

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**
Remember the Passover
SUPPLIES:
✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- 4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Hezekiah's Life
SUPPLIES:
✓ pencils and paper
✓ Bible with a concordance
- 6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
The King Prays
SUPPLIES:
✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
- 8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **15 MIN**
Compare the Kings
SUPPLIES:
✓ paper
✓ pens/pencils

TOTAL 85 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Chronicles

The books of First and Second Chronicles were written after the release of the exiles from Babylon in 538 BC. Chronicles is written as a compilation of other books, some of which we have, like the historical books of Samuel and Kings and the prophetic book of Isaiah. It also references books that are lost, such as the chronicles of King David (1 Chronicles 27:24), the Book of the Kings of Israel (1 Chronicles 9:1), and the writings of Nathan (1 Chronicles 29:29). When studying the books of Chronicles, it is always helpful to check the cross-references to see if more information is given in another passage of Scripture that we still have.

WHERE IS JESUS?

How 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**

Remember the Passover

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

Discuss the Passover with the children. On the whiteboard record the things that they remember about the original Passover. Then reread the account from Exodus 12:11–30. After you read the account, ask them to add to your list any details they may have forgotten.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Why do you think God made sure the good kings reinstated the Passover?**
(God intended for the Passover feast to be the lasting ordinance, remembered for all generations [Exodus 12:17].)
- **Why is the Passover so important?**
(The Passover is a powerful picture of Jesus, the Passover Lamb, slain for us so that death and judgment pass over us just as it passed over the Israelites. In the Old Testament, there is no more pointed foreshadowing of Christ than the Passover.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

Hezekiah's Life

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencils and paper
- ✓ Bible with a concordance

Divide the class into eight groups. Explain that the prophet Isaiah lived during Hezekiah's reign and that we get a glimpse of Hezekiah's life by reading Isaiah's writings in addition to 2 Chronicles and 2 Kings. In order to expand the students' knowledge base, assign different groups to read about Hezekiah's life and report on what they learn about him from the various passages.

Group #	Theme	Passage
1	Hezekiah's early reign	2 Chronicles 29
2	Hezekiah's early reign	2 Chronicles 30
3	Hezekiah's middle reign	2 Chronicles 32:1–23
4	Hezekiah's middle reign	Isaiah 37:1–32
5	Hezekiah's middle reign	2 Kings 19
6	Hezekiah's middle reign	Isaiah 38
7	Hezekiah's last years	Isaiah 39
8	Hezekiah's last years	2 Chronicles 32:24–33

Help the students see how important it is to study the whole Bible. Bring in a study Bible and show the class how to use cross-references to connect passages. Look up passages in 2 Chronicles and show how they point to others in Isaiah.

Look at 2 Chronicles 33:1–6. Ask, “What kind of example did Manasseh see as he watched the last years of Hezekiah’s reign?” Find out if the students think Hezekiah’s pride affected his son.

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 15 MIN

The King Prays

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Hezekiah praying.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **15 MIN****Compare the Kings****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ paper
- ✓ pens/pencils

Divide the class into groups. Give each group a king from the list below. Have the children make a list of the good traits of the king on one side of the sheet and the bad traits of the king on the other. Then have each group report their findings and give their king a score from one to ten, one being terribly evil and ten being very godly.

- Hezekiah—2 Chronicles 29:1—30:12 (There is more on Hezekiah, but this group can search these verses to conserve time.)
- Manasseh—2 Chronicles 33:1–20
- Amon—2 Chronicles 33:21–25
- Jesus—Hebrews 4:14—5:5 (Although this passage in Hebrews talks about Jesus in his role as priest, we know from other passages like Revelation 19:16 that he was also a king. Jesus is the only king of Israel that did not sin even once.)

After all the groups are finished, have one person from each group present their findings to the class. Talk about how every king sinned except for Jesus. Refer to the “Where Is Jesus?” section of this lesson, and use it to share the gospel with the children.