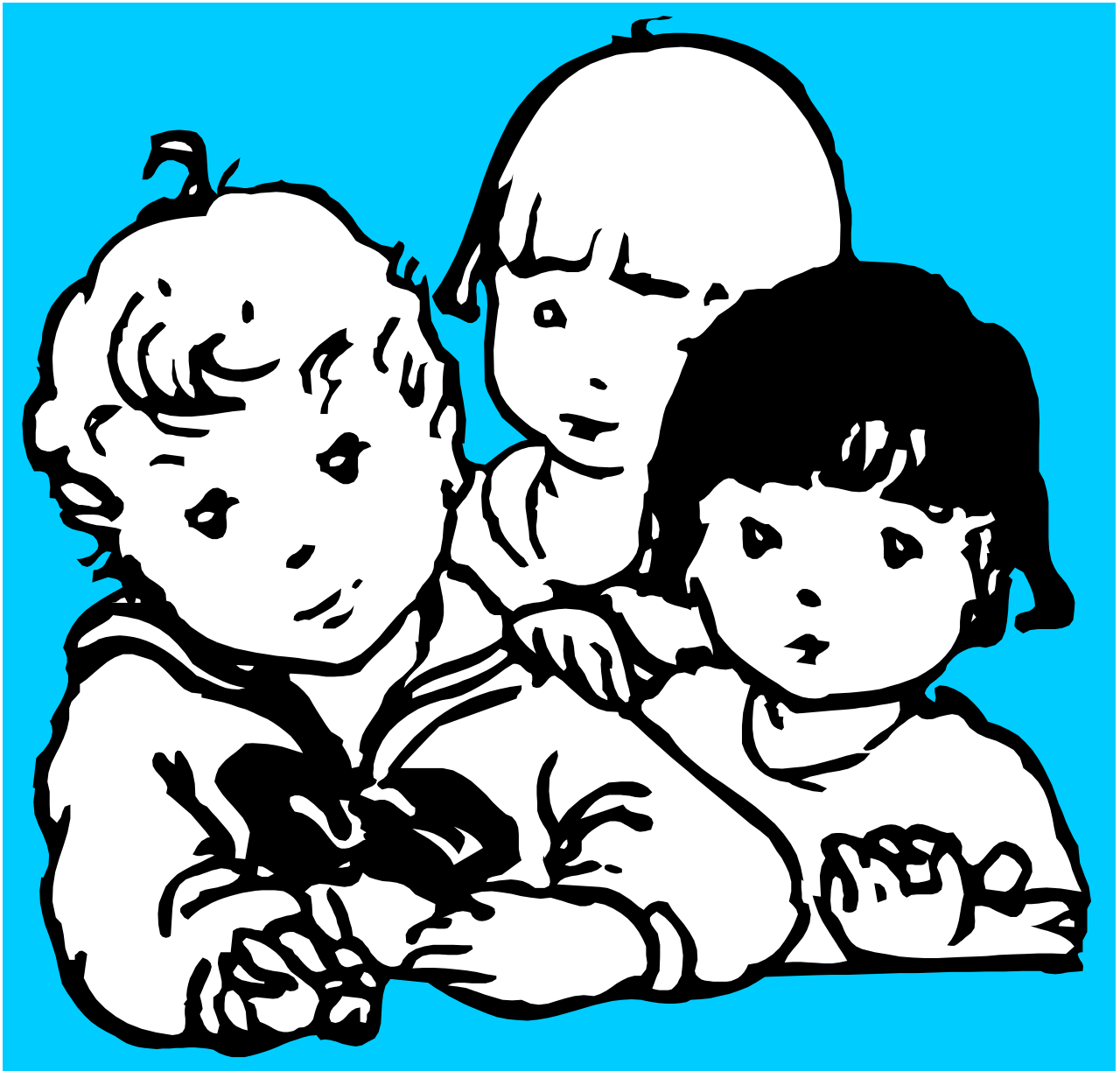


Camelback Bible Church

Children's Church

4-6 Year Olds



Leaders Guide
Year 2

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Age 4-6 Children's Church – Year 2
_____ Schedule

Introduction to the 4-6's Curriculum

The curriculum manual you have in your hands is the result of countless hours of prayer and diligent work. The curriculum has been thoughtfully put together as one part of an overall plan designed to lay a solid foundation for our children's faith. It is hoped that God will use it to draw children to Himself and to build them up in their faith until they become His passionate servants dedicated to transforming our world for Christ.

Though much effort has gone into producing this curriculum, it should be noted that this manual is to be your servant, not your master. Nothing will replace your prayerful reading of the eson Scripture. Nothing can replace your listening to God as you consider the Word and the spiritual needs of your students. Allow this manual to be a help to you, but do not allow it to take the place of God's Spirit.

As you teach a lesson or simply assist the children during an activity keep the following in mind:

- Make prayer central to your ministry. We are seeking to do no less than change the human heart. This is not something that can be accomplished by human means. Only the power of God's Spirit can perform this work. Thus, devote yourself to fervent prayer, recognizing your need of grace to minister, and the children's need of grace to respond to God.
- Make the Word of God central to your ministry. It is a fact that the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to transform the human heart. Thus, we must be committed to proclaiming that Word trusting in its efficacy to do a mighty work. Sharing other stories and illustrations in order to explain the text is fine, but the Word of God must be at the heart of your proclamation.
- Call the children to respond. We are not simply having a storytelling time with the children. We are doing spiritual work. After you have told the story or even as you tell it, call the children to respond. Appropriate applications include a call to repentance, faith, obedience and love.
- Set forth before the children a mighty God. Though our God is portrayed as a Father, He is also "wholly other". There is none besides Him and there is none like Him. Help the children understand that we serve a great and majestic God. A grand view of God will be a great gift the children can take with them all their lives.
- Set forth before the children the Lord Jesus Christ. Our mission according to Colossians 1:29 is to "present every man (child) complete in Christ". Jesus is the focus of our entire Bible and it is He into whose image we are all being conformed. Keep Jesus central to your lesson. Take every opportunity to point the children to His person and works, for it is in seeing Him that we are transformed. No other topic can claim to have this effect on us.

Outline of the Curriculum

Year 1 : The first quarter of the curriculum covers the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, and Jeremiah culminating with a lesson on The Prophet, Jesus Christ. The middle two quarters focus on the life of Christ as related to us through the apostle John. Jesus' birth, early and later ministry, death and resurrection are the main areas of study. The final quarter is dedicated to the study of the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph as children are introduced to the beginnings of God's great redemptive plan.

Year 2: The first quarter of the curriculum covers various good kings (Saul, David, Solomon, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah) culminating with a lesson on The King, Jesus Christ. The middle two quarters focus on the life of Christ. Topics include the birth, parables, miracles, death and resurrection of Christ as well as our need to follow Him. The final quarter takes the children a little further into God's redemptive plan by examining various leaders and judges (Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Samson, and Zerubbabel).

Purpose of Children's Church

Each ministry in our Children's Ministry has a distinct purpose. The focus of our Children's Church ministry is to teach children about worship and to prepare them for meaningful worship in the adult service by the seventh grade. In our lessons we focus much on the character of God, the person of Christ, and the nature of the church as it relates to God's plan of redemption. Furthermore, we teach hymns and choruses used in the adult service so that our children will have common experiences with this body of believers. We desire that our children share a common core of songs and experiences with the rest of this body. We believe this builds community.

May God's blessing be upon you as you labor, according to His power, to bring the blessings of the gospel to His dear children!

Camelback Bible Church

Children's Ministry

Statement on Passion

Statement of Passion: Our passion and mission is to “present every child complete in Christ” by proclaiming Christ through teaching, community life and service rendered to the community and through the community to the world.

- *To present every child complete in Christ* – A child who is becoming complete in Christ is one who is learning to love the Lord, his God, with all his heart, mind, soul and strength (Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37). He is learning to put his whole confidence in God, is growing in obedience (Psalm 78:7), and is progressively living by the power of Christ that is resident in him.
- *Proclaiming Christ through teaching* – The people of God have always had the God-given mandate to pass on the tradition of the faith. (Deuteronomy 6:7f, Psalm 78:5-6, Ephesians 6:4) This tradition includes the story centered in Christ found in the O.T. and N.T., and the doctrinal truths that surround that story.
- *Proclaiming Christ through community* – The message of Christ must not only be heard, but also it must be experienced. Precept, as well as example, is essential to Christian formation. The body of Christ has an integral role in demonstrating to children what a Christ-centered lifestyle and community looks like.
- *Proclaiming Christ through service rendered to the community and through the community to the world* – The message of Christ must not only be learned and experienced within a community, but also each child must live out this Christ-centered life within the community and in the world. There is no being “complete in Christ” where the life is not characterized by self-sacrificial service. The righteous man of the O.T. was the one who performed his duty as it related to his fellow man.

Ministry Distinctions

- *The importance of the family is to be held in tension with the importance of the community.* Though we believe that parents have the primary role in raising their children for the Lord (Deut. 6:4-9, Eph 6:4), this view should not be held in neglect of the contribution that the community must make. God has so designed His church that no child will come to be complete in Christ without a vital integration into the community of faith.
- *An effective ministry to children cannot be conceived of apart from an effective ministry to parents.* Though the church can design marvelous programs for children, its work will never be truly effective unless there is a significant effort to work with parents as well. Home life and community life must both be faithfully demonstrating the gospel.

- *All ministry is to be rooted in Biblical truth.* We believe that all ministry philosophy and practice must find its foundation in biblical truth. Though findings in the social sciences may offer insight, a truly Christian ministry must never adopt ideas and practices without determining if they are biblically compatible.
- *All ministry must seek to promote a grand view of God.* Though the God of the Bible is desirous of entering into relationship with man, it should never be forgotten that He is “wholly-other”; that He is holy. Portraying a majestic view of God will engender an appropriate reverence as well as an accurate view of humanity and its need of coming to God in repentance and faith.
- *All ministry must be clearly Christ-centered.* Since Christ is the central figure of all Scripture and since it is our goal to “present every man complete in Christ”, Jesus Christ needs to be the focus of all ministry. Effort should be made to avoid focusing on any other topic that would take us from coming to know the crucified Christ.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 –FALL QUARTER

LESSONS 1 –4

THEME: All Israel's Kings point to Jesus Christ,
The King of kings

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Zechariah 9:9b "Your king is coming to you. He does
What is right and He saves."

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CHORUS

We Will Glorify

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

Give Thanks

Can a Little Child Like Me

Do You Know What Time It Is?



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 1

Title: Samuel Anoints Saul in Response to Israel's Desire for a King
Text: I Samuel 7:15-10:26
Theme: God gives His people a king to save them.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. See our need for a king to lead us and save us.
2. Give thanks to God for providing us with such a king in Christ.
3. Accept the rule of Christ over him or her, desiring to obey Him.

Memory Verse: *Zechariah 9:9b* "Your king is coming to you. He does what is right and he saves." International Children's Bible

1. Teacher Direction

The book of Judges is surely the most saddening account of the depravity of sinful human beings in all of sacred literature. As the author of Judges relates his sordid stories, he repeatedly makes this observation: "In those days, there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes." In other words, apart from godly rule, even the people of God will not walk in God's ways, but in their own wicked ones. Today we begin a thirteen week series on the kings God provided for His Old Testament people. Our focus will not be on the godly example these kings set, but on the picture they provide of the perfect King who would come later, the Lord Jesus Christ. The children will be learning the need God's people have for a leader to provide for them, to save them from their enemies, and to lead them in obedience to and worship of God. We will also glance briefly at the failures of these human kings, as reminders that even the best human king is not good enough, because he still shares our fallen nature. We need the perfect, sinless King God provided in Christ.

2. Learning Readiness Activity 1

Ask the children to tell you all they know about kings. They will probably tell you things such as: He's in charge of everything; everyone has to do what he says; he lives in a palace and wears a crown and has rich clothing and a great deal of money, etc. Steer the conversation to what the responsibilities of a king might be--what is a *good* king supposed to *do*? Tell the children that God's people in Bible times had kings and the kings had jobs to do.

Have the children stand up and "crown" each other, by placing imaginary crowns on each other's heads. Now that they are all kings (and queens), they can act out with you the things a king was supposed to do. The king was supposed to lead God's people when they fought against the enemy nations. (Lead the children in pantomiming riding

or marching to battle.) The kings were to be sure the people had all the food and other things they needed. (Lead the children in a pantomime of walking about to see if anyone needs anything, and giving goods to needy people they find.) The king over God's people was to be a good king, making wise and good decisions about the problems of the people. (Tap your head thoughtfully, then pantomime writing out wise laws.) A good king would pray for his people (pantomime this). A good king would teach his people about God so they would obey Him. (Pretend to be reading from a scroll and speaking about it to a large group of "subjects.")

God has given His people a perfect King. This King saves God's people from all their enemies. He provides them with everything they need. He prays for them. He not only teaches them how to obey God but He changes them on the inside so they *can* obey God. Do you know who this perfect King is? Of course, it is Jesus. Before God sent Jesus, He gave His people in Bible times kings who would be pictures of what the perfect King, Jesus, would be like. Many of these kings were very good kings, but none of them were perfect like Jesus would be. The people learned that it was good to have a good king, though they would also learn they needed a perfect king.

3. Learning Readiness Activity 2

Tell the children that there is usually some kind of special meeting that takes place when a person is made king--like a party, only more serious. Perhaps the most important leaders in the country ask the king to make some promises, then place the crown on his head. In Bible times, when a man became king, one of God's prophets would anoint his head with oil. (Have someone walk among the children letting them see into a jar or bottle containing olive oil. Allow them to sniff the contents. With plenty of paper towel on hand, allow them to dip in a finger to see how it feels.) Tell the children that the prophet would pour a whole jar of oil like this oil onto the head of the new king. This was to show that God had chosen this man to be king and had given him special abilities to help him rule wisely. Pouring oil on the new king was called "anointing" him.

4. Bible Story

God's people were living in the land God had promised to give them, but they were not living the way God wanted them to live. God wanted them to obey His laws and live good lives. The Israelites broke God's laws and did many evil things to each other. God wanted them to worship only Him, but sometimes the Israelites worshiped the idols of the countries around them. "We want to be like the countries around us," the Israelites said.

There was another way in which God's people were not obeying what God had told them. God had told His people to drive out all the enemies from their land, but they had not obeyed. Many of their enemies were still there with them. The Philistines were enemies of God's people who were not supposed to be living with them. The Philistines were still there, though, and they were always troubling God's people, the Israelites. The Philistines would come and steal things from the Israelites. They would make fun of Israel's God. This was happening because the Israelites had not obeyed God. The Israelites, however, said that it was happening

because they had no king. “We want a king, like the other countries have,” they said. “If we have a king, he will make our army strong and help us fight the Philistines.” They *should* have said, “God is our King. If we obey Him, He will make our army strong and help us fight the Philistines.”

So God’s people, the Israelites, went to Samuel, the prophet of God. “Give us a king,” they said. Samuel prayed to see what God wanted him to do and God told him, “The people have not done what I told them, ever since they came into the land I gave them,” God said. “Do what the people want and give them a king.” God had planned all along that, one day, He would send His own Son to be His people’s king. God would use the kings to show the people that not just *anyone* would make a good king. The right king for God’s people would be a king who loved and obeyed God and wanted what was best for His people.

The prophet, Samuel, waited for God to show him just which man was to be the first king of Israel. One day, Samuel heard God say to him, “Tomorrow I will send to you the man who will be king over my people. He will save them from the Philistines.” So Samuel waited to see who would come.

Meanwhile, a farmer had lost his donkeys. The farmer sent his son, Saul, to look for the lost donkeys. Saul walked and looked for days, but he could not find the donkeys. Finally, Saul thought he would go ask the prophet, Samuel. Maybe if Samuel prayed, God would tell Samuel where the donkeys were so he could tell Saul. So Saul went to Samuel.

When Samuel saw Saul, God told him, “Look, that is the man I told you about. That is the man who is to be king of My people.” Before Saul could even ask Samuel about the lost donkeys, the prophet said to him, “Don’t worry about the donkeys you lost three days ago. They have been found. But stay and eat with me.”

Saul stayed with Samuel. Just as Saul was getting ready to leave, Samuel took out a jar of oil, poured it on Saul’s head, and said, “God is anointing you as king over His people.”

A little later, the prophet Samuel gathered all the people of Israel together to introduce them to Saul, their new king. When the people saw their new king, most of them cheered and cried, “Long live the king!” They were thankful that God had provided a king for them. Now they would have help against the Philistines.

However, some of the people did not think much of Saul. He was just a farmer’s son. They said, “How can this one save us?” and they would not accept him as the king.

Saul did become king, though, and saved the Israelites and their cities from the Philistines. God has given us a king too, the Lord Jesus Christ. Saul saved God’s people from the Philistines, but Jesus saves His people from an enemy that is even worse. Jesus saves His people from sin. God wants us to rejoice about the King He has given us. He wants us to accept Jesus as *our* King. This means that we will honor and obey Him. When we know what He wants us to do, we will do it. We are not to be like those Israelites who did not want God’s king to be their king.

5. Application

Lead the children in thanking God for giving us Jesus, a king to save us from sin and to lead us in obeying God. Encourage them to accept Jesus as their King, obeying what they learn from His word that He wants them to do.

6. Review Questions

- A. What things were the kings in Bible times supposed to do for the people? (Save and protect them from enemies, give them what they needed, pray for them, teach them to obey God.)
- B. In the story, the Israelites went to the prophet of God, asking for a king. What was the prophet's name? (Samuel)
- C. What were lost in the story? (Donkeys)
- D. What was the name of the man who was looking for the donkeys, who became the first king of Israel? (Saul)
- E. What does "anoint a king" mean? (It was when the prophet would pour oil on the new king's head to show God had chosen him to be king.)
- F. Were all the Israelites happy about the new king? (No, some people did not want him for king.)
- G. Who is the King God has given us? (Jesus.)
- H. What should we do? (Accept Jesus as our King and obey Him.)

7. Learning Reinforcement Activities

Make "anointing jars." Allow the children to use paintbrushes to paint white glue diluted with water onto baby food jars (or any small jars). They can choose and stick precut squares of colored tissue paper on the jars. A piece of cotton pre-soaked in just a little olive oil could be inside the jars, to supply fragrance. As they work, talk with the children about how kings were anointed. Only the man *God* chose was to be anointed as king. God has chosen Jesus to be our King.

