

Old Testament

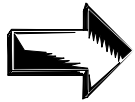
King Jehoshaphat 2 Chronicles 20:1—30

Younger Verse

Be kind to each other. Ephesians 4:32

Older Verse

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever been really scared? Most of us have. In today’s lesson, King Jehoshaphat was scared of an enemy that was coming to fight his country. Let’s see what he does.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Another king that lived long ago was Jehoshaphat (Ja-hoe-sa-fat). The Bible tells us that he loved God and followed God with all his heart.

One time when he was king, he had an opportunity to really trust God. King Jehoshaphat received news that was very frightening. Let’s see what he does.

One day, a lookout guard for the city brought some terrible news to the king. Their enemy had unexpectedly come to fight them. They were very close to the city. The army was large and very powerful. The situation looked frightening for King Jehoshaphat and his people.

The first thing that Jehoshaphat did was to pray and ask God for help. He asked all the people not to eat for the day. Instead, he asked them to pray and ask God for help.

Then, King Jehoshaphat stood in front of the people and prayed to God. He praised God for how powerful and wonderful He (God) was. He asked God to help them defeat this horrible enemy. He told God that they could not do anything without God’s help.

God heard King Jehoshaphat’s prayer. God sent a messenger named Jahaziel to speak to all the people. He told them to listen to what the Lord said. He said, “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this big army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”

God told them to wait until the next day to fight. God shared that when they marched to fight, they would see how God would win the battle for them.

Lesson Goals

See that when you are scared, you can pray and ask God for help
Love God and believe in Him with all you heart
Understand that God listens to our prayers and wants us to worship Him

When Jehoshaphat heard the news, he bowed down and worshiped the Lord. He was so grateful for God's help and for God's kindness to him and his people. He thanked God and told God how wonderful He was.

Early the next morning, Jehoshaphat and his army went out as God told them. King Jehoshaphat reminded the people to trust God and obey. Then the king did an amazing thing. He asked people to come and sing songs to God and play beautiful music to God. They sang at the front of the army. The musicians said, "Give thanks to the Lord for His love continues forever."

As they sang, God sent another army to ambush this enemy. That means that another enemy came and tried to fight them. They were surprised. The two enemies fought each other. Ultimately, both enemies were destroyed.

When King Jehoshaphat and his army got to the edge where they could see, they were amazed at what God did. Just as God said, the army was destroyed. God had won the battle!

When the army returned to the city, they praised God and thanked Him for winning the battle. They played harps, flutes and trumpets in God's temple as a way to praise Him and thank Him for delivering them from their enemies.

Because Jehoshaphat loved God, his kingdom lived at peace during his reign as king.

Just like King Jehoshaphat, we are sometimes scared or afraid of something. When we are in this situation, we should pray and ask God for help like the king did. Not only did Jehoshaphat ask for help, he also praised God by telling God how good He was and all the wonderful things God had done.

Also, when God told them what to do, they did it. They trusted God and obeyed His commands, even when God said to wait until the next day to march. They followed God and saw HIM do a miracle.

King Jehoshaphat loved God with all his heart. He knew that God was the only One who could save his people from the enemy. God has made a way to save us too. We don't have an enemy like Jehoshaphat. Instead, our wrongs (sin) are our enemy that separates us from God. To help "save" us, God made a way to break down the wall of sin that separates us. Jesus died on the cross for all of our sin. If we believe that He died and came back to life and ask Him to come into our life and forgive us, Jesus will clean out our hearts and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to us about it today.

Learning Activities Help the kids see how they can come to God for help like King Jehoshaphat did.

Memory Verse Activities Talk about what it means that God forgives you. Share how they can be forgiven for all the wrongs they have done through Jesus Christ.

Prayer Time Take time to praise God and sing a song to Him. Thank Him for listening and helping us with all our needs.

Snack Time/CleanUp Share snacks together and talk about the lesson.

Preschool Lesson
For
King Jehoshaphat

King Jehoshaphat (Ja-hoe-sa-fat) was a king that loved God very much. He knew that God would help him and care for him and his people. We'll call him King Joe for short. The Bible tells us that King Joe followed God and obeyed Him.

One day, King Joe got news that a big, mean army was coming to fight them. King Joe immediately asked the people to pray and ask God for help.

All the people came together. Then, King Joe stood in front of the people and prayed to God. He praised God for how powerful and wonderful He (God) was. He asked God to help them win against this horrible enemy. He told God that they could not do anything without God's help.

God heard King Joe's prayer. God sent a messenger named Jahaziel to speak to all the people. He told them to listen to what the Lord said. He said, "Do not be afraid or sad because of this big army. For the battle is not yours, but God's."

God told them to wait until the next day to fight. God shared that when they marched to fight, they would see how God would win the battle for them.

When Joe heard the news, he bowed down and worshiped the Lord. He was so glad for God's help and for God's kindness to him and his people. He thanked God and told God how wonderful He was.

Early the next morning, Joe and his army went out as God told them. King Joe reminded the people to trust God and obey. Then the king did an amazing thing. He asked people to come and sing songs to God and play beautiful music to God. They sang at the front of the army. The musicians said, "Give thanks to the Lord for His love continues forever."

When King Joe and his army got to the edge where they could see, they were amazed at what God did. Just as God said, the army was destroyed. God had won the battle!

When the army returned to the city, they praised God and thanked Him for winning the battle. They played harps, flutes and trumpets in God's temple as a way to praise Him and thank Him for delivering them from their enemies.

Because Joe loved God, he and his people lived in peace in the land.

Take time to pray and thank God for loving us.

Hands-On Activities
For
King Jehoshaphat

Sing the song, “The Battle belongs to the Lord.”

Make fun musical instruments. Roll up pieces of paper to look like flutes. Place wax paper on one end and punch a hole in the middle. Now blow or hum in the other end for a fun sound. Let the kids create a praise song to God.

This is a great story to act out. If you have lots of kids, have some be the “enemy” and other be the ambush army. The “ambush” kids will enjoy coming to “destroy” the enemy! Have them all lay down as the God’s people see what has happened.

Bring blindfolds, “O” fruit cereal, bowls, and yarn. Pair up the kids. In each pair, have one person blindfolded. Now ask the other person to help thread certain colored cereal on a piece of yarn to help his partner. Call out a pattern of colors and see how the partner has to help the blindfolded person thread the cereal onto the yarn. Switch the blindfold and do again. Now share how it felt to have help to complete the task. Remind them of how God helps us when we seem “blindfolded” and don’t know what to do. (Courtesy of Faith Weaver.)

A fun snack craft to remind them of the lesson is to make creamy butter. Bring little jars, heavy whipping cream, salt, and bread. Put cream in little jars with a pinch of salt. Have the kids shake up the cream until it is creamy butter. Open the jar and enjoy the “butter” on bread or muffins. The butter will be a very soft consistency. (Courtesy of Faith Weaver.)

Preschoolers can sing this song to the tune of “London Bridge.”

To Jehoshaphat an army came, army came, army came.
To Jehoshaphat an army came, but God would help them.

Jehoshaphat prayed to God, prayed to God, prayed to God
Jehoshaphat prayed to God, And God helped him.

All the people sang to God, sang to God, sang to God
All the people sang to God, And God helped them.

When we are afraid or scared, afraid or scared, afraid or scared,
When we are afraid or scared, God will help us!
(Modified song from Faith Weaver)
