



## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

*God's plan is bigger than our sin.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**Hezekiah followed the Lord** – A quick review of the kings of the southern kingdom reveals a pattern of good and bad kings. The kings of the northern kingdom influenced the kings of Judah for the worse. This proved especially true of Hezekiah's predecessor, Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:2). Not only were altars erected to worship idols like Baal, but Ahaz actually sacrificed his own children to them. After Ahaz died, Hezekiah, his son, became king and transformed Jerusalem for the better. Hezekiah cleansed the Temple, restored temple worship, and then reinstated the Passover.

Later in life, however, Hezekiah grew proud of his achievements (2 Chronicles 32:24-31) and boasted of his treasures to some ambassadors from Babylon (Isaiah 39:1-8). Isaiah rebuked Hezekiah and warned him that the treasures about which he had foolishly boasted would be taken away after Hezekiah died.

**Manasseh rejected the Lord** – Manasseh was only twelve when he became king (2 Chronicles 33:1). It was only in Hezekiah's late years that Manasseh witnessed firsthand his father's reign, so he did not see Hezekiah's earlier righteous leadership and behavior. There is no record that Hezekiah trained Manasseh in the ways of the Lord. As a result, Manasseh rejected the Lord and returned to the evil practices of his grandfather, Ahaz. He rebuilt the idolatrous high places – the altars to pagan gods – and grew proud like his father. Manasseh burned his own children in sacrifices to idols, demonstrating just how quickly and deeply sin spreads. Manasseh exalted himself saying, "In Jerusalem shall my name be forever" (2 Chronicles 33:4). Such a statement was an abomination to the Lord.

**Manasseh repented** – While in prison, Manasseh humbled himself and prayed (2 Chronicles 33:12-13). God heard his prayer and made him king of Jerusalem again. Manasseh strengthened the city with walls and then removed both the idols and their pagan altars. He restored God's altar – a special place of worship – and offered sacrifices on it. Unfortunately, the people still sacrificed at the pagan altars instead of the temple, and Manasseh's son Amon did not follow the Lord. In just under fifty years, during the reigns of Manasseh and his son Amon, the Book of the Law was lost and the good works of Hezekiah were forgotten. God would eventually use Amon's son, the eight-year-old Josiah, to preserve the word of the Lord and restore the Passover celebration once again.

## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

### Where is Jesus?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

At the time of Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh's reigns and their wavering to and from serving the Lord, Isaiah is bringing the word of the Lord. Isaiah speaks of another king to come, see Isaiah 32:1-5. This coming king will reign in righteousness. It will be like streams in the desert and the cool of shade in a thirsty land. Their eyes of the blind will be opened, the deaf will hear. No longer will fools be called noble nor will scoundrels be respected. Of course, Isaiah speaks of the coming of the King of Kings, Jesus.

Hezekiah reinstated the Passover restoring once again the picture of God's salvation of Israel from the angel of death. In response to this celebration God healed the people (see verse 20). Once again this celebration points to Christ through whom we will be healed.

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

**Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.**

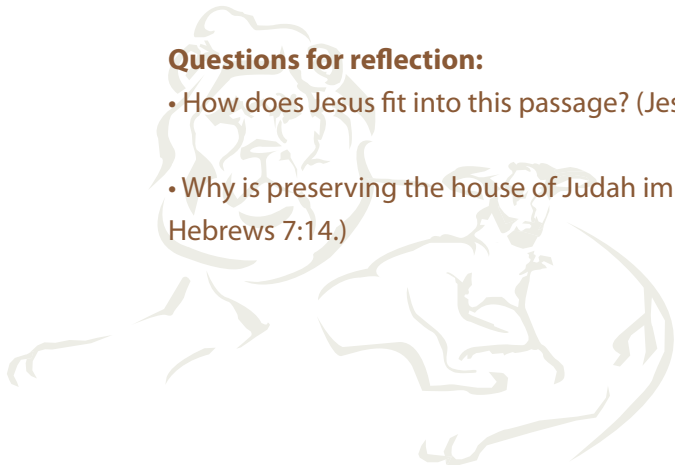
**Bible Passage: Isaiah 37:31-32**

#### **Connecting the passage to Christ:**

Isaiah prophesies against the King of Assyria and in his declaration, he mentions that God will protect a remnant of Israel. In Romans 11:5, we learn that God spared this remnant out of grace and not because of anything they had done. God spared a portion of his people because it was part of his plan that would bring salvation to all peoples through Israel. One day, Jesus would be born into that remnant.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

