



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: God Is Our King  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 18

# God Wins a Battle for King Jehoshaphat

**Bible Event:** 2 Chronicles 20:1-29

**Take Home Point:** \*GOD IS OUR KING – *God will help us win.*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** We can feel like winners, no matter what, when Jesus is in our hearts.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Kids will learn that God helped King Jehoshaphat defeat his enemies. When God's people were attacked, King Jehoshaphat knew what to do. He asked God to help. He trusted God and God gave him a great victory.
- Kids, too, can learn to trust God in any of their struggles. He will give them a victory as well.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

**Video Suggestion:** Choose a video and list it here.

**Activity Suggestion:** Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

## Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Creative Storytelling

Reading a Bible story or telling the Bible event can be done effectively with expressive voice and dramatic gestures.

**Leader:** The Bible is true and tells us how God helps his people. In the Bible, we read about King Jehoshaphat. That is a big name. Maybe you can say it with me. King Jehoshaphat.

King Jehoshaphat was a good king who followed what God wanted him to do. He ruled over his people, telling them how important it was for them to trust God. But one day, King Jehoshaphat had a very terrible problem. Several other kings gathered large armies and began to march towards Jerusalem, where King Jehoshaphat and God's people lived. There were so many soldiers that it seemed impossible to win against such a large army in a battle. Everyone in all the land was worried, so they came to King Jehoshaphat and asked him to talk to God to find out what they should do. The large armies were approaching.

King Jehoshaphat stood in front of the people, right outside their temple, and said this to God – “God, are you not the God who is in heaven, who rules over all the kingdoms of the earth? Are you not all-powerful and mighty?”

**“Did you not always help our people when other people attacked us? Haven’t you called us by your name, and aren’t we your people? Now, hear our cry for help. There are many, many soldiers of the wicked kings who are coming to attack us. We have no power to face this great army alone. We don’t even know what to do, but we look to you and we trust you. Please help us.” All the people heard King Jehoshaphat’s prayer and a hush came over the crowd. They knew that they were praying to God, and God was mighty and could save them.**

**Just then, God’s spirit came upon a man named Jahaziel. And Jahaziel stood up to speak for God. He said, “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all of God’s people. This is what the Lord says to you. ‘Don’t be afraid of this great army against you. For the battle is not yours to fight, but God’s. Tomorrow, march down against them and see what God will do. Don’t be afraid, just trust God.’” Then, everyone worshipped God and gave a great shout to him. Let’s all do that now. *“Yeah God!”***

**Early the next morning, King Jehoshaphat and all his army got ready to march out and meet their enemy. But, they did something very, very strange. At the front of their army, they put singers and musicians and sang this, “Give thanks to the Lord, because his love lasts forever.” Let’s say that. Give thanks to the Lord, *“Give thanks to the Lord.”* His love lasts forever, *“His love lasts forever.”***

**Let’s pretend we’re that army now and we’re marching, but we’ll have to be singing when we march.**

Pass out rhythm instruments and march around the room, while singing a praise song from your collection.

**Finally, their army arrived. Guess what they found? They had already won. The armies of the evil king had killed each other. You see, while they were marching farther away, God had caused the other armies to become confused and they started fighting each other. So, the armies of the evil king killed each other. And those who were left ran away.**

**When King Jehoshaphat and his armies arrived and saw that the battle had already been won, they remembered what God said, “Don’t be afraid, for the battle is not yours, but the Lord’s.” They let up a great shout, “Praise be to God!”**

**Let’s shout that together—*“Praise be to God!”* And from then on they knew that they could trust God to win the victory for them. Remember, *\*GOD IS OUR KING—God will help us win.***



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** Create a “blue ribbon” snack. Use a Vanilla Wafer as the top part of the ribbon, possibly frosted blue or red. Cut Fruit by the Foot (blue or red) into 3-inch strips. Cut a “v” into one of the ends and place it under the Vanilla Wafer to create a ribbon. Secure with frosting.

