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# Leader BIBLE STUDY

The nation of Israel experienced quite the range of leaders throughout its history. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Joshua brought them into the promised land.

From there, Israel was ruled by a series of judges: Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, and several others until the time of Samson. The period of the judges was not a particularly proud time in Israel's history. Without a godly king, the people continuously turned away from God and disobeyed Him. "Everyone did whatever he wanted" (Judg. 21:25).

Then came Samuel. Samuel guided God's people between the time of the judges and the time of the kings. The Israelites asked for a king, and God gave them Saul. But God took Saul's kingdom away and gave it to David. When David died, his son Solomon became king. Solomon's sin led to the nation of Israel being divided into two kingdoms. Solomon's son Rehoboam ruled over Judah in the south, and Jeroboam ruled over Israel in the north.

For several decades, Israel was led by men who did evil. Baasha became the third king of the Northern Kingdom when he murdered the second king. Baasha made God's people in Israel sin, and when he died, his son Elah became king. Elah was king for two years, but then his servant Zimri killed him. Zimri became the next king. Zimri's reign was short—just seven days. Zimri died in a fire, and Omri became Israel's next king. When Omri died, his son Ahab became king. King Ahab was more evil than any other king before him.

The evil kings of Israel did not lead God's people well. They sinned and led God's people away from Him. As you teach kids the reality of Israel's past, point out God's plan to send a perfect king for His people. Jesus came to bring salvation from sin and be the faithful, loving King Israel needed.

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# Preschool BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

**Session Title:** Israel's History of Evil Kings

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 16

**Big Picture Question:** What kind of king did God's people need? God's people needed a king who loved God.

**Key Passage:** 2 Kings 17:13-14

**Unit Christ Connection:** The prophets called God's people to repentance as Christ calls people to repentance. Sin continued to divide and ultimately destroy the Northern Kingdom, but Christ's perfect kingdom is forever.

## Small Group Opening

(15–20 minutes)

## Large Group Bible Study

(10–15 minutes)

## Small Group Activities

(20–25 minutes)

## Snack and Transition

(20 minutes)

# The BIBLE STORY

## Israel's History of Evil Kings

### *1 Kings 16*

God's people had many leaders over the years. Moses led them out of Egypt, and Joshua led them into the promised land. And then several judges led the people. Do you remember Deborah, Gideon, and Samson? Then came Samuel, and God's people asked for a king. Saul became king, and then David. After that, David's son Solomon was king.

After King Solomon died, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms: Israel, the Northern Kingdom, and Judah, the Southern Kingdom. And a time began when the nation of Israel was ruled by some bad kings. These bad kings did not love God, and they did not lead God's people like they should.

**Baasha (BAY uh shuh) was the third king to rule over Israel.** He was a bad king. **Baasha had killed King Nadab (NAY dab) to take over the throne.** Many of the things Baasha did were very bad, and he **led the people of Israel to sin. The people of Israel began to serve and worship idols—people and things that were not God. They did not love God, and this made God sad and angry.** God sent a man to tell Baasha that he would not be king anymore. **Baasha died, and his son Elah (EE luh) became Israel's king.**

**Maybe Elah would be a better king! But he wasn't. Elah wasn't a very good king, and he wasn't king for very long. Elah was like his father, and he made God angry because he worshiped idols and caused Israel to sin and turn away from God. After two years, Zimri (ZIM righ)—a leader in Elah's army—planned to kill Elah. And he did. Zimri killed Elah.**

**Would Zimri be a better king than Elah? No! Zimri became king, and he acted just like Elah and Baasha. He was an evil king, and he caused Israel to sin. The people of Israel didn't want Zimri to be king. The people wanted Omri (AHM righ), the leader of the army, to be**

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**king of Israel. Omri took over the city where Zimri lived, and Zimri was afraid.** He knew he could not stand against Omri. **Zimri went into his house and set it on fire.** The house burned down with Zimri inside, **and Zimri died.**

**Now Omri was king—the sixth king of Israel.** While Omri was king, he bought a hill and built a city named Samaria. **Was Omri a good king? No!** Omri was like the kings before him. He **worshiped** people and **things** that were not God, **and he caused Israel to sin. This made God angry.**

**Omri died, and his son Ahab (AY hab) became king of Israel. Israel needed a good king, but Ahab was more evil than the kings who were before him—more evil than Omri, more evil than Zimri, more evil than Elah, and more evil than Baasha. Ahab was a very bad king! He married Jezebel, who told him to do bad things. Ahab served and worshiped the false god Baal. He built a place in Samaria for people to worship Baal, and all the things Ahab did made God very angry.**

*Christ Connection: God's people wanted a king, but no king helped God's people love God. God was going to send Jesus. Jesus would come from heaven and be the king of God's people. He would help them love God, and He would be the best king ever.*

# Small Group OPENING

**Session Title:** Israel's History of Evil Kings

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 16

**Big Picture Question:** What kind of king did God's people need? God's people needed a king who loved God.

**Key Passage:** 2 Kings 17:13-14

**Unit Christ Connection:** The prophets called God's people to repentance as Christ calls people to repentance. Sin continued to divide and ultimately destroy the Northern Kingdom, but Christ's perfect kingdom is forever.

- Prepare: Post an allergy alert, if necessary.
- favorite toys
- "Mighty to Save" song
- offering basket

## Welcome and Session Starter (15–20 minutes)

Play the unit song "Mighty to Save" as families arrive. Set an offering basket near the door. Set out a few favorite toys for kids to enjoy after they do the activity page.

## Activity Page: Find the Good Kings

Review for leaders: The first two of the Ten Commandments were to have no other gods besides God and not to make idols. God gave a clear description of what would happen if the nation did not obey. The people pledged to worship and obey God. (See Joshua 24.)

The people soon forgot their pledge, the nation was divided, and every king of the northern nation (Israel) led the people to worship idols. Many kings of Judah in the south, the nation into which Jesus was born, did the same. They suffered the consequences. But God loved His people and had chosen to bless the nations of the earth through them. When He sent prophets with grim warnings, He also assured His people of plans to give them a hope and a future.

This activity should show that most kings of the divided



- "Find the Good Kings" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or crayons

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nation led their people astray; the remaining Old Testament history and prophecy shows how this played out.

Read the directions and assist preschoolers in counting the good kings. You don't have to mention the names of kings pictured in the activity, but you might be interested to see that two were evil queens. Some of these monarchs will appear in upcoming Bible stories.

**Say** • Which nation—the Southern Kingdom of Judah or the Northern Kingdom of Israel—had no good kings? (*Northern Kingdom*) Which nation do you think most often honored God—Judah or the Northern Kingdom of Israel? (*Judah*)

### **Play “Teacher, May I?”**

Stand at one end of the room while all the kids line up at the other end. The kids take turns asking “Teacher, may I \_\_\_\_?” with a movement suggestion. For example, “Teacher, may I take five steps forward?” Reply either “Yes, you may” or “No, you may not do that, but you may \_\_\_\_ (*insert a different command which must be obeyed*) instead.” Suggest commands such as take four hops forward, take three steps sideways, or take two giant steps backward. Give kids turns to be the leader if they wish, and play more rounds.

**Say** • Loving God means doing what He asks.

### **Transition to Bible study**

Try this attention signal called “Class-Yes.” When you say “class,” the kids respond “yes.” Say “classity-class!” and teach them to respond “yessity-yes!” Say it in a high, squeaky voice or a low, growly voice. Whatever way you say “class,” that’s how they say “yes.”

Transition cue: Ring the bell, show the countdown video, flip the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for children to copy to gain attention.

# Large Group BIBLE STUDY

**Session Title:** Israel's History of Evil Kings

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 16

**Big Picture Question:** What kind of king did God's people need? God's people needed a king who loved God.

**Key Passage:** 2 Kings 17:13-14

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## Large Group Bible Study (10–15 minutes)

### Introduce the Bible story

• Timeline Map  
(optional)

If you have the timeline segments beginning with “Israel Demanded a King,” examine those as a review.

**Say** • God had given His people, the Israelites, good leaders: Moses, Joshua, and the judges, but they wanted a king. *What kind of king did God's people need? God's people needed a king who loved God.*

The first king, Saul, disobeyed God. The second king of Israel was a great king. Do you remember his name? Here's a hint: before he became king, he killed the giant Goliath. (*David*) God said that David was a man after His own heart. [See 1 Samuel 13:14.]

When King David's son became king, he asked God for wisdom. God also made him very rich. What was his name? (*Solomon*) Solomon was a great king, but Solomon disobeyed an important command of God—he let people worship idols. After Solomon, the kingdom of Israel divided in two, and there were two kings. None of the kings in the Northern Kingdom of Israel loved God.

- "Israel's History of Evil Kings" video
- Bible

## Watch or tell the Bible story

**Say** • You can hear about some of the kings of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in our Bible story for today. The story is found here. [*Point to 1 Kings 16.*] Do you think the people in this story were real kings? (*Yes! The Bible tells about them.*) Listen for whether they were good or bad. Tell the Bible story with your Bible open, or watch the video "Israel's History of Evil Kings."

## Talk about the Bible story

- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

**Say** • I'll name a king in the Bible story. You jump up and say "good" if he loved God or "bad" if he didn't.

Baasha (BAY uh shuh) (*bad*); Elah (EE luh) (*bad*); Zimri (ZIM righ) (*bad*); Omri (AHM righ) (*bad*); Ahab (AY hab) (*bad*). Who was the worst king? (*Ahab*)

***What kind of king did God's people need? God's people needed a king who loved God.*** God's people wanted a king, but no king helped God's people love God. God was going to send Jesus. Jesus would come from heaven and be the king of God's people. He would help them love God, and He would be the best king ever.

## Introduce the key passage

- Key Passage Slide or Poster

Read the key passage and emphasize the word *listen*. Lead in doing the finger play about listening.

"Do you hear a very soft noise?

It's the sound of girls and boys

\*Clapping, clapping. Do you hear?

Listen, listen with your ears."

\*Substitute other actions such as blinking, stretching, nodding, wiggling, tapping.

- Tip: Do activities one of these ways:
- as a group, all at the same time
  - in small groups that rotate through each activity
  - set up as centers, allowing preschoolers to browse and choose

## Transition to small groups

Introduce the small groups and move to them.



# Small Group ACTIVITIES

**Session Title:** Israel's History of Evil Kings

**Bible Passage:** 1 Kings 16

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## Small Group Activities (20–25 minutes)

### Sing and listen

Sing to the tune "Mulberry Bush":

"What kind of king did God's people need?  
People need? People need?  
What kind of king did God's people need?  
A king who loved God!"

Give each kid two plastic cups to place over their ears as they sing again. This should help them listen to themselves singing.

Hint: To fit these words into the first line, accent the syllables in bold: **What** kind of **king** did God's **peo**-ple **need**? If it works better for you, sing: "**What** kind of **king** did **God**'s people **need**? / **God**'s people **need**? **God**'s people **need**?"

**Say** • Kings who loved God listened to His prophets.

*What kind of king did God's people need? God's people needed a king who loved God.*



- plastic cups,  
2 per kid



- coffee sleeves,  
1 per kid
- large rubber bands
- craft store jewels,  
colored paper,  
buttons
- glue
- scissors
- hole punch

## Make coffee sleeve crowns

Cut away the glued section of a coffee sleeve. Cut a zigzag pattern with three to five points across the top of the sleeve. Punch a hole in each end of the sleeve. Kids may color the unprinted side of the sleeve or glue shapes, buttons, or “jewels” to it. Cut a large rubber band; tie each end to one of the punched holes. If you don’t have coffee sleeves, cut 8-by-3-inch cardboard strips.

**Say** • All of the kings of Israel, the northern tribes, were bad, bad, bad! *What kind of king did God’s people need? God’s people needed a king who loved God.*

## Stamp words on hearts

- large, red paper  
hearts, 1 per kid
- index cards
- alphabet stamps
- washable stamp  
pads
- crayons (optional)
- child-size scissors
- ziplock bags  
(optional)

For each child, cut a large heart from red paper. Print words such as *KING*, *JESUS*, *LOVE*, and *GOD* on index cards for boys and girls to use as guides. Encourage kids to spell one or more of the words on their hearts using alphabet-shaped rubber stamps. Young preschoolers may stamp just the first letter of a word. They may also stamp other shapes related to kings and love.

If you do not have stamps, suggest that kids draw on their hearts and then cut them into puzzles. Place puzzle pieces in a ziplock bag and label it for kids to take home.

**Say** • *What kind of king did God’s people need? God’s people needed a king who loved God.*

- kitchen scales
- measuring cups
- things to measure, like rice, beans, and cereal

## Weigh and measure

Use kitchen scales and measuring cups to weigh and measure things like rice, beans, and O-shaped cereal. Show how a cup of rice is the same size as a cup of beans. Help kids identify the numbers on the scale and cups. Talk about how sometimes people were not fair. They might say, “This is a pound of grain,” but it really wasn’t that much grain. They made people pay too much.

