UNIT 13 | SESSION 4

THE REIGN OF AHAB

1 KINGS 20–22; 2 KINGS 1



KEY PASSAGE: 1 Kings 8:60

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *How many gods are there? There is one true God who alone deserves worship.*

CHRIST CONNECTION: Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever.

STORY POINT: Ahab was an evil king, and God brought judgment on him.

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PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Have you ever heard the expression "you reap what you sow"? Perhaps you feel the burn of those words as you think of times you made a hasty decision or took matters into your own hands, only to later watch things fall apart. In today's text, Ahab made a series of poor choices which ultimately led to his demise.

First, the Lord gave King Ahab victory over the Arameans—not once, but twice—to remind Ahab that He is the Lord. When Israel won the second battle, they captured Ben-hadad, but Ahab disobeyed God and agreed to a treaty, releasing Ben-hadad.

Second, a man named Naboth owned a vineyard that caught Ahab's interest. In his greed, Ahab and his wife Jezebel developed a wicked scheme to take Naboth's vineyard. Their deception turned murderous when hired men lied about Naboth, saying he had cursed God and the king. Naboth was falsely convicted and sentenced to death.

A few years later, Ahab wanted to go to war against the Arameans once again. Ahab's false prophets supported his decision, but Micaiah, a prophet of the true God, advised against it, since going to war against Aram would fail. Once again, Ahab acted stubbornly and went to war anyway. During the battle, he was struck by an arrow and died.

While God showed Ahab patience and gave him many warnings, Ahab ultimately refused to repent. Like Ahab, we can be greedy and stubborn. In our sin, we rebel against God and act according to our flesh. The Bible tells us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus (Romans 6:23). Jesus lived a perfect life and died in the place of sinners so that we might be forgiven and be made right with God.

Encourage boys and girls to see that because Christ laid down His life for us, we can escape the punishment we deserve because of our sin. Teach kids that when we believe in Jesus and repent of sin, Christ removes our unrighteousness and changes our hearts so that we desire to follow God and His ways.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel

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THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "The Wrong King of King" activity page.

SAY "*Today, we'll see that* **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.**"

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY "*Even though Ahab was evil, God gave him victory in battle against some of his enemies. God allowed King Ahab and Israel to conquer Ben-hadad's army so that people would know that God is the one true God. Despite Ahab's victory, he disobeyed the Lord by releasing Ben-hadad. Later, Ahab was so greedy that he killed a man named Naboth just so he could have his vineyard. What did the Lord think of Ahab's actions? Look at 1 Kings 21:20-21.* ***[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 21:20-21 aloud.]*** *God told Ahab that he had done what was evil in His sight and that Ahab would be punished for his evil deeds. Ahab did not take God's warning seriously.*

Later, the prophet Micaiah warned Ahab not to go into battle against the Arameans. Did Ahab listen to Micaiah's warning? Look at 1 Kings 22:30. ***[Ask a volunteer to read 1 Kings 22:30 aloud.]*** *No, Ahab ignored Micaiah and went into battle. Because of Ahab's stubborn disobedience, he was struck by an arrow and died. God will not allow evil to continue forever. He will always punish evil.* **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING, AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.**

Ahab was a disobedient, greedy, and stubborn king who refused to lead Israel in the ways of the Lord. Even the prophet Micaiah said they were like sheep without a shepherd. The people of Israel were left to wander without a good king to lead them to follow God. But Jesus is the perfect King. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always obeyed God and laid down His life for us. Anyone who follows Him will dwell with God forever."

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY "*Like Ahab, we are all sinners and deserve to be punished for our sin. But out of God's love for us, He sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus willingly laid down His life and took the punishment we deserve for our sin. We don't have to be punished, like Ahab, when we trust in Jesus.*"

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why is death a consequence for sin, even though we were not the ones who sinned in the first place?
2. Why did Jesus take the punishment we deserve for our sin?

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6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Kings 8:60 together.

Distribute a piece of cardstock and a pen or marker to each kid. Direct kids to fold their cardstock into a fan. Write the reference and three or four words of the key passage on each fold of the fan. Share how kids can close their fans to practice saying the key passage from memory. Or if they need help remembering the key passage, kids can open their fans to see the words.

