad, east of the Jordan River. He asked King Jehoshaphat if he would assist him in recapturing this city.
 8. King Jehoshaphat welcomed the opportunity to help, but, being a truly God fearing king, he showed misgivings and wanted more than assurances from King Ahab. He wanted a blessing from God by one of His prophets.
 9. King Ahab called 400 evil prophets, willing to bend their message to what their wicked king wanted to hear. They all assured King Ahab God would give him victory over the Syrians. Justifiably suspicious, King Jehoshaphat insisted on the advice of one more prophet of God.
 10. Reluctantly, King Ahab called for Micaiah. He told Jehoshaphat he hated Micaiah because he never told him anything he wanted to hear. Jehoshaphat overruled Ahab's objections and insisted Micaiah be called. (Josephus credits Micaiah as being the unnamed prophet of I Kings 20:35 who condemned Ahab for setting Ben-hadad free.)

11. During the interlude, one of the false prophets, Zedekiah, displayed two iron horns he had made. He predicted the two kings would push the Syrians to their destruction as if they were wearing the horns. All the prophets present agreed.
12. Meanwhile, the messenger that retrieved Micaiah suggested to him for diplomacy and good will that Micaiah's prophecy should conform with that of the others. This would also help eliminate Micaiah's reputation as a prophet of doom and bad news. Micaiah assured the messenger he would not compromise God's message. He could only say what God told him to say.
13. As he arrived, the king asked Micaiah if they should attack Ramoth-gilead. Micaiah's tone of voice and manner were sarcastic. Although he told King Ahab to go ahead, it was obvious he meant the opposite. King Ahab demanded him to stop mocking him and tell the truth.
14. So Micaiah told the king he envisioned Israel as sheep scattered on the hills without a shepherd. Their leader, King Ahab, would be dead and his men scattered and confused. (Ezekiel 34:5, Zechariah 13:7) Clearly, Ahab should change his plans. Ahab dismissed the warning as he childishly complained to King Jehoshaphat of the prophet of doom.
15. Micaiah continued his prophecy with a glimpse into heaven with God on His throne asking who will entice Ahab to go and die at Ramoth-gilead. Suggestions were made until one angel volunteers. God asked how he would do it. He told God he would go as a lying spirit from the mouths of Ahab's evil prophets to deceive him. (Good and evil spirits are under God's authority. This was done by the permissive will of God to accomplish His purposes.)
16. Zedekiah slapped Micaiah across the face, the greatest of insults. He asked Micaiah when did God leave him and speak only to Micaiah. Micaiah quickly replied that soon Zedekiah and all the false prophets would hide themselves in fear. King Ahab ordered Micaiah's arrest with only enough bread and water to keep him alive until the king's return.
17. King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat prepared for battle. Secretly, Ahab feared Micaiah's prophecy so he suggested that King Jehoshaphat dress in his royal robes, but dress as an ordinary soldier. Jehoshaphat did not perceive Ahab's trickery which would nearly cost him his life. Meanwhile, King Ben-hadad had instructed his thirty-two captains to make King Ahab their personal target, no one else.
18. When the captains spotted King Jehoshaphat in his royalty, they assumed it was King Ahab. As they pursued him, he identified himself. Realizing he was not the one they were after, they withdrew.
19. Without taking specific aim, King Ahab was wounded by a stray arrow between the joints of his armor. He lingered and suffered as the battle raged. The blood streamed onto the floor of his chariot. By evening he died and the battle ended. His body was taken to Samaria and buried there. His chariot and armor were washed in the pool of Samaria as the dogs licked up his blood. (I Kings 21:19)
20. King Jehoshaphat reigned in Judah twenty-five years obeying the Lord as his father, King Asa had. His main mistake was aligning himself with Ahab and not destroying the idol shrines in the hills. (II Chronicles 17-20) He did close the houses of male prostitutes in Judah. Jehoshaphat built great freighter ships to sail to Ophir for gold. These were wrecked at Ezion-geber because of God's displeasure with Jehoshaphat's brief alliance with Ahaziah, Ahab's son. (II

Chronicles 20:37) Upon his death, Jehoshaphat was buried in Jerusalem and succeeded by his son Jehoram.

21. Meanwhile, Ahaziah, King Ahab's son, succeeded him in Israel. He reigned for a brief two years for he was evil as his parents had been.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - grapes (vineyard) - real, artificial
 - letter with a seal or wax insignia, paper rolled up with a string or ribbon
 - trial - gavel
 - stoning - gravel, rocks, brown or gray sponge, foam
 - money - play money, pennies, coins
 - sackcloth - torn, ragged shirt, ashes
 - map - Ramoth-gilead, Jezreel, Samaria, Ophir, Ezion-geber
 - iron horns - crafted cone shaped "horns" like a bull or ram's horn / toy sheep
 - heaven - cloud - cotton batting, gold painted chair for throne
 - angel - toy or ornament
 - royal robes - blue, purple, or red coat or bath robe or cape
 - soldier's uniform - armor, helmet, sword, shield, spear
 - arrow / chariot
- Puppets/Dolls - Naboth, King Ahab, Jezebel, Elijah, King Jehoshaphat, Micaiah, evil prophets
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Elijah Was A Prophet
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Can Dare To Be Brave
- I Know The Lord Will Find A Way
- I'm Not Afraid Of 10,000 People
- I'm Yours Lord
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- Micaiah
- Oh Be Careful
- Stand Up And Shout It
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- The Very Best Life
- There's A Flag That Flies
- Though The Way We Journey
- We Are Family
- Whatever I Shall Be
- Without Him

Activities:

- *Memory* - Make cards with names or faces of the people in this lesson and a card with things they did. Let students match the cards with names or faces to the card with what they did.
- *What Grows In A Vineyard?* - Bring items that grow or come from a vineyard (raisins, grapes, grape juice, the vine, grape leaves). Let students taste these foods. Talk about where grapes come from. Explain raisins are dried grapes. Many countries use grape leaves to wrap around rice and meats or to cover pickled vegetables. Explain grape juice is squeezed from grapes; grapes grow on vines.

- *Greedy Gretta* - Discuss ways our society encourages us to be discontented with what we have and influences us to accumulate more possessions or be envious of others. Then, compare these to the scriptures on the dangers of a greedy attitude. Look also at the blessings of a generous giver. Help them to conclude that pleasing God is worth more than things and true friendship is worth more than money. Option: Illustrate ways to give with a loving attitude. Option: Have students share a possession with someone in need in the congregation or with another student in the class (a cookie, bookmark, toy, etc.)
- Use a story or activity dealing with lying/honesty, stealing, envy
- *To Tell The Truth* - Discuss why it would have been easy for Micaiah to lie. Create situations where students must decide between telling a lie or the truth. Help them focus on planning a way to do right by telling the truth even when it is hard.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why wouldn't Naboth sell his vineyard?
2. How was King Ahab greedy? What other character traits do you see in King Ahab?
3. What were the consequences of his greed? Who suffered consequences along with him? Why?
4. What was Jezebel guilty of doing?
5. When we really want something but can't have it, what should we do?
6. Who lied in this lesson? Is it ever right to lie?
7. What if everyone else in the room lied, would you have the courage to tell the truth? When do you want to tell the truth even if it is hard?
8. What bad things might happen if you lie? Who would always know that you lied?
9. How many prophecies do you see fulfilled? Name them.
10. What things should King Jehoshaphat have done differently? How did King Ahab draw him into doing wrong? How can that happen to us?

Old Testament

Lesson 90: Elijah Leaves In A Whirlwind

Text: II Kings 1-3

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 2:2b | And Elisha said unto him, As the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Bethel. |
| | II Kings 2:9 | And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. |
| | Psalms 46:1 | God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. |
| | Philippians 4:6,7,13 | Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God will help you when you have difficult situations to face. Pray to Him for strength. • God helps those who serve Him and punishes those who will not. • we must always show respect to God and His appointed leaders. |
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Outline:

- I. Ahaziah's reign in Israel.
 - A. Ahaziah's fall.
 - B. Fire from heaven.
 - C. Ahaziah dies.

II Kings 1

- II. God takes Elijah to heaven. II Kings 2
A. Farewells to Elijah.
B. Elijah translated in a whirlwind.
C. Elisha the successor.
D. Bears destroy those that mocked Elisha.
- III. Jehoram's reign in Israel. II Kings 3
A. Moab rebels.
B. Alliance between Judah and Israel.
C. Moab defeated.

Facts:

1. II Kings continues the tragic historical record of God's people on a collision course with captivity (586 B.C.). I and II Kings were written near the end of Israel's captivity by the inspiration of God through, most likely, Jeremiah, the prophet. It expresses a prophetic view point throughout; obedience insures prosperity and disobedience brings disaster. Systematically, it traces the kings of Israel and Judah.
2. The works of Elijah and Elisha are given lengthy notice. Prophets held a prominent place in the affairs of the nation at critical points. The kingdom was united 112 years (1043-931 B.C.). The northern kingdom survived 209 years (931-722 B.C.) until it was captured by Assyria. The southern kingdom lasted an additional 136 years (722-586 B.C.) before it was taken captive by Babylon. During this 457 year period, great shifts in world power were generated between Egypt to Assyria to Babylon.
3. As II Kings opens, Israel's new king, Ahaziah, was seriously injured as he fell through the lattice of an upper chamber at the palace. King Ahaziah sent messengers to Baal to ask if he would recover. Ahaziah had tried to synchronize Baal worship with worship to Jehovah. This request posed a deliberate defection from God, thus God was again about to prove Baal powerless.
4. God sent an angel to tell Elijah to intercept Ahaziah's messengers. He asked them if there was no God in Israel and if that was why they were headed to Ekron to Baal to inquire about the king. Because Ahaziah had not inquired of Jehovah, Elijah told the messengers the king would die. They returned immediately to Ahaziah with this message. Ahaziah wanted to know who told them this. They described Elijah as a hairy man wearing a leather belt. Ahaziah realized it had to have been Elijah. Elijah's dress was typical of preachers of repentance. (Note the parallels that can be drawn between Elijah and John the baptizer. Mark 1:6, 7)
5. Phase II of this contest between God and Baal began when Ahaziah decided to punish Elijah for telling him what he did not want to hear. He sent his army captain with fifty soldiers to arrest Elijah. As they approached Elijah, he was sitting on a hill top. He scornfully told Elijah ("Thou man of God") to come with them. Because of his dishonor to God's prophet, Elijah retorted, if he was of God, may fire come from heaven and consume them. This God did immediately.
6. King Ahaziah sent another captain with fifty men to arrest Elijah in the same spirit. Elijah repeated himself and God sent fire to burn them up as well. A third time, Ahaziah sent fifty men, but this captain was convinced of the prophetic status and power God had given Elijah. He respectfully on his knees, as a servant only doing his duty, pleaded with Elijah to honor him by coming to the king.

7. God's angel assured Elijah he had nothing to fear, God would protect him. Elijah went to King Ahaziah. He repeated the message he had given the king's messengers. Ahaziah died as God said he would. Ahaziah's reign lasted just over one year. He had no son, so his brother, Jehoram reigned after him.
8. The time had come for Elijah to go to God. Elijah and Elisha headed toward Gilgal. (Several places in Israel were called Gilgal, but this one was northwest of Bethel in Ephraim near Shiloh.) Knowing they must soon part, Elijah told Elisha he need not go on with him. Elisha insisted on staying with Elijah as long as he could so they went on to Bethel together.
9. Elijah now visited three schools of prophets to strengthen them against the advocates of Baal worship. Elijah prepared these young prophets for his leaving them. They came to Elisha asking if he knew Elijah was going to be with God today. Elisha cut them short not wanting to talk about it.
10. As Elijah headed to Jericho, again he told Elisha he did not have to go, but again, Elisha insisted on going with Elijah. Elijah again prepared the student prophets in Jericho for his departure and they, too, asked Elisha if he was aware. Again, Elisha did not want to talk about it.
11. Elijah once again tested Elisha's call to prophetic office by telling him he must go on to the Jordan River, but Elisha did not have to go. Again Elisha wanted to be with Elijah so they went on together. Fifty young prophets, eager to watch Elijah ascend, respectfully stayed a distance back.
12. Elijah folded his mantle together and struck the water. God's power divided the river as they walked across on dry ground. Elijah asked Elisha what he could do for him before he left. Elisha asked for a double portion of God's spirit, twice as much as the other prophets had (similar to the oldest son receiving a double portion of a father's estate). Elijah explained his request was not Elijah's to give; only God could do that. The sign by which Elisha would know if his request was granted was if Elisha had the courage to face Elijah's translation. (Enoch was the only other man translated by God. Genesis 5:24)
13. As they walked, a chariot of fire with horses of fire separated them and Elijah was carried to heaven by a whirlwind, all symbols of God's power in battle. The chariot was the mightiest weapon then known to man. In sincere grief of Elijah's departure, Elisha tore his own clothing. Elijah was remembered as the prophet of fire. (I Kings 18, II Kings 1, 2)
14. He picked up Elijah's mantle (cloak), another sign he was the chosen successor. As he returned to the Jordan River, he struck the water with the mantle as Elijah had. The water again divided as Elisha crossed. The young prophets in the distance observed that the same gifts of Elijah had been passed on to Elisha.
15. They went to greet him with respect, yet they were not convinced Elijah's departure was permanent. They persistently demanded to send out a search party for Elijah. Eventually, Elisha grudgingly consented. After three days of fruitless searching, they accepted Elisha as the prophet of God.
16. City officials from beautiful Jericho came to Elisha complaining their city's water was bad and caused their women to have miscarriages. He told them to bring him a new container filled with salt. He threw the salt in the city well declaring the water "healed." (Salt was a symbol of purifying and preserving.) The water of that spring became good. Archaeologists have discovered the principal spring by the ancient site of Jericho is good water while the other springs are bitter.

17. Elisha left Jericho going toward Bethel. Along the road, some young people began making fun of him. A bald or shaven head was the mark of a leper or denoted disgrace. (Isaiah 3:17) It is implied the youth considered him an "outcast" like a leper. Those in sin despised God's prophets. Elisha cursed them with God's divine judgment for they dishonored God as well. God punished them by having two female bears kill forty-two of them. Elisha traveled on to Mt. Carmel then returned to Samaria.
18. King Mesha of Moab and his people were sheep ranchers. They paid yearly tribute (taxes) of 100,000 lambs and the wool of 100,000 rams. After King Ahab died, Moab rebelled against paying this tribute to Israel. Rebellion frequently broke out upon the death of a king. The newly appointed King Jehoram of Israel gathered his troops to collect it and sent word of Moab's rebellion to King Jehoshaphat, enlisting his help. King Jehoshaphat agreed to help.
19. Seeking King Jehoshaphat's alliance indicated Jehoram needed to cross Judean territory to advance on Moab. If he gained Judah's support, he also gained Edom's support. (Jehoshaphat forgot that alliance with those that sin against Jehovah was forbidden.) En route, they passed around the western to the southern end of the Dead Sea over a seven day period. At this point, they had run out of drinking water. King Jehoram blamed God. King Jehoshaphat ignored Jehoram's opinion and asked for a prophet of God. Elisha was among them and dire straits now forced them to go to him for advice.
20. Elisha was not inclined to help King Jehoram. He told him to go consult his false prophets of Baal. King Jehoram was an evil king who still practiced idolatry, but not as evil as Ahab and Jezebel, his parents, had been. Only for the sake of King Jehoshaphat did Elisha seek a message from God. He requested a minstrel to play the lute, to calm his nerves due to Jehoram's presence and put him in a proper disposition to hear the Lord.
21. God told Elisha to have them dig trenches in the valley and without wind or rain, God would fill the trenches with all the water they and their animals would need. Then God would give them victory over Moab. They would thoroughly defeat all their fortified cities. The next day, as the morning sacrifices were made, the water flowed from Edom and filled the trenches as God had said.
22. Realizing Israel's troops were coming, Moab enlisted every able man to prepare to fight. That same morning as the sun's rays shone on the muddy colored water, the Moabites thought it was blood in the trenches and the armies of Israel, Edom, and Judah had killed each other. They rushed to Israel's camp to raid its booty. Israel surprised its attackers as they turned to flee. They moved in on the cities of Moab destroying everything.
23. Realizing Moab had lost the battle, King Mesha led 700 swordsmen in a desperate attempt to overcome the king of Edom, presuming him to be a weak link. He failed. As a last resort, Mesha killed his oldest son and sacrificed him to Chemosh, the Moabite god to induce a victory. (To heathen people, adversity meant their god was angry. The sacrifice of a first born was not too great a price for a god's favor.) Mesha offered his son on the wall in full view of Israel to cause them to fear Chemosh. Profoundly shocked and disgusted by this abominable act, Israel and its allies went home. Yet, in spite of all this, idolatry continued in Israel.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - doll bed for Ahaziah, blanket, pillow
 - angel - doll, ornament, crafted
 - mantle/cloak - coat, fake fur, leather belt
 - toy soldiers, strobe light, flash light for fire
 - map - Gilgal, Ekron, Samaria, Bethel, Jericho, Jordan River, Moab, Edom, Dead Sea, Zered
 - Jordan River - blue sheet or blue Jello made with jiggler recipe, cut a strip to peel back as "dry land"
 - chariot and horses - toy, crafted with red glitter or glow-in-the-dark paint
 - whirlwind- fan, storm/wind sound effects on tape
 - salt, container
 - 2 bears, sheep - toy, stuffed, puppets
 - empty canteen, water bottle, container
 - flute/recorder - crafted paper towel tube, small pipe
 - trench - toy/small shovel, water for the trench (Jello mold) with sprinkles of red Jello or KoolAid or food coloring
 - armor - sword, shield, helmet
 - camp - cardboard/paper tents in a formation
- Puppets/Dolls-King Ahaziah, Elijah, Elisha, soldiers, prophet, boys, King Mesha, King Jehoshaphat
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Cheerfully Obey
- Elijah Was A Prophet
- God Needs Helpers
- Heaven Is A Wonderful Place
- Humble Thyself
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- My Jesus
- Oh God You Are My God
- Seek Ye First
- Study Your Bible Every Day
- This Is The Way We Go To Church
- Walking On Heaven's Road
- We Shall See The King Some Day
- We're Crossing Over

Activities:

- *Parallelograms* - Make a chart comparing the prophet Elijah to the prophet Elisha - similarities/differences. Then compare John, the baptist to Elijah and Christ to Elisha - similarities/differences. This may be researched individually, in teams, or as a class.
- *Writing On The Wall* - On poster board or butcher block paper, create a "block wall." Have students write in the blocks difficult things in their lives God expects them to do. As they work, focus on why God expects them to do this difficult task and how God will help them. Be sure to include your own. Examples: turn off the T.V. and read

your Bible; not hit back when someone hits you; be kind to someone who is mean to you.

- *Leadership Characteristics* - Elijah was certainly a leader and had a great impact on Elisha. Have students list characteristics of a good leader. List advantages and disadvantages to being a leader. Have students choose a leadership quality he/she would like to have in their life. Help them think of ways they can “train” to acquire that leadership quality. Draw a correlation to our church leadership. Note how they trained for their roles as leaders. Help them to realize one day the “cloak/mantle” of leadership will be passed on to them.
- *Memory Madness* - Using the memory verse for this lesson, put the words on footprints. Arrange the footprints in a mixed up pattern on the floor. Have the students walk the verse in order.
- Play act this lesson. Use a large box for the chariot, stick horses, 2 sheets or towels for the river.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did King Ahaziah die? Why did God send fire from heaven to burn up the soldiers who came to arrest Elijah?
2. Describe Elijah. Describe Elisha. Compare what they had in common and differences. To whom else might they compare?
3. Why did Elijah visit the schools of prophets? What were they curious about?
4. Why did Elisha go with Elijah? For what did Elisha ask?
5. What things proved Elisha was God's chosen successor for Elijah?
6. What happened to those who showed God's prophets disrespect? To whom should we show respect? Why?
7. Who gave Elisha strength to go on without his great teacher Elijah? Will God give us strength when we lose someone important in our lives?
8. Why did God help Israel defeat Moab when they were still worshipping idols? Is God as merciful to us as He was to Israel?
9. How has God helped you through some difficult times? When would you pray for strength?

Old Testament

Lesson 91: A Room For Elisha

Text: II Kings 4

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 4:10 | Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither. |
| | Psalms 77:14 | Thou art the God that doest wonders: Thou hast declared Thy strength among the people. |
| | Psalms 145:6 | And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts: and I will declare thy greatness. |
| | Romans 12:10 | Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is all powerful. He shows us His power in many ways. We can find peace and confidence in God's great power when we serve Him. • God loves those who are kind and giving. He will reward them for their kind deeds. |
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Outline:

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| I. God uses Elisha to His glory. | II Kings 4 |
| A. The widow in debt. | |
| B. The Shunammite woman's kindness. | |
| C. The Shunammite woman's boy dies. | |
| D. God restores her son. | |
| E. Poisonous stew. | |
| F. Feeding the young prophets. | |

Facts:

1. One day, the wife of one of the sons of prophets came to Elisha to tell him her husband had died. She told Elisha he was a godly man, but when he died, he owed some money and now the creditor wanted it all. If she didn't pay it, he would take her two sons as slaves. This was not an uncommon occurrence.
2. Elisha asked her if she had food. She told him nothing but a pot of olive oil. Elisha told her to go borrow as many containers as she could from her friends and neighbors. This she did. Then, Elisha told her to go inside her house with her two sons and shut the door. She was to fill each container to the brim from the oil, until every container was filled. This again she did. When every container was filled up, the oil stopped flowing.

3. The widow went back to Elisha to tell him what had happened. He told her to sell the oil, pay the debt and with what was left over, she would have enough for her and her sons to live.
4. Elisha went to Shunem in the valley of Jezreel. Elisha spent much of his time traveling about the country teaching and he came to the city of Shunem often. A rich and prominent woman of the city invited him to eat. Each time he came to Shunem, he ate with her family.
5. She told her husband she was sure Elisha was a true prophet of God. She suggested they add on a small room for Elisha on the roof so he would always have a comfortable place to rest, study, pray, and write. This they did for Elisha. They furnished it with things he would need, a table, chair and a candlestick.
6. Once while Elisha stayed with them, he had his servant, Gehazi ask what they could do for her to repay her kind hospitality. (Elisha did not want to embarrass her in any way.) She replied that she was happy and content with what she had. She had not extended her hospitality expecting something in return. Elisha pursued the question with Gehazi, his servant because he was so grateful to her.
7. Gehazi had observed that she had no son and her husband was very old. In those days, this was thought to be a great misfortune. So Elisha asked God to give the Shunammite woman a son. He called for the woman and promised her she would bear a son in a year. She protested, thinking Elisha was joking. Her heart was weary from such a hope and she did not expect that dream to ever come true. A year later, she did have a son.
8. In time, the young boy went out to see his father working with the reapers in the field at harvest time. He began to moan in pain and complain of his head hurting. His father had one of his servants carry the boy home to his mother. She held him lovingly in her lap, but at noon, he died. She carried her son up to the bed in Elisha's room and shut the door.
9. She sent word to her husband that she needed a donkey and a servant to go with her to see Elisha. She wanted to leave immediately so she could go and get back that day. Her husband did not readily understand her need to go to Elisha, but she told him not to worry, she knew God's prophet was her only hope of help.
10. As she approached Mt. Carmel, Elisha saw her at a distance. He sent Gehazi to meet her and see what she wanted. She put Gehazi off wanting to talk only to Elisha. Finally reaching Elisha, she fell at his feet no longer being able to contain her anguish. Gehazi began to pull her away, but Elisha told him to stop. He knew something deeply troubled her and she needed time to collect herself. She told Elisha she had not asked him for a child and not to cruelly deceive her.
11. Elisha sent Gehazi ahead with his staff, a symbol of God's power, to lay on the boy's face. The woman would not be satisfied until Elisha agreed to come with her. Gehazi had no power of God, so his efforts with Elisha's staff were useless. When Elisha arrived, he went into the room alone with the boy and prayed. Then he laid himself over the boy, face to face. The boy became warm. He paced, awaiting God's answer then repeated his actions upon the boy. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. He called for the mother. In deep gratitude, she humbly thanked Elisha and held her son.
12. Elisha moved on to Gilgal. At this time, there was a famine there. Elisha told Gehazi to make some stew for he and the young prophets he was teaching. One young man gathered some wild gourds, shredded them, and put them in the pot

to cook, not realizing they were poisonous. These egg shaped gourds had a bitter taste and produced colic and diarrhea when eaten. Only a bite of the bitter herbs told them he had picked the wrong thing.

