

Old Testament

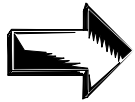
Joash forgets God 2 Chronicles 24:17-25

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 listened to someone and done what they said? Then later, you realize that you made a mistake? King Joash did this too. Let’s see what happened.

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.*

A few lessons ago, we learned about King Joash. He became king when he was 7 years old! His uncle, Jehoiada, loved God and helped him rule the country the way God wanted.

Joash grew up and did many great things. King Joash helped clean out the temple so people could worship God. The people worshiped God and followed Him. Everything seemed to be perfect.

Finally Joash’s uncle died. It was a very sad day. Many people loved the uncle and cared for him.

Soon, men came to King Joash to talk to him. They did not love God. These advisors flattered Joash. That means they said nice things about him to make him feel good. However, they did this so they could get what **THEY** wanted. They followed and worshiped statues that weren’t real.

Instead of remembering God, King Joash chose to follow these advisors and do what they wanted. Soon, Joash stopped going to the temple church and worshipping God.

King Joash began to worship statue idols and ignore God’s messengers. When God sent messages, Joash would not even listen!

Not only did Joash stop following God, he also led the people away from God. God was so sad to see that His people were not following Him.

One day, his cousin, Zechariah, came to see him. Zechariah was his uncle Jehoiada’s son.

Lesson Goals

**You can only go to Heaven by believing in Jesus
Listen and do what God says not what others say**

Zechariah stood before the people and told them that God was upset that they were disobeying Him. He told them that God would forget them just as they had forgotten God.

What do you think King Joash did? Well, he had his cousin killed!! That's right. He went so far away from God that he actually had his own cousin killed. As he was dying, Zechariah told Joash that God would judge him for what he had done.

Soon after that, an army came against Joash and the people. They invaded the city and killed many people. They wounded Joash severely and left the city. When Joash's advisors and friends saw what happened, instead of helping Joash...they killed him! The people he thought were his friends hurt him in the end. The Bible tells us that Joash was not even buried with the other kings because he did not follow God.

King Joash loved God and he served God only when his uncle was around. When the uncle died, Joash listened and followed people who did not love God. Sometimes in our lives, it is easy to follow God and do things His way when other church people are around. Then, when they are gone, we may listen and follow those who do not love God just like Joash did. We can learn a big lesson from this story. We must be careful who we listen to and who we follow. Joash's life changed for the worst when he started following bad people. We have a choice to follow God or follow and do what people want. It is our choice. We can look at Joash's life and see how forgetting God leads to disaster. We must chose to follow God and do things His way.

Joash knew about God in his head but he never loved God in his heart. He thought doing good things was all you had to do to please God. Joash did not realize that God wants us to love Him with all our heart, not just do good things. It is great to do good things, but we cannot even do enough good things to outweigh all the bad things we have done. In fact, God knew this too. He knew there would never be anyone who could be good enough to get to Heaven. So, God made a way for us to get there. The way to Heaven is a gift. We do not have to be good enough or do good deeds to get there. God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for all our wrongs on the cross. Jesus died for us so that if we believe in Him and trust Him with all our heart, Jesus will come into our life and forgive us of all our wrongs. He makes us clean and will take us to Heaven one day. If you want to believe in Jesus, talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Help the kids apply the lesson to their lives.

Memory Verse Activities

God wants us to be kind to others. We also have to know that doing good is not the way to get to Heaven. We must believe in Jesus. When others hurt us, we must forgive them just like Jesus forgave us.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us follow Him this week; learn to love Him more and more.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks and talk about what it means to follow God with all your heart.

Planning for Lesson 75
King Uzziah
2 Chronicles 26 1-21

Preschool Lesson
For
Joash forgets God

Have you ever forgotten to do something that your mom asked you to do? It is easy to forget some things or maybe not hear her.

There is a king in the Bible who not only stopped listening to God, he forgot about God. His name was King Joash.

We learned about King Joash several lessons ago. He was 7 years old when he became king. Can you believe how young he was!! His uncle helped him rule the country. His uncle loved God and helped Joash do things God's way.

As Joash grew up, he did many good things to help God's people. He even cleaned out the temple church and made it a beautiful place to come to worship God.

One day when Joash had grown up, a very sad thing happened. Joash's uncle died and Joash was very sad. Many people loved his uncle because he loved God and followed God.

Soon, some men came to see Joash. They did not love God. In fact, they did not follow God at all. Joash started listening to them and doing what they wanted instead of doing what God wanted! This made God very, very sad.

God sent a special messenger to talk to Joash. The messenger's name was Zechariah. He told King Joash that he was disobeying God and forgetting God.

Do you know what Joash did? He did not listen to God or Zechariah!! Instead, he kept doing wrong.

Soon afterwards, an army came and invaded the city. They hurt Joash and he later died.

We can see that we must always follow God and love Him. God cares for us and wants us to follow Him and serve Him. God knows what is best and can help us do what is right.

Pray and ask God to help us listen and obey Him.

Sing this song to the tune of "Mary had a little lamb."

Joash chose to follow people, follow people, follow people.
Joash chose to follow people and not to love the Lord.

We must choose to follow God, follow God, follow God.
We must choose to follow God and obey His commandments.

Hands-On Activities
For
Joash forgets God

Talk about scenarios where people try to get us to do bad things instead of following God. Help the kids know what to say when people try to get them to stop following God.

Joash did a lot of good things in his lifetime. However, good things do not get us to Heaven. We can never do enough good things to reach Heaven. In fact, the only way to Heaven is by a gift from God. The gift is Jesus. Share with your kids how they can believe and trust in Jesus. Help them understand it is not about just KNOWING Jesus in their mind. It is about LOVING and TRUSTING Jesus in their hearts.

Sometimes a way for people to remember something is to tie a ribbon or string on their finger. Bring pretty string or ribbon and let the kids make rings to remember to follow God and serve Him only.

Most of us have made mistakes like Joash. But there is one big difference. We have gone to God and asked for forgiveness, Joash never did that. God tells us that when we tell Him we are sorry for the things we did wrong and try to start doing right, God will forgive us and clean away all the sin in our heart. Share how we can ask God to forgive us and help us walk in His ways. There are several object lessons to illustrate this point.
