
SAINT MARY COPTIC CHURCH
MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM
BOOK OF SECOND KINGS
5 LESSONS



2 Kings

INTRODUCTION, SERVANTS PREPARATION

Remind the students with the ending of 1st Kings, the last prophet, last king and last big incidents

video of [Read Scripture 1-2 Kings](#)

Summary



The Books of 1 and 2 Kings received their names because they document the reigns of the 40 monarchs of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah following David. Israel had 20 kings, and Judah had 20, including one female who usurped the throne: Athaliah.

In general, it describes the history of the kings of Israel and Judah in the light of God's covenants. The guiding thesis of the book is that the welfare of Israel and her kings depended on their submission to and reliance on Israel's covenant with God—their obedience to the Sinaitic/Mosaic covenant regulations and their faithful response to God's prophets.

1 Kings begins with the story of Solomon. Solomon was a wise king at first (1 Kings 3). Then he became rich (1 Kings 10:14-29). He built the temple (house of God) in Jerusalem (1 Kings 6). But then Solomon took many wives. When he was old, they encouraged him to serve evil gods (1 Kings 11).

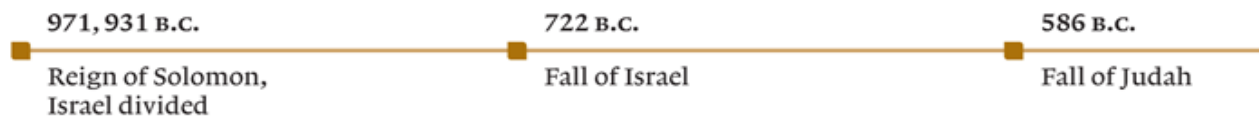
After Solomon died, there was a revolution. The country called Israel became two countries. The south was called Judah. Rehoboam (Solomon's son) was the first king of Judah. The north was still called Israel. Here Jeroboam (Solomon's servant) became king (1 Kings 12).

Title

1 and 2 Kings (like 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings) are actually one literary work, called in Hebrew tradition simply "Kings." The division of this work into two books was introduced by the translators of the Septuagint (the pre-Christian Greek translation of the OT)

Timeline, 1, 2 Kings

Three stages covering four centuries, 1, 2 KINGS: From the death of David (971 B.C.) to the sixth-century exile of Judah (586).



Writer:

It was **probably** written by Ezra the scribe; or, according to the Jewish tradition, it was **probably** written by the prophet Jeremiah, gathered from historic resources!

History and location of its writing:

As the first temple was still there, the first and second books of the kings were written at a location within the premises, probably in Jerusalem.

Where are we in Israel History?

First Kings opens describing the final days of King David (around 971 BC) and the conspiracies surrounding his succession. When David died ([1 Kings 2:10](#)), Solomon ascended the throne and established himself as a strong and wise leader. In the early years of Solomon's reign, Israel experienced its "glory days." Its influence, economy, and military power enjoyed little opposition; its neighbors posed no strong military threat.

Shortly after Solomon's death in 931 BC ([1 Kings 11:43](#)), the kingdom was divided into northern (Israel) and southern (Judah) entities. First Kings follows the history of this divided kingdom through the year 853 BC.

The key verse of the book:



The key to the book:

2 Kings 8:19: "Yet the Lord was not willing to destroy Judah, for the sake of David his servant, since he promised to give a lamp to him and to his sons forever.

Though 2 Kings is marked by evil and its consequences, it ends on a positive note.

History Books

Christ in the History of Israel within human soul: - table can be a **WALLPAPER.**

The book	The Topic of the Book	The Lord Christ in the Book
1 Samuel	The human choice: Saul	Christ is: Anointed a Prophet, a Priest, a King, and an Intercessor Sits on the throne of His father David, and reigns forever (Luke 1: 32)
2 Samuel,	The divine choice: David	Christ is: The covenant with David (7) a symbol of the Messianic covenant for the whole world.
1 Kings	Solomon and Israel	Christ the King of peace and glory The Wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1: 30) The Builder of the house of God (Ephesians 2: 20-22) The King of kings (Revelation 19: 16)
2 Kings	Kings of Israel	Christ the Controller of history who proclaims His plan and goal concerning His people
1 Chronicles	Solomon and the temple	Christ the king is greater than David
2 Chronicles	The kings and the temple	Who cares to purify His temple to reform and to heal every weakness



Kings:

40 Monarchs of the Kingdom of Israel and Judah see the table below

Israel had 20 kings, and Judah had 20, including one female who usurped the throne: On a period of ~480 years. In 1Kings: here are the names of kings after Solomon- green highlight good kings – no highlights evil kings

Key: kings in 1Kings, David, Solomon,
Clolor Code

Good Kings Memorize all	Bad King Memorize some	Mixed	Kings during first Captivity
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1Kings	2Kings	The Surviving Kingdom of Judah After the Assyrian exile of Israeel
1. Jeroboam I of Israel (12:25—14:20);	1. Jehoram of Judah (8:16–24);	1. Hezekiah (18–20);
2. Rehoboam of Judah (14:21–31);	2. Ahaziah of Judah (8:25–29);	2. Manasseh (21:1–18);
3. Abijah of Judah (15:1–8);	3. Jehu's reign in Israel (9–10);	3. Amon (21:19–26);
4. Asa of Judah (15:9–24);good	4. Athaliah and Joash of Judah; Repair of the Temple (11–12);	4. Josiah (22:1—23:30);
5. Nadab of Israel (15:25–32);	5. Jehoahaz of Israel (13:1–9);	5. Jehoahaz Exiled to Egypt (23:31–35);
6. Baasha of Israel (15:33—16:7);	6. Jehoash of Israel;	6. Jehoiakim: First Babylonian Deportation (23:36—24:7);
7. Elah of Israel (16:8–14);	8. Amaziah of Judah (14:1–22);	7. Jehoiachin: Second Babylonian Deportation (24:8–17);
8. Zimri of Israel (16:15–20);	9. Jeroboam II of Israel (14:23–29);	8. Zedekiah: Third Babylonian Deportation (24:18—25:21);
9. Omri of Israel (16:21–28);	10. Azariah of Judah (15:1–7);	9. Removal of the Remnant to Egypt (25:22–26); (Jeremiah)
10. Ahab of Israel (16:29–34)	11. Zechariah of Israel (15:8–12);	10. Elevation of Jehoiachin in Babylon (25:27–30)



11. Jehoshaphat of Judah (22:41-50)	12. Shallum of Israel (15:13-16);	Babylon Captivity
12. Ahaziah of Israel (22:51-53)	13. Menahem of Israel (15:17-22);	
	14. Pekahiah of Israel (15:23-26);	
	15. Pekah of Israel (15:27-31);	
	16. Jotham of Judah (15:32-38);	
	17. Ahaz of Judah (16);	
	18. Hoshea of Israel (17:1-6) Assyrian Captivity	
	Assyrian Captivity	



KINGS FACTS:

- All Israel Kings were evil in the sight of the Lord
- 30% of Judah's kings are good, while 0% of Israel's kings was good
- The average number of years the bad king reign is 5 years,
- The average number of years the good king reign is 30 years
- Assyrian Captivity to Israel occurred 150 years **before** Babylon Captivity to Judah
- Judah's Captivity was on three stages

Prophets:



Nourishers and seers, men of God, who deliver the message of God to kings and people including warning, blessing as well as cursing Who Are the Prophets?

Key Prophets in 1Kings, Elijah, Elishah, Micaiha

Prophet Name	Chapter	Kingdom
Nathan	1,2	United
Shemaiah	12	Judah
Jeho ben Hanien	16	Israel
Elijah	1, 2 kings	Both
Elisha	1, 2 kings	Both
Micaiah ben Imlah	22	Both
Other prophets with no name	13	Israel
100 Prophets	18	Israel

Main Outline:

This book consists of 25 chapters and includes three main sections. The first and second sections record the ongoing ministries of Elijah and Elisha,(1-2) leading up to the defeat and exile of the northern kingdom of Israel by Assyria (2 Kings 1—17:41)..

Book of three main sections:

- A. Cont of divided Kingdom 1-8:24**
- B. The second period of antagonism 9:30—17:41**
- C. The surviving kingdom of Juda chs. 18—25**

Detailed for the servants.

Green=good, red=evil Israel, purple=evil Judea

A. Cont of divided Kingdom 1:1-8:24

It begins with Elijah denouncing King Ahaziah and predicting his death (2 Kings 1), Elijah is taken to heaven in chapter 2, with Elisha receiving a "double portion" of his spirit.

- 1. Ahaziah's evil reign in Israel 1 Kings 22:51—2 Kings 1:18 (continued)
- 2. Jehoram's evil reign in Israel 2:1—8:15
- 3. Jehoram's evil reign in Judah 8:16-24
- 4. Ahaziah's evil reign in Judah 8:25—9:29 C. start of overthrow of Baal worship is developed 9:14

B. The second period of antagonism 9:30—17:41

Extent of the Baal overthrow in Israel

This is followed by ongoing lists of kings from Israel and Judah. Chapters 16—17 chronicle the defeat and exile of Israel by Assyria.

- 1. Jehu's evil reign in Israel 9:30—10:36
- 2. Athaliah's evil reign in Judah 11:1-20 -Extends of the Baal overthrow to Juda 11-12



3. Jehoash's good reign in Judah 11:21—12:21

4. Jehoahaz's evil reign in Israel 13:1-9 -Elisha's death takes place in chapter 13.

5. Jehoash's evil reign in Israel 13:10-25

6. Amaziah's good reign in Judah 14:1-22 with sins

7. Jeroboam II's evil reign in Israel 14:23-29

8. Azariah's good reign in Judah 15:1-7

9. Zechariah's evil reign in Israel 15:8-12

10. Shallum's evil reign in Israel 15:13-16

11. Menahem's evil reign in Israel 15:17-22

12. Pekahiah's evil reign in Israel 15:23-26

13. Pekah's evil reign in Israel 15:27-31

14. Jotham's good reign in Judah 15:32-38

15. Ahaz's evil reign in Judah ch. 16

16. Hoshea's evil reign in Israel 17:1-6

17. The captivity of the Northern Kingdom 17:7-41

C. The surviving kingdom chs. 18—25

Focuses on the kingdom of Judah.