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 2

Title: Saul Disobeys God
Text: I Samuel 15
Theme: God's king must obey God.

Learning Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that a king over God's people must obey God.
2. Praise Jesus for being the perfect King who alone always obeyed God.
3. Trust and obey Jesus as the King God has provided for them.

Memory Verse: *Zechariah 9:9b* "Your king is coming to you. He does what is right and He saves." International Children's Bible

1. Teacher Direction

Deuteronomy 17:14-20 gives us the injunctions that were to be read to the kings over God's people. One of them says that the king is to keep a copy of the law near him, to be read every day. This is so he will learn to fear the Lord and so he can carefully observe all His commands. It is imperative that the one who leads God's people in obedience to God be obedient himself. In God's response to Saul's disobedience, the people saw the importance of obedience for God's king. In this respect, Saul (and all the kings for that matter) failed. None of them *always* obeyed God. Only the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, is a perfect King.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

With a helper, illustrate partial obedience. Here are a few suggestions for illustrating this concept: (1) Tell the helper to bring you all the books; the helper brings some of the books. (2) Tell the helper to put down all the crayons; the helper puts down some of the crayons. (3) Tell the helper to walk all of the way around the room; the helper walks part of the way around the room. After each illustration, ask the children if your helper obeyed. Help them to see that doing only part of what you are told to do is disobedience.

3. Bible Story

Who was the man in last week's story who was looking for lost donkeys and then was anointed king over God's people? (Saul) **What was the name of the prophet who anointed Saul?** (Samuel) **What was the king over God's people supposed to do?** (Protect and save God's people from their enemies; teach God's people to obey Him; provide for God's people.)

The prophet Samuel came to Saul with a command from God. “God chose you to be king over His people,” Samuel said. “Now God has a job for you to do. He wants you to destroy the Amalekites, the enemies of His people. Destroy them all completely. Don’t save any of them and don’t save any of their animals. Destroy all the people and destroy all the cows and sheep and camels and donkeys. Completely destroy everything.”

So Saul set out with an army of Israelites. He came to the Amalekites and attacked them. He destroyed all of the Amalekites--except one. He left the king alive. Saul destroyed all the cows and sheep and camels and donkeys--except the best ones. He did not want to kill the best-looking, fattest, healthiest animals, so he left them alive. Had Saul obeyed God? (No; when you only do *part* of what you are told to do, you disobey.)

The prophet Samuel was not with Saul. God spoke to Samuel and said, “I am sorry I made Saul king. He has not obeyed me and he has not carried out my commands.” Samuel was sad that Saul had disobeyed God. When Samuel had made Saul king, he had told him that God expected him to obey. He had told him that God’s word said a king must read God’s word every day and be careful to always obey. But now Saul had disobeyed God.

Early in the morning, Samuel went out to meet King Saul. When King Saul saw the prophet, he called out, “I have done what God said to do.”

“Then what is all this baa-ing of sheep and moo-ing of cows that I hear?” said Samuel.

“Oh, we’re going to give these to God,” Saul replied. “We destroyed everything else.”

“God chose you to be king,” Samuel told him. “He wants you to obey Him. He told you to do something and you have not done it. God does not want you to give Him gifts; He wants you to obey. Because you have not obeyed God’s word, God will not let you be king. God will make someone else king instead of you.”

Saul was very sad that God was going to make someone else king. He said he was sorry, but it was too late. God’s people need a king who obeys God, so he can teach and lead the people in obeying God.

There was only one King over God’s people who *always* obeyed God perfectly and never disobeyed. Who was that King? (Jesus) If Jesus is your King, you can trust Him to always do what is right and to always lead you in doing what is right. You can obey Him, knowing that He always does what is pleasing to God.

4. Application

Lead the children in praising Jesus for always obeying God completely, without ever failing. Encourage them to trust in Him as their King, learning what He wants them to do and obeying Him, because all He commands is what is pleasing to God. Remind the children that the best gift we can give God is our obedience. No other gift is acceptable without obedience.

5. Review Questions

(Last Week's Story)

- A. What was the name of the prophet of God? (Samuel)
- B. What did the Israelites come to Samuel and ask for? (A king)
- C. What was the name of the first king of Israel? (Saul)
- D. What was Saul looking for when he met Samuel? (Lost donkeys.)
- E. What did the Israelites hope a king would do for them? (Save them from their enemies.)

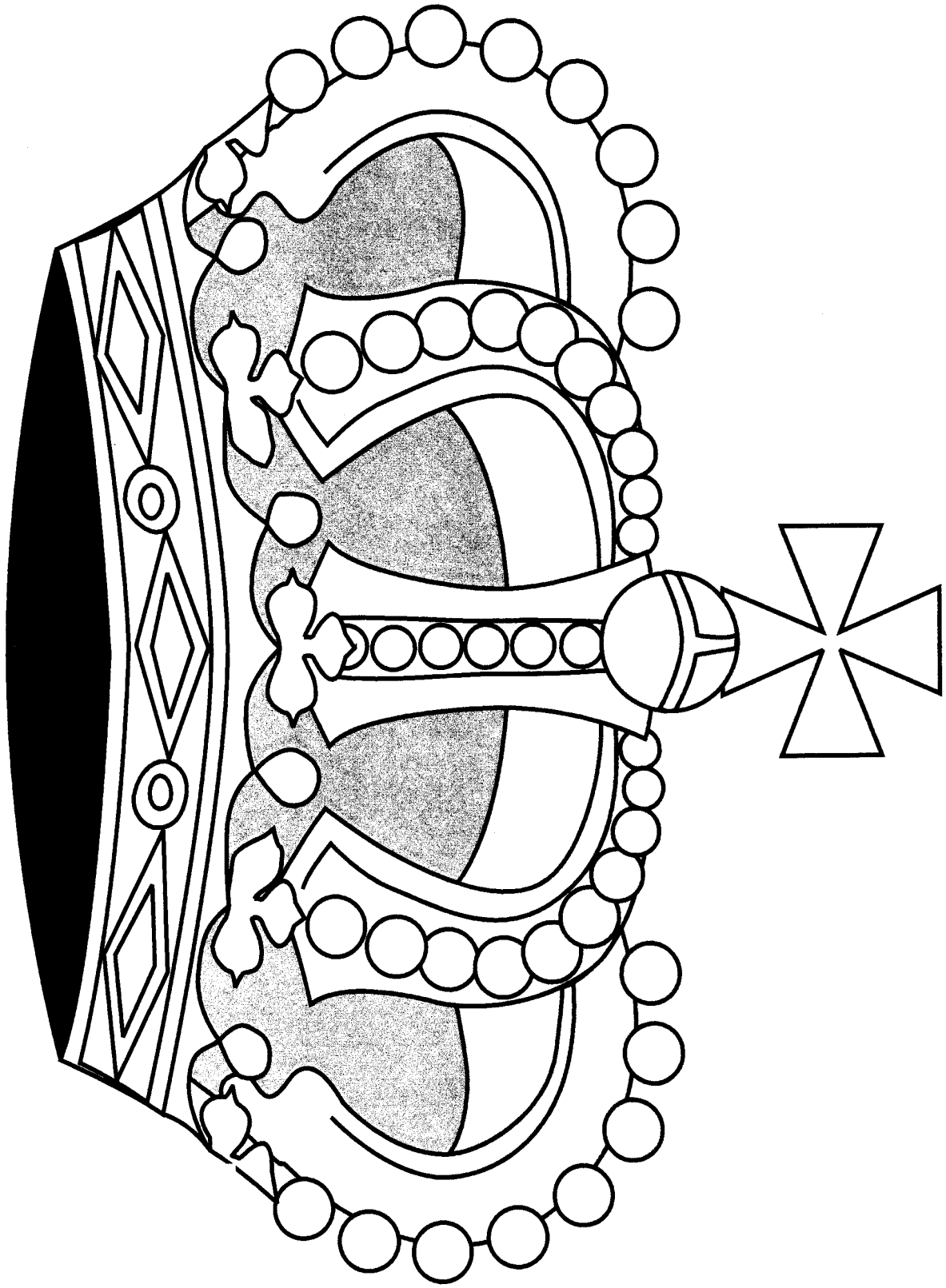
(This Week's Story)

- F. What did Samuel tell Saul that God wanted him to do? (Attack the Amalekites.)
- G. How many of the Amalekites was Saul supposed to destroy? (All of them.)
- H. How many of the animals was Saul supposed to destroy? (All of them.)
- I. *Did* Saul destroy all the Amalekites? (No; he left the king alive.)
- J. Did Saul destroy all the animals? (No; he left the best and fattest alive.)
- K. Did Saul obey God? (No; he only partly obeyed.)
- L. What did Samuel say would happen because Saul had disobeyed God? (God would make someone else king instead of him.)
- M. Who is the only perfect King who never disobeyed God? (Jesus)
- N. What does our Bible verse say that God's king does? (He does what is right and He saves.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Review Game. Make two simple crowns and divide the class into two teams. Place one chair for each team in the front of the room. Alternate teams as you ask review questions. Each child comes to the front to sit on his team's "throne" and to wear the crown when it is his turn to answer a question. If he is correct, he takes the crown back to the next person on his team, who waits for his turn to go up and answer a question.

B. Crayon Resist Crown Craft. Make enough copies of the attached crown for each child to have one. Children should trace around the crown outline with white crayon (encourage them to trace heavily). Then they can paint over it with water-diluted tempera paint. The crayon will resist the paint so the crown outline will show through. As the students work, practice the memory verse with them.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 3

Title: Samuel anoints David
Text: I Samuel 16
Theme: God gives His people a man after His own heart to be their king.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

- A. Give thanks to God for giving us a Shepherd/King who cares for us perfectly.
- B. Praise Jesus for always being and doing what God wants Him to be and do.
- C. Trust Jesus as the Good Shepherd and obey Him as King.

Memory Verse: *Zechariah 9:9b* "Your king is coming to you. He does what is right and He saves." International Children's Bible

1. Teacher Direction

More than any other king, David pictures the coming Messiah King. Like King Jesus, David was a prophet, priest and king. He served as a prophet when he wrote his psalms and as a king during all the years of his reign. He functioned as a priest when he offered sacrifices to end the plague described in II Samuel 24. Sometimes, in promising a King, the prophets refer to the Messiah by the symbolic name of David ("and David My servant will be their prince forever." Ezekiel 37:25). Today's story describes God's choice of David based, not on his appearance (man's criterion for choice), but based on what God had placed in his heart.

2. Bible Story

Who was the first king of Israel? (Saul) Who anointed Saul? (The prophet Samuel.) Why was Saul not going to be allowed to continue as king? (He had not fully obeyed God.) What does "anoint" mean? (It was pouring oil on someone's head to show God had chosen him to be the king.) Only one who obeys God can be king over God's people. God said He had found a man whose heart was like His own and that man would be king over His people.

So God told Samuel, "Take oil for anointing and go to the home of a man named Jesse. I have chosen a king for My people from among His sons." So Samuel went to Jesse's home and Jesse prepared a meal for him. At the meal, Samuel saw the first of Jesse's sons, Eliab. Eliab was tall. He looked strong and handsome. As soon as Samuel saw Eliab, he thought, "Surely this is the one God wants me to anoint as the next king." He would have anointed him as king, but God stopped him.

"Don't look at what he looks like," God told Samuel. "Don't look at how tall he is. He is not the one I want. God doesn't look at what people look at. People

look at how someone looks on the outside, but God looks on the inside of a person, at what is in his heart.”

Jesse called his next son, Abinadab, to meet Samuel. “This is not the one God has chosen, either,” Samuel said. The next son, Shammah, passed by. “Neither has the Lord chosen this one,” said Samuel. One by one, seven of Jesse’s sons passed by Samuel, but after each one, Samuel said, “No, not this one.” When no more sons came up to meet Samuel, Samuel said, “Are these all your children?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is out taking care of the sheep.”

“Send for him,” Samuel said. “We will not eat until he comes.”

So a servant went out to the fields to find Jesse’s youngest son, David. It was always David’s job to care for the sheep. He did it very carefully, because David cared about his father’s sheep. David made sure his sheep had the best grass and the clearest water. He never moved them too far or too fast at once, so they would not become tired. David was very careful to protect his sheep from getting hurt, but if they *did* get hurt he would put medicine on their hurts. He watched closely to be sure the sheep did not wander away where they could get lost or hurt. David protected his sheep, even against large, fierce animals. He had fought both a lion and a bear in order to keep them from getting his sheep. When David had time to sit quietly and watch his sheep, he made up songs of praise to God, because he loved God. He thought of God as *his* shepherd, caring for and protecting him in the same way that he cared for and protected his sheep.

Now a servant came to tell David that he was wanted in the house. David hurried home. As soon as he came into the room where Samuel waited, God said to Samuel, “Get up, anoint him; this is the one.” So Samuel poured oil on David’s head to anoint him as the next king, while all his big brothers watched. The Bible says that the Spirit of God came on David mightily from that time on.

God had made David love Him. God had given David a heart that desired to please Him. God knew David was the kind of king His people needed, one who would show them how to love and obey God. David would care for God’s people in the same way he had cared for his father’s sheep out in the field. He would do everything he could to keep them from being hurt. He would fight to protect them from their enemies. He would make sure they had all they needed.

David was the king who was the best picture of Jesus, God’s perfect King who would come later. David still wasn’t perfect, but David loved God and loved God’s people. Our King, Jesus, loves God even more than David loved God. Our King, Jesus, cares for God’s people even better than David cared for them. When God chose David to be the king, He was choosing someone who was like God in many ways. In making Jesus our king, God gives us a king who is exactly like Himself. Jesus loves God perfectly and He loves and cares for us perfectly.

3. Application

Lead the children in thanking God for giving us a King in Jesus who cares for us like the best of shepherds cares for sheep. Encourage them to trust Jesus as their Shepherd and King, following Him and obeying Him. Encourage them to praise Him for

His perfect love for God and for God's people. Remind the children that God is not so much impressed with outward appearance but that He looks most for a heart that loves and obeys Him.

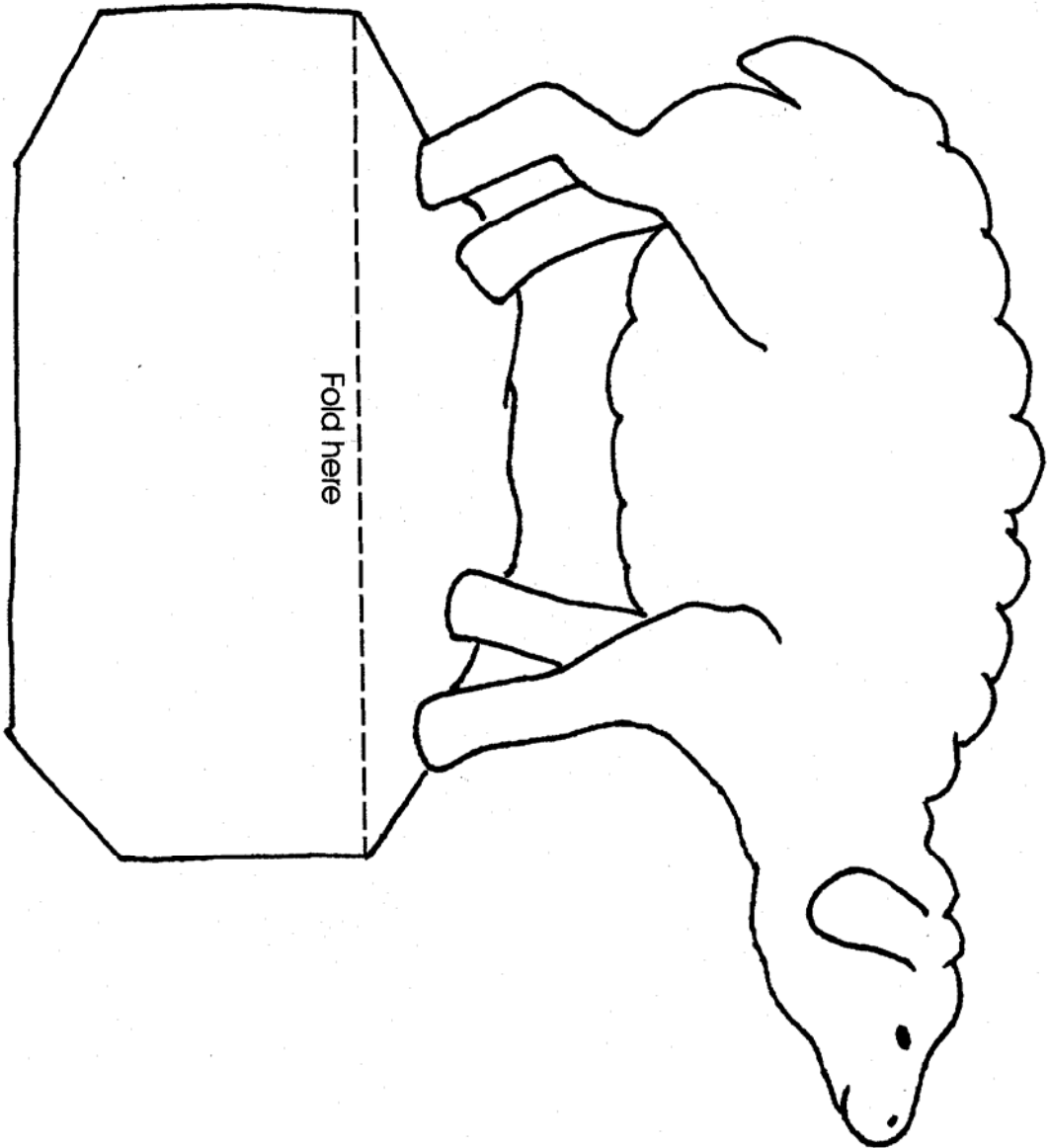
4. Review Questions

- A. How many of Jesse's sons did Samuel meet before he met David? (Seven)
- B. Why did Samuel think the first son was the one God would choose for king? (Because he was tall, strong and good-looking.)
- C. God said that people look on the outside of a person, but God looks--where? (At the heart.)
- D. What was the name of Jesse's youngest son? (David)
- E. Where was David when Samuel came? (Out in the field with the sheep.)
- F. What were some of the things David did to care for the sheep? (Made sure they had food and water, kept them from wandering, put medicine on their hurts, fought wild animals to protect them.)
- G. Whom did Samuel anoint as the next king of Israel? (David)
- H. Whom did David love? (God and God's people)
- I. Who loves God and God's people even more than David did? (Jesus)
- J. Whom has God given us as our King? (Jesus.)

5. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Shepherd Scenes. Bring everything you can find from the flannelgraph set to make shepherd scenes: trees, grass, water, sheep, a shepherd, sheep pens, stones, wild animals. Invite several children at a time to put together a scene showing David making sure that his sheep had everything they needed. As they work, talk to them about how, as king, David was like a shepherd to God's people, protecting them and giving them what they needed. Remind them that Jesus is the perfect Shepherd/King for us.

- B. Sheep craft. Using the attached pattern, copy and cut out enough construction paper sheep for each child to have one. Help them to fold on the lines so the sheep will be able to stand up. Let them pull cotton from cotton balls and glue the cotton to the sheep. Discuss with them how lucky the sheep were to have such a good shepherd and how blessed the Israelites were to have such a good king. Remind them of how happy we should be to know that Jesus is our Shepherd and our King.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 4

Title: David Fights Goliath
Text: I Samuel 17
Theme: A godly king leads God's people in believing God's promises and defeating God's enemies.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Give thanks to Jesus for being a better king for us than David was.
2. Trust Jesus as the One in whom God's promises to us are kept.
3. Follow Jesus as our King who defeats our enemy, sin.

Memory Verse: *Zechariah 9:9b* "Your king is coming to you. He does what is right and He saves." International Children's Bible

1. Teacher Direction

Today's story is commonly cited in a multitude of situations as an example of someone tackling great opposition against overwhelming odds--and winning. This was not David's perspective. David knew (1) God had called the Israelites to drive the Philistines completely out of Canaan; (2) God had promised His people victory if they obeyed; and (3) Goliath was putting himself in a dreadfully precarious position when he challenged and insulted the true and living God. David's perception was that a young boy with the most primitive of weapons *plus God* constituted power no one could equal. Once David became king, he went on to lead the Israelites in completing the task God had given them, but which, so far, they had left unfinished--that of taking *all* of the land God had promised them from its former, ungodly inhabitants. God's king leads God's people in honoring God as He should be honored, in trusting His promises, and in defeating their enemies. Here again, David pictures for us his future descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ, God's perfect King.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Before class begins, mark off nine feet of newsprint. Show the children your mark and tell them they are going to help you draw a man this tall. Draw a man nine feet tall calling up different children to help or to color parts as you work. When you have finished, ask them if there is any such thing as a man this tall. If you know the heights of some basketball players the children may know, make marks on the picture that show where they would come to on your nine-foot man, if they stood next to him. Tell the children that today's Bible story is about a man who was this tall.

3. Bible Story

When the Israelites first asked for a king, who was the first king they had? (Saul.) **Who anointed Saul king?** (Samuel, the prophet of God.) **What does it mean to anoint someone king?** (To pour oil on his head to show he is the one God has chosen for king.) **Why did Saul have to stop being king?** (Because he did not obey God fully.) **Is it important for God's king to obey God?** (Yes.) **Who is God's perfect King, who always obeys Him perfectly?** (Jesus.) **Whom did God tell Samuel to anoint to be the next king?** (David.)

What was David before he was king? (A shepherd.) Did David love God? (Yes.) Did David do a good job of taking care of God's people when he was king? (Yes.) Who is our King now, who loves God even more than David did and who does an even better job of taking care of God's people? (Jesus.)

Today's story happened before David started working as king. He was still working as a shepherd and Saul was still the king. The Philistines were neighbors of God's people, the Israelites. But the Philistines were not good neighbors. They worshiped idols and made fun of the true God. They attacked the Israelites and stole things from them. God had commanded His people to make the Philistines leave the land they lived in. God had promised His people that He would make them strong and would help them to win if they would fight the Philistines.

Saul's army was camped out, watching the Philistines. They were only watching, not fighting. The Israelites were not fighting the Philistines because they were afraid of them. They did not trust God's promises to help them and to make them stronger than their enemies. They did not obey God and attack the Philistines. Instead, they sat and watched them and wished they would go away.

The Israelites were afraid because of Goliath. Goliath was one of the Philistines and he was a giant. He was as tall as the man we drew. The armor that he wore when he fought was so heavy that an ordinary man would have a hard time picking it up. Goliath would come out every day and say this to the Israelites: "Choose a man, any man you like. Send him out to fight me. If he kills me, all the other Philistines will become your slaves. But if I kill him, all of you will become slaves of the Philistines." No Israelite wanted to go fight Goliath, not even when King Saul promised that if anyone killed Goliath, Saul would give him great riches *and* the princess for a wife! Goliath was just too big and too scary.

David's three oldest brothers were in King Saul's army. They were among the Israelites who sat and watched the Philistines and who heard Goliath come out every day and make fun of the Israelites and their God. David, however, was still at home, taking care of sheep and helping his father. One day, David's father gave him some food for his brothers and told David to go give them the food. Then he was to come home, bringing news for his father about how his brothers were.

When David got to the Israelite camp, he found his brothers. As he was talking to them, Goliath came out and called to the Israelites to send out a man to fight him. David waited for someone to go fight the giant, but no one went. David could not understand this. God had *told* the Israelites to chase away the Philistines. Why weren't they doing it? God had *promised* that He would give the Israelites all they needed to fight their enemies and win, but no one was fighting. "Who is this man," he said, "who makes fun of God's army?"

People heard what David was saying and were surprised. Finally, here was someone who did not seem afraid of Goliath. So they ran to tell King Saul. King Saul called for David. When he talked with him, he learned that David really *wasn't* afraid of Goliath. David was sure that God wanted him to fight Goliath and he was sure that God would keep His promise to help His people win when they fought their enemies. So King Saul sent David to fight Goliath. Saul gave David a sword, but David did not take it. Instead, as he was going out to meet Goliath, David took a stick (like the one he used to fight wild animals that attacked his sheep), his slingshot, and five round stones. (Note: it would be good to stop here to either demonstrate a slingshot if you have something you could use as a model or at least to explain how one works.)

When Goliath saw David coming to meet him, he thought David must be crazy. No *men* would fight Goliath and David was still a boy. Not only that, David only had a stick and stones for weapons. Goliath began to make fun of David. "Come on over to me," Goliath called to David. "If you do, I'll take you apart! I'll give you to the wild animals

and the birds to eat!” He also said to David, “Do you think I’m some dog, that you can come fight me with a stick?”

David answered, “You come to me with a sword and a spear, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. You have challenged and made fun of that God, but He will help me fight you today. He will help me win against you and He will help our army win against the Philistine army. Then everyone will know that *He* is the true God. Everyone will know that God doesn’t need great soldiers or weapons-- He wins battles without those things.”

Then David put a stone in his sling and ran toward the giant. He shot his stone and hit Goliath right in the middle of the forehead with it. The giant fell down dead. Now the Israelites were not afraid. They jumped up, shouting, and ran toward the Philistine army. The Philistines, though, seeing that their best soldier had been so easily killed, turned and ran away. The Israelites chased them far, far away.

It was not yet time for David to be the king of Israel. He went back home and cared for his sheep a little while longer. When David was finally king, he led God’s people over and over again in fighting their enemies and taking the land from them, as God had told them to do. God always helped David win his battles. David was one of the best kings God’s people ever had.

4. Application

Our King, Jesus, is an even better King than David was. David led the people in believing God’s promises. God has made promises to us, too. He has promised that He will forgive our sin and make us His children when we put our trust in Jesus. David gave God’s people victory over their enemies. Our King, Jesus, will give us victory over our enemy, sin. He will help us say “no” to it and live for God instead, when we follow and obey Him as our King. Let’s thank Jesus for being such a great King.

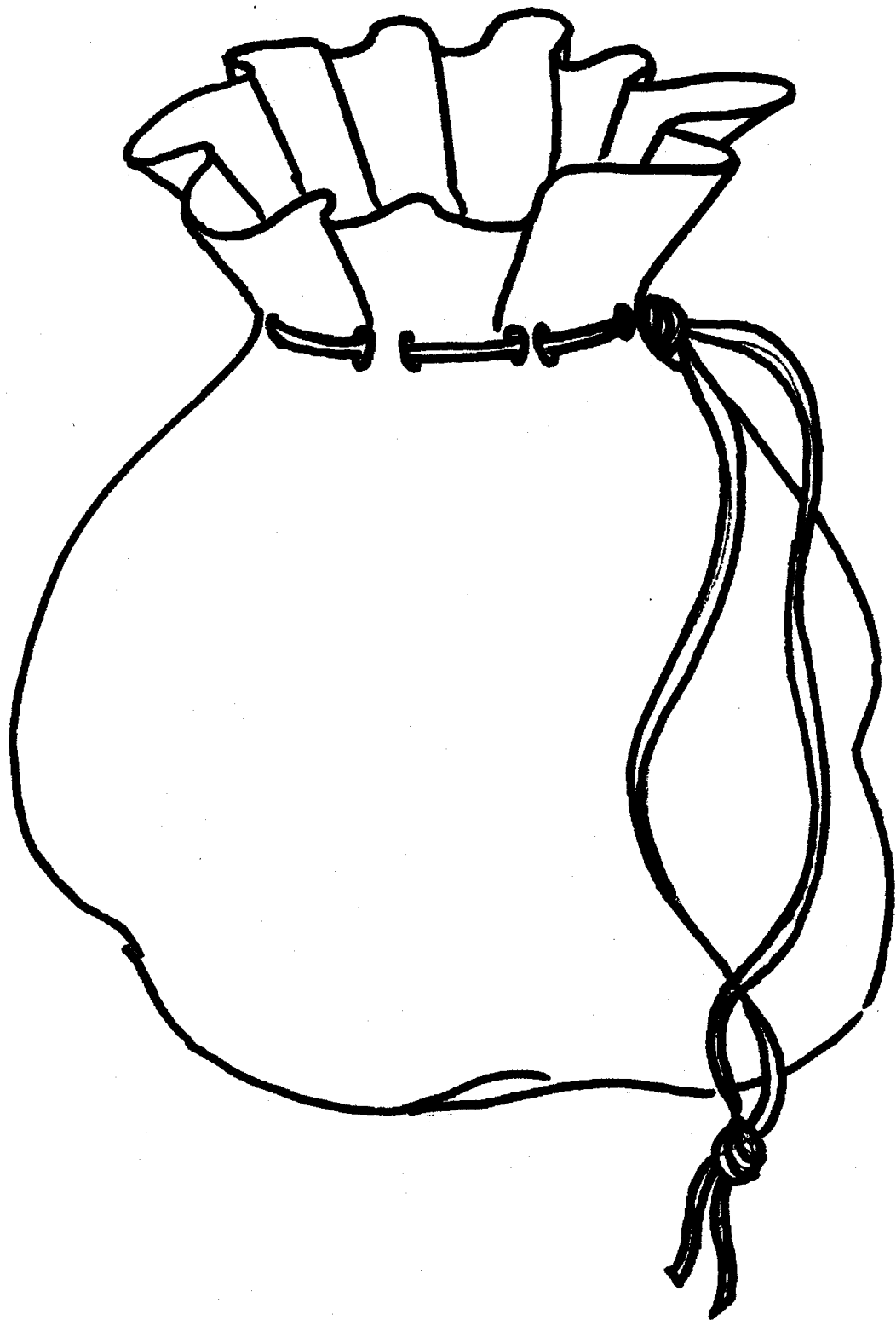
5. **Review questions**

- A. What were the people called who were the enemies of God’s people? (Philistines)
- B. What was the name of the giant Philistine soldier? (Goliath)
- C. What did Goliath say to the Israelites every day? (Send someone to fight me. If he kills me, all my people will be your slaves. If I kill him, you will all be our slaves.)
- D. Why did no Israelites go fight him? (They were afraid.)
- E. Had God promised to help the Israelites fight the Philistines? (Yes)
- F. Why did David go to the Israelite army’s camp? (Because his father sent him with food for his brothers who were in the army.)
- G. Was David afraid of Goliath? (No.)
- H. Why not? (He was sure God would help him.)
- I. What weapons did David use to fight Goliath? (A slingshot, stones, and a stick.)
- J. What happened? (David’s stone hit Goliath in the forehead and killed him.)
- K. What did the two armies do then? (The Philistine army ran away and the Israelite army chased them.)
- L. Who is the King who forgives our sin, as God promised, if we trust in Him? (Jesus.)
- M. Who is the King who helps us fight our enemy, sin? (Jesus)

6. **Learning Reinforcement Activities**

- A. Lead the children in pretending to be David and in acting out the story, making the journey from home, choosing stones, slinging one, and chasing the Philistines.

- B. Make enough copies of the attached picture of a pouch for each child to have one. Bring a variety of small stones to class. Allow each child to choose and count out five stones to glue onto the pouch as a reminder of the story.



A decorative border of musical staves with colorful notes (red, green, yellow, blue, orange) surrounds the central text.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - FALL QUARTER

LESSONS 5 - 8

**THEME: All Israel's Kings point to Jesus
Christ, the King of kings**

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB) "... He will reign as king and act
wisely..."

HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name
Sing to the Lord of Harvest (Begin teaching mid-month)

CHORUS

We Will Glorify

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

Give Thanks
Can a Little Child like Me
Do You Know What Time It Is?

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 5

Title: God Promises David an Eternal King from his Offspring
Text: II Samuel 7
Theme: God promised David a king from David's descendants to rule forever.
God has provided that king for His people in the Lord Jesus.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Praise God for keeping His promise to David by giving us Jesus to be our King forever.
2. Desire to trust and obey Jesus, the King who provides perfectly for His people.

Memory Verse: *Zechariah 9:9b* "Your king is coming to you. He does what is right and He saves." International Children's Bible

1. Teacher Direction

God referred to David as a man after His own heart. We see David's heart in his concern for the glory of God. David was troubled that he lived in the beautiful house of a king while God had only the tent that was the tabernacle. David proposed building a house for God. God's gracious answer was that *He*, God, would build a house for David. God told David that David's son would build the temple David wanted to build, and then went on to promise that a descendant of David's would always rule over the people of God. "Your throne shall be established forever," God promised. We see this promise fulfilled in a small way as we watch the history of Israel unfold. Even though ten of the tribes rebelled and set up a different king, God always kept a king of David's line on the throne in Jerusalem, as long as the kingdom existed. For the full fulfillment of God's promise of an eternal king, we look to the Lord Jesus. As the angel told Mary: "You will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and *the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David*; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Use the attached patterns to make construction paper shapes of a king's house (a palace), a king's chair (a throne), a king's stick (a scepter), and a king's hat (a crown). Ask the children what we call a king's house, a king's chair, etc., holding up each shape as you discuss it. Then have the children do the following movements whenever you hold up one of the shapes: the crown--stand and bow their head slightly, as though someone is putting a crown on their heads; the palace--stand, open a door, and take a step inside; the scepter--hold their arm out straight, as though holding out the scepter; the

throne--sit down. Hold up the different shapes randomly, saying the name of the shape each time. This will help the children become familiar with the names of these king-related items.

Hold up the palace shape and ask who would move into a house like this one (a king). Hold up the crown shape and ask what it would mean if this hat were placed on someone's head (that person is the king). Hold up the throne shape and ask what it would mean to say a certain person *is being given the throne*. (He will be the king.) Could a king sit on a throne forever? Most kings couldn't, but in today's story, God promises to give someone a throne--to make him king---and He promises that person's throne will last forever. He will *always* be king. God made that promise to one king about another king. Listen to learn what king God was talking *to* when He made the promise and what king He was talking *about*.

3. Bible Story

Who was the king who was a shepherd before he was a king? (David) Was David a good king? (Yes) What was the name of the giant enemy of God's people whom David fought? (Goliath) What weapons did David use? (A slingshot and stones) Why was David able to kill such a big enemy so easily? (Because God helped him.)

David went on to lead God's people, the Israelites, in fighting all their enemies. God was always with David and David and the people always won their battles. God blessed David and made him a great king. God blessed His people and made them safe and strong with David as their king. David lived in a beautiful king's house--what do we call a king's house? (a palace) David loved God and wanted Him to have a beautiful house, too. In David's time, there was no building where people could go to worship God. Instead, there was the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a tent where people brought their offerings for God. There was an altar at the tabernacle where the priests would offer to God the sacrifices the people brought. The tabernacle was a very large tent, but it was only a tent. David thought there should be a large, beautiful, glorious building for worshipping our great and glorious God. So David decided to build a house for God. David told Nathan, the prophet of God, what he wanted to do.

The next morning, Nathan came to see David. God had spoken to Nathan in the night and had given him a message for David. First, God told David that He did not need a house to live in. Of course, God does not *need* anything from people. God has everything He needs already. Then God reminded David of all He had done for him in taking him from being a shepherd out in the field and making him a great king over all God's people. Finally, God made David some wonderful promises. First, God promised David that one of David's sons would be king after David and this son would build a house for God. God also promised David that there would always be a king in Israel from David's family. Then God made the best promise of all. He promised that someone from David's family would be a king whose kingdom would last forever. This king would always be king; His kingdom would never end.

God did not give any names to David. He did not tell him yet which of His sons would be king after him and would build a temple for God. God didn't tell David who would be the king whose kingdom would last forever. David did not need to know; he was just very happy to hear these promises. After hearing Nathan's message from God, the Bible tells us that David went in and just sat before the Lord, praising Him and thanking Him for being so good to him and for making these wonderful promises to him.

Of course, we know what David did not know. We know that the son of David who was king after him and who built a grand and beautiful temple for God was Solomon. We also know the name of the king who came later, who is a king now and whose kingdom will last forever. Who is that king? Yes, it is Jesus. Many years after David, when Jesus was about to be born, God sent an angel to Mary, the girl who would be Jesus' mother. The angel told Mary she would have a baby boy and name Him Jesus. Then the angel said, "And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David." The angel promised Mary that Jesus would be a king whose kingdom would never end.

David was a good king for God's people, but David could not live and be the king forever. We need a "forever King," who will always be our king. God has given us that King in Jesus. David was a good king--but he was not a perfect king. Our next story will show us one of the things David did that was *not* good for God's people. We need a *perfect* King, who always does only what is good for us. God has given us that King in Jesus.

4. Application

Lead the children in thanking God for keeping His promise to David and giving His people a perfect King who will be their King forever. Help them to see that since King Jesus is the perfect King, they can always trust Him to do what is best for them. Help them to see that since Jesus is the King God has given, we are responsible to serve and obey Him as our King.

