



October 9, 2016

Dear Teacher,

This week we see King David, the man after God's own heart, sin. David's sin causes much ruin and heartache not just for him, but also for many, many people. While we will not dive into the specifics of David's sin with Bathsheba, it will be important to stress to children that while David sins, and we do too, God is the only one who can and willingly forgives us. This would be a great week to discuss our October Scripture memory verse, Psalm 51:1.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Kings: A Good King Sins*

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11-12, 15-16 (selected portions)

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 73-74 (Pages 155-159); Jesus StoryBook Bible, Pages 130-135.

Teaching Points:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps his promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God was with His people, the Israelites, and He never left them.
- God's people wanted a king, so God gave His people what they wanted: King Saul.
- King Saul did not follow the Lord's command, so God chose another man to be king: David.
- King David loved God and trusted God.
- King David sinned against God by taking Bathsheba as his wife. This has severe consequences.
- Nathan confronts King David about his sin; David looks to God for forgiveness, which God gives willingly.
- King David has to endure the consequences of his sin; one of those consequences is his son, Absalom, taking the kingdom from David.
- David is forced to flee and once again trust that God will keep His promises to him.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Lace Heart

Supplies: Cardstock heart, yarn lace, verse sticker, crayons/markers, tape

Instructions: Place verse in center of heart, lace yarn through holes, secure lace ends, color heart if desired.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Sandal

Supplies: Foam board sandal, paper strips, verse sticker, crayons/markers, tape

Instructions: Place verse sticker at heel side of sandal, decorate 2 strips, attach one end of each strip to back of sandal with tape, criss cross strips and attach opposite end to back of sandal.



Story: Kings: A Good King Sins

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Review with children what makes a king or queen a good ruler? And what makes a king or queen a bad ruler? Ask them to listen to the story to see if they think David is a good king or bad king this week.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Psalm 51:1)

Catechism Questions (1-11)

Sing Songs (optional)

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was the good king who sinned?
- What was the name of David's two sons?
- Where did Absalom hang out in the city?
- Who else sins?
- Who loves us and forgives us when we sin?

Questions for Older Children:

- What was one of the bad things that David did?
- What was the beautiful lady's name?
- What was her husband's name?
- Who did God send to tell David he had sinned?
- How did David feel about his sin?
- How did David feel about God's forgiveness?

Scripture Memory for October:

"God, be merciful to me because you are loving. Because you are always ready to be merciful, wipe out all my wrongs." Psalm 51:1

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*

Story

Review

Boys and girls, last week we learned that David had become king; do you remember if David was a good king or a bad king? (Good king) Well this week we learn that David was not always a good king. Let's find out more in our story.

A Big Battle

The Bible tells us that springtime was a time of year when armies and kingdoms fought in battle. The Bible doesn't tell us quite why, but it was probably over land and territory. David gathered his troops and sent them out to defend Israel's land and to protect God's people. David was supposed to go with his army because David was the leader and king of the army. But instead of going with his army out to battle, David sent his commander, Joab [**pronunciation:** Joe-ab]; David stayed behind in his palace in Jerusalem. Joab was a great commander and David trusted him greatly. Joab lead the army against Israel's enemy the Ammonites.

On A Rooftop

The Bible says one evening David got up from his bed and walked outside. Back in those days the roof on a house didn't look like what a roof on a house does now. It wasn't pointed so people could go out and walk on their roof, right on top of their houses. It was flat there and sometimes a railing was placed around the edges. Maybe David just wanted to take a deep breath of fresh spring air.

As David was looking about from the roof he saw a lady. David thought she was a very beautiful lady. David called one of his servants and told them, "Find out who that lady is." The servant answered, "Isn't that Bathsheba [**pronunciation:** bath-she-ba]? She is Uriah's [**pronunciation:** you-rye-ah] wife." (Bathsheba was married.) Uriah was a soldier in David's army, so he was fighting with Joab and the other soldiers. He was a good man. Uriah was fighting for Israel while David was resting in the palace.

But David didn't care whether Bathsheba was married or not. David decided that he wanted Bathsheba to be his wife. And so David did a terrible thing. He called his servants and told them to go get Bathsheba and bring her to the palace right then. Because David was the king of Israel he was a very powerful man and everyone listened to him and obeyed him, so his servants did just what David said and Bathsheba become his wife. But the Bible is very clear – a person cannot have someone else's wife or husband. You have to have and love your own! It's a sin when someone does that. Good King David had sinned. And he sinned more too. After Bathsheba had come to the palace,

David told lies and did other horrible things to hurt her husband Uriah. The Bible says, “But the thing David had done displeased the LORD.”