- How does Jesus fit into this passage? (Jesus is descended from the remnant that God preserved.)
- Why is preserving the house of Judah important? (Jesus would be born out of the house of Judah, see Hebrews 7:14.)



## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

#### REMEMBER THE PASSOVER

##### Supplies

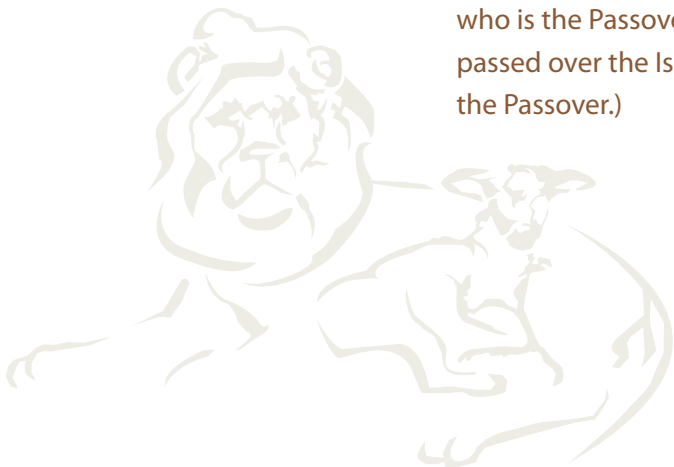
whiteboard and markers

Manasseh, in chapter 30, reinstates the Passover. Draw the children out about the Passover. See how much they can remember of the story. Then reread the account from Exodus 12:11-30.

Write as many facts as the class can remember about the Passover. After you read the account, ask them to pick out important details that they missed.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why do you think God made sure the good kings reinstated the Passover? (The Passover feast was to be the lasting ordinance, remembered for all generations. God made the Passover important, see Exodus 12:17.)
- Why is the Passover so important? (The Passover is a powerful picture of Jesus, who is the Passover Lamb for us so that death and judgment can pass over us as it passed over the Israelites. There is no more pointed foreshadowing of Christ than the Passover.)



## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

### HERE WE GO AGAIN

#### Supplies

- large bag of confetti
- a broom and dustpan
- a trashcan

This exercise is designed to illustrate the way that the kings of Judah failed repeatedly and seriously.

Prior to class, sprinkle confetti over the children's chairs. When they arrive, enlist their help in cleaning up. Explain that one of the helpers thought it would be good to have a more festive environment but that you thought it would create a mess for the cleaning people.

After the confetti is cleared, review briefly for the children the history of the kings of Israel. Explain to them that Israel did not seem to be able to keep a godly king for long. Ahaz was evil, but his son Hezekiah followed the Lord when he was young. Then Hezekiah's son Manasseh was evil although he repented while in Assyrian captivity, but his son Amon was wicked. Josiah followed the Lord. Explain that it seemed that just as God got things cleaned up, the new king would mess things up again and start following other gods.

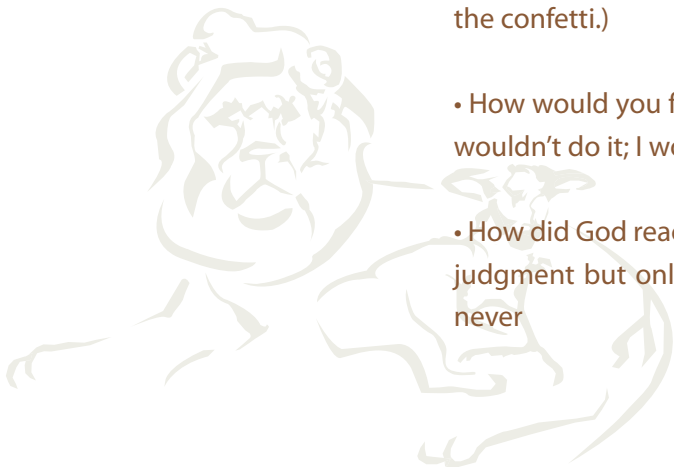
Have a helper from your class (the confetti culprit) come in and tell you that you are wanted in the hallway. Before leaving, explicitly and obviously tell the helper not to sprinkle any more confetti.