13. Elisha asked for some meal which he threw into the stew. Miraculously, it was edible. Elisha demonstrated God's power to remove evil.
14. Upon another occasion, a man from Baal-shalisha ("house of three valleys" near Gilgal, I Samuel 9:4) came bringing Elisha a sack of fresh grain and twenty loaves of barley bread. This was a gift of his first fruits. (Numbers 18:13) He presented them to Elisha because Israel lacked true priests and Levites at this time, yet he wanted to keep God's law.
15. Elisha told Gehazi to feed the young prophets from the man's gift. Gehazi protested that it would never go far enough to feed 100 men. Elisha assured him God would provide enough for all with some to spare. This He did. The Lord demonstrated that His power and provision is always sufficient and may exceed our needs.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - play money, coins
 - container of oil
 - several containers
 - paper plates, cups
 - model of an open room - cardboard, building blocks, box
 - furnishings - toy or crafted bed, chair, table, candle (birthday size)
 - farm toys - fencing, plow, stalks of wheat grain/ grass
 - cloth or bandage for boy's head
 - toy donkey/horse
 - staff - stick, pole, dowel, yardstick
 - pot or kettle/soup, "stew" - a small cup and spoon for everyone
 - shredded gourds - spaghetti or pasta, bean sprouts, etc.
 - meal, salt, cornstarch, corn meal
 - flour/bread - slices of bread, rolls, biscuits, crackers
 - napkins
 - map - Shunem, Mt. Carmel, Gilgal, Baal-shalisha
- Puppets/Dolls-prophet's widow, Elisha, 2 sons, Shunammite woman, young boy, Gehazi, prophet
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be A Blessing
- Blue Skies And Rainbows
- Elisha & The Shunammite Woman
- Elisha Help
- Elisha Was A Man Of God
- God Is So Good
- Happy Feet And Hands Can Help
- I Want To Be A Worker
- I've Been Working For My Jesus
- It Isn't Any Trouble

- Jesus Is Able
- Kindness
- Lord My Desire
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- My God Is So Great
- My Helping Hands
- Reach Out To Jesus
- Rejoice In The Lord Always
- Seek Ye First
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- *God's Power* - Guide your students to see God's power in their own world. Brainstorm and discuss examples of how God's power is shown to us (in nature, over sickness, in prayer). Let them illustrate these examples. Option: Make a flip chart of examples of God's power. Possibly use magazine cutouts. Option: Help them realize we should always give God the credit for His power. Discuss how we might do that in our conversation with others.
- *Memory Madness* - Give each student a blown up balloon with one word of today's memory verse on it. (If a small class, you may use more than one word or distribute more than one balloon.) Have students line themselves up in order of the memory verse. Option: Then with a marker have them finish writing the missing words to the verse on their balloon.
- *Crafty construction* - Assist your students in constructing a "room" for Elisha. Be creative! Be sure to "furnish" it with a bed, table, chair, and candlestick. Talk about what Elisha probably did in this room. Talk about why the Shunammite woman was so kind to Elisha. Help them to understand what hospitality is, how we can be hospitable to others, and why we should be hospitable.
- *Christian Kindness* - Expand on the Shunammite woman's acts of kindness. Help students list ways they can show kindness. Have them "practice" on each other in the classroom. Help them understand why these acts are "Christ-like" and that we should develop this on a daily basis. Look up and discuss biblical examples of kindness, Old and New Testament. Option: Make a seven day chart to take home. Have students write on the chart their daily acts of kindness. Review these charts next week.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God use Elisha to His glory? How can He use you to His glory?
2. How did one container of olive oil fill so many containers?
3. Why was the Shunammite woman so kind to Elisha and his servant?
4. How did God show His power and blessing to her for her kindness to His prophet?
5. Why did her young son die? Why must she see Elisha?
6. What did the miracle of restoring the boy's life again prove? How long would you estimate the boy lay dead? Could this happen today in modern medicine?
7. What did the incident of the poisonous stew tell us?
8. What did the incident of feeding so many prophets with twenty loaves of bread tell us?
9. What is power? What things have you seen that demonstrate God's power? How do you feel when you think of how powerful God is?
10. Like the Shunammite woman, how can you show kindness to others? For whom did you last do something kind? Tell about it.
11. For whom will you do something kind this week? Plan what you will do.

Old Testament

Lesson 92: Naaman Needs Jehovah God

Text: II Kings 5

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 5:14 | Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. |
| | Proverbs 3:5-7 | Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. |
| | Matthew 6:33 | But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. |
| | Matthew 18:4 | Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must follow <u>all</u> of God's instructions to please Him. • telling the truth is always the right thing to do. Lying always brings consequences and often leads to more troubles. • God often shows His love for us through the help of others. He can also show His love for others by using us. |
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Outline:

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| I. The conversion of Naaman. | II Kings 5 |
| A. Naaman, a great leader has leprosy. | |
| B. Naaman goes to Samaria. | |
| C. Naaman is healed. | |
| D. Elisha refuses his gifts. | |
| E. Gehazi suffers for his sin. | |

Facts:

1. Naaman was a captain in the great Syrian army. He was a mighty warrior and was highly esteemed by his king. His army had taken captives, one of which was a young Israelite girl who was given to Naaman's wife to serve her.

2. This brilliant leader had contracted an incurable disease called leprosy. Lepers had to live outside their city and away from their family and friends because their disease was contagious.
3. Before her capture, this servant girl from Israel had known of the miracles God had done through Elisha and she suggested to Naaman's wife that if Naaman would go to Samaria to see Jehovah's prophet (Elisha), he could be healed of this terrible disease. Naturally, she wanted to see her husband healed so she told Naaman to go to Samaria.
4. Naaman told his king the news. The king of Syria wanted his best general to get well, so he wasted no time in writing a letter to the king of Israel requesting that he have Naaman healed. Naaman took with him ten talents of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and ten suits of clothing, all worth thousands of dollars. He left Damascus and headed straight to Israel's king.
5. Upon reading the letter Naaman brought from the king of Syria, Israel's king began to panic. He had no ability to heal this man's leprosy. Warring between Israel and Syria had not digressed over the years and war times were as volatile a situation in Elisha's day as they are today. The king of Israel jumped to the conclusion that Syria's king had placed this impossible demand upon him for an excuse to start a war when his demand was not met.
6. Elisha heard that the king had rent his clothes and sent word to the king of Israel to send Naaman to him. Jehovah would demonstrate His almighty power to this Syrian. The king gladly complied.
7. Naaman arrived at Elisha's door with all his horses, chariots, and servants. He remained poised waiting for Elisha to come out. Elisha didn't invite Naaman in or even go out to say hello. To emphasize to Naaman God's healing power was not something that could be attained because of wealth or position, Elisha did not cater to his visitor's status. Instead, Elisha sent out his servant who told Naaman to go wash in the Jordan River seven times to be healed.
8. Naaman almost lost the blessing of God's healing because of his pride. He was expecting a great display of ceremony by Elisha himself. He would have done any big or hard task asked of him by Elisha. He was so enraged by being ordered by a simple servant to bathe in the muddy Jordan River, he turned to go home. He commented that the Abana or the Pharpar Rivers were better than any river in Israel.
9. His servants came to him. They reasoned with Naaman that if Elisha had asked him to do some difficult task, he would have done it to be cured of his leprosy, so why not do the simple task Elisha instructed him to do and be rid of his dreaded disease. Naaman knew they were right and he did want to be rid of his leprosy. In obedience and humility, Naaman headed for the Jordan River. He dipped down in its muddy water seven times. As he arose from the water the seventh time, his skin was clear of all white leprous sores.
10. Elated with joy, Naaman and his men went back to Elisha's house. He confessed that there was only one true and living God and that was Jehovah, the God of Israel. He urged Elisha to accept the gifts he had brought. Elisha refused Naaman's gifts that it might be understood by all that God's miracles could not be bought. Elisha sought no earthly gain as God's representative.
11. Naaman then requested of Elisha to let him take two mule loads of Israel's soil back to Syria as a remembrance of his blessing and upon which to build a place

- to worship Jehovah God. He knew he owed everything to Jehovah the only true God. In tender conscience, he begged God's pardon for when he was required by the king of Syria to help him to the temple of his idol god Rimmon.
12. Naaman headed back toward Syria. Yet all the while, Naaman had been talking with Elisha, Gehazi, Elisha's servant was thinking "they" should be due the gifts Naaman had offered. He allowed his blind covetous heart to justify his intentions because Naaman was a foreigner. Gehazi, thinking no one noticed, chased after Naaman. When he became visible to Naaman and his men, they stopped and Naaman went back to meet him, thinking something was wrong.
 13. Gehazi falsely represented Elisha, his master, by lying to Naaman. He told Naaman Elisha had sent him. He said two new prophets had suddenly arrived and Elisha could now use a talent of silver and two suits of clothing for their needs. Naaman never questioned Gehazi's story and was glad for the opportunity to show his gratitude. He insisted Gehazi take twice as much silver as he had requested along with the clothing. He even sent two of his own servants to carry it for Gehazi.
 14. As they neared the hill where Elisha lived, Gehazi took the gifts from the other servants and dismissed them. He hid the money and clothing in his own house. As he returned to his regular duties, Elisha asked Gehazi where he had been. Gehazi again lied, telling Elisha he had not gone anywhere.
 15. Gehazi knew Elisha was a prophet of Jehovah and a "seer" of all things God revealed to him. He knew Elisha's wisdom and had seen how God had worked through him. To show Gehazi Elisha knew what he had done and understood his heart, Elisha described Naaman's encounter with Gehazi. He also listed the things of Gehazi's thought that he intended to buy with the money he had taken under false pretense from Naaman, olive farms, vineyard, sheep, oxen, and his own servants.
 16. Because Gehazi intended for him and his family to profit from Naaman's wealth, Gehazi and his family were now condemned to suffer Naaman's leprosy. As Gehazi walked from the room, the sentence was immediately executed and his skin became as white as snow.
 17. Naaman's conversion showed the Israelites how God can change the hearts of their adversaries and make them fellow believers and worshippers of Jehovah.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - armor - chariot (box), 4 horses (stick horses)
 - map - Damascus, Syria, Samaria, Jordan River, Abana River, Pharpar River
 - letter - rolled paper with a seal, envelope
 - money - play, coins, gold "nuggets" (painted gravel)
 - clothing - sack or suitcase
 - Elisha's house - crafted box with a doorway
 - Jordan River - muddy water in a container
 - leprosy - white adhesive dots, white-out, white fingernail polish
 - small sacks (baggies) of dirt
 - Gehazi's house - crafted box with doorway
- Puppets/Dolls-Naaman, servant girl, kings, Elisha, Gehazi, servant
- Flannelgraphs

- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Cheerfully Obey
- God Is Watching Over You
- Happiness Is
- Humble Yourself
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Jesus Knows My Name
- My God Is So Great
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- O God You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- Seek Ye First
- Thank You Lord
- We Will Glorify

Activities:

- *Kindnesses Of The King* - Help students list ways God has been kind to them. Help them to list people God has used to help them in some way great or small. This may be done individually or as a group. Option #1: Older students may research scriptures via their concordance or Bible dictionary on God's kindness, how we are to emulate His kindness and how God uses His ambassadors (us) to help others. Examples: Colossians 1:16, John 3:16, James 1:17, James 5:15 Option #2: Have students list how God can use them to help someone else. Have them choose a way they will show kindness to someone this week. Example: Encourage someone sad; be a friend to someone who is lonely; share something with someone in need.
- *To Tell The Truth* - Discuss situations where some people may believe it is okay to lie. Discuss why this is sin and there are consequences. Share examples of telling the truth in difficult situations. Help students see why telling the truth is always the right choice. Option: Have students skim through their Bible for examples of those who lied and suffered punishment. Help them think about why those people lied and what they should have done differently. Examples: Acts 5:1-10, Matthew 26: 47-50, Matthew 27:3-5, Genesis 27:15-27, 41-45, Genesis 37:28-35
- *Bet You Can't Eat Just One* - Using a bag of potato chips, make an analogy of how difficult it is to eat just one chip and how difficult it is to tell just one lie. In Gehazi's case, his lies multiplied. When we lie, our lies generally will lead to telling more and getting ourselves in deeper trouble, just like Gehazi.
- *What's Missing* - Use a no-cook recipe. Leave out one key ingredient. Draw an analogy between the necessity of Naaman's complete obedience to be acceptable to God and receive His cleansing blessing. Help the students to see the taste of the recipe is "unacceptable" without all the ingredients. You may follow a step further by trying to substitute a different ingredient (example: salt for sugar). It may look and smell just as good, but by tasting we can tell it is not acceptable. By the same token, we cannot "substitute" what may seem okay to man in worship to God, for what God has specified in His "recipe" for worship and obedience.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did God use other people to help Naaman? How does God use other people to help you?
2. Why didn't Naaman just have the Syrian gods heal him? Why didn't the king of Israel heal Naaman?
3. Was Elisha rude to Naaman not to come out and give him what he expected? Explain.
4. What made Naaman change his mind about going to the Jordan River? What was the result? Why?
5. How did Naaman react? What had Naaman's anger almost cost him?
6. How do we sometimes let anger get in our way of making right choices? How can you change that?
7. Why would Elisha not take Naaman's thank you gifts?
8. What did Gehazi do wrong? Why did he do this?
9. What are the consequences of Gehazi's actions?
10. Why is telling the truth so important? How do you feel if you find out someone has lied to you?
11. What would have happened to Naaman if he had only dipped six times? Why?

Old Testament

Lesson 93: Jehu's Justice In Israel

Text: II Kings 6-10

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 10:26 | And they brought forth the images out of the house of Baal, and burned them. |
| | Psalms 27:1 | The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? |
| | Proverbs 15:3 | The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. |
| | Matthew 6:26 | Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is an all powerful God, able to perform any miracle. • God loves and protects His people. He provides for our needs when we serve Him. • evil influences corrupt good morals. Good influences will help us please God. |
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Outline:

- I. Syrian soldiers are blinded. II Kings 6
 - A. Recovering the borrowed axe.
 - B. Elisha prevents an attack on Israel.
 - C. Famine in Samaria.

- II. God provides for His people. II Kings 7
 - A. Elisha prophesies of plenty.
 - B. Four lepers make a discovery.
 - C. Samaria plunders the Syrian camp.
 - D. Elisha's prophecy fulfilled.

- III. Three wicked kings. II Kings 8
 - A. The Shunammite woman's property restored.
 - B. Hazael kills his king.
 - C. Jehoram's wicked reign of Judah.
 - D. Ahaziah's reign over Judah.

- IV. Jehu becomes king. II Kings 9
 - A. Jehu anointed king of Israel.
 - B. Jehu slays Joram and Ahaziah.
 - C. Jezebel is thrown out the window.

- V. Jehu's accomplishments. II Kings 10
- A. Ahab's sons beheaded.
 - B. Ahaziah's brothers killed.
 - C. Jehu destroys all Baal worshippers.
 - D. Syria oppresses Israel.

Facts:

1. As the school for young prophets grew, so did their need for larger quarters. They asked Elisha if they could build a new building down by the Jordan River where there were plenty of trees and they asked Elisha to join them. As they were cutting trees for lumber, one prophet's axe head flew off into the river. The axe was borrowed and the prophet was distressed by its loss. Elisha had him point out where it went in. He threw a stick into the river at that point and the axe head floated to the surface.
2. At this time, Syria was at war with Israel. Syria would set a trap for Israel, but before they could follow through, Elisha would expose their plans to Israel's king saving them from disaster. The king of Syria began to think he had a traitor among his men informing Israel of his plans. His own spies told him it was not one of them, but Elisha, Israel's prophet whose God told Elisha every word you spoke even in the privacy of your own bedroom. He was the one warning Israel's king.
3. Syria's king sent his troops to find and capture Elisha. They traveled by night and surrounded the city of Dothan where Elisha was. Elisha's servant discovered the huge army outside their door the next morning. Elisha calmed his fears by praying Gehazi might see God's numerous horses and chariots of fire on the mountain and he prayed the Syrian's might be blinded. This God did.
4. Elisha went out and told the soldiers they had come to the wrong place. He led them on to Samaria. As they arrived, God opened their eyes. The king of Israel asked Elisha if he should kill them as was normally done with prisoners of war. (Deuteronomy 20:13) Elisha told him no. Instead he was to feed them royally and send them home. Syria realized they were powerless against Israel and Elisha who had Jehovah God's protection. This curtailed Syria's invasions for some time.
5. In time, though, God allowed the people of Samaria to be seized by King Benhadad of Syria for violating their covenant with God. Being held captive caused high prices throughout Samaria even on defiling food. The people were starving. As Israel's king was walking along the city wall one day, a woman pleaded to him for help/justice. She told him her friend had convinced her to boil her son for them to eat. The next day they were to boil and eat the other woman's son, but she had hidden him away. In essence she was asking King Joram to enforce her cannibalistic contract.
6. Enraged by the woman's crime and incensed by her request, he ripped his clothing and walked on. He wore sackcloth beneath his royal robes as a symbol of repentance. This was noticed now by those nearby. The king blamed Elisha for not putting an end to the Israelites' suffering and vowed to kill him in vengeance. As Elisha was meeting with the elders of Israel at his house, God revealed to Elisha that Joram was coming to kill him. He told the elders when

- the king's messenger arrived to keep him out, for the king intended to harm Elisha.
7. Yet, the king caught up to his messenger with a changed and repentant heart, admitting Israel's plight was God's punishment for Israel's own sin. Upon the king's repentance, Elisha told them there would be plenty of food at low prices the next day. The king's officer expressed scorn and unbelief at such a possibility. Elisha told him he would witness it, but because of his heart, he would not enjoy the bounty.
 8. Four lepers sat outside the city gate. They reasoned that they would starve if they stayed there. If they surrendered to the Syrians, they might be killed, but they might live! They decided to take that chance that evening by going out to the Syrian camp. The Lord had made the Syrians flee by sounds of a great army with chariots approaching, so when the lepers arrived, no one was there. The lepers pillaged one tent after another, eating and drinking as they went. (God uses these despised outcasts of Samaria to discover Samaria's deliverance.)
 9. Suddenly they stopped. They realized they must go back to Samaria and share this good fortune with those starving there. They ran back and told the watchmen the Syrians had fled their camp, leaving all their provisions. The news traveled to the palace. Rising from his bed, the king suspected this to be a plot of Syria to lure them out of their gates only to attack and destroy them. He had already forgotten Elisha's prophesy.
 10. It is suggested they send out scouts to be sure. The scouts followed a trail of clothing and vessels dropped by the Syrians all the way to the Jordan River. Those of Samaria rushed out of their city plundering the Syrian camp. By morning of the next day, flour and barley were selling cheap, just as Elisha had said. The king appointed his unbelieving officer to control traffic at the city gate. He was knocked down and trampled to death by the starved masses rushing out to the Syrian camp.
 11. Elisha had warned the Shunammite woman of the seven year famine that would besiege Samaria. He had told her to move her family away during this time. Now, she returned, a widow, to reclaim her house and property. As she approached the king, Gehazi was telling the king of the many miracles God did through Elisha. In particular, of bringing the Shunammite woman's son back to life. The king asked her if this was true. She indicated that it was. He told his assistant to see that she got her house and land back and the value of any crops harvested on her land while she was gone.
 12. Elisha went to Damascus, capital of Syria, where King Ben-hadad lay sick. The king sent Hazael with a present to Elisha to see if he would get well. Hazael took Elisha forty camel loads of Syria's finest produce. With a long glaring stare at Hazael, Elisha told him his king would die. Through God's revelation, Elisha knew Hazael would kill King Ben-hadad and overtake his throne. He cried, knowing Hazael would burn Israel's forts and cruelly kill its men, women, and babies. Yet, Hazael piously protested.
 13. Hazael returned to the king, telling him he would get better. Then he took a wet blanket and covered the king's face, smothering him to death. Although he was not of the royal family, he assumed the Syrian throne.
 14. In Judah, King Jehoram, son of Jehoshaphat, reigned eight years, beginning at the age of thirty-two. He was as wicked as the kings of Israel, for he had married

one of Ahab's daughters, Athaliah, who brought Baal worship to Judah, accelerating Judah's downfall. (II Chronicles 21:5-7) Although God did not destroy Judah for their sin (because of God's promise to David), they lost Edom and Libnah in a revolt. (II Chronicles 21:16) Upon Jehoram's death, his son, Ahaziah succeeded him at the age of twenty-two. His evil mother, Athaliah taught him the ways of her father, Ahab, so he was an evil king as well. Ahaziah reigned only one year.

