



UNIT 13 | SESSION 1

JEROBOAM DISOBEYED GOD

1 KINGS 12-13

KEY PASSAGE:

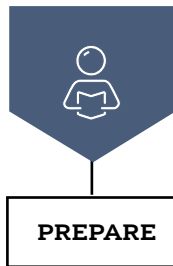
Deuteronomy 6:4-5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Sin always leads us away from God. Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is the true King who gave His life as a sacrifice so we can be forgiven of our sