



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Good Kings - Bad Kings  
Fall Year 4, Lesson 17

# Jehoshaphat's Army of Praise

**Take Home Point:** \*When discouraged, pray and praise. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

**Key Verse:** 2 Chronicles 20:15b, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's." (NIV)

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible Event of God's victory through Jehoshaphat's army as they used weapons of prayer and praise.
- When discouraged, they can choose to pray and give praise instead of feeling sorry for themselves.
- When we trust God, our battles are not our own, but God's.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Encouraged as they trust God with any personal battles they are facing.
- Confident that God will give them victory, as they trust him.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify special battles in their lives that discourage or frustrate them. Talk about the fears behind the discouragement or frustration.
- Make kazoos that remind them of the response of praying and giving praise when facing battles.
- Pray for specific battles that they are going through.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Children make a sad face as they talk about times they have been discouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>waxed paper (4" x 4")</li> <li>a paper tube or ½ sheet of card stock to make a tube</li> <li>water-based markers</li> <li>tape</li> <li><i>option:</i> rubber bands</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8   10   13	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy’s Pity Party Turns to Praise Party”—Gordy is feeling discouraged but learns God has a better plan for us rather than feeling sorry for ourselves.</p> <p><b>Dramatic Interview:</b> “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews King Jehoshaphat to determine if he is a good or bad king. This Bible event is found in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.</p> <p><b>Puppet Conclusion:</b> “Gordy’s Pity Party Turns to Praise Party”—Gordy learns when we are discouraged, we can take our battles to God. Prayer and praise are powerful tools we can use to feel encouraged and know God is always with us.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>yardstick</li> <li>royal robe</li> <li>two crowns</li> <li>throne</li> <li>giant Bible prop</li> <li>lighter</li> <li>sword</li> <li>dinner plate</li> <li>kazoo</li> <li>sign that reads “The Battle Belongs to the Lord”</li> <li>watch and jewelry</li> <li>stool</li> <li>“King Meter”</li> <li>questions attached to each object in the box (p. 16)</li> <li>bucket</li> <li>soft, chewy candy</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Children make a kazoo. Children learn they don’t need an army to win battles. They can call on the Lord with prayer and give him praise because they can trust the Lord and be encouraged by his love, kindness, and mercy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>paper tube or ½ sheet card stock</li> <li>tape</li> <li>colored markers</li> <li>¼ sheet waxed paper</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:* Waxed paper (4" x 4"), a paper tube or ½ sheet of card stock to make a tube, water based markers

Pass out the waxed paper and the markers to every student and have kids draw a simple sad face with two eyes and a frown.

**This face reminds us of times that we really felt sad because we were discouraged. Discouraged means that you are so sad you just want to give up. Have you ever felt like that? Or maybe you were so frustrated that you just wanted to give up. Let's talk about times when we have felt like that. For an example, one time recently .....**

Show the picture of your sad face as you describe a discouraging time and let all kids do likewise.

Now, pass out tubes or card stock. (If using ½ sheet of card stock, roll it into a tube with approximately a 2-inch diameter and secure with tape.)

**Take your tube and look through the tube at the sad face you drew. Let's all together have a "so sorry" party. In our most pathetic voices, let's say, "I feel so sorry for myself." (The more dramatic the better.)**

**Sometimes when we feel discouraged or sad, we just want to have a "so sorry" party for ourselves. We just want to feel bad for ourselves, but we don't choose to do anything that helps us get better. There's nothing wrong with feeling sad or discouraged. Everyone does at one time or another. But if all we do is feel sorry, we are really only hurting ourselves.**

**Today, we will learn what God wants us to do. He wants us to turn these sad faces into happy faces. We can think of our discouragement and sad times as a battle. God wants to help us win that battle.**

**We are going to learn today how God helped his people, who were very discouraged and sad, win a huge battle. The secret they learned is the secret we can learn to turn our discouragement or sadness upside down. We will learn *\*when discouraged, pray and praise.***

# 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’s Pity Party Turns to Praise Party”—Gordy is feeling discouraged but learns God has a better plan for us rather than feeling sorry for ourselves.

**Dramatic Interview:** “Good Kings/Bad Kings of Judah”—“King of Kids” interviews King Jehoshaphat to determine if he is a good or bad king. This Bible Event is found in 2 Chronicles 20:1-30.

**Puppet Conclusion:** “Gordy’s Pity Party Turns to Praise Party”—Gordy learns when we are discouraged we can take our battles to God. Prayer and praise are powerful tools we can use to feel encouraged and know God is always with us.