1. Hezekiah's good reign chs. 18—20

2. Manasseh's evil reign 21:1-18

3. Amon's evil reign 21:19-26

4. Josiah's good reign 22:1—23:30

5. Jehoahaz's evil reign 23:31-35

6. Jehoiakim's evil reign 23:36—24:7

7. Jehoiachin's evil reign 24:8-17

8. Zedekiah's evil reign 24:18—25:7

9. The captivity of the Southern Kingdom 25:8-30

Second Kings 25:22–30 concludes the text with mercy upon the king of Judah and hope of a future for the people of Israel.



TAKE HOME

To know: Even if it parades the history of Israel before the exile, it actually parades God's dealings with us. Actions have consequences. "Repent! Sin will incur judgment," God hates sin and He will not allow it to continue indefinitely. God warned in effect through the prophets. Israel and Judah learned the hard way that God means what He says.

To feel: It reveals to us a fact that touches our depths, namely, to receive God our Savior – a King over our hearts,

To practice: to ordain our whole life, in his fellowship until we reach the fellowship of His glories.

To meditate: While the glory of this world and kingdoms goes away like grass, the kingdom of God endures forever 2Sam 7, as the Lord Christ, the Son of David, came to reign forever, and to set His believers, kings who enjoy the fellowship of His glory. (FTM)



Brief Introduction of the 2Kings: Revision

video of [Read Scripture 1-2 Kings](#) on the week prior to the class:

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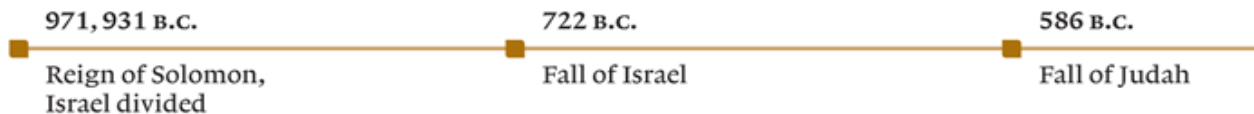
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Elijah Taken To Heaven:

Goal:

To teach students about how we can serve God best in this life and how we're looking forward to going to Heaven one day.

Needed: Bibles, drawing paper and crayons or colored pencils, various objects to hide

Scripture: 2Kings 2:1-12

Memory Verse: 2Kings 2:11 NKJV

¹¹Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire *appeared* with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

Lesson

Say, So far, we've learned about how the prophet Elijah challenged the prophets of the fake gods, Baal and Asherah, to prove if their God was real or not. Does anyone remember what the challenge was? (Elijah killed one bull and put it on the altar and the prophets of Baal and Asherah killed another bull and put it on their altar. The god who sent fire down from Heaven to burn up the bull would be proven to be the real god.)

And which god sent fire down from Heaven to burn up the bull, the fake gods or the real God? (The real God.)

Then, Elijah took the prophets of the fake gods, Baal and Asherah, and killed them because they were teaching the people to worship fake gods instead of the real God.

Then, the bad queen, Jezebel, tried to kill Elijah, but Elijah ran away into the desert for a little while so that the queen couldn't find him. While Elijah was in the desert, God told him to go find a man named Elisha and to tell Elisha that God had chosen him to be a prophet too.

Then, Elisha became Elijah's helper, and Elijah taught Elisha how to be a prophet.

(Read [2 Kings 2:1-9](#) with the students.)

"When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; the Lord has sent me to Bethel.'

"But Elisha said, 'As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.



“The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, ‘Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?’

“‘Yes, I know,’ Elisha replied, ‘so be quiet.’

“Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here, Elisha; the Lord has sent me to Jericho.’

“And he replied, ‘As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.’ So they went to Jericho.

“The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, ‘Do you know that the Lord is going to take your master from you today?’

“‘Yes, I know,’ he replied, ‘so be quiet.’

“Then Elijah said to him, ‘Stay here; the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.’

“And he replied, ‘As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.’ So the two of them walked on.

“Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

“When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, ‘Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?’

“‘Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,’ Elisha replied.”

What do you think Elisha meant when he said he wanted to have a double portion of Elijah’s spirit? (Elisha meant that he wanted to be twice as good a prophet as Elijah was. He wanted to be twice as powerful so that he could serve God even more.)

(Read [2 Kings 2:10-12](#) with students.)

“‘You have asked a difficult thing,’ Elijah said, ‘yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.’

“As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, ‘My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!’ And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.”

What happened to Elijah? Where did he go? (God took him up to Heaven in a chariot of fire.)

Do you think God will take us to Heaven one day? (Yes.)

When will God take us to Heaven? (When we die.)

What do we have to do for God to take us to Heaven? (We have to believe in God and do the right things that God wants us to do.)

Elijah performed 8 miracles but Elisha performed double; God worked 16 miracles through Elisha, the "man of God."

Elijah's 8 miracles:

1. Shut up the heavens causing a drought (1 Kng 17:1)
2. Multiplied flour and oil for a widow (1 Kng 17:14-16)
3. Raised a widow's son from the dead (1 Kng 17:17, 22-23)



4. Defeated the prophets of Baal with fire from heaven (1 Kng 18:25-38)
5. Brought rain to end the drought (1 Kng 18:41-45)
6. Destroyed 51 soldiers with fire (2 Kng 1:9-10)
7. Destroyed 51 soldiers with fire and lightening (2 Kng 1:9-11-12)
8. Parted the waters of the Jordan River (2 Kng 2:8)

Elisha's 16 miracles:

1. Parted the waters of the Jordan River (2 Kng 2:14) – (back)
2. Purification of the water source for Jericho (2 Kng 2:18-22)
3. Protection of the prophet by two she-bears (2 Kng 2:23-25)
4. Water for the army of Israel and success over the Moabites (2 Kng 3:16-25)
5. Providing the widow's oil (2 Kng 4:1-7)
6. Elisha's annunciation prophecy for the woman from Shunem (2 Kng 4:8-17)
7. Resurrection of the son of the Shunammite woman (2 Kng 4:18-37)
8. Purified the poison soup (2 Kng 4:38-41)
9. Multiplication of loaves (2 Kng 4:42-44)
10. Healing of Naaman (2 Kng 5:1-19)
11. Gehazi cursed with a skin disease (2 Kng 5:25-27)
12. Miracle of finding the axe (2 Kng 6:1-7)
13. Capturing a band of Aramaeans by striking them blind (2 Kng 6:8-23)
14. Prophesizing relief from the enemy and the famine (2 Kng 6:24-7:20)
15. Prophesizing that Israel's defeat of King Hazael of Damascus (2 Kng 13:14-19)
16. The miracle of Elisha's bones

Do you think Elisha should have wanted to be more powerful than Elijah?

I think it was okay for Elisha to want to be more powerful because he didn't want to be selfish with his power. He wanted to serve God.

And we can also think about how we can serve God better too. Think about ways that you can serve God better than your parents or the pastor or me. Think about how you can serve God the best out of everyone. But remember that you don't want to serve just to be better than someone else, but only to serve God the best you can.

Activity

How Can I Serve God Better?

Give students paper and pencils and have them write down how they could imagine themselves serving God when they get older. When they're finished, have them read their writing to class.

Game: What's Missing?

Place a variety of objects on the table or around the room. Have students close their eyes, and then, take one of the objects and put it in your pocket or outside the room. Have



students open their eyes and guess what's missing. Give them hints if they can't figure it out. The first student to correctly guess what was missing then gets to take the next object.

Play until everyone has had a turn taking an object or as long as time allows. Explain that when God took Elijah up to Heaven, His body wasn't on earth anymore. God took his spirit and his body up to Heaven. When we die, God will take only our spirit to Heaven. Then, when Jesus comes back to earth, He'll bring our spirits with Him and will raise our bodies back from the dead to be like new. Then, our spirits will go back in our bodies, and we'll live forever with God and Jesus.

Take Home

To know: The sovereignty of God, God prepare for the guidance of His people and bring Elisha to the scene.

To feel: The relationship between the disciple and the teacher, "I know keep quiet"

To practice: The attachment with the great teacher "Jesus"

To Meditate: , God reveal His power to His leaders like Moses, in the burning bush, Elisha seeing the hosts of angels and showing his servant, and Elisha seeing his teacher ascending in the fiery chariot

Foreshadowing the ascension of Christ to heaven before the eyes of the disciples,



WEEK #2 ELISHA AND SHUNAMMITE WOMAN

Please make sure to review the intro. From page 1 to page 8 located under lesson #1 as well and incorporate some info for revision; making sure your learners retained as much of it.

Goal

That showing kindness is something every believer should do. (Romans 12:13, Galatians 5:13, Galatians 6:10, 1 Peter 4:9)

That God rewards those who serve others.

God can bring good out of our difficulties.

