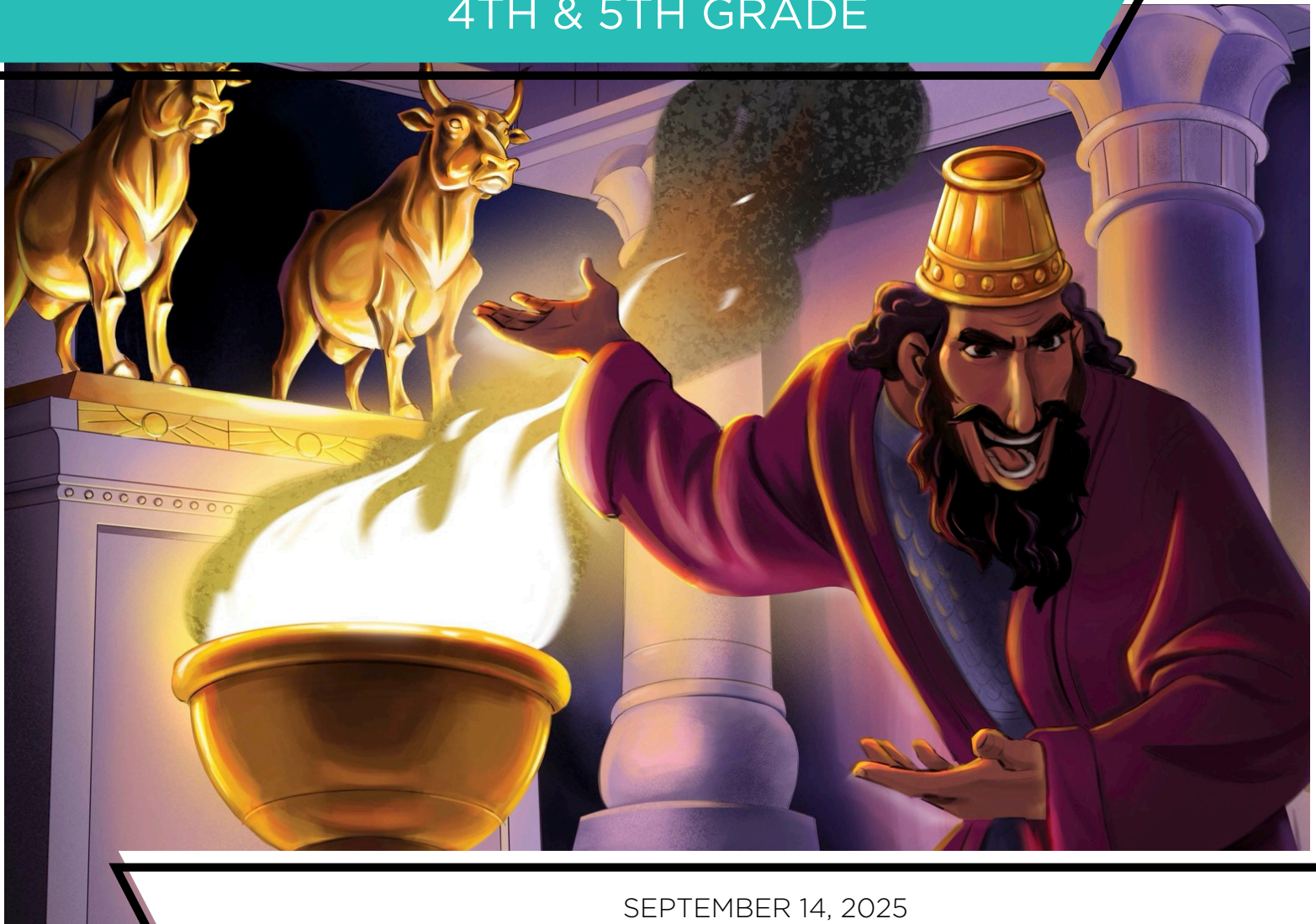


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

ISRAEL'S EVIL KINGS

1 KINGS 14-15; 2 CHRONICLES 12-13

CHRIST CONNECTION

The first kings of Israel led the people to disobey God and to worship idols. Israel's kings suffered the consequences of their sin. **We all sin when we disobey God and worship other things. Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin and bring us back to God.**

LEADER DEVO

When we hear the word idolatry, we might think about the golden calf in Exodus 32. While today's story includes King Jeroboam crafting two physical golden calves, it points to the invisible idolatry of the heart. What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin in which we love and value something else above God.