# 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 20 in their Bibles.

**What did Jehoshaphat do when he received the news that three armies were coming to attack them?** (2 Chronicles 20:3-4. He asked for the Lord’s help and he announced a fast for everyone in Judah.)

**What did the Lord say to the people in verse 15?** (“Don’t be frightened or terrified... The battle isn’t yours. It’s God’s.”)

**What did Jehoshaphat tell his people before they stood in front of the troops?** (2 Chronicles 20:20-21. Trust the Lord your God, and believe and you will succeed. Then he asked people to sing to the Lord and praise him.)

**What happened as they started to sing praises?** (*2 Chronicles 20:22-23. The Lord set ambushes against the enemies. They began to fight and destroy each other.*)

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

**How do you think the people of Judah felt when they looked for the armies and saw no one was alive?** (*Amazed, thankful, relieved, and joyful.*)

**Why do you think King Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah received God's kindness and mercy?** (*They were obedient and faithful to God. God wants to show his love and mercy by helping us.*)

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

**Our Bible verse for today from 2 Chronicles 20:15 says, “Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.”** (NIV)

**Why should you be afraid when you can take your troubles to God? You can take action: pray and praise and then believe and trust God to be with you.**

**Just like Jehoshaphat and his people, you can take your troubles to the Lord. When you are discouraged and feel down, don't waste time feeling sorry. Take it to the Lord in prayer and give praise for all he has done and all he can do. You can give your battles to the Lord and then be encouraged that God will see you through.**

#### Application Activity:

*Supplies: tube and waxed paper from Small Group Warm-Up, wet paper towel or baby wipes, tape, markers*

**Let's take this frown/sorry face and replace it with a smile.**

Take wet paper towel or baby wipe and erase frown made with marker in small group. Next, use a marker to make a smile.

**We can be happy and encouraged and secure because Jesus has won the ultimate battle. He died on the cross for us and rose again. Because of this, he defeated Satan and the power of death. No matter how bad life gets for us, all who believe in Jesus can have hope that some day we will live with him in heaven where nothing bad ever happens.**

**Now let's make kazoos to remind us how Jehoshaphat's people praised God for taking their troubles and battle as his own. They rejoiced by bringing instruments to the Lord's temple. And this kazoo will remind us of God's mercy and loving kindness.**

Use three pieces of tape to secure the waxed paper to the tube. Leave a gap in the paper so the air can vibrate. When humming through the tube, keep lips tight around the tube for a better sound.

*Option: Use rubber bands to secure the waxed paper to the tube. Watch for misuse of the rubber bands by the children. This could become a safety issue.*

While kids make their kazoos, discuss some of the battles that they are now facing with discouragement. After praying for these concerns in the closing prayer, they can blow their kazoo.

*Note: One of the reasons that people feel discouraged or frustrated is because of some kind of fear. There may be a fear of losing something or a fear of not getting what they need. Please be aware of this and ask kids some further questions to try and find out what they are afraid of when they are facing times of discouragement.*

In addition, kids can give thanks by remembering some things that God has done to take care of them.

**Remember some of the things God has done for you. After you share one of these blessings, everyone blows their horn (kazoo). If you give thanks for these things, you can't be too sad because you can see how God is going to take care of you in the future.**

**We can always remember\*when discouraged, pray and praise.**

#### Closing Prayer:

Have kids pray specifically for any discouraging thing they are dealing with. After the prayer, have everyone play his or her kazoo one last time.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# 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 wedding gown box is ideal), a stool, lighter, plastic sword, dinner plate, sign that reads “The Battle Belongs to the Lord,” kazoo, watch and jewelry, and 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, a bucket, and soft chewy candy.*

## **Gordy's Pity Party Turns to Praise Party**

### **Puppet Presentation**

**Presenter:** Hi, kids, and welcome to Kingdom Quest. Let's bring out Gordy. Are you there, Gordy?

Gordy appears.

**Presenter:** Gordy, aren't you going to say "good morning?"

Gordy mumbles.

Gordy: Good morning.

**Presenter:** Gordy that wasn't a very warm welcome. What's up?

Gordy mumbles again.

Gordy: I feel so sorry for me.

**Presenter:** Gordy, I didn't quite understand you. What did you say?

Gordy moans loudly.

Gordy: I'm so sorry for me.

**Presenter:** Gordy, what's the matter?

Gordy: I've got it terrible.

**Presenter:** Now it can't be that bad, can it?

Gordy: It sure can. This morning when it was time to go to church, my mom made me take off my shirt and put on one I don't like.

**Presenter:** Well, why?

Gordy: Because this morning my favorite shirt was dirty, so I had to go rob it out of the dirty clothes and my mom busted me. She made me wear this instead.