Scripture: 2 Kings 4:8-37

Memory Verse:

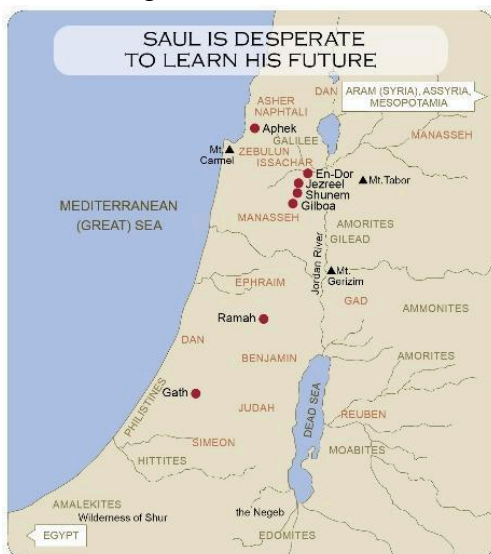
“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with action and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Activities

For the memory verse activity, you could play charades. Have slips of paper with different activities that show love and place them in a lunch bag. Have students draw a slip of paper and act out what it says. (An example for students: Make bed. After the students guess the action the teacher can include that this act of kindness of keeping their rooms picked up would help their parents if unexpected guests needed a place to stay.

Lesson

Edit the map below to show students where Shunem is located.



- Have Memory Verse written on the board or a large piece of paper so students can see it. Before beginning the Bible lesson read the verse together a couple of times.

The following is an example of how to teach the story to class. Be sure to prepare yourself to tell the Bible story in your own words in a way that will connect with your class. If possible, memorize the key points of your lesson and only use your open Bible for reference.



Today in our story from the Bible we will see an example of people who love God and the proof of their love is seen through their actions.

Let's turn in our Bibles to 2 Kings 4:8-37. (Make sure each student has a Bible and guide them to the passage of Scripture in 2 Kings 4. It is important for each student to have their Bibles open so they can follow along with you as you tell the story and point out verses for them to volunteer to read.)

Opening question: How do you know if someone really loves you? Usually people will say that they love you. We know that people really love us by the way they act. If they are saying with their mouth that they love us but with their actions they are being unkind we don't really feel that love.

God loves us. He tells us that He loves us in His Word. God has not only told us in His Word that He loves us but He has shown us His great love for us by allowing His Son to die for all of our sins. God backed up His Words with action.

If we believe in Jesus we have received the greatest love the world has ever known. As Christians we have a great gift to share with others around us. We cannot just tell people that God loves them. People need to see God's love through our actions. If our actions don't back up our words people won't know how much God truly loves them.

Our story today is a great example of how love is backed up with action.

In a small village called Shunem lived a woman. (Show the location of Shunem on a map.) She was well known in this small village. Maybe she was well known by some because she and her husband were very rich. Maybe she was well known because she made important decisions in the village. What makes her special and well known to us today is that she was remembered by God and recorded in God's eternal word for many people to hear about her story. This woman's importance to God was more than how much money she had or whether she made important decisions in her village. How she lived her life and showed her love for Him was very important. How she used what God had given her on this earth and how she treated others was of great importance to God.

Elisha the prophet of God lived during the time that this Shunammite woman lived. He would travel the dusty roads going from village to village doing the work of God.

One day as Elisha passed through the village of Shunem the Shunammite woman had prepared a meal for her and her husband to eat. When she caught a glimpse of Elisha walking through town she greeted him and invited him to her house for dinner. Elisha was a humble servant of God and did not want to be any extra trouble to this woman so he may have said, "That's so very kind of you, but I don't want to be of any trouble to you and your husband."



The woman urged Elisha and said, "Please come, we have plenty to eat and we would love to have you in our home to rest from the heat of the day."

Elisha accepted the Shunammite's invitation and joined her and her husband for a delicious meal. They must have spent time visiting and learning about the different things that God had been doing through Elisha as he travelled from town to town.

The kindness of the Shunammite woman by opening her home to Elisha was a gift from God to him. The Shunammite woman and her husband received a gift too. As they visited with this man of God in their home they heard of the work God was doing in the surrounding towns and villages.

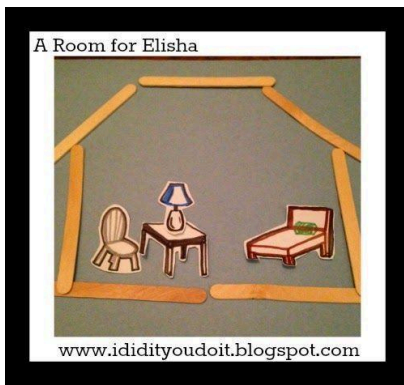
Elisha would say goodbye and thank the woman for inviting him over for dinner. He would leave their home and continue to travel to share God's message.

Each time Elisha was in Shunem he stopped in and visited the Shunammite woman and her husband and ate dinner with them. Elisha's time spent with this family grew into a deep friendship with them.

The Shunammite woman loved to have Elisha visit and it must have been sad to see him leave when it was time for him to go. She must have thought about what his life was like as God's prophet. As he traveled he didn't have places to stay unless someone offered him to stay with them. Otherwise Elisha spent the night sleeping on the ground beneath the starry sky. While pondering what Elisha's travels might have been like the woman had an idea. Before she would make any decisions she took her idea to her husband. He was the leader of her home and she wanted to check with him to make sure what she wanted to do was something he would approve of.

Perhaps, one night as they sat eating dinner alone she looked across the table and said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. God has given Elisha power to do great things in the towns and villages he visits. We have heard of those great things each time he visits. I have been thinking that we could build a room on the roof of our house so that not only can Elisha eat dinner with us when he is traveling through Shunem but he can also have a place to stay. This would be his room with a bed, table, chair and lamp so that he can have a place to study God's Word and rest comfortably."





The Shunammite's husband agreed that they should do that. They called for some workers to come to their house and to build a comfortable room for the man of God.

As Elisha traveled he brought along a helper with him. His helper's name was Gehazi. As Elisha travelled from town-to-town Gehazi went with him to help him with whatever he might need.

Imagine Elisha's surprise the next time he travels through Shunem. He already knows that he will enjoy a sweet time of visiting while he eats a delicious meal with the Shunammite woman and her husband.

As Elisha arrives at the Shunammite's house he notices something is different. On the top of their already beautiful home is a newly constructed room.

As Elisha entered their house they had smiles of joy as they told him to follow them back outside. They could hardly wait to show Elisha what their surprise was. Outside they took him up a set of stairs and opened the door to the new room on the roof. They stepped back and told Elisha to go in. As he walked through the door he saw a room with a bed, table with a lamp and a chair. "This is for you Elisha. We want you to have your own quiet place to rest and study when you are in Shunem."

Elisha turned to the couple and thanked them for their kindness to him. He never asked for such a nice place to stay and this kind family provided him a warm, dry place to stay while in Shunem.

The kindness of the Shunammite woman was such a gift to Elisha. Not every one Elisha met treated him with such kindness and generosity.

As Elisha sat in his room he looked over at Gehazi and said, "I would like to do something to repay this woman for her kindness. Could you go and ask the woman if there is anything she needs or if there is anything we can ask the king to do for her?" Gehazi went to the woman



and asked her what Elisha could do for her. She said she didn't need anything. She was content to live with her family in Shunem.

Gehazi returned to Elisha and said, "The woman is content and asked for nothing."

"She has gone through so much trouble for me. There has to be something I can do to reward her for her kindness," Elisha replied.

Gehazi thinks out loud, "Well, her husband is quite old and she has no children..."

"That's it Gehazi! She has no children! If anything were to happen to her husband she would be left all alone and have no one to care for her. Call her here quickly!"

Gehazi brings the Shunammite woman to stand before Elisha. Elisha looked at this kind woman. This woman loved God deeply and it was evident by her generous spirit to him. Elisha knew that what he was about to say was from God Himself because as a man Elisha has no power to do such a thing. With the same excitement the woman and her husband must have had as his room was shown to Elisha, he said, "This time next year you will give birth to a son."

The Shunammite's mouth fell open. She gasped and furrowed her brow as she looked at this man of God. "No, please don't lie to me! You are a man of God!"

This woman had been married for years and each year that her and her husband did not have a child they both came to accept with sadness that they would never have children. For a woman the sadness to know that she would never hold a child in her arms was not easy to accept. This Shunammite woman must have accepted a long time ago that it was not God's plan for her to have a child. So when Elisha said that she was going to have a child this sounded too good to be true.

Elisha's words were not made-up man's words, they were God's words and when God promises something it always happens.

Many years before it actually happened, God had promised He would send a Savior to the world. Hundreds of years passed and the Messiah had not come. One night in the little town of Bethlehem a little baby boy was born. God kept His promise and sent Jesus as the Savior of the world!

God always keeps His promises and just as Elisha had told the woman she had a baby boy the next year! God is so good! He rewards those who love Him and show His love to others.



This baby brought great joy to the woman and her husband. Whether they knew it or not they had been rewarded for their kindness to God's prophet Elisha. Their son was a miracle and only God could have allowed them to give birth to this precious gift.

The couple enjoyed watching their little boy grow. As he got older he wanted so much to go with his father to the field where he worked. One day the father took his young son to go with him to the fields. He was not quite old enough to do grown-up work but he was thrilled to be with his father and to see all the men working. As the sun rose in the sky it got warmer and warmer. The little boy began to feel a little sick. His father looked over to check on his son and he saw the young boy with his hands on his head. He began to cry and say, "My head! My head"! The father asked one of his helpers to take him quickly to his mother. The servant picked the little boy up in his arms and moved quickly to the house.

The woman opened the door to see a worker from the field holding her son in his arms. She reached out and took him and went into the house. She sat in her chair rocking her baby boy in her arms.

Imagine what the Shunammite woman must have felt as she rocked her very sick child in her arms. Perhaps tears streamed down her face as she knew he was a gift from God. As she rocked him maybe she prayed to God asking Him to heal her son. Unfortunately at noontime her precious son died in her arms.

The woman was heartbroken. Her son that God had promised to give her was dead. How could this be happening? She carried her son up the stairs and into the room that she had built for Elisha. She went into his room and placed her son's lifeless body on Elisha's bed. She left the room and closed the door behind her.