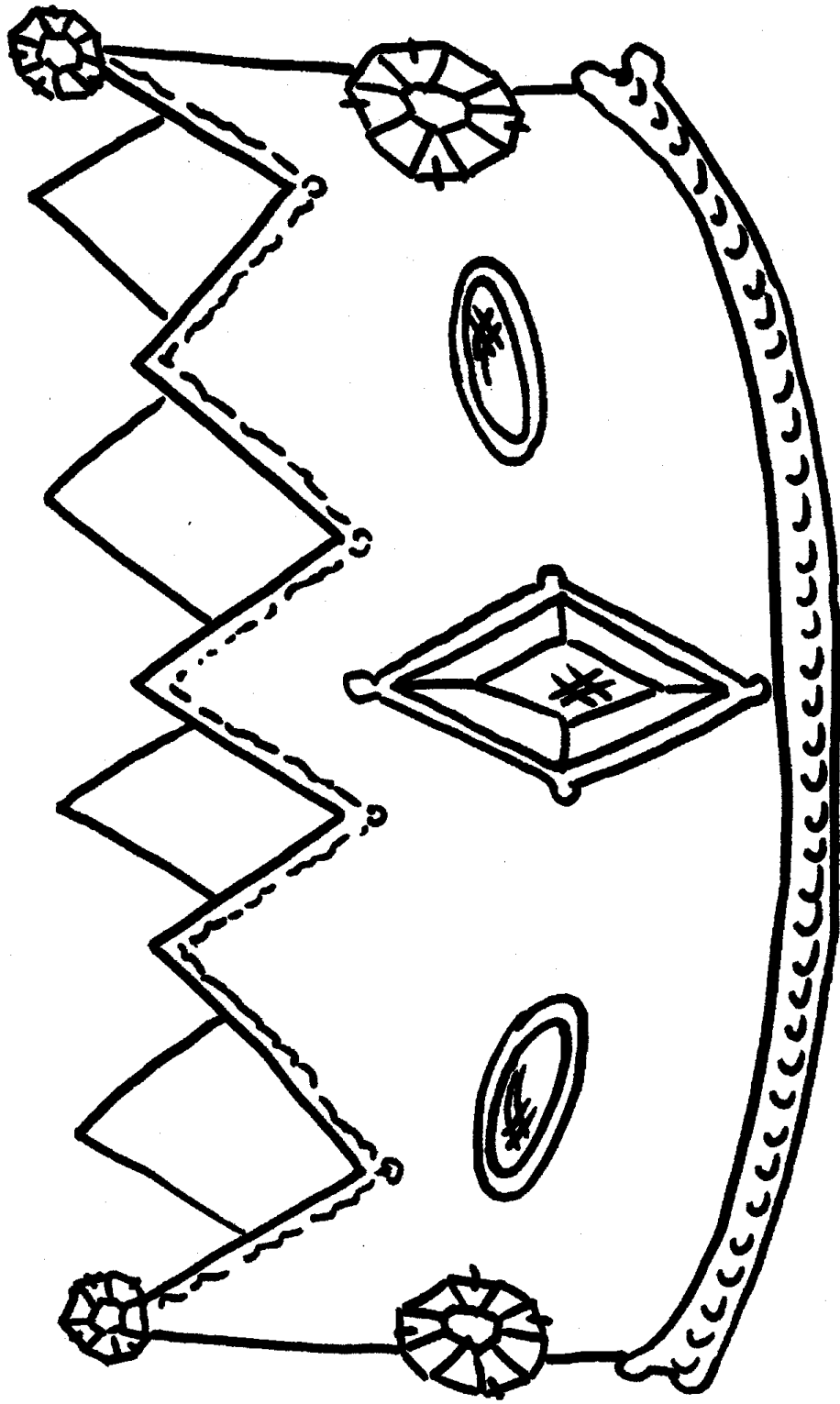
5. Review Questions

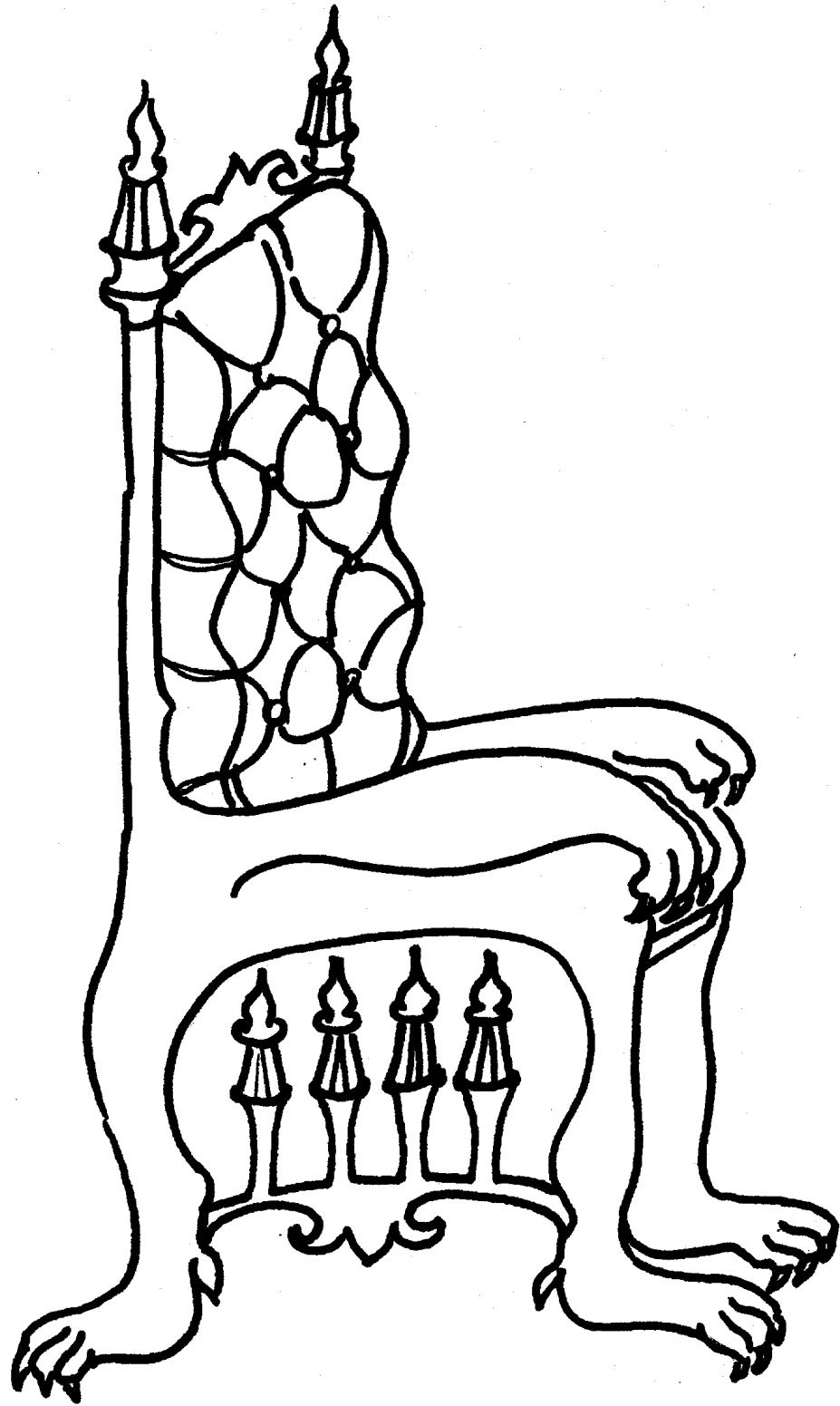
- A. What do we call a king's house? (A palace)
- B. What do we call a king's stick or rod? (A scepter)
- C. What do we call a king's hat? (A crown)
- D. What do we call a king's chair? (A throne)
- E. What did David want to build? (A house for God.)
- F. Where did people go to worship God in David's time? (The tabernacle or a tent.)
- G. Whom did David tell that he wanted to build a house for God? (The prophet of God, Nathan.)
- H. Who gave Nathan a message to give to King David? (God.)
- I. Did God need a house? (No.)
- J. Did God say David would build Him a house? (No.) Who would build the temple or house for God? (David's son.)
- K. What did God promise David about his family? (Someone from his family would always be king.)

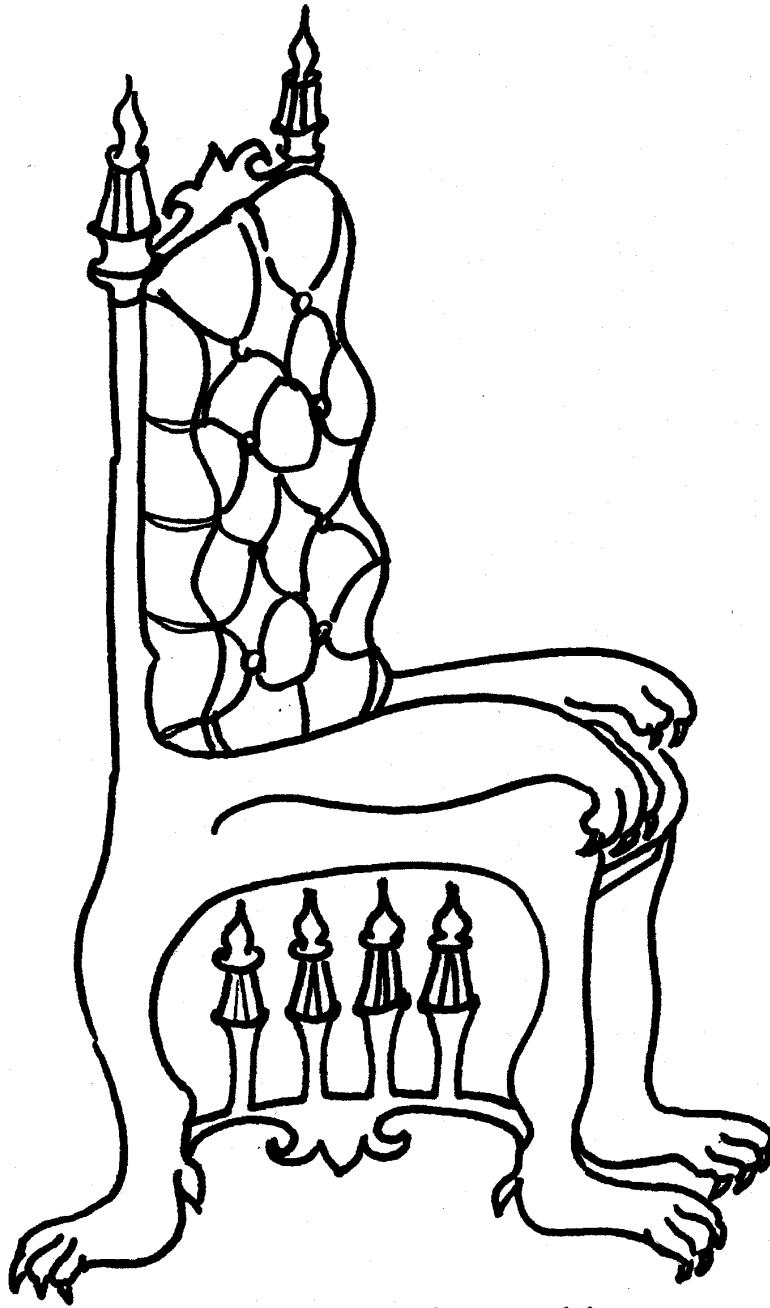
- L. God promised David that a king would come from David's family whose kingdom would last forever. Who was that? (Jesus)
- M. Who told Jesus' mother, Mary, that her baby would be king forever? (An angel.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

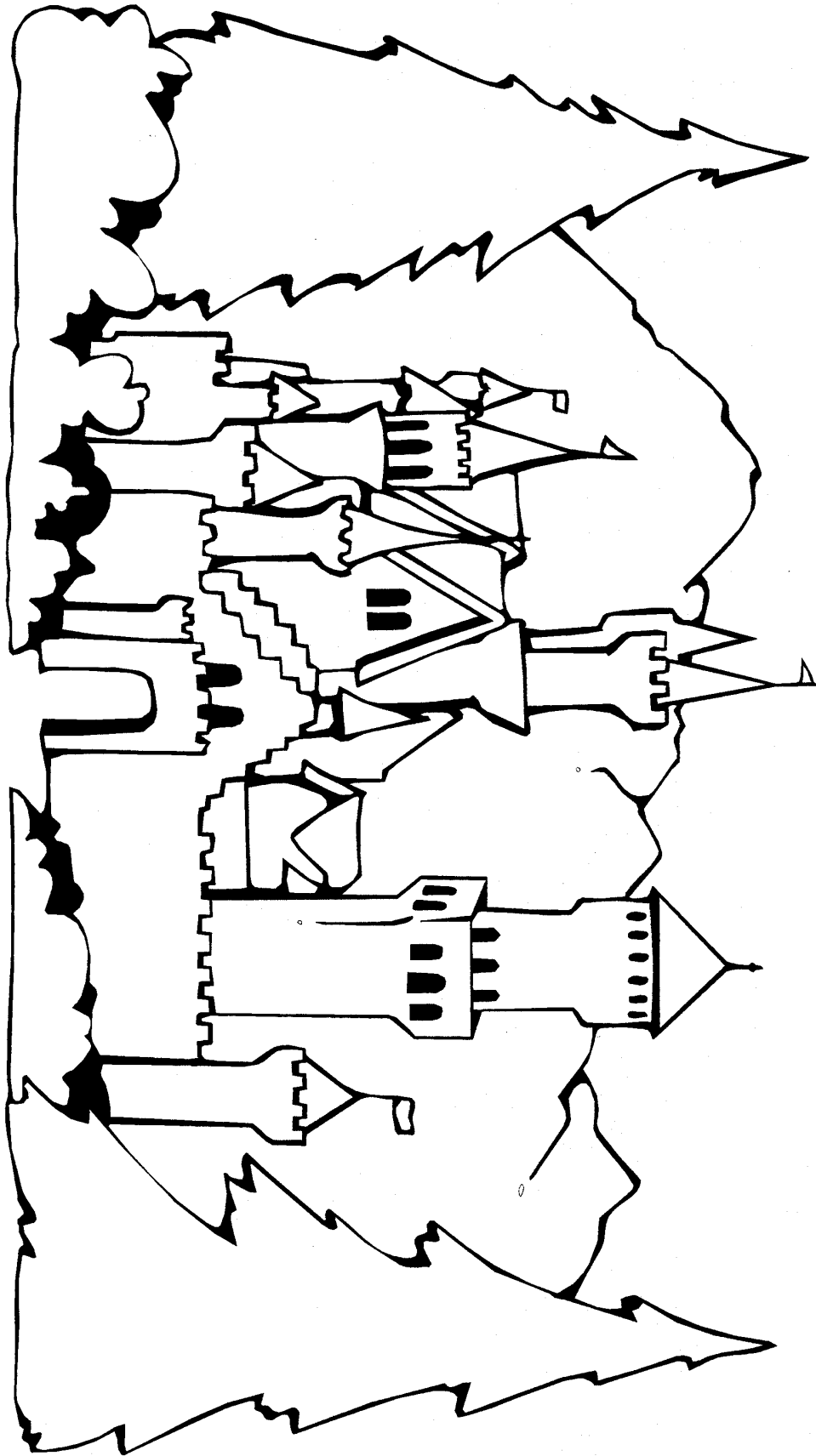
Make copies of the attached page with the throne and the words the angel said to Mary. Give the children materials for making their thrones "fancy." (Possible materials: glitter glue, gold or silver foil, glue with sequins or glitter, etc.) If there is time, have them trace around the letters of the memory verse. As they work, remind them that a throne is the chair for a king. When God said Jesus would be given the throne, it meant Jesus would be king. Remind them of how God kept His promise to David.







“...The Lord God will give Him
the throne of His Father David...”
Luke 1:32



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 6

Title: David's Failure: He Numbers the People
Text: I Chronicles 21 (also found in II Samuel 24)
Theme: The best human kings were still sinners. God's people need a perfect and sinless king whom they have in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that a truly wise king would know what is best and choose to do it.
2. Give thanks to Jesus for being a perfectly wise king, always knowing and doing what is best for us.
3. Trust in Jesus as the perfect King and choose to obey Him.

Memory Verse: *from Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB) "...He will reign as king and act wisely. . ."*

1. Teacher Direction

David was a man after God's own heart and, in many ways, David's life is exemplary. Nonetheless, David was a sinner and incapable of ruling God's people as they need to be ruled. David's sinful nature prevented him from *always* choosing and doing what would be best for the people of God. Several of David's failures are recorded in Scripture, reminding us of our need for a King who is perfect and sinless, always putting the interests of God and of the people of God before His own.

2. Introduction

We have had two stories about kings over God's Old Testament people, the Israelites. Who was the first king? (Saul) Why did God choose to make someone else king instead of Saul? (Because Saul disobeyed God.) It is very important for God's king to obey God. The king should show God's people how to be obedient by being obedient himself. God's king must also be wise. What do you think it means to be wise? Listen to the children's answers. Help them to see that biblical wisdom is more than just knowing many things. Biblical wisdom is being able to understand what would be the best thing for a situation and then choosing to do that best thing. God's king must be wise because what he chooses will help or hurt God's people. In today's story, a king makes a foolish choice and it hurts God's people.

3. Learning Readiness Activity

Tell the children you want to see how many children are here today. Let them count with you as you slowly go around the room and count all the children. Ask them why it might be important to know how many children are here today. (It would show how many snacks we need or how many art supplies we need.) **In today's story, King David wanted to see how many people he had in his kingdom. He did not really care how many people there were altogether; David wanted to know how many men there were who could fight as soldiers. Why might David want to know that? (He wanted to know how strong his army was in case there was a war.)**

4. Bible Story

Who was the giant enemy of God's people whom David had killed? (Goliath) Why was David able to kill such a dangerous enemy? (God made him able. Help the children remember the memory verse from that week: "The Lord will give power to His king." I Samuel 2:10b) Did God help David fight and win against other enemies of God's people? (Yes, God gave David and his army many victories over Israel's enemies.) God was clearly giving David help against all Israel's enemies. God was clearly making David and his army strong. The Lord was giving power to His king. David should have trusted God to go on making him and his people strong enough to fight their enemies. He should have known that God does not need strong men or strong armies to win victories. God is powerful enough to make His people strong even when they are weak or there are not many of them. David made a foolish choice. He chose to stop trusting God and to trust his army instead.