**Drama Zone:** Provide adult or occupational dress up clothes. Explain that we should praise God in every situation, no matter how old we are or what we are doing. Have them practice prayers of thanksgiving.

**Puppet Zone:** Have the children use puppets to act out the story of King Jehoshaphat from today’s Bible Event. One child can play King Jehoshaphat, others can be singers, dancers and the army.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the story of King Jehoshaphat from today’s Bible event. (For example, you could use a king figure, army men and musicians.)

**Craft Zone:** Make tambourines. Use two paper plates per child. Place several beans in between the plates and staple the edges together. Decorate the tambourines with crayons and markers. Also place a pre-made label on each side. One should say “God is our King” and the other should say “God will help us win.”

**Play Zone:** Hold relay races. Mark a start and a finish line. Line kids up into several teams. Have them complete the relays while doing silly actions like hopping on one foot, crawling on all fours, walking backwards, etc.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Basket of books, including any stories you have about King Jehoshaphat.

**Music Zone:** Use the tambourines from the Craft Zone to play along to music of your choice. For example, *Shout Hooray to God*, by Vince Barlow and Jacque Negus, from the CD titled, *Dance, Shout and Sing*, 1998 Willow Creek Association.

**Coloring Zone:** “King Jehoshaphat Wins” coloring page.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

## Worship Songs:

*Choose one or two songs and list them here.*

## Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onto stage chanting, "I am the champion! I am number one!" The large group presenter asks Bubba what he's talking about. Bubba explains that he wants to be number one at lots of things. He wants to be the fastest runner. *(Bubba runs across the stage.)* And he wants to be the best video game player. *(Bubba pretends he just won a game and jumps up and down shouting.)* And, he wants to be the first of all his friends to know his A-B-C's. *(Bubba starts reciting the alphabet, but the large group presenter cuts him off.)*

The leader tells Bubba that it's great that he wants to be good at a lot of things, but it's hard to be number one at everything. Bubba knows that, but he knows from today's story that God is going to help him win. God will make sure that Bubba is number one. The large group presenter shakes his head and tells Bubba that today's story was about winning, but not like that. God helps us with something much more important than just being a fast runner or a good video game player. God gives us a different kind of victory – a victory in our heart.

**You see, God doesn't pick one winner. He helps all of us win. He helps us win in our hearts, when we know how much he loves us and that he sent Jesus for us. If we know that, then we will be friends with God forever. We can feel like a winner, no matter what, when God and Jesus' love is in our hearts. That's how we win! Remember: \*GOD IS OUR KING – God will help us win.**

## Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

## "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack Zone:*

- vanilla wafers
- blue and/or red frosting
- “Fruit by the Foot” (blue or red) cut into 3-inch strips, with a “v” cut into one of the ends

### *Drama Zone:*

- adult or occupational dress up clothes

### *Felt Zone:*

- felt board and materials to show the story of King Jehoshaphat from today’s Bible event (For example, you could use a king figure, army men and musicians from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*—order from [www.bettylukens.com](http://www.bettylukens.com))

### *Puppet Zone:*

- puppets to act out the story of King Jehoshaphat from today’s Bible event; one child can play King Jehoshaphat, others can be singers, dancers and the army

### *Craft Zone:*

- two paper plates per child
- stapler
- several beans per child
- crayons and markers
- two pre-made stickers\* (Avery 5160 labels) for each child; one should say “God is our King” and the other should say “God will help us win”

### *Play Zone:*

- masking tape to mark a start and a finish line on the floor

### *Quiet Reading Zone:*

- basket of books, include any with the story of King Jehoshaphat

### *Music Zone:*

- tambourines from the Craft Zone to play along to music of your choice. For example, *Shout Hooray to God*, by Vince Barlow and Jacque Negus, from the CD titled, *Dance, Shout and Sing*, 1998 Willow Creek Association—order from <http://www.promiselandonline.com/music/features/dance.asp>

### *Coloring Zone:*

- crayons and markers
- “King Jehoshaphat Wins” coloring page<sup>†</sup>

## *Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet

## *Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

**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.