This woman had shown her love for God by showing kindness to Elisha. She had been rewarded for her kindness by receiving a son. Now her son was dead. She was in a difficult situation. God loved and cared for this woman and would still take care of her in her difficulty.

The woman had faith in God and knew that she needed to get to Elisha for help. The woman called to her husband in the field and asked him to send her a servant with a donkey. She told him that she wanted to go to Elisha. He asked her if everything was ok and she said, "It is well."

Her husband allowed her to go and she left with the servant and the donkey. She told the servant to hurry and not to slow down unless she said. Elisha was up on Mt. Carmel. He could see a rider in the distance approaching quickly on a donkey. As the rider came into focus, Elisha recognized the woman as the woman from Shunem. He turned to Gehazi and said,



“Look! There is the woman from Shunem. Run to her and ask her how she and her family are doing.”

When Gehazi got to the woman she told him everything was fine. When she finally reached Elisha she got off her donkey and fell at his feet and held on to his feet. Gehazi came over to hear and tried to push her away from Elisha but Elisha stopped him. He said, “Something is wrong and the Lord hasn’t allowed me to know what it is.”

He looked at the woman to find out what she was so upset about. She looked up at him with tears streaming down her face. She said, “Didn’t I tell you not trick me about God giving me a son? The son you asked for is now dead!” (Verse 28)

Elisha must have felt so sad for this woman. He loved her and he had spent a lot of time with her in her home. He had spent many hours teaching her about God. He had spoken about how much God loved her. This woman had been so kind and shared her home with him. Now she was suffering because her son had died.

Elisha knew that he had spoken about God and His love. Now Elisha had an opportunity to really show God’s love. Elisha sent Gehazi on ahead to the boy to lay his staff on his face. The woman would not leave Elisha’s side and they headed back to her house together.

At the house Gehazi found the lifeless boy on Elisha’s bed. He did as Elisha had instructed him and the boy was still dead.

Gehazi met Elisha when he arrived and said, “The child has still not awakened.”

Elisha went by himself up to his room on the roof and closed the door behind him. The sight of the lifeless boy must have been difficult to see. He knew that God loved this little boy and his mother. Elisha began to pray to God. He trusted that God could bring good out of this very difficult situation.

After praying, Elisha must have received God’s instructions on what to do. Elisha stretched himself out on the child, placing his mouth on the child’s mouth, his eyes on the child’s eyes and his hands on the child’s hands. He could feel warmth returning to the boy’s lifeless body.

Elisha got up and paced around the room. Undoubtedly he was praying and asking God for wisdom in what to do. Then he returned and stretched out on the boy once again. This time the boy sneezed seven times! God had used Elisha to bring this boy back to life again!

Elisha called out to Gehazi and when Gehazi came to the door, Elisha sent him to bring the mother quickly. When the woman came to the room, imagine how thrilled she was to see her boy sitting up on the bed breathing and alive! She knelt down at Elisha, the prophet of God’s



feet to show her thankfulness for what God had done. She then went over and picked up her son in her arms and carried him out of the room.

This family must have praised and worshiped God with great joy that day! God had shown His love and power by bringing their son back to life. They were glad they had a friend like Elisha, who not only told them about God and His love but he also showed them God's love by caring for them and helping them in their difficulty.

Salvation Message:

You may not realize that everyday God is showing His love and kindness to you. Over 2,000 years ago Jesus, God's promised Savior did not stay that small infant born in Bethlehem. He grew into a man who went from town to town teaching people about God's Kingdom. He performed many miracles showing people that He was God's Son. Jesus showed His great love for you and me by being nailed to a cross to be punished for my sins and your sins. Because He died we do not have to be punished for our sins by being separated from God forever. His death paid the price for your sins and mine. Jesus was placed in a grave and three days later He is risen from death. Jesus is alive and is living in heaven with God the Father right now. He loves you and wants you to be able to live forever in heaven. He has shown His love and kindness by dying on the cross. Now it's up to you what you do with this gift of kindness. You take God's gift of eternal life and accept by faith that Jesus died for your sins?

Review Questions (ensure you have mentioned the answers of all of them while telling the story)

1. How did the Shunammite woman and her husband show love for Elisha?
2. What were some things that were placed in Elisha's room?
3. What was Elisha's servant's name?
4. When Gehazi asked the woman what Elisha could give her to show his appreciation, what did she ask for?
5. What promise did Elisha make for the woman?
6. When the boy went out to the field with his father what happened?
7. What did the woman do when her son died?
8. How did Elisha help the woman?
9. Who showed love in our story today?
10. How did Elisha show God's love?
11. Why do you think it is important to show God's love instead of just talking about it?
12. How have you been rewarded by God for showing kindness to others?
13. What are some things you are doing to show God's love to others?



Take home

This lesson is based on the story where a Shunammite woman provides a room for Elisha to stay. God rewards her kindness by giving her a son. The son dies and God raises him through Elisha.

To know: Salvation is God's act of kindness towards us.

To meditate: Other acts of kindness in the bible (Isaack, Joseph, Moses, etc)

To practice: Acts of kindness that showing kindness is something every believer should do.

(Romans 12:13, ¹⁰ *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;* Galatians 5:13, ¹³ *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*



Please make sure to review the intro. From page 1 to page 8 located under lesson #1 as well and incorporate some info for revision; making sure your learners retained as much of it.

GOAL

To illustrate the power of God to heal and to show how even those considered outsiders or enemies can receive God's grace and blessings, highlighting the theme of humility and obedience, as Naaman, a powerful Syrian commander, must humble himself to be healed by the prophet Elisha by washing in the Jordan River, despite his initial pride and expectations of a more grand miracle.

Scriptre: 2 Kings 5:1-14

Topic

Naaman's story teaches us about humbling ourselves, trusting in God's way, and following through with obedience to His commands in order to experience His healing and blessings.

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 5:14

"So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

ACTIVITY – ATTENTION GRAPPER!

You need: a plastic glove, baby powder, and a bowl of water. An 8' to 10' rope and a blindfold.

Construction paper, scissors, as many copies of the "Jesus Loves Us All" template as the number of children in your class.

Leprosy Glove:

Before class begins, put some baby powder into the glove and put the glove on your hand. Try to act embarrassed about your hand and try to keep it hidden. If a child asks you about it, just say, "Oh, it's really nothing." Begin to tell the story of Naaman, keeping your glove on through the story.

Your glove will represent the leprosy that Naaman had. When you get to the place in the story when Naaman dips seven times in the Jordan you can then tell your class that maybe that would be a good idea for your hand. Dip your hands in the water seven times, and then remove the glove. Say, "7-6-5-4-3-2-1, Wow!" Allow the children to smell your hand, the baby powder helps your hand smell like a baby, like Naaman's childlike skin. Then someone in Bible times had leprosy, it was a very hard thing. They stood out from everyone else, and often had to be separated from their family and friends. There was no cure for leprosy, apart from a miracle from God.



BIBLE LESSON ELISHA AND NAAMAN'S LEPROSY

Have you ever seen a miracle? What is a miracle? Is it always something big and spectacular like fire coming down from heaven or can it be a small thing to help us in our daily lives? The dictionary says that a miracle is a thing, fact, or event happening apart from the normal order of events.

What would you do to see or to receive a miracle? Would you travel across the world and pay large sums of money if you were sick and thought you could be healed? In our lesson today, a certain army commander from the country of Syria was willing to do anything it took to be healed, or so it seemed.

2 Kings 5:1

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

Naaman was a great army commander from Damascus, Syria. Because of his army record he was well thought of by both the king and the nation. He was like a hero in his country. And because he commanded a large army he was also very powerful. He was probably quite used to people giving him prompt obedience when he gave a command. When he said, "jump," most people said, "how high?"

But, Naaman had a terrible illness called leprosy. Leprosy was a contagious disease in which the flesh is slowly eaten away. There was not a cure for leprosy in that day. Because the disease could spread to others, people were afraid to be around a leper. Lepers usually had to live away from their families and friends in special colonies set up for lepers. In fact, in Bible times if lepers were in public, they had to keep a distance from other people and shout, "unclean, unclean" to let people know they were around. Can you imagine having to live like that?

2 Kings 5:2-3

² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

Naaman kept suffering day after day from the leprosy. It was getting worse and worse. One day he would have to be separated from the rest of his family. He was desperate to find a cure for it.

During one of the wars, a young Jewish girl was taken captive. She became a servant to Naaman's wife. She told her mistress that there was a prophet of God in Samaria who could help Naaman. Maybe the girl had met Elisha or had heard about one of the many miracles that God had performed through him. The Lord used this young girl to help Naaman and to lead him to Elisha and the Lord.

The Lord can use any of us. We do not have to be someone great or famous. We can just be doing the simple things that God wants us to do and be used greatly by Him. There are



countless people, like Naaman who are in desperate circumstances and need to hear the good news of God's love, power, and salvation.

2 kings 5:4-6

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents[b] of silver, six thousand shekels[c] of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

After hearing what the girl said, the King of Syria encouraged the commander to go to Israel to be healed. He sent him to the King of Israel with a large amount of money and goods and a letter of introduction requesting that the commander be healed.

2 Kings 5: 7

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

The King of Israel became very upset. He said that he was not God. He did not have power over life and death. Why was the commander sent to him to heal his leprosy? He thought that King Aram was trying to start another war with him. The King of Israel was in a tough situation, but not too tough for God. How we need to learn to trust the Lord when we get into tough situations.

2Kings 5: 8-10

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house.

When Elisha heard that the king had become upset and tore his clothes (a sign in those days of mourning or being upset about something) he sent a message for the king to send the commander to him, so "he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." So, Naaman took his request to the house of Elisha. Elisha knew that God could do anything including healing Naaman. He knew God would use this opportunity to reveal his power to Naaman and to Syria.