> **SAY** *"I hope you will use your fans to help you remember the key passage and the truth that God is the one true God."*

Lead kids to sing "There Is No Other (1 Kings 8:60)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

> **SAY** *"Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Thank You that through Him we can be saved and forgiven. In Jesus' name, amen."*

Please Rememer to hand out the activity pages and journal pages even if you do not use them.

They have parent information on them for the children to take home.



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LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Guide kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 22. Explain that the Bible is divided into sections within the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament is divided into books of the Law, History, Poetry, Minor Prophets, and Major Prophets. Tell kids that 1 Kings is in the History division.

Consider pointing out the location of Aram (B9) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Tell kids that the people of Aram are the descendants of Shem, Noah's son (Genesis 10:22). Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 22:17 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

> **SAY** *"The prophet Micaiah said that Israel had no one to lead them. Ahab, and all of Israel's kings, were evil and did not truly care about the people. Ahab was concerned about himself and his power. He didn't seek to lead the people to what is best: following and worshiping God.*
>
> *When Jesus came to earth, He had compassion on people and said they were also like sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). Much like the people under Ahab's rule, Jesus saw how the people were lost in their sin. Jesus came to seek out the lost sheep and show them that He is the Good Shepherd who had come to lay down His life to save them from sin."*

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

> **SAY** *"How can God bring judgment on people?"*

Tell kids that God is holy and hates sin. He will not let sin go unpunished. For those who trust Jesus as their Savior, Jesus paid the price for their sin. But those who do not trust Jesus as Savior will be punished for their sins. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 9:27-28.)

> **SAY** *"Why should we take God's Word seriously?"*

Remind kids that God always keeps His Word. He kept His Word to bring judgment on Ahab's sin. Because of this truth, it is important to listen to what He has said. Today, God speaks to us through His Word, the Bible. This is why we spend time each week studying His Word together. The Bible reminds us that God has made the way to save us from sin through His Son, Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 46:9-10.)

> **SAY** *"How is Jesus the perfect King?"*

Tell kids that Jesus is the King who always obeyed God and who sought the good of others. Jesus never did anything out of selfishness or greed, like Ahab. He is the perfect King who rules with justice, righteousness, and peace. Jesus is the only King who saves those who trust in Him from the punishment their sin deserves.
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 9:6-7.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE** 

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LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 2 Lava lamps

Give each childe a "lava lamp" bottle."
Add water – Fill the bottle about halfway with water.
Add color (optional) – Drop in 5–10 drops of blue food coloring; stir gently so it's evenly mixed in the water layer.
Add oil – Fill the rest of the bottle with vegetable or baby oil.
Seal the bottle – Screw the cap on tightly, or secure with hot glue for stability.
Make a stand - *Cut a hole in the bottom of a decorated dixie cup.*
Create the lava lamp – shake the bottle and set the bottle upside down on the hole in the cup. observe -watch the oil and water separate, but be "pulled" back together.
For extra fun, put an led light under the cup.

SAY Today, we learned that **AHAB WAS AN EVIL KING** ***who chose to listen to his friends and peers and follow other Gods*** **AND GOD BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON HIM.** *We are influeced not only by the people we are around but also the things we waatch, listen to, and choose to be around. When we choose good things and good company, we are pulled to Jesus and learn to repent and trust in Jesus, we will be saved from the punishment for sin. God is good to give us His Word and show us the way to be saved. .*

OPTION 2: BOOKS OF THE BIBLE TOSS

Direct kids to form a circle. Give one kid a ball and challenge her to say the first book of the Bible. Then direct her to toss the ball to the kid on her right who will say the next book of the Bible. Lead kids to keep tossing the ball and saying the books of the Bible in order. If a kid does not know the book that comes next, offer hints. Or consider hanging up the Books of the Bible Poster for kids to refer to. Continue until kids have said all the books of the Bible. For an added challenge, encourage kids to say the books as quickly as possible to see how fast the group can get through all the Bible books.

SAY In our story, we saw how God sent prophets to speak His Word and warn Ahab. Today, God speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible. When we read our Bibles, we learn about God and His plan to save people from sin. Reading the Bible helps us to follow His commands through faith in Jesus. Those who trust in Jesus will be saved from judgment and will have eternal life.

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for His Word and the hope we have because of Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete "The Shepherd King" on the activity page.

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