



Date: _____
Series: Good Kings - Bad Kings
Fall Year 4, Lesson 19

King Joash— Good Start, Bad Finish

Take Home Point: *Be faithful to God now and your whole life. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 2 Chronicles 21-24

Key Verse: Revelations 2:10, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

We will help kids know:

- Joash was a very young king and he was a good king when he was under the influence of his Uncle Jehoiada, the priest.
- Joash turned from God when his uncle died and he ignored godly wisdom from the next priest.
- We will sin and mess up at times, but we should never turn our back on God.
- God will always be faithful to his promise to receive you if you repent and turn to him.




We will help kids feel:

- Resolved to trust God and be faithful to God’s ways their entire life.
- Confident that they can turn to God and receive his forgiveness and presence in their lives.

We will help kids do:

- Play a game of “Last House Standing” as they talk about finishing what they start.
- Play another game of “Last House Standing,” but this time they will build on a strong foundation.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	The children pair up and try to build the “Last House Standing” as they talk about finishing what they start.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • twenty-one 3 x 5 inch index cards per pair of kids
Large Group 	3 7 10 13	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Plays Grenades”—Gordy learns there are consequences for not remaining faithful to the end even, if we start out good. Dramatic Interview: “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews King Joash to determine if he is a good or bad king. Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Plays Grenades”—Gordy learns from today’s Bible drama not to let anything come between God and us. We are to stay faithful to the end.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • yardstick • royal robe • two crowns • throne • giant Bible prop • stool • “King Meter” • six or more wadded-up 3 x 5 inch index cards (three have questions attached) • questions attached to each object in the box (p. 17) • crown covered with a veil or cloth • plastic sword • hammer • stone • a pie
Small Group Application 	4	Children again build with the index cards. This time they are given some good advice to help them build on a good foundation. When we make our foundation in Christ, we, too, can be faithful to the end.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • twenty-one 3 x 5 inch index cards per pair of kids

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: twenty-one 3 x 5-inch index cards for every group of two kids

Have you ever started something but you didn't finish it? For example, you started an art project, or a game, or maybe a puzzle that you never finished. Who can share some of their own examples?

Let kids discuss. Then continue.

Sometimes life can be that way. We start something and don't finish it. We will learn from the game we play, that it is most important how you finish at the end.

Play "Last House Standing." To do so, have kids get into pairs and give each pair 21 index cards. Tell kids the object of the game is to see which partners can build the tallest card tower in two minutes. If any of the cards fall down before the time is up, they will be taken and put in the group discard pile.

Play two or three rounds. Discuss with the kids that what really counted in this game was how well they finished or completed the structure. Say:

Who had the last house standing? It really didn't make any difference how tall you built it, if it fell down. It is the house standing at the end of the game that matters. Sometimes life is that way. It is important that we finish life well not just get a good start. We are going to discover more about this when we study the young King Joash today.

We will learn today to **be faithful to God now and your whole life.*

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 Plays Grenades"—Gordy learns there are consequences for not remaining faithful to the end, even if we start out good.

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

Puppet Conclusion: "Gordy Plays Grenades"—Gordy learns from today's Bible drama not to let anything come between God and us. We are to stay faithful to the end.

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 22-25 in their Bibles.

Did Joash's father Ahaziah and grandmother Athaliah follow the true God? (2 Chronicles 22:2-4. *They were idol worshipers and did what the LORD considered evil.*)

After Joash's father was killed, his grandmother Athaliah killed the rest of his family. How did Joash escape and survive? (2 Chronicles 22:10-12. *Joash's aunt saved him from being killed. She hid Joash in God's temple where the priests took care of him while his evil grandmother ruled the country for six years.*)

Describe how Joash became king at only seven years old. (2 Chronicles 23:1-3, 9-11. *Jehoiada, a priest and uncle of Joash, convinced the people that Joash should be king because the Lord said King David's descendants should rule. He stationed many troops around the temple so no one would stop them from anointing Joash as king. The people rejoiced and said, "Long live the king!"*)

How did King Joash undo all the evil Athaliah had caused? (2 Chronicles 24:2-5, 14. *Joash did what the Lord said was right. He rebuilt the Lord's temple and the people offered burnt sacrifices to God again.*)

Who influenced Joash to remain faithful to God's ways? (2 Chronicles 24:2. *Joash's uncle Jehoiada, the priest. Jehoiada had been a good and godly example for Joash.*)

Who influenced Joash to turn his back on God? (2 Chronicles 24:15-18. *After Jehoiada's death, Joash listened to officials who gave him bad advice. Joash turned his back on God and began worshiping idols. This made God very angry.*)

How did God warn Joash and his people to turn from their evil ways?
(2 Chronicles 24:19-22. He sent prophets to warn them but they wouldn't listen.)

