



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Good Kings/Bad Kings  
Fall Year 4, Lesson 18

# Jehoram's Awful Death

**Take Home Point:** \*If you ignore God—you'll go "out of control!" \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** 2 Chronicles 21:4-20

**Key Verse:** Psalm 143:10, "Teach me to do your will, because you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on level ground."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Jehoram's wicked rule and God's judgment and death given to him.
- If they forget God, they too, will go out of control.
- To let God have control of their life.
- Jesus made a way through his death and resurrection in our place to be under God's control.

**We will help kids feel:**

- Fear over the consequences of removing ourselves from God's control.
- Comfort in the security of following God and living under his control.

**We will help kids do:**

- Play a game of "battle tops" and watch tops go out of control.
- Relate tops going out of control to ways they lost control when they didn't get what they wanted.
- Pray and express confidence in Christ to keep them under God's control.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Children play a game of “battle tops” to display what happens when something gets out of control.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tops for each child</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	3  7  8  9	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy is Out of Control”—Gordy displays he is out of control when he tries to have things his way.</p> <p><b>Dramatic Interview:</b> “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews King Jehoram to determine if he is a good or bad king.</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy is Out of Control”—Gordy learns he needs to be under God’s control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• yardstick</li> <li>• royal robe</li> <li>• two crowns</li> <li>• throne</li> <li>• sign that says “King Jehoram”</li> <li>• giant Bible prop</li> <li>• stool</li> <li>• bottle of Pepto-Bismol</li> <li>• sandal</li> <li>• sword</li> <li>• questions attached to each object in the box (p. 10)</li> <li>• “King Meter”</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Using a top, the shepherd will demonstrate the difference between a top that loses control and one that is under someone’s control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a top</li> </ul>

## 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: inexpensive tops*

Give a top to each student. On a hard surface, have them all spin their tops at the same time and have a contest to see whose spins the longest. (*Some kids may have to learn how to spin a top.*) Make mention of the tops that go “out of control” and use that phrase when referring to them.

After a few minutes of play, ask:

**These tops get kind of crazy when they get “out of control.” Can you remember a time when you went “out of control” about something? For example, have you ever lost your temper or thrown a tantrum when you didn’t get what you wanted? Maybe your mom wouldn’t buy something for you at the store, or maybe things didn’t go your way on the playground.**

Let each child tell about a time they went “out of control.” You may want to begin the discussion with your own personal example.

**In the Bible event today, we will meet a king that forgot about God when he wanted something and went “out of control.” Today we will learn *\*If you ignore God—you’ll go “out of control!”***

## 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:** “Gordy is “out of control””—Gordy displays he is “out of control” when he tries to have things his way.

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

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy is ‘out of control’”—Gordy learns he needs to be under God’s control.

# 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?

Have kids refer to 2 Chronicles 21:4-20 in their Bibles.

**Even though Jehoram was wicked, why didn't God destroy him?** (2 Chronicles 21:7. God had made a promise not to destroy the house of David that Jehoram belonged to. Note: David's family is the ancestral line that Jesus would come from.)

**Who sent Jehoram a letter?** (2 Chronicles 21:12. Elijah.)

**What did it say would happen to Jehoram because he had led Judah astray?** (2 Chronicles 21:14-15. It says Jehoram had not followed the ways of his father Jehoshaphat, but instead followed the wicked kings of Israel. Because of this and killing all his brothers, God would strike a blow to Jehoram's people, his wife and sons, and his property. Jehoram would be afflicted with a disease in his stomach that would make his stomach come out.)

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Where do you think Jehoram learned to worship false gods?** (From his wife, Athaliah, who was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, the wicked rulers of the northern kingdom.)

**Why do you suppose Jehoram immediately put all of his brothers to death when he became king?** (He was afraid they would try to take his position and he wanted to be the one in control.)

## Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Jehoram tried to control his life and do what he wanted instead of letting God be in control. Because of this, he made some very poor choices that brought serious consequences.

