



Date: _____
Series: Good Kings - Bad Kings
Fall Year 4, Lesson 20

Good King Hezekiah

Take Home Point: *Whose side are you on? We're on God's side! *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Chronicles 29-31

Key Verse: Joshua 24:15, "...choose today whom you will serve...my family and I will still serve the Lord."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible Event of King Hezekiah and his call to repentance for Judah including the battle at Sennacherib.
- God chooses them and invites them to be on his team. They have the choice to respond to his calling.
- Once again, God wins the battle.
- Jesus made a way for them to cross the line to God's side.

We will help kids feel:

- Special because they have been chosen by God and invited to be part of his team.
- Motivated to invite others to be part of God's team as well.

We will help kids do:

- Discuss whom they would choose to be part of God's team.
- Play a game that helps reinforce the feeling of joy when one is chosen.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children play a game to remind them how it feels to be chosen and invited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six-foot piece of string
Large Group 	4 8 10 12	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Even Gordy is Chosen”—Gordy is discouraged because he thinks he was not chosen.</p> <p>Dramatic Interview: “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews King Hezekiah to determine if he is a good or bad king.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Even Gordy is Chosen”—Gordy learns that God chooses him to be on his team no matter what.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • yardstick • royal robe • two crowns • throne • giant Bible prop • stool • sign, “King Hezekiah” • “King Meter” • broken pole • an invitation • piece of burnt toast • white sword covered in gold glitter • questions attached to each object in the box (<i>p. 15</i>) • Starburst candies
Small Group Application 	4	Children discuss how Jesus’ cross makes it possible to be on God’s team and play a game to demonstrate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • six-foot piece of string • four-foot piece of string • several two-foot pieces of string (one for each child) • piece of bubble gum for each child

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: six-foot piece of string

Can you remember a time when someone was chosen for a team or a special group and you weren't? Did you feel left out?

Encourage all kids to remember a time they were not chosen, but ask only a few to share their stories. Then ask:

Can you remember a time when you were chosen and how special you felt when that happened?

Again ask only a few kids to share how they felt.

Then lay the six-foot piece of string in the middle of the floor. Stand on one side of the line and say:

I am forming my own unique Olympic team for Kingdom Quest and I need to choose captains for many different events. I need you to think of what event you would like to be a captain of when I choose you. It could be anything you want—from football to figure skating. It could be any game you want—from checkers to “Go Fish.” Or, it could be any subject you want—from math to spelling.

Pick something you like doing and be ready to share when I choose you. Also, think about who would be the first person you would choose to be on your team since you are the team captain. It can't be anyone already in our group but it can be someone famous that you don't even know.

Ask each child individually to “come over to my side” of the string and have each share their event and who they would choose to be on their team. Then say:

Today we will discover how God chooses you and invites you to be part of his team. God has a special reason for choosing you. I wonder what he might ask you to do if you chose to go over to his side and be on his team. After we meet our king, we will decide **whose side are you on? Hopefully, you will choose God's side!*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



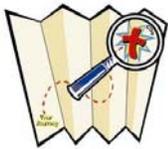
Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Even Gordy is Chosen”—Gordy is discouraged because he thinks he was not chosen.

Dramatic Interview: “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews King Hezekiah to determine if he is a good or bad king.

Puppet Conclusion: “Even Gordy is Chosen”—Gordy learns that God chooses him to be on his team no matter what.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?/

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have the children refer to 2 Chronicles 29-32 in their Bibles.

What was Hezekiah's first order as king? (2 Chronicles 29:3-5. To repair and purify the temple by taking out the “unclean” idols.)

What did the people of Judah do after the temple was purified? (2 Chronicles 29:20-36. Burned sacrifices and sang praises to the Lord.)

Why do you suppose Hezekiah commanded the people to clean out the temple, burn sacrifices and worship the Lord? (It was how they told God they were sorry for all the years they worshiped idols instead of God.)

How did some of the people react to Hezekiah's messengers inviting them to join in celebrating the Passover? (2 Chronicles 30:10. They made fun of the messengers.)

What did the people do after the Passover? (2 Chronicles 31:1. They smashed the idols and destroyed the altars of false gods.)

Read Hezekiah's words in 2 Chronicles 32:6b-8.

Listen carefully.

“He spoke these words of encouragement: ‘Be strong and courageous. Don’t be frightened or terrified by the king of Assyria or the crowd with him. Someone greater is on our side. The king of Assyria has human power on his side, but the Lord our God is on our side to help us and fight our battles.’ So the people were encouraged...”

What do Hezekiah's words say of his faith? How did this help the people of Judah? (Accept several answers.)

