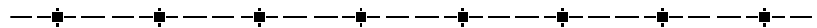


Old Testament

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 King Fails to Depend on God

Asa

I Kings 15-16

A King Fails to Depend on God
I Kings 15:9-24

Memory Verse:

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.
(Acts 20:24 NIV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Asa reigned over Judah.
2. Understand that Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord.
3. Learn that Asa got rid of the idols.
4. Recognize that Asa did not depend on God when he sought the help of Ben-had.

Last week we learned about Jeroboam. He reigned over ten tribes of Israel. Jeroboam led Israel to worship idols. Jeroboam sinned and led Israel to sin. He built temples for other gods, he sacrificed to other gods, and he even appointed priests. God told Jeroboam that He would punish Israel for their sins.

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 15:9-24 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Asa was the king of Judah. He reigned during the time Jeroboam was king of Israel. (I Kings 15:9-10) Unlike Jeroboam, "Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord." (I Kings 15:11 NIV) The Bible says that he did right like David had done. You may remember King David was the father of Solomon. Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Israel was divided under the reign of Rehoboam. When the kingdom was divided, ten tribes followed Jeroboam and only Judah and Benjamin followed Rehoboam. (I Kings 12:1-17)

Jeroboam had reigned twenty years when Asa became king. Asa began to get rid of the evil things in the land. He got rid of the idols, he cut down and burned an Asherah pole made by his grandmother, and he removed his grandmother as queen because she had made the pole. But he did not tear down the temples nor the altars. Asa had the silver and gold which he and his father had dedicated brought to the temple of the Lord. (I Kings 15:9-15)

After Jeroboam died, his son, Nadab became king of Israel. Baasha became the king of Israel after Nadab. (I Kings 15:25-29) Baasha and Asa were at war with each other throughout their reign. Baasha tried to fortify Ramah so that no one could leave or enter the territory of Judah where Asa ruled. (I Kings 15:15-17)

Asa took the silver and gold from the treasuries in the temple of God and from his palace. He sent the gold and silver to Ben-Hadad, the king of Aram. Asa wanted to form a treaty with Ben-hadad so that Ben-hadad would break his treaty with Baasha and fight with him (Asa). (I Kings 15:18-19) Ben-hadad agreed to fight with King Asa and they were able to get King Baasha to withdraw from Ramah. Then Asa asked Judah to get the stones and lumber that were left in Ramah. He used them to build up Geba and Mizpah. (I Kings 15:20-22)

Hanani the seer spoke to Asa. He said, "Because you relied on the king

Asa — Bible Facts

1. Asa ruled over Judah.
2. Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord.
3. Asa got rid of the idols.
4. Asa made a treaty with Ben-hadad.
5. Asa developed a severe foot disease.

of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.” (II Chronicles 16:7 NIV) God reminded Asa that He had delivered him from the Cushites and the Libyans. They had a strong army and large numbers. But God had delivered them into the hands of Asa. Hanani told Asa that he had made a foolish choice. He told Asa that he would be at war from that time on because “the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” (II Chronicles 16:8-9 NIV)

Asa had done many good things but he became angry at Hanani. Asa did not repent. Do you remember another king who did not repent? [There were several kings who did not repent when they sinned. Saul did not repent. (I Samuel 13:10-14) Solomon did not repent. (I Kings 11:1-11) Jeroboam did not repent. (I Kings 13:31-33)] Asa became so angry that he put Hanani in prison. Then Asa started abusing and being mean to some of the people. (II Chronicles 16:10)

When Asa had reigned for thirty-nine years he developed a severe disease in his feet. “But Asa did not seek help from the Lord.” (II Chronicles 16:12 NIV) Asa only sought help from the physicians. Two years later, Asa died. (II Chronicles 16:13-14) In Acts 20:24, Paul talks about the importance of finishing the race. Jesus came to die for our sins. He finished the race on earth by dying on the cross. God wants us to live for Him all of our lives.

Review

1. **Who was Asa?** (Asa was king of Judah.)
2. **What did Asa do?** (Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord.)
3. **What else did Asa do?** (Asa got rid of the idols.)
4. **What did Asa do that displeased God?** (Asa made a treaty with Ben-hadad instead of depending on God.)
5. **What happened to Asa?** (Asa developed a severe foot disease.)

Do You Know Jesus?

Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins. But He rose from the dead three days later. His death and resurrection provide us a way to God. We can know God and can live with Him in heaven if we will ask for forgiveness from our sins and ask Jesus to come be a part of our lives. (Romans 10:9-10; John 14:6)

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 finish the race living for Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to do what is right.

Application

Asa reigned over Judah. As king of Judah, Asa got rid of the idols and did right in the eyes of the Lord. Then Asa made a treaty with Ben-had, king of Aram. God sent Hanani, the seer, to tell Asa that he had not depended on God when he sought the help of Ben-had. Asa did not repent. He got angry and put Hanani in prison. God wants us to repent when we sin.