15. Another downfall of King Ahaziah was his association with King Joram of Israel. They united together against Syria in battle at Ramoth-gilead. King Joram was wounded and went to Jezreel to recover. King Ahaziah came to visit him. Meanwhile, Elisha had a young prophet take a vial of oil to anoint Jehu, Israel's army captain, as Israel's new king. The young prophet found Jehu among other military officers at Ramoth-gilead. He took him to a private room to anoint him king and tell him God wanted him to completely destroy the family of Ahab. Idolatry threatened to destroy all remaining good influences in Israel and spread to Judah which would have destroyed the whole nation. Thus, Ahab's household was marked for extinction.
16. Jehu assumed his friends had been a part of the prophet's coming. They assured him they knew nothing of it. They laid an "impromptu carpet" with their coats in honor of their new king. He enlisted their allegiance as he rode to Jezreel for King Joram. Jehu was spotted in the distance by a watchman. King Joram sent two messengers to see who was approaching and if they came in peace. Jehu retained the messengers to prevent any "leak" to Joram of his coming. His furious pace, customary of Jehu soon gave him away.
17. King Joram assumed he came with bad news of the conflict at Ramoth-gilead. Joram and Ahaziah rode out to meet him at Naboth's vineyard. Joram asked Jehu if he came in peace. Jehu played on his words, saying there was no peace with the evils of his mother all around. Joram fled for his life, but was shot in the back with Jehu's arrow. His body was discarded in Naboth's field. His men pursued Ahaziah on the road to Gur. He was also shot with an arrow. Although he was able to travel on to Megiddo, he died there.
18. Jehu went on to Jezreel for Jezebel. She fixed herself and waited at a palace window. When Jehu entered the palace gate, she called down to him hoping to stop him by reminding him of Zimri's fate. Jehu asked who was on his side. Two or three eunuchs signalled to him. He told them to throw her out the window. This they did. Jehu's chariot horses then trampled her broken body. He went into the palace for lunch. Afterward, he belatedly remembered Jezebel was a princess and needed to be buried. By that time, the dogs had devoured all but her skull, her feet, and her hands. The Lord's prediction by Elijah was fulfilled.
19. Jehu now executed God's wrath upon Ahab's remaining male descendants. He wrote the council of Samaria challenging them to pick one of Ahab's sons to fight for the throne (a gladiatorial contest). (II Samuel 2:11-17) All seventy of them were too afraid, knowing Jehu had killed both Joram and Ahaziah. The council wrote back saying they were his servants and he was their king. Jehu demanded proof of their allegiance by their sending Ahab's sons' heads to him at Jezreel at the same time tomorrow. His request was fulfilled even by the chief men of the

- city who had raised Ahab's sons from early childhood. Their heads were piled in baskets and left at the city gate.
20. Jehu sought to give the people the impression he had nothing to do with this massacre alleging they died by their own evil deeds and the prophecy of Elijah. (I Kings 21:21, 22) Jehu killed all remaining members of Ahab's family in Jezreel, as well as his staff and close friends. Jehu left Jezreel for Samaria. He stayed overnight at a shepherd's inn and met the brothers of Ahaziah going to visit Ahab's family. His men seized and killed all forty two of them to prevent a counter-revolution.
 21. As Jehu continued on to Samaria, he met Jehonadab. Jehonadab's joining Jehu in his chariot, signified his loyalty and acceptance of Jehu as God's servant. In Samaria, Jehu continued his slaughter of Ahab's family and friends. Then he called a meeting of all the people. He pretended to be a Baal worshipper. Subtly, he planned a trap. All Baal prophets and worshippers were to come together at his temple in their special robes for a celebration. As they assembled in Baal's temple, Jehu's men surrounded the temple and slaughtered those inside. The robes made it easy to identify Baal's priests. They dragged out the pillar used for worshipping Baal and burned it. They wrecked the temple and turned it into a public toilet. Jehu intended to completely destroy the power of Ahab's dynasty by removing these deterrents. He also sought those loyal to Jehovah and those who would secure his position. Jehu's zeal to exceed the Lord's command in this blood shed caused him criticism by Hosea. (1:4)
 22. However, Jehu did not destroy the golden calves of Jeroboam at Bethel and Dan. He worshipped these idols and for this sin, God allowed King Hazael of Syria to take captive areas of Israel east of Jordan as well as Gilead, Gad, Reuben, and parts of Manasseh. Jehu reigned over Israel twenty eight years. He was succeeded by his son, Jehoahaz.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - tools - toys, craft sticks, scrap lumber, crafted axe
 - armor - toy helmet, shield, sword, spear
 - blindfold, sunglasses
 - map - Dothan, Syria, Samaria, Jezreel, Jordan River, Ramoth-gilead, Gad, Reuben, Manasseh
 - toy soldiers
 - sackcloth - burlap, muslin-type fabric, tunic
 - lepers - polka dot spoon-face puppets
 - food/drink - real or pretend, magazine cut outs
 - other provisions - clothing, "gold" nuggets, play money, pots, pitchers
 - woman's house - toy house, cardboard constructed/crafted house
 - container of oil
 - chariot - toy or crafted
 - bow and arrow - toy
 - palace model
 - letter - rolled paper with a seal/envelope
 - basket with doll head(s) - potatoes, marbles, balls with faces, grapes
 - Baal temple model - crafted

golden calf - toy cow painted gold
kings - crowns

- Puppets/Dolls-woman, son
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Awesome God
- Climb Climb Up Sunshine Mountain
- Elisha Was A Man Of God
- Have You Seen Jesus My Lord
- He's My Rock My Sword My Shield
- I Love You Lord
- I'm A Hard Fighting Soldier
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Into My Heart
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- My Jesus
- O Be Careful Little Eyes
- O God You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- Thank You Lord
- This Little Christian Light
- We Will Glorify

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Wicked People"
"Kings"
"God's Warrior" (spiritual armor)
"Prophets"
- *Individual Influences* - Discuss with students influential people in their lives. Talk about how or in what ways these people influence them. Help them to separate good influences from bad influences and how they might deal with the latter. Let students illustrate or use cuts-outs of those good influences. Option: Use photos mounted on a background.
- *God's Provisions And Care* - When we serve God, He provides us with opportunity to get what we need in life. He cares for us much more than the birds and flowers. Help students brainstorm ways that God shows his love and care for us today. Create a flip chart as a class with magazine cut-outs or illustrations or colored coloring book pages.
- *Character Clues* - Give students clues of different Bible characters from today's lesson. Older students may want to write out clues themselves. Have students guess the character from the clues given and tell if that person was obedient to God or not.
- *Scripture Search* - Have older students search the scriptures to decide whether capital punishment is right or wrong. Have them discuss their finding.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What miracles occurred in this lesson? What do they teach us?
2. Why was God protective of His people? How does this apply to us?
3. What did the four lepers discover? How did they discover this? Why did they share their discovery with those in Samaria?

4. Why were those in Samaria hesitant to go to the Syrian camp at first? Later, how did they react?
5. Why had the Shunammite woman and her son been away? For what did she come back? Was she successful? Explain.
6. Which kings were good kings? Which were wicked kings? How did the women in their lives influence them?
7. Who influences you? In what ways? Whom do you influence?
8. Describe Jehu. Did he please God? In what ways?
9. Why did God want some individuals eliminated? Is capital punishment right or wrong today?

Old Testament

Lesson 94: Joash Repairs The Temple

Text: II Kings 11-17

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 11:21 | Seven years old was Jehoash when he began to reign. |
| | Psalms 143:10 | Teach me to do Thy will; for Thou art my God: Thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. |
| | II Corinthians 5:10 | For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. |
| | II Corinthians 9:7 | Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we must remain faithful to God even if others try to get us to disobey. • we can show love and respect for God by taking care of His house. • God is always fair in His rewards and in His punishments. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. A boy becomes king.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Jehoash rescued.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Jehoash anointed king of Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Athaliah is killed.</p> | II Kings 11 |
| <p>II. Jehoash repairs God's temple.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Money is collected.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. The temple is restored.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Treasures given to the Syrians.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. Jehoash is slain.</p> | II Kings 12 |
| <p>III. Evil kings in Israel.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Jehoahaz oppressed by Syria.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Joash* and Jeroboam.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Elisha prophecies before his death.</p> | II Kings 13 |

* Joash is also spelled "Jehoash"

- IV. Kings of Israel and Judah. II Kings 14
A. Amaziah, a good king for Judah.
B. Azariah succeeds his father.
C. Jeroboam ignores God.
- V. The last short reigns of Israel's evil kings. II Kings 15
A. Jotham succeeds Azariah in Judah.
B. Shallum succeeds Zachariah in Israel.
C. Pekahiah succeeds Menahem in Israel.
D. Hoshea succeeds Pekah in Israel.
- VI. An evil king in Judah. II Kings 16
A. Ahaz, an evil king for Judah.
B. Ahaz spoils the temple of God.
C. Hezekiah succeeds his father, Ahaz.
- VII. Israel is punished by God. II Kings 17
A. God allows Assyria to take Samaria captive.
B. Israel is deported and their lands overtaken.

Facts:

1. When King Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, learned of his death, she ordered all his children killed so she could assume Judah's throne as queen. Unaware, Ahaziah's half sister, Jehosheba (wife of Jehoiada, the high priest), hid Joash, the youngest of Ahaziah's children in a storage room in the temple for six years. Jehoiada, the priest, had the palace guards come to the temple to meet Joash. He instructed one third of the guard to watch the palace and two thirds to guard Joash at the temple as Jehoiada anointed him king at the age of seven.
2. When Queen Athaliah heard the clapping and shouts for the new king, she ran to the temple. (The presence of the multitudes indicates this occurred on a feast day.) She screamed of treason as Jehoiada had her own palace guards drag her to the palace stables to kill her. Jehoiada renewed the covenant between God, the new king, and the people that they would serve Jehovah. As a group, they tore down the temple of Baal and killed Mattan, Baal's priest.
3. Jehoiada taught King Joash God's laws and he tried to please God as Judah's king, although he failed to destroy the idol altars in the hills. Joash recognized God's temple was in great need of repair. He told the priests to use the money coming into the temple to make the necessary repairs. Two types of offerings came into the temple: payment to fulfil a vow or personal assessment to support the Levites (1/10) and free will offerings to God. The king's instructions were not carried out. So Joash came back and commanded that a new arrangement be set up for collecting the repair money, eliminating the priests as collectors.
4. Jehoiada took a chest with a slot in the lid and set it at the temple gate. All the people's contributions to the temple went into it. It would be distributed to those making the repairs by the foremen in charge. It could not be used for articles used within the temple for service. The trespass or sin offerings were not to go in the chest for repairs. It went to the priests for their needs.

5. In time, Jehoiada died (130 years old) and was buried in Jerusalem with the kings. Young King Joash was swayed by city leaders to desert Jehovah and worship idols. God sent Jehoiada's son, Zechariah to urge Judah and Joash to turn back to serving Jehovah, but Joash had Zechariah executed. For his sin, God allowed Syria to capture Gath and hold Jerusalem hostage with the threat of invasion. Joash ransomed Judah with all the treasures dedicated by him and his forefathers to the temple and the palace. He sent these to King Hazael of Syria to call off his attack. King Joash was later assassinated by his own servants. Joash reigned in Judah forty years and was succeeded by his son, Amaziah. (II Chronicles 24)
6. Meanwhile, King Jehoahaz succeeded his father, Jehu, as king of Israel. He was a wicked king following the idolatry of Jereboam, so God allowed King Hazael and his son, Ben-hadad to conquer Israel. Forced, now, to seek God's help, Jehoahaz prayed for God's deliverance. For the sake of His oppressed people, God created leaders among Israel to rescue them from Syria's tyranny. Israel's "repentance" was short lived. They again worshipped Asherah and other idols. God reduced Jehoahaz's army to a mere fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers. Jehoahaz reigned seventeen years before he was succeeded by his son, Joash.
7. Joash (Jehoash) reigned sixteen years in Samaria beginning in 798 B.C. Although Baal had been uprooted, the golden calves of Jeroboam were still at Dan and Bethel and were still worshipped by Israel. As Elisha lay seriously ill, Joash came to visit him. Elisha had King Joash shoot an arrow out his eastern window. He had Joash strike his arrows against the floor. Joash struck them three times. Elisha prophesied Israel would conquer Syria at Aphek and they would be victorious three times. (If Joash had struck the floor five or six times, God would have helped him completely destroy Syria.)
8. Elisha died and was buried. Each spring, Moabite bandits invaded the area. As some men were burying a friend, they spied these bandits and quickly threw their friend's body into Elisha's tomb. As the man's body touched Elisha's bones, the dead man became alive. God used this miracle to confirm His promise to Joash to deliver Israel.
9. In spite of Syria's oppression of Israel during King Joash's reign, God had pity on Israel and God sought to honor His promise to Abraham. When King Hazael of Syria died, King Joash was able on three occasions to successfully reconquer the cities east of Jordan lost to Syria.
10. Back in Judah, King Amaziah succeeded his father, King Joash of Judah at the age of twenty five (797 B.C.) He ruled much as his father had, leaving the idol altars in the hills. Once crowned king, he had those killed who assassinated his father. (Deuteronomy 24:16) He warred against Edom, unprovoked, killing 10,000 Edomites and conquering Selah (Petra) as well. He brought Edom's idol gods back to Jerusalem to worship. In arrogance and the flush of victory, King Amaziah challenged Israel's King Joash to war.
11. King Joash (the cedar tree) advised Amaziah (the thistle) to be content with his glory over Edom and stay home. Joash had proven his might in conquering Syria's army. Amaziah challenged him again. The battle began at Beth-shemesh in Judah. Judah was sorely defeated and King Amaziah was captured. Israel destroyed the wall of Jerusalem (600 foot span) and took hostages as well as all the gold and silver treasure from the palace and the temple. (II Chronicles 25) Amaziah lived fifteen

- years beyond King Joash of Israel. He was later assassinated and buried in Jerusalem.
12. Jeroboam II succeeded his father King Joash in Israel. He continued the worship of the calves at Dan and Bethel. Yet he was an able military administrator and as prophesied by Jonah, God helped Jeroboam recover conquered territories of Israel between Hamath and the Dead Sea. Jeroboam II reigned forty one years. He was succeeded by his son Zachariah.
 13. In Judah, King Amaziah was succeeded by his son, Azariah (also called Uzziah). King Azariah worshipped Jehovah, but he, too, did not eliminate the high places of worship in the hills. He sinned against God by entering the holy place in the temple and assuming the priest's role in burning incense. For this, God struck Azariah with leprosy and he lived in isolation the rest of his days. Jotham, his son, reigned in his stead. (II Chronicles 26)
 14. Concurrent with King Azariah's reign in Judah, Israel had five different kings. Their disregard for God's covenant hastened Israel's destruction.
 - 1) Zachariah followed his father Jeroboam II. His reign lasted only six months. He encouraged Israel's idol worship and was publicly assassinated by Shallum who assumed the throne.
 - 2) Shallum reigned only one month; Menahem slayed Shallum and assumed the throne. (Josephus - Antiq. IX 11.1) Having become a military monarchy, when Jehu's family line died out, the army general was next in line to the throne.
 - 3) Menahem destroyed the city of Tiphseh for they refused to accept him as king. Menahem was an evil king. Invaded by Assyria, he was captured and made a vassal, forced to pay high tribute (taxes) which he passed on to the rich. He reigned ten years.
 - 4) Menahem was succeeded by his son, Pekahiah who also was evil and continued idol worship. Pekahiah reigned two years. He was assassinated in the palace by his own commander in chief, Pekah.
 - 5) Pekah also led Israel to worship idols. God allowed King Tiglath-pileser (also called Pul of Assyria) to capture several cities of Israel and deport those captive to Assyria. Pekah reigned twenty years and was assassinated by Hoshea who became Israel's next king with King Tiglath's approval.
 15. Meanwhile in Judah, King Jotham reigned following the Lord, but again, not eliminating the idol worship of the hills. During Jotham's reign, the upper gate on the north side of the Lord's temple was rebuilt. The Lord allowed Syria and Israel to attack Judah. Jotham reigned and was succeeded by his son, Ahaz.
 16. Ahaz was a wicked king who brought Baal worship to Judah and offered his own son as a burnt sacrifice. The Lord allowed Syria and Israel to war with Judah capturing the city of Elath for Syria because of Ahaz' sin. Assyria was the most powerful nation of that time. The price of Assyria's protection was to become a vassal. Ahaz took the gold and silver from the temple and palace to give the Assyrian king, Tiglath-pileser for their protection. Assyria attacked Damascus, Syria's capital and killed the king.
 17. King Ahaz then went to Damascus to petition for favor with King Tiglath of Assyria. While there, King Ahaz saw an impressive heathen altar of which he sketched and took dimensions. He had Uriah, the high priest build one like it for God's temple. The original bronze altar by God's instructions was pushed aside and replaced by

- this one. King Ahaz offered sacrifices on it upon his return to Jerusalem. He also stripped the temple furnishings of any valuable ornamentation to prevent King Tiglath from taking them. God was not pleased with Ahaz's actions.
18. In time, King Shalmaneser took Tiglath's throne as king of Assyria. He attacked and conquered Israel making them pay heavy taxes. King Hoshea of Israel rebelled by attempting an alliance with King So of Egypt to free themselves from Assyria. King Shalmaneser found out and imprisoned Hoshea. About three years later, God allowed Assyria to completely take captive Israel and deport them to Halah. Deportation or lack of it served as a means of controlling subject nations.
 19. After nineteen evil kings and about 250 years, Israel continually sinned against Jehovah God and broken their covenant with Him. They refused to stop worshipping idol gods. In spite of the prophets God had sent to warn Israel and in spite of God's commands He had given their forefathers, they had rejected Him. The people Jehovah had rescued from slavery in Egypt now found themselves enslaved again to Assyria because of their sin.
 20. King Shalmaneser died during or just after Israel's captivity. King Sargon II, his successor, may have been the one who re-peopled Samaria with those from Babylon, Cuth, Hamath and other nations. God allowed lions to kill some of the new arrivals to humble them. They appealed to Assyria for someone knowing the "god of the land" to teach them how to worship (or appease) him so he would stop destroying them. One of the exiled priests of Israel was sent back to teach them of Jehovah. Although these foreigners worshipped Jehovah, they still worshipped their idol gods. Israel, even in exile, continued in their sins.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - sword
 - baby doll/nurse's hat - paper
 - storage room - table with a sheet over it
 - soldier's armor - helmet, spear, breastplate
 - crown/robe - bath robe, coat, cape, fabric remnant with a sweater guard
 - jar of oil
 - throne - "special" chair painted gold or draped with red, purple, gold, royal blue fabric
 - money - play, gold or silver paper circles
 - chest - box with a hole in the top
 - toy tools, wood blocks for temple repairs, paint brushes, dust rag, broom
 - idol gods - statue, clay figures, carved foam
 - bed - mat, blanket
 - toy soldiers
 - gold painted toy cows
 - toy arrows/bow
 - bandits - mask
 - Elisha's tomb - table with a sheet, paper or clay model
 - map
 - leprosy - white sticky dots (label paper)
 - heathen altar - use your imagination, sketch pad, graph paper, measurements
 - lions - toy, stuffed

- Puppets/Dolls
- Video - Charlie Church Mouse: Forgiveness
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook

Songs:

- Building Up The Temple
- Elisha Was A Man Of God
- God Is Not Dead
- Happy Feet And Hands Can Help
- He Paid A Debt
- Humble Yourself
- I Have Decided
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Jehovah Jireh
- King Joash
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- May I Call You Father
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Seek Ye First
- The Law Of The Lord Is Perfect
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Tiptoe Tiptoe In God's House
- Unto Thee O Lord
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Kings"
"God's Promises"
"Wicked People"
- It might be fun to use your students as the characters of this lesson. Use costumes, hats, or other props. As one ruler dies, move the crown and robe on to the next "king." You will need a king of Judah and a king of Israel simultaneously.
- Continue your chart on poster board or craft paper of the kings reigning in Israel and Judah. This will help students better visualize the divided kingdoms. Use happy or sad faces for good or bad kings.
- *Pressure Points* - Create an activity where students must deal with being put on the spot or under pressure to quit or take the easy road. It may be an obstacle course to pass through or difficult peer situations to role play. Discuss possible other options they could have chosen. Follow up with the rewards or consequences of their choices.
- *Money Chest* - Younger students may want to make a money chest. Suggested materials: plastic margarine tub, jewelry size boxes, craft sticks. Decorate with macaroni, glitter, sequins, craft paints, dried beans. Discuss why we contribute money each Sunday in worship. Talk about what that money is used for.
- *A Worker I Will Be* - In talking about King Joash and the repairs to the temple guide students to see things they can do in the classroom or around the church building to help maintain the building and show respect for God's house and/or church property. You may see something specific you could make a class project. Check with the deacon in charge of building and grounds or invite him to talk briefly to your class about his responsibilities at the building.
- *God Is Good* - Discuss the necessity of God's judgment and punishment upon Israel. Help students see the great lengths and numerous chances God gave Israel to change their evil pursuits and come back to Him. Point out the prophets and many warnings God sent to Israel. Draw parallels with those that do not heed His

warnings today. Guide them to see how fair God is and how sad it makes Him to punish His people. Explain words like mercy, repentance, forgiveness. Follow up with current age appropriate situations. Let students sort the situations as fair or unfair. Let them discuss how they feel when someone is fair or unfair to them.

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How could you stand up for right even when everyone else will not? Tell of an incident when you showed this kind of courage.
2. Why is it better to do what is right than be popular among your friends?
3. Are there others that would follow you if you showed the courage to do right? How would others feel about you even if they did not have the courage to follow you?
4. Are you really all alone when you do what God wants you to? Who in today's lesson showed courage to do right and who did not?
5. What can you do to increase your courage to do right?
6. How did King Joash show love and respect for God's temple? How can you show love and respect for God's house?
7. What characteristics did those that worked to repair God's temple display? (honesty, fairness, cheerful workers) How can you show these same characteristics?
8. Why did God have to punish Israel? How did He punish them?
9. Was God fair in His punishment? Explain. Do we sometimes suffer punishment? How is this fair and good for us?
10. What things should Israel and its kings have done differently?

