

LESSON 68

Good King, Bad King

2 CHRONICLES 29:1-33:25



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S PLAN IS BIGGER THAN OUR SIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Chronicles 32:20—33:25 from the Scriptures or read story 68, “Good King, Bad King,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Worship Restored
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ percussion instruments (enough for everyone)
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Here We Go Again
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ large bag of confetti
 - ✓ a broom and dustpan
 - ✓ a trash can
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 68—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Tear Down the Idols
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ twenty-five or more pictures of idols (Print out a few pictures from the Internet and then photocopy them.)
 - ✓ masking tape

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Hezekiah follows the Lord—Hezekiah becomes king of Judah not long after the kingdom of Israel is defeated by the Assyrians. It had been more than 160 years since any king of Judah had even tried to follow God.

Hezekiah knows the reason for Israel’s and Judah’s suffering—their stubborn disobedience to God. So Hezekiah cleanses the temple and restores worship of God there. He also reinstates the Passover. Hezekiah transforms Jerusalem for the better.

Manasseh rejects the Lord—As Hezekiah ages, his desire to honor God weakens. Becoming rich and proud and selfish, all he cares about is having peace and security.

Hezekiah’s son Manasseh had not been alive to see his father during his best days when he was restoring the temple. Clearly, Manasseh is more influenced by pagan culture than by any godly example he may have received from his father. Manasseh’s fall into sin is deep. He sacrifices his own children to idols and draws Judah away from God, yet in his pride he wants his name to live forever in Jerusalem, the city of God’s holy temple. God uses the Assyrian army to discipline Manasseh.

Manasseh repents—While in prison, Manasseh humbles himself and prays. God hears his prayer and makes him king of Jerusalem again. Manasseh strengthens the city with walls and removes both the idols and the places where the idols are worshiped. He restores God’s altar and offers sacrifices on it.

Sadly, after Manasseh dies, his son Amon does not follow the Lord. So, less than sixty years after the death of Hezekiah, all the things he did to bring the kingdom of Judah back to God have been lost and forgotten. However, as we will soon see, Amon’s son Josiah becomes the best king in the entire history of the divided kingdom.

WHERE IS JESUS?

PHow does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 2 Chronicles 30:21–26.

Hezekiah called the people to obey the Lord by celebrating the Passover. Then, after the Passover lamb was sacrificed, thousands of bulls were also killed. All of these animals that were sacrificed pointed forward to Jesus. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice. Once Jesus died, no more sacrifices were needed because everyone who trusts in Jesus' blood shed on the cross will be saved for all time.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Chronicles 32:20—33:25 from the Scriptures or read story 68, "Good King, Bad King," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Worship Restored

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ percussion instruments (enough for everyone)

Read the account of the restoration of worship in the temple, 2 Chronicles 29:20–30, and then lead the children in singing and playing a song that celebrates our worship of the Lord

Then ask the class the following questions:

■ **Why did worship need to be restored?**

(Hezekiah's father was a wicked king who did not make God's worship a priority. As a result the people worshiped idols.)

■ **Second Chronicles 29:30 tells us that the people sang praises to the Lord with the words of David and Asaph. To what does this refer?**

(Both David and Asaph were songwriters. Many of their songs are preserved for us in the book of Psalms. Read Psalm 108:1–5 and Psalm 73:25–28 as examples of their songs.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Here We Go Again

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ large bag of confetti
- ✓ a broom and dustpan
- ✓ a trash can

This exercise is designed to illustrate the way that the kings of Judah failed repeatedly and seriously.

Prior to class, sprinkle confetti over the children's chairs. When they arrive, enlist their help in cleaning up. Explain that one of the helpers thought it would be good to have a more festive environment but that you thought it would create a mess for the cleaning people.

After the confetti is cleared, review briefly for the children the history of the kings of Israel. Explain to them that Israel did not seem to be able to keep a godly king for long. Ahaz was evil, but his son Hezekiah followed the Lord when he was young. Then Hezekiah's son Manasseh was evil although he repented while in Assyrian captivity, but his son Amon was wicked. Josiah followed the Lord. Explain that it seemed that just as God got things cleaned up, the new king would mess things up again and start following other gods.

Have a helper from your class (the confetti culprit) come in and tell you that you are wanted in the hallway. Before leaving, explicitly and obviously tell the helper not to sprinkle any more confetti.

As soon as you leave, the helper should go into “party mode” and start to throw confetti, explaining that he just wants to lighten the atmosphere.

When you return, take the confetti bag away from the helper and ask him to leave. Then have the children clean up again.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **How did it feel to clean up the second time?**
(We were getting tired of picking up the confetti.)
- **How would you feel if you had to clean up the mess ten times?**
(I wouldn't like it; I wouldn't do it; I would take the confetti away; etc.)
- **How did God react when Israel and Judah sinned again and again?**
(God did bring judgment on his people but only out of his compassion to lead them back to him. God never abandoned them. He even forgave Manasseh for his sins when Manasseh humbled himself and repented. The most amazing fact of the gospel is that God sent his Son to die for us—his enemies!)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 68—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Which king is the good king?**
(the one on the left)
- **What is the good king doing?**
(tearing down the idol)

■ **Why is Manasseh a bad king?**

(He put the idols back up that his father tore down.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Tear Down the Idols

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ twenty-five or more pictures of idols (Print out a few pictures from the Internet and then photocopy them.)
- ✓ masking tape

Before your class arrives, tape up the pictures of idols low enough for the children to take them down. The more idols you tape up, the more dramatic the effect. Overturn the furniture to show that the classroom is also in bad condition.

Read 2 Chronicles 29:1–18, and then tell the children you are going to pretend that your classroom is the temple. They can be the Levites who cleanse the temple. Have some children tear down the idols while others restore the furniture. Ask how they felt when they walked into the room and saw the furniture turned upside down. Talk about how Hezekiah obeyed the Lord.