God was not happy with David’s sin. Maybe David thought no one else would really ever know. But you see, God saw what was going on. God had said it was wrong and nothing else really mattered. But even though God was unhappy with David’s sin, God still loved David; but God was not going to let David get away with his sin. So God sent a messenger to tell David what God wanted David to know. The messenger was Nathan. Nathan was a prophet, which means he spoke God’s words to God’s people.

Nathan and David

Nathan came to the palace to see King David. He knew everything that David had done, but he didn’t tell David, not at first anyway. Instead Nathan told David a story: Once there were two men living in a town. One man was very rich and the other man was very poor. The rich man had lots and lots of sheep and cattle, but the poor man only had one little lamb. The poor man had the lamb for a long time. He had raised it and watched it grow. The poor man loved his lamb. One day a traveler came into town and this traveler wanted to buy a sheep. The traveler went to the rich man who had lots of sheep and cattle. But instead of giving the traveler one of his own animals, the rich man took the little lamb that belonged to the poor man and gave it to the traveler. The rich man had robbed the poor man to give it to the traveler.

King David was so angry when he heard the story he told Nathan, “That rich man must pay for the little lamb and three times more!” David was angry because the rich man had sinned greatly and had no pity for the poor man. Then God’s prophet, Nathan, said some very important words to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king over Israel, and I saved you from Saul. I have given you many things and if all of this had been too little, I would have given you even more.” Nathan went on, “Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You took Uriah’s wife!”

David knew what he had done. David had no excuses. The Bible tells us David spoke these words to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” David looked to God for forgiveness. And you know what? God forgave David. Nathan then told David even more important words, “The Lord has taken away your sin.” In Psalm 51 David wrote about his sin and God’s great love for him. David wrote, “God, be merciful to me because you are loving. Because you are always ready to be merciful, wipe out all my wrongs.” David knew that he was sinful and needed God’s forgiveness, and David knew that only God could forgive him.

Very sadly this would not be the end of the story. Some very, very sad things happened to David because of his sin. We call those things consequences. God allows consequences to happen in our lives to teach us that we must obey Him. He does that because He loves us. One of those consequences would happen with David’s son Absalom.

Absalom, Absalom!

Years later after David had sinned, God told David that there would be consequences to his sin. David and Bathsheba had a baby boy named Solomon. David loved Solomon greatly, probably more than any of his other children. David secretly wanted Solomon to be king someday, but many other people thought another of David’s sons should be king. This son’s name was Absalom [**pronunciation:** abs-so-lam]. The Bible tells us that Absalom was a very handsome man and was well liked by everyone in Jerusalem. Absalom, though, was very sneaky and crafty. He would sit at the city gates and wait for travelers from far away who were coming into the city. He would stop the weary travelers and ask them what business they had in the capital city. When the travelers spoke of going to see King David, Absalom would say to them, “Oh the king? Well the king is busy, but I am his son Absalom, let me help you with your problems.” Absalom would go on to say, “You know if I were king of the land, well, I would make time to see everyone and to help each person.” And Absalom would help the travelers instead of letting them see King David. Absalom did this so many people would like him and say great things about him. Absalom was well liked by the people of Israel, and many thought he would be the next king of Israel.

A Plan Set In Motion

We do not know how, but Absalom found out about David's wish for Solomon to be the next king. This probably made Absalom very angry, so he decided to make a plan to become king instead of Solomon. Absalom sent spies throughout the land and told them, "I plan to become king, and it is my time! Wait for my signal, and when you hear it, shout 'Absalom is king in Hebron!'" The spies went out into all the different parts of Israel with Absalom's plan and waited for the signal. Absalom waited a little while and then told his father, "I wish to go down to Hebron; I have got some urgent business to take care of there." David gave his blessing for Absalom to go to Hebron.

Absalom wasted no time and raced to Hebron. As he got closer to Hebron, he had some of his servants that were with him blast their trumpets. This was the signal the spies waited for, and then they shouted, "Absalom is king in Hebron!" very loudly and many times over. Absalom arrived in the city of Hebron with over two hundred men and his father, King David's, trusted advisor. The people rejoiced because they loved Absalom, but they did not know that Absalom had taken the kingdom by lying. While Absalom is taking over as king in Hebron, King David is resting comfortably back in his palace in Jerusalem. King David had no idea what was happening in Hebron until a messenger barged through the door and shouted, "King David, Absalom your son has declared himself king in Hebron. He has a large army!"

King David became very sad. He loved Absalom dearly, but David knew that it was not safe to stay in Jerusalem. David did not know how large Absalom's army was and did not want to risk fighting against him. So David gathered the rest of his family and friends and fled into the mountains. Once again David was running away so he could live. This was a very sad time for King David, but he knew God would take care of him while he was hiding from Absalom. David trusted that God always keeps his promises. Next week we'll learn how God takes care of David once again.