That was why David wanted to know how many men he had who could go to war and fight. He wanted to know if his army was strong enough to fight their enemies. He did not trust God to make them strong enough if the army was small. In the laws God had given His people, God had commanded kings not to trust in their armies or their weapons. David chose not to obey God. David gave an order to the commander of his army, Joab. "Go through the whole kingdom," David said, "and count the people."

Joab knew this was a foolish choice. He knew God would be displeased. Joab warned David not to do this. "Why do you want to know how many there are?" he said. "This is wrong and all the people will suffer because you are doing what is wrong." David continued to be foolish. He would not listen to Joab, his commander. Joab had no choice but to do what King David had commanded. So Joab and the other leaders in Israel began to count. There were hundreds of thousands of fighting men to count and it took Joab and his helpers many, many days to count them all. Finally, they came back to David and told him how many soldiers he had.

Then just as Joab had warned David, punishment came to the people of God because of their king's foolish and sinful choice. The Bible says, "God was displeased with this thing so He struck Israel." God sent a message to David through his prophet. This was the message: Choose your punishment for doing wrong. You may choose three years of not enough food for your people or three months of losing to the armies of your enemies or three days of a bad sickness that will kill many people. David chose the sickness.

So God sent a sickness that killed 70,000 people of Israel. David was very sorry for what he had done and prayed that God would spare the people. "Punish me and my family," David prayed, "I was the one who sinned by counting the fighting men. But these people have done nothing. Please take away the sickness from them."

God did forgive David and He did stop the sickness--but not until *after* the 70,000 people had already died. God told David to offer a sacrifice and showed him where to offer it. David did as he was told. He bought the land God showed him and offered his sacrifice there.

David learned that what God's king does makes a difference to God's people. When God's king is foolish and sins, it is God's people who get hurt. God's people learned that, even though David was a very good king, he was not good enough. God's people need a king who is perfect, who is never foolish, and who always knows and does what is best for his people.

In last week's story, God made a promise to David that someone would come from David's family who would be king forever. That "forever king" would be Jesus. In another place in the Bible, God made the promise that is today's memory verse. God promised this about Jesus, the perfect King He would send: "He will reign as King and act wisely."

(Explain that "reign" means to be the king and to rule over everything.) David was a good king,

but he could not be king forever. God would give us Jesus, who is our king forever and ever. David was a good king, but he did not always act wisely. When he did what was wrong or foolish, it hurt God's people. Jesus always acts wisely. He always chooses what God wants and what is best for us, God's people.

5. Application

Help the children to see that since Jesus is the perfect King, always acting wisely and doing only what is best for His people, we can trust Him and obey Him in everything. Encourage them to trust this King for anything they need, asking Him for what they need in prayer. Help them to see that *they* act wisely when they choose to obey such a wise and perfect king.

6. Review Questions

- A. What is a king's hat called? (A crown.)
- B. What is a king's house called? (A palace)
- C. What is a king's chair called? (A throne)
- D. When the Israelites first asked for a king, what did they hope their king would do for them? (Protect them from their enemies, help them to obey God and do what is right.)
- E. God showed Samuel the prophet who to anoint for the first king over Israel. Who was the first king Samuel anointed? (Saul)
- F. Why did Saul have to stop being king? (He disobeyed God.)
- G. What King always obeys God and never disobeys Him? (Jesus)
- H. Whom did God choose to be the next king over Israel, after Saul? (David)
- I. What job did David have before he became king? (He was a shepherd.)
- J. What kinds of things did David do to take care of his sheep? (Made sure they had food and water, protected them from robbers and wild animals, kept them from getting lost and found them when they did get lost.)
- K. Did David take care of God's people as well as he had taken care of the sheep? (Yes.)
- L. What King do we have who cares for us like a good shepherd takes care of his sheep? (Jesus.)
- M. Who was the giant enemy David fought for God's people? (Goliath)
- N. What weapons did David use to fight Goliath? (A slingshot and stones.)
- O. How could David kill such a big enemy, using such simple weapons? (God made him able to do it.)
- P. Did God help David and the Israelites win when they fought other enemies? (Yes.)
- Q. Does God need a big, powerful army to win battles? (No.)
- R. What did David want to build for God? (A house or a temple)
- S. God said David would not build him a house, but someone else would. Who would it be? (David's son, who would be the next king.)
- T. What wonderful promise did God make to David? (Someone from David's family would be a king forever.)
- U. Who is the King God promised, whose kingdom lasts forever? (Jesus)
- V. What did David do in today's story that was wrong? (He counted the people he had for his army.)
- W. God told David he had to choose three years of his people not having enough food or three months of losing to their enemies or three days of bad sickness. Which did David choose? (Three days of bad sickness.)
- X. Did many people die? (Yes.)
- Y. Was David sorry? (Yes.)
- Z. When God's king does what is foolish or what is wrong, who gets hurt? (God's people)

- AA. What kind of a king do God's people need? (One who never does what is wrong or foolish.)
- BB. *Is there a king like that? (Yes, Jesus.)*

7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Use the review questions from the series of lessons about kings to play a review game. On the board, draw a sheep and a crown, with a large space between. Cut out a simple figure to represent David. Put a piece of tape on the back of the figure. The children are going to help David go from being a shepherd with the sheep to being the king of God's people. Place the David figure by the sheep. Each time a child answers a review question correctly, he may come move the David figure closer to the crown.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 7

Title: The Wisdom of Solomon
Text: I Kings 3:1-15
Theme: Solomon's great wisdom makes him a picture of the perfect King, the Lord Jesus.

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Give thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ for ruling us, His people, with perfect wisdom.
2. Praise Jesus for not only teaching us how to live wisely but for working in our hearts to make us able to live wisely.
3. Ask the Lord Jesus to be *his* king and to make him able to choose and do what would be wise.

Memory Verse: *from Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB)* “. . .*He will reign as king and act wisely. . .*”

1. Teacher Direction

Solomon's reign was the golden age of the kingdom of Israel. David had finally finished the conquests Joshua had begun and the enemies whom God had commanded the Israelites to drive out had finally been subdued. The kingdom was powerful and at peace under Solomon, free to grow rich and prosperous. If David is the best king for picturing Christ the perfect King, Solomon's kingdom is the best kingdom for picturing life under the reign of Christ. Under Solomon, the people enjoyed peace, security, and abundant prosperity. Solomon ruled by extraordinary wisdom, so that visitors from other nations flocked to learn of him. Solomon's rule was one of tremendous glory. The security, glory, and wealth of Solomon resulted from his request for wisdom to rule well. Pleased with his request, God gave Solomon all these things as well as the wisdom he had requested. Solomon used his great wisdom to teach the people of God how to choose wisely themselves (Proverbs and Ecclesiastes), yet Solomon could not change the hearts of the people to make them able to desire and to live by the wisdom he taught them. Our King, the Lord Jesus, not only instructs us in wise living but changes and empowers us to actually live wisely. Even Solomon himself, the wisest man to ever live, made foolish choices. The wisdom of our perfect King never fails.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Use the attached crown pattern to make enough construction paper crowns for each child to have one. They will color and decorate these with “jewels” you provide. You will then help each child tape the ends of his crown together so that it will fit his head. As they work, remind the children of the memory verse (they had it last week as well): “He will reign as king and act wisely.” Point out that it was not enough for God's king to simply wear a crown or even to simply reign as king, giving all the orders and being over everything. Point out that God's king was also to act wisely. Remind them from last week that wisdom is knowing what would be the best thing to do and then doing it.

3. Bible Story

Do you think you would like to have lived in Bible times and been one of the kings of God's people? Many times when we think about being a king, we only think of the fun part of it. It would be fun to live in a king's house (what's a king's house called? a palace) and to

wear a king's hat (what's a king's hat called? a crown) and to sit in a king's chair (what's a king's chair called? a throne). It would be fun to have everyone do what you told them to do. But--what if you told them to do something wrong? What if you made a wrong choice and it hurt your people? Do you remember David's wrong choice in last week's story? (He counted the number of his fighting men, showing he was trusting in his army and not in God.) What happened because David made this foolish choice? (Thousands of Israelites died in a bad sickness.) Sometimes it would be very hard to be king, especially if you really cared about your people and were afraid you might do something that would hurt them.

Do you remember what King David wanted to build for God? (A house for God or a temple) God told David that David would not build a temple; who would? (David's son) In today's story, that son, whose name was Solomon, had become the king after David. Solomon knew it was a great honor to be the king and he was happy that God had made him king. Yet Solomon was also afraid. He was afraid that he would not rule wisely. He was afraid that the people would look to him to decide what to do and he would decide the wrong thing. Being the king was a very important job and Solomon was afraid he would not know how to do it well.

That is why, when God came to Solomon and told him to ask for whatever he wanted and God would give it to him, Solomon knew just what to ask for. This is how it happened. Solomon had come to Gibeon to offer sacrifices to God. He had offered a thousand sacrifices there. One night, as he was sleeping in Gibeon, God appeared to Solomon in a dream. God said to Solomon, "Ask me for whatever you want me to give to you." If you were the king of God's people and God asked you that, what do you think you would have asked for? Solomon could have asked for great riches, so his people would always have all they needed, with plenty left for him besides. He could have asked for the most powerful army on earth so he and his people would always be safe from enemy armies. Since Solomon was king with so much to enjoy, he could have asked for a very long life and good health to enjoy it.

Solomon did not ask for any of these things. He did not even have to think about what he needed to be a king. He knew. So Solomon thanked God for making him the king, but then he said, "I don't know how to be king. I don't know the many things I will need to know to be a good king. The people I rule are *Your* people and there are many of them. How can I possibly know what to do for them? So the one thing I want you to give me is a wise and understanding heart so I will be able to tell what is the right thing to do and I will be able to rule wisely over *Your* people."

God was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. God said, "Since you did not ask for riches or for long life for yourself and you did not ask for victory over your enemies, but you asked for wisdom to be a good king, I will give you wisdom. I will give you more wisdom than any king has ever had. Not only that, I will give you the things you did not ask for. I will give you riches and honor so that no other king will be as great or as rich as you will be. And if you obey me as your father David did, I will also give you long life."

Just as God had said, Solomon became a very rich king. Israel had much gold and silver while he ruled. Solomon had great honor and glory, and he had the wisdom he had asked for. Solomon was so wise that kings and queens came from other countries to learn from him. He studied animals and plants and wrote down what he learned. Solomon also used his wisdom to teach his people how to live wisely and make right choices. Two of the books in our Bible were written by Solomon to guide people in making wise choices. (Show the children the books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes in your Bible.)

However, even with all Solomon's wisdom, he was still not perfect. Like all of us, Solomon was a sinner and he did not always choose wisely. Later in his life, Solomon began to worship some of the idols the people in neighboring countries worshiped. He still

worshiped God, but he tried also to worship idols along with God, which was foolish and wrong. Solomon was the wisest king who ever lived---but he was still not *perfectly* wise. God’s people needed a perfectly wise king who would *always* act wisely. Solomon’s teaching was very wise and anyone who did what Solomon taught would live wisely. Yet Solomon could only tell people what was wise. He could not change their sinful hearts so that they wanted to do what was wise. He could not make them able to make the right choices and live wisely. God’s people need a king who can not only *tell* them what is wise, but who can change their hearts and make them able to *do* what is wise. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we have a perfect King who always acts wisely. He never does what God does not want. Our King not only teaches us what God wants us to do, but He can change our hearts and give us the power we need to *do* what God wants us to do.

4. Application

Lead the children in thanking God for the perfect King, Jesus, who always does what is wise Himself and who teaches His people what is wise and makes them able to do what is wise. Help the children to see that the wise response to God’s wonderful gift of a perfect King is to serve and obey that King. Encourage them to ask Jesus to be *their* King and to work in them to make them able to choose wisely and do what He says.

5. Review Questions

- A. What was the name of David’s son, who became king after him? (Solomon)
- B. What was Solomon worried about? (He would not know how to be a good king.)
- C. Who appeared to Solomon in a dream? (God)
- D. What did God tell Solomon he could have? (Anything he asked for.)
- E. What did Solomon ask for? (Wisdom to be a good king.)
- F. What did God give Solomon besides wisdom? (Riches, honor, and long life.)
- G. How wise was Solomon? (He was the wisest king who ever lived.)
- H. Did Solomon ever do anything that was not wise? (Yes, he worshiped idols.)
- I. What king never does anything foolish, but is always wise? (The Lord Jesus.)
- J. What did Solomon write to try to help his people be wise? (Two of the books of our Bible.)
- K. Could Solomon change people’s sinful hearts, so that they would *do* what was wise, once they knew what it was? (No.)
- L. What king can teach us what is wise *and* make us able to do what is wise? (Jesus)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Spend some time reviewing the Bible verses learned so far during this unit on kings. After going over them several times by way of reminder, play some games with them such as the following: The teacher says the verse, leaving words out for the children to supply. Say the verse in a variety of different voices (deep and slow, whispering, fast, high, big, tiny, etc.). Tell only those who fit a certain description to say it with you (e.g., everyone who has a cat at home, is wearing red, had cereal for breakfast, etc.). Here is a list of the verses we have had so far:

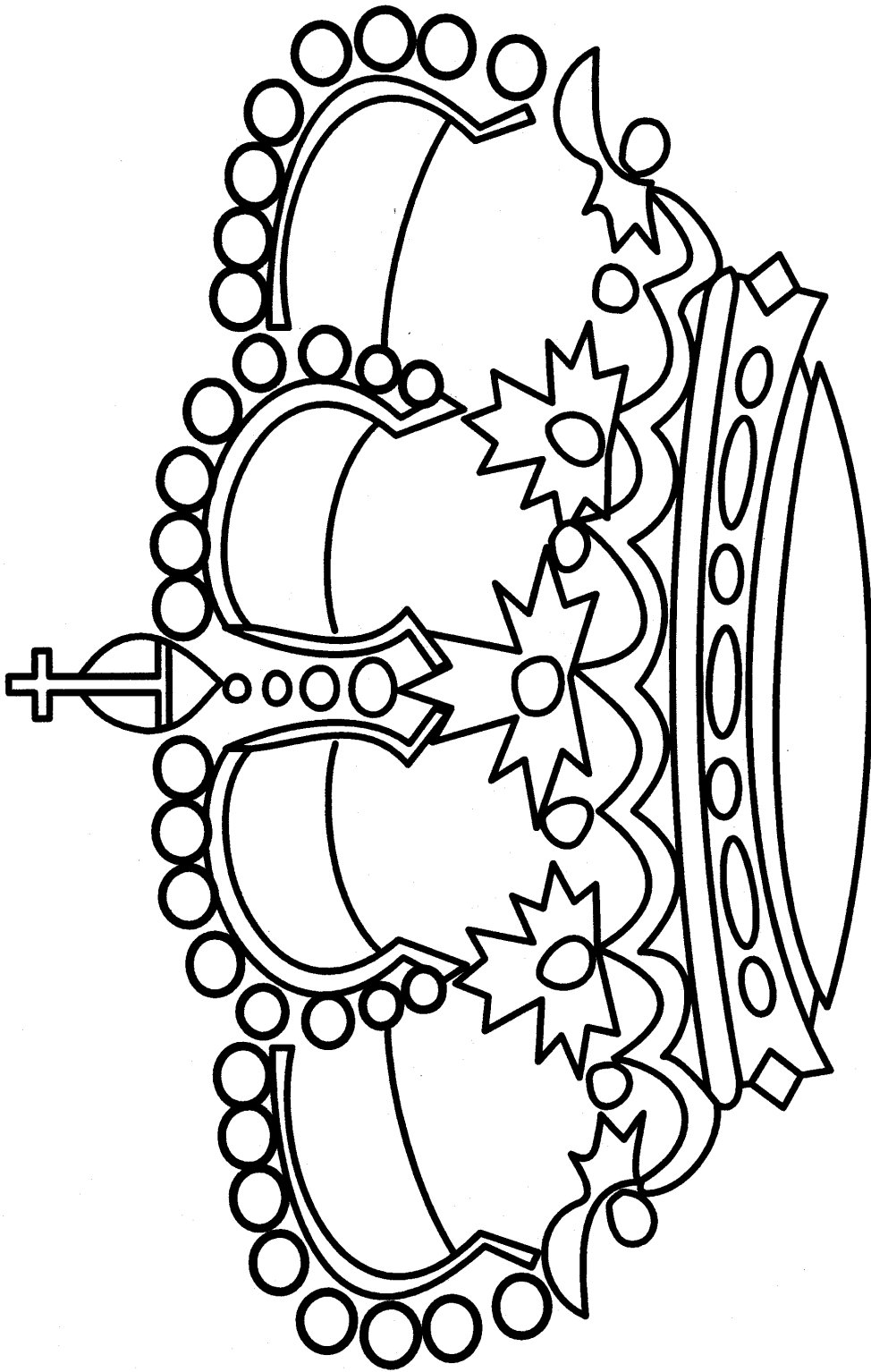
Zechariah 9:9b “Your king is coming to you. He does what is right and he saves.”
International Children’s Bible

Psalms 78:71 (The Lord) brought (David) to be the shepherd of His people. (NIV)

I Samuel 2:10b “(The Lord) will give strength to His king.” NIV

Luke 1:32 (NASB) “. . . and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David
. . .”

from Jeremiah 23:5 (NASB) “. . .He will reign as king and act wisely. . .”



CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL

Lesson 8

Title: Solomon Builds the Temple
Text: I Kings 5-9 and II Chronicles 3-7
Theme: Solomon reigned over a glorious kingdom and built a house for the glory of God; he is a picture of our perfect King, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose reign is even more glorious and who builds a better house for God.

Memory Verse: *from Jeremiah 23:5 . . . He will reign as King and act wisely. . .*
(NASB)

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Praise Jesus for being the most glorious king of all.
2. Desire to be a member of Jesus' kingdom and of the house of God He is building.