What did Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah do about King Sennacherib's letters cursing the Lord God of Israel? (2 Chronicles 32:17-20. They prayed.)

What caused the King of Assyria to leave Judah? (2 Chronicles 32:21. The Lord sent an angel to kill the Assyrian army.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies: six-foot piece of string, four-foot piece of string, several pieces of bubble gum

Using the piece of string from Warm-Up, stand on one side of the string together with your kids. Then say:

Let's imagine that we are choosing teams for the most important game in the world. It's the game of life. Whose side would you want to be on?

There are many different kinds of religions that say, “This is the best way to live.” Remember how the people in Hezekiah's time worshiped false gods like Baal and Asherah? There are many religions today that say if you just do enough religious things, then you can earn your way to heaven or get God to do what you want. If you want to be on that side, step over the line. (Hopefully, no one steps. If one does, stop and discuss.)

Also, there are people who say, “Follow me. Be on my side and you will be a winner.” Some of these try to lead you away from God.

Remember the King of Assyria? He wanted people to follow him and thought that no one, not even God, could stand against him. There are people today who say, “It’s not important to know about God or obey him.” If you want to be on that side, step over the line. (Hopefully, no one steps. If one does, stop and discuss.)

Step over the line with a handful of wrapped bubble gum, leaving your kids behind. Make a “G” on the floor with the gum pieces.

I just made a “G” with the wrapped bubble gum. Imagine that God is on this side. Who do you think that he would choose to be on his side? (Each one of us.) Why? (Because he loves each person so much.)

Picture God pointing to you and saying, “I made you. I know you. I love you just the way you are. I want you to be on my team.” Would you want to step over the line? (Allow kids to answer.) Good!

But there is a problem called sin. Sin is all the ways we have disobeyed God and it keeps us from being on God’s team, just like this line that separates us. However, there is one way to reach the other side so that we can join God’s team.

Place the four-foot piece of string over the six-foot piece so that it forms a cross.

This cross reminds us that God’s own Son Jesus took all of our sin on himself when he died for our punishment. Through Jesus, we are forgiven. It’s just like Jesus lifted our sins from us, so that we can be completely acceptable to God... just the way we are. Now when God looks at you and says, “I choose you to be on my side,” you still have to step over the line. You have to trust Jesus as your Savior. If you trust him, then step over the line to God’s side.

Have the children walk along the newly laid piece of string to step onto God’s side.

****Whose side are you on? (We’re on God’s side!)***

Joshua 24:15 says “...choose today whom you will serve...my family and I will still serve the Lord.”

Note: If a child is not sure about his or her faith in Christ, let him/her ask any questions now. Pray with that child or all the children if you feel the timing is right, or you can encourage him/her to visit with you more afterward. The concluding prayer may help.

Application Activity 2:

CAUTION: *This activity is an excellent visual but may have potential for problems. It is your church's responsibility to decide whether or not to use this activity. (See Safety and Security Statement below.)*

Supplies: several two-foot pieces of string (one for each child) and bubble gum from the last activity.

Say:

Sin was swallowed up when Jesus died for us. This next activity will remind us of that.

Give each child a two-foot section of string and a piece of bubble gum. Have them unwrap their gum and tie one end of the string to it. Then, put the empty end of the string in their mouth and try to work the string up into their mouth without using their hands. Warn them not to swallow the string! This activity is slow but it can be done safely. When they get their gum to their mouth, then they can remove their string and chew their gum.

If time permits, blow bubbles with your bubble gum and talk about how God wants them to invite others to join God's team, too. Restate the take home point:

****Whose side are you on? We're on God's side! We know God's side is the right side. Now go and choose others for God's side, too.***

Closing Prayer:

Let each child thank God for inviting them to be part of his team and making a way possible for them to cross the line. Close the prayer time with the following.

Dear God, thank you that you want us to be on your side. Thank you for loving us just the way we are. But we also know that you don't love sin. Each one of us has done things that disobey you. We admit this and need your forgiveness. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. We trust him to take away our sin. Thank you for choosing us. We choose to step over the line to be on your side through the cross of Jesus. In his name we pray, Amen.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Be on God's side!

Good Kings/Bad Kings in the Land of Judah

This seven-week series tours the southern kingdom of Judah and visits its kings. The audience will interact in the contest called "Good King—Bad King." Every week, a child is pulled from the audience and given the title "King of Kids" for the day. This child is costumed with a crown and robe and sit on a throne. He/she will also be given a yardstick to help make their ruling.