As soon as you leave, the helper should go into "party mode" and start to throw confetti, explaining that they just want to lighten the atmosphere.

When you return, ask the helper to leave after obtaining the confetti. Ask the children to clean up again.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- How did it feel to clean up the second time? (We were getting tired of picking up the confetti.)
- How would you feel if you had to clean up the mess 10 times? (I wouldn't like it; I wouldn't do it; I would take the confetti away; etc.)
- How did God react when Israel and Judah sinned again and again? (God did bring judgment but only out of His compassion to lead the people back to Him. God never



## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

### WORSHIP RESTORED

#### Supplies

percussion instruments  
for the children to use

Read the account of the restoration of worship in the temple 2 Chronicles 29:20-30 and then lead the children in singing and playing a song which celebrates our worship of the Lord

Then ask the class the following questions:

- Why did worship need to be restored? (Hezekiah's father was a wicked king who did not make God's worship a priority. As a result the people worshipped idols.)
- 2 Chronicles 29:30 tells us that the people sang praises to the Lord with the words of David and of Asaph. To what does this refer? (Both David and Asaph were song writers. Many of their songs are preserved for us in the book of Psalms. Read Psalm 108:1-5 and Psalm 73:25-28 as examples of both men's songs.)

## PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

## IN CLASS PROJECT

The first and second grade children can use the preschool coloring sheet and questions. Have the older children draw a picture of Hezekiah praying.



## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

### FOR OLDER GRADES

Divide the class into groups. Explain to them that the prophet Isaiah lived during Hezekiah's reign and that we get a glimpse of Hezekiah's life by reading Isaiah's writings. Not all of this information is in the 2 Chronicles accounts but there is also a companion story in 2 Kings. In order to expand the students' knowledge base, assign different groups to read about Hezekiah's life and report on what they learn about him from the various passages.

| Group # | Passage  |
|---------|--|
| 1.      | Hezekiah's early reign (2 Chronicles 29)       |
| 2.      | Hezekiah's early reign (2 Chronicles 30)       |
| 3.      | Hezekiah's middle reign (2 Chronicles 32:1-23) |
| 4.      | Hezekiah's middle reign (Isaiah 37:1- 32)      |
| 5.      | Hezekiah's middle reign (1 Kings 19)           |
| 6.      | Hezekiah's middle reign (Isaiah 38)            |
| 7.      | Hezekiah's last years (Isaiah 39)              |
| 8.      | Hezekiah's last years (2 Chronicles 32:24 –33) |

Help the students see how important it is to study the whole Bible. Bring in a study Bible and show them how to use the cross-references listed in the center column in order to connect passages. Look up passages in 2 Chronicles and show how they point to others in Isaiah.

Look at 2 Chronicles 33:1-6. Ask, "What kind of example did Manasseh see as he watched the last years of Hezekiah's reign?" Find out if the students think Hezekiah's pride affected his son.



## GOOD KING, BAD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CHRONICLES 29:1-11, 33:1-20

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Chronicles** – The books of Chronicles were written after the release of the exiles from Babylon in 538 BC. Chronicles is written as a compilation of other books, some of which we have (like the historical books of Samuel, Kings and the prophetic book of Isaiah). It also references books that are lost, such as the chronicles of King David (see 1 Chronicles 27:24), the Book of the Kings of Israel (see 1 Chronicles 9:1), and the writings of Nathan (see 1 Chronicles 29:29). When studying the books of Chronicles, it is always helpful to check the cross-references to see if more information is given in another passage of scripture that we still have.