**Presenter:** Oh, Gordy, that's not that bad.

Gordy: I'm so sorry for me.

**Presenter:** Well, it can't be that bad.



Gordy: It sure can. Did you know that this morning I was walking down the hall and I walked right by Pastor and he didn't even say "hi." He doesn't like me anymore. I'm so sorry for me.

**Presenter: Gordy, I'm sure he does. What is really bothering you?**

Gordy: Well, I'm really afraid in a way something bad might happen at home because my mom and dad were having an argument yesterday. When they argue, it makes me feel sad inside.

**Presenter: Yes, I know that you can feel sad about that.**

Gordy: Yeah, I'm soooo sorry for meeee!

**Presenter: Well, it sounds to me like you're having a "so sorry" party.**

Gordy: That's because everything is so sorry.

**Presenter: Well, Gordy, what you are feeling is discouragement. Discouragement is when you feel so sad that you just want to give up. Sometimes, it is because down deep you are really afraid.**

Gordy: Like being afraid of never getting to wear my favorite shirt again?

**Presenter: Well, maybe more like being afraid something might happen to your mom or dad.**

Gordy: Yeah, that's what is really bothering me. That's why I feel so sorry for me.

**Presenter: What you are going through is a battle in your mind when you are feeling so discouraged. What many people do is just have a "so sorry" party. But, that really doesn't help.**

Gordy: It doesn't?

**Presenter: No, Gordy. As a matter of fact, when you only think of your problems and you only feel sorry for yourself, it makes it worse.**

Gordy: What am I supposed to do?

**Presenter: Today, we will discover this when we meet King Jehoshaphat from the Bible. We will discover the importance of *\*when discouraged, pray and praise.***

Gordy: Do we get to play that king thing?

Presenter: Yes, let's use our imagination and select someone who will interview the king as we play a round of "Good King/Bad King." I'll be Lefty! Are you ready to begin?

Gordy: Let's do it.

## **King Jehoshaphat – Defeat Discouragement With Prayer and Praise**

### **Dramatic Interview**

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

Pull out the yardstick, turn around and move the stick back and forth behind your back and then stop. Turn 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, Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat appears wearing a crown and a sign around his neck that says "Jehoshaphat" and sits on the stool. Then say:

**Our first object is...**

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

**"King of Kids," what is your question for King Jehoshaphat?**

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

*King of Kids: What does this lighter signify?*

***Jehoshaphat: In my early years, I burned idol poles, called Asherah poles; They were set up to worship false idols. I did this because my father Asa was a good king. He was a man who followed the ways of the LORD like King David did.***

***So, like my father, who also removed the places where people would worship false gods, I removed them as well. Because of that, God blessed me.***

**Lefty: Okay, our next item is...**

Pull out a sword.

*King of Kids:* King Jehoshaphat, what does this sword stand for?

***Jehoshaphat:*** A messenger came and reported to me that the mighty armies of the Ammonites, Moabites, and Meunites were coming our way to wage war against my people and me. Everyone was frightened.

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

Pull out a dinner plate.

*King of Kids:* King Jehoshaphat, what does this empty plate mean?

***Jehoshaphat:*** I knew I needed to ask for God's help. I called all the people together and announced a fast. We fasted and prayed. That means we ate no food. That is why the plate is empty. We didn't eat for a while because we wanted to put our attention on what God would do. I also said, as 2 Chronicles 20:12 records, "You're our God. Won't you judge them? We don't have the strength to face this large crowd that is attacking us. We don't know what to do, so we're looking to you."

**Lefty:** There's more in here.

Pull out a sign that reads "The Battle Belongs to the Lord."

*King of Kids:* What does this mean?

***Jehoshaphat:*** After we fasted and prayed, God sent us a very encouraging message. The Lord said to not be frightened or terrified by this large army. You won't fight this battle. The Lord will, and the Lord is with you. At this time, we were not to fight. Instead, we were supposed to go stand and face the enemy.

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

Pull out kazoo. Make a variety of noises like trumpets, stringed instruments, etc.

*King of Kids:* Would you explain the kazoo to us?

***Jehoshaphat:*** The next morning we got up and we sang to the Lord and praised him. Then, we did exactly as the Lord said and went out and stood in front of our troops. We sang, "Thank the Lord because his mercy endures forever!"

***The next thing we knew, the Ammonites, Moabites, and Meunites began attacking each other instead of us. They***

***destroyed each other. They were defeated because the Lord set ambushes against them.***

**Lefty:** Here's another item.

Pull out watch and jewelry.

*King of Kids:* What do these fine pieces of jewelry represent?