Gordy becomes the "Court Comic" and the large group presenter will be "Lefty," the king's right-hand man. It is the job of the "King of Kids" to ask interview questions of the king who is interviewed that day. After the interview of the Judean king, the "King of Kids" asks for a judgment from the audience as to whether he is a good king or a bad king. The audience will respond with cheers or boos. Lefty will run the meter that determines good or bad with an arrow. The "King of Kids" has the privilege of giving the consequences to the bad king, such as a pie in the face or a squirt with a water pistol. If the Judean king is ruled a good king, the "King of Kids" gives the good king a bucket of goodies (i.e., tootsie rolls) to share with the audience. Either way, the audience loves it!

Each week another adult plays the role of the King of Judah. Since it may be hard to find several different adults to play this role, the script is written so that one person could play all of the kings because they are not costumed uniquely. Instead, on the side of the stage opposite the "King of Kids," the king being interviewed will sit on a stool with a sign around his/her neck and a simple crown. In front of him/her is a stage prop that is a giant Bible (only the cover is shown). The Bible is made out of two poster boards attached to a cardboard box so the Bible looks like it is open. The box behind the Bible will be filled with objects that help tell the king's story. Each object is sequenced and has a question attached to it. Lefty (the large group presenter) will pull the objects out one at a time and hand them to the "King of Kids." He/she will then read the question, asking for an explanation of the object. The questions help the king being interviewed tell his story with visual illustration.

For pictures of the Bible box and King Meter, see lesson 16.

Props needed: a yardstick, two crowns, royal robe, a throne, giant Bible (two poster boards attached with a 6" binding to a cardboard box), a King Meter - made of a poster board and an arrow that moves back and forth to indicate good or bad, a piece of burnt toast, an invitation, a broken pole, a white sword covered in gold glitter, candies

Even Gordy is Chosen

Puppet Presentation

Presenter: Hi, Gordy! Did you have a lot of fun today in your small group?

Gordy: No, not really.

Presenter: What's wrong? You seem kind of depressed.

Gordy: Well, I wasn't chosen for the game.

Presenter: What do you mean you weren't chosen?

Gordy: I was chosen, sort of, but I couldn't really play.

Presenter: Tell me what happened.

Gordy: I was really excited about the part where I got chosen for the Olympic team and that I could pick my own sport! But when I got to tell my shepherd what sport I was going to be captain of, she didn't like it.

Presenter: Oh, I'm sure that's not true...

Gordy: Oh, yes, it is!

Presenter: Tell me what it is.

Gordy: Archery. You know shooting an arrow with a bow.

Presenter: Well, that doesn't seem so bad. Why didn't she like it?

Gordy: Because the target is an apple on my sister's head.

Presenter: Oh Gordy, that is dangerous! Of course, your shepherd would make you choose another sport.

Gordy: But I don't think I'm good at very much else.

Presenter: You weren't chosen in this game for what you're good at. You were chosen because of who you are. And you are a neat kid, Gordy.

Gordy: I'm not sure my shepherd knows that.

Presenter: I'm sure she does. She even knows that that's the way God sees you.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: God chose you and he invites you to be part of his team because of who you are.

Gordy: Even if I'm only good in archery?

Presenter: He loves you just the way you are. You don't have to be perfect to join his side. He invites you to step over the line and be on his team just because he loves you and chooses you.

We are going to meet a king today who faced the challenge of fighting a king from Assyria. In this event we discover not only can we be on God's side, but also, he is on our side.

King Hezekiah

Dramatic Interview

Lefty: Let's find our "King of Kids" for today and this will be done with the magic King Finder.

Pull out the yardstick, turn around and move the stick back and forth behind your back and then stop. Turn back around and bring forward a child the stick is pointing to and give him/her a crown and a royal robe from the stage assistant. The kid sits on the throne and is handed the yardstick as a scepter.

Then introduce the king from Judah, Hezekiah. Hezekiah appears wearing a crown and a sign around his neck that says "Hezekiah" and sits on the stool. Then say:

Let's look at our first object, which is...

Reach into the box and pull out a piece of burnt toast. Say:

"King of Kids," what is your question for King Hezekiah?

Hands the toast with the question attached to the kid volunteer.

King of Kids: What is this burnt toast for?

Hezekiah: *When I became king, I wanted to stop all the false idol worship in the land and lead everyone to serve the one true God. I had the priests clean out the temple and prepare it to be a house of God. When they were done, we worshiped God with burnt offerings. We burnt the best of what we had to honor God for giving us everything we own. We also sang many songs and played instruments.*

Lefty: I thought maybe you were going to say you skipped breakfast. That sounds like a good time of worship. I am eager to find out what happened after that.

Pull out an invitation.

King of Kids: What is this invitation to?

