



UNIT 2: GOD BLESSES THE FAITHFUL

LESSON 4: 1 KINGS & 2 KINGS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We can have a positive influence on other people when we follow God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we can have good or bad influences on people depending on whether or not we follow God.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 15:1-7 – Azariah (also known as Uzziah – an OK king)

2 Kings 16 – Ahaz (a bad king)

2 Kings 18:1-8 – Hezekiah (a good king)

MEMORY VERSE:

"Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b (NirV)

SUMMARY:

There were many kings who led God's people. Some were good, some were bad, and some were just OK. Their success was measured by their obedience to God.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to have a positive influence on others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

LARGE GROUP LESSON

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INTRO:

I'm going to show you pictures of several foods. You are going to tell me how you feel about them by giving a thumbs up for good, thumbs down for bad or thumbs sideways for OK.

Show pictures of different foods including some that kids love and some they may hate. Examples: pizza, ice cream, mac and cheese, French fries, fruit, lima beans, and brussels sprouts.

You all have some strong opinions about those foods! Some you might want to eat for every meal, and some may keep you at the table for hours because you won't touch them! We may have different opinions on these foods. But I bet we can all agree with a thumbs up that the Bible, God's Word is good!

Today we are going to learn about something that was good, bad, or just OK, and it wasn't food – it was the kings! Let's read from 2 Kings to find out more about three particular kings.

READ 2 KINGS 15:1-7; 16:1-4, 8, 19; 18:1-8

MAIN POINT:

We are still in the part of God's big story where the people wanted kings to lead them. The nation of Israel had been split into two parts. One was called Israel and the other Judah. Each of the two nations had kings leading them for over 200 years. Some kings reigned for many years while others were short-lived.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But no matter what, they all left some type of legacy.

The first king we are looking more closely at is Azariah, who also went by the name of Uzziah. 2 Kings 15 tells us that he was only 16 years old when he was made the king, and he ruled for 52 years. That's a long time to influence people! Uzziah did right in the eyes of the Lord. This means he made good choices and followed God. But he neglected to remove the high places. Remember how that Israelites had a hard time sticking with God? They tended to forget His promises and often resorted to going back to worship their fake gods. The high places are where they did this. So by Uzziah not removing those, it made it easier for the people to fall back into bad habits. Uzziah had a lot of good qualities, but leaving the high places was not pleasing to God. He suffered from a skin disease and had to live in a different house than his family. He went down in history as an OK king.

Next, in 2 Kings 16, 20 year old Ahaz became the king. He reigned for 16 years. Those must have been 16 long years in God's eyes. The Bible says that Ahaz did NOT do what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He did quite the opposite. He made sacrifices at the high places and many other places to fake gods. He took silver and gold and other things away from God's temple. He did this to please himself and other kings. He even sacrificed his own son. As the leader, he influenced people in all the wrong ways. He was a bad king.

Finally, we will look at Hezekiah in 2 Kings 18. He was 25 years old and ruled for 29 years. He had those important words after his name – he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Not only that, but he took down the high places. He destroyed everything that was a temptation to the people for worshiping other gods. He trusted God, and it was said that there was no one like him among all the kings. Some of the kings were good for a while, but then turned away from God. Hezekiah remained faithful to God his entire life. Because of this he was successful in everything he did. He won many battles with God on his side. His influence led the people closer to God. He was a good king.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Over the years, the people had good leaders, bad leaders, and just OK leaders. This was determined by how they chose to follow God. No matter how they behaved, they had influence over the people.

We aren't kings or queens, but we still have influence. We have influence on our friends and family and other people we come into contact with like our neighbors, classmates, or even people we interact with at the store. When we follow God and make right decisions, our influence can be positive. The opposite is true as well. Think about how you're making an impact on the people around you. Are the things you're saying and the way you're acting making a positive or a negative influence?

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the opportunity to follow you and influence others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What do you think would be the best thing about being a king or queen?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

You will need a toy king crown for this activity. Pick one kid to be the 'king' to lead the other kids in saying the memory verse. As king, they can lead it as fast or slow as they want, and the rest of the group must follow. Take turns choosing different kids to be the king.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Set up several stacks of blocks. Put toy animals or characters on top of the blocks. These will be the high places that the Israelites used for worshiping other gods. Using a small, soft ball, kids will try to knock down the high places. Designate a spot for them to stand while throwing, 10 feet away from the stacks. Give each kid 3 chances to knock them down. After their turn, they should help restack anything that was knocked down for the next person.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who became king when he was 16 years old? (2 Kings 15:2)
- What did Uzziah do? (2 Kings 15:3)
- What did Uzziah not do? (2 King 15:4)
- Which king did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord? (2 Kings 16:2)
- Where did Azah offer sacrifices? (2 Kings 16:4)
- Which king removed the high places? (2 Kings 18:4)
- Who did Hezekiah trust? (2 Kings 18:5)
- What happened because Hezekiah followed God? (2 Kings 18:7)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to have a positive influence on others.