1. Teacher Direction

The great glory of Solomon's kingdom reflected the greater glory of Solomon's God. Solomon desired to honor and obey the God of his father, David, and instructed and led the people in doing so. Consequently, God honored Solomon and gave him great glory for all to see. One manifestation of Solomon's desire to see God honored was his building of a grand and beautiful temple as a place God would inhabit as He came down to dwell among His people. Of course, Solomon did not remain faithful to his early desires to see God glorified. For a time, he allowed his many wives to turn his heart away from the exclusive worship of God to worship idols. Only *our* King, the Lord Jesus Christ, could say that He *always* seeks the glory of the Father. As a result, God gives honor and glory to Christ far above any ever given to any other king. Solomon built a magnificent building of wood and stone and bronze and gold as a house for God. The New Testament tells us that Jesus is the builder of a house for God in which we, God's people, are the stones. Under Solomon's reign, the glory of God entered the temple to dwell among His people. Under our Lord's reign, God enters each of us to dwell among His people by actually living in us.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

This lesson comes with a small package of some of the materials used in building Camelback Bible Church. Show them to the children, then take them on a walk around the church campus, looking for the places where an item like each of the ones you have would have been used. (A map is attached that shows you exactly where these things are.) Discuss with the children the care that was taken to build a good place for God's people to come and meet with him in worship. Avoid referring to the church building as God's house or the place where God lives, since the New Testament speaks of the *people* of God as His dwelling place now. Tell them that in today's story a building was built

for God's worship. Encourage the children to listen for what kinds of materials were used for that building.

3. Bible Story

Do you remember what King David wanted to build for God? (A house.) God told him that he would not build that house for God, but his son would. Last week, we had a story about David's son, who became king after him. Do you remember his name? (Solomon) God came to Solomon and told him to ask God for anything he wanted. What did Solomon ask God for? (Wisdom to be a good king.) What else did God give Solomon besides great wisdom? (Great riches, glory and honor, and a long life.)

Because God had made him wise, Solomon understood that the most important thing he--or anyone else could do--is to give God the glory He deserves. Because Solomon gave glory to God, God gave glory to Solomon. While Solomon was king, the people of God had plenty of food and money and gold. When Solomon was king, the country was at peace with a strong army to protect it. When Solomon was king, people came from other countries to see him and his great glory and riches. Solomon was a great and glorious king, but our King, King Jesus, is even greater and more glorious. God has given Jesus, our King, great glory because He always obeyed God perfectly, even to the point of dying on the cross. Did Solomon always obey God perfectly? No, no one obeys God perfectly *except* Jesus. When Solomon was older, he worshiped some of the idols of the neighboring countries, along with worshiping God. This, of course, was wrong.

One thing Solomon did to give honor and glory to God was to build a big, beautiful temple, a house for God. Now Solomon knew that God is too great to live in a man-made building, no matter how large or wonderful it was. But Solomon wanted to build a place where God's people could come to worship Him and where God could come to live among His people. So Solomon built a grand, glorious, beautiful building for God's house. He made it so grand and glorious and beautiful that it took him seven years to build it. Solomon had huge stones cut and dragged to where the temple would be. These were for the outside walls. He had the very best and most beautiful trees cut for wood to make the walls of the rooms inside the temple. Solomon hired the best builders and artists to make the building not only strong and solid but beautiful as well. He put gold everywhere inside the temple, covering wooden furniture and wooden walls with gold. Even the nails used to build the temple were gold nails!

Solomon finally finished his great building project and gathered all the people to the new temple. Solomon led the people in a prayer, asking God to come to the temple and to be there with His people. He asked God to hear all the prayers that would go up to Him from the temple. God answered by sending a great cloud to fill the temple with His glory.

The Bible tells us that our great and glorious King, Jesus, is also building a house for God. The house Jesus builds is not built with wood or stone or even gold. Jesus builds *His* house for God out of His people. Each time someone is sorry for his sin and believes in the Lord Jesus, that person becomes a part of the people of

God. It is like that person is one more brick being added into the place where God lives. The Bible tells us that now, since Jesus has come, God does not live in a building where His people come to be with Him sometimes. Instead, God lives in His people, so that He can always be with each one of His people all the time. That is why the Bible talks about God's people being God's house, the place where He lives. God is in each of His people and all together, we make up God's house.

King Solomon was a glorious king with a glorious kingdom. The Lord Jesus is a more glorious King. The Bible calls Him the "King of glory." King Solomon built a wonderful house for God, where God could come be with His people. King Jesus is building a better house, made up of all of God's people. Every time someone believes in Jesus, God comes to live inside that person and that person is added to the house Jesus is building for God.

4. Application

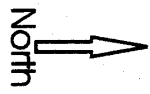
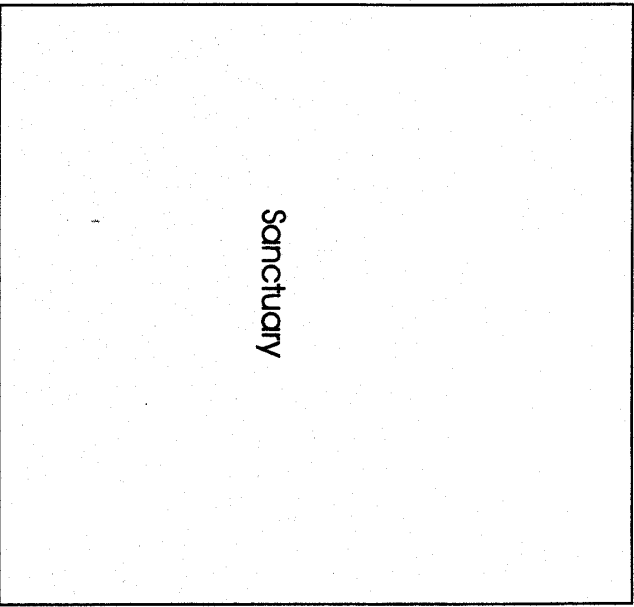
Help the children to see how wonderful it is to belong to Christ's kingdom and to be a part of the household of God. Remind them of God's promise to live inside His people and encourage them to take Jesus as *their* King, so that they too can be a part of the people of God where God lives now. Lead them in giving praise to Jesus for having greater glory and honor than even the great and glorious King Solomon.

5. Review Questions

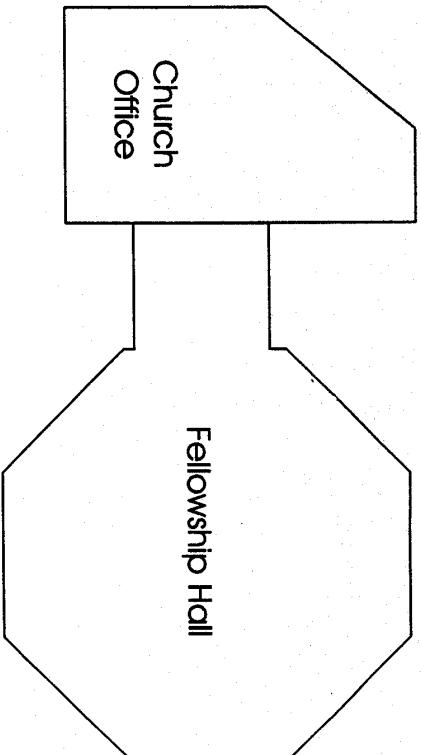
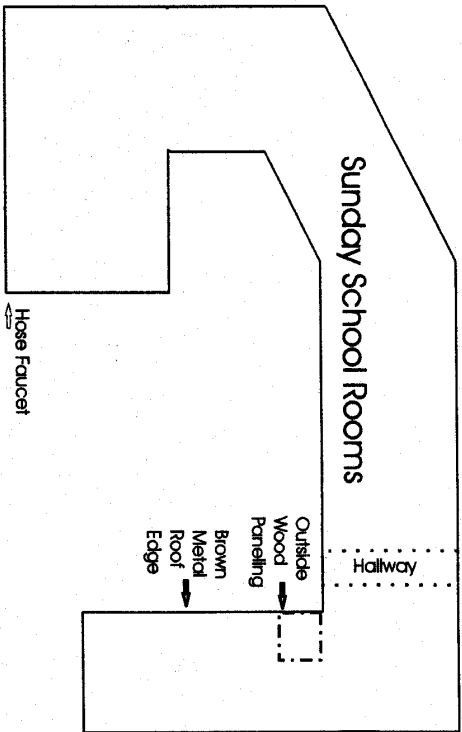
- A. Who was David's son, who became king? (Solomon)
- B. What did Solomon build for God? (A house or temple)
- C. How long did it take for Solomon to build the temple? (Seven years)
- D. What kinds of materials did Solomon use to build the temple? (Wood, stone, gold)
- E. What was the temple like, once it was all finished? (It was beautiful and glorious.)
- F. Solomon prayed that God would hear the prayers that came from the temple and that He would live in it among His people. How did God answer? (By filling the temple with a cloud of His glory.)
- G. What king has even greater glory than King Solomon? (Jesus)
- H. What does Jesus use to build a house for God? (His people)
- I. What does God do when a person is sorry for his sin and believes in Jesus? (He comes to live inside that person.)

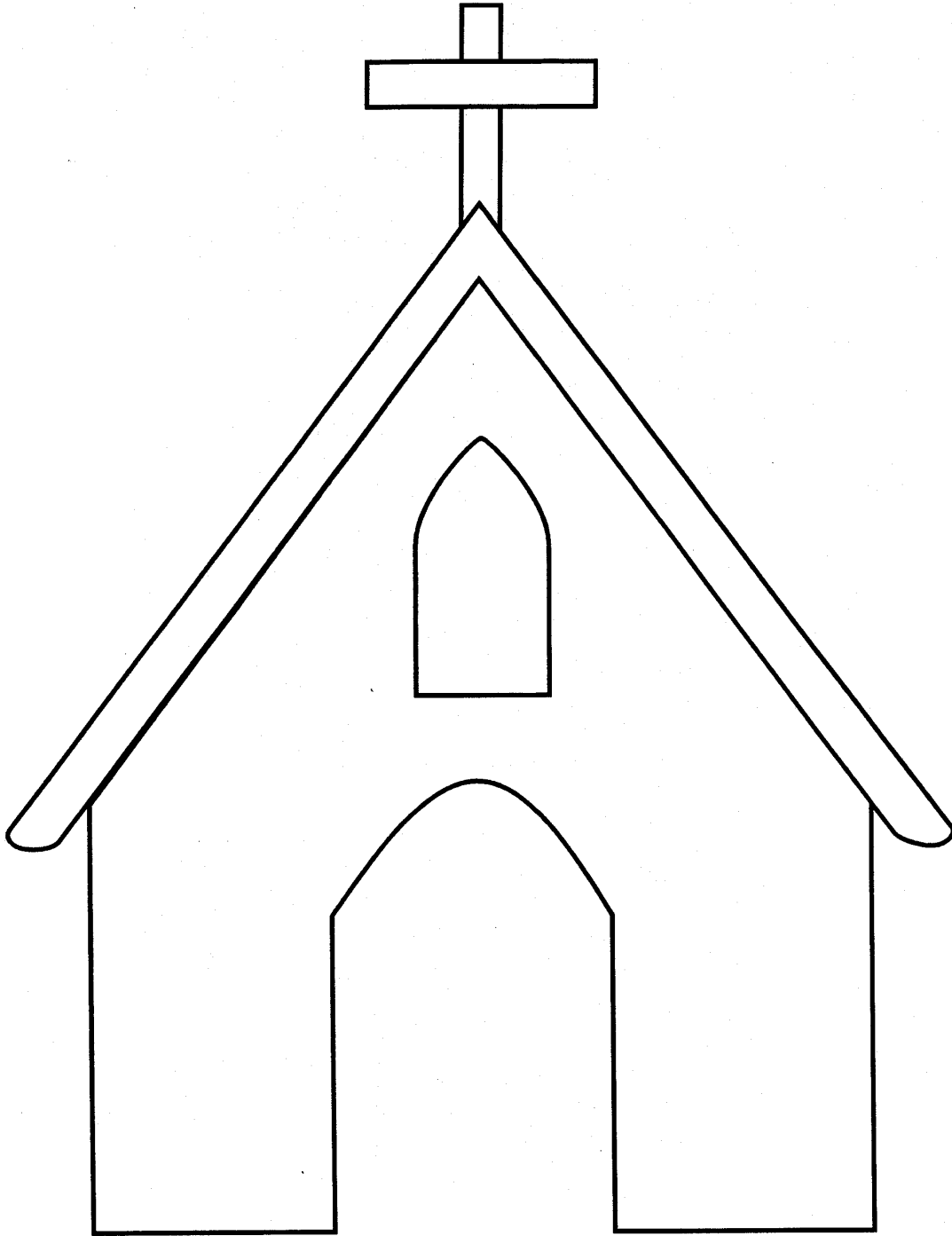
6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Bring many magazine pictures of people of all ages and nationalities. Give each child a copy of the attached outline of a house. Read to them the two sentences ("God's house is in His people" and "God lives in the people who believe in King Jesus.") Let the children select magazine pictures of people to glue on the outline of the house. Remind them that the house Jesus builds for God is made of His people, not wood or bricks.




- Six Items**
1. Metal Roof Edge
 2. Outside Wood Paneling
 3. Hose Faucet
 4. Door Hinge (Any door)
 5. Light Switch (Any Room)
 6. Door Handle (Any Door)





God's House is His people.
God lives in the people who believe in
King Jesus.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH
MUSIC FOR YEAR 2 - FALL QUARTER
LESSONS 9 - 13

**THEME: All Israel's Kings point to Jesus Christ,
the King of kings**

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Revelation 19:16 "[Jesus is] King of Kings and Lord of Lords"
*2 Chronicles 20:21 "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures
forever. "(In Lesson 10, on the way to battle, Jehoshaphat has
his army sing the words to this song.)*

HYMNS

Sing to the Lord of Harvest
Review: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

CHORUS

We Will Glorify

ADDITIONAL SONGS (optional)

Give Thanks
Can a Little Child like Me
Do You Know What Time It Is?

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 4-6 YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL**

Lesson 9

Title: King Asa Trusts God
Text: II Chronicles 14-16
Theme: God's King trusts in God alone and leads God's people in trusting God

Memory Verse: *from Revelation 19:16 (Jesus is) . . . King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that the Old Testament kings were to trust God alone for salvation from their enemies.
2. Give thanks to Jesus for being God's perfect King, who always trusted in God alone, who always did God's will, and who makes us able to trust and obey God.
3. Put his or her trust in Jesus, the One God provided to save us from our enemies.

1. Teacher Direction

A constant Old Testament theme is that of trusting in God alone for salvation from enemy nations, not in man or in armies or in political alliances. Part of the reason for this emphasis was to prepare God's people to accept the greater salvation God would provide in Christ. Our trust is to be in God's provision (Christ) alone, with no part of our confidence resting on any works of our own. As the account of Asa opens, we see him beautifully modeling this confidence in God alone. Before facing the Ethiopian army, he prays a prayer of complete dependence upon God. After years of godly rule, though, Asa again faces the attack of an opposing army and this time, he places his confidence in an alliance with a pagan nation, using treasures from the Lord's temple to purchase that nation's services. Asa was rebuked for this and his response was to imprison the prophet who rebuked him. Asa spent the last few years of his life combating a severe disease in his feet, "yet even in his disease, he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians." Our perfect King, Jesus, always trusted in God alone, whether He was being tempted to turn stones into bread or to come down off the cross. He not only models complete trust in God for us, but He also works in our hearts to make us able to trust in God alone for our salvation.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Photocopy enough of the attached pages to give one to each child. Explain to them that these words express the attitude that God's king was to have. The children paint these with water colors. These can be drying while you go through the remainder of the lesson.

3. **Introduction**

Begin by helping the children to understand the meaning of the word “depend,” a word from the page they just painted. Ask how many of the children drive to church. Point out that most people who come to Camelback live too far away to walk to church, so they *depend* on their cars to get them there. To *depend* on something is to need it to do something for you that you cannot do for yourself. Because we depend on our cars to get us to church, if we should get up and find that our car would not run, we might not be able to go to church that morning. We *depend* on our cars and cannot go places without them. Ask the children what a baby depends on for food. A baby cannot feed himself; he needs his mother (or someone) to give him food or he cannot eat. In today’s story, a king depends on God for something. Listen for what it is.

4. **Bible Story**

What three kings over God’s Old Testament people, Israel, have we learned about so far? (Saul, David, Solomon) Today’s king is King Asa. Some of the kings before Asa had not always worshiped God alone. The other kings had worshiped idols sometimes, too, so when Asa became king, there were idols and altars for the idols left in his kingdom. King Asa wanted to be a good king, like King David had been. King Asa went through the kingdom and had all the idols and their altars torn down. Asa commanded God’s people to worship God alone and to obey His commands. God blessed King Asa and gave his kingdom peace from war. God also gave Asa and his people all the food they needed.

Under King Asa, the people had ten happy, peaceful years. Then an enemy king came to attack. The enemy king was Zerah and the army was the Ethiopian army. The Ethiopian army was much bigger than the little army of Judah led by King Asa. The Ethiopian army had many bigger and better weapons. Should Asa just give up and not even fight?

Asa knew that God is much greater and more powerful than even the largest, strongest army. Asa gathered his little army and went to meet Zerah and the Ethiopians. Right before the battle, Asa prayed. “This battle will be between *their* powerful army and our little army that has no strength,” he said to God. “No one can help us but You. So help us, O Lord our God, because we depend on You. We’re fighting this huge army in *Your* name, because we are sure that you, God, are stronger than this army made of men.”

God heard King Asa’s prayer. God was pleased that Asa depended on Him alone to save the people from their enemies. God gave King Asa and the people of Judah a great victory against the Ethiopian army.

When King Asa went back to Jerusalem, a prophet of God came to see him. The prophet told Asa that God was pleased with him because he depended on God and tried to obey Him. God was pleased that Asa had been destroying the idols left over from other kings. God’s prophet told Asa to keep up the good work he was doing.

So Asa did. He destroyed more idols in the land of Judah, and even made his own mother stop being the queen because she had an idol. King Asa told the people

to seek God and to obey Him. He showed them how to do this with his own life. For many years, Asa was a good king and led the people in obeying and trusting God.

However, Asa had a sinful heart, like all people do, and Asa was not able to be a perfect king. After Asa had been king for many years, another army drew near to attack his kingdom. This time, Asa did not depend on God to save him from his enemies. Instead, King Asa felt that he needed the army from another country to help him. He did not believe that God, by Himself, would be strong enough. When Asa's enemies came to attack, King Asa took the gold and silver that belonged to God out of the temple. He sent the gold and silver to King Ben-Hadad, the king of Syria. Asa asked Ben-Hadad to help him fight against his enemies. Ben-Hadad took the gold and silver that should have belonged to God and helped King Asa fight his enemies.