What were the consequences? *(2 Chronicles 24:23-25. A smaller Aramean army attacked Joash and his army. The Lord handed the victory over to the Aramean's because Joash and his army had abandoned the LORD God. His own officials later killed Joash.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?
Why do you think Joash was so easily influenced by idol worshipers to turn from God? *(He did not follow God with his whole heart and wanted to please others more than he wanted to please God.)*

The key verse is Revelations 2:10, “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Do you think Joash received the crown of life? Why or why not? *(He started out following God, but did not remain faithful to the end.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?
Joash's father and grandfather did not teach his family to grow up and love the one true God. How important do you think a family's spiritual beliefs are to the children in the family?

God requires obedience, but God is quick to acknowledge a repentant heart. How can you finish strong to the end when you live in a sinful world where others might influence or persuade you to go the wrong way?

Because of God's grace and mercy, he sent Jesus to save us. God sent his Son to save the world and forgive our sins because he knew we could not do this on our own.

When you fall short of the obedience that is required of God, you can repent and call on Jesus to live in your heart. You can ask for God's power to help you **be faithful to God now and your whole life.*

Let's try to build some card houses again. This time we are going to begin on a good foundation.

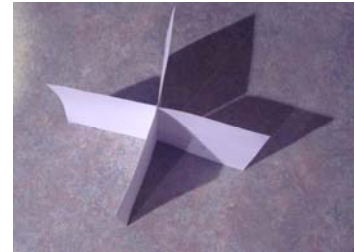
We can build a good start or foundation for the Christian life by going to church, reading the Bible and accepting Jesus into our hearts. This good start can help us finish strong. Let's begin.

Application Activity:

Make sure every pair has twenty-one index cards again.

Bend two 3 x 5 cards in half. Arrange them with the crease back to back. Point out how the two together resemble a cross.

Next, place one card on top of the two bent cards. Bend two more cards and place them with the creases back to back on top of the first floor. Have them continue to build their own structures in the same manner.



How does building your structure now compare to earlier in small group Warm-Up?

Yes, it is easier, and the card house is sturdier. Just like life, with Jesus as your Savior, you can build a stronger life from beginning to the finish. With Jesus, you can be faithful to the end and he will give you the crown of life.

Closing Prayer:

Have kids thank God for sending Jesus to die for our sins and be a good example for us to follow. Pray that even when we mess up, we can remember to repent and ask for forgiveness. Thank God for Jesus living in our hearts and giving us the power to finish strong.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Be Faithful to the End

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, questions attached to each object in the box, six or more 3 x 5-inch wadded up index cards, a crown covered with a veil or cloth, sword, hammer, stone, and a pie

Gordy Plays Grenades

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: at least six wadded-up 3 x 5-inch cards used as “grenades”

Presenter: Hi, kids. Welcome to Kingdom Quest. Let’s call Gordy.

Kids: Gordy...Gordy....Gordy....

No response.

Presenter: Gordy, are you there?

Gordy does not appear, but one wadded-up card comes flying out and then another.

Presenter: Hey, what’s going on here?

Gordy remains behind the stage.

Gordy: (From behind stage...) Grenades awwaaayy!

Presenter: Gordy, what’s going on?

More grenades (wadded up cards) fly over.

Presenter: Gordy, what in the world is going on? Is that you back there?

Gordy: Is that you out there, Mr. _____?

Presenter: It sure is.

Gordy: Grenades awwaaaay! Kaboom!

Presenter: What in the world is going on? Gordy, come out here please. What are you doing?

Gordy: I’m playing “grenades away.”

Presenter: With these 3 x 5-inch cards?

Gordy: You mean 3 x 5-inch grenades?

Presenter: Gordy, weren’t those the cards you used to play “Last House Standing?”

Gordy: Well, I didn’t finish playing that game.

Presenter: Why not?

Gordy: Well, my house kept falling down so I thought I'd make grenades out of the cards instead.

Presenter: Gordy, I don't think it's very nice to play grenades and think about blowing stuff up, especially when you're supposed to finish the game your group is playing.

Gordy: You mean we shouldn't play grenades at church?

Presenter: That's what I mean.

Gordy: Yeah, I guess at church it is not good to play war and blow people up because that never happens.

Presenter: Well, that's not true all the time. That did happen in the Bible.

Gordy: You mean God threw grenades at people in the Bible?

Presenter: No, but there are consequences for people who are not faithful to the end. You will see this happen in today's lesson.

Gordy: We get blown up?

Presenter: No, Gordy, but something else pretty bad happens.

Gordy: Like what?

Presenter: Well, there was one king whose larger army was defeated by a smaller army.

Gordy: Bummer, dude.

Presenter: And the king got injured.

Gordy: More bummer, dude.

Presenter: Finally, he was resting in his own bed and his own servants came in and killed him.

Gordy: Major bummer, dude. He must have been a really bad king, huh?

Presenter: Well, he sure didn't start that way.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Presenter: Why don't you find out today as we play a round of "Good King/Bad King" as we think about the good kings and bad kings that ruled in the southern kingdom of Judah.

King Joash – Good Start, Bad Finish

Dramatic Interview

Lefty: Let's find our "King of Kids" for today using our 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, Joash. Joash appears wearing a crown and a sign around his neck that says "Joash" and sits on the stool. Then say:

Our first object is...

Reach into the box and pull out a "grenade." Say:

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

Hand a grenade (*wadded up paper*) with the question attached to the kid volunteer.

King of Kids: What do these imaginary grenades that Gordy threw out have to do with you?

Joash: *Let me tell you the story of my family. Grenade number one represents my great-grandfather and great-grandmother. They were Ahab and Jezebel. They did what the Lord said was wrong. They had a daughter Athaliah who also did what the Lord said was wrong and worshiped idols.*

This grenade represents destruction for families who do not follow the ways of the Lord. When someone you look up to for guidance leads you the wrong way, it can lead to destruction. Today we know that families make a big difference in peoples' lives.

Lefty: Okay, our next item is...

Pull out another wadded-up pretend bomb.

King of Kids: King Joash, what does grenade #2 stand for?

Joash: *When my grandfather Jehoram became king, he killed all his brothers. He then married Athaliah who was the daughter of wicked Ahab and evil Jezebel. He, too, was wicked because he did what the Lord considered evil. He made illegal places of worship. This caused the people to chase after foreign gods. He led Judah astray. He did not teach his family to love the one true God. He was a wicked king and led the people away from God.*

Because the people didn't have their hearts set on God, the Lord struck down Jehoram. The Philistines and the Arabs attacked him and his family. They took Jehoram's sons and wives. The only son left was Ahaziah, my father.

Lefty: Let's see what our next item is.

Pull out a third wadded-up card.

King of Kids: King Joash, this can only mean more trouble and destruction.

Joash: *Yes. When my grandfather died, my father was made king. Now remember, my grandmother Athaliah was still alive. She was wicked and led my father to sin. He did what the LORD considered evil. My father's wicked ways led to his death.*

Now my grandmother Athaliah saw this as her chance to rule Judah and become queen. She began killing all the royal descendants that might be crowned king. Since I am a descendant of David who was to rule the kingdom, I was in danger. But because I was just a baby, I was too young to know this.

Lefty: There's more in here.

Pull out a crown covered with a veil or cloth.

King of Kids: What does this mean? We can't see what's hidden under there.

Joash: *My aunt hid me in the temple to keep me alive. She had my uncle, who was a priest, take care of me. His name was Jehoiada. When I was seven years old, Jehoiada decided the time was right to crown me the rightful King of Judah. But, it was still dangerous because my grandmother was queen and didn't know I was alive.*

Pull veil off the crown.

Lefty: Let's see what else is in here.

Pull out plastic sword.

King of Kids: Would you explain the sword to us?

Joash: *Because my grandmother was still alive, it was very dangerous to crown me king. Jehoiada had guards armed with swords surround me in the temple. After I was crowned king, my grandmother tried to stop them and yelled "traitors." The guards took her out of the temple, arrested her, and killed her.*

Lefty: Here's another item.

King of Kids: What did you do with this hammer?

Joash: *I wanted to fix and repair the Lord's temple. It had been a long time since anyone took care of it. My evil grandmother had taken out many beautiful decorations and holy things and put them in the temple of her idol. We repaired the Lord's temple and even made new decorations of gold and silver. Now we were able bring offerings to the Lord in his temple again.*

Lefty: I think there is one item left.

Pull out a stone.

King of Kids: What does this stone mean?

Joash: *My good and godly uncle Jehoiada died of old age. While he lived, I did what the LORD considered right. But after he died, the idol worshipers became my friends. I started to listen to their advice. They caused me to forget God and do wrong.*

God sent a prophet named Zechariah to bring me back to him and change my ways. I didn't listen to his warnings and even had the prophet Zechariah stoned. I didn't want to listen to him tell me I was wrong.

After that, many troubles came my way. A smaller army defeated my larger army. I was wounded. Then, while I was sleeping, some of my servants killed me for the many things I had done against God.

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

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?

Assistant brings out pie and Lefty smashes it in Joash’s face.

Gordy Plays Grenades

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: What do you think, Gordy?

Gordy: Major bummer, dude.

Presenter: I agree.

Gordy: Joash was a good king and then he went bad. What’s the deal with that?

Presenter: God even tried to warn him. Sometimes we do things to please others and ourselves rather than obey God.

Gordy: Don’t worry about me. If God speaks, I’m going to listen and obey.

Presenter: What did Joash do that kept him from being faithful to the end?

Gordy: He worshiped false gods and killed God’s prophet.

Presenter: King Joash was a good king in the beginning, but fizzled out in the end. We all make mistakes and we all sin and mess up at times, but we should never turn our back on God. God loves us and his mercy is sufficient for us. We must ask for forgiveness and not follow anyone else or any other god. We too, should **be faithful to God now and our whole life*. Jesus took our place and took our sins to the cross so we can be forgiven. He wants us to trust him and have our hearts set on him.

Gordy: I want to love and follow God with my whole heart.

Presenter: Great start, Gordy. You must be faithful to the end, too.

Gordy: How do I make sure of that?

Presenter: Pray for strength and wisdom day by day.

Gordy: Superiffic. Let's pray.

Presenter: Go ahead, Gordy.

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for forgiving us when we make bad choices. Help us to not be like King Joash, who started out following you but didn't finish well. Thank you for giving us Jesus to live in our hearts every day so we can be faithful to the end. In Jesus' name, Amen.

KING JOASH'S RESPONSES

FIRST "GRENADE"

Let me tell you the story of my family. Grenade number one represents my great-grandfather and great grandmother. They were Ahab and Jezebel. They did what the Lord said was wrong. They had a daughter Athaliah who also did what the Lord said was wrong and worshiped idols.

This grenade represents destruction for families who do not follow the ways of the Lord. When someone you look up to for guidance leads you the wrong way, it can lead to destruction. Today we know that families make a big difference in peoples' lives.

SECOND "GRENADE"

When my grandfather Jehoram became king, he killed all his brothers. He then married Athaliah who was the daughter of wicked Ahab and evil Jezebel. He, too, was wicked because he did what the Lord considered evil. He made illegal places of worship. This caused the people to chase after foreign gods. He led Judah astray. He did not teach his family to love the one true God. He was a wicked king and led the people away from God.

Because the people didn't have their hearts set on God, the Lord struck down Jehoram. The Philistines and the Arabs attacked him and his family. They took Jehoram's sons and wives. The only son left was Ahaziah, my father.

THIRD "GRENADE"

Yes. When my grandfather died, my father was made king. Now remember, my grandmother Athaliah was still alive. She was wicked and led my father to sin. He did what the LORD considered evil. My father's wicked ways led to his death.

Now my grandmother Athaliah saw this as her chance to rule Judah and become queen. She began killing all the royal descendants that might be crowned king. Since I am a descendant of David who was to rule the kingdom, I was in danger. But because I was just a baby, I was too young to know this.

HIDDEN CROWN

My aunt hid me in the temple to keep me alive. She had my uncle, who was a priest, take care of me. His name was Jehoiada. When I was seven years old, Jehoiada decided the time was right to crown me the rightful King of Judah. But, it was still dangerous because my grandmother was queen and didn't know I was alive.

KING JOASH'S RESPONSES (cont.)

SWORD

Because my grandmother was still alive, it was very dangerous to crown me king. Jehoiada had guards armed with swords surround me in the temple. After I was crowned king, my grandmother tried to stop them and yelled “traitors.” The guards took her out of the temple, arrested her and killed her.

HAMMER

I wanted to fix and repair the Lord’s temple. It had been a long time since anyone took care of it. My evil grandmother had taken out many beautiful decorations and holy things and put them in the temple of her idol. We repaired the Lord’s temple and even made new decorations of gold and silver. Now we were able to bring offerings to the Lord in his temple again.

STONE

My good and godly uncle Jehoiada died of old age. While he lived, I did what the LORD considered right. But after he died, the idol worshipers became my friends. I started to listen to their advice. They caused me to forget God and do wrong.

God sent a prophet named Zechariah to bring me back to him and change my ways. I didn’t listen to his warnings and even had the prophet Zechariah stoned. I didn’t want to listen to him tell me I was wrong.

After that, many troubles came my way. A smaller army defeated my larger army. I was wounded. Then, while I was sleeping, some of my servants killed me for the many things I had done against God.

King of Kids Questions:

Grenade #1:

What do these imaginary grenades that Gordy was throwing have to do with you?

Grenade #2:

King Joash, what does grenade #2 stand for?

Grenade #3:

King Joash, this can only mean more trouble and destruction!

Crown:

What does this mean? We can't see what's hidden under there.

Sword:

Would you explain the sword to us?

Hammer:

What did you do with this hammer?

Stone:

What does this stone mean?