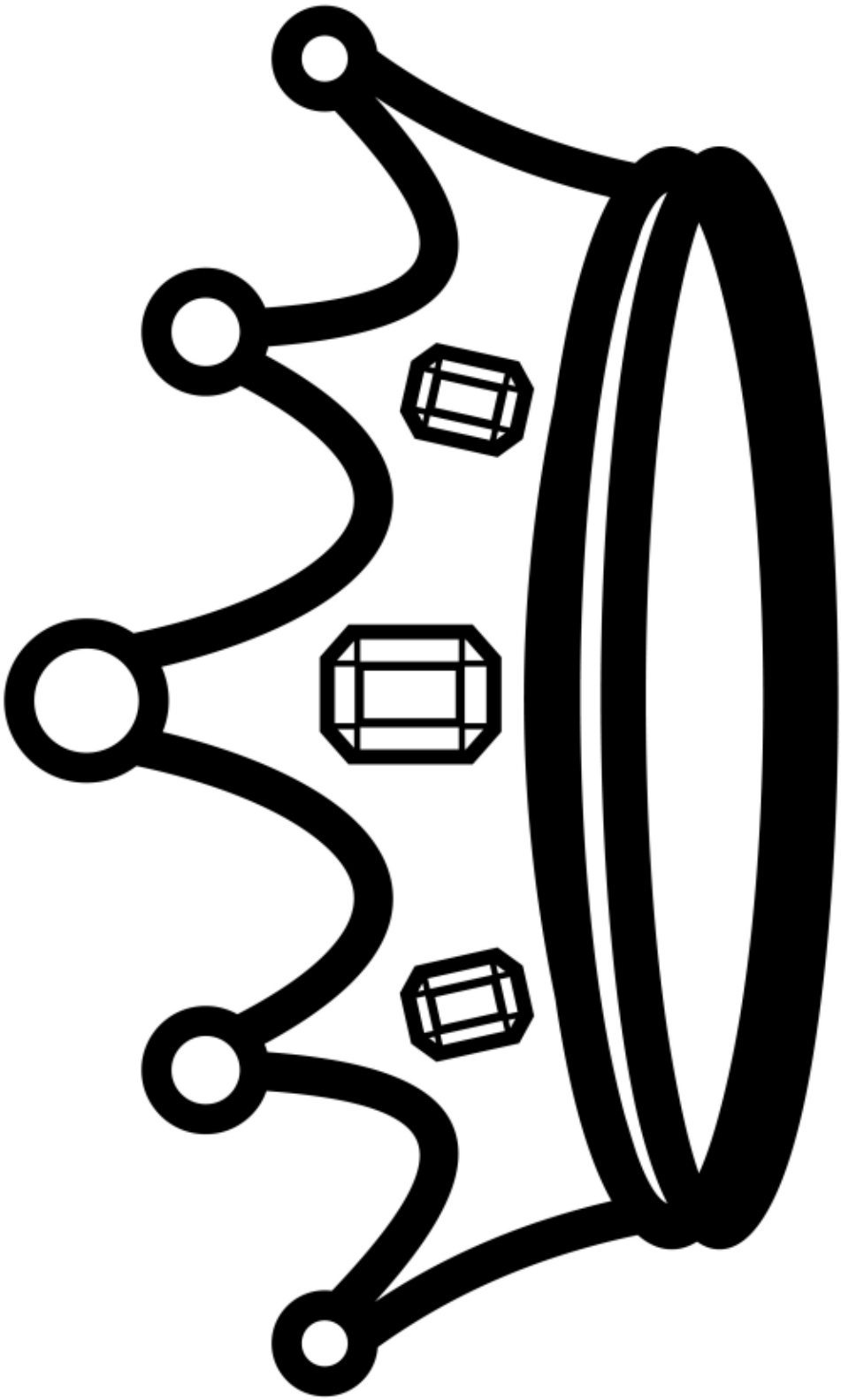
*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Items needed:

Crown coloring sheet, pencils or pens, crayons

On the crown picture, write an 'I will...' statement. In thinking about our influence on others, challenge children to do something this week that will create a positive influence on their friends or family. Help them think of something they will do this week to make that happen. Examples: I will talk to the new kid in my class. I will do my chores without being asked. I will make my brother's bed. After writing their sentence, they can color their crown any way they would like.





MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Year Long Bible Journey 1 & 2 Kings

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: 1 & 2 KINGS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

This week we learned about three different kings – one OK, one bad, and one good. Each did things to make their mark on history. Uzziah followed God but failed to remove the high places where the people worshiped false gods. Ahaz did nothing good in the eyes of God. Hezekiah goes down as being the best because He followed God his whole life. 2 Kings 15:1-7 – Azariah (also known as Uzziah – an OK king), 2 Kings 16 – Ahaz (a bad king), 2 Kings 18:1-8 – Hezekiah (a good king)



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: With your child, brainstorm about a time when you or they made a decision that influenced someone else in a positive way. Then think about a time when a decision influenced someone in a negative way.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- If you were a king or queen, how would you have a positive influence on your people?
- How can you have a positive influence on the people around you every day?
- Use a thumbs up, down or sideways to show me how you think you influenced others today.



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NirV)



PARENT TIME: What you need to know: We don't have to be a fancy rich king or Instagram famous to have influence over others. Your greatest influence is on your child. You can't control the influences they will get from peers and school and other adults, but you can control the influence you have over them. Make sure you are seeking to follow God, so you can positively shape your child.

1 KINGS & 2 KINGS

Supplemental Week 8 Readings

1 KINGS

Solomon anointed king Ch. 1
Death of David Ch. 2
Elijah the Prophet Ch. 17 - Ch. 22
Elisha the Prophet Ch. 19

2 KINGS

Elijah the Prophet Ch. 1 - Ch. 2
Elisha the Prophet Ch. 2 - Ch. 13
Naaman cured of leprosy Ch. 5
Destruction of Israel Ch. 17
Judah delivered Ch. 18 - Ch. 19
Judah's fall Ch. 20 - Ch. 21