Old Testament

Lesson 95: God Hears Hezekiah's Prayers

Text: II Kings 18-21

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 18:5 | He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him. |
| | Psalms 34:4 | I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. |
| | Psalms 105:1, 2 | O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people. |
| | Matthew 6:6 | But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when we demonstrate by our actions we want to please God and put Him first, God will bless us. • when we earnestly and sincerely pray to God for His help in difficult situations or serious problems, He will help us. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. Hezekiah makes important decisions.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. King Hezekiah destroys idolatry.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Assyria invades Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Rab-shakeh tries to get Judah to revolt.</p> | II Kings 18 |
| <p>II. God hears Hezekiah's prayer.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Isaiah prays for Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. A threatening letter.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Hezekiah prays for help.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. God delivers.</p> | II Kings 19 |
| <p>III. The sign on the sundial.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Hezekiah prays when he is sick.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. God cares for Hezekiah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Isaiah prophesies of captivity.</p> | II Kings 20 |
| <p>IV. Idolatry is back.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. King Manasseh follows the crowd.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. King Amon follows his father.</p> | II Kings 21 |

Facts:

1. Upon the death of King Ahaz of Judah, his son, Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah was anointed king in 715 B.C. Unlike his father, King Hezekiah loved and trusted Jehovah God. He had all the shrines of the hills and forms of idolatry completely removed from Judah. Even the bronze serpent Moses had made had become an object of idol worship so Hezekiah had it removed. Because of his faithful trust and obedience to God, God blessed Hezekiah and caused his efforts to prosper. (II Chronicles 29-31) Hezekiah witnessed the captivity of Israel by Assyria because of Israel's rebellion against Jehovah.
2. In due time (Hezekiah's fourteenth year as king), Assyria captured the cities of Judah. With a lack of allies to help him fight, Hezekiah promised to pay tribute to King Sennacherib to leave them in peace. The Assyrian king demanded about \$1,500,000 of silver and gold. King Hezekiah took this from the temple, its doors, and palace treasury.
3. Over the next several years, God helped Judah regain some of its captured territories. Hezekiah stopped sending tax money to Assyria. King Sennacherib sent his men back to Judah. They asked to speak to King Hezekiah, but he sent his own ranking officers to meet with them (as was protocol). The message from Assyria was the threat of war and captivity. They insulted Jehovah God and the Judeans by saying God was not powerful enough to save them and Hezekiah had destroyed the idol gods whom they could have called upon for help. Besides, even an alliance with a great nation such as Egypt would not help them against Assyria's large army so they should just surrender peacefully.
4. Hezekiah's men asked the Assyrians to talk in Aramaic rather than Hebrew so as not to further upset the Judean people along the city wall overhearing this conversation. King Sennacherib's men then appealed to the people listening, to turn against Hezekiah and bargain for leniency with Assyria or die. They continued to insult the power of God. Without reply to these Assyrians, the Judeans tore their clothes in sorrow for such blasphemies against Jehovah.
5. When King Hezekiah received his men's report, he, too, tore his clothes in sorrow and put on sack cloth. Hezekiah sent some of the priests to Isaiah to pray for Judah's deliverance. He realized his army was not strong enough to take the Assyrians, but God was. Isaiah sent word back to King Hezekiah not to worry, for God would seal the fate of Assyria's king.
6. King Sennacherib had hoped to subdue Judah out of fear and without a fight. He now called his general home because King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was coming to attack Assyria. Before heading back, he sent a threatening letter to King Hezekiah. He told Hezekiah not to trust in Jehovah for protection, for God would only deceive him. No one could stand against the might of Assyria. He should take note of Assyria's previous conquests.
7. King Hezekiah read the letter. He took it to the temple and spread it out for the Lord to read, leaving Him to punish the blasphemy of it. In a most earnest appeal for God's help, Hezekiah prayed. (God is glorified when we cast ourselves so completely on His power and mercy.) Humbly, Hezekiah acknowledged Jehovah as King of kings and Creator of the universe. He acknowledged Assyria's conquests and he acknowledged God's almighty power to save Judah from them.
8. Isaiah sent a message to King Hezekiah that God had heard his plea. The first part of His reply was to King Sennacherib. The virgin daughter was Jerusalem who was

- unconquerable by King Sennacherib because of his boastful threats and mockery. In shame, God would cause Sennacherib to lose his entire army. God showed Sennacherib to have been empowered by God for God's own purposes, as a mere instrument. Now, because of his arrogance, God's vengeance would bring him down and show him the same shame he had shown his captives.
9. Isaiah prophesied of the proof of his prophecy being the volunteer wheat crop that the Jews would have to harvest the coming year, being a sabbatical year. King Sennacherib's soldiers would not be around to spoil that. (Leviticus 25) Jerusalem would escape destruction and its population multiply. Sennacherib's siege tactics would never materialize against Jerusalem.
 10. That night, God's angel killed 185,000 Assyrian troops. Their dead bodies were discovered across the fields the next morning. Without an army, King Sennacherib returned to Nineveh where his own sons, Adrammelech and Sharezer killed him as he worshipped. Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled.
 11. King Hezekiah became deathly ill. (Isaiah 38 suggests God was not pleased with Hezekiah's alliance with foreign allies.) Hezekiah went privately to God in sincere prayer, begging for his life so he might have more time to establish moral reform among the people. God heard Hezekiah's prayer and sent Isaiah to tell him he will let Hezekiah live fifteen more years. Isaiah told Hezekiah to make a fig paste to put on his boil for healing. He would be well in three days. Hezekiah asked Isaiah for proof of his healing prophecy. Through God, Isaiah sent the shadow on the sundial ten points backwards.
 12. Berodach-baladan was twice king of Babylon. He sought to make an ally of Hezekiah by sending him a present while he was sick. (Hezekiah had still not given up the practice of making alliances with foreign nations.) Hezekiah welcomed his guests and showed them all his treasures and his kingdom to prove himself an able ally.
 13. As they left, Isaiah came to Hezekiah asking what these visitors wanted. Isaiah knew the ambassadors from Babylon had an ulterior motive and he warned Hezekiah they would be back to attack and take captive his treasures and his family in the future. Hezekiah's short sighted attitude expressed little concern for what would befall his future generations. He was only concerned that he might enjoy peace times during his reign. (II Chronicles 32:31)
 14. Hezekiah was credited with the construction of a pool and pipe or waterway system that brought water into the city of Jerusalem. Hezekiah reigned twenty-nine years. Upon his death, his son, Manasseh, became king.
 15. Manasseh was an evil king, influenced by the kings of Israel. He restored the shrines in the hills and rebuilt the altars to Baal and Asherah. He put heathen altars even in the temple of God and offered his own son as a burnt sacrifice. He practiced sorcery and fortune telling. Manasseh enticed God's people to do more evil than the surrounding heathen nations and he murdered large numbers of God's prophets as if to provoke God's anger. (II Chronicles 33:11) And that he did!
 16. God was greatly displeased with Manasseh's deliberate sinful actions. So, He declared the destruction of Jerusalem. So harsh would be their fall, it would be as a screechy musical note that would horrify those who heard it. The sin in Jerusalem had become compatible with that of Samaria when Ahab was king. God had no further use for these people. King Manasseh died after a fifty-five year reign and was buried in the palace garden at Uzza for he was not worthy to be buried with his royal forefathers.

17. At the age of twenty-two, Amon, Manasseh's son, became king. He was as evil as his father, worshipping idols and forsaking God. His court officials conspired against him and assassinated him in his palace. Then the civilians of Jerusalem killed all the assassins and put Amon's son, Josiah on the throne. Amon reigned only two years and was buried with his father.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - crown / robe
 - idol gods - statues, clay figures, gold toy cow
 - bronze painted snake on a dowel or tube post
 - silver and gold coins, play money, painted gravel (nuggets)
 - soldier's armor - helmet(bowl), shield(foil), toy sword, stick spear
 - model of Jerusalem, temple
 - torn garment - fabric remnant
 - letter - scroll, stationery and envelope
 - praying hands - visual cut out, model
 - toy soldiers
 - dead Assyrians - dolls, small crosses to mark cemetery plots
 - King Hezekiah in bed
 - present - wrapped box, gift bag
 - fig paste - raisins, prunes, fig newtons
 - sundial - crafted model, picture
- Puppets/Dolls
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Hezekiah Was So Sad
- As The Deer
- God Is Listening
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Love The Lord Messiah
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- Into My Heart
- Lord My Desire
- Oh God You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- Standing In The Need Of Prayer
- Teach Me Lord To Wait
- The B-I-B-L-E
- There's Power In Prayer
- Tiptoe Tiptoe In God's House
- We Bow Down
- We Will Glorify
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- Video: "Charlie Church Mouse - What's Valuable In Life"
- File Folder Activities: "Prayer"
- *So What's The Difference* - Hezekiah made up his mind he wanted to please Jehovah God and represent Him to others. List or discuss how our behavior as Christians or followers of God must be different from those that don't love God. Example: sharing vs. selfish, language, worship, forgiveness vs. a grudge, honesty vs. lying. Students

might create collage pictures of differences between a Christian and non-Christian activities. Create situations and allow students to give solutions/ responses that put God first.

- *Putting God First* - Have students choose two people to interview. Have them ask: 1) What do you think it means to put God first? 2) Tell me about a time when you put God first. This might be assigned prior to this class period or to report on next class period.
- *Prayer Power* - Discuss with students how everyone, including Hezekiah, has difficult situations and problems with which to deal. God doesn't promise Christians they won't have problems, but He does promise to help us deal with them. Talk about difficult situations we can pray about, how Hezekiah prayed, how God answered Hezekiah's prayers. What did God have the power to do? Help students write out or illustrate prayers.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What important decisions did King Hezekiah make when he became king?
2. How did King Hezekiah put God first? How did God bless Hezekiah and Judah as a result? How do you put God first?
3. How did King Sennacherib threaten Hezekiah? How do you think this made Hezekiah feel? What did he do about it?
4. What important things can you pray to God about? Did God answer Hezekiah's prayer? Will He answer yours?
5. How did God carry out Isaiah's prophecy about King Sennacherib?
6. What did Hezekiah do when he got sick? Why? How did God answer Hezekiah?
7. What mistake did Hezekiah make? What can we learn from his mistake?
8. How did King Manasseh and King Amon treat God? How did this make God feel? What did He do?
9. How do your actions and your worship make God feel? Is there something you need to do to make God more pleased with you?

Old Testament

Lesson 96: King Josiah Obeys God's Word

Text: II Kings 22-25

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| Memory Verses: | II Kings 23:25 | And like unto him was there no king before, him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him. |
| | Eccles. 12:13, 14 | Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. |
| | Lamentations 3:40 | Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. |
| | I Timothy 4:12 | Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the word of God is our guide for living. We must study His word and show respect for it. • God is pleased when we are a good example to those around us and He will bless us as He did Josiah. • God promises to punish willful sin. God always keeps His promises. |
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Outline:

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| <p>I. The reforms of Good King Josiah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. Josiah repairs God's temple.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Hilkiah finds God's laws.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. Huldah's prophesy.</p> | <p>II Kings 22</p> |
| <p>II. Josiah destroys idolatry in Judah.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">A. The covenant renewed.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">B. Idols destroyed.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">C. The Passover.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">D. King Jehoahaz.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">E. King Jehoiakim.</p> | <p>II Kings 23</p> |

- III. Nebuchadnezzar's invasion. II Kings 24
A. King Jehoiakim taken captive.
B. King Jehoiachin and all of Jerusalem captured.
C. King Zedekiah.
- IV. The inevitable fall of Judah. II Kings 25
A. Jerusalem under siege.
B. Zedekiah loses his sons and his sight.
C. Jerusalem destroyed.
D. Gedaliah governs the remnant.

Facts:

1. Young Josiah became king of Judah at the age of eight upon the death of his father, Amon. Perhaps guided by the high priest, Hilkiah, Josiah tried to reform Judah and eliminate idol worship. At the age of twenty-six, Josiah ordered that repairs be made on God's temple. Money collected at the temple doors paid the carpenters, stone masons, and bought the necessary supplies. Those in charge spent God's money wisely.
2. As repairs were being made, Hilkiah found a copy of God's law. Shaphan, the king's assistant, read God's laws to King Josiah. The king realized he and his people had not been obeying all of God's laws. He tore his clothing in sorrow and shame. King Josiah told Shaphan to find out if God's anger and judgments could be stayed.
3. The nearest source to an answer from Jehovah was the prophetess, Huldah. God told her that He would destroy Jerusalem and its people because of their disregard for Him and their blatant idol worship. Because of Josiah's sorrow and humble spirit before God and his penitent attitude, the destruction of Judah would not occur during his lifetime. This they relayed to the king. (II Chronicles 34:24, 25)
4. King Josiah took hope in God's mercy. He called for all the elders, priests, and other leaders to gather all the people at the temple. There, Josiah read all of God's laws to them and publically renewed the covenant (promise) to God to serve and obey Him only. All those of Judah renewed this covenant.
5. Next, King Josiah had the priests and his guards eradicate all forms of idol worship in Judah. He removed and burned all idols to Baal and Asherah. He destroyed all zodiac worship of the sun, moon, and stars. He killed all the heathen priests. He removed all the houses of ill repute. Josiah tore down the shrines in the hills and the altars to Molech. Any altars or forms of idol worship erected by former kings were destroyed, including those of Jeroboam. He defiled them by scattering them with human bones and crushing them to dust.
6. Josiah observed the Passover feast, the central reminder of their covenant with God. There had not been such a grand celebration since the judges of Israel. No king tried more faithfully or more exactly to reform God's people.
7. But all of Josiah's good deeds could not deliver Judah from destruction. In time, King Pharaoh-nechoh, king of Egypt attacked the Assyrians at the Euphrates River. King Josiah went to help, but was killed by Pharaoh-nechoh at Megiddo. Josiah was buried in Jerusalem after reigning for thirty-one years. His son, Jehoahaz, succeeded him, but his reign lasted only three months for Pharaoh-nechoh captured him. Jehoahaz, an evil king, died in Egypt.

8. Pharaoh-nechoh taxed Judah heavily. He chose one of Jehoahaz' brothers, Eliakim, to be king of Judah. Pharaoh-nechoh changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim reigned in Judah eleven years as an evil king.
9. During his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon conquered Judah again taxing them heavily (604 B.C.). After three years, Jehoiakim rebelled, but God sent bands of Chaldeans, Moabites, Ammonites, and Syrians to vent their spite and hostilities against Nebuchadnezzar on Jehoiakim and Judah, insuring its destruction. These calamities befell Judah because of the great sins of Manasseh. King Nebuchadnezzar now controlled all of Judah formerly partially claimed by Egypt.
10. Upon the end of Jehoiakim's reign, his son, Jehoiachin, reigned as king for only three months. Babylon was again seized by King Nebuchadnezzar. By surrendering, Jehoiachin hoped to keep his rulership as a vassal king, but due to strong Egyptian influences among Jehoiachin, he was deported to Babylon along with his officers, his sons, and his mother. (Ration tablets from Babylon for Jehoiachin and five sons were discovered in December 1942.)
11. King Nebuchadnezzar took all the temple and palace treasure. He took 10,000 captives, leaving only the poorest and least skilled in Judah to fend for themselves. Nebuchadnezzar then appointed Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's great uncle and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah reigned eleven years as another evil vassal king. The sins of Judah reached a climax under King Zedekiah which brought about their final fall previously pronounced. (II Kings 20:17, 23:27, Jeremiah 52:28-30)
12. In spite of the prophets God sent to warn His people, they continued to sin against Him, so He now allowed their enemies to completely overtake them. After eight years with Zedekiah as king, Nebuchadnezzar again seized (surrounded) Jerusalem for failure to pay the required taxes. The soldiers did not allow anyone to come or go from the city for one and a half years. Because of famine, those of Jerusalem became weak from starvation.
13. King Zedekiah tried to escape with his men through a hole in their walls, but was captured in Jericho. At Riblah (200 miles north), he was judged a rebel. To end his dynasty, Zedekiah was forced to watch his sons die, then his eyes are put out and he remained a prisoner.
14. Meanwhile, Babylon's chief executioner, Nebuzaradan, burned down God's temple, the king's palace, and all homes of value. He ordered the tearing down of Jerusalem's walls. Exiles were taken to Babylon and all valuable treasure or utensils confiscated. The high priest, Seraiah, and his assistants were taken captive to Babylon (Seraiah was related to the prophets, Ezra and Zephaniah.)
15. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah as governor of Judah. Gedaliah advised cooperation with Assyria, but Ishmael, who was of the royal line, thought he should have been chosen governor, so he and his friends went to Mizpah and killed Gedaliah and his court. Ishmael and his men then fled in fear to Egypt for protection.
16. After thirty-seven years in captivity, King Jehoiachin was released by Evil-merodach of Babylon. He treated Jehoiachin kindly with special treatment. Jehoiachin was given regular clothing to replace his prison garments. He then ate at the king's table and had a living allowance the rest of his life. In such treatment, many found hope for the restoration of Israel as a nation.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - Josiah - crown, robe
 - play money, coins, chocolate coins
 - play tools, wooden blocks, paint brush, sandpaper, caulk gun, tape measure
 - “old” dusty Bible, book or scroll (hidden in the classroom)
 - cloth or old shirt to tear
 - prophetess Huldah - scarf or shawl
 - temple model
 - idols - statue, clay or wood model
 - elements of the Passover feast - unleavened bread, roasted lamb
 - armor - helmet, sword, spear, shield
 - map - Egypt, Babylon, Euphrates River, Megiddo
 - treasure - play money, “jewels,” gold and silver bowls, trays, etc.
 - ball and chain, paper chains, handcuffs
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- As The Deer
- Awesome God
- Building Up The Temple
- Deep Down In My Heart
- Ephesians 3 - When I Think Of The Scope
- Happiness Is
- Humble Yourselves
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm A Little Bible
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- May I Call You Father
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Study Your Bible Every Day
- Thank You Lord
- The B-I-B-L-E
- Tiptoe Tiptoe In God's House

Activities:

- *Bible Book* - With craft or construction paper, make a Bible book or scroll. On the inside, print a memory verse or ten commandments. Discuss how we should treat God's word and how important it is to read and study it regularly. Compare God's word to other books. Point out what makes it different and special.
- *Hear Ye Hear Ye* - Allow students to roll play that they are King Josiah. Have them make their “speech” to the people at the temple, “reading” God's lost laws and renewing the covenant to God. Use props to encourage participation. Then discuss how they can be a good example to others like Josiah was. Talk about good vs. bad examples and who has been a good example to them. You may even expound on situations where they would have opportunity to be a good example. (Students may also pretend they are Hilkiah, finding the book of law as he cleaned up the temple.) Variation: Have students write a short note to someone who has been a good example to them.

- *Back In Time* - Using a time line or other age appropriate reference materials, help students visualize the destruction of Jerusalem in the flow of history. Put it in perspective to Israel's captivity. Discuss how many years passed between the two. Review the dividing of the Israelite nation and good and bad kings. Review why Israel and Judah suffered captivity.
- *Password Pockets* - Fold construction paper in half and staple or tape. Cut an opening large enough to reveal one word. Cut strips of paper to fit inside the pocket(s). List words related to the lesson on each strip. Designate teams. Have teams pair up and try with one-word clues to help their teammate guess the password(s) as revealed in the pocket window. Make enough for each student to have a turn.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How was Josiah different from his father and grandfather?
2. What things did Josiah do that pleased God and what could you do to please God?
3. How did Josiah's courage to be a good example make life better for those around him? How could you do the same? Who is a good example to you?
4. How had those before Josiah treated God's house and His word? How do you treat God's house and His word?
5. In today's lesson, who put God first and who did not? What was the result in each case? Which would you choose to do? Why?
6. Were those of Jerusalem warned of the consequences of their sin? Who warned them? Are we warned of the consequences of our sin? Who warns us?
7. What world powers of that time affected Judah? How? Why?
8. Who finally devastated Judah and took them captive for many years?
9. What sins brought upon Judah's destruction? How could this apply today?

Old Testament

Lesson 97: The History Of God's People

Text: I Chronicles 1-10

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| Memory Verses: | I Chron. 10:14 | And enquired not of the Lord: therefore He slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse. |
| | Proverbs 14:12 | There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. |
| | Zechariah 13:9b | ...they shall call on My name, and I will hear them: I will say, it is My people: and they shall say, The Lord is my God. |
| | Romans 14:12 | So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God. |

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| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's chosen people have a clearly defined place in world history. • failure results when we forsake the Lord. |
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Outline:

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| I. | Genealogies. | I Chronicles 1 |
| | A. Introduction. | |
| | B. Adam to Esau. | |
| II. | The generations of Israel's tribes. | I Chronicles 2 |
| | A. Judah to David. | |
| | B. David to Zedekiah. | I Chronicles 3 |
| | C. Other sons of Judah and Simeon. | I Chronicles 4 |
| | D. Trans-Jordan tribes. (Reuben, Gad, 1/2 Manasseh) | I Chronicles 5 |
| | E. Levi, the line of priests to captivity. | I Chronicles 6 |
| | F. Six other tribes. (Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher) | I Chronicles 7 |
| | G. The posterity of Benjamin. | I Chronicles 8 |
| | H. Jerusalem's inhabitants. | I Chronicles 9 |
| III. | The overthrow of King Saul. | I Chronicles 10 |

Facts:

1. "Chronicles" means "the affairs of the days." It condenses the previous twelve books of Jewish history and continues the historical record of Kings. I Chronicles, like II Samuel, is primarily dedicated to the life of David. His royal line is traced

through the genealogies back to Adam. Chronicles was originally written as one book approximately 300 B.C. (100 years after Kings) by, most likely, Ezra through divine inspiration of God. This was written from a priestly perspective and post-exile standpoint. Ezra had a great zeal for the reform of his nation and returning to the law of Moses. As he himself returned with the remnant to Jerusalem in 458 B.C., he took immediate action to restore temple worship to Jehovah and eliminate mixed marriage between Jews and their pagan neighbors.

2. Chronicles was written to the returning remnant who rebuilt Jerusalem. The genealogies were necessary for the redistribution of the land to returning families and to instruct Levite families in what capacity they would serve in the temple upon their return. (Leviticus 25) The majority of the returning remnant were from the southern kingdom (Judah), thus their patriarchal heritage was more greatly emphasized. The rejection of temple worship in Jerusalem by the northern kingdom was also a factor. Chronicles stresses the bright side of Jewish history without denying its failures. Upon Israel's return from exile, they needed to realize they were still God's children of the covenant and captivity had not destroyed God's purpose for them as a nation. It also subtly points to the promise of the "Son of David," the Messiah.
3. Chapter one of I Chronicles summarizes the development of the human race and defines God's people in world history from Adam to Abraham. The descendants of Noah began the branching out of national territories. Those of Japheth included those of Europe and northern Asia: Javan - the Greek, Gomer of the Russian plains, Tubal - Turkey, and Madai - Iran. Ham's descendants occupied Africa and Southwest Asia: Put - Libya, Mizraim - Egypt, Cush - Ethiopia, Canaan - Palestine. Nimrod was a Cushite of Babylonia known as a mighty hunter. Shem's people stayed closest to central Asia: Lud - Asia Minor, Aram - Syria, Elam - north of the Persian Gulf. (Note the source of pagan nations Israel met in later history.) (Genesis 10)
4. The lineage of Adam to Abraham is traced through Noah's son, Shem. During Peleg's lifetime, the people were divided by language due to the tower of Babel. (Genesis 11) The nomadic Arabian descendants of Abraham's concubines, Hagar and Keturah, are mentioned before turning to Sarah's son, Isaac, the child of promise. Isaac's twins, Jacob and Esau are mentioned, focusing briefly on Esau, father of the Edomites. (Genesis 36) Job was from Uz (1:42) and may have been an early Edomite descendant. (Job 1:1) (Esau's son, Eliphaz, father of Teman (1:36) may have been the one after which Job's friend, Eliphaz the Temanite, was named. Job 2:11)
5. The name "Jew" is derived from "Judah." Those of Ezra's community, returning from exile, were primarily from the southern kingdom. To establish national purity, the writer now focused on the descendants of Israel (Jacob) but particularly Judah. Judah married his son Er's widow, Tamar, who begat Pharez and Zerah. (Genesis 38) Zerah's sons were known for wisdom (I Kings 4:31) Achar (Achan) caused trouble for Joshua at Jericho. (Joshua 7) Through Pharez, we follow the royal line to David: Pharez -> Hezron -> Ram -> Amminadab -> Nahshon -> Salma -> Boaz -> Obed -> Jesse -> David. (Ruth, I Samuel 16)
6. Caleb (2:18, 42) also called Chelubai (2:9) is not to be confused as the faithful spy who as a descendant came 300 years later. His son, Bezaleel became the chief craftsman in building the tabernacle. (Exodus 31:1, 2) Caleb, the spy's daughter,

- Achsah was the bride given to Othniel for his conquest of Debir. (Joshua 15:15-19, Judges 1:11-15) The Kenites of Hobab (brother-in-law to Moses, 2:55) became incorporated into the tribe of Judah. (Judges 1:16) Jehonadab, a descendant of Rechab, (2:55) was a notable reformer who helped King Jehu exterminate Baal worshippers. (II Kings 10:15-28)
7. Chapter three traces the royal family of Judah from King David to about 500 B.C. Under the Persians (Babylonians) the Jews were not allowed a king, as had been prophesied, (Jeremiah 22:30) yet post-exile history still centered in this family. Zerubbabel was governor of Jerusalem's early restoration, 538 B.C. (Ezra 2-3) Through this family would eventually rise Israel's ultimate hope, the Messiah. (Zechariah 13:7, 12:10, 13:1, 14:9)
 8. The second Daniel (3:1) was also called Chileab in II Samuel 3:3. Bathshua was better known as Bathsheba. Tamar (3:9) was David's daughter raped by his son Amnon (II Samuel 13) and avenged by her brother Absalom. Abia (3:10) elsewhere was rendered Abijah, Josiah's son. Shallum (3:15) was also called Jehoahaz. (II Kings 23) Jehoiakim's son, Jeconiah (3:16) was Jehoiachin. (II Kings 24) Zedekiah was actually Jehoiakim's uncle. The word "son" was to also be interpreted "descendant or relative." Assir (3:17) was not a proper noun and should read "the captive." Salathiel (3:17) must have been an adopted son for Luke 3:27 notes his true father to be Neri.
 9. Chapter four supplements the genealogies of Hezron, son of Judah. The clan relationships are unclear. Jabez (4:9) was noted for his prayer request granted by God. Othniel (4:13) was adopted into Israel and became their first judge. (Genesis 15:19, 36:42, Judges 3:9, 10) Caleb (4:15) was the faithful spy (Numbers 13-14) and Othniel's older brother. These clans were known for their pottery and gardening as workers for the king. Archaeology supports the existence of hereditary guilds of potters during the divided kingdoms (930-586 B.C.) with royal patronage using jar stamps from generation to generation. (Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement, July & October, 1905, R.A. Stewart Macalister)
 10. Simeon (with Levi) was scattered among the tribes because of the massacre of Shechem. (Genesis 34:24-30, 49:5-7) So Simeon's southwest corner of Palestine merged with Judah. (Joshua 19:1-9) After the division of the kingdom, some of Simeon's people either moved north or adopted its religious practices to be counted with the ten northern tribes. (II Chronicles 15:9, 34:6, Amos 5:5) Others were semi-nomadic in isolated spots they could seize.
 11. Chapter five names the descendants of the trans-Jordan tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh. Upon defeating the nations east of Jordan, Moses granted this territory to these tribes. (Numbers 21) Based on pre-exile records and a post-exile census, it describes their lands, genealogies, their early faith that gave them victory over the Ishmaelites and their apostasy which caused their captivity by Assyria.
 12. Because Reuben defiled Bilhah, (Genesis 35:22, 49:4) his birthright was given to Joseph. Tilgath-pilneser III (Pul) of Assyria took these border tribes prisoner in 733 B.C. (II Kings 15:29) Jotham and Jeroboam II reigned 751-736 and 793-753 B.C. respectively. Hagar (5:19) was the mother of Ishmael, ancestor of several Arabian tribes. (Genesis 25:15)
 13. Though Levi had been cursed to a tribal scattering (Genesis 34), his devotion to Jehovah converted this dispersment into a blessing of religious leadership. (Exodus 32:26-28, Deuteronomy 33:8-11) Ezra was a priest and proud of his

