



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Lookin' for a Leader  
Fall Year 3, Lesson 25

# Listen to God's Warning

**Take Home Point:** \*Listen to God's warning.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** 1 Kings 12:25-14:20, 15:25-30

**Key Verses:** Psalm 81:8-10, "Listen, my people, and I will warn you. Israel, if you would only listen to me! Never keep any strange god among you. Never worship a foreign god. I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Jeroboam as leader over the ten tribes of the divided kingdom of Israel.
- Jeroboam led the people into idolatry and did not listen to the Lord's warnings so he and his family were destroyed.
- God invites us not to turn away from him but to come to him. He warns us if we stray.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Caution over the seriousness of sin and idolatry.
- Security in God's love and grace as we come to him.

**We will help kids do:**

- Reenact situations in which they can hear a warning before making choices that take us farther from God.
- Hear from God's word so they might listen to God's warnings and stay close to his love.

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids make a movement machine and experience the warning as the machine begins to break down.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>video camera (one for all groups)</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8  10  13	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy is Too Big for Warnings”—Gordy doesn’t want to do the “right thing.”  <b>Dramatic Storytelling:</b> “ <i>Listen To God’s Warning</i> ”—This Bible event is found in 1 Kings 12:25-14:20, 15:25-30 and tells about King Jeroboam’s disobedience.  <b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy is Too Big for Warnings”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gordy with a tall hat</li> <li>fire alarm, siren or flashing red light</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5	Kids act out scenarios and discuss what might be God’s warning in each situation. A scripture verse is applied to each situation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Is There a Warning Here?</i> (pages 14-15)</li> <li>scenario cards (page 16)</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.*

Today's Warm-Up will start with a creative dramatic activity that serves as a group builder. The group will attempt to make a "movement machine" by having all the kids connected together as individual parts of the machine. Each child will make a movement or sound to give the effect of an entire machine running together.

**We are going to make a "human movement machine." Each of you will be a part of the machine.**

**Think of a special movement you could do to the movement of this machine. It might be moving your arms slowly up and down or nodding your head up and down. You could make flashing lights of your hands by opening and closing your fists.**

**As soon as somebody has some ideas for being a part of the machine, that person can stand in the place where we will build the machine. This person will establish a rhythm of movement for our machine.**

As another child gets an idea for a part to the machine, he/she can stand next to the first "machine part." If possible, have the machine parts touching at some point. Keep adding machine parts until the machine is complete. You might want to keep the rhythm of the machine going by snapping your fingers or clapping your hands.

When the machine is running smoothly, announce that in just a minute you will have to push the warning button. This is because something is going wrong with the machine, and that if it doesn't shut down, it will blow up. Tell the machine that as soon as you push the warning button, everyone must together repeat in their best "machine voice" the word, "WARNING, WARNING, WARNING, etc." You can even help the effect by adding your own siren sounds or flashing lights. When the kids understand, press the imaginary warning button and let the machine go into its warning mode. It might be extra fun to let a machine blow up because the warning mode was not honored.

During the Warm-Up time, someone with a video camera will come by and take five to eight second video clips of groups performing their machine as it kicks into warning mode. These clips will be seen during the Large Group Presentation.

If there is enough time, one group may want to gather with another so that they could show each other their machines.

Have your group come together and quiet them down as you continue with discussion.

**Today we will talk about warnings that we have in our lives. What are some warnings that you hear?** *(Don't talk to strangers. Don't do drugs. Don't play with matches.)*

**Why are warnings given?** *(To keep us from harm because something bad could happen if we did those things.)*

**In large group today, we will hear about a king who ruled after Solomon. Israel was divided into kingdoms with two different kings. This king, Jeroboam ruled the northern part of the kingdom called Israel. He received some warnings from God. Listen to the Bible event to see if he heeded God's advice.**

**We will learn today to *\*listen to God's warning.***

## **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 Too Big for Warnings”—Gordy doesn’t want to obey the warning about height requirements to ride a roller coaster. He wears a tall hat to try and sneak by the regulations.

**Dramatic Storytelling:** “Listen to God’s Warning”—God warned King Jeroboam not to make or follow idols. Jeroboam does not heed God's warning and his whole family is destroyed. This Bible event is found in 1 Kings 12:25-14:20; 15:25-30.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy Is Too Big for Warnings”—Gordy learns from the Bible event that God gives warnings to protect his people, not to harm them. God desires that all would come near to him.

## **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.*

Invite the kids to use siren noises or other warning signals when they hear special warnings from God's word as the Bible event is reviewed. After the kids have practiced their warning signals, point to a specific child to prompt the warning noise during the discussion.

### **Observation Questions: What happened?**

Have kids turn in their Bibles to 1 Kings 12:25-31. Read out loud.

