

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of December 17, 2017

Timeless Truth: God wants us to worship Him alone.

Bible Basis: 1 Kings 12-1

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 14 A Kingdom Torn in Two

Memory Verse: "Asa did what is right in the eyes of the Lord." 1 Kings 15:11



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- **The people of Judah started fighting against Israel and decided to start their own country. Have you ever had two of your friends fight and decide not to be friends anymore?**
- **What happened because of this fight?**
- **Was there a way your friends could've settled their differences better?**
- **In the midst of all these bad kings in Israel and Judah, Asa became king of Judah and "did what was right in the eyes of the Lord" (1 Kings 15:11). Do you think it was hard for him to do good things when everybody around him was making bad choices?**
- **Tell about a time when others were making poor choices and you decided to follow God. Was it hard? How did it make you feel?**

EXTRA MILE

You don't run into a lot of golden cow worshipers at church these days. But the problem of idols still plagues God followers. Anything that comes before God in your life could be an idol, especially if you look to that thing for comfort or satisfaction. Have all family members fill out the chart to see how they spend their time. At the end, answer some questions to see if any idols have crept into your daily life. On average how much time each day do you spend doing these things?

ACTIVITY	Watching TV/iPad	Playing Video Games	Texting/talking on the phone	Reading Bible & Praying	Shopping	Being on the Computer	Playing Sports
TIME SPENT							

None of the activities are in and of themselves sinful; however, if they consume all your time and pull you away from God, they could become an idol. In today's society money, fame, possessions, career advancement, popularity, and other things rule people's lives. Ask:

- **What area in your life do you think has the greatest possibility of becoming an idol?**
- **How can you prevent that from happening?**
- **What changes can you make in your schedule to show God that He's first in your life?**

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, Help me to realize that all good things come from you, and that you give me everything I need. Help me to always keep you first in my life. I love you, Lord. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *Falling Away*, pg 100 – through pg 101 (blue–pg 115 – bottom of pg 116) (2 1/2 mins)

This reading covers: 1 Kings 14

Summary: God's people turn away from him.

Do together: Have a scavenger hunt. You and the children go through your house and gather any items that are not honoring to God. You might find music or movies, games or toys, books or magazines.

Think about: Discuss the things you have gathered and decide as a family what you should get rid of. Why should these items not be in your home? Notice how easily we can turn away from God by some of the simple things we have.

Also read: Exodus 20:3

Prayer: Guide us, Lord, not only to clean our house, but also to clean our lives and our hearts. Help us to place nothing before you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *Good King*, page 102 – break at top of pg 103 (blue- bottom of pg 116 – pg 117) (1 min)

This reading covers: 1 Kings 15

Summary: King Asa committed his whole life to following God.

Do together: Pretend to make your child into a puppet. Take two strings/ropes approximately 4-5' long. Tie one end of a rope around your child's foot and then lead the rope to the child's wrist and tie it around, ending with enough for you to hold on to. Repeat on other side. Now make them move in particular directions wherever you want them to go, like puppets.

Think about: Discuss how you controlled the child to go where you wanted him/her to go and do what you wanted him/her to do. Tell them that God does not do that. He gave us free will and then watches to see if we make right choices in our actions, thoughts, and words. Also talk about how we must choose what friends we hang out with and where we go with them.

Also read: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Prayer: Lord, let my guide be your word and let my strength be You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *Bad King*—break on pg 103 - end (blue - pg 118- end) (2 mins)

This reading covers: I Kings 16

Summary: King Ahab disobeyed God more than anyone had ever done.

Do together: Take the same ropes and tie them to your feet and hands (or just your hands if they are too short) and let the children lead you.

Think about: As the children how it felt to be able to control a person. Does God control us that way? What does God do? What is our responsibility – to behave as puppets or to be sensible, functioning human beings who simply make right choices based on the word of God?

Read also: Psalm 119:9-11

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you did not create puppets. You created human beings with free wills. Let my will be in tune with yours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.