- heritage. (Ezra 7:1-5) The post-exile era largely centered around the temple and Levitical services. Hence, the accurate genealogy of Levitical standing per family was essential. Chapter six traces the three clans of Levi's descendants, including the high priest lines through Kohath and the scattered territories (cities of refuge) assigned to the Levites. (Exodus 6, Numbers 3)
14. Nadab and Abihu were killed by God for offering strange fire. (Leviticus 10) The list of high priests is not complete for the 860 year period between the Exodus and the fall of Jerusalem. Zadok (6:8) was high priest under David and Solomon 970 B.C. Hilkiah (6:13) was the high priest who discovered the lost book of law by Moses causing Josiah's reformation in 621 B.C. (II Kings 22) Korah (verse 22) was swallowed by the earth for his rebellion against Moses. (Numbers 16:32) Elkanah (6:27) is Hannah's husband, father of Samuel. (I Samuel 1) Distribution of the land and Levitical cities compare with those of Joshua 20, 21, 14, Numbers 35, Deuteronomy 19.
 15. Although Judah and Benjamin dominated post-exile Israel, the northern kingdom had representation. Many fled to Judah with the fall of Samaria in 722 B.C. Others regained their place among God's people during captivity (586-538 B.C.) and returned as a part of the remnant. Chapter seven outlines significant clans of six tribes: Issachar, Benjamin, Naphtali, western Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher. They expand upon the data of Genesis 46 and Numbers 26. The tribes of Dan and Zebulun are unmentioned. Joshua, Moses' successor, was from the tribe of Ephraim.
 16. Chapter eight supplements chapter 7:6-12 on the tribe of Benjamin. This tribe was significant for producing King Saul and his family (8:33). They were also important to the post-exile period. (Nehemiah 11) Abinadab (8:33) is called Ishui in I Samuel 14:49. Esh-baal was the original name of Ish-bosheth. (II Samuel 2:8) (Saul may not have had the idol Baal in mind when naming his son. The Hebrew "baal" means "master," thus Esh-baal means "man of the master." Likewise, Merib-baal, "hero of the master" is also Mephibosheth. "Bosheth" means "shame." Mephibosheth means "one who scatters shame." I Samuel 4:4)
 17. Chapter nine enumerates the inhabitants of Jerusalem prior to its fall in 586 B.C. It consisted primarily of clans of Judah, Benjamin and Levites. It describes the duties of the Levites. These again were significant in Jerusalem's restoration after captivity.
 18. The Nethinims (9:2) were temple slaves such as the men of Midian. (Numbers 31:47, Joshua 9:23, Ezra 8:20) Azariah, son of Hilkiah, was high priest about 600 B.C. shortly before captivity. Porters or "gatekeepers" were Levites who stationed themselves around the tabernacle. (Numbers 3) Samuel served as a porter in his youth (I Samuel 3:15) as well as Zechariah (26:2) Flat cakes (9:31) were meat/meal offerings.
 19. To establish background for the royal dynasty of King David, the writer connected those of Benjamin with King Saul's disobedience that gave rise to David inheriting the throne. As a direct parallel to I Samuel 31, the writer demonstrated how failure resulted when God was forsaken.
 20. The Philistines were descendants of Ham who came early to Palestine. They were not conquered by Joshua and were held only temporarily by Judah. The account of chapter ten coincides with I Samuel 31, King Saul's encounter at Mt. Gilboa where the Philistines penetrate his defenses, killing Saul and his sons. The Philistines were known for their barbaric cruelty. Those of Jabesh-gilead recover Saul's body and those of his sons for burial.

21. Saul died because he disobeyed Samuel's instructions from God, (I Samuel 13:8, 9, 15:2, 3) and because he had consulted a medium. (I Samuel 28) Hence, the Lord gave His kingdom to David, son of Jesse.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - Use visual props from previous lessons from Genesis to II Kings that students will recognize and associate with this review.
 - Overlay maps - help them visualize the "redistricting" / redrawing of the borders over time
 - "family trees" - Adam to Noah/Noah to Abraham/ Abraham to David
 - colored flags representing family clans or tribes
 - Nimrod - mighty hunter - bow / arrow
 - tower of Babel - stack blocks
 - twelve sons of Jacob - song, puppets, picture, map, flags
 - Bezaleel - chief craftsman of tabernacle - toy tools
 - captivity - paper chains, toy handcuffs
 - Messiah - picture of Jesus
 - Othniel - robe, gavel
 - Caleb - spy glass, hat, sunglasses
 - pottery - any form of pottery, mug, jar, plate
 - fall of the northern kingdom - map
 - priests - costume, cities of refuge map
 - Nadab & Abihu - "fire"
 - Hilkiah - Bible book
 - Philistines - armor, sword
- Puppets/Dolls - Joshua, King Saul, Samuel, Zechariah
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- 12 Sons Of Jacob
- As The Deer
- Bind Us Together Lord
- Building Up The Temple
- Father Abraham
- Heroes Ten
- Humble Yourselves
- I Can Listen To My Jesus
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- Noah Song
- O God You Are My God
- Seek Ye First
- The B-I-B-L-E
- The Hippo Song
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- Three Dispensations
- Three Wandering Jews
- We Are Family
- We Bow Down
- We Shall Assemble

Activities:

- *Family Tree* - Have students work in groups on a family tree from Adam to David or Abraham to David. Make it as involved as is age appropriate. Allow and

encourage creativity. Hang their work for everyone to enjoy. This may be in a class or homework project.

- *Review Game* - Using various facts of this lesson, use a puppet to ask students questions. Or divide them into teams letting them advance one step as they answer correctly. Or tape a question about the lesson under each student's chair for them to find and answer. Give a small "reward" for questions answered correctly.
- *Who Am I?* - Use a form of Charades or visual props to help students figure out those mentioned in today's lesson. Give verbal clues if necessary or give students the name of someone in the lesson and let them act out that person or give clues. (Students may want to pick their own Bible person to act out.)
- *Time Line* - Create a time line board. On cards or paper slips, write the names of prominent people studied in this lesson. Place the names in a container. Allow students to pick the names and place them in order on the time line.
- *Lacing Cards* - Using pictures of people, places or things from the lesson, glue these to different shaped pieces of poster board. With a hole punch, outline the picture with holes for lacing yarn or shoe strings. Help students associate their picture with the lesson.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the purpose of Chronicles? From what perspective was it written?
2. Why are the genealogies important?
3. By whom is Chronicles written? What else does he do? What does he do as part of the remnant?
4. From where are the majority of the remnant originally? Why?
5. Trace the lineage from Adam to David. Name a significant event associated with each ancestor you can.
6. How did the Levites affect Israel pre and post exile? Name as many Levites as you can and a significant event associated with them.
7. What two tribes do not seem to be represented in the return to Jerusalem? Why?
8. Why did the royal line transfer from the tribe of Benjamin to the tribe of Judah?
9. What happens when we disregard God's commands as King Saul did?
10. How does God feel when He must punish His people for sinning? How do you make God feel?

Old Testament

Lesson 98: King David's Good Example

Text: I Chronicles 11-29

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| Memory Verses: | I Chron. 11:9 | So David waxed greater and greater: for the Lord of hosts was with him. |
| | I Chron. 28:9 | And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek Him, He will be found of thee; but if thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off for ever. |
| | I Chron. 29:11 | Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all. |
| | Psalms 117:1, 2 | O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord. |
| | I Corin. 14:15 | What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also? I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God blesses those who are loyal and faithful to Him. • God is pleased when we are a good example to others as David was. David always remembered to talk regularly with God in prayer, rely on His strength and wisdom. David also recognized the source of his many blessings and remembered to say thank you to God for them. |
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Outline:

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| I. | King David's exemplary reign. | |
| A. | David establishes Jerusalem as capital. | I Chronicles 11 |
| B. | David's mighty men. | I Chronicles 12 |
| C. | Uzza and the ark. | I Chronicles 13 |

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| D. Independence day from Philistia. | I Chronicles 14 |
| E. David brings the ark to Jerusalem. | I Chronicles 15 |
| F. A psalm of thanksgiving. | I Chronicles 16 |
| G. Nathan's prophecy for God's house. | I Chronicles 17 |
| H. David's conquests. | I Chronicles 18 |
| I. David's messengers insulted. | I Chronicles 19 |
| J. God blessed David with more victories. | I Chronicles 20 |
| K. David repents for a senseless census. | I Chronicles 21 |
| L. David's contributions to God's house. | I Chronicles 22 |
| M. Organizing the Levites. | I Chronicles 23-26 |
| N. Organizing the civil leaders. | I Chronicles 27 |
| O. David's final instructions to Solomon. | I Chronicles 28 |
| P. David says thank you to God. | I Chronicles 29 |

Facts:

1. In the historical record of Chronicles, the writer places great emphasis on King David and his exemplary love for God and leadership of God's people. As a result of David's faithfulness, God greatly blessed David. Upon King Saul's death (1010 B.C.), the leaders of Israel came to David anointing him as their king. (I Samuel 15:28, 16:1-13, II Samuel 5:1-5) David conquered the ancient city-state of Jerusalem (Salem to Abraham - Genesis 14:18, also called Jebus) making this his new capital for Israel, later called the "city of David." Jerusalem had a mighty fortress and was centrally located among Israel's tribes. In time, David expanded the city out around the fortress. He became very famous and powerful among world powers because God was with him.
2. David's valiant warriors influenced his rise to power. Little by little, they began joining his ranks as he fled King Saul's threats on his life. Upon his anointing as king at Hebron, they came from each tribe by the thousands. Joab, David's nephew, became his commander in chief at the battle for Jerusalem with the Jebusites. Joab's brother, Abishai, was also a notable leader against the Ammonites. (II Samuel 10:10) Benaiah was commander of David's bodyguards. Happy to have David as their new king, at the time of his anointing, approximately 350,000 warriors from all over Palestine had joined him in enthusiastic support.
3. The goal to lead God's people back to an enthusiastic commitment and practice of the laws of Moses is likely why we have this record of David's attempt to bring the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem (1010-1003 B.C.). This was a sincere effort on David's part to worship in God's presence. Yet, they left Abinadab's house with the ark on a cart with Uzza and Ahio (descendants of Abinadab) driving the oxen. In transporting, the oxen stumble and Uzza touches the ark to steady it and God kills him. The ark was not to be touched nor carried on a cart. This emphasized the necessity of reverence and conforming obedience toward God and things of holy distinction. Such conformity brought blessing to Obed-edom, a Levite, while the ark was left with him. (II Samuel 6, Numbers 4:15)
4. After summarizing David as Israel's leader, this book focuses on David's greatest international problem - Philistine domination. In his fleeing Saul, David had become a vassal of the Philistines. (I Samuel 27) His being made king over united Israel posed a threat Philistia could not ignore. They attacked twice, but

- with reliance on God's divine strength, David defeated them securing Israel's independence from the Philistines. (I Samuel 27, II Samuel 5:11-25)
5. In the days of Ezra (most likely the author of I Chronicles), Jerusalem was more important religiously than politically. Bringing the ark to Jerusalem caused a permanent centralization of religion in Israel. David once again made elaborate preparations to bring the ark to Jerusalem. He built a new tabernacle and organized the Levites, singers, elders, and army officers for the procession. Great sacrifices were made and presents given to all the people. David may have composed Psalm 24 for this occasion. He praised God with excerpts of Psalm 105:1-45, Psalm 96, Psalm 106:1, 47, 48. Reference is made to the Messiah in 16:33.
 6. Nathan's prophecy is the climax of I Chronicles, explaining the significance of David and his career. David wanted to build a permanent temple to God, but God did not permit David to do this. God had prospered David personally and promised to prosper his kingdom. David's son, Solomon would construct God's house and in the future. (II Samuel 7)
 7. The writer now shows how God gave David military victories everywhere he went, against Philistia (west), Moab (east), Syria (north), and Edom (south). These victories earned David power and respect from foreign nations as well wealth which he dedicated to the Lord. (I Samuel 8) One of David's most desperate international conflicts was with the Ammonites, descendants of Lot. This conflict was due to King Hanun insulting King David's ambassadors by shaving half their beards and cutting off their robes. They and their Syrian allies were soundly defeated. (II Samuel 10-12)
 8. David's sin with Bath-sheba precipitated a chain of crimes. Such behavior did not characterize David at his best and is omitted here. (II Samuel 11-19) David's life is picked up again about 975 B.C. as he took a census. Although David's insistence upon taking the census was wrong, he sincerely repented. Note King David's submission to God through the prophet, Gad, his acceptance of his punishment and his sacrifice at Ornan's threshing floor. God was not pleased with those who yield to Him only that which involved no sacrifice on their part. (II Samuel 24)
 9. Our writer gives much space to recounting David's efforts in preparation for Solomon to build God's holy temple. David purchased its building site, had stone cut, nails manufactured, purchased large quantities of cedar. He counseled Solomon on the grandeur with which God's temple must be constructed. He hired expert craftsmen and provided Solomon the workers/slaves. David's resources came to exceed those of his wealthy son. The gold, silver, and bronze he contributed by troy weight would be valued at approximately six billion dollars by today's standards. He ordered all the leaders of Israel to assist his son in this important project.
 10. One of David's most lasting and significant contributions was his ingenious organization of the Levites in their Levitical services. His plans provided the administrative guidelines to revive and continue temple service on into New Testament times. David's policy separated the 38,000 Levites into four operational groups. According to Levite families, one group of 24,000 would supervise the work in the temple. This group would include the priests. Another group of 6,000 would be judges, who handled the "outward" business

- over Israel. A group of 4,000 were temple guards and the last group of 4,000 were singers.
11. The priests, descendants of Aaron's sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, were divided into two groups by family clan. All temple tasks were assigned by lot, showing no preference.
 12. Through the prophets, Nathan and Gad, David appointed those in charge of the song services. Many of the Old Testament prophecies are in poetic psalm form. Asaph, of the clan of Gershon, and his descendants wrote Psalms 50 and 73-83.
 13. The temple guards (porters, gatekeepers) guarded over temple property in general and the temple treasures. They, too, were assigned to their posts by lot. Obed-edom and his family were assigned to the south gate and storehouses. Approximately twenty six guards served at a time. Ahijah's clan was in charge of the temple treasures. Chenaniah's clan was appointed judges and public administrators.
 14. Although the flourishing civil state of Israel under David was of little political relevance to the impoverished returning remnant of Ezra's day, it must have kindled a thrill in them to realize visible, tangible rewards were given by God to His faithful servants.
 15. In David's final words, he addressed all of Israel's leaders and his son, Solomon (970 B.C.). He again acknowledged God's bountiful blessings on him. He charged Solomon to be always faithful in service to God, searching out every commandment to keep it. He commissioned Solomon to be dedicated to the holy task of building God's temple. He passed to Solomon the inspired blueprints for every detail of the temple and its surrounding areas. He gave to Solomon specific instructions for the work of the priests and Levites. David encouraged Solomon to be strong and courageous facing such an enormous task. He promised his son God would be with him each step of the way.
 16. Then David turned to his leaders to charge them as well with equal commitment to helping young Solomon in carrying through this holy task. He reiterated the tremendous resources he had gathered for this project, then generously gave an additional personal contribution of his own gold and silver treasures. David appealed to them to follow his example and give of themselves and their wealth for the building of God's house.
 17. All those assembled arose to the challenge, happy for this opportunity of service to God. David praised God for their willing hearts to give and the bounty with which God had blessed each of them as stewards in this life. (For everything we have comes from God and is His already.) Offerings were sacrificed to God. There was joyous feasting. Solomon was again confirmed as David's successor to the throne and Zadok as high priest. (I Kings 2)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - David, Solomon - crown, robe
 - Jerusalem - picture, model
 - David's army - toy soldiers, armor, sword, shield, helmet, etc.
 - ark of the covenant - model
 - oxen and cart - toy cows, wagon
 - tabernacle - tent, model

building tools

David's ambassadors - shaved 1/2 beards, cut off robes - hair clippings, scrap of material

census - list of names, ages

"stone" blocks, nails, cedar strips, gold, silver, bronze, play money

groups of Levites - temple workers: altar, candlestick, shew bread, cleaning supplies - judges: black robe, gavel, mallet - temple guards: arm band, sword, shield - singers: song book

blueprints -paper sketches of temple and grounds, model of the temple

"priest duties" - booklet

gold and silver - coins, paper cutouts, items painted gold, silver, old jewelry in a "treasure" box

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Building Up The Temple
- David Was A Child Like Me
- David Was A Great Leader
- Glorify Thy Name
- God Is So Good
- God Is Watching Over You
- I Love You Lord
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- I'm Yours Lord
- Lord My Desire
- On Bended Knee
- Thank You Lord
- Unto Perfection
- We Will Glorify

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "David"
"My Choice"
- Have students make a "procession" in the classroom bringing the ark to Jerusalem
- *Prayer and Praise* - Have students, as a group, with a partner, or individually, compose a thank you prayer or song to God. You may need to discuss some of the ways God has blessed them prior to starting this exercise. Talk about blessings we often take for granted. Encourage creativity. Share them as a class.
- *My Good Example* - Discuss with students who they feel have been good examples to them and in what ways these individuals were good examples. Have students name Bible people who were good examples besides David. Help them decide on someone specific to whom they are going to be a good example this week and then how specifically they are going to be that good example. Help students understand age is not a factor in being a good example. Make a week's chart with students so they can mark with a smiley face or sticker the days they accomplished their "mission." Discuss their results next week.
- *Relying on the Master* - We all face difficult situations in our lives and so did David. But David realized God was not only the source of his blessings, God was also the answer to any problem. Brainstorm with students difficult situations they face. Help them to

see how God's word and prayer can help them solve their problems or do difficult tasks. With God on your side, you always have the advantage. Note how David tried to instill this principle truth in his son, Solomon.

- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of the writings of I Chronicles? Who most likely wrote it?
2. Whose life is emphasized in I Chronicles? Why? Where would we find these same historical accounts?
3. What things did David do that caused his life to prosper? Could this happen to you if you followed David's good example?
4. How did God bless David? Why did He bless David?
5. What can you do to find favor with God?
6. What mistakes did David make that taught him a lesson? What lesson did he learn? How do we learn from our mistakes?
7. When David had to be punished for his mistakes, how did he react? How do you react?
8. Why did David go to so much trouble gathering materials to build the temple when God would not allow him to build the temple?
9. What other great contributions did David mastermind?
10. What did David always remember to do through his good times as well as bad? How often do you thank God in prayer for the blessings He has given you? How do you praise and glorify God?

Old Testament

Lesson 99: God Blesses King Solomon's Reign

Text: II Chronicles 1-11

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| Memory Verses: | II Chron. 1:10 | Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? |
| | II Chron. 7:14 | If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. |
| | II Chron. 10:8 | But he forsook the counsel which the old men gave him, and took counsel with the young men that were brought up with him, that stood before him. |
| | James 1:5 | If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God keeps His promises and blesses those who serve Him faithfully. • God deserves our very best. • God is always with His followers through good times and bad. • when we repent of sin, God is happy to forgive us. |
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Outline:

- I. Solomon's reign.
 - A. Solomon asks for wisdom. II Chronicles 1
 - B. Temple construction begins. II Chronicles 2,3
 - C. Temple furnishings. II Chronicles 4
 - D. The temple is dedicated to God. II Chronicles 5-7
 - E. Solomon's accomplished kingdom. II Chronicles 8
 - F. Solomon's vast riches. II Chronicles 9

- II. Israel revolts against Rehoboam, ruler of Judah. II Chronicles 10, 11

Facts:

1. II Chronicles is the historical continuation of I Chronicles written from a post-exile view. As a supplement to Kings, it recounts the downfall of David's dynasty from Solomon to their exile. Because the returning remnant were primarily from the southern kingdom, this history follows their connections to the patriarchs. The

northern kingdom is left out because of their rejection of temple worship at Jerusalem. It depicts the central role of worship in their lives and God's promises fulfilled. The temple symbolized God's presence.

