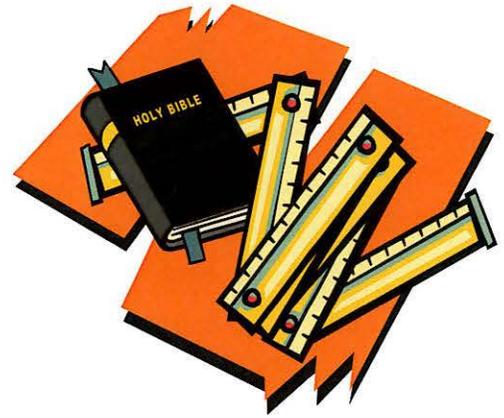


Lesson 9

The End of Judah

Theme: Obedience — Respecting God’s commands

Sunday Morning Lesson



Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Measure What You Know!

Memory Verse: Print the Memory Verse several times on large cards, each time gradually making the type size smaller. Mark a line on the floor with tape about six feet from the wall. Tell the students that you will give them a vision test. Have all students stand behind the line. Hold up the Memory Verse card with the largest type size, and have all students read it out loud together. Work your way through to the card with the smallest type size, having students read the verse each time. As you get to the smaller type size, begin complimenting the group on their eyesight. Act amazed when they manage to “read” the last card, noting that they must have memorized the verse.

Prayer

Teaching Today’s Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 2 Kings 23:25-27. Have reading students find and mark 2 Kings 23:25 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today’s events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by showing a map of the Divided Kingdom. Discuss whether today’s lesson pertains to Israel and Judah.
5. Introduce Lesson Graphics and other props using the “God’s Rule Scale” as described on page 10 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Measuring by God’s Rule Lesson Graphics* and other props such as paper crowns and a scroll.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students’ ages:

- King Amon was a wicked king of Judah.
 - Amon's son Josiah became king when he was eight years old, and Josiah was such a good king that God compared him to King David.
 - As the temple was being repaired, a scroll of the Law of God was found
 - When Josiah heard the laws that Judah had disobeyed, he tore his robes and had the Law read to the people.
 - Josiah led the people away from idolatry and back to God, so God promised not to punish Judah in Josiah's lifetime.
 - When Josiah died and his son Jehoiakim became king, God had Babylon and their king Nebuchadnezzar raid and burn the temple.
 - Some of the people of Judah were taken into Babylonian captivity and slavery, leaving the poorest people in Jerusalem to be slaves there.
 - God's punishment for the wicked may be delayed, but it is sure and certain.
8. As the teacher begins class, she discovers that her Bible is lost. She is upset about it and starts looking for it. She gets the students to help her find it. She makes a big deal of it when the Bible is found. Tie this into finding the law of God in the Temple during the days of Josiah.
 9.  Before you tell the story, reveal a paper or plastic crown, a scroll, lesson graphics, and pictures of an Old Testament Passover feast. Allow students to tell how they think these items will fit into lesson story.
 10. After reading 2 Kings 22:1-5, 8, 10-13, 19-20; 2 Kings 23:1-4, 21-23, 25-27, tell the story of Josiah, the good things he did, his death, the evil kings following him, and the captivity of the people of Judah. Allow students to tell how the items, listed above in #9, accurately fit into the story. Discuss that it was wonderful that Josiah led the people to follow God, but that this was not enough to undo all the wickedness that had occurred. God would still punish the nation of Judah and bring it to an end as He did the nation of Israel.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 9

The End of Judah

Theme: Obedience — Respecting God’s commands

Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Measure What You Know!

Memory Verse: Repeat the vision test from Sunday morning with three cards, larger type size to smaller. Ask “Who, What, When, and Why?” about the Memory Verse, discussing what the verse means and how it relates to the quarter’s study.

Prayer

Starter

Lauren was getting ready to go to Bible Study. She went to get her Bible from its regular place, and it wasn’t there. She looked all around the house and under the furniture, but didn’t find it. Finally, it was time to go. Lauren’s Bible class teacher had talked to the students about always bringing their Bibles to class. Lauren borrowed a Bible from her Mom so she would have one.

When Lauren’s family got home from worship, they made an all-out search for the missing Bible, but no one found it. Several days passed and still no Bible. Weeks went by while Lauren used her Mom’s extra copy.

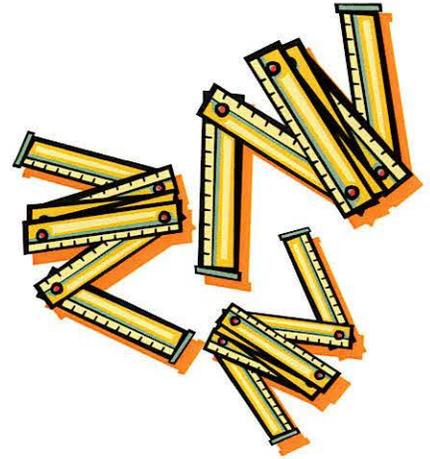
One day in Bible class, the teacher was giving a test. She asked the students to put their books under their desks. When Lauren slid her Bible and workbook in the desk, guess what she found? Her Bible was in the desk where she had put it a few months before. Lauren was so excited about finding her Bible that she told the story of the lost Bible to her class. This is a good time to tell the story from the Bible about a nation that lost its Bible.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** Review the story of finding the lost book, the growing circle of people who heard it read, and the impact it had in people’s lives.

In retelling the story of finding the Bible in the temple from 2 Kings 22-23, show how it was read to different groups and the impact the reading had.

- Hilkiah, the high priest, reported the book of the law was found in the temple. He knew it needed attention and sent it to the king of Judah.



- Shaphan, the scribe, read the book to Josiah the king. Josiah tore his clothes and gathered more information from the Lord.
- Josiah, accompanied by the elders of Judah and Jerusalem, went to the house of the Lord. The king gathered everyone and read to them from the words of the book. People agreed to enter a covenant with God.

 2. *Objective: Illustrate “finding” the law of God and how this can change lives.*

Have “scrolls” hidden around the room that have review questions on them. Have at least one scroll per student. For older students, the scrolls may contain situations that may occur in their lives in which they need to turn and go another way. Give the students time to find the scrolls. Have each student read her scroll and answer the question or tell how she can make the changes necessary to turn to God.

Examples of situations:

- Your life is centered on yourself instead of on God and His Way.
- You obey your parents only when it’s what you want to do.
- You don’t like your teacher, so you don’t listen to her.
- You watch TV and play games instead of doing your Bible lesson.
- You pass notes to your friends during the sermons.
- You say bad words since everyone else is using them.

 3. *Objective: Understanding why God punished Judah.*

Give the class one piece of heavy paper. Give each student a pair of scissors. Have them cut the paper into small pieces. Jumble all of the pieces together and ask them to put it back together using scotch tape. After a few minutes, stop the work. Discuss how the kings of Judah had “torn up” the nation with their wickedness to the point that it could never be repaired, even by good kings like Joash and Josiah.

4. *Objective: Review the account of the end of Judah and Jerusalem to teach obedience to God.*

Read from the Bible selected verses about the end of Judah and Jerusalem from 2 Kings 24:10-21. Talk with the students about how great the nation was under David and Solomon, and how sad it was that the kings and people chose not to obey the Lord completely. Have a heart to heart talk with your students about everyone deciding to obey God completely.

Measuring Kings: Measure Ahaz (2 Kings 16:1-4)

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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