Planning for the next week:

Jehoshaphat (A King Walks with God) — I Kings 22

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: I Kings 15:18–22 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Wrap items in gold and silver foil. Have the children exchange them as gifts.)

Asa was the king of Judah. He was king of Judah at the same time Jeroboam was king of Israel. (I Kings 15:9-10) Asa did many good things. Unlike Jeroboam, “Asa did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.” (I Kings 15:11 NIV)

But one day, Asa made a bad choice. Have you made a bad choice? Do you remember who else made bad choices? [There were several kings who made bad choices. Saul made bad choices. (I Samuel 13:10-14) Solomon made bad choices. (I Kings 11:1-11) Jeroboam made bad choices. (I Kings 13:31-33)]

Asa took the silver and gold from the treasuries in the temple of God and from his palace. He sent the gold and silver to Ben-Hadad, the king of Aram. Ben-Hadad was an enemy of Israel. Asa wanted be friends with Ben-hadad so that Ben-hadad would break his friendship with Baasha and fight with him (Asa) against Baasha. (I Kings 15:18-19)

Baasha was building up the city of Ramah. But he was doing it so no one could come in or out and be friends with King Asa. Ben-hadad agreed to fight with King Asa and they were able to get King Baasha to leave Ramah. Then Asa asked Judah to get the stones and lumber that were left in Ramah. He used them to build up Geba and Mizpah. (I Kings 15:20-22)

Hanani spoke to Asa. He said, “Because you relied on the king of Aram and not on the LORD your God, the army of the king of Aram has escaped from your hand.” (II Chronicles 16:7 NIV) God reminded Asa that He had delivered him from other enemies. They had a strong army and large numbers. But God had delivered them into the hands of Asa. Hanani told Asa that he had made a foolish choice. He told Asa that he would be at war from that time on. (II Chronicles 16:8-9) “God is always on the alert, constantly on the lookout for people who are totally committed to him..” (II Chronicles 16:9 The Message)

God sent Jesus so that He could help us know God and that way we could make good choices.

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 make good choices.

Did you know? Preschoolers can learn to make good choices.

Consider this: Play a game. Ask the children to play the following people: Asa and Ben-hadad. Give all the gold and silver items you made with foil to Asa. Have Asa give all those items to Ben-hadad. Have Asa say, “If you will be my friend but not Baasha’s friend, I will give you all this gold.” Have Ben-hadad say, “Ok, I will be your friend only. Give me the gold and silver.” Then create other scenarios where the children choose: to follow a friend in disobedience; to follow a friend crossing a dangerous street; to follow a friend in being mean; etc. Create scenarios with good choices. When the children make good choices, give them stickers that say, “I made a good choice.”

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Print the words for the Bible verse on cut outs of a running shoe. Have the children put the verse in order.
- **Test your memory** — Hanani, the seer, told Asa that he had failed to trust in God. As you tell the story place seven boxes that you have previously wrapped in gold foil in different areas of the room. Place a label on the box or in front of the box. Have the children tell the portion of the story for the area where the box is located. Label #1- Asa was king of Judah. Label #2- Asa did right in the eyes of the Lord. Label #3- Asa removed the idols. Label #4- Asa took the gold and silver to the temple. Label #5- Asa removed the gold and silver. Label #6- Asa gave the gold and silver to Ben-hadad. Label #7- Hanani told Asa that he failed to trust God. Have the children retell the story.
- **Taste activity** — Bring gold coin candy or bubble gum.
- **Think about it** — Play a game. Ask the children to play the following people: Asa and Ben-hadad. Give all the gold and silver items you made with foil to Asa. Have Asa give all those items to Ben-hadad. Have Asa say, “If you will be my friend but not Baasha’s friend, I will give you all this gold.” Have Ben-hadad say, “Ok, I will be your friend only. Give me the gold and silver.” Then create other scenarios where the children choose: to follow a friend in disobedience; to follow a friend crossing a dangerous street; to follow a friend in being mean; etc. Create scenarios with good choices. Talk about making good choices. For preschoolers, when the children have made a good choice give them stickers that say, “I made a good choice.”
- Run relay races. Divide your groups into four teams. Talk about the importance of passing the baton. Talk about the importance of finishing the race.

Talk about the importance of being ready to run a race. Tell the children that marathon runners prepare in advance, eat the right foods, drink water, wear the right clothes, get plenty of rest, etc.
- **Touch activity** — Wrap items in gold and silver foil. Have the children exchange them as gifts.
- **Run and play** — Run relay races.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to make good choices and to depend on Him.
- **Sing** — “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,” or another song related to the story.

Memory Verse

However, I consider
my life worth nothing
to me, if only
I may finish the race
and complete the task
the Lord Jesus
has given me—
the task of testifying
to the gospel
of God's grace.

Acts 20:24 NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

Asa did right

in the eyes

of the Lord.