2. Prominence is given to Judah's godly kings and the prophets. II Chronicles ends with Cyrus of Persia's order to rebuild the temple. They were to resume their divine institutions as if captivity had not interrupted them. The words of the prophets had been fulfilled. Their restoration had been prophesied as fully as their exile.
3. Solomon received his final inauguration as Israel's new king at Gibeon, northwest of Jerusalem, where he offered 1,000 burnt offerings to God. (I Kings 3:2) That night, God came to Solomon in a dream telling him to ask for whatever he would like. Thanking God for already richly blessing him, his answer corresponded to that of his father's. (I Chronicles 22:12) He asked for wisdom in guiding God's people. (Genesis 22:12) God was pleased with Solomon's request, granting him knowledge never surpassed, as well as great riches and honor not acquired by any other.
4. As Solomon went back to Jerusalem to rule, he built a vast number of chariots and cavalry. Excavations at Megiddo, southeast of Mt. Carmel, have revealed Solomon's extensive stone stables. (William Albright - The Archaeology of Palestine) As Solomon reigned silver and gold became as plentiful as rocks. The use of expensive cedar lumber became common place. He bought fine horses from Egypt, a sign of Solomon's prosperity. (Deuteronomy 17:16)
5. Solomon's greatest accomplishments were his inspired writings and the building of God's magnificent temple. The temple symbolized access to God. It typified on earth the glorification of heaven. The major planning of design, gathering supplies and personnel had already been done by David. Solomon now organized his labor force and asked King Hiram of Tyre (David's friend) to send him his best skilled craftsmen to assist and guide those of Palestine, and cedars from Lebanon. Financial arrangements were made and construction was ready to begin. (I Kings 5-7)
6. Mount Moriah, the site of Ornan's threshing floor and the summit where Abraham had been willing to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:2), was the chosen site for God's temple. Construction is thought to have begun in April, 966 B.C. It measured 105 x 35 x 200 feet, double the size of the tabernacle. Gold was mined in southeast Arabia to overlay the entire inside of the temple. The cherubims of the Holy of Holies were of olive wood overlaid with gold. Gold nails were used. A veil of blue and crimson linen hung across the entrance to the Holy of Holies. Two large pillars stood at the front of the temple. These specifications witnessed the glory of Israel's past and a structural pattern by which the returning remnant might restore their own building. (I Kings 6)
7. The brass altar, 30 x 30 x 15 feet, was the first object encountered in the temple court. It demonstrated God was approachable only through sacrifice. The molten sea represented the necessity of purity. Ten golden candlesticks represented the perfection in which God's people must shine. Ten golden tables for shewbread symbolized communion with God. The temple had a court for the priests and a public court. Hiram, the master craftsman, made these items to Solomon's specifications. The outdoor items were of polished brass; the indoor items and utensils of gold. (I Kings 6)
8. Eleven months after its completion, at the annual Feast of Tabernacles, Solomon had all the leaders of Israel to participate in a ceremony transporting the ark from Zion into the new temple. The Levites carried the ark. Innumerable sacrifices were

- made. The priests placed the ark in the Holy of Holies. Only the ten commandments remained inside. They praised and thanked God. Everyone participated. Then, the Lord, in a cloud, filled the temple forcing the priests out. This was later called "shekinah" meaning "God's dwelling." (I Kings 8)
9. Solomon now publically acknowledged he was a servant of God, administering a kingdom not his own. He noted God's promises fulfilled. He praised God's greatness above all in heaven and on earth. He asked God's favor on the temple and asked God's intervention upon the maintaining of justice, defeat, or exile to their enemies, natural disaster due to sin, foreigners recognizing God's power and war. The exile and restoration of Israel was predicted as early as Moses, (Leviticus 26:44, 45) which, of course, was fulfilled. Solomon's final comments were from Psalm 132:8-10 which were probably written by David. (I Kings 8)
 10. As Solomon finished his prayer to God, God consumed their sacrifices with a great display of fire from heaven. Twenty-two thousand oxen and 120,000 sheep were then offered as peace offerings (hence eaten by the people) sustaining them for fifteen days of feasting. Great crowds were there from all of Israel. Joyfully, they then dispersed to their homes.
 11. Solomon built his own palace next over a thirteen year period. Then the Lord again appeared to Solomon reiterating His promise to redeem those that turn from sin and yield themselves once again to God's will. He again promised to bless Solomon's descendants as kings of Israel, but if he abandoned God and worshipped idols, God would take the land He had given His people from them and destroy the temple Solomon had built. (I Kings 7-9)
 12. Beyond the temple and Solomon's palace, Solomon achieved great expansions in his military endeavors, his labor forces, his regulation of public worship and his commerce ventures. Solomon had given up about twenty non-Israelite cities to Hiram because of unpaid building debts. But Hiram felt cheated because these cities were impoverished. Hence, Solomon was forced to take them back. In time, he redevelops these cities, moving Israelites into them. He created supply cities of Hamath, Beth-horon, and Baalath. The city of Tadmor controlled trade to Babylon. Beth-horon controlled trade to the port of Joppa.
 13. Solomon expanded the city of Jerusalem and Lebanon. He heavily taxed the Canaanites as well as used them for slave labor. Solomon built a palace for his Egyptian wife outside of Jerusalem. He continued sacrifices to God as prescribed by the law. Solomon followed David's instructions for priest and Levite duties. Solomon also acquired the ports of Ezion-geber and Eloth providing him access into the Red Sea. Archaeologists have unearthed Solomon's copper industry here which provided an export product to exchange for gold in Ophir worth approximately \$15,000,000. (I Kings 9)
 14. Illustrating the great splendor of Solomon's kingdom was the visit by the Queen of Sheba, perhaps for trading purposes, but mostly to test his God-given wisdom with riddles, an Arabic custom. She was overwhelmed with not only his great wisdom but the magnificence of his palace and staff. She recognized Solomon's God to be the source of such great blessings. She left with him great quantities of gold and spices. He, in turn, gave her beyond his regular amount of hospitality.
 15. The borders of Solomon's kingdom extended from the Euphrates River to Philistia to Egypt, thus occupying the limits God had promised to Abraham. (Genesis 15:18)

- Solomon reigned forty years. There was no king richer or wiser in all the earth. (I Kings 10)
16. Now we see the initial split of the kingdom when Rehoboam resisted the people's demands (10:15) and his attempt to subdue again the northern tribes (11:1-5). The result was a separation of the godly south from the apostate northern tribes (11:6-22).
 17. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, went to Shechem to be officially crowned king. Meanwhile, Jeroboam's friends sent word, the king was dead. He quickly returned from Egypt to be spokesman for the people. (I Kings 11:26-40) Solomon had indulged in sinful extravagance at the people's expense. Jeroboam pleaded with Rehoboam not to burden them in the same way. Rehoboam told them to return in three days for his answer. He consulted his older advisors. They advised him to yield to the people. His young friends advised him to be harder than his father. Rehoboam followed the advice of his young friends. (I Kings 11:30, 31) As a result, the northern tribes deserted him. When Rehoboam sent Hadoram for labor forces from these tribes, they stoned him. Not until then did Rehoboam take their revolt seriously. (I Kings 12)
 18. Rehoboam mobilized his troops and declared war in hopes of reuniting his kingdom. But God told the prophet, Shemaiah, to tell them not to fight their brothers. He (God) was behind their rebellion, so they went home. Rehoboam went to great length to fortify his forts and cities, setting in place his defenses.
 19. Meanwhile, alienating his people from religious dependence on Jerusalem, Jeroboam fired all the Levites. He appointed others in their places and put idol gods (calves) in the high places for worship. This caused the Levites and those faithful to Jehovah to move south into Judah and Benjamin strengthening the southern kingdom.
 20. Rehoboam married his cousin, Mahalath. Later, he married Maachah. Altogether, he had eighteen wives and sixty concubines, disregarding God's law and the disasters this caused his father. Maachah's son, Abijah, was his favorite son and his intended heir to the throne. Wisely, he scattered his other sons delegating them military authority at fortified cities throughout his kingdom. This insured Abijah as his successor. (I Kings 12)

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - altar - clay, rocks, painted box with sticks on top
 - dream - pillow
 - wisdom - graduation cap, large book
 - toy horses, soldiers, stable, barn, fencing
 - silver and gold painted rocks
 - temple model or picture
 - heaven - cotton batting, "cloud" with small temple model
 - toy tools, craftsmen / ark model
 - molten sea - bowl on 12 cows backs
 - candlesticks - birthday candles in clay base
 - transporting the ark - let students make procession as "Levites" with a box on dowel sticks or 2 yard sticks. Let someone be King Solomon
 - toy sheep, cows
 - Solomon's palace - model, painted box, toy, block, or crafted palace

taxes - play money, coins
labor - tools, paper shackles
copper item - gold coins, nuggets,
spices - sample of any sweet smelling spice
throne - gold painted chair
armor, toy soldiers, block toy forts

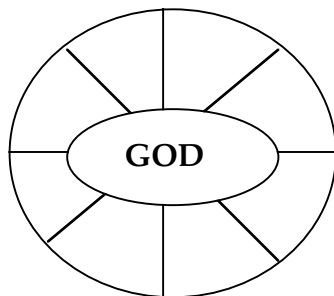
- Puppets/Dolls - Solomon, Queen of Sheba, Rehoboam
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Building Up The Temple
- Cheerfully Obey
- Count Your Blessings
- God Is So Good
- Humble Yourself
- I Love The Lord Messiah
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- On Bended Knee
- Seek Ye First
- The Lord Is In His Holy Temple
- The Very Best Life
- This Little Light Of Mine
- Tiptoe Tiptoe In God's House
- Unto Perfection
- We Shall Assemble
- We Will Glorify The King Of Kings
- Whatever I Shall Be

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Kings," "Worship," "My Choice"
- Videos: "Charlie Church Mouse - What's Valuable In Life"
"Charlie Church Mouse - Being Spoiled"
- *The Wheel Of Life* - On paper, have students draw a large wheel. On its spokes, help them sort different facets of their personal lives. Examples: family, school, friends, sports, music, etc. At the wheel's hub (center), put "GOD." Guide students to see how God should influence every facet of their lives: how they treat parents and siblings, what kind of friends they chose, respect and responses to teachers, sportsman-like conduct, what kind of music they listen to, etc.



- *Unto Perfection* - Discuss with students how David and Solomon chose only the very best gold, wood, stonecutters, and master craftsmen in building the temple because God deserves only the very best. Talk about the splendor of heaven. Let students brainstorm ways they can give God their very best. Examples: in song, concentrating in prayer,

listening in worship, dress, etc. Guide them to see the difference in “our best” and “not our best.” Help them to understand the importance of why we give God our best.

- *Decisions, Decisions* - Talk about Rehoboam's crucial decision and why he listened to his young friends instead of the wise, older men. Guide them to see they each make decisions and may also be influenced by others either their own age or those older. Help them to see if they go to God for advice, they will always make the right decision. Discuss who they might go to older and wiser that would give them good advice and who might not give good advice. Simulate situations where they might apply this.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What did the temple symbolize to those returning from captivity?
2. Which kings were given the most prominence in II Chronicles? Why?
3. What things are most memorable about Solomon? What would people say is most noteworthy about you?
4. What things are most significant about Solomon's temple?
5. What caused Solomon to lose God's favor? How can we avoid making Solomon's mistakes?
6. Why did the kingdom of Israel divide? How is this a part of God's plan?
7. What mistakes did Rehoboam make? How can we profit from his mistakes?
8. What mistakes did Jeroboam make? What do we learn from his mistakes?

Old Testament

Lesson 100: First Period – Kings Of Judah

Text: II Chronicles 12-20

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| Memory Verses: | II Chron. 13:12 | And, behold, God Himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the Lord God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper. |
| | Psalms 83:1, 18 | Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God. That men may know that Thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the most high over all the earth. |
| | Romans 8:28 | And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. |
| | I Peter 5:6 | Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time: |
| | II John 10, 11 | If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: |

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| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with God on our side, victory is a certainty. When we forsake God, we bring consequences upon ourselves. • to choose friends carefully. God is not pleased when we choose to be friends with those who do wrong. • God is happy to forgive those who humbly and sincerely repent of sin. |
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Outline:

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| I. Kings of Judah. | |
| A. Rehoboam. | II Chronicles 12 |
| B. Abijah. | II Chronicles 13 |
| C. Asa. | II Chronicles 14-16 |
| D. Jehoshaphat. | II Chronicles 17-20 |

Facts:

1. At the height of Rehoboam's popularity and power as king of Judah, he abandoned God for immoralities. The people followed suit. As a result, King Shishak of Egypt invaded Judah conquering its fortified cities (925 B.C.). Those

- Judians able to flee, went to Jerusalem. The prophet, Shemaiah, told Rehoboam and his leaders this was God's punishment for their forsaking Him.
2. Rehoboam and his leaders confessed their sin and humbled themselves before God. God, in turn, because of their repentance, decided not to destroy all of Judah. Instead, Rehoboam and those of Jerusalem became vassals to King Shishak of Egypt. They were to pay annual taxes to him and all the treasures of the temple and the palace. All Solomon's golden shields were also given to King Shishak. In time, Rehoboam replaced the golden shields with bronze ones. Because of Rehoboam's humble spirit, the economy of Judah grew strong again. Rehoboam reigned seventeen years. His son, Abijah succeeded him. (I Kings 14,15)
 3. The three year reign of Abijah was primarily occupied by his war with Jeroboam of Israel. (913-910 B.C.) The writer reveals Abijah's bravery against great odds, springing from his abiding trust upon God whom he served and obeyed. With 400,000 seasoned warriors, Abijah met against Jeroboam's 800,000 troops on the border of Ephraim and Judah.
 4. Although outnumbered in warriors, Abijah called out to Israel. He warned them that with God on their side, they should turn and flee for Jeroboam's golden calves were a curse to them and no match next to the Lord. He pointed out that Judah had carefully followed God's instructions for worshipping Him. Against the God of their fathers, they could not succeed. Meanwhile, Jeroboam had set up an ambush for young Abijah and his men by surrounding them from behind. Yet, Abijah and his troops cry to God as the priests blew their trumpets. God used Abijah and his men that day in a staggering defeat of Jeroboam. They slaughtered 500,000 of Israel's troops. (I Kings 15)
 5. Abijah was succeeded by his son, Asa. Asa was a good king, who abolished idol worship among his people, destroying all forms of idolatry and demanding the nation obey Jehovah God alone. God granted Judah ten years of peace, without enemy invasions because of Asa's reforms. During this time. Asa fortified (walled) the cities throughout Judah.
 6. King Asa's armed troops numbered 300,000 in Judah and 280,000 Benjamites. In time, Judah was attacked by General Zerah of Ethiopia. This may have been an attempt by Osorkon I of Egypt to duplicate the invasion and pillage of his predecessor, King Shishak. As they met at Mareshah, Zerah has 1,000,000 mighty men with 300 chariots. Asa asked God, in faith, to help them. God answered his servant Asa by wiping out Zerah's entire army. Asa pursued them as far as Gerar and not one of Zerah's men lived. Egypt made no more military attempt on Judah for 170 years. (I Kings 15)
 7. As King Asa returned from battle, he and his troops were met by the prophet, Azariah, son of Oded. God had told Azariah to tell Asa and those of Judah God would be with them and bless them as long as they were faithful to God. God had been the source of their blessings in battle. They were to recognize the troubles their kinsmen in Israel were facing was due to Israel's rebellion against God and their not teaching nor following God's laws.
 8. This message from God encouraged King Asa. He continued to destroy idol worship throughout his regained cities. They renewed their covenant to worship only God. Anyone who would not must die. King Asa even removed his grandmother Maachah as queen mother because she had brought in the worship

- of Asherah. He destroyed her idols, but did not destroy the "high places." Asa replenished the temple with gold and silver bowls and treasures from his spoils of war. (I Kings 15)
9. In 909 B.C., Baasha had overthrown King Jeroboam of Israel to become Israel's king. In 895 B.C., aggravated by the defection of his people to the southern kingdom, King Baasha declared war on Asa, building a fortress at Ramah and controlling the road to Jerusalem. Instead of turning to God, Asa took the palace and temple treasures and sent them to King Ben-hadad of Syria in Damascus to induce Ben-hadad to break his alliance with Israel and fight on Judah's behalf against Israel. This Syria agreed to do.
 10. By attacking Israel from the rear, Baasha was forced to stop his construction at Ramah and end his attack on Judah. Upon Baasha's leaving Ramah, King Asa and his men confiscated their building materials to use at Geba and Mizpah. (I Kings 15)
 11. God then sent His prophet, Hanani to King Asa reproving him for putting his trust in Syria's king instead of God Almighty. He reminded Asa of God's help against the Ethiopians. He prophesied that King Asa would now be plagued with constant wars to fight. Angry with Hanani's words, Asa had him thrown in jail. He oppressed his people. One sin led to another. Asa's feet became seriously diseased. Again, instead of going to God for healing, he consulted pagan doctors. After reigning forty-one years, Asa died. (I Kings 15)
 12. Asa's son, Jehoshaphat, became Judah's next king. He was much like his father. King Ahab now ruled in Israel and hostility between kingdoms continued so Jehoshaphat continued to fortify the cities of Judah and Ephraim. He followed closely the commands of God and in return, God blessed Jehoshaphat with wealth and popularity and a strong kingdom. He, too, destroyed idol forms of worship even in the high places.
 13. In his third year as king, Jehoshaphat realized the teaching of God's law was the responsibility of all God's leaders. He began a nationwide education program, sending out his top officials, Levites, and priests to teach God's scriptures to all the people. Jehovah was revered and respected as a powerful God among surrounding nations so no one declared war on Jehoshaphat. Many Philistines and Arabs brought him gifts and taxes.
 14. After sixty-five years of hostility between Israel and Judah, King Jehoshaphat made an alliance with King Ahab by marrying his son, Jehoram, to Ahab's daughter, Athaliah. King Ahab gave a great party inviting Jehoshaphat. Ahab asked Jehoshaphat to be his ally against Ramoth-gilead occupied by Syria. Jehoshaphat agreed to join him, but wanted to consult the Lord first. Ahab summoned 400 of his heathen prophets to tell him what he wanted to hear. Not quite satisfied, Jehoshaphat asked for a prophet of God. Ahab reluctantly summoned Micaiah.
 15. Before arriving at the palace, Micaiah was encouraged to tell Ahab what he wanted to hear. Micaiah assured the aide he can only say what God revealed to him. When asked if they should attack Ramoth-gilead, he mockingly told them to go ahead. When the king implored him to be serious, Micaiah foretold their defeat and King Ahab's death. He exposed Ahab's prophets as liars. At this, Zedekiah slapped Micaiah across the face. He was unheeded and returned to prison.

16. Yet, King Ahab disguised himself as an ordinary soldier while he told Jehoshaphat to wear his royal attire. As they approached the Syrians, the Syrian soldiers were looking to kill Ahab and almost mistook Jehoshaphat for him. God intervened and protected Jehoshaphat while a strong arrow pierced King Ahab. Although he lingered awhile, King Ahab died before dusk that day. (I Kings 22)
17. As King Jehoshaphat returned home unharmed, the prophet Jehu, son of Hanani, met him. He chastised him for compromising his stand with God by helping wicked King Ahab. He declared God's wrath upon Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat humbled himself before God's prophet and made no more trips to Israel.
18. Instead, he went out among his people encouraging them to worship Jehovah. He appointed judges throughout Judah to levy impartial justice with good and honest hearts, not accepting bribes. He set up courts in Jerusalem with the Levites, priests, tribal leaders, and judges. They were to fear God in their judicial decisions. Jehoshaphat appointed Amariah, the high priest, final authority in appeals court on religious affairs and Zebadiah as final authority in the appeals court for all civil cases.
19. In time, the Moabites, Ammonites, and Mennites of Edom (west of the Dead Sea) declared war on Judah. Jehoshaphat was very upset by the news and instructed all his people to fast and pray to God for help in this matter. He, himself, stood among the people in the temple court and prayed publically. He recognized God's power and might. He implored God to remember His promise to Abraham and Israel's former obedience. He begged God to protect His people.
20. Jahaziel, son of Asaph, was inspired by God to write Psalm 83. He told King Jehoshaphat not to be afraid, but to go with his army to battle the next day and God would fight for them. They would meet their enemies coming up the slopes of Ziz. They were to stand quietly and watch God perform their rescue. Jehoshaphat fell prostrate on the ground in thanksgiving to God. The people did the same. Those of Korah's family praised God in song.
21. Early the next morning, Judah's army went to the wilderness of Tekoa. Jehoshaphat encouraged everyone to put all their faith in Jehovah God, His prophecy, and His might. As they marched along, they sang praises of thanksgiving to God. Then, the Lord caused the Ammonites and Moabites and those of Mt. Seir to begin fighting among themselves. They fought until everyone of them was killed. When Judah arrived, all they saw were dead bodies. They pillaged the bodies and their camps. It took them three days to haul all the money, garments, and jewels back home. Again, they all gathered to praise God at the valley of Berachah (blessing).
22. They returned to Jerusalem. Surrounding nations heard of how Jehovah God fought for Judah and they did not attack God's people. King Jehoshaphat reigned twenty-five years, mostly as a good king, trying to obey God. In his later years, he again aligned himself in a partnership with Ahaziah, king of Israel, who was wicked. They built ships to sail to Tarshish. Because Jehoshaphat had again helped the wicked, God destroyed the ships so they never arrived at Tarshish. Eliezer, the prophet, brought this news to Jehoshaphat.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
taxes - play money, coins

- gold shields - gold paper covered cardboard, foil
- scroll - God's word
- trumpet - toy, funnel, paper towel roll, cone shape
- idols - clay, statue
- soldiers - toy, helmet, breastplate, shield, sword, arrow
- fortified cities - building blocks, toy tools
- praying hands - poster
- booty - toy cattle, gold, silver items, coins, etc.
- jail - toy handcuffs, paper chains, "barred" window
- scrolls, teachers - graduation cap
- wedding - veil, flowers, decorations
- prophets - scarf, turban
- judges - robe, gavel - toy hammer
- ships - toy boats
- Puppets/Dolls - King Rehoboam, King Shishak, Shemaiah, King Abijah, King Asa, Azariah, King Baasha, King Ben-hadad, Hanani, heathen prophets, Micaiah, Jehu,
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Be Not Overcome Of Evil
- Father We Thank Thee
- God Is So Good
- Humble Yourselves
- I Know The Lord Will Make A Way
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- Into My Heart
- Isn't It Grand To Be A Christian
- It Only Takes A Spark
- Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam
- O God You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- Read The Book
- Standin In The Need Of Prayer
- We Are Walking In The Enemies Camp
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Kings"
- *Discovering God's Land* - Using a map, create a game where students find places studied about in today's or previous lessons. They might choose the name of a place from a hat or you may issue places for them to locate. Have them tell something or as many things as they can remember that happened there. Variation: You may want to devise your activity like a scavenger hunt, with clues and things to find at each location. Your "map" may extend throughout your classroom.
- *God's Gift* - Wrap a gift box with wrapping paper as a present (wrap the lid separately so you can open it). Put a praying hands cut-out inside which reads "answered prayers." Display your gift to your students. Allow them to guess what might be inside. Ask, "If my friend gave me a gift, what should I say? Suppose this gift were from God. What do you think God would give us as a gift?" After a short period of guessing, open the present and show them the message. Discuss what we should say to God when He hears our prayers. Discuss how this is a "gift." You may go on to discuss types of prayers, different things about which we pray to God. Students may submit

short excerpts of prayers God has answered for them to the gift box. You might practice as a class or in groups writing thank you prayers.

- *Memory Verse Model* - Have students illustrate their memory verse with a chenille wire, a lump of clay, a coat hanger mobile, etc.
- *Rerun Review* - Allow students to retell the lesson using paper sack puppets. Allow each student to be someone different so everyone participates. You may reserve the "bad guy kings" for yourself to play. Allow for creativity in coloring or "decorating" their puppets.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the writer of Chronicles emphasize about the lives of these kings?
2. What lesson have you learned from them?
3. What was God willing to do when they humbly repented of their sins? What would God do today?
4. Which king seemed to you the most devoted to God? Why? How do you show your devotion to God?
5. What purpose did God's prophets serve? Does God have prophets today? Why?
6. Why did these kings often make the same mistakes over? Do we do that? What can we do to overcome them?
7. How did Jehoshaphat's army win a battle without having to fight? How can God help you win your battles?
8. Name distinguishing characteristics about: Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, & Jehoshaphat.
9. Which of these characteristics are you adding /incorporating into your life?
10. How important was prayer in the lives of these leaders? Would God help our leaders today if they prayed to Him and kept His commands? How did it affect the outcome of their nation?