God was not pleased. God sent another prophet to King Asa. This time, the prophet did not tell Asa he was doing what was good. Instead, he told Asa that he had been wrong to depend on Ben-Hadad and his army. The prophet reminded Asa of how Asa had depended on God alone when the Ethiopians attacked and how God had given him a great victory. "This time, too," the prophet said, "you should have depended on God to save you from your enemies. You have acted foolishly."

King Asa became angry at the prophet for speaking to him like this. Asa put the prophet in prison. A little later, King Asa became sick. He had a bad sickness in his feet. Even then, the Bible tells us, Asa did not depend on God to heal him. He only trusted his doctors to help him. The doctors could not give him the help he needed and King Asa died. How sad that a king who started off so well, depending on God, turned to depending on people at the end. Even a good king, like Asa, is not good enough to be king over God's people. We need a perfect king, one who always depends on God alone.

The Lord Jesus Christ is a perfect King. When he was on earth, there were many times when He was tempted to do things for Himself and not trust God to take care of him, but Jesus always trusted perfectly in God alone. Like Asa, Jesus teaches God's people to obey and to trust in God. Jesus is better than Asa, though, because Jesus can change people's hearts so that they are *able* to trust and obey God.

5. Application

Our King, Jesus, is the One God has given us to save us from our enemy, sin. God tells us to depend on Jesus alone to save us. We must not depend on how good *we* are to save us from sin. We must depend on Jesus alone. Ask Jesus to change your heart so that you will be able to trust in Him alone to save you from sin and make you able to obey God. Thank Jesus for being the perfect King, always depending on God alone, and ask Him to be *your* King.

6. Review Questions

A. What do you depend on to get you to church on Sunday morning? (A car.)

- B. What does a baby depend on for food? (His mother)
- C. Who were Bible kings supposed to depend on to save them from enemy armies? (God)
- D. What was the name of the king in today's story? (Asa)
- E. When Asa became king, what were still left in the land from other kings? (Idols and their altars)
- F. What did King Asa do about the idols? (He destroyed them)
- G. What did he do about his mother the queen, who had an idol? (He made her stop being queen.)
- H. For about ten years, King Asa and the people of Judah had peace and happiness. Then what happened? (An enemy king with a huge army came to attack.)
- I. Did King Asa surrender to them? (No.)
- J. Why not? (Asa depended on God to save him and his people from these enemies.)
- K. What did Asa do right before he went into battle against this large, enemy army? (He prayed and asked God to help them.)
- L. How did the battle turn out? (God gave Asa and his army a great victory.)
- M. What did the first prophet of God who came to Asa tell him--that God was pleased with him or not pleased with him? (That God was pleased with him.)
- N. Many years later, another army came to attack King Asa and his kingdom. What did Asa depend on this time? (He depended on the army of another country.)
- O. What did Asa use to pay the army of this other country? (Gold and silver from God's temple)
- P. Another prophet came to see Asa. What did this prophet tell Asa? (That God was not pleased with him because he depended on the other army, and not God, to save him.)
- Q. What did King Asa do to this prophet? (He put him in jail.)
- R. What kind of sickness did Asa get? (A bad sickness in his feet.)
- S. Upon whom did Asa depend for healing from his sickness? (His doctors.)
- T. Could Asa's doctors heal him? (No, he died.)
- U. What perfect King always depended on God alone while He was on earth? (Jesus.)
- V. Asa taught God's people that they should trust and obey God. What can King Jesus do that is even better? (He can change people's hearts so they are able to trust and obey God.)
- W. What is the enemy we need to be saved from? (Sin.)
- X. On whom should we depend to save us from sin? (Jesus.)
- Y. Should we depend on Jesus *and* on being good? (No, on Jesus alone)

7. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Cut out simple little figures to represent idols, enough for one for each review question. Tape these around the room. Remind the children that King Asa removed the idols from his kingdom. The children are going to help remove the idols. Each time they answer a question correctly, they may go take down one paper idol and throw it away.

Help us, Lord
our God.

We depend
on You.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOUR-SIX YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL

Lesson 10

Title: Jehoshaphat Follows God
Text: II Chronicles 20
Theme: God gives to his king victory over the enemies of God's people.

Memory Verse: *from Revelation 19:16 (Jesus is) . . . King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Give God praise for being greater and more powerful than any of the enemies of His people.
2. Trust in Jesus, the King who defeats our worst enemies, sin and death.

1. Teacher Direction

Jehoshaphat, like the other godly kings of Judah, was a picture of the perfect King God would send. In today's story, he is a picture of Christ as he leads the people of God to victory over enemies much too strong for them. Like Jesus, He goes forth to battle armed with His trust in God. We see his trust in the words of his prayer: "We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." We see his trust again in his response to God's promise that God would fight for them. Jehoshaphat leads out his army to face the foe, but places a choir singing God's praise in the very front of the army. Like every other human king, however, Jehoshaphat shows the need for a perfect, more-than-human king. At one point in his life, he allied himself by marriage with wicked King Ahab of Israel, taking the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel to marry his son. That daughter, Athaliah, went on to kill all her grandchildren (except one that was hidden) in an attempt to rule Judah. Jehoshaphat was rebuked for his sinful alliance with a Baal worshiper and evidently repented of it. Nonetheless, his sin resulted in the seven-year rule of this wicked woman over the people of God. Only our perfect King, Jesus, always acts in the best interests of God's people.

2. Introduction

After singing several praise songs with the children, point out that a choir is a group of people who sing God's praises. Ask them whether a choir would be more likely to sing a hymn or march into battle. Then ask them, "If you would not expect a choir to march into battle, who would you expect to march into battle?" They will probably say an army or soldiers. Tell them that in today's story, a choir leads an army, singing, into battle.

3. Bible Story

King Jehoshaphat was a good king, like his great-great-grandfather David had been. Jehoshaphat did not allow idols in his kingdom. He prayed to God and encouraged his people to pray to God as well. Jehoshaphat sent priests and other men who knew and loved God all through his kingdom with God's word. These men went through all the towns of Judah, teaching God's people what God taught in His word. King Jehoshaphat chose good men to be judges in the land. The judges helped God's people use God's law to decide what to do when they disagreed with each other. God blessed Jehoshaphat. God made the kingdom strong and safe, and God made the king rich.

One day, trouble came to King Jehoshaphat and his kingdom. Some men came to Jehoshaphat and told him, "A huge army is coming to fight you." This army was really three different armies, all joined together to attack the people of God in Judah. Jehoshaphat was frightened. His army was not big enough to fight an army that big. So Jehoshaphat did the best thing he could think to do--he prayed. Before he prayed, Jehoshaphat called the people of his country together so they would pray too. When everyone had gathered at the temple, Jehoshaphat stood up and led the people in prayer. He prayed, "O God, You are the King over all nations. You are more powerful than any king or any army. You have given us this land we live in, but now enemy people are coming to attack us, to try to take it away from us. We can't fight an army as big as the one that is coming. We don't know what to do, but we know You can help us, so we are trusting to You to help."

God answered King Jehoshaphat's prayer right away. He sent a message to the king through one of His prophets. This man told Jehoshaphat and the people of God, "God says, 'Don't be afraid. This will be *God's* battle, not yours. March out to meet them tomorrow, but you will not even have to fight. Just go and watch to see what God will do to save you.'" Jehoshaphat and all the people praised and worshiped God.

Do you suppose, when the next day came, it would have been hard for the people to go marching out to fight this great big army? They did not even have a plan for fighting; they were just going because God had said to go. They were trusting God to do what He had said He would do and fight for them.

King Jehoshaphat was so sure that God would protect his army and that there was no danger, that he put a choir in front of the army. The singers in the choir would be the first ones out to the battle. As the army marched, the choir sang. They sang, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever." (Pause here to ask if anyone knows what "endures" means. If no one knows, tell them that it means it lasts; it goes on. God's love lasts forever. It never ends.)

As King Jehoshaphat's army marched and sang, God began to work in the big army of the enemy. He caused two of the three armies who had joined together, to fight with the third army they had joined. The two armies destroyed the third army. Then the two armies began to fight each other. All of the soldiers in the enemy armies killed each other. When Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah got to

the battlefield, they looked down from up on a hill and saw no enemy army left. All they saw were dead soldiers.

On the way back to Jerusalem, it wasn't just the choir who was singing. All the men who had gone out to the battle rejoiced and sang praise to God. When they got home to Jerusalem, they headed straight for the temple. There they used harps and trumpets and kept singing and giving praise to God for the great victory over their enemies that he had given them.

Jehoshaphat is a picture of our King, Jesus. Jehoshaphat was willing to go to battle with the powerful enemies of God's people. He trusted God to give him the victory and God did. Jesus came to earth to go to battle against our worst enemies, sin and death. Jesus allowed men to kill Him on the cross, trusting God to give Him the victory. Jesus' death on the cross takes away the power sin had to make us its slaves. When Jesus rose from the dead, he defeated our enemy, death. Jesus is the best and most powerful King. God gives Him the greatest victory of all.

4. Application

Lead the children in praising God for being greater and more powerful than any enemy God's people could ever have. Encourage them to follow King Jesus by trusting in Him to give them victory over their worst enemies, sin and death.

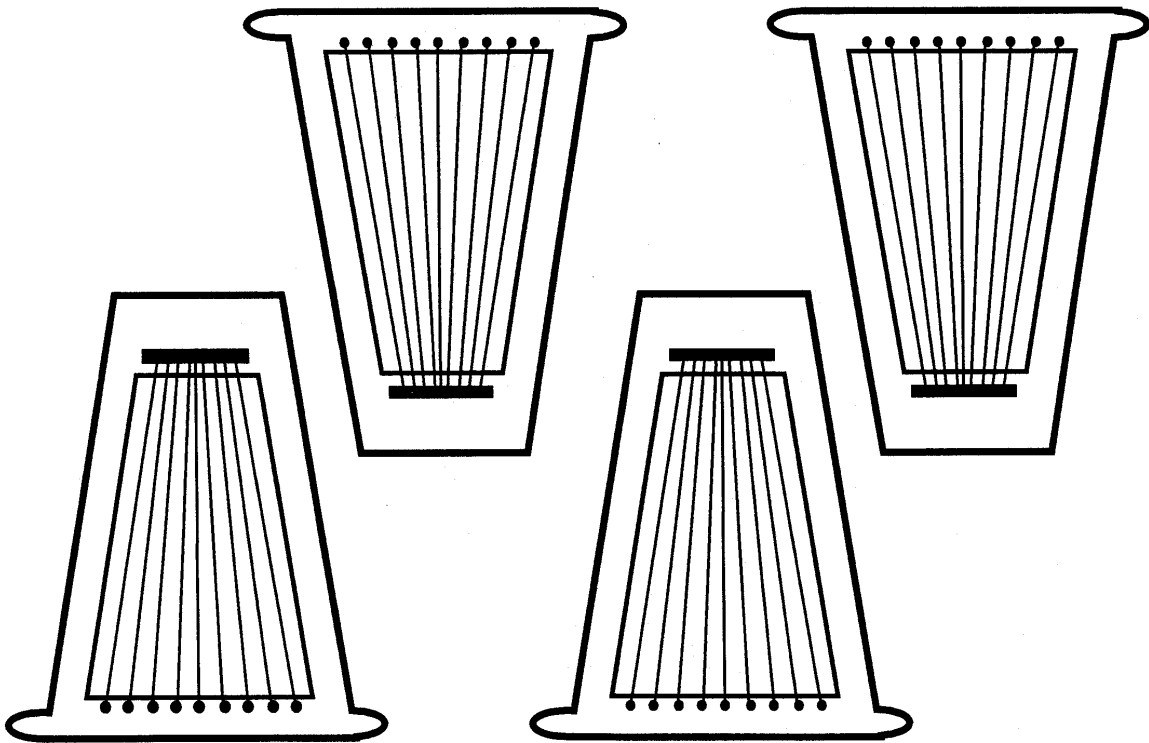
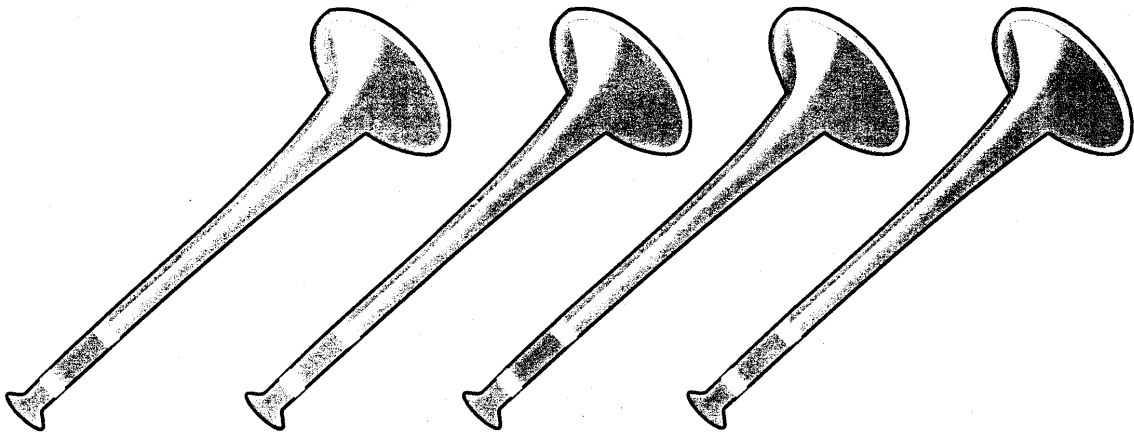
5. Review Questions

- A. What was the name of the king in today's story? (Jehoshaphat)
- B. What were some things Jehoshaphat did that showed he was a good king? (He did not allow idols, he sent priests and teachers through the land to teach God's word to the people, he gave judges the job of using God's word to settle disagreements.)
- C. What problem did men come tell Jehoshaphat about? (A big army was coming to fight them.)
- D. How many smaller armies came together to make this one big army? (Three)
- E. What did Jehoshaphat do about this? (He prayed.)
- F. What message did God give to King Jehoshaphat about the battle? (God would do the fighting; God's people would not have to do anything.)
- G. When did God say Jehoshaphat and his army were to go out to the battle? (The next day.)
- H. What did King Jehoshaphat put in the front of his army? (A choir or singers singing praise to God.)
- I. Why did he do that? Wouldn't the choir get killed if they were in the very front of the army? (Jehoshaphat believed God that his army would not have to fight.)
- J. What did God do in the enemy army? (He caused the three different armies to fight with each other until they had destroyed each other.)
- K. When Jehoshaphat and his army arrived at the battlefield, what did they see? (Only dead enemy soldiers.)
- L. What did Jehoshaphat and his army do when they got back to Jerusalem? (Praised God.)
- M. What did they use to praise God? (Trumpets and harps.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Make up a simple tune to go with the words the choir sang (“Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures forever”). Teach this to the children, then have them line up and pretend to be the choir and army, marching to battle and singing.

B. Copy the attached trumpet, harp, and music note shapes on construction paper of assorted colors. Cut out the shapes before class and let the children choose some to glue to a piece of white construction paper. As they work, remind them that the people praised God with trumpets, harps, and singing when God gave them the victory over their enemies.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOUR-SIX YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL

Lesson 11

Title: Hezekiah Brings God's People to God in Worship
Text: II Chronicles 29-30
Theme: God's king brings the people of God before Him to worship and obey.

Memory Verse: *from Revelation 19:16* *(Jesus is) . . . King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

1. Teacher Direction

Today's story shows us King Hezekiah performing one of the most important functions of God's king. Hezekiah brought the people of God to their God to worship Him. The Old Testament kings were to serve more as regents, calling the people to serve and obey their true King, God. Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, had closed the temple and sacrificed to the gods of the neighboring nations. Hezekiah first cleansed and purified the temple, destroying all idols. Then he sent messengers throughout not only Judah, but Israel also, calling the people to repentance and inviting them to come to the temple to celebrate the Passover. The Passover was celebrated its usual seven days, then, at the request of the people, celebrated another seven. The result was that "God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, His holy dwelling place." However, the repentance and commitment of the people were only partial and they did not last long. Like Hezekiah, our King, Jesus, calls us to repent and worship the true God. Our King is greater than Hezekiah. Our King cleanses our hearts of sin *and* works a permanent change in our hearts. When our King brings us into the presence of God, it is so we may worship Him there forever.

2. Learning Readiness Activity

Bring stickers, glitter, fancy markers, etc. Give each child a copy (or several copies) of the "Come, let us worship" page, folded over, with the words on the inside, to make a simple card. They are to prepare these "invitations" to give to parents, siblings, or friends. As they work, talk with the children about the importance of worshiping together with God's people. Encourage them to invite the people they know to worship with them next Sunday. Tell them that the king in today's story sent thousands of people invitations to worship.

3. Bible Story

King Ahaz had been a very bad king. King Ahaz had closed the temple to keep people from worshiping there. King Ahaz had prayed to and worshiped the idols of the countries around Judah. Ahaz died and his son, Hezekiah, became king. Hezekiah wanted to be the kind of king God wanted him to be. He set out right

away to change all the bad things his father had done. King Hezekiah opened the temple. He hired workers to clean it and to repair anything that was broken and to get it all ready to use again. Hezekiah got rid of all his father's idols.

Once the temple was clean and ready to use, King Hezekiah prepared invitations. Maybe his invitations were like the ones you made this morning, but Hezekiah would have needed thousands of them. Hezekiah sent his invitations to all the people in his own kingdom of Judah. He sent more invitations next door to the kingdom of Israel. All the invitations invited the people to come to the temple in Jerusalem to worship God for seven days. Not everyone came, but many, many people were glad to get the invitations. These people packed what they would need for the trip and for seven days in Jerusalem. Mothers prepared food to eat on the way. Fathers made sure they had enough water to take along.

When it was time to go, most of the people walked. Some rode donkeys. It was fun, traveling with God's people and visiting with each other along the way. The people were glad King Hezekiah had planned this special time of worship. When they got to Jerusalem, people bathed and changed their clothes. Fathers bought animals to offer at the temple as sacrifices.

