

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



NOVEMBER 2, 2025

JUDAH'S GOOD KINGS

2 KINGS 18-19; 2 CHRONICLES 14-24

CHRIST CONNECTION

Judah's good kings led the people to God and away from sin. Yet when they died, the people returned to their sinful ways. Jesus is our good King who died and rose again, and always leads us to God and away from sin.

LEADER DEVO

Good kings and evil kings—both were seen throughout the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Depending on who was king, the people would either be led to worship the one true God or led the opposite direction toward idolatry and wickedness.

King Asa sought to do what was good in the eyes of the Lord and removed the places of idol worship. He commanded the people of Judah to worship and obey God. But once Asa died, Ahaziah became king and led the people to once again turn to idolatry. When he died, his mother Athalia made herself queen by force. She ruled as queen for six years and did evil in God's sight.

The priest Jehoiada planned to overthrow the evil queen. His men captured her and made one of Athalia's young sons, Joash, king. Following Jehoiada's lead, Joash tore down the temple of Baal and restored worship in the temple to God alone.

After Joash came King Hezekiah. He also sought to do what was right in the sight of the Lord. After cleaning out the temple so the people could worship, Hezekiah invited Judah and Israel to celebrate the feast of the Passover. Afterward, everyone went back to their towns and destroyed their places of worship to false gods.

When the king of Assyria came to attack Judah, King Hezekiah prayed to God, and Judah was saved. God sent an angel to destroy the Assyrian army.

The last good king of Judah was Josiah. King Josiah was only eight years old when he came into power, but he also did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Under his rule, the people renewed their covenant with God and remained faithful to Him.

The good kings of Judah led the people to worship the one true God. The Lord raised up kings who would lead Judah to turn away from idolatry and keep His commands. Judah would serve God under the rule of the good kings but returned to their sinful ways after the good kings died. Yet, despite the people's inconsistent worship of the Lord, God proved faithful to preserve His people. The line of Judah would one day give rise to the King of kings, who would make the way for people to worship God in spirit and truth.

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

The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is
over all that he has made.

Psalms 145:9



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

NOV 23

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

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

Especially for memorizing longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once. Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those five words memorized, add another five or so words.

LESSON

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had several good kings that led the people to follow God, worship Him, and turn away from sin.

King Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of God. He removed the places that the people worshiped false gods. He commanded the people of Judah to worship God and obey His laws. Asa rebuilt the altar that was in front of the Lord's temple. Asa and the people of Judah promised to seek the Lord with all their heart and all their soul.

When an enemy army came, Asa prayed, saying, "Lord, we are counting on you to help us. You can give us victory." The Lord answered his prayer, and Asa was loyal to God his entire life.

Years later, a wicked king named Ahaziah (ay huh ZIGH uh) became king over Judah. When Ahaziah died, his mother, Athaliah (ath uh LIGH uh), made herself queen by force. One of Ahaziah's young sons, Joash, was hidden from Athaliah by his sister. Athaliah ruled as queen for six years and did evil in God's sight.

The priest Jehoiada (jih HOY uh duh) made a plan to overthrow Queen Athaliah. They captured her and placed a crown on Joash's head, making him king. Under the leadership of Jehoiada the priest, Joash tore down the temple of Baal and brought back the proper worship of God in the temple. Throughout the time the priest Jehoiada instructed him, Joash did what was right in the Lord's sight.

Many years after Joash, Hezekiah became king over Judah. He did what was right in the Lord's sight just as his ancestor David had done. One of his first acts as king was to clean out the temple so the people could worship and make sacrifices to the Lord. The people brought so many sacrifices that the priests needed help to prepare all the offerings.

Hezekiah invited Judah and Israel to celebrate the feast of the Passover. They enjoyed praising God and feasting so much that they celebrated for two weeks! After the feast, everyone went back to their towns and tore down the altars and places of worship to false gods.

After this, the same king of Assyria who had destroyed Israel came to attack Judah. The Assyrians said, "Do you think your God will save you? All the other kingdoms we defeated thought so, too." King Hezekiah prayed to God, and God sent an angel to destroy the Assyrian army. Judah was saved!

The last good king of Judah was Josiah. Even though he was only eight years old when he became king, he did what was right in the eyes of God. He smashed and tore down the places of idol worship. As he was cleaning out the temple, he found the book of the law from Moses. When Josiah heard the words of the law, Josiah was sad, because the nation was not obeying God's commands. Josiah read the words of the law to all the people at the temple. Then Josiah and the people promised to keep the commands found in the book of the law. The people renewed the covenant with God and stayed faithful to God while Josiah was alive.

CHRIST CONNECTION

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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: MUST HAVE

What's one thing that you can't live without? Why?

ACTIVITY: BACK-TO-BACK

Have kids get into pairs, and have each pair stand back-to-back and link arms. As quickly as they can, have the pairs sit down (not just crouching) and then get back up without letting their arms come unlinked. If you want, have kids switch partners to see if height differences or other factors make the task easier or harder.

SMALL GROUPS

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

Idol: Anything that we love, worship, or prioritize in place of God.

- 1) Read 2 Chronicles 14:2-4; 24:2-4; 29:1-3; 34:1-4. What common theme(s) or actions do you see between the good kings of Judah?
- 2) Josiah became king at eight years old and followed God's ways (2 Chronicles 34:1-2). What does this tell us about who can follow God and His ways?
- 3) Why do you think the people returned to their sinful ways after each good king died?
- 4) Are we in danger of worshiping idols like the Israelites did? Why or why not?
- 5) What does this portion of Scripture teach you about God?
- 6) What does it mean to worship God? How can you worship God this week?

Personal Reflection: What idol(s) are filling your mind and heart instead of God? What can you do to rightfully put God before all else in your life?

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.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, Large Group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

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!