***Jehoshaphat: Because the entire army was dead, we took all their valuables. God gave us the victory. We again rejoiced about what had happened to the enemy and gave the Lord praise through our music and prayer.***

***After that, my kingdom was peaceful since God surrounded me with peace.***

**Lefty:** I think it's time to make our ruling. I will bring out the King Meter. Okay kids, do you think Jehoshaphat 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 the meter to the "King of Kids."

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

*King of Kids:* Good King!

**Lefty:** Do you know what that means? No pies for you, but a bucket of goodies to share with all of us.

Give a bucket of goodies to the king (*i.e., tootsie rolls*) to share with the audience.

## **Gordy's Pity Party Turns to Praise Party**

### **Puppet Conclusion**

**Presenter:** Hey, Gordy, did you get some candy?

**Gordy:** Finally!

**Presenter:** Finally, what? Finally you got some candy?

**Gordy:** No. Finally, a king with a good heart.

**Presenter:** You're right, Gordy. We've seen so many other kings make bad decisions that led to destruction. It was awesome to learn about King Jehoshaphat and how he relied on and trusted God.

Gordy: Who would have guessed that you could defeat three armies by just standing there and singing?

**Presenter:** That's not all they did.

Gordy: Oh, yeah! They prayed and ate fast food.

**Presenter:** No, Gordy, not fast food. King Jehoshaphat asked for the Lord's help and he asked the people to fast. That means the people gathered to pray and *not* eat for a while so they would have their full attention on God.

Gordy: I think I understand now. They knew they were in trouble so they asked for God's help. God heard their prayers and their singing.

**Presenter:** Don't forget. Earlier, King Jehoshaphat had also destroyed the places where false gods were worshiped by burning the Asherah poles.

Gordy: So, what you are saying is King Jehoshaphat was obedient to God and he did many good things.

**Presenter:** Yes, and King Jehoshaphat dedicated his whole heart to serving God.

Gordy: God then blessed him and went to battle for him and his people.

**Presenter:** Yes, Gordy. Don't forget that God wants you to trust him with your fears and troubles. He wants to go to battle for you. In fact, he sent Jesus to win the ultimate battle. He has conquered death. Gordy, why don't you say a prayer for us?

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for sending your Son to take our place and forgive our sins. By Jesus dying on the cross and raising from the dead, he conquered death. Now we can have a place forever in your kingdom. Help us to trust you when times are difficult and to give thanks and praise in all circumstances. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## KING JEHOSHAPHAT'S RESPONSES

### LIGHTER:

In my early years, I burned idol poles, called Asherah poles; they were set up to worship false idols. I did this because my father Asa was a good king. He was a man who followed the ways of the LORD like King David did.

So, like my father, who also removed the places where people would worship false gods, I removed them as well. Because of that, God blessed me.

### SWORD:

A messenger came and reported to me that the mighty armies of the Ammonites, Moabites, and Meunites were coming our way to wage war against my people and me. Everyone was frightened.

### DINNER PLATE:

I knew I needed to ask for God's help. I called all the people together and announced a fast. We fasted and prayed. That means we ate no food. That is why the plate is empty. We didn't eat for a while because we wanted to put our attention on what God would do. I also said, as 2 Chronicles 20:12 records, "You're our God. Won't you judge them? We don't have the strength to face this large crowd that is attacking us. We don't know what to do, so we're looking to you."

### SIGN THAT READS "THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD:"

After we fasted and prayed, God sent us a very encouraging message. The Lord said to not be frightened or terrified by this large army. You won't fight this battle. The Lord will, and the Lord is with you. At this time, we were not to fight. Instead, we were supposed to go stand and face the enemy.

### KAZOO:

The next morning we got up and sang to the Lord and praised him. Then, we did exactly as the Lord said and went out and stood in front of our troops. We sang, "Thank the Lord because his mercy endures forever!"

The next thing we knew, the Ammonites, Moabites, and Meunites began attacking each other instead of us. They destroyed each other. They were defeated because the Lord set ambushes against them.

### WATCH AND JEWELRY:

Because the entire army was dead, we took all their valuables. God gave us the victory. We again rejoiced about what had happened to the enemy and gave the Lord praise through our music and prayer.

After that, my kingdom was peaceful since God surrounded me with peace.

## KING OF KIDS QUESTIONS

LIGHTER:

***What does this lighter signify?***

SWORD:

***King Jehoshaphat what does this sword stand for?***

DINNER PLATE:

***King Jehoshaphat, what does this empty plate mean?***

SIGN, "THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD"

***What does this mean?***

KAZOO:

***Would you explain the kazoo to us?***

JEWELRY:

***What do these fine pieces of jewelry represent?***