Hezekiah: *After the temple was clean, I realized the feast of the Passover had not been celebrated in years, so I put one together. The Passover reminded us God was with us and had been with us since Moses led the people out of Egypt many, many, many years ago.*

I was very excited to celebrate the Passover and sent an invitation to the other nations to join us in worshiping God. Some people made fun of it, but still a lot of people came to celebrate with Judah.

Lefty: There are more items in here...

Pull out a broken pole.

King of Kids: Why is this pole broken?

Hezekiah: *After the Passover, the people realized again how they had been wrong to worship the false gods of Baal and Asherah, so they went out and smashed all the gods and altars. After that, all the guests returned to their homes in their own lands.*

Lefty: I think there is one more item in this box.

Pull out a white sword covered in gold glitter.

King of Kids: What does this sword stand for?

Hezekiah: *This is the best part. I was really scared because Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, wanted to take over Judah. I also knew God was bigger than him so I reassured the people that God would save us. Sennacherib was mean and he wrote letters to me insulting the Lord. The prophet Isaiah and I prayed for God to save us and God sent one angel, that's right, one angel to destroy the whole army and the King of Assyria went home. That is how big God is!*

Lefty: I think it's time to make our ruling. I will bring out the King Meter. Okay, kids do you think Hezekiah was a good king or a bad king of Judah?

Kids cheer and yell as Lefty moves the arrow back and forth until it rests on the "good" side. He turns asks the King of Kids:

King of Kids, what is the ruling?

King of Kids: Good king!

Lefty: Do you know what that means?

Assistants pass out Starburst candies to the audience. *Option: pass out candies as kids leave large group area or give to shepherds to pass out during small group time.*

Even Gordy Gets Chosen

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: Have you decided which side you want to be on?

Gordy: I want to be on God's side! But sometimes I'm not good enough to be on his side. I mean, I make lots of mistakes. Are you sure God wants me on his side?

Presenter: That's the best part, Gordy. God wants you on his side no matter what you have done. In the event of Hezekiah in the Bible, God healed the people from their sin even though they were unclean. There is a way that he made this possible for you and me to do even now. It is through Jesus.

Gordy: Oh, yes, I know about Jesus.

Presenter: Because of Jesus, God can lift our sin off of us. He will look at us and see no sin at all. We just need to make the choice to take his invitation to join his team. It's a step onto his side.

Gordy: Oh, yes, I want to be on his side! And if I'm on God's team, he's also on my team.

Presenter: Yes! Just like God was on Hezekiah's team to help him defeat Assyria. Seems like a pretty good deal to me.

Gordy: I'm so thankful for Jesus so I can be on God's side. I want to tell him right now!

Presenter: Go ahead, Gordy, why don't you tell him right now.

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for Jesus who made it possible for us to be on your side. Thank you also for loving me and inviting me no matter what I have done. I am going to need your help sometimes when I face challenges, but

I know you will help me because I have chosen to be on your side and that makes you on my side, too! You are the best! In Jesus' name. Amen.

Presenter: I would let you go now, Gordy, but that is not all. There is one last thing. Don't forget how Hezekiah invited the other nations to join in his celebration and worship God. We need to show other people how God has invited them to be on his team and all they have to do is choose to be on God's side.

Gordy: Okay, I won't forget. Bye!

King Hezekiah's Responses

Burnt Toast:

When I became king, I wanted to stop all the false idol worship in the land and lead everyone to serve the one true God. I had the priests clean out the temple and prepare it to be a house of God. When they were done, we worshiped God with burnt offerings. We burned the best of what we had to honor God for giving us everything we own. We also sang many songs and played instruments.

An Invitation:

After the temple was clean, I realized the feast of the Passover had not been celebrated in years, so I put one together. The Passover reminded us God was with us and had been with us since Moses led the people out of Egypt many, many, many years ago.

I was very excited to celebrate the Passover and sent an invitation to the other nations to join us in worshiping God. Some people made fun of it, but still a lot of people came to celebrate with Judah.

Broken Pole:

After the Passover, the people realized again how they had been wrong to worship the false gods of Baal and Asherah, so they went out and smashed all the gods and altars. After that, all the guests returned to their homes in their own lands.

White Sword:

This is the best part. I was really scared because Sennacherib, the King of Assyria, wanted to take over Judah, but I also knew God was bigger than him and so I reassured the people that God would save us. Sennacherib was mean he wrote letters to me insulting the Lord. The prophet Isaiah and I prayed for God to save us and God sent one angel, that's right, one angel to destroy the whole army and the King of Assyria went home. That is how big God is!

King of Kids Questions:

Burnt Toast:

What is this burnt toast for?

Invitation:

What is this invitation to?

Broken pole:

Why is this pole broken?

Sword:

What does this sword stand for?