Word Puzzle

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

ASA

BAASHA

JUDAH

ISRAEL

BEN-HADAD

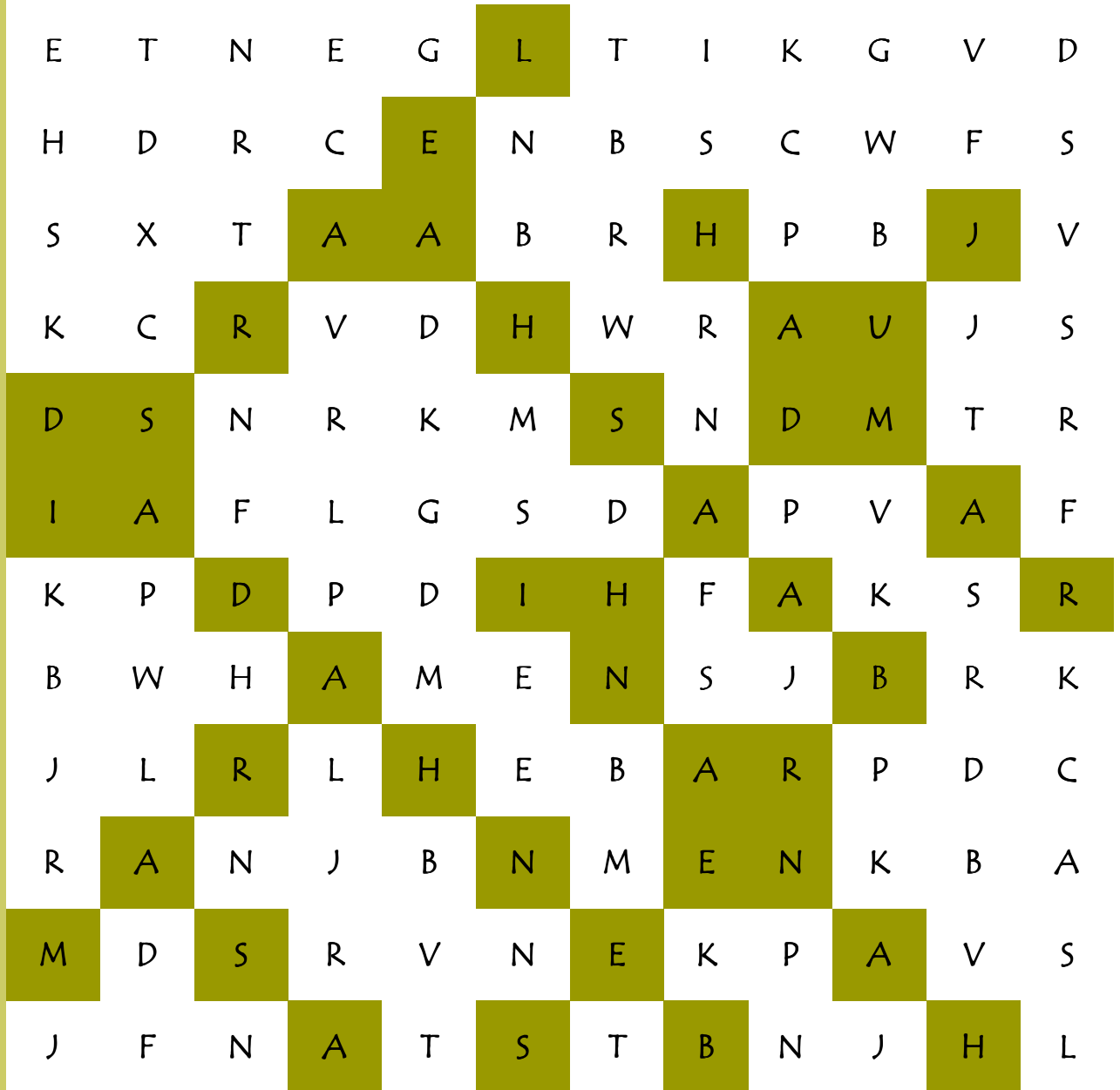
ARAM

HANANI

SEER

RAMAH

Word Puzzle



ASA

BAASHA

JUDAH

ISRAEL

BEN-HADAD

ARAM

HANANI

SEER

RAMAH

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

ASA

BAASHA

JUDAH

ISRAEL

ARAM

RAMAH

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

ASA	BAASHA	JUDAH
ISRAEL	ARAM	RAMAH

Anagram

1. ESOPL–
2. NDEUVR–
3. NEUEQ –
4. ILDSO–
5. RTAALS–
6. SMEEPTL–
7. LOGD –
8. RLIESV –

Anagram

1. ESOPL – POLES
2. NDEUBR – BURNED
3. NEVEQ – QUEEN
4. ILDSO – IDOLS
5. RTAALS – ALTARS
6. SMEEPTL – TEMPLES
7. LOGD – GOLD
8. RLIESV – SILVER