Rehoboam had been cruel to God's people, and because of his harsh treatment, ten tribes rejected him as king and sought out Jeroboam to be king of Israel. Rehoboam's domain in Judah was smaller but held an important status because it was the location of the temple.

Jeroboam feared the people would eventually abandon him and return to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. Taking matters into his own hands, Jeroboam led the people to break the law of Moses and worship two golden calves. God was angry with Jeroboam and sent the prophet Ahijah to tell Jeroboam that he had behaved wickedly, that God was going to bring disaster upon his house, and that there would be a new king over Israel.

After Jeroboam, Israel had other evil kings—Nadab and Baasha. Like Jeroboam, they led Israel to turn away from God and worship idols. All three of these kings were eventually judged for their sin.

The first three kings of Israel led the people to disobey God. We all sin by disobeying God. Like Israel's kings, we may turn to other things above the Lord. Is there anything that has become an idol in your heart? As you prepare this week, remember the gift of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that paid the price of our sin. Likewise, remind kids that Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sinful idolatry and bring us back to God. Pray for boys and girls to grasp the weight of our sinful choices to worship other things and the depth of Christ's love to provide salvation.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until Large Group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

...that all the peoples of the earth may know
that the Lord is God; there is no other.

1 Kings 8:60



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

SEPT 28

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, John 3:16 will look like:

F G S L T W T H G H O A O S T W B I H W N P B H E L

LESSON

When God's people split into two separate kingdoms, King Jeroboam became king over Israel in the north. Unlike King David, Jeroboam did not keep God's commands and follow Him with all his heart, doing what is right. Jeroboam acted wickedly and made false gods for the people to worship.

God was angry with Jeroboam. He sent the prophet Ahijah to tell him: "You have behaved wickedly and I am going to bring disaster on you. There will be a new king over Israel. The new king will completely destroy the house of Jeroboam."

Then the kingdom of Israel went to war with the kingdom of Judah. The king of Judah said to the people of Israel, "You have left the Lord your God! You worship golden calves, and you banished the priests of the Lord and made mew priests. But we continue to worship God. We make offerings to Him every morning and every evening. We are obeying the commandments of the Lord, but you are not. Do not fight against us, because you will not win!"

God was with the people of Judah because of a promise He had made to King David, and they defeated Jeroboam and the army of Israel. The the Lord struck Jeroboam, and he died.

After Jeroboam died, his son Nadab became king of Israel. Unfortunately, Nadab was just as evil as his father. Another man named Baasha (BAY uh shuh) attacked and killed Nadab and all his family, just as God said through the prophet Ahijah. Baasha became the new king of Israel. Baasha followed the same pattern as the evil kings who came before him, leading the people away from God to worship idols.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The first kings of Israel led the people to disobey God and to worship idols. Israel's kings suffered the consequences of their sin. **We all sin when we disobey God and worship other things. Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sin and bring us back to God.**

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

ICEBREAKERS

QUESTION: ONE WISH

If a genie granted you one wish, what would you wish for? And no, you cannot say “more wishes”.

ACTIVITY: SECRET IDENTITY

Give each group member five of the provided cards. Each card should have a different prompt. On each of the cards, have them write their answer to the given prompt.

After they write it down, have them fold the cards in half and then put all the cards into a bucket or large bowl. Leaders will randomly pick a card and read it aloud. The group then will try to guess who wrote the card.

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) What is an idol? Why would God be so against idols?
- 2) Why do you think the leaders of Israel continued to worship idols instead of God?
- 3) What do we learn about humanity from this story?
- 4) Read 1 Kings 15:1-5. In verse 4, we are told that God gave Abijam a “lamp in Jerusalem” because of what David had done years earlier. Why would God do this? (See also 2 Samuel 7:16-17)
- 5) What do we learn about God from this story?
- 6) What similar phrase do we see when a new king is mentioned in Scripture? (See 1 Kings 14:22; 1 Kings 15:11, 26, 34) Do you see a theme or pattern emerging?
- 7) What are you taking away from this part of Scripture? Is there something new you learned? Something you’re curious about or don’t understand?

PRAYER

Take time to ask your group for any prayer requests or praises they have for this upcoming week. Invite kids to pray for each other and/or pray as a group for all the requests.

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, Large Group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

Listen for names as they are called out on the mic. If you hear the name of a kid in your area, take them to the main doors of the Large Group room.

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!