

LESSON 68

Good King, Bad King

2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11; 33:1-5



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S PLAN IS BIGGER THAN OUR SIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 68)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 68

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Clean up the Filth

SUPPLIES: picture of your family in an inexpensive frame; glass cleaner; paper towels; dirt in a container; water; newspapers or drop cloth

Generations

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn that the kings of Judah varied from righteous men who followed God to those who worshiped idols.

Ask the class:

- **What is an idol?**
(*An idol is a false god that people worship.*)
- **Why is it wrong to worship idols?**
(*You can only worship one god—either the true God or false gods.*)

God was patient with his people. Explain what it means to be patient. Even though God was patient many of the kings of Judah did not follow God but fell away to worship idols.

Take some time to play a game with the children.

If you say the words “bad king” they should boo.
 If you say the words “good king,” they should cheer.
 If you say, “The God of Israel,” they should shout, “Praise the Lord.”
 If you say, “false idols,” they should say, “Tear them down.”

Do this to help the children get the idea of the difference between idols and God. Have fun with this, trying to go more and more quickly as they become better and better at it.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 68, “Good King, Bad King,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What are the two king's names?**

(Hezekiah and Manasseh)

- **Which king is a good king?**

(Hezekiah is the good king because he worshiped God and took the idols out of the temple and high places.)

- **What is an idol?**

(An idol is something we worship in place of God. An idol can be anything we love more than God.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **Why are idols so bad?**

(Idols take our worship and love away from God.)

- **Can we worship idols today?**

(Yes, anything we love more than God becomes an idol in our life. God is not willing to share our worship with anything else.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: 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 would ever be needed because everyone who trusts in Jesus' blood shed on the cross will be saved for all time.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 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.)

Clean up the Filth**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ picture of your family in an inexpensive frame
- ✓ glass cleaner
- ✓ paper towels
- ✓ dirt in a container
- ✓ water
- ✓ newspapers or drop cloth

Prior to class, mix up some dirt and water to make mud and smear it on the picture frame glass so that you can't see through. Keep the picture in a bag until you are ready to use it.

Read 2 Chronicles 29:1–11 and then tell the class that you just remembered that you had a picture of your family that you wanted them to see. Pretend you don't see the mud on the glass.

Ask the children:

- **Would you hang this picture in your house?**
(no)
- **What do you think should be done with it?**
(clean it.)

Take out your cleaner and clean the glass. Then retell the story of how Hezekiah was a good king. He cleansed the temple of the Lord, which meant he had the priests take out altars to false gods from inside the temple. Tell the class that the problem with Jerusalem was that they had some good kings but many bad kings. The good kings would tear down the idols, but the bad kings would put them right back up again.

Tell the class that Hezekiah had a son named Manasseh. Ask the class what they think Manasseh was like. Tell them you will give them a clue, pull out your mud and start wiping it all over the picture again. Then read 2 Chronicles 33:1–5.

- **Do you think my family would like what I did to their picture?**
(no)
- **What do you think God thinks about Manasseh and other idol-worshipping kings?**
(God is not pleased when anyone worships a false god.)

Generations

Ask the children if it is a good thing or a bad thing to have a mom and a dad who love God. (a good thing)

Remind them of Hezekiah and Manasseh and ask them how Manasseh turned out so evil if he had a good dad like Hezekiah. (Accept any answer.)

Ask the class if they can think of another dad or mom in the Bible who loved God but whose sons or daughters turned away from God. (Adam and Eve's son Cain did not follow God, and Jacob's sons sold their brother Joseph into slavery.)

Tell the children that every generation has to choose to love God. Moms and dads who love God are wonderful gifts, but they cannot make their children believe God. Each boy and girl must do that for himself or herself.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

