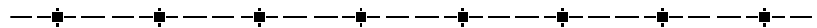


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Son Tries to Usurp the Throne

Adonijah

I Kings 1

A Son Tries to Usurp the Throne

I Kings 1:5-19

Memory Verse:

Train them and teach them the ways of the Lord as you raise them.
(Ephesians 6:4 NIRV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Adonijah tried to make himself the next king.
2. Understand that Adonijah sought the help of others to make himself king.
3. Learn that Adonijah knew what he was doing was wrong.
4. Recognize that Nathan was instrumental in preventing Adonijah from usurping the throne.

Last week we learned that King Solomon disobeyed God. Solomon married many wives from other nations. He worshipped other gods and built places so that they could be worshipped. His sin displeased God so He allowed the kingdom of Israel to be divided.

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 1:5-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin With Prayer

Before Solomon became king something very interesting happened. We are going to backtrack and look at the events. King David had another son whose name was Adonijah. "Adonijah was the son of David and his wife Haggith." (I Kings 1:5) When David became very old, Adonijah decided that he would be the next king. He got ready to place himself on the throne. Adonijah got chariots and horses. Then he got 50 men to join him. The men were going to run in front of him as he told everybody, "I'm going to be the next king." (I Kings 1:5-6 NIRV)

Adonijah's brother Absalom was dead. That made Adonijah King David's oldest son. Sadly, his father didn't try to correct him when he did wrong. (I Kings 1:6) The Bible says parents should train them and teach their children the ways of the Lord as they raise them. (Ephesians 6:4) Do you remember another father who failed to discipline? Remember we studied about Eli, the priest? God sent Samuel to tell Eli that there would be consequences for failing to discipline his sons. (I Samuel 2-3) No one had told Adonijah that he would be the king but he talked to Joab, who was a military leader for King David, and Abiathar the priest. Both men agreed to help Adonijah. Adonijah invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and the royal officials. But, there were certain people they did not invite. He did not invite Nathan, the prophet. Adonijah did not invite David, the king nor Solomon who was the son of David and Bathsheba. (I Kings 1:7-11; Matthew 1:6) The fact that Nathan, David and Solomon were not invited is a good indicator that Adonijah knew that what he was doing was not right. Have you ever done something and left people out because you knew what you were doing was wrong? Or have you ever been left out of a party because the people having the party knew you wouldn't do some of the things they were planning to do at the party? When Nathan, the prophet, learned about what was happening, he went to Bathsheba. He told Bathsheba what was happening. Nathan told her that Solomon's life and her life were in danger now that Adonijah had

Adonijah — Bible Facts

1. Adonijah was the son of David and Haggith.
2. Adonijah invited Joab and Abiathar to help him take David's throne.
3. Adonijah had a celebration but he did not invite David nor Solomon.
4. Nathan told Bathsheba who told David.
5. David made Solomon king.

declared himself the king and had left them out of his ceremony. He suggested that Bathsheba go and talk to David about it. David had promised Bathsheba that Solomon would be the next king. Nathan told Bathsheba that he would walk in as she was talking to David. Nathan would confirm (say that it was true) what Bathsheba was saying to king David. (I Kings 1:11-14) So Bathsheba went to see David. He was very old. She bowed before her king. Then Bathsheba got on her knees before David. King David asked Bathsheba what she wanted. She reminded him that he had promised before God that Solomon would be the next king. Then she told King David that Adonijah had declared himself the king. Normally, the next king would be crowned after the death of the king who sat on the throne. David was not even dead. But Adonijah did not wait for David to die. Adonijah's actions were disrespectful and dishonoring to David. (I Kings 1:11-19) The Bible tells us we are to honor our parents. It's one of the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20:12)

Bathsheba told David that she feared for the life of Solomon and for her own life. While Bathsheba was speaking, Nathan came in. He asked David if he had agreed to make Adonijah the next king. Nathan told David that Adonijah had sacrificed animals and that he had invited the king's sons, but not Solomon. Nathan told King David that Adonijah had also invited others. He told David that they were having a party. (I Kings 1:20-27) David acted quickly to ensure that Solomon became the next king. (I Kings 1:28-53) God wants us to honor our parents. He wants us to honor and obey Him. God sent Jesus to help us know Him so that we can love and obey Him.

Review Questions

1. **Who was Adonijah?** (Adonijah was the son of David and Haggith.)
2. **What did Adonijah do?** (Adonijah asked Joab and Abiathar to help him take David's throne.)
3. **What did Adonijah do next?** (Adonijah had a celebration, but he did not invite David, Solomon nor Nathan.)
4. **What did Nathan and Bathsheba do?** (Nathan told Bathsheba about the celebration and Bathsheba told David about it.)
5. **What did David do?** (David made Solomon king.)

Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to help us know God so that we can honor God and love and obey Him. Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead so that we can have a personal relationship with God. Invite Him to be a part of your life.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you honor Him, love Him, and obey Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know God.

Application

When David was old, Adonijah tried to make himself the next king. He sought the help of others. Adonijah's actions were disrespectful and dishonoring to David. Adonijah knew what he was doing was wrong. But he had a celebration and invited the king's sons and others. He was strategic in failing to invite King David, Solomon, and Nathan, the prophet. Nathan was instrumental in preventing Adonijah from usurping the throne. God wants us to honor Him, to love Him, and to obey Him. When we try to get what we want by force, knowing it is wrong, we dishonor God, and we hurt those we love.

Planning for the next week:
Rehoboam (A King Follows Bad Advice) — I Kings 12

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 1:5–11 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Decorate your room for a king's party. Use solid colored foil flags. Make crowns out of aluminum foil.)

Before Solomon became king something very interesting happened. We are going to back-track and look at the events. King David had another son whose name was Adonijah.

"Adonijah was the son of David and his wife Haggith." (I Kings 1:5)

When David became very old, Adonijah decided that he would be the next king. He got ready to place himself on the throne. Adonijah got chariots and horses. Then he got 50 men to join him. The men were going to run in front of him as he told everybody, "I'm going to be the next king." (I Kings 1:5-6 NIV)

No one had told Adonijah that he would be the king, but he talked to Joab who was a military leader for King David, and Abiathar the priest. Both men agreed to help Adonijah.

Adonijah invited some of his brothers and the royal officials. But, there were certain people they did not invite. He did not invite Nathan, the prophet. Adonijah did not invite David, the king, and Solomon who was the son of David and Bathsheba. (I Kings 1:7-11; Matthew 1:6)

The fact that Nathan, David and Solomon were not invited tells us that Adonijah knew that what he was doing was not right. Have you ever done something and left people out because you knew what you were doing was wrong? God wants us to honor and obey Him. God sent Jesus to help us know Him so that we can do that.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know God.
3. Ask God to help you honor Him, love Him, and obey Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to know God.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn to obey.

Consider this: Play "Simon Says" and "Red Light, Green Light." Talk to the children about the importance of knowing what God says to do and doing it. Tell them that just as they have to obey the leader in the games, God wants us to obey Him. In the game we have to do exactly what the leader says.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Have all the children make a cross. Put the memory verse on the cross. Talk about the mercy of God. Tell the children Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Remind them that Jesus will one day take all believers to heaven. Practice the verse.
- **Test your memory** — Adonijah invited some of his brothers, the king's sons, and the royal officials. But, there were certain people he did not invite. Make puppets that represent the people who were invited and those who were not. Use the puppets to tell the story. Have the children help you. Let the children retell the story so that everyone has an opportunity to use a puppet.
- **Taste activity** — Bring a cake and put a crown on it. Talk about Adonijah's actions.
- **Think about it** — Adonijah knew that what he was doing was not right. Have you ever done something and left people out because you knew what you were doing was wrong? Or have you ever been left out of a party because the people having the party knew that you wouldn't do some of the things they were planning to do at the party? Talk about the importance of doing what is right.

Nathan, the prophet, went to Bathsheba to tell her what Adonijah was doing. She went to King David. When someone is doing something wrong, we cannot ignore it, especially if someone is being hurt. Talk about the importance of doing what is right.

- **Touch activity** — Decorate your room for a king's party. Use solid colored foil flags. Make crowns out of aluminum foil.
- **Run and play** — Play "Simon Says" and "Red Light, Green Light." Talk to the children about the importance of knowing what God says to do and doing it. Tell them that just as they have to obey the leader in the games, God wants us to obey Him. In the game we have to do exactly what the leader says.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to obey Him.
- **Sing** — Sing "Obedience," "Trust and Obey," or other songs related to the story.

Memory Verse

Train them and
teach them
the ways
of the Lord
as you
raise them.

Ephesians 6:4

NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Adonijah

tried to

make

himself

the king.

Word Puzzle

R T D E G H T I G G A H
H I A E R N O D S R W V
S X C B Y B I S O A O N
E C T H E E A K T H A S
H O N I E H R N O T I D
A S A M N S S R H A V E
J E H B O M G H N I P D
I O T N M F F E T B A I
N D A L O E B I D A D V
O M N D L G R A D I B A
D S R R O O L A O T W D
A O N P S Q T E N J E S

ADONIJAH

DAVID

NATHAN

SOLOMON

ABIATHAR

JOAB

BATHSHEBA

HAGGITH

KING

Word Puzzle

R	T	D	E	G	H	T	I	G	G	A	H
H	I	A	E	R	N	O	D	S	R	W	V
S	X	C	B	Y	B	I	S	O	A	O	N
E	C	T	H	E	E	A	K	T	H	A	S
H	O	N	I	E	H	R	N	O	T	I	D
A	S	A	M	N	S	S	R	H	A	V	E
J	E	H	B	O	M	G	H	N	I	P	D
I	O	T	N	M	F	F	E	T	B	A	I
N	D	A	L	O	E	B	I	D	A	D	V
O	M	N	D	L	G	R	A	D	I	B	A
D	S	R	R	O	O	L	A	O	T	W	D
A	O	N	P	S	Q	T	E	N	J	E	S

ADONIJAH

DAVID

NATHAN

SOLOMON

ABIATHAR

JOAB

BATHSHEBA

HAGGITH

KING

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F Q N D A V I D R N E D
J O A B O P N A T H A N
J M P C K N F I D O L S
S O L O M O N E F B C H
R F P B N J F J P W R S
A D O N I J A H O N K L
F C R K P B T M L F G W
A B I A T H A R M E R D

ADONIJAH

DAVID

NATHAN

SOLOMON

JOAB

ABIATHAR

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F Q N D A V I D R N E D

J O A B O P N A T H A N

J M P C K N F I D O L S

S O L O M O N E F B C H

R F P B N J F J P W R S

A D O N I J A H O N K L

F C R K P B T M L F G W

A B I A T H A R M E R D

ADONIJAH

DAVID

NATHAN

SOLOMON

JOAB

ABIATHAR

Anagram

1. EEADDRLC -

2. IGNK -

3. YTFFI -

4. OIASCTHR-

5. OESSRH -

6. YTRPA-

7. IDNEIVT -

8. TFLE TUO -

Anagram

1. EEADDRLC - DECLARED

2. IGNK - KING

3. YTFFI - FIFTY

4. OIASCTHR - CHARIOTS

5. OESSRH - HORSES

6. YTRPA - PARTY

7. IDNEIVT - INVITED

8. TFLE TUO - LEFT OUT