Old Testament

Lesson 101: Second Period – Kings Of Judah

Text: II Chronicles 21-32

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|---|
| Memory Verses: | II Chron. 27:6 | So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God. |
| | Psalms 119:11 | Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. |
| | Isaiah 55:7 | Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. |
| | Mark 8:36 | For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? |
| | James 4:4 | Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. |

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|--------|--|
| Goals: | Student will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God rewards us for obeying Him. He will punish us if we choose not to. God allows us to make that choice. • sin is the major source of people's problems. |
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Outline:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| I. Kings of Judah. | |
| A. Jehoram. | II Chronicles 21 |
| B. Ahaziah, Athaliah. | II Chronicles 22 |
| C. Joash. | II Chronicles 23, 24 |
| D. Amaziah. | II Chronicles 25 |
| E. Uzziah. | II Chronicles 26 |
| F. Jotham. | II Chronicles 27 |
| G. Ahaz. | II Chronicles 28 |
| H. Hezekiah. | II Chronicles 29 |

Facts:

1. Upon King Jehoshaphat's death, his son Jehoram became king. Jehoram was a wicked king, greatly influenced by his wife, Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. As soon as he had assumed the throne of Judah, he had all his brothers killed as well as other leaders of Israel. God was unwilling to end David's dynasty because of His promises to David, but He did seek to punish Jehoram

- through Edom's and Libnah's revolt against Judah. They gained their independence in spite of numerical odds. Yet, Jehoram did not repent. Instead, he constructed idols in the very places his father had sought to eliminate them.
2. Elijah was sent by God to tell Jehoram God would punish him and his family with a great plague because of his idolatry. God then stirred the Philistines and Arabs to attack Jehoram, taking all his family and everything of value from the palace. Only Jehoahaz (Ahaziah), Jehoram's youngest son, escaped. Jehoram became stricken by God with an incurable intestinal disease which, after two years of violent suffering, took his life. No one mourned his death and he was not buried with the other kings. Jehoram reigned from 848 to 841 B.C. (II Kings 8)
 3. Ahaziah (Jehoahaz) became their new king. His mother's, Athaliah's, dominating influence caused her son to be an evil idolatrous king too. Advisors from her father, Ahab, came to Jerusalem to council Ahaziah. He formed an alliance with King Jehoram (Ahab's son) in Israel. Israel was at war with Syria (King Hazael), so King Ahaziah joined King Jehoram (Joram) in battle. King Jehoram was wounded so he went to Jezreel to recover. God appointed Jehu to end Ahab's family. Because of Ahaziah's alliance with Israel, God allowed Jehu to kill not only King Jehoram, but Ahaziah's nephews and King Ahaziah. Ahaziah reigned as Judah's king only a few months. (II Kings 9)
 4. Meanwhile, upon the death of her son, wicked Athaliah killed her own grandsons to usurp the throne of Judah herself. Only one year old, Joash was rescued from this slaughter by his Aunt Jehoshabeath, Ahaziah's sister. She and her husband, Jehoiada, the high priest, hid Joash in the temple in a bed chamber for six years while Athaliah was queen. (II Kings 11)
 5. When Joash became seven years old, Jehoiada took certain army officers and royal bodyguards into his confidence. These men secretly informed the Levites and clan leaders of Jehoiada's plans to anoint Joash king. When the day came, Jehoiada had one-third of the Levites stand guard at the temple entrance, one-third stood guard at the place and one-third at the lower gate. Everyone else stood in the outer courts of the temple. With weapons all issued and everyone in place, Jehoiada crowned the young prince proclaiming him king and gave him a copy of God's law. Everyone shouted with joy.
 6. Hearing all the commotion, Athaliah rushed over. Realizing what had happened, she ripped her royal clothes and shouted, "Treason!" Jehoiada instructed the army officers to kill her at the palace stables. They made a promise to be Jehovah God's people once again. The people destroyed Baal's temple and altars, killed Mattan, the priest of Baal, and knocked down the other idols. Young King Joash was escorted to his throne in the palace. Peace inhabited Jerusalem once again because Athaliah was dead. (II Kings 11)
 7. Under Jehoiada's guidance, King Joash tried hard to please God. He realized God's temple was in need of repairs and ordered the Levites to collect a temple tax, issued by Moses, for a building fund. The Levites did not get around to doing this, so Joash had a chest set at the temple gate and a proclamation sent to all the cities to bring the Lord the taxes due with which to repair the temple. The people were glad to do this and filled the chest day after day. Stone masons, carpenters, and craftsmen were hired and soon the temple was back in shape. Sacrifices were offered to God regularly by Jehoiada. After a long life in loyal service to God, Jehoiada died at 130 years old and was buried among the kings of Judah.

8. Upon Jehoiada's death, young King Joash was influenced by those attracted to the materialism of Baal worship. They convinced Joash to reject God and worship idols. In anger, God sent Zechariah, Jehoiada's son, as His prophet to warn Joash and those of Judah of God's wrath for forsaking Him. These leaders talked Joash into executing Jehoiada's son. True to His promise, God allowed Syria's tiny army to conquer Judah, kill its leaders, and pillage all its wealth for the king of Damascus, leaving King Joash severely wounded. His own officials murdered him in his bed. He was not buried among the kings. Joash reigned in Judah forty years (835-796 B.C.). (II Kings 12)
9. King Joash's son, Amaziah became king upon his father's death. Amaziah started out following God's law. He executed his father's assassins. (Deuteronomy 24:16) He organized and counted Judah's armed forces. He paid 100,000 mercenaries from Israel to join him. God's prophet warned him of defeat if he aligned himself with those who had rejected God, such as the Ephraimites, so Amaziah sent the mercenaries home, angry and insulted. Trusting in God, Amaziah reconquered the Edomites of Seir. Among the treasures he returned with are idol gods he set up to worship. This angered God. God sent his prophet to ask Amaziah why he would worship idol gods who didn't save the Edomites from His attack?!
10. Amaziah did not heed God's prophet and in pride decided to attack King Joash of Israel. King Joash warned Amaziah to leave them alone, but Amaziah attacked anyway. God allowed Israel to easily defeat Amaziah's troops and take King Amaziah captive. King Joash of Israel dismantled 200 yards of Jerusalem's wall. Hostages and treasures were pillaged from the palace and the temple. King Amaziah reigned in Judah twenty-nine years before his own people killed him. (II Kings 14)
11. Sixteen year old Uzziah (also called "Azariah") became Judah's next king. Uzziah exhibited certain parallels to the careers of his father and grandfather, following close to God in his early reign and prospering as a result, but deviating spiritually in his latter years and suffering God's wrath as a result. While God's prophet, Zechariah guided Uzziah; he was blessed by God. God helped Uzziah capture Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod from the Philistines. He won battles against the Arabs and Mennites, nomads along Judah's southeast border. The Ammonites paid him yearly taxes. He reinforced Jerusalem's fortress with towers on each corner and built forts and water reservoirs in the Negeb desert of southern Judah. Uzziah had many farms and vineyards. He organized and lavishly equipped his 307,500 troops. Uzziah became very famous and powerful.
12. Unfortunately, such power caused Uzziah to sin, usurping the authority of God's priest by entering the temple himself and burning incense. Azariah, the high priest, demanded he leave. Uzziah refused. At that point, God gave Uzziah leprosy. From that point until his death, he was quarantined to live in isolation. Uzziah reigned fifty-two years (790-739 B.C.). (II Kings 14, 15)
13. Jotham then became king of Judah. His righteousness was rewarded by God in spite of corruption and idolatry among his people. Jotham built the upper gate of the temple and rebuilt its walls. He built cities and fortresses. God blessed him in battle against the Ammonites who for three years paid him yearly taxes. Jotham was a powerful king because he was careful to obey God. He reigned sixteen years (751-736 B.C.). (II Kings 15)

14. Yet, his son, Ahaz, was an evil king who worshipped Baal and offered his own children to Molech. As a result, God allowed Israel's and Syria's kings to defeat him, take his people as prisoners to Damascus, and slaughter his army. Israel's armies took treasures and women and children hostages as well. God's prophet, Oded, warned Israel to return their captive brethren lest God's wrath be kindled against them for their own sins. The leaders of Ephraim agreed. Thus, they were returned to Jericho.
15. Meanwhile, King Ahaz asked Assyria's king to be his ally. Edom and Philistia had invaded Judah's low lands because of Ahaz' evil deeds. Instead of helping Ahaz, Assyria's King Tilgath-pilneser only caused him more trouble. In despair, King Ahaz made matters worse for himself by worshipping the idol gods of Syria. He nailed God's temple shut and made altars to these idols all over Judah which brought upon his ruin. Ahaz reigned in Judah sixteen years. (II Kings 15-18)
16. Hezekiah, Ahaz' son, ruled Judah next. In his first month as king, he had God's temple reopened and repaired. He summoned the Levites to cleanse it so Judah could renew their covenant with Jehovah. This cleaning process took sixteen days. Hezekiah realized the sins of his father and Judah's idolatry had caused Judah's subjection to Syria. Once the temple was ready, he wasted no time having the priests offer sacrifices on behalf of him and his nation. They worshipped Jehovah with sacrifices of thanksgiving and praise. God was pleased. (II Kings 18)
17. King Hezekiah then sent letters throughout all of Israel and Judah encouraging all of God's people to renounce idolatry and come to God's temple to celebrate the Passover feast. This long overdue observance was scheduled one month late due to the necessity of sanctifying the participating priests. (Numbers 9:10, 11) This invitation to the northern kingdom would have been impossible prior to this point in their history, but now their king was powerless and the Assyrians encouraged any defection from him. Hezekiah pleads with them not to be stubborn, but to yield themselves to God's mercy and kindness.
18. Most of his messengers received scorn and laughter. Some did come and all of Judah came. Once assembled, they destroyed all semblance of idolatry. The priests asked God to forgive them for not being more active and involved. They offered sacrifices. They purified those who had come from the northern tribes. The king himself prayed to God on behalf of his nation. With joy and thanksgiving, they continued this seven day celebration another seven days. King Hezekiah provided more animals for offerings and God heard their prayers. (II Kings 17)
19. After Passover, the people massively went out destroying any and all forms of idolatry throughout their cities. King Hezekiah organized service among the priests and Levites. He made personal contributions for daily sacrifices. He reinforced the giving of a portion of belongings and first fruits to the priests for their support. The people responded generously. Store rooms were created in the temple for all the excess the priests received. Conaniah and Shimei were put in charge. Kore, the temple gatekeeper and his assistants were in charge of distributing offerings fairly to the priests. Regular food allotments were given to all the priests' families. King Hezekiah created respect for God's temple, His law, and God blessed him as a result. (II Kings 18)

20. In time, Judah's cities were encompassed by King Sennacherib of Assyria. Hezekiah had his men plug the springs cutting off the water supply outside these cities. He repaired and reinforced the walls of the cities, manufactured more weapons, and recruited his army. He told them to be brave, for although Assyria's army was great, Jehovah God would fight for Judah. King Sennacherib taunted Hezekiah's troops trying to convince them they could not win and Hezekiah had tricked them into a suicide mission. He mocked Jehovah God and Hezekiah with insulting letters and threats.
21. King Hezekiah and Isaiah, the prophet, prayed to God. God sent an angel that killed all of the Assyrian army and their officers. In shame, King Sennacherib returned home alone whereupon his own sons killed him. King Hezekiah and Jehovah became highly honored by surrounding nations.
22. Then King Hezekiah became terminally ill. He prayed to God to heal him and God did. Hezekiah did not thank God at first, but realizing he had angered God, he humbled himself. King Hezekiah was blessed by God with great wealth. He built special treasury buildings for his gold, silver, gems, and spices. He built store houses for grain, wine, and oil. He built housing for all his animals and acquired more towns. He created a water aqueduct on the west side of Jerusalem. He did all this before he died. Hezekiah reigned twenty-nine years as king of Judah. He was sorely missed.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - queens, kings - robe, crown, scepter, throne
 - idols - statues, clay models, "stone" faces
 - toy soldiers, armor
 - captives - handcuffs, paper chains
 - baby Joash - baby doll
 - bed chamber - blankets, pillows, sheets, mats
 - temple model, incense
 - high priests - turbans, scarves, tunic, apron
 - collection box - painted cardboard box with slit
 - money - play money, coins, gold or silver circles
 - toy tools for repairs, broom, mop, dust cloth
 - Jerusalem's wall - building blocks, foam blocks, styrofoam blocks, bricks
 - treasures - gold or silver items, jewelry, clothing play money
 - farms - toy barn, hoe, tractor, vegetables, fruits, grapes
 - leprosy - white stick on dots, white out, fingernail polish
 - altar - box with sticks, toy animals
 - letter - stationery, envelope, scroll
 - feast - paper plates, cups, water, juice, food - real or pretend
 - angel - toy, ornament
 - sick king - thermometer, cloth for head, mourned - tissues, handkerchief
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook

- Video

Songs:

- As The Deer
- Building Up The Temple
- Don't Drink Booze
- Elisha Was A Man Of God
- God Is Not Dead
- God Is Watching Over You
- Happy Feet And Hands Can Help
- Have You Seen Jesus My Lord
- He's My Rock My Sword My Shield
- Hezekiah Was So Sad
- I Love The Lord Messiah
- I Love You Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- Into My Heart
- Jesus Is Lord Of Us All
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- O God You Are My God
- On Bended Knee
- The Joy Of The Lord
- Unto Thee O Lord
- We Will Glorify
- Whisper A Prayer

Activities:

- File Folder Activities: "Kings"
"Choices"
- *The Power Of Success* - Brainstorm with students what makes one "successful" in life. Use pictures, newspaper or magazine articles to show that often people believe materialism will make them happy and successful, but instead brings them problems and unhappiness. Show them that true success and happiness can only come by following God's instructions in the Bible. He is the source of real success.
- *Goats and Sheep* - Sing "I Don't Want To Be A Goat, Nope." In this song we learn "goats" have no hope (of heaven) because of their choices in life and "sheep" are followers of God. Create a "goat corral" and a "sheep fold" in your classroom. Using Bible characters from our lesson, let each student pick one or two characters they want to be. Ahead of time, make a list of good and/or bad actions (choices) these people made. Let students decide if each individual choice would make them a "goat" or a "sheep." Variation: Make up contemporary situations and choices. Let students decide if those choices would make them a "goat" or a "sheep."
- *Matching* - Using the Bible people in this lesson, give each student one character at a time. Write out good or bad things they did. Then let students match those things to the reward or punishment from God that resulted from their choices. As they finish one, let them trade with someone else.
- *Seeking The Source* - Allow students to identify (or suggest yourself) problems they may see people having. Guide them to realize often times sin is the source of their problems. Help them to conclude if they avoid the sin, they avoid the problem. Examples: smoking => cancer, emphysema, coughing; drinking => sick, lose job, wreck car; lying => spanking, grounded; stealing => going to jail. Sing "Don't Drink Booze." With older students explain how often one sin leads to other sins and multiple problems.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was influential with King Jehoram? For good or bad? What can we learn from this? Who influences you?

2. How did God reward King Jehoram for the choices he made? Does God notice the choices we make? Will He reward us accordingly?
3. What do we learn from King Ahaziah? Queen Athaliah?
4. Who influenced King Joash? For good or bad? What do you notice about his life? How could this apply to us?
5. What kind of choices did King Amaziah make? How did God reward him?
6. How did power and wealth affect King Uzziah? Do we see power or wealth change people today? Why?
7. What do you notice about King Jotham's life?
8. What things got King Ahaz in trouble? Why was he so different from his father? What does King Ahaz teach us to stay away from?
9. How did King Hezekiah profit from the mistakes he saw his father make? What did Hezekiah realize about Jehovah God?
10. How did God reward Hezekiah? Take a look at the choices you are making in your life. Is God pleased?

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Old Testament

Lesson 102: The Third And Fourth Periods – Kings Of Judah

Text: II Chronicles 33-36

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--|
| Memory Verses: | II Chron. 34:31 | And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep His commandments, and His testimonies, and His statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book. |
| | II Chron. 36:16 | But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till there was no remedy. |
| | Romans 12:2 | And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. |
| | Romans 14:12 | So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. |
| | Romans 15:4 | For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. |

| | |
|--------|--|
| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God hates to punish His people, but must keep His promise to do so if they continue to sin. • we are all good or bad examples to someone. • God blesses those who obey Him. |
|--------|--|

Outline:

- | | | |
|------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| I. | Kings of Judah. | |
| | A. Manasseh. | II Chronicles 33 |
| | B. Amon | |
| | C. Josiah. | II Chronicles 34, 35 |
| | D. Jehoahaz. | II Chronicles 36 |
| | E. Jehoiakim. | |
| | F. Jehoiachin. | |
| | G. Zedekiah. | |
| | | |
| II. | Proclamation of Cyrus. | II Chronicles 36:22, 23 |

Facts:

1. Manasseh, son of King Hezekiah, succeeded his father as king when he was only twelve years old. It was Manasseh more than any other king who brought about the destruction of Judah, squandering the longest reign of any of Judah's kings on paganism and political subservience to Assyria (696-641 B.C.). Upon his father's death, he rebuilt the heathen altars and idols his father had destroyed. He encouraged his people to worship not only Baal, but the sun, moon, and stars. He sacrificed his own children to Hinnom and consulted sorcerers and fortune tellers. (II Kings 21)
2. This, of course, kindled God's anger. Manasseh even placed idol gods in God's temple. He encouraged more evil in Judah than the Canaanites. God warned Manasseh of destruction through His prophets, but Manasseh and his people ignored them. So God sent the Assyrian army to seize him and hold him captive in Babylon.
3. Such affliction humbled Manasseh and brought him to his senses. He cried to God for help and pleaded for forgiveness. God heard Manasseh's pleas and restored him to Judah as king. He rebuilt Jerusalem's wall and stationed his generals throughout Judah's cities. He removed the idol gods he had erected and tore down the altars he had built. He rebuilt altars to God and ordered his people to worship only Jehovah God. Fifty years of paganism was not completely overcome by five years of Manasseh's reforms. After fifty five years as king, Manasseh was buried beneath his palace. (II Kings 21)
4. Amon, Manasseh's son, was a product of his father's pagan life. As Judah's new king, idol worship resumed. Amon sinned more and more. After a two year reign, Amon's own officers assassinated him in his palace (641-639 B.C.). (II Kings 21)
5. Josiah, Amon's son, became Judah's last good king and one of its greatest. At only eight years old, he sought to follow King David's example. He began ridding Jerusalem and Judah of heathen idols, altars, and obelisks. He ground them to dust and scattered it over the graves of their worshippers. He burned the heathen priests on their own altars. He continued this throughout Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, And Naphtali. (This was a time of chaos caused by raids of nomadic horsemen along the coastal plains, finally ended by the Egyptians. But it rendered Judah a twofold service: it precipitated the call of Jeremiah and Zephaniah, God's prophets; and it eliminated Assyria's domination of Judah the previous fifty years.)
6. Having purged the land, Josiah turned his attention to God's temple. A collection box was set at the temple gates (as Joash had) for repairs to the temple. Materials were purchased and workmen hired to restore the temple's function and beauty. The Levites helped. During the process, Hilkiyah, the high priest, found a scroll with God's laws (the Pentateuch) on it. He contacted Shaphan, the governor, to show him what he found. Shaphan took it with him to the king as he went to make a progress report on the construction.
7. Upon completing his report, Shaphan mentioned the finding of the scroll and read it to King Josiah. Josiah tore his royal robes in despair as he realized his people had not kept God's laws and were subject to God's punishment. (Leviticus 26:32, 33, Deuteronomy 28:36) He summoned Hilkiyah, the high priest to go to the temple and

- plead to God for mercy for him as king and all of Judah and Israel. He had his other men go to Huldah, the prophetess (wife of the king's tailor).
8. Huldah told the king's men God would destroy His people and the curses would come true because of their idolatry. Because of King Josiah's humble, penitent heart, it would not occur in his lifetime. When he heard God's prophesy from Huldah, King Josiah summoned everyone to the temple. There he read to them God's laws and promised to follow all God's commands. He required everyone else to do the same. King Josiah combed his kingdom again, removing all forms of idolatry, including Jeroboam's altars at Bethel. (The prophet, Jeremiah, supported Josiah in his reformations.) (Jeremiah 11, II Kings 22, 23)
 9. In keeping with God's laws, King Josiah announced the observance of Passover be reinstated. He also organized the priests and Levites in their duties as set up by David and Solomon. In the dark days of Manasseh and Amon, the ark seemed to have been removed by the Levites and carried elsewhere for protection. Now, it was put back in place. The Levites sanctified themselves for service.
 10. King Josiah contributed 30,000 lambs and kid goats for offerings. He gave 3,000 bulls. The king's high ranking staff members, Hilkiyah, Zechariah, and Jehiel gave 2,600 sheep and goats and 300 oxen. Other Levite leaders gave 5,000 sheep and goats and 500 oxen for Passover offerings. The entire Passover observance was accomplished in one day. Everyone took part in it as well as the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread that followed.
 11. In 608 B.C., Necho, king of Egypt, sought to conquer the Assyrian empire. Necho wished to march along the Palestinian coastline to meet the Babylonians in war (King Nebuchadnezzar). King Josiah came out to fight him at Charchemish on the Euphrates River. King Necho tried to avoid the conflict with Josiah by telling him he was only after the Assyrians and Josiah's God was with him.
 12. Josiah led his army at Megiddo, the strategic pass between the coastal plain and the Valley of Esdraelon. (A key scene of battles from fifteenth century to World War I.) King Josiah was fatally wounded. His men brought him back to Jerusalem where he died. All of Judah sadly mourned his passing. Josiah reigned over Judah thirty-one years. (II Kings 23, Jeremiah 22)
 13. The last kings of Judah were three of Josiah's sons and one grandson. Jehoahaz, at twenty-three years old, succeeded his father. His reign lasted only three months. His deportation as prisoner by the king of Egypt ended independent government in Judah. Necho taxed Judah \$250,000 yearly. Jehoahaz did not serve God.
 14. Necho then appointed Eliakim, Jehoahaz' brother, king of Judah. Necho changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim, just another demonstration of Necho's control. He was twenty-five years old and reigned eleven years (608-598 B.C.). Jehoiakim was a wicked king heavily taxing the people to pay tribute to Egypt's pharaoh, while he lived in luxury. He was unjust in judicial matters, he persecuted God's prophets and oppressed the poor.
 15. In 605 B.C., the Babylonians won an important victory over Necho of Egypt, driving the Egyptians back within their own borders and Palestine (Judah) was left to Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar took Jehoiakim prisoner as well as select hostages (Daniel was one) and items from God's temple. This began the seventy years of Babylonian exile.
 16. Jehoiakim's eight year old son, Jehoiachin, ascended Judah's throne. He reaped the results of his father's rebellion reigning only three months, ten days. In 597 B.C.,

- Nebuchadnezzar deported Jehoiachin as prisoner along with more hostages including the prophet Ezekiel. Jehoiachin did not serve Jehovah.
17. Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, became Judah's last king who touched off the final revolt by rebelling against Babylon's king. Zedekiah refused to heed God's messages through His prophet, Jeremiah. Instead he encouraged idolatry. He stubbornly refused to submit to Jehovah, kindling God's anger. God used Babylon (Chaldeans) to destroy His people. God allowed a third deportation in 586 B.C. of His people as slaves. The Babylonians killed Judah's young men as well as their old men and young girls. They took the treasure from the temple and the palace, then they burned down God's temple, the palaces, and broke down Jerusalem's walls. (II Kings 24, 25, Jeremiah 34-37, Ezekiel 17)
 18. After initial discouragements and oppression, some of God's people gained status and favor, others grew worldly indifferent, still others gained spiritual maturity. Jeremiah's prophecy came true that the land would rest for seventy years (during their exile) to make up for all the neglected Sabbath years.
 19. In 538 B.C., King Cyrus of Persia conquered Belshazzar of Babylon. As an instrument of God's providence, His people were allowed to return to Jerusalem, rebuild God's temple, and worship Jehovah once again. Archaeologists confirm Cyrus' policy of religious reconciliation and allowing those exiled to return by his own inscriptions. The remnant's return was also prophesied by Jeremiah and fulfilled.
 20. Chronicles is essentially a book to encourage those returning from exile. It records Judah's triumphs and vindications through faith even in the face of impossible situations. It demonstrates God will punish His people for disobedience. It shows their exile was not a permanent defeat but an ultimate triumph of the faithful. History is a process of sifting and selection. In this case, separating the unfaithful to expose the faithful remnant.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - kings - robe, crown, scepter, sad/happy faces with crowns for good/bad kings
 - altar - rocks, clay, box with sticks, tissue paper "fire"
 - idol gods - statue, clay form, zodiac figures (sun, moon, stars)
 - sorcerers/fortune tellers - cone hat, "crystal" ball (bowl)
 - prophets - mantle, fabric drape, scarf or turban for head.
 - jail - paper chains, toy handcuffs, rope, "bars" - dowels in small box frame
 - Jerusalem's wall - building blocks, box type "bricks," Legos
 - army officials - armor, helmet, sword, spear, breastplate
 - temple model
 - collection box - painted box with a hole, play money, coins
 - toy tools - hammer, measuring tape, broom, chisel, mop, cleaning cloth
 - scroll - paper on dowel sticks, straws, pencils
 - old shirt, garment to tear
 - toy - sheep, goats, cows, bulls
 - feast - plates, cups, real or pretend food, water
 - arrow
 - gavel - Jehoiakim
 - map - Egypt, Babylon, Euphrates River, Megiddo, Estraelon

temple treasure - gold, silver bowls, cups

- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls-kings
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- Awesome God
- Building Up The Temple
- God Is So Good
- Happiness Is
- Humble Yourself
- I Have Decided To Follow Jesus
- I Know The Lord Will Make A Way
- I Will Call Upon The Lord
- I Will Listen To God's Word
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- O The B-I-B-L-E
- Our God Keeps His Promises
- Prayer
- Read The Book
- Seek Ye First
- This Is The Way We
- We Are Called To Be God's People
- We Bow Down
- What Ever I Shall Be
- Without Him

Activities:

- *Popcorn* - Make up a list of true/false statements relating to today's lesson. As you read the statements, students should "pop up" or stand quickly if it is true. If it is false, they should remain seated. Remind them as popcorn pops, it "pops" quickly.
- *Idol Gods* - Discuss with students what idol gods were made of and fashioned after. Give each student a ball of clay or Play Doh or various craft materials. Give them time to be creative. Discuss what they fashioned their idol to look like. Then discuss the absurdity of these figures listening to peoples' prayers and being worshipped. Guide students to identify what things people make their "idols" today and how they "worship" them or put them before Jehovah God.
- *Follow Me* - Discuss with students how young Josiah was a good example to his people. Talk about the role model he chose to follow (King David). Guide them to examine their own role models and why they would choose that person to follow. Help them see how God gives us good role models to follow in His word. He also shows us role models to avoid. Help them list both. Then help them to see they are a role model to someone and they need to be aware of their own examples.
- *The Age Of Aquarius* - King Manasseh was guilty of worshipping the sun, moon, and stars. He also delved into sorcery and fortune tellers. Help students see the falsehoods associated with horoscopes, astrology, fortune tellers and such. Encourage older students to research the origin of such and how scripturally God is not pleased with such activities.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. How did King Manasseh sin against God? What was his punishment? How did he demonstrate a penitent heart?
2. How did King Manasseh's example affect his son Amon? What was the result?