**What happens when we let God have control of our life instead of trying to control things ourselves? (He helps us make better choices.)**  
**Why are God's ways always better for us than our own? (God knows all and knows what is best. We are sinful and selfish. God is holy and righteous.)**

Application Activity:

Place one top on the ground and say:

**I want to show you an example of being in the right control. Here's a top that wants to operate on it's own. Let's see what it does.**

Set the top down without spinning it and command it. Say:

**Okay, top, you can start spinning if you want. Come on! Well, that doesn't work so well. It's really rather silly, isn't it? However, we know the power for the top to spin is from the person who spins it.**

**God wants to have this same kind of control over our lives so he can place us where we can spin under his control.**

Spin the top and retrieve it before it stops spinning. Repeat this and then, in contrast, spin it in a place where you know it will die out or wreck. Illustrate that when you don't retrieve it, it either wrecks or dies out.

**Let's think of our tops this week as ways that we can be under God's control. How do we do that? We can start by praying.**

**Think of something in your life you may want so badly. Maybe you are trying to get it in a way that God would not approve. You are trying to take control away from him. You want to do it your way instead of his way. For example, maybe you want to get better grades so bad that you are willing to cheat. That wouldn't be God's way, but you try to control it yourself by cheating. It's much better to let God control it.**

**We want to remember that we can be in God's control because he gave us Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, he paid the price for all of our sins. He took all of our punishment for the wrong choices, so that we could be under God's control and we would want to live for him.**

**It's very important today that we pray for his control in our lives in Jesus' name, trusting that he will help us. We can pray the words of the Bible from Psalm 143:10, *"Teach me to do your will, because you are my God. May your good Spirit lead me on level ground."***

**Remember that just like Jehoram, *"If we ignore God—we will go "out of control!"***

Closing Prayer:

Have kids confess the areas of their lives that are “out of control” and have them ask for God’s control. Then conclude with:

**Lord, teach us to do your will, because you are our God.  
May your good Spirit lead us to follow your ways so we  
will be on level ground and not “out of control.” We ask  
this in Jesus’ powerful name, Amen.**

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# **Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes**

## **Be Humble Before God**

### **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 stool, a King Meter - made of a poster board and an arrow that moves back and forth to indicate good or bad, a sandal, a bottle of Pepto Bismol, a sword*

# Gordy is “Out of Control”

## Puppet Presentation

**Presenter:** Hi, Gordy. Did you have a good time in small group today? You’re looking very happy about something.

Gordy: I sure did, because I won in the “Battle of the Tops” contest.

**Presenter:** “Battle of the Tops,” huh? That sounds like fun. How did you win? Were you the best top spinner?

Gordy: Nope. I kicked everyone else’s top out of the way, and then I spun my top so it would be the only one! You should have seen them fly!

**Presenter:** I bet the other kids didn’t like that very much, did they?

Gordy: No. One kid tried to kick my top over, so I just kicked him in the leg!

**Presenter:** (*Shaking head*) Gordy, Gordy, Gordy, you are “out of control!”

Gordy: Sometimes that happens when I want something so bad...I just go “out of control.”

**Presenter:** That’s what happened to a king named Jehoram.

Gordy: Do we get to meet him today?

**Presenter:** We sure do, but do you know what I need to do first?

Gordy: Oh, yes, first I need my hat!

**Presenter:** Yes, you do (*places court comic hat on Gordy*), but I also need to choose my “King of Kids” for today. I need my magic King Finder to do that.

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.

## King Jehoram

### Dramatic Interview

Introduce Jehoram, the king from Judah. Jehoram appears wearing a crown and a sign around his neck that says “Jehoram” and sits on the stool.

**Lefty:** Our first object today is...

Reach into the box and pull out a sword. Say:

**“King of Kids,” what is your question for King Jehoram?**

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

*King of Kids: What does this sword symbolize?*

**Jehoram:** *It reminds me of when I killed my six brothers. My father was King Jehosophat and everyone liked him. I was the oldest son, and when he died, I was in charge! My father and my brothers followed what they called the One True God, but I would have none of that nonsense. I killed them because I did not want them around anymore. No one was going to keep telling me what to do.*

**Lefty:** Wow! Okay, let’s find our next item so we can hear more...

Pull out a sandal.