**Say** • God sent prophets to warn His people to stop doing wrong things. He warned the kings. But they wouldn’t listen. They were bad leaders. *What kind of king did God’s people need? God’s people needed a king who loved God.*

## Sing “Mighty to Save”

Teach your kids these words from the unit song: “My God is mighty to save / He is mighty to save.”

Teach them the sign for *mighty*: Make fists and move them firmly away from the chest to show that a person is strong. Play the song; encourage kids to sing with you and make the “mighty” sign.

**Say** • The evil kings forgot all the mighty ways God had helped His people. They tried to make their own plans when they needed help instead of asking God to save them. *What kind of king did God’s people need? God’s people needed a king who loved God.*

- “Mighty to Save” song



- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins
- new paintbrushes
- white bread
- food color
- milk
- heart-shaped cookie cutter (optional)
- toaster oven (optional)

## Snack and Transition (20 minutes)

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities time and gather for snack time. Take a bathroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack; remind kids during snack time to say please and thank you. Thank God for the snack.

Consider painting on bread for the snack. Kids can mix 4 drops of food color into 1 tablespoon of milk. Dip a new paintbrush in the color and paint on the bread. Toast it if you have a toaster oven or a kitchen oven. Help kids cut out a heart with a cookie cutter, and they may eat both the heart and the bread frame. Remind kids that *God's people needed a king who loved God.*

## Transition

When a child finishes his snack and throws away any trash, he may select a puzzle or book to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring picture. Offer the journal page for drawing something related to the Bible story.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session, such as “Sean helped our visitor feel welcome today.” Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

If new teachers are arriving, quietly share useful information about the kids who are present.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books, puzzles, and play dough
- crayons
- *The Big Picture Cards for Families: Preschool*

## Israel, the Northern Kingdom

**Key Passage:** 2 Kings 17:13-14

**Session 1:** Israel's History of Evil Kings  
*1 Kings 16*

**Session 2:** Elijah Confronted Evil Ahab  
*1 Kings 18*

**Session 3:** Elijah Ran from Jezebel  
*1 Kings 19*

**Session 4:** Elisha and Naaman  
*2 Kings 5*

**Session 5:** The Northern Kingdom Was Destroyed  
*2 Kings 17:1-23*



**The LORD warned Israel  
and Judah ... “Turn from  
your evil ways and keep  
My commands.” ... But they  
would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**





**The LORD testified  
against Israel, and against  
Judah, ... Turn ye from  
your evil ways, and keep  
my commandments. ...  
Notwithstanding they  
would not hear.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

**The LORD warned Israel  
and Judah, ... “Turn from  
your evil ways and keep my  
commandments.” ... But they  
would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**





**The LORD warned Israel  
and Judah ... : “Turn from  
your evil ways. Observe  
my commands.” ... But they  
would not listen.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

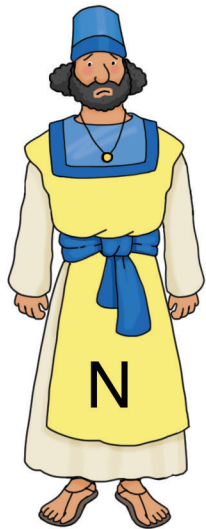


**The LORD testified  
against Israel and against  
Judah, ... “Turn from  
your evil ways, and keep  
My commandments.” ...  
Nevertheless they would not  
hear.**

**2 Kings 17:13-14**

## Find the Good Kings

**Instructions:** Circle all the kings or queens of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, (with a J) in one color. Circle all the kings or queens of Israel in the north (with an N) in a different color. Those with smiles were good leaders. Those without smiles were bad—they led their people to worship idols. Count the good kings of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. (There were none. Every northern ruler was evil.) Count the good kings of Judah. (Four of them are shown here: Joash, Uzziah, Hezekiah, Josiah.) Which nation do you think most often honored God—the Southern Kingdom of Judah or the Northern Kingdom of Israel?



Ahab



Elah



Josiah



Uzziah



Baasha



Jeroboam



Hezekiah



Athaliah



Jezebel



Omri



Joash



Rehoboam





# What kind of king did God's people need?

## God's people needed a king who loved God.





Today your child will be  
tasting/touching/sniffing

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Please notify a teacher if  
your child should not  
participate in this activity.



**Instructions:** Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.