3. Whose example did King Josiah try to follow? Whose example do you look to? Who is following your example?
4. What did King Josiah use as his guide? Why did Josiah fight Necho? What should he have done? Why?
5. Was Jehoahaz successful as king? Why?
6. Was Jehoiakim successful as king? Why?
7. Was Jehoiachin successful as king? Why?
8. Was Zedekiah successful as king? Why?
9. What made some kings successful? What would make you successful in life?
10. What was God's purpose in allowing His people to be exiled as slaves again? Did this make Him happy?

**

Old Testament

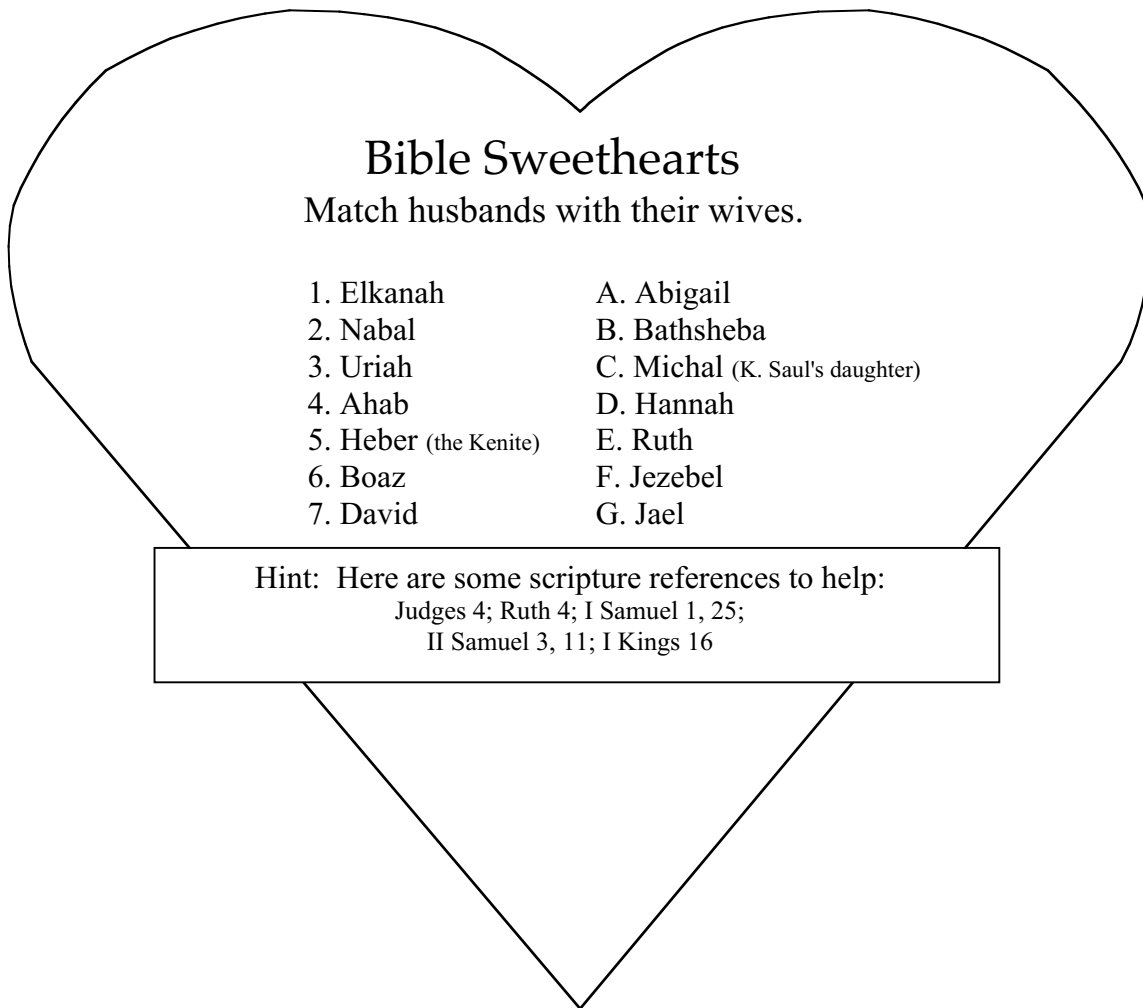
Lesson 103: Review of Ruth Through II Chronicles

Text: Ruth-II Chronicles

1. Ruth 1:16 "And _____ said, Entreat me not to leave thee or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will ____; and where thou lodgest, I will ____; thy people shall be my _____, and thy God my ____."
2. Ruth was from (Moab, Samaria). Ruth took good care of her mother-in-law, _____ when their husbands died. Ruth later marries _____ and has a son named _____.
3. Hannah was married to (Peninnah, Elkanah). She prayed for a son whom she promised to give back to God in dedicated service. God gives her a son named _____. Every year when Hannah would come to worship at the tabernacle, she would bring him a new _____. _____, the high priest, took care of her son. (I Samuel 1)
4. When Samuel was a boy, who called out to him 3 times in the night? (Eli, God) (I Samuel 3)
5. Eli's sons were (mean, nice). (I Samuel 2)
6. Samuel was a (king, judge). (I Samuel 7)

Who Am I?

1. We stole God's ark of the covenant? (Philistines, Moabites) (I Samuel 4)
2. Israel's 1st king: _____ (I Samuel 9)
2nd king: _____ (II Samuel 2)
3rd king: _____ (I Kings 1)
3. I was Jonathan's best friend. _____ (I Samuel 18)
4. I was a Philistine giant killed by a boy with a sling. _____ (I Samuel 17)
5. I was jealous of David and tried to kill him. _____ (I Samuel 18)
6. I liked to play music and write songs to/about God. _____ (I Samuel 16)
7. David cut the hem of my robe off. _____ (I Samuel 24)
8. My husband was rude to David. When he dies, David made me his wife. ____ (I Samuel 25)
9. I stole King Saul's spear and water as he chased after me. _____ (I Samuel 26)
10. King Saul came to see me to talk to Samuel's ghost. _____ (I Samuel 28)
11. I was known as "a man after God's own heart." _____ (Acts 13:22)
12. I was captain of King David's army. _____ (I Chronicles 20)



Memory Verses:

* I Samuel 15:22b "Behold to obey is better than _____, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

* I Samuel 16:7b "for the Lord seeth not as a _____ seeth, for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the _____."

* I Samuel 18:7 "And the women answered one another as they played, and said, _____ hath slain his thousands, and _____ his ten thousands."

* I Samuel 24:17 "And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me _____, whereas I have rewarded thee _____."

* II Samuel 22:4, 47 "I will call upon the _____, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

The _____ liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted by the God of the rock of my _____."

Who Did It?

1. Who touched the ark of the covenant to keep it from falling and died? (II Samuel 6)
2. Who was Jonathan's son that could not walk, for whom David cared? (II Samuel 9)
3. With whom did David commit adultery? (II Samuel 11)
4. Who exposed David's sin of adultery and murder and told him God is not pleased? (II Samuel 12)
5. Which of David's sons rebel against him and try to take over his throne? (II Samuel 15)
6. Who threw rocks at King David? (II Samuel 16)
7. For what is Solomon most remembered? (I Kings 2-11)
8. What special visitor did Solomon have come to see him and his vast kingdom? (I Kings 10)
9. When the nation of Israel divided, which tribes became the southern kingdom? (I Kings 12)

Label the diagram of Solomon's temple from the words in the word bank:

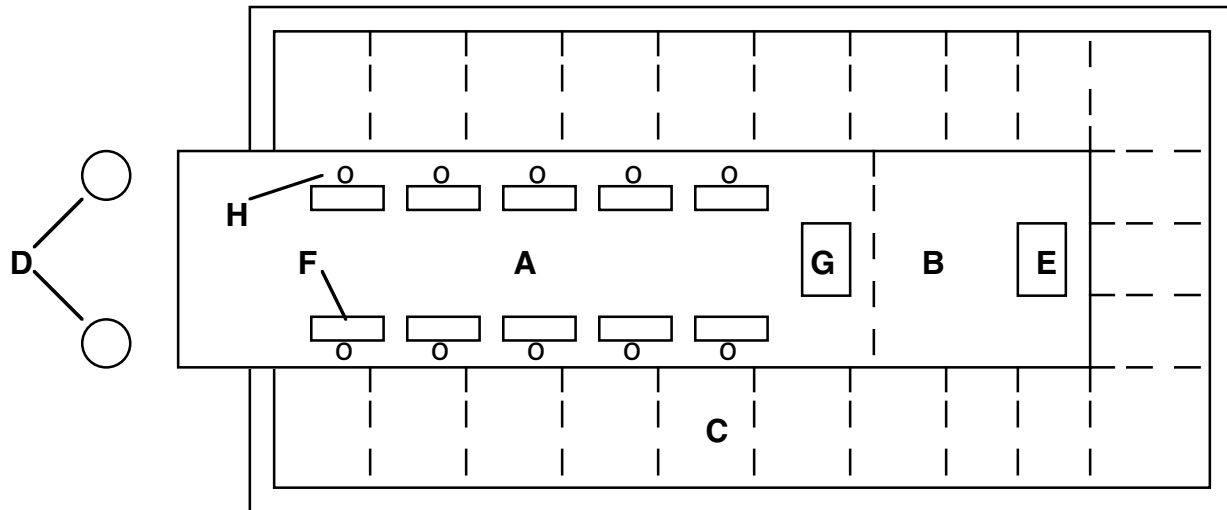
(See I Kings 5-7 for help)

Word Bank

- The Most Holy Place
- Storage Chambers
- Pillars
- Tables Of Shewbread
- Ark Of The Covenant
- Lampstands
- Altar Of Incense
- The Holy Place

Answers

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____
- E. _____
- F. _____
- G. _____
- H. _____



Divided We Fall:

Check-mark over which kingdom these kings reigned:

(Refer to these scriptures to jog your memory: I Kings 12-16, II Chronicles 12-29)

| <u>Kings</u> | <u>Northern Kingdom</u> | <u>Southern Kingdom</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rehoboam | | |
| Jeroboam | | |
| Ahab | | |
| Jehoshaphat | | |
| Hezekiah | | |

Who Am I?

1. To whom did God have the ravens bring food at the Brook Cherith? (I Kings 17)
2. Who was Israel's most wicked king? (I Kings 16)
3. Who did Elijah challenge to a contest on Mount Carmel? (I Kings 18)
4. Who did God pick to take over Elijah's job after he died? (I Kings 19)
5. Whose vineyard did King Ahab and Queen Jezebel steal? (I Kings 21)
6. How did Elijah leave this earth? (II Kings 2)
7. Who built on a room for Elisha? (II Kings 4)
8. Who dipped seven times in the Jordan River to get rid of his leprosy? (II Kings 5)
9. Who was Elisha's servant? (II Kings 5)
10. Which king had Queen Jezebel thrown out the window and King Ahab's sons' heads in a basket? (II Kings 9,10)
11. Which king became Judah's king at seven years old and had God's temple repaired? (II Kings 11,12)
12. Which kingdom is taken captive first and enslaved by Assyria? (II Kings 17)
13. What was their greatest sin against God?
14. Which king received a threatening letter from the Assyrians and spread it out for God to read at the temple? (II Kings 19)
15. Which king became Judah's king at eight years old and had the temple repaired and a lost scroll of God's word was discovered while cleaning? (II Kings 22)
16. What Babylonian king does God allow to take the southern kingdom into captivity? (II Kings 24,25)
17. I Chronicles tells primarily of the life and times of (King David, King Taylor, King Solomon).
18. II Chronicles tells of King (Solomon, Saul) and the kings of (Judah, Israel).

Answer Key:

1. Ruth, go, lodge, people, God
2. Moab, Naomi, Boaz, Obed
3. Elkanah, Samuel, coat, Eli
4. God
5. mean
6. judge

Who Am I?

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Philistines | 7. King Saul |
| 2. Saul, David, Solomon | 8. Abigail |
| 3. David | 9. David |
| 4. Goliath | 10. the witch of Endor |
| 5. King Saul | 11. King David |
| 6. David | 12. Joab |

Bible Sweethearts:

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. F
5. G
6. E
7. C

Memory Verses:

- * sacrifice
- * man, heart
- * Saul, David
- * good, evil
- * Lord, Lord, salvation

Who Did It?

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Uzzah | 6. Shimei |
| 2. Mephibosheth | 7. wisdom, riches, building God's temple |
| 3. Bathsheba | 8. the queen of Sheba |
| 4. Nathan the prophet | 9. Judah, Benjamin |
| 5. Absalom | |

Solomon's Temple:

- A. The Holy Place
- B. The Most Holy Place
- C. Storage Chambers
- D. Pillars
- E. Ark Of The Covenant
- F. Tables Of Shewbread
- G. Altar Of Incense

H. Lampstands

Divided We Fall:

Northern: Jeroboam, Ahab

Southern: Rehoboam, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah

Who Am I?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Elijah | 10. King Jehu |
| 2. King Ahab | 11. King Joash (Jehoash) |
| 3. the prophets of Baal | 12. northern kingdom (Israel) |
| 4. Elisha | 13. idolatry |
| 5. Naboth's | 14. King Hezekiah |
| 6. whirlwind | 15. King Josiah |
| 7. the Shunammite woman | 16. King Nebuchadnezzar |
| 8. Naaman | 17. King David |
| 9. Gehazi | 18. Solomon, Judah |

Old Testament

Lesson 104: The Great Restoration

Text: Ezra 1,2

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|
| Memory Verses: | Ezra 1:2 | Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The Lord God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and He hath charged me to build Him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. |
| | Psalms 33:18 | Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; |
| | Galatians 6:1 | Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. |

| | |
|--------|--|
| Goals: | <p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God always preserves and provides for His people. • we are to be preparing for our journey home to heaven. • God will restore His people to Him when they turn from sin and obey Him again. |
|--------|--|

Outline:

- I. The first expedition to Jerusalem. Ezra 1
 - A. Cyrus' decree.
 - B. Preparations for the journey.
 - C. Temple vessels are returned.

- II. Those who returned. Ezra 2
 - A. Zerubbabel, their leader.
 - B. A four month trip.
 - C. Everyone gave.

Facts:

1. The book of Ezra was written through the inspiration of God by Ezra about 457-444 B.C. Ezra was a scribe and a priest. He was also a descendant of Hilkiah. The return to Jerusalem from captivity occurred in three stages. Ezra covers the first two in 538 B.C. and 458 B.C. respectively. (Chronologically, the book of Esther occurred between the first and second return (483-473 B.C.). The general theme is "the restoration" of God's temple and God's people, spiritually, morally, and socially. This took place under Persian rule which tended to want to merge religious beliefs into one. This posed tremendous temptations to God's people, now called "the Jews," to establish and maintain purity as a nation.
2. God fulfilled His promise to Israel through Jeremiah, the prophet, that captivity would only last seventy years. (Jeremiah 25:1-12) In 539 B.C., God allowed

- Cyrus, king of Persia to conquer Babylon. God also provided that one of Cyrus' first public acts as king over Babylon was to encourage God's people, the Jews, to return to Palestine to rebuild God's temple. Almost 200 years earlier, Isaiah had prophesied that Cyrus would be God's instrument for freeing His people and initiating temple restoration. (Isaiah 44:28-45:13)
3. Cyrus announced (decreed) that God had blessed him with his vast empire and all Jews could now return to Jerusalem. Cyrus encouraged those who chose not to make the journey home to contribute toward the needs and expenses of those who did go. About 50,000 Jews made preparations to leave; the majority stayed at this time (Jeremiah 29:4-7), but were happy to help out.
 4. God gave the leaders of Judah and Benjamin, as well as the priests and Levites, a strong desire to go and rebuild God's temple. Much was donated as gifts for the temple. Even Cyrus donated 1,000 gold trays, 29 censers, 30 gold bowls, 2,410 silver bowls and 1,000 other miscellaneous items. He gave back the gold bowls and valuable things King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from God's temple. In all, Shesh-bazzar (also called Zerubbabel) had 5,469 gold and silver items to take back to Jerusalem. (Zerubbabel was King Jehoiachin's grandson. I Chronicles 3:17-19)
 5. Those who returned to Jerusalem were divided into eight groups: Zerubbabel and other leaders (vs. 1, 2), Jewish families (vs. 3-19), Palestinian towns (vs. 20-35), priests (vs. 36-39), Levites (vs. 40-42), Nethinims (temple task workers, vs. 43-54), Solomon's servants (vs. 55-58), and those who had lost their genealogies (vs. 59-63).
 6. The leaders who accompanied Zerubbabel were: Jeshua, the high priest (grandson of Seraiah), Nehemiah (not the writer of the book Nehemiah), Seraiah, Reelaiah, Mordecai (Esther's uncle), Bilshan, Mizpar, Bigvai, Rehum, and Baanah.
 7. Many of the families mentioned in 2:3-19 appear again in Ezra 8-10 and Nehemiah 10 for the second and third expeditions. Most of the towns mentioned returning have appeared elsewhere in the Old Testament.
 8. Those Levites returning were, the regular Levites who assisted the priests, the singers and the porters. Only 341 Levites returned, as compared to 4,289 priests.
 9. The Nethinims served as temple assistants and task workers. They were probably descendants of the Gibeonites. (Joshua 9) The children of Solomon's servants were prisoners of war like the Nethinims.
 10. There were common people as well as three families of priests that could not prove their relationships to God's nation through the genealogical records. They were permitted to accompany the others on the journey but excluded from official duty. Until Urim and Thummin could be consulted, the priests families could not perform their duties or eat of the priests' share of sacrificial food. "Tirshatha" was a Persian title, possibly meaning "his excellency." (Exodus 28:30) Here it refers to Zerubbabel, the governor. (This same title is used for Nehemiah in Nehemiah 8:9.) Urim and Thummin were used by the high priest to determine God's will. Unfortunately, this did not happen and the problem for these families was unresolved.
 11. A total of 42,360 people returned on that first expedition back to Jerusalem. In addition, there were non-Israelite singers hired for festivities and lamenting occasions. All twelve tribes were represented.

12. The leaders gave generously toward the rebuilding of the temple. Everyone gave as much as they could. The priests and Levites and some of the common people settled in Jerusalem and nearby towns. The others settled other cities of Israel from which they had come.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - paper chains, cuffs
 - sword, armor
 - King Cyrus - crown, robe
 - gold and silver trays, bowls, items - party store plastics, spray paint items
 - groups of expeditioners - use students, hats, costumes - fabric drape or sheets for robes
 - play money, gold and silver coins
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Puppets/Dolls
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs:

- A Helper I Will Be
- Ezra Was A Scribe
- Father Abraham
- Go Ye Means Go Me
- God Is Watching Over You
- God's Family
- Hallelu, Hallehu
- Happy Feet And Hands Can Help
- He's Got The Whole World
- He's The Lord Of All
- Humble Yourselves
- I'm Yours Lord
- I've Been Redeemed
- Make Me A Sanctuary
- O God You Are My God
- The Steadfast Love Of The Lord
- This Little Light Of Mine
- We Shall Assemble

Activities:

- *Early Expeditioners* - With younger students, help them to "play act" this expedition. Provide "props" of things they might need to pack to take with them on their journey to Jerusalem. Use stick horses, mules, camels. Remind them of the gifts for the temple they must haul with them and the work cut out for them on the temple when they arrive. Pack your tools! Walk them up hills, down valleys, and across rivers from Babylon to Jerusalem around your classroom.
- *A Look At Our Leaders* - Zerubbabel was a good leader for God's people. Discuss God's leaders then vs. now. For younger students help them to identify the leaders of the church by name, picture, in person and what they do. Have older students each choose a leader to interview. Make the interview as extensive as is age appropriate and time is available. Have them report in class their finding. (You may choose to designate a specific questionnaire for them.)
- *What Is A Prophecy?* - Take time to make sure students understand what a prophecy is. Help them to see how these prophecies proved God was very real and in control of

everything present and future. Have older students research “prophecy” and specific prophecies made and fulfilled.

- *Home At Last* - Using maps, show students how, over time, Israel's territories went through changes by conquering and being conquered. Now that they are headed home, show where they were coming from and going back to. Option: With older students, go on to parallel how we should be constantly preparing for our journey “home” to heaven.
- Age-appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Who was Ezra?
2. Who lead the first expedition to Jerusalem? Tell something about him?
3. Who let the Israelites go back home to Jerusalem? What were they to do when they got there?
4. What is the theme of this book?
5. Who decided to go to Jerusalem? Why didn't all the Jews go home?
6. How many of the twelve tribes were represented? Where did they settle?
7. How anxious would you have been to go on that first expedition? What would you have done once you got there?
8. How did God show His love for His people? How did they show their love for God? How do you show your love for God?
9. Zerubbabel was a good leader. Who are our leaders in the church? How does God use them?
10. How are you preparing for your journey “home” to heaven?