*King of Kids: King Jerhoram, what does this sandal represent?*

**Jehoram:** *Well, I married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. (Looks at audience.) That’s right! Remember them? (Turns back to King of Kids and smirks while saying the following.) They were the rulers in the northern kingdom and they were known for their wickedness. That sandal is a reminder that I walked in the way of those wicked rulers as the Bible states. Athaliah taught me a lot. She showed me there were other gods to follow instead of the One True God my father claimed. You also have a sandal because I walked down that same wicked road and also led the people of Judah in that way. I taught them to worship the other gods.*

**Lefty:** Let’s pull out our last object so we can find out what happened...

Pull out a bottle of Pepto-Bismol.

*King of Kids: Tell us what this bottle is for.*

**Jehoram:** *It all started when Elijah sent me a letter. It told me basically that I had \*forgotten God and I was “out of control.” As a consequence, I would have a disease that gave me the worst tummy ache in the world. Then, after that, my stomach would fall out!*

**Lefty:** Ewww! Okay, I think it is time to make the ruling. I will bring out the King Meter. Okay, kids do you think Jehoram was a good king or a bad king of Judah?

Kids boo and yell as Lefty moves the arrow back and forth until it rests on the “bad” side. He turns the meter to the “King of Kids.”

**King of Kids, what is the ruling?**

*King of Kids: Bad King!*

**Lefty: Do you know what that means?**

Lefty takes the bottle of Pepto-Bismol and pours it on Jehoram’s head.

## **Gordy is “Out of Control”**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

Gordy: That was gross!

**Presenter: I know and not only that, the Bible says that King Jehoram passed away to no one’s regret. No one was even sad when he died because he was so wicked.**

Gordy: Yeah, he made some really bad choices!

**Presenter: Yes, he did. He wanted to be in charge of his life so bad that he got rid of many people and led many people to make bad choices, too. He did not let God be in control at all.**

Gordy: I want to let God control me, but it’s hard to let God be in control when I want something so bad!

**Presenter: That is when you have to try your hardest to ask God for his help. He also gave us Jesus to help us. Jesus died for the bad choices we have made and now he wants us to make good choices. When we decide to do what is right, we are letting God control our life. When we do things our way, it’s easy for things to go wrong.**

Gordy: I want to tell God right now that I want his help.

**Presenter: That sounds like a great idea, Gordy.**

Gordy: Dear God, I need your help a lot when I want something so bad that I make bad choices. I’m sorry for the times when I have been selfish and have done things my own way. Thank you for Jesus who came to earth and died for those bad things. Please help me to not ignore you so that I won’t get “out of control.” In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**King of Kids Questions:**

Sword:

**What does this sword stand for?**

Sandal:

**King Jehoram, what does this sandal represent?**

Pepto-Bismol:

**Tell us what this bottle stands for.**

## JEHORAM'S RESPONSES

### Sword:

It reminds me of when I killed my six brothers. My father was King Jehosophat and everyone liked him. I was the oldest son, and when he died, I was in charge! My father and my brothers followed what they called the One True God but I would have none of that nonsense. I killed them because I did not want them around anymore. No one was going to keep telling me what to do.

### Sandal:

Well, I married Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. (Looks at audience.) That's right! Remember them? (Turns back to King of Kids.) They were the rulers in the northern kingdom and they were known for their wickedness. That sandal is a reminder that I walked in the way of those wicked rulers as the Bible states. Athaliah taught me a lot. She showed me there were other gods to follow instead of the One True God my father claimed. You also have a sandal because I walked down that same wicked road and also led the people of Judah in that way. I taught them to worship the other gods.

### Pepto-Bismol:

It all started when Elijah sent me a letter. It told me basically that I had forgotten God and I was "out of control." As a consequence, I would have a disease that gave me the worst tummy ache in the world and then, after that, my stomach would fall out!