Then the seven days of worship began. Every day, the people sang praises to God and played music to Him on instruments. Every day, sacrifices were offered. Hezekiah made sure everyone had everything they needed to continue to worship God. As the people thought about how wonderful God is and as they sang His praise, they rejoiced more and more. They were so glad Hezekiah had invited him. In fact, when the seven days of worship were ended, the people did not want to stop. They did not want to go home. They decided to stay to worship and praise God another seven days, and they did. The Bible tells us this was a time of great joy for the people of God. It also tells us, that as they worshiped and prayed, "God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven," where He was. God gave His people a good king when He gave them Hezekiah. Hezekiah led God's people to worship God. However, as soon as Hezekiah was gone and another king took his place, the people went right back to worshiping idols and disobeying God. When God gave us King Jesus, He gave us a perfect King. Jesus died on the cross so He could wash us clean from all our sins. If we trust in Him to make us clean from our sin, we can come to God to worship Him. Jesus does more than just make our hearts clean from sin, though. He also *changes* people's hearts, so that they want to love and worship God all the rest of their lives, not just for a little while. Our King Jesus invites us to worship God. Then He gives us a love for God that lasts and that keeps us worshiping Him forever.

4. Application

Remind the children again of the importance of worshiping God, but add that they can only come to God in worship if their hearts have been cleansed from sin. Encourage them to trust Jesus to forgive their sin and make their hearts clean. Encourage them to ask Him to change their hearts and give them a love for God that will last forever.

5. Review Questions

- A. What was the name of the (good) king in today's story? (Hezekiah)
- B. What did Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, do that was not good? (Closed the temple and worshiped idols.)
- C. When Hezekiah became king, what did he do to the temple? (He opened it and had it cleaned and repaired.)
- D. What did Hezekiah do with his father's idols? (He destroyed them.)
- E. What did Hezekiah send to people all over his kingdom and to people in the neighboring kingdom? (Invitations to come to Jerusalem to worship.)
- F. How long were they planning to worship? (Seven days.)
- G. When the seven days were over, how much longer did the people stay in Jerusalem, worshipping? (Seven more days.)
- H. Did the people continue to love and worship God when Hezekiah was no longer king? (No, they went back to worshipping idols.)
- I. Our King, Jesus, invites us to worship God. When we trust in Jesus, what does He do about our hearts, dirty with sin? (He takes away our sin so our hearts will be clean.)
- J. What does our King, Jesus, do to our hearts so that we will keep loving God, and not change back again like the people in our story? (He changes our hearts so we will go on loving God all our lives.)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activity

Walk through this simple pantomime/role play. Deliver pieces of paper to each child, pretending they are invitations from King Hezekiah. As each child gets one, he or she may get up, pretend to pack his or her things, and go stand in the line of people preparing to leave for Jerusalem. Once everyone is in line, they may make the journey. Upon arriving in Jerusalem, have them go to the temple and sing a praise song or two. Then have them count slowly to seven, to show that seven days have gone by. Ask them if they want to go home; they are to shout, "No." Tell them they may stay another seven days. Have them sing another praise song, count slowly to seven again for the second seven days, then line up to start the journey back home.

Come,
Let Us
Worship

CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOUR-SIX YEAR-OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL

Lesson 12

Title: King Josiah Obeys God's Word
Text: II Chronicles 34-35
Theme: God's King Submits to the Authority of God's Word

Memory Verse: *from Revelation 19:16 (Jesus is) . . . King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. Understand that God's king is not free to do anything he likes. Instead, he is under God's authority.
2. Give thanks to Jesus for being the perfect King who always obeyed God perfectly.
3. Ask Jesus to work in his or her own heart to give the desire to obey God's word.

1. Teacher Direction

King Josiah is the last of the good kings of Judah. Because of the wickedness of former kings and their subjects, God had already determined to destroy Jerusalem and send His people into captivity. When King Josiah learned what God's word required, he responded rightly with repentance and fear of God's judgment. Although it was too late to save Jerusalem from destruction, Josiah's godly response prolonged the disaster until after his death. Josiah's own heartfelt desire was to obey the word of God, and, as long as he was living, he led the people in living in obedience to it as well. At the end of his life, however, Josiah failed to submit to God's authority. When leading Judah into battle against the king of Egypt, Josiah received a message from God *not* to be involved in this battle. He ignored it and was fatally wounded in the fight. In addition, his people came under Egyptian rule. Again we see our need for a sinless King who obeys God without fail and who can work in us to bring us to love and obey God's word.

2. Learning Readiness Activities

A. Bring a variety of colored paper to class, along with colored yarn and slips of paper with the Bible words printed on them. As children come in, they choose a piece of colored paper. Help them glue the Bible words on the paper, then show them how to roll the paper up like a scroll. Explain to the children that God's people have had God's Word for a long time--even before there were books. Before there were books, people wrote God's words on scrolls, like the one they just made. Bring a small bucket or other container from home to show how scrolls were stored by placing all the children's scrolls in the bucket. When the children are ready to leave, they can choose a piece of colored yarn for you to tie around their scroll.

B. We have been learning about the kings in Bible times, and about Jesus, the perfect king. A king is the one everyone else has to obey. Whom do you have to obey at your house? (Mommy and Daddy) Whom do children in a classroom obey? (the teacher) Whom do people driving on the road have to obey? (the policeman) A king is obeyed by everyone who lives around him. Whatever he says, people do. As soon as the people hear the king say something, they obey! Whenever the king speaks, the people say something like this: "I hear and I obey." Can you say that with me? We're going to pretend that I'm the king. Whenever I say to do something, you'll all say, "I hear and I obey," and then you'll do it.

Give a number of directions, such as "Stand on one leg"; "Wave at the person next to you"; "Sit down on the floor" etc. preceding each instruction with "The king says..." As the children follow the directions, encourage them to say, "I hear and I obey."

3. Bible Story

Prepare these props ahead of time: a simple crown for you to wear, a piece of paper tied up like a scroll, a broom from home. Begin the story by placing the crown on your head.

The king in today's story was named Josiah. He was the king of God's people. Before Josiah became king, God's people were not acting like God's people. They never read God's Word. They had let the temple become very dirty and broken down. They were praying to idols instead of to God.

One day, King Josiah noticed how dirty and broken the temple was. "We should clean that up," King Josiah thought. "Workmen! Clean and fix the temple," King Josiah said. What do you think the workmen said? Lead the children in responding with, "I hear and I obey." Remove the crown from your head. Using a broom and dust pan brought from home, "clean" in a corner of the classroom where, previously, you have hidden a scroll. As the workers cleaned, they found an old scroll. Pick up the scroll and pretend to examine it, saying, "Hmmm, I wonder what this is." Open the scroll and pretend to read. Then say, "This is God's Word!"

Now, no one had even seen the Word of God for years and years. No one remembered what it said. It had been lost for a long time. So the workmen took it to the king's servant and the king's servant took it to the king. "Look," the servant said to the king. "We found this when we were cleaning the temple," and then he read from it to the king.

Open the scroll, pretending to read. This is what God's Word says: Study God's Word. Worship only God. Don't pray to idols; pray to God alone. Worship God in the temple. Were God's people doing these things? No, they were not. And King Josiah knew it. When King Josiah heard God's Word and knew God's people were not doing it, he was very sad. What do you do when you're very sad? Listen to children's answers. In King Josiah's time, someone showed he was very sad by tearing his clothes. So as King Josiah listened to God's Word that the people had disobeyed, he tore his clothes.

Put the crown on and pretend to tear at your clothes. Then pretend to pray. King Josiah told God he was sorry that he and the people had not been obeying God's

Word. Then he called all the people together and read to them from the scroll of God's Word.

Not only did King Josiah read God's Word to the people...he obeyed it. It said, "Worship only God" and "Don't pray to idols," so he went throughout the land, destroying every idol. There were many of them but he burned them all. He taught the people to worship God again. King Josiah knew that even though he was the king everyone obeyed, he had to obey God's Word. When he heard God's Word, he said, "I hear and I obey."

Jesus is *our* King. Jesus said that He *always* obeyed God. Do you think King Josiah could have said, "I *always* obey God's word?" Of course not. Like every other human being, Josiah was a sinner and, sometimes, he did not obey God's word. At the end of Josiah's life, God told him *not* to go to a certain battle, but he went anyway and he was killed in the battle. Josiah was a good king and he *usually* obeyed God. He *usually* led God's people in obeying God. We need a king who *always* obeys God. Jesus is that King.

4. Application

Tell the children that after King Josiah was killed in battle, the people went back to their wicked ways. Tell them that our King, Jesus, always obeys God *and* changes people's hearts so they will want to obey God too. Encourage them to follow Jesus as *their* King. Lead them in asking Him to work in their hearts and to make them want to obey God, all the time.

5. Review Questions

- A. Who was the king in today's story? (King Josiah)
- B. Who had to obey the king? (Everybody)
- C. Whom did the king have to obey? (God)
- D. What did the king tell the workmen to do? (Clean and fix the temple)
- E. What did the workmen find? (the scroll of God's Word)
- F. What did the king do when God's Word was read to him? (He tore his clothes.)
- G. Why? (He was sad because God's people were not obeying God's Word.)
- H. What else did King Josiah do? (destroyed the idols, etc.)
- I. Did Josiah *always* obey God's word perfectly? (No)
- J. Who does? (Jesus)

6. Learning Reinforcement Activities

- A. Lead the children in a game like the one they played with "The King says." This time, hold up the Bible and say, "The Bible says..." Lead the children in responding, "I hear and I obey" and in acting out instructions such as "Pray to God" (get on knees and bow head); "Read God's Word" (open hands like holding a book); "Don't pray to idols" (shake head and forefinger sternly).
- B. Play "Find the Scroll." Have the children hide their eyes as you hide the scroll in a different place each time. Tell them to pretend that they are the workmen, cleaning and

fixing the temple, and encourage them to try to find the scroll. Another variation is to let the children take turns hiding the scroll while the others wait with closed eyes.

C. Have the children open the scrolls they made. Tell them the words say, "I desire to do Your will, O my God." Explain "desire" as meaning "want to." Tell the children that Jesus said these words (see Hebrews 10) and that King Josiah could have said them too. Jesus can make *us* desire to do God's will. Lead the children in "reading" the words from their scrolls, rolling them up, and opening them again to "read." Do this several times.

Have the children stand in a circle. Pass a scroll around the circle. When each child has the scroll, he says the next word of the verse. Younger children will enjoy saying each word all together.

I desire to do Your will, O my God.

I desire to do Your will, O my God.

I desire to do Your will, O my God.

I desire to do Your will, O my God.

I desire to do Your will, O my God.

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CHILDREN'S CHURCH FOUR-SIX YEAR OLDS
CURRICULUM YEAR 2, FALL

Lesson 13

Title: God Promises a Perfect King for His People
Text: Isaiah 9:6-7
Theme: God's Old Testament kings pictured the king who would come and showed the need for a perfect, sinless king. God promised to send such a king and kept His promise by sending Christ.

Memory Verse: *from Revelation 19:16* “(Jesus) is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”

Teaching Objectives: By God's grace, each child will:

1. See how kings from Bible times showed the perfect king God would send and see the need for a better king than any of those kings could be.
2. Thank God for keeping His promise to send the perfect King for God's people.
3. Accept Jesus as his or her own king, asking Him to work in his heart to make him able to follow Jesus and obey God.

1. Teacher Direction

Today we complete a thirteen week series on kings over God's people. We will review the kings we have discussed and we will remind the children of how those kings were pictures of the perfect king God had promised. We will also see again how nothing but a perfect King would do. We will look at one of the many Old Testament prophecies for this perfect King and see how the promise was fulfilled when God sent Jesus. This will be a natural lead-in to the series on Jesus' first advent that we will begin next week.

2. Bible Story

It would be best to have flannelgraph figures or Bible story pictures or a combination of both to help hold the children's attention for this review lesson.

We have had twelve stories about kings from Bible times. It was always God's plan to send Jesus to be a good, wise, and powerful king for His people. The men who were kings before Jesus came were to be pictures of what God's perfect king would be like. Some of them were good pictures of what Jesus would be like. Some of them were not as good, but none of them were perfect. Every king, at one time or another, sinned and did something that was bad for God's people. In this way, God's people would see that they needed a king who was more than human and who had no sin that would cause him to do bad things.

God chose Saul to be the first king over His Old Testament people. So Samuel, the prophet of God, anointed Saul. Do you remember what “anoint” means? (It is to pour oil on someone's head to show that he is the one God has chosen for king.) Was Saul an obedient king? (No.) God told Saul to destroy all the enemy soldiers and all they had, but Saul kept some of the best cows and sheep, saying he wanted to offer them as sacrifices. God said that obedience is much better than sacrifices and told Saul he would not be able to keep being king. God was showing the people that His king had to obey perfectly, all the time.

Do you remember who the next king was, the one that God said was a man after His own heart? (David.) Do you remember what David's job was before he was king? (He was a shepherd.) David loved his sheep and took very good care of them. When he became king, he loved God's people and took very good care of them too. God was showing the people that the perfect king would be like a good shepherd, protecting them and caring for them.

Before David began his work as king, he fought one of the enemies of God's people. Do you remember who it was? (The giant, Goliath.) David was just a boy with stones and a slingshot. Goliath was a huge man, with a sword and spear. How could David fight this enemy and win? (God made him able to do it.) God was showing His people that His perfect king would be stronger than all their enemies.

Do you remember what David wanted to build for God? (A house or a temple.) God told David that his son would build the temple, and then God made a wonderful promise to David. David was a very good king, but he could not live and be the king of God's people forever. God promised David that God would make someone from David's family a king over God's people and that One would be King forever. Who was God talking about? (Jesus.)

One of our stories was about a big mistake David made. Do you remember what the mistake was? It was something about his army. . . (He counted all the men for his army to see how big his army was.) God said His kings were not to do this, because it showed that they were trusting their armies to take care of them, and not God. God told David to choose his punishment: three years of not enough food for his country *or* three months of losing battles to enemies *or* three days of bad sickness through his whole land. Do you remember which one David chose? (Three days of sickness.) 70,000 people of Israel died--because of David's sin. God was showing the people that they needed a king who would always do what was right, because when a king does wrong, it hurts his people.

David's son was the next king. Do you remember his name? (Solomon.) Solomon *did* build a house for God or a temple. It was grand and glorious. God gave Solomon the chance to ask for anything he wanted. Do you remember what Solomon asked for? (Wisdom to rule wisely over God's people.) God was so pleased that he gave Solomon greater wisdom than anyone had ever had and he gave him three other things as well. Do you remember any of them? (Great riches, long life, victory over all enemy armies.) God was showing His people that His king would need great wisdom to rule wisely and well. While Solomon was king, the kingdom of Israel was rich and safe and at peace. God was showing His people that when His perfect King came, they would have everything they needed and more, and they would be safe from all enemies and be at peace.

The next king we learned about was King Asa. At the beginning of his life, Asa trusted in God alone for everything he needed. What did King Asa do when a large army came to attack him and his kingdom? (He prayed.) God gave Asa and his people a great victory over the large enemy army. Later, though, another army came to attack King Asa and this time, Asa did not trust God. He paid for the army from another country to help him, and he used God's silver and gold from the temple to pay the soldiers. God was showing His people that His perfect King must always trust God completely.

The next king was Jehoshaphat. He did something strange when he sent his army into battle. Do you remember what it was? (He sent a choir singing God's praise in front of the army.) Three armies had joined together to fight Jehoshaphat and his army. God said His people would not even have to fight these three armies. Do you remember why Jehoshaphat's army did not have to fight? (God caused the three armies to quarrel with each other, they began to fight, and they ended up killing each other.) **Then we had a story about King Hezekiah, who sent something to all the people in his country and in the neighboring country as well. Do you remember what he sent? (He sent invitations to come to Jerusalem to worship God.) Many people came to worship and were so glad to worship that they stayed seven days more than they had planned. God was showing His people that His true King would bring His people to Him to worship Him. After Hezekiah died, though, the people stopped worshipping God. They needed a king who could change their hearts forever, so they would keep following God.**

Our last king story was the story of King Josiah. King Josiah ordered his workmen to clean up the temple and while they were cleaning, they found something. What was it? (A scroll with God's word.) When they read God's word to King Josiah, he tore his clothes. Do you remember why? (He was very sad because his people had not been doing what God's word said to do.) He told God how wrong they were and asked for forgiveness. Then he had the word of God read to the people and he led them in turning back to God and obeying God's word. God was showing the people that His perfect King would do God's will and lead God's people in doing God's will.

When Josiah died, though, the people of God turned back to their wicked ways again. There were four more kings of God's people, none of them good kings. Finally, because of all the bad things they had done, God caused His people to lose to their enemies. The enemy soldiers destroyed their city and took them away as prisoners. There were no longer any kings and there was no longer a kingdom to rule.

God did not want His people to be hopelessly sad, though, so He sent many prophets with many promises. One promise God kept telling His people over and over was that they would have a king again. This King would be a better king than any king God's people had ever had. He would be like King David, loving and caring for the people and loving and serving God--only He would be even better.

God promised that this king would come as a little baby boy. He would be called by many special names. He would be called "Wonderful Counselor." A counselor is a wise person who gives good advice. God's perfect King would be even wiser than Solomon. This king would be called "Mighty God," because He would be more than just a man; He would be God, too. Since He was God, this King would be mightier and stronger than any king had ever been. God's perfect king would be called "Everlasting Father." So many times, God's people were good while a good king was alive, but when he died, they went back to worshipping idols. God's perfect king would be king forever. God promised through the prophets that this King would always be good and do what was right. He would change the hearts of His people so they could be good and do what is right also. God promised that it would surely happen; His perfect King would come to rule over God's people.

Who is the perfect King that God's prophets spoke about? (Jesus.) He has come, just as God promised. Jesus is the King over everything. Everyone and everything in the world must obey this King, and King Jesus controls everything that happens. Right now, some people choose not to follow this King. God has promised that a day will come when those people will be punished forever. He has given us a perfect King and we are to obey and serve that King.

3. Application

God wants you to choose to serve and to obey the King He has given. This King Jesus, can change your heart so you will love Him and serve God. Encourage the children to choose to follow Jesus as their King and to ask Him to change them so they will be able to follow Him.

4. Learning Reinforcement Activities

A. Play a review game, using the pictures and flannelgraph figures from the story, along with figures or pictures representing a throne, a castle, a bottle of oil for anointing, a crown. As you hold up each one, call on a volunteer to tell you one thing they know about this item or person or story. Then call on another child to tell you about one other thing about this. Continue until no one has any more information to add and go on to the next figure or picture. As you go through the review, seize every opportunity to relate stories and persons back to Jesus Christ our King.

B. Say the memory verse together several times, then practice it in this way. Use a taped praise song, preferably one about Jesus as King. Have the children stand in a circle and pass a paper crown or throne while the music plays. Stop the music every now and then. The person holding the crown when the music stops says the verse, then the music--and the passing of the crown--begin again.

