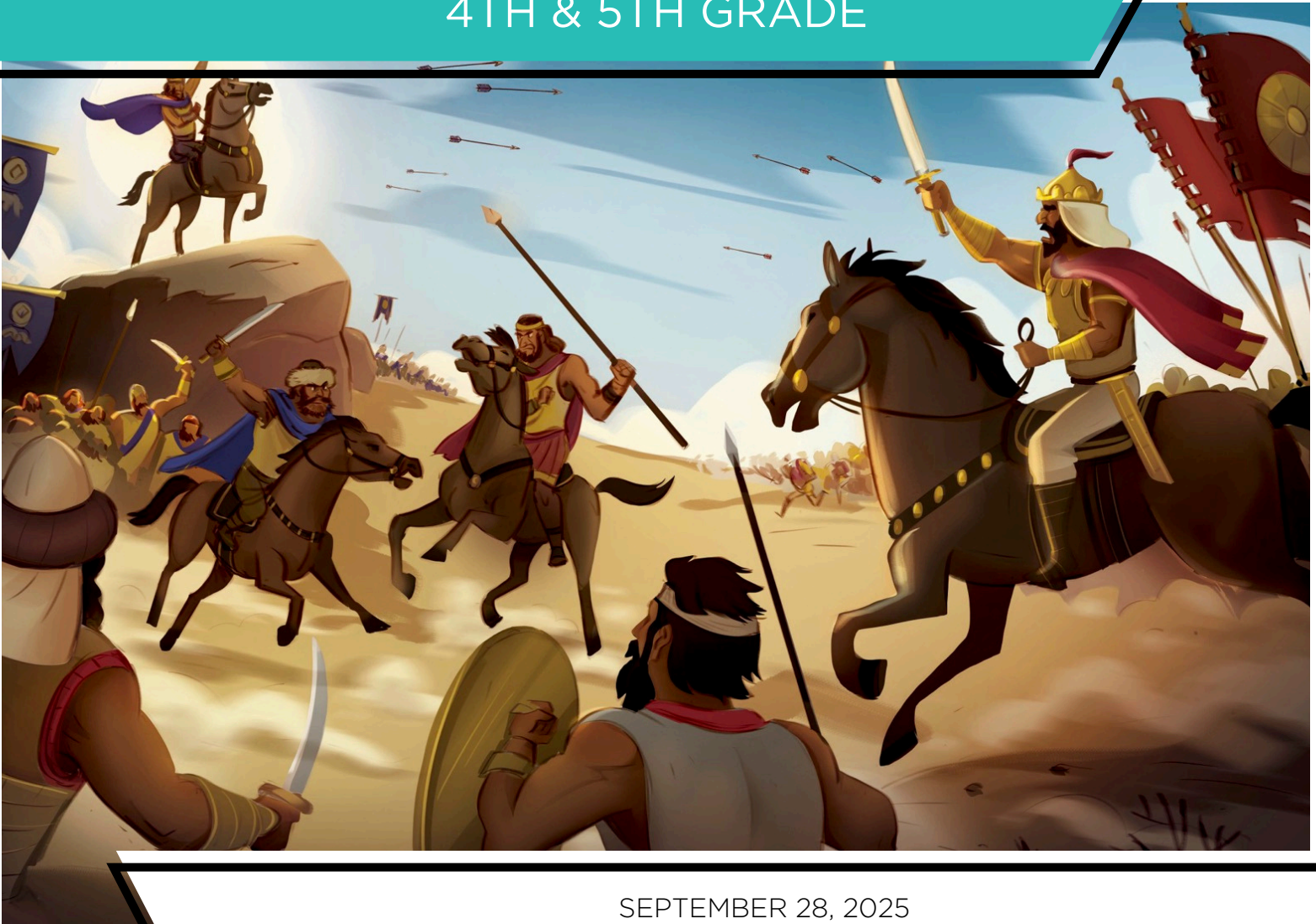


# PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

## THE REIGN OF AHAB

1 KINGS 20-22; 2 KINGS 1

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. **Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever.**

# LEADER DEVO

Have you ever heard the expression “you reap what you sow”? Perhaps you feel the burn of those words as you think of times you made a hasty decision or took matters into your own hands, only to later watch things fall apart. In today’s text, Ahab made a series of poor choices which ultimately led to his demise.

First, the Lord gave King Ahab victory over the Arameans—not once, but twice—to remind Ahab that He is the Lord. When Israel won the second battle, they captured Ben-hadad, but Ahab disobeyed God and agreed to a treaty, releasing Ben-hadad.

