

Adventures with GOD!

INTRODUCTION: GOD'S PLAN (C.2.Winter)

LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AGES 9-11

GOALS FOR THE TRIMESTER:

Help children foster a relationship with God. Learn about the lives of the kings of Israel and Judah. Understand that each person is called to "Honor God and keep His commandments".

MESSAGE TO THE TEACHER:

The topics for discussion in this trimester are very interesting. Young children dream of being princes, princesses, and fairy godmothers. The word of God has many interesting stories that children love. The difference is that all the stories of kings and queens written in the word of God are true and were based on events that happened thousands of years ago.

Some of kings of Israel sought the guidance of God and He had compassion on them and helped them in critical times of need. Other kings were tainted by pagan customs of neighboring countries and turned away from the ways of the Lord and suffered the consequences of their disobedience.

It is important that in each class the children are encouraged to look up the Scripture references to confirm that this is not some made up story, but something that is written in the Bible. The lives of the kings who obeyed and those who did not obey the commandments and ordinances of God, have for each of us special lessons that will help us walk obediently before God.

God, on many occasions and through his prophets, warned the people and asked them to turn from their wicked ways, empowered them to repent of their idolatry and disobedience, but these kings led and taught the people pagan traditions and customs they learned from their neighbors. On the other hand, there were kings who obeyed and followed the precepts of God and their reigns were prosperous.

The evil and corruption in Israel had reached the point that they forgot God and demanded a human king. Certainly this was not pleasing to the eyes of God who had wanted his people to accept God as the only King, but God heard the call of his people and gave them human kings to lead them.

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It is important to note that as humans do, each of these kings had successes and failures. Those who humbled themselves and sought God, had peace and prosperity during their reign, but the kings that decided to act according to their own desires experienced failure. Unfortunately at one point the kingdom was divided. The decline comes to Israel leading to the national tragedy of the divided kingdom. The northern kingdom retains the traditional name of Israel and southern takes the name Judah from its main tribe.

It is the northern kingdom who strays from the path of God. In the south, interspersed with pious kings are wicked monarchs. As we will see, idolatry and disobedience always bring disaster. The story continues with the fall of Jerusalem to Babylon, mass emigration to Egypt and the transformation of Judah into a Babylon province. These events in Israelite history produced one of the most momentous changes in Israel.

Children will work weekly on the Application Calendars. The goal is to take them home each Sunday and use them each day to reflect on their day. Encourage them to write something for each week (if you can, offer a prize to be awarded at the end of the quarter). Everyone will have their own personal folder where the sheets for each week will be kept. It would be a good idea to involve the parents, particularly in encouraging them to complete the tasks at home.

To end the quarter, have each student draw a crown (the size of their heads) to decorate in any way they like. Attached are instructions for making a crown that you can use if you want to. If you have any other ideas use them as well.

Another option is to have a weekly memory verse. In some lessons they will work on a craft that contains the verse. It would be good for you to write the verse each week on newsprint or large poster board and tape them on the walls of the classroom to read together and work on memorizing. This could be a part of the decor of the room. Use your creativity and imagination. There is an illustration in the appendix to be used in some lessons to remember the Cycle of Sin. If possible use the attached pattern, an enlarged illustration to have throughout the quarter in front of the classroom that children can look each week.

CYCLE: disobedience ----- > consequences ----- > repentance ----- > salvation (judges)

Remember to do a review of the previous lesson before each class to help the kids remember the details. It is also important that before preparing the lesson, you ask for the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. Pray to God for wisdom, patience and love to teach these wonderful truths through the lives of the kings mentioned in the Bible.