Follow and Obey

In order for Naaman to be healed he had to follow the instructions that the Lord had given to Elisha. Naaman had a choice. He could either obey and receive the healing that God wanted to give him, or he could disobey and miss out on God's blessing. We have the same choice. This activity will help us to understand what it is like to obey. You will need an 8' - 10' rope and a blindfold. Split the class into two groups. One of the groups will be the rope holders. They can stand on one side and hold the rope chest high. They should hold it in order to make a shape such as a large "V," "W," or "Z."

Next, the other team can take turns guessing the shape. Blindfold one of the children (blindfold before the first group makes their shape) and allow them to hold the rope and move to the other side. They can then guess what the shape is. Take turns to allow the other children to do it, changing the shape each time.



Explain to the children that it is important to hold onto the Lord and His Word when we follow Him. He will lead us where He wants us to be. God wanted to heal Naaman, so He led him to Elisha. God will lead us if we will follow and obey. **Let us come to the Lord with a humble heart.**

2 Kings 5:10-12

10 and Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, 11 But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn’t I wash in them and be cleansed?” So he turned and went off in a rage.

Elisha told a messenger to go and tell Naaman to wash himself seven times in the river Jordan and he would be healed. Elisha did not even come out to meet with Naaman. Naaman became furious. Maybe he was thinking, “Elisha does not understand how important I am--I am the commander of the king of Syria’s army! I’ve traveled a long way to see him. At least, he can greet me.”

Perhaps, Naaman was looking for something spectacular. What Elisha told Naaman to do was very simple. God did not choose to heal Naaman with fire from heaven or trumpets sounding; He asked that he wash in the Jordan seven times. This was too simple for the proud commander, Naaman. Naaman had to be willing to humble himself, believe God, and do a simple thing. Instead, he got angry. He said that he could have just stayed home and washed in the rivers there. Why did he need to go to the Jordan? In rage, he turned to leave. He almost let pride and refusal to obey stand in the way of the miracle he desperately needed.

God always acts with our best in mind. He knew that in order for Naaman to come to Him, he would need to humble himself and exercise simple faith.

So the Gospel, the Good News of our salvation, is simple. We need not do righteous works or perform certain rituals to be accepted by God. Simply believing in and receiving Jesus Christ will save us-- faith in God’s Son and acceptance of the work He did on the cross, dying for our sins. For some, salvation is too simple. They feel they must do something. May our pride never keep us away from Jesus! **Let us come to the Lord with a humble heart.**

2 Kings 5: 13-14

13 Naaman’s servants went to him and said, “My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, ‘Wash and be cleansed!’” 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy

Naaman’s servants went after him and reasoned with him. “If the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?" Naaman’s servants were wise.



Naaman went to the river Jordan and dipped into the river seven times. He was healed! His flesh became whole, clean and smooth like a young child. God had performed a miracle. God is all- powerful. There is nothing too big or too small for God.

How important that we learn to lay down our ideas or opinions and do what the Lord tells us to do. God alone knows what is best for us and can be our guide. Proverbs 3:5,6 states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Again, this is a good picture of salvation through Jesus. We have all sinned. Like leprosy, there is nothing we can do to help our condition. But, when we come to Jesus and ask Him into our hearts, believing and receiving God's gift of salvation, we will be made clean. May we come to Him with humble hearts, acknowledging our need of a Savior. Let us come to the Lord with a humble heart.

Jesus Loves Us All

God loved Naaman even though he was not from the nation of Israel. God loves all people everywhere and wants them to come to Him. God sent His Son Jesus so that any one of us could have eternal life if we would believe in Him. This craft will help us to remember that Jesus loves every child everywhere.

You will need construction paper, scissors, copies of the enclosed template. Use the instructions on the enclosed template for your craft.

Remind the children that God used the young servant girl from Israel to lead Naaman to Elisha for his healing. God can also use us to lead others to come to know Jesus as their savior.

Take Home

This lesson is based on the healing of the Namaan the Syrian from Leperosy

To know: that true strength comes from humility and obedience, not from arrogance or pride. -

To meditate: Humility, obedience and the power of God. Naaman's pride initially prevented him from being healed. It was only when he humbled himself and obeyed Elisha's instructions that he received his healing. Think about a time you had to do something you didn't want to do, but it turned out to be good for you in the end. God loves every one, from inside and outside of His people

To practice: **Be humber we** come before the Lord and to submit the will to Him. Consider the potential benefits of choosing obedience, even when it's challenging. Above all trust in the power of God.



Template - Jesus Loves Us All- Boys, girls,



Directions: Cut out the palette and children above. Paste the palette onto a piece of construction paper (any color). Next, paste a picture of a child over each of the colors on the palette. Next, cut circles out of construction paper (various colors) large enough to cover the pictures of the children. Place the colored circles over the children and paste at one end to form a flap. God loves us all, even though we might be different.



Please make sure to review the intro. From page 1 to page 8 located under lesson #1 as well and incorporate some info for revision; making sure your learners retained as much of it.

Goal

This lesson is based on the story where the King of Syria sends his armies to capture Elisha because he reveals his military plans to Israel's king. Elisha calms his servant's fears by praying that God would allow him to see the heavenly armies protecting them.

SCRIPTRE: 2 KINGS 6:8-23

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 6:17

"...Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Who Am I?

In today's lesson we will see an army of angels sent by God and ready to defend His children, Israel. Angels are ministers from the Lord who have helped God's people in many different ways in the Bible. This game, "Who Am I?" is a game of guessing who the angel helped and where it is in the Bible.

See if the children can guess where the event is in the Bible and how the angel was used. The following are some examples:

I am a guard
My weapon is a flaming sword. Watching
over a tree,
Who am I?

Answer: Genesis 3:24, the angel standing guard over the tree of life.

We came to a city. To
rescue a family. Lost one
to salt. Who am I?

Answer: Genesis 19:1-26, the story of Lot and his family.

We had a parade.
Going up and down a ladder.
It was like a dream.
Who are we?

Answer: Genesis 28:12, Jacob and the ladder.

We came at night to a prison. Picked a
few locks.



Set a great man free.
Who am I?

Answer: Acts 5:19, Peter in prison is set free

Think of some additional examples to read. God is always at work in our lives and protects us!

LESSON!

Israel was at war again! Remember, the children of Israel did not obey God fully when Joshua brought the people of Israel to the Promised Land. God told them to destroy all of the other nations, but they did not. As a result, they were constantly at war with the different people groups that still lived in the land.

In today's lesson, the Syrians are coming to destroy Israel. Although Israel had been disobedient, God loved His people and will move to take action.

2 Kings 6:8-12

8 Now the king of Syria was making war against Israel; and he consulted with his servants, saying, "My camp will be in such and such a place." **9** And the man of God sent to the king of Israel, saying, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are coming down there." **10** Then the king of Israel sent someone to the place of which the man of God had told him. Thus he warned him, and he was watchful there, not just once or twice. **11** Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?" **12** And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

The king of Syria was at war with Israel. He was in constant consultation with his captains and commanders, making plans to capture the armies of Israel and do damage to the nation of Israel.

Elisha, the man of God, warned the King of Israel many times, about where the King of Syria was going to strike next. The King of Syria was enraged. Since the King of Israel seemed to be aware of their every move, he thought for sure a spy was working in his camp. His men knew it was not any of them; they were completely loyal to their king! They blamed "the prophet," Elijah! "...the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom."

There is nothing done in secret that God does not know about. He even knows our thoughts and the plans of our hearts. God knows everything about us, even how many hairs are on our heads! He knew what the King of Syria was planning, and God desired to protect His people. God protects His children.

2 Kings 6:13-18

¹³ So he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and get him."

And it was told him, saying, "Surely *he is* in Dothan."

¹⁴ Therefore he sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went



out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

¹⁶So he answered, “Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them.” ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, and said, “Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸So when *the Syrians* came down to him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, “Strike this people, I pray, with blindness.” And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha.

The King of Syria thought he could solve this problem. He made plans to trap Elisha! He surrounded Elisha’s hometown with a great force of soldiers. Elisha’s servant went out that morning and saw the situation—he was petrified! He saw himself surrounded with no way out! He must have thought, “We’ve had it now Elisha!” In contrast to his servant, Elisha was not concerned. He saw something his servant did not see—the army of horses and chariots of fire that belonged to God. He knew that God was going to take care of him, for he saw the “unseen.” God protects His children.

We do not know for sure if this army of God was an army of angels, but it would seem so. The Bible has much to say about angels—what they are like and what their purposes are in God’s plan. Here are some things from the Bible that we know about angels:

Angels are created beings (Colossians 1:16) who can speak audibly (Job 4) and can appear as men (Hebrews 13:2).

They worship God (Revelation 5); and they are ministers of God (Psalm 103).

They are ready and willing to do His bidding (Matthew 26:53). They execute God’s judgment (1 Chronicles 21).

They protect God’s children (this passage, Psalm 91:11,12; Psalm 34:7).

Elisha prayed that God would open his servant’s eyes so that his faith would be strengthened; and he, too, saw the army of God.

Coat of Arms

A coat of arms was kind of like a shield or crest used by families to show others a little bit about themselves. Since we are in the family of God, there are many ways that God has shown His faithfulness in our lives. He provides for us, protects us, loves us and has given us eternal life through Jesus. These are just to name a few.

This craft, a coat of arms, can show different ways that God has been faithful in your life. You will need construction paper, copies of the enclosed template (enough for each child in your class), scissors and markers. Take one sheet of construction paper and cut into a shape of a shield, or crest. Next, divide the shield into four sections. In one section, have the child write their name. In the other three sections, have the children choose from the template three things that represent God’s faithfulness in their lives (or they can make up their own). The heart for example can represent God’s love, the dove can represent the Holy Spirit, the cross represents Jesus dying for us to give us eternal life, and the Bible represents how God speaks to us today. Encourage the children to come up with their own ideas and perhaps share together how the Lord has protected them.



2Kings 6:19-23

¹⁹ Now Elisha said to them, “This *is* not the way, nor *is* this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek.” But he led them to Samaria.

²⁰ So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these *men*, that they may see.” And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and there *they were*, inside Samaria!

²¹ Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “My father, shall I kill *them*? Shall I kill *them*?”

²² But he answered, “You shall not kill *them*. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.” ²³ Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.

Struck with blindness, those men must have been awfully nervous. They were separated from the main force of the Syrian army with no backup. They followed willingly when the man of God said, “I’ll lead you to the man you are looking for.” They knew they were vulnerable, but what else could they do? Elisha led the men to Samaria.

When Elisha prayed again, the men could see. What a surprise awaited them. They found themselves inside Samaria, a walled city surrounded by forces of the enemy Israelites! Again, the King of Israel looked to Elisha for wisdom in the situation. He knew only God could have brought this about! It would have been easy for him to put those prisoners to death; after all, it was wartime. Conquest was now made easy. But, God had a different kind of conquest in mind. He desired to conquer their hearts—to show them the glory and grace of the God of Israel.

His counsel was to give a great feast! How would you feel if you were set down at a feast; fed as a guest of honor; given back your weapon, and sent back to your commander?! The Bible does not say they sent the soldiers back with a message. But they had a “big” one! What story could these soldiers tell about what happened?

‘I was blind, but now I see.’

‘I was hungry, they fed me. I was thirsty, they gave me water.’

‘I was a prisoner, they freed me. I was sent back to you.’

God’s goodness was great! They faced death and were spared. They were shown compassion and mercy by their enemies, the Israelites. The king of Syria was affected deeply by these experiences. “So the bands from Syria stopped raiding Israel’s territory.” Jesus taught us to love our enemies. He loved and helped those who cursed Him and were against Him. It is the goodness of God that leads one to repentance.

Let us remember to show compassion and mercy, just as God did to the blinded Syrian army. And, the next time we are overwhelmed and frightened with the circumstances that



surround us, let us remember Elisha's servant when he was surrounded by the Syrian army. What was seen was much less powerful than what was not seen—the mighty army of God! Though we may not see the means and way in which God intends to help us; through the eyes of faith, we can be confident He is present and able to deliver. **God protects His children.**

TAKE HOME

This lesson is based on God's protection

To know: Fear can cloud our vision, God is always with us, even in difficult situations, Prayer can open our eyes to spiritual reality,

To meditate: God's power is reater than any human threat, importance of prayer and how it can help them connect with God and gain spiritual insight.

To practice: **Trust in God, even when it's hard to see His hand**



Please make sure to review the intro. From page 1 to page 8 located under lesson #1 as well and incorporate some info for revision; making sure your learners retained as much of it.

Goal

The students will learn that believers can confidently pray because God hears all our prayers.

Scripture: 2 Kings chapter 18-20

(Additional reading for teacher's Bible study 2 Chron 29-32, Isaiah 37-38)

Topic

The overarching topic of these chapters is about Hezekiah's faith, his reliance on God in times of trouble, and how God honored his prayers by delivering Judah from the Assyrians and healing him from a life-threatening illness. However, the chapters also show the danger of pride and how even a faithful king like Hezekiah could be tempted into making mistakes after experiencing God's blessings and deliverance. It emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's provision, praying earnestly, and the need to remain humble and thankful for God's mercy, even after experiencing miraculous deliverance.

Memory Verse: 2 Kings 18:5

"He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him."

This verse speaks to Hezekiah's faithfulness and his trust in God, setting him apart as a king who relied on the Lord more than any other king of Judah.

Second Memory Verse: Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Activity ideas for this lesson

Icebreaker: "Trust Fall" or "Trust in God" Challenge

1. Trust Fall Activity (Physical Icebreaker)

Objective: Build a sense of trust and teamwork while tying it back to the theme of trusting God in difficult situations.

How to Do It:

Have one person stand with their back to the group and fall backward into the arms of a group of people standing behind them (ensure the group is ready to catch them).

Discuss how trusting someone to catch you can be scary but is also rewarding when you trust the right people.

Connect this activity to Hezekiah's trust in God during his crisis with the Assyrians. Just as the person falls and trusts the group to catch them, Hezekiah trusted God to deliver him from the Assyrians.

Discussion Question: "Have you ever had to trust someone in a difficult situation? How did it feel to place your trust in them?"

2. "What Would You Do?" Scenario (Verbal Icebreaker)

Objective: Start a conversation about trusting God in difficult times through a hypothetical scenario.

How to Do It:

Read out a scenario similar to what Hezekiah faced:

"Imagine you're a leader, and your country is being threatened by a much stronger enemy. What would you do to protect your people? Would you trust in your own strength, or would you turn to God for help?" Ask the group to share their thoughts on the best course of action and how they would respond.



Connect to Hezekiah: "Hezekiah, when faced with the Assyrian threat, turned to God in prayer and trusted God to deliver him. How do you think God wants us to trust Him in our challenges?"

Purpose:

Both activities encourage youth to think about the importance of trusting God in challenging situations, just as Hezekiah did. Whether through a physical or verbal challenge, the goal is to get the group thinking about faith and trust before diving into the study of Hezekiah's story.

Bible Lesson: King Hezekiah trusts God and asks for help

God's city Jerusalem did not look like a city where His people worshiped the One True God. Judah's king Ahaz was wicked and disobeyed God's laws and led God's people to worship false gods. He closed the doors of the temple where God's people were supposed to worship a holy God. Ahaz allowed altars to be built on every street corner in Jerusalem where people would bow down and worship false gods. (2 Chr. 28:24-25)

Ahaz's son Hezekiah became king after Ahaz died. Although Ahaz was a very bad example as a king the Bible tells us that Hezekiah his son did not follow his father's example.

Read 2 Kings 18:3-6. Hezekiah opened the doors of the temple and had the Levites (men who worked in the temple) repair and remove every wicked thing that did not belong in the Lord's temple. (2 Chr.29)

A few weeks ago we learned that God must punish sin but wants all people to repent and be saved. At this time in history God was allowing enemies to attack both the Northern and Southern kingdoms because they were sinning against Him. The Northern kingdom would not listen and turn away from their sin. While Hezekiah was king in the Southern kingdom (Judah), the northern kingdom Israel had been attacked and invaded by the kingdom of Assyria. The soldiers from Assyria captured the Israelites in the northern kingdom and took them back to Assyria to be their servants.

When Hezekiah had been king for 14 years Sennacherib the king of Assyria attacked some cities in Judah and captured them. Hezekiah told him that he would pay the king whatever he wanted if he would leave the land of Judah. Hezekiah gave Sennacherib all that he asked for. In order to be able to give him all the money he had to take all the silver found in the temple treasure box and took the gold that covered the temple doors and door posts.

Later Sennacherib sent some of his men with a message for Hezekiah. The men found Hezekiah's helpers (Eliakim, Shebna and Joah) and told them Sennacherib's message. In Sennacherib's message he made fun of Hezekiah and God's people for trusting God to protect them.

Hezekiah's helpers told the messengers not to speak in Hebrew (the language the Israelites could understand) but only Arabic so God's people could not understand their threatening words. The messengers did not listen and began to speak in Hebrew for God's people to hear and understand: "Do not let King Hezekiah lie to you. He cannot deliver you from Sennacherib. Do not let Hezekiah trick you to trust in the LORD to protect you. Make peace with Sennacherib and you will have a good life and will not die. Don't trust



Hezekiah, he's not telling you the truth that the LORD can deliver you. Sennacherib has attacked many countries and have any of their gods protected them?"

God's people heard the threatening message from Sennacherib but they did not say a word because they listened to Hezekiah who told them to remain silent.

Hezekiah's helpers went to him and told him Sennacherib's message. When Hezekiah heard this frightening message he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and went to the temple. He sent 2 of his helpers and the priests to the prophet Isaiah to tell him about the insulting words Sennacherib spoke against the LORD.

Isaiah told Hezekiah not to be afraid. God heard all the wicked things that Sennacherib had said and he would be punished.

Once again Sennacherib sent a message to Hezekiah. Read 2 Kings 19:10-13. When Hezekiah read the letter from Sennacherib he took the letter and went to the temple of the LORD. He opened the letter up before the Lord and began to pray. Read 2 Kings 19:15-19.

God heard Hezekiah's prayer and sent Isaiah the prophet with His answer. God was going to protect His city Jerusalem and His people because of His promise to King David. That very night God sent an angel who caused 185,000 soldiers to die. In the morning when Sennacherib saw that 185,000 of his soldiers died in the night he went back to his home in Nineveh. When he was at home in the temple worshiping his god Nisroch his 2 sons put him to death.

Hezekiah believed God would help and prayed confidently when he was facing an attack from King Sennacherib. God heard Hezekiah's prayer and answered by protecting His city and people.

Later during Hezekiah's time as king he became very sick. Isaiah told him that he was going to die. In his bed Hezekiah turned to the wall and prayed. Read 1 Kings 20:2-3. God heard Hezekiah's prayer and healed him of his sickness and allowed him to live 15 years longer.

All people sin (Romans 3:23) and even Hezekiah a good king who loved and obeyed God was not without sin. In the last years of his life he became prideful and showed off every treasure he owned to people who lived in Babylon. God sent Isaiah with the message that one day the very things Hezekiah showed to the people from Babylon would be taken by the Babylonians, even Hezekiah's own family would be taken to Babylon.

Hezekiah wasn't bothered by this message from the LORD because he wasn't going to be alive when it happened.

Even though Hezekiah sinned by being prideful at the end of his life God recorded in His Word: "Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him." (2 Kings 18:5)

Our memory verse for this series is "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one- to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6



Every man, woman, boy and girl is a sinner. In our own strength we cannot live a life that pleases God. There is only one who has lived a perfect life in this world and never sinned against God the Father (Heb. 4:15). Jesus, God's Son was born as a baby in a manger. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). He hung on the cross and God put all my sins, and yours, and every person who ever lived or will live on His perfect Son. Jesus was punished by death for my sins. He was buried and on the third day God raised Him from the dead. When I put my faith in Jesus that He died on the cross for my sins I will be rescued from the punishment of sin-death/separation from God.

Today we learned how Hezekiah trusted God and prayed for help. God heard his prayers and rescued him from his enemy, Sennacherib. Today if you have never asked God to forgive you for your sins and by faith believed that Jesus died in your place, you can pray and God will rescue you from the punishment for your sins.

If you have believed in the Lord Jesus, you can pray confidently about whatever you need because God hears all of your prayers.

Review Questions:

1. True or False Hezekiah's father King Ahaz was a godly king. (False)
2. True or False Hezekiah was a good king who trusted and obeyed God. (True)
3. What condition was God's city Jerusalem like when Hezekiah became king? (It was a mess, the temple doors were closed, people were worshiping false gods on altars all over Jerusalem)
4. What did Hezekiah do about the mess Jerusalem was in? (He had the Levites repair the temple and remove all the wicked things that didn't belong in there)
5. What message did Sennacherib send Hezekiah and God's people? (He said that Hezekiah was lying to them that God would protect them and told them to make peace with him so they could live and not die)
6. How did Hezekiah respond when he heard Sennacherib's threats? (He prayed)
7. How did God answer Hezekiah's prayer? (He protected His city and His people, 185,000 Assyrians died in one night, Sennacherib was killed by his sons)
8. How did God answer Hezekiah's prayer when he was dying? (He allowed him to live for 15 more years)
9. What can you pray confidently about this week that you know God will hear and you can trust He will answer?

Take Home

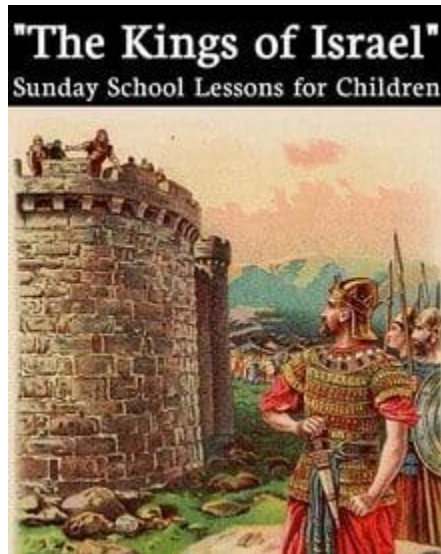


To Know: God honors those who trust and obey Him, and He is powerful and willing to deliver when we call on Him in prayer. Humility is essential, and pride can lead to negative consequences.

To Meditate On: Reflect on God's faithfulness, the power of prayer, and the importance of staying humble in your relationship with God.

To Practice: Trust in God's provision, pray earnestly, stay humble, and live in obedience to His commands.





Please make sure to review the intro. From page 1 to page 8 located under lesson #1 as well and incorporate some info for revision; making sure your learners retained as much of it.

Goal:

Students will learn that God is pleased when a person hears God's Word and responds with a humble, obedient heart.

Topics

The life of King Josiah highlights the importance of personal devotion to God, spiritual renewal, and obedience to God's Word. Josiah's reign shows that even in the midst of widespread sin and idolatry, it's possible to turn back to God and renew faith—and that one person, even a young king, can make a significant difference in a nation's spiritual health.

Scripture: 2 Kings 22, 2 Chronicles 34:1-29)

Activities:

Supply List: Bibles, Building blocks(cardboard bricks, Legos, wooden blocks or whatever you have available to build for learning activity #1), visuals to help teach the lesson, lesson notes, pencils/pens

Learning Activity #1: Divide class into two teams. Play a relay race. (Line team one up on one side of the room. When you give the signal to begin one student runs to the other side of the room where the blocks are laying and they take one block and place it on the ground. They run back and tag the next student. Let them race for 1 minute to build a structure as high as they can. The second team has one minute to take apart the structure one block at a time. The building team gets a turn to rebuild to any blocks left and continue to build for 30 seconds this time. The second team gets 30 seconds to remove blocks (one at a time). The first team gets to build again for 15 seconds and then the second team gets their 15 seconds to remove the blocks (one at a time). Use this activity to review the history of idolatry that the kings of Israel have participated in. A wicked king would reign and build up altars and



create objects so the people would worship idols. A righteous king would reign and use his reign to tear down and destroy the wicked altars and idols. A wicked king would come back into power and rebuild the evil places of worship and then another good king would tear them down. Allow students to recall kings that were wicked and built altars to idols and kings that tore down the altars. God's people were in a cycle of sin that would eventually lead them to be captives in a foreign land as a result of their wickedness to God and His punishment for their sin.

Learning Activity #2: Create notes for the students to follow along with as you teach the lesson. For each principle about God's Word leave a blank for the students to fill in as you come to it. (A simpler preparation is to just write the principles on the board or a large sheet of paper with blanks that can be filled in by the students.)

Memory Verse:

2 Kings 22:19 "Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and this people, that they would become accursed and laid waste, and because you tore your robes and wept in My presence, **I have heard you declares the LORD."**

Bible Lesson: King Josiah

King Josiah is the last southern king who does what pleases the Lord. His successors are wicked and are taken captive by Babylon. The captivity of Judah follows on the heels of the Assyrians taking the Northern Kingdom captive (2 Kings 17:7-41). Believers can find many applicable truths from God's Word by studying the lives of His people during the reigns of Israel's kings. A day is coming when God will judge the world because of wickedness (Isaiah 13:9,13 Micah 5:15, Zephaniah 1:14-18).

Believers like Josiah can live as salt and light in the wicked world that we are placed in. Living a righteous life will not stop the day of God's wrath but can make a difference in the lives affected by our obedience to Jesus. As you teach this lesson students will discover that God's Word can transform their lives when they respond with repentant and obedient hearts. Be sure to modify the lesson to the needs of the students.

The Book that we hold in our hands should be our most treasured possession. This Book is alive. What does it mean when I say that? The Bible is the Word of God. Let's read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." The Bible is God's words to each of us. When we read them His Holy Spirit instructs us and teaches us what He wants us to learn.

Listen to what Jesus said about God's Word: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

The lessons we have been studying about Israel's kings show us how desperately evil man can be when they do not live a life that obeys God's Word. Only when a person makes the study of God's word as important to his/her daily life as we make eating meals, can we truly know how God's Word feeds us and strengthens us.



Let's turn to 2 Kings 22. In our building block activity we likened the building up to the kings that built altars to worship false gods and the tearing down as the kings who came into power and removed the wickedness from the kingdom. Hezekiah used his reign to make reforms and turn the hearts of the people back to God. Manasseh his son started out as a very wicked king. Review some of the evil things he did during his reign (2 Kings 21). He repented of his wickedness before God and God forgave him. He worked to remove the wicked idolatrous things he had built during his reign (2 Chronicles 33:12-20). After Manasseh's death his son Amon was a wicked king who worshiped idols and only reigned for 2 years.

If you were living during this time in history what do you think life would be like for you? (Allow responses) How do you think people could worship a false god by throwing their own child into a pit of fire as an offering to that god?

Sin darkens the hearts of every man, woman, boy and girl. Sin causes people to do the most wicked things. (Ephesians 4:17-19) Without the One True God ruling over our lives we are all capable of doing wicked things. (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 7:17-24)

Let's jump right back into the building, un-building, building, un-building cycle we have been seeing in our study. Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-2.

As we study about King Josiah, we are going to learn unchangeable truths about the Word of God.

Josiah became a king when he was 8 years old. That is close to how old you are right now. What kind of young man was Josiah? (Godly, did what was right in God's eyes)

1. God's Word is Light.

As a young king someone who was caring for him must have had a godly influence in his life. (Some Bible Scholars believe the high priest Hilkiah was the one who taught Josiah and influenced his life.) Someone was sharing the Word of God with Josiah so that he would know how to live a life that pleases God. A life that pleases God doesn't happen by accident. Our natural instincts lead us to live selfish, wicked lives.

God's Word lights our path. When we hear God's Word and obey it causes us to seek Him and He uses His Word to give us more light to see Him more clearly. (Psalm 119:105) Read 2 Chronicles 34:3a (the first part of the verse). How old is Josiah at this point? (16 years) Who did Josiah seek? (The God of his father David) The Godly influence from Josiah's younger years affected him and caused him to seek the Lord.

- When God puts someone in your life as a Godly influence, He is giving you light so that you will seek Him. No one can come to Jesus unless God draws him. (John 6:44, 65) When God reveals His Light (the Truth of His Word) through Godly influences He is drawing (calling) you to seek Him. Will you choose to seek Him and follow Him?

2. God's Word cleanses. (Psalm 119:9-11)

Let's read the second half of verse 3-4. How old is Josiah now? (20) It has been four years since he began to seek the Lord. Over that time period Josiah could see that the way God's people were living did not represent the God he was following.



Once again we see a Godly king tearing down the wicked altars and carved idols that the people worshiped false gods with. Josiah wanted to purge (cleanse) the kingdom of the wickedness that did not please God.

As we read God's Word He shows us things that we are doing in our lives that don't reflect who He is. When we hear and obey God's Word He cleanses us and enables us to stop doing the things that don't please Him. What sinful habit is God showing you that you need to get rid of in your life?

3. God's Word is Eternal. (2 Kings 22:3-10)

Read 2 Kings 22:3. How old is Josiah? (8+18=26) The next thing that we learn about King Josiah's reign is that he sends Hilkiah to hire men to repair the temple. While the temple was being repaired Hilkiah found the Book of the Law. (Many believe it was the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch) or just the Book of Deuteronomy) Deuteronomy 31:26 "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a witness against you." (It is possible that when Solomon had the temple built the Book of the Law was placed in the cornerstone of the temple.)

If Hilkiah 'found' the Book of the Law it makes us realize that in many ways God's people had 'lost' the Book of the Law. Their lives did not reflect the life that God told them to live. This discovery of Hilkiah's is similar to many people's lives today. They have a copy of God's Word and it's not actually lost. It's right where they left it collecting dust because it is never opened and studied.

Whether the Bible is collecting dust on a shelf or not, God's Word is eternal. (Psalm 119:89, 160, Isaiah 40:8, 1 Peter 1:23-25) If we choose not to read God's Word it doesn't change the fact that what God has spoken in His Word will not come to pass.

- Where can your Bible be found? Is it collecting dust or is it something you pick up and read and study every day?

4. God's Word requires a response. (2 Kings 22:11-20, 2 Chronicles 34:19-28)

Read 2 Kings 22:11. How did Josiah respond when he heard God's Word read? (He humbled himself-tore his robes) Read verse 13. What did he tell Hilkiah and the other attendants to do? (Inquire of the Lord about what is written in this Book) Why did Josiah think that God was angry with His people? (Because they had not obeyed His Words and lived according to His laws)

Read verse 15. What did Huldah the prophetess say God was going to do? (Bring disaster upon Judah because God's people were disobeying His Word)

Josiah is spared of God's coming punishment because he responded with a humble heart when he heard the Words of God. Let's read what God says about Josiah response in verses 18-20.

How these final verses apply to you and me:



- No one is without excuse before God. All men, women, boys and girls are under God's judgment (punishment) because of sin. (Romans 1:18-20, 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-3)
- God has made a way for men, women, boys and girls to be saved. He sent His sinless Son Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of all. He was buried and three days later God raised Him from the dead. As Josiah heard and believed God's Words it's the same for us today. If we hear and believe that Jesus is the Savior for our sins, repent, confess and take communion we are rescued from the punishment of our sins.

As we prepare to close in prayer what is your response to our study of God's Word? What changes has He shown you that you need to make in your life? Will you take this time that we are still before Him and talk to Him about what He has shown you? If you do not regularly confess, please speak to us after we pray and we can talk to you and Abouna.

Close in prayer.

Review Questions:

(Choose your students' favorite review game to answer the questions from this lesson)

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? (8)
2. When did Josiah begin to seek God? (16)
3. Name a principle of God's Word from this lesson on Josiah.
4. How did Josiah respond when he heard God's Word read? (Tore his clothes, sent Hilkiah to find out what was written)
5. Why was Josiah spared from God's coming punishment? (He had a humble responsive heart to God's Word)
6. What new thing did you learn from our lesson today?
7. How are you going to put into practice what you learned?

Take Home

To Know:

1. God rewards those who seek Him:
2. Obedience to God's Word leads to true change:
3. Obedience brings peace and blessings: Josiah's obedience to God resulted in peace and blessings during his reign.

To Meditate On:

1. The power of a renewed heart: Reflect on how God can transform your heart and bring renewal, even in difficult situations.
2. The importance of responding to God's Word: Consider how you respond to Scripture—do you just hear it, or do you live it out?

To Practice:

1. Seek God with your whole heart: Pursue God through prayer, worship, and reading the Bible, making Him your priority.
2. Live in obedience to God's commands: Apply Scripture to your daily life and be faithful in living out God's will.
3. Lead in repentance and renewal: Just as Josiah led his people to renew their commitment to God, practice leading others by example in repentance and faithfulness.



Please make sure to review the intro. From page 1 to page 8 located under lesson #1 as well and incorporate some info for revision; making sure your learners retained as much of it.

Goal

The goal of this lesson is to help youth understand the consequences of disobedience to God and the importance of repentance. It also teaches the value of trust in God's plan, even in difficult and challenging times, as well as God's faithfulness to His promises, even when the people of Judah face destruction.

📖 **Purpose:** To help youth understand the consequences of disobedience to God and the significance of repentance.

📖 **Focus on God's justice and mercy:** Despite the severe consequences for sin, God remains faithful and offers hope and restoration.

📖 **Life Application:** Encourage youth to evaluate their own relationship with God, make better choices, and trust in His plan even when things seem challenging or difficult.

Scripture: 2 Kings chapter 25

Topic

"The Fall of Jerusalem: Trusting God Amidst Destruction"

Summary: This chapter details the final fall of the city of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple, and the exile of the people of Judah to Babylon.

Theme: Consequences of Disobedience: Judah's unfaithfulness to God led to the destruction of their city and the end of their kingdom.

God's Faithfulness Amid Judgment: Despite the downfall of Jerusalem, God still holds a future plan for His people and will bring about restoration after their exile.

Lessons: The chapter teaches that even when we face hardships due to our own mistakes, God is still in control and His promises remain true.

Memory Verse

2 Kings 25:21

"So Judah went into captivity, away from their own land."

This verse encapsulates the result of Judah's disobedience and serves as a reminder that God's judgment is real and the consequences of sin are serious.

Activity

Start with a personal reflection question:

"Have you ever made a decision that had big consequences? How did you feel afterward?"

This encourages youth to think about their own experiences with making choices and facing outcomes.

Alternative Icebreaker:

- Ask the group to think of a time when trust was broken in a relationship (e.g., friendship or family).
- Discuss how it felt when trust was lost and how it affected the relationship.

Connection: Just as broken trust can lead to separation in relationships, Judah's broken relationship with God led to their captivity.

Discussion Point:

"How important is it to stay faithful in our relationships and with God?"



This prepares the group to understand how the unfaithfulness of Judah to God led to the downfall of their kingdom.

Alternatively, you could discuss the idea of "broken trust" how trust is important in relationships, and when trust is broken, things can fall apart. Connect this to the relationship between God and His people.

Lesson (The Story of 2 Kings 25)

1. The Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:1-21)

- **Siege by Babylon:**
 - Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, attacked and laid siege to Jerusalem, cutting off supplies to the city.
 - The siege lasted for over a year—the people were starving, and the situation became desperate.
- **Zedekiah's Defeat:**
 - Zedekiah, the last king of Judah, tried to escape, but he was caught by the Babylonians.
 - Tragic end: Zedekiah witnessed the execution of his sons before being blinded and taken to Babylon.
- **Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple:**
 - The Babylonians broke down the city walls and burned the Temple of God to the ground.
 - The destruction of the Temple was a symbolic loss of God's presence among the people, as the Temple represented His dwelling place on Earth.
- **Outcome:**
 - The people of Judah were taken into exile, fulfilling God's warnings through the prophets like Jeremiah.
 - This was the judgment of God on a nation that had repeatedly ignored His calls for repentance.

2. The Role of God's Judgment

- **Why Judgment Happened:**
 - Judah had ignored God's commands for years. They worshiped false gods and practiced evil deeds.
 - God had sent prophets like Jeremiah to warn the people, but they refused to listen.
- **God's Justice:**
 - God's judgment was not out of spite but out of righteous justice. Sin has consequences, and Israel's unfaithfulness required that judgment be served.

3. God's Faithfulness Amid Destruction (2 Kings 25:22-30)

- **A Glimpse of Hope:**
 - Even after Judah's destruction, there's a glimpse of God's faithfulness. King Jehoiachin, who had been exiled to Babylon, was released from prison and treated with favor by the Babylonian king.
 - This suggests that even in the midst of judgment, God has a plan for restoration.
- **God's Plan:**



- o The exile was not the end for God’s people. Though they faced destruction, God would eventually restore them, fulfilling His promise to bring them back to their land after a period of 70 years.
- o Encouragement for Youth: No matter how far we may stray or how difficult our circumstances become, God’s faithfulness remains constant. He has plans to bring restoration when we turn to Him.

Application

Application for Youth

- Choices Have Consequences:
 - o Just as Judah faced the consequences of their decisions, our choices have real consequences. Disobedience to God leads to difficulties and hardships, while choosing God’s path leads to life and peace.
- Repentance and Forgiveness:
 - o Even when we make mistakes, God is always ready to forgive and restore us. Repentance (turning away from sin and back to God) is key to receiving God's mercy.
- Trust in God’s Plan:
 - o Even when life feels out of control or when bad things happen, God is still working in the background. Trusting in God’s plan means knowing that even in hardships, He is faithful to us.
- Restoration After Exile:
 - o The exile was a painful experience, but it wasn’t the end. After a time of correction and reflection, God restored His people. Similarly, God can restore us, no matter how far we feel we've fallen.

Closing (Discussion and Prayer)

Discussion:

- "What are some ways we can avoid the mistakes of Judah and remain faithful to God?"
- *"What lessons can we learn from Judah’s downfall and how can we apply these lessons in our lives?"*
- Encourage the youth to think about areas in their lives where they need to make better choices or areas where they need to trust God more.

- **Prayer:**
 - o Close with a prayer asking God to help everyone remain faithful to Him, trust His plan, and make wise choices that honor Him

Take home:

- **To Know:** Understand that God’s justice leads to consequences for sin, but God’s faithfulness offers restoration. We must be aware of the cost of disobedience and the hope of forgiveness.



- **To Meditate:** Reflect on God's justice, mercy, and faithfulness to you, even in your struggles. Meditate on the truth that He will restore you if you turn to Him.
- **To Practice:** Encourage youth to evaluate their own relationship with God, make better choices, and trust in His plan even when things seem challenging or difficult. Practice repentance, wise decision-making,