Second, a man named Naboth owned a vineyard that caught Ahab’s interest. In his greed, Ahab and his wife Jezebel developed a wicked scheme to take Naboth’s vineyard. Their deception turned murderous when hired men lied about Naboth, saying he had cursed God and the king. Naboth was falsely convicted and sentenced to death.

A few years later, Ahab wanted to go to war against the Arameans once again. Ahab’s false prophets supported his decision, but Micaiah, a prophet of the true God, advised against it, since going to war against Aram would fail. Once again, Ahab acted stubbornly and went to war anyway. During the battle, he was struck by an arrow and died.

While God showed Ahab patience and gave him many warnings, Ahab ultimately refused to repent. Like Ahab, we can be greedy and stubborn. In our sin, we rebel against God and act according to our flesh. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23). Jesus lived a perfect life and died in the place of sinners so that we might be forgiven and be made right with God.

Encourage boys and girls to see that because Christ laid down His life for us, we can escape the punishment we deserve because of our sin. Teach kids that when we believe in Jesus and repent of sin, Christ removes our unrighteousness and changes our hearts so that we desire to follow God and His ways.

# 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

**OCT 26**

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

King Ahab was at war with King Ben-hadad of Aram, a nation to the northeast of Israel. A prophet of the Lord came to Ahab and said, “This is what the Lord says, ‘Do you see Ben-hadad’s huge army? Watch this: I am handing it over to you today so that you may know I am the Lord.’” Ahab led the men to battle. Israel won, but Ben-hadad escaped.

Ben-hadad’s servants told him that Israel had only won because they had fought in the hills. They believed that if they went to war with Israel in the plains, that they would be able to defeat them. The prophet of God came to Ahab again and said, “Because the Arameans have said that the Lord can’t win unless the battle is in the mountains, I will hand their huge army over to you. You will win, and you will know that I am the Lord.” The Israelites camped in front of them like two little flocks of goats, while the Arameans filled the landscape. Israel won the battle, and they captured Ben-hadad.

Ben-hadad offered to make a deal in exchange for his life. Ahab knew he was supposed to defeat the Arameans, but he disobeyed. He agreed to receive the land the Arameans took from Israel in exchange for Ben-hadad’s release.

Sometime later, Ahab decided he wanted a vineyard that belonged to a man named Naboth. Naboth refused to sell this land, and Ahab was mad, because he was greedy and wanted that land. Ahab’s wife, Jezebel, said to him, “Now, exercise your royal power over Israel. For I will give you the vineyard of Naboth.” Then Jezebel hired men to lie about Naboth. They said that Naboth had cursed God and the king, a crime punishable by death. Naboth was killed, and Ahab took his vineyard.

A few years later, Ahab wanted to go to war against the Arameans again because they still had some of Israel’s land. He asked his false prophets, and they all agreed it was a good idea. But the prophet of the true God, Micaiah, told Ahab the truth. Going to war against Aram would fail, and the king would die. Micaiah said, “I saw all of Israel alone scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd. And the Lord said, ‘They have no one to lead them.’” King Ahab was stubborn and decided to go to war anyway. He was struck by an arrow during the battle, and he died, just as the prophet of the Lord said.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. **Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever.**

# 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: KEEP 4, TAKE AWAY 1**

If you could only keep four of the foods below, which one would you get rid of?

Pizza

Burgers

Ice Cream

Donuts

Chips

### **ACTIVITY: FROWN KING/FROWN QUEEN**

Have kids divide into pairs (if there's an odd number, make a group of three). Have partners stand back to back. On the count of three, partners will turn, look each other in the eyes, and try to frown without speaking. If anyone smiles or laughs, they must sit down and are out. Keep going until one person remains.

If two or more people are really good at keeping a straight face, have the rest of the group try to get them to break!

# SMALL GROUPS

## DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) Why does God tell Ahab that they will win the battle? What is His main purpose?
- 2) Read 1 Kings 20:23-28. What is God's main purpose in telling Ahab that the Israelites will win this battle as well?
- 3) Why do you think God cares about making Himself known?
- 4) Read 1 Kings 21:5-16. Discuss the impact of this story and what it reveals about mankind.
- 5) What kind of rulers are Ahab and Jezebel? What are their actions doing to the kingdom and the people of Israel?
- 6) What qualities would you want in a leader or a king?
- 7) Jesus is known as the King of Kings. How does He bring people together, unlike Ahab?

### 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!