

Old Testament

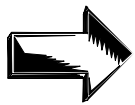
King Manasseh changes 2 Chronicles 33:1-20

Younger Verse

Stand firm in what you believe. Isaiah 7:9

Older Verse

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isaiah 7:9



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 caught not paying attention to someone? Maybe it was your teacher or your mom or dad? It doesn't feel good when someone doesn't pay attention to what we are saying. Let's see what happens when King Manasseh does not pay attention to God!

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.*

Teachers: some of the text shows graphic evil things that Manasseh did. You may want to skip some of the text if you have smaller children. Some things he did were quite disturbing.

We have talked about many different kings that God's people had. Some loved God and followed His ways. Others did not follow God and led God's people away from Him. We have learned many lessons from these kings. Today is the last day that we will study about the kings.

Do you remember King Hezekiah? He loved God very much. In fact, when he was about to die, he asked God to let him live and God gave him 15 more years. During that time, Hezekiah had a son named Manasseh. Manasseh became king after Hezekiah died.

Now Manasseh was not like Hezekiah. He did not follow God. In fact, he was one of the meanest kings that God's people had. He did very evil things that displeased God.

After Hezekiah died, Manasseh set up false statue idols for people to worship. He put many idols and altars over the land. He even did something that was horrible. He put a false idol statue in God's temple church!

God was very displeased with Manasseh. God spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention to God. So, God had a plan to get their attention. God brought an enemy army to raid Manasseh's kingdom. They found Manasseh and made him a prisoner. They put a hook in his nose (like an animal), put handcuffs on him and took him away. Manasseh was probably treated just like an animal.

Lesson Goals

See how God can forgive anyone—even someone who did very bad things
Explain how God changes a person when they believe; The person wants to help and do good things instead of bad things

During that time, Manasseh had plenty of time to think and see how he had done wrong against God. He turned to God for help. He told God that he was sorry for all the wrongs that he had done. He asked God to forgive his wrongs and bring him back to his kingdom.

Most of us would say that Manasseh was getting just what he deserved! What did God do. God forgave ALL his mistakes and restored him as king!

Manasseh was a changed man. He got rid of all the false idol statues in the land. He also took out the statue in God's temple church. He gave special offerings to God and asked the people to worship God only. He also rebuilt the city and the wall that was torn down. All the people could see how Manasseh had changed. Instead of doing evil, Manasseh was doing good. Instead of worshiping idols, Manasseh worshiped the only true God. He also wanted others to follow God and believe in Him.

Manasseh saw that God was real and followed Him. Just like Manasseh, we have a choice. We can follow God or do things our own way. When Manasseh did things his way, many horrible things happened and he caused many people to do bad things and stop following God. His wrongs affected many people. Then Manasseh changed. He started living for God and following Him. He tried to help the people turn from their wrongs and start following God.

We can change like Manasseh did. God does not have a scale of badness. He does not say that one sin is a little sin and another sin is a big sin. To God, all wrongs are dirty and sin. There is not one wrong that is worse than another. We may "just" do little sins like lying or cheating etc. To us, these little sins are nothing compared to murdering someone. Not to God. To God, all sin is wrong!! Because of our wrongs, we are separated from God. God loves us and made a way to remove the separation. Jesus died on a cross for all the wrong sins that we have done. If we ask God to truly forgive our sin and if we believe in Jesus and know that He came back to life 3 days later, God will forgive us and clean out all the dirty wrongs in our life. Hebrews 10:17 says that God will not remember your sin anymore! We are totally forgiven! That means we will one day go to heaven because we are clean before God. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross made a way for us to go to heaven if we believe and trust in Jesus. Would you like to believe. Talk to us about it anytime.

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids see God's forgiveness and how we change when we follow God.

Memory Verse Activities

If God's people had stood firm in what they believe, they may not have followed Manasseh and worshipped false idols. In our lives, we must stand firm in what we believe about Jesus so that we will not do evil and be led astray.

Prayer Time

Ask God to forgive our mistakes (sin) and help us follow Him this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Share snacks together!

Planning for Lesson 77
Ezra: God's messenger
Ezra 1-6

Preschool Lesson
For
Manasseh changes his ways

Today's lesson is the last week we will talk about kings in the Bible. Bring or make crowns for the kids to wear today!

King Manasseh had a daddy who really loved God. He tried to teach Manasseh about God but Manasseh did not really listen.

When Manasseh's father died, Manasseh did some really bad things. God was very sad and disappointed in Manasseh. It hurt God to see how he was leading people away from Him.

One day God told Manasseh to stop doing wrong. Manasseh did not pay attention to God. Can you believe it? Manasseh did not listen to God!!

God sent an army to invade Manasseh's kingdom. They took Manasseh back to their land and made him a prisoner.

Manasseh was so sorry for the wrong things that he had done. He told God that he was sorry and asked God to forgive his mistakes. God heard his prayer and forgave his mistakes. God also brought Manasseh back to his kingdom.

Manasseh was a changed person. He was not mean anymore. He loved God and followed Him. He helped the people in his kingdom see that God was the only true God. Manasseh also got rid of all the bad things and rebuilt the city wall.

All the people could see that God had changed Manasseh's life. He was now good and kind. He loved God and worshiped Him.

God loves us too. He can help us do good things and follow God.

Sing this song to the tune of "Did you ever see a Lassie."

Did you ever see Manasseh, Manasseh, Manasseh?
Did you ever see Manasseh do bad things in town?
He did bad things here and he did bad things there.
Did you ever see Manasseh do bad things in town?

God changed Manasseh, Manasseh, Manasseh.
God changed Manasseh from inside and out.
Manasseh did good things, did good things for others.
God changed Manasseh and he did good things!

God can change us too. Yes, He can, yes He can.
God can change us too. If we just ask Him.
We can do good things, do good things for others.
God can change us too. If we just ask Him.

Hands-On Activities
For
Manasseh changes his ways

Try a game of pantomime. Divide the group into two teams. One to act out something and the other to guess what the action is. Write suggestions on cards. Try things like jumping rope, shooting a basket, swimming, sleeping, brushing your teeth, combing your hair, riding a bicycle, reading a book, playing a video game, riding a scooter, etc. Let the whole team act out the action. When the other team guesses the correct answer, have the teams switch. When you are finished, talk about how it is important to PAY ATTENTION to know what is going on and guess the right answer. Share how we must pay attention to God and do things His way.

Play a game like “Go Fish,” “Uno” or another game. Share how you must pay attention to win the game.

Try this object lesson to share how God changes us and forgives our dirty sin. Bring lemon juice, tarnished pennies (bring slightly tarnished pennies), jar with lid (like a baby food jar), and salt. Share how the penny is like our sin. It makes us dirty and unclean before God. Explain that there is only one way to clean out the sin in our lives. Sprinkle in 2 Tablespoons of salt and 4 Tablespoons of lemon juice. Explain how Jesus is like the salt and lemon juice. He can forgive our sin and clean away our wrongs. Now shake the jar. After several shakes, the penny will look new! Share how Jesus changes our lives and makes us clean! Share how Manasseh was changed by God and he changed his ways and followed God. Share how the kids can do the same.

Make “Pud.” Bring cornstarch, water, a spoon and a bowl. Pour some cornstarch into a bowl. Now add water and stir. The mixture will take on two different forms. When you touch it in the bowl it is hard. When you lift a spoon of the substance into the air, it will pour back into the bowl. Share how it changes. Explain how our lives change when we believe in Jesus. Instead of doing things for ourselves, we want to do things for God and follow Him.