**Why did King Jeroboam decide to build idols and other places to worship God instead of in Jerusalem?** *(1 Kings 12:27 He thought that if the people went to Jerusalem to worship, they would start to like Rehoboam better.)*

**What kind of idols did he make?** *(1 Kings 12:28. Two golden calves.)*

**What event in Israel's history does the golden calf remind you of?** *(Exodus 32. The children of Israel made and worshiped a golden calf in the desert after leaving Egypt. Note: The golden calf was a replica of an Egyptian god.)*

**What lie did Jeroboam tell the people about the golden calves?** *(1 Kings 12:2 . "Here are your gods who brought you out of Egypt.")*

**Where would the people have to go to worship these idols?** *(1 Kings 12:29. Bethel and Dan.)*

Read 1 Kings 13:1-5 to find out how God warned Jeroboam.

**The warning alarm went off.** Point to a child to make his/her warning signal. **Did Jeroboam listen yet?** *(No.)*

Read 1 Kings 14:6-10. Point to a child to make his/her warning signal.

**Jeroboam's wife went to the prophet Ahijah because her son was sick. Did Ahijah recognize her? What was the warning Ahijah told Jeroboam's wife to pass on to Jeroboam?** *(1 Kings 14:9-10. "You have done more evil things than everyone before you. You made other gods... That is why I will bring disaster on Jeroboam's house.")*

Point to a child to make his/her warning signal.

Read 1 Kings 14:17 and 15:29.

**What was God's judgment on Jeroboam?** *(His son died and later he died and the rest of his family.)*

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Why do you think Jeroboam did not listen and obey God's warnings?**

**What do you think God would have done if Jeroboam had repented and had gone back to worshipping the only true God?**

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

Application Activity:

*Needed:*

- *appendix sheet "Is There a Warning Here?" shepherd's copy*
- *scenario cards for the kids*

For this activity have kids work with a partner to make a freeze frame of a situation. Use scenarios from *"Is There a Warning Here?"* A warning verse is included and can be used for discussion purposes afterwards. Making a freeze frame is posing to demonstrate an event that is happening. For example, in the first scenario, "I can stay mad at my friend and it doesn't bother my relationship with God," one child can stand crossing his arms with backed turned toward his/her partner.

It would be fun to have one pair present the freeze frame, have someone sound a warning, and let the other kids guess what is being presented. You might have to give clues so the kids can guess correctly.

The kids can then talk about what it is they would do to heed God's warning and follow God's way in each situation. Make sure the kids understand that if they make mistakes and don't heed the warnings of God, they can always return to the Lord and ask for his forgiveness in Jesus' name.

Conclusion:

**Today we learned to *\*listen to God's warning*. We also can see from the Bible event with King Jeroboam that there can be serious consequences when we don't listen to God.**

**God says in Psalm 81:8, "*Listen, my people, and I will warn you. Israel, if you would only listen to me! Never keep any strange god among you. Never worship a foreign god. I am the LORD your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.*"**

**What does God want for his people? (*He wants us to follow him only. He is the true living God and he will provide for us, protect us, and save us. He wants to do what is best for us.*)**

### Closing Prayer:

Invite the children to talk about specific things in their lives that God warns them about and the help they need to heed that warning. Encourage the kids to pray for one another. Always point out that, with Jesus as our Savior, we have his forgiveness and power to listen to and follow God.

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# Large Group Presentation

## Gordy Is Too Big for Warnings Puppet Presentation

Today's large group topic focuses on warnings. Instead of a carnival game, show video clips from the small group warm-up. The human contraptions in warning mode should be briefly captured so the video lasts no more than four minutes. The video focuses on the topic of warning.

Gordy will set up the presentation. Gordy appears with some type of tall hat that gives him a height advantage when measured to see if he is tall enough to be on a roller coaster.

**Mr. King:**    **Hi, kids! Welcome to Kingdom Quest Carnival. This is the last week of our carnival. Hey, I need my special assistant, Gordy, to help me today.**

Gordy:        Hi, Mr. King! Hi, kids!

**Mr. King:**    **What's up with the hat?**

Gordy:        It's my height advantage.

**Mr. King:**    **What do you mean your "height advantage?"**

Gordy:        Well, I love to ride roller coasters, but they say you have to be taller than I am. If I wear this hat, I'll be tall enough to ride the coaster.

**Mr. King:**    **But those are warnings, Gordy. If you are not tall enough to ride the roller coaster, you will fall out of the seat belt.**

Gordy:        Who needs them?

**Mr. King:**    **Well, you might fall out of the roller coaster car.**

Gordy:        I don't care.

**Mr. King:**    **Well, you might fly out when you are at the very top!**

Gordy:        Cool! I would fly.

**Mr. King:**    **Yeah, but what about when you land?**

Gordy:        Oh. I didn't think of that.



**Mr. King:** That could be serious. Gordy, the reason they measure you before getting on a roller coaster is because it is a warning. If you are not tall enough, you could get hurt.

Gordy: But I'm *tired* of being *little*. I don't need all those silly warnings.

**Mr. King:** I'm sorry you're tired of being little, but you *do* need warnings. Everyone needs warnings.

Gordy: Grown up people don't need warnings.

**Mr. King:** They sure do. Today's Bible event is about God giving some very important warnings to a man named Jeroboam.

Gordy: Who was he?

**Mr. King:** He was king of Israel.

Gordy: What was he getting warned about?

**Mr. King:** He was warned not to follow other gods or make idols.

Gordy: I know making idols is dumb.

**Mr. King:** It sure is. It's also dangerous. When Jeroboam didn't listen to God's warning, it destroyed him and his whole family.

Gordy: Wow! Did they fall out of a roller coaster?

**Mr. King:** No, worse than that. We'll talk about it today. First, let's see the warnings our human movement machines made in small group. Check these out, Gordy.

Show video clips from Small Group Warm-Up.

Gordy: So these kids made warning machines that remind us that God has warnings for us.

**Mr. King:** That's exactly right, Gordy. Let's hear from our storyteller about the warning signal that should have been going off in the brain of Jeroboam when God warned him.

**Mr. King:** Now I introduce to you the storyteller and the story of Jeroboam who did not listen to God's warning against idols.

## **Listen to God's Warning**

### **A Storytelling of Jeroboam's Warning**

*Caution: This lesson can become too long. Be concise and as brief as possible.*

The storyteller comes onstage with some type of warning device. A fire alarm, a siren, or a flashing red light could be used to remind the kids of a warning. The storyteller will use this when God warns Jeroboam in the story.

**Last week we learned that Rehoboam was Solomon's son. He was too big for his britches and did not listen to good advice. Because of that, part of his kingdom decided not to follow him.**

**There were twelve tribes in the kingdom. The ten tribes in the north called themselves Israel. The two tribes in the south called themselves Judah. The kingdom had been divided into two.**

Draw on a flip chart to show the country split in two... north and south.

**The northern kingdom of Israel appointed a man named Jeroboam to be their king. The prophet, Ahijah, had promised Jeroboam, "If you walk in God's ways and keep his commands, he will bless you and be with you." Do you think Jeroboam obeyed? He did not.**

**Here was his problem. Jeroboam was worried his people in the northern kingdom of Israel would want to worship at the temple in Jerusalem where Rehoboam lived. He thought that after they visited the temple, they might decide they would want Rehoboam to be their king. Jeroboam was afraid he would lose his job as king of Israel.**

**So this is what Jeroboam did. He set up his own places of worship. One place would be at the border of his country in a town called Bethel. Another place would be on the other side of his country in a town called Dan. He could not build a temple of the living God there, though, because there was only one temple and it was in Jerusalem.**

**Jeroboam thought to himself, "How about if I make up some other gods for the people to worship? Then I could build my temples." He remembered the gods of Egypt and the Egyptians' large temples for sacred oxen. "That's what I'll do!" he thought.**

**Jeroboam collected much gold, melted it, and molded it into two golden calves. He put each calf in the places of worship in Bethel and Dan. He said to the people, "It is too far to go all the way to Jerusalem to worship God. Instead, these golden calves are your**

**gods. These gods were the ones that brought you out of the land of Egypt and the land of slavery.”**

**Jeroboam had great feast days and invited all the people to see his golden calves and offer sacrifices. He was leading the people away from God and into idol worship. What do you think God thought of that? Of course, God was displeased.**

**God sent a prophet to warn Jeroboam. When the prophet came, Jeroboam was burning incense on the altar before one of the idols. The prophet warned him that he should not worship idols, but Jeroboam ignored him.**

**The prophet said, “As a result of this, some day a new king named Josiah will tear down these places of idol worship. He will get rid of all your ungodly priests. Just so that you know that these words of the Lord are true, this altar will fall apart and the ashes will cover the ground!”**

**Jeroboam was angry because of the prophet’s word. After all, *he* was the king. How dare a prophet speak to him that way!**

**Was Jeroboam listening to God’s warning? Of course not. He pointed at the prophet and said to his guards, “Seize him!”**

**As Jeroboam stretched out his arm, it became stiff and withered.**

**Sound the alarm.**

**He could not move his arm. Just then, the stones of the altar fell apart.**

**Sound the alarm.**

**The ashes rolled to the ground. Already the word of the prophet had come true.**

**Now Jeroboam was afraid. He begged the prophet, “Please pray for me and beg the Lord to make my arm well again.”**

**The prophet prayed and Jeroboam’s arm was made well. Do you think that was enough to make Jeroboam stop worshiping idols? Even then he did not listen to the warnings and he did not change his ways. After the prophet left, Jeroboam made more priests of idol worship.**

Time went on and Jeroboam's son became ill. Nothing seemed to make him better. Jeroboam was so worried that he decided to ask God's prophet if the boy would ever get well again. But Jeroboam was afraid to go to the prophet because he knew he had displeased God by leading the people into idol worship. Jeroboam was not yet ready to change from his sin.

So Jeroboam told his wife, "Disguise yourself so no one will know that you are the queen. Visit the prophet and ask him if our child will live."

Use a disguise such as nose and glasses to tell this part.

The queen did as Jeroboam asked. She arrived at the house of the old, blind prophet, Ahijah. He was the prophet who had, years before, told Jeroboam that he would be king. Even though Ahijah could not see any longer and Jeroboam's wife was in disguise, he knew just who the queen was. The Lord had told him about the woman's identity.

The Lord also told Ahijah to tell Jeroboam's wife that her son would die as soon as she stepped back into the city. Ahijah also told the queen that the Lord would appoint another king over Israel. That king would destroy Jeroboam and everyone in his house. All of this would happen because Jeroboam did not follow God's ways. Instead, he had made idols of gold and led the people to worship false gods.

Sound the alarm.

What do you think happened? Do you think Jeroboam's son died? Yes. Just as the queen set foot back into the city, the boy died. Do you think another king rose to power? Yes. Every one of Jeroboam's descendants was killed.

How great the punishment was. Jeroboam thought he didn't need to listen to God's warning. If he would have listened to God's warning, do you think God would have accepted him and taken him back? Of course he would have. God wants everyone to come to him.

The reason God warns us is because he does not want people to fall away from him or to follow false gods. God's warning, even though Jeroboam did not listen to it, was a kind thing. God wants people to come to him because it is the best thing for them.

What warnings do you hear God telling you today? You will talk about some of these warnings when you return to your small groups.

## **Gordy Is Too Big for Warnings**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

**Mr. King:** So, Gordy, what did you think about Jeroboam?

Gordy: Mr. King, he wasn't too smart. Why didn't he listen to God's warnings?

**Mr. King:** I don't know. I just know this, however: *\*Listen to God's warnings!*

Gordy: I will ... but what does he warn us about?

**Mr. King:** He warns us not to follow false gods, but instead to trust his Son Jesus as our Savior. Remember that Jesus gave his life for us so that we might be forgiven and filled with God's love.

Gordy: Sure, I'll remember that. That's a warning I would never want to forget. I will always follow Jesus as my Savior. How about you, kids? Will you? (pause) Great!

**Mr. King:** Why don't you close us in prayer then?

Gordy: Dear God, thanks for giving us warnings. Help us *\*listen to your warnings* and not do something dumb like that Jeroboam guy. And, best of all, thanks for giving us your own Son Jesus. He is our God and we won't follow any other dumb false god. Help us always do that. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **“Is There a Warning Here?”**

Shepherd's copy

**I can stay mad at my friend and it doesn't bother my relationship with God.**

WARNING: This is wrong. Matthew 5:22 and 24 say, "...I can guarantee that whoever is angry with another believer will answer for it in court... go away and make peace with that person. Then come back and offer your gift (to God)."

**I don't need to talk to God about my problems.**

WARNING: God wants us to pray to him about everything. Philippians 4:6, "Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks."

**I can say, "Oh, God..." at the beginning of a sentence. It's just a slang saying and everyone says it.**

WARNING: If we use God's name lightly, like it means nothing, we are treating God like he means nothing. God says in Exodus 20:7, "Never use the name of the LORD your God carelessly. The LORD will make sure that anyone who carelessly uses his name will be punished."

**I don't really have to give my money to God's work.**

WARNING: Sometimes money can be like our own idol. We can place it front of God. 1 Timothy 6:10, "Certainly, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people who have set their hearts on getting rich have wandered away from the Christian faith and have caused themselves a lot of grief."

**I really don't need to trust Jesus to go to heaven. I'm good enough to make it on my own.**

WARNING: Only through trust in Jesus and following him can we be put together with God. In John 11:26 Jesus says, "Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." That means they will live in heaven forever.

**I don't have to go to church.**

WARNING: Spending time with God in worship and learning is very important. Exodus 20:8 says, "Remember the day of worship by observing it as a holy day."

<b>I can stay mad at my friend and it doesn't bother my relationship with God.</b>	<b>I can say, "Oh, God..." at the beginning of a sentence. It's just a slang saying and everyone says it.</b>
<b>I don't need to talk to God about my problems.</b>	<b>I don't really have to give my money to God's work.</b>
<b>I really don't need to trust Jesus to go to heaven. I'm good enough to make it on my own.</b>	<b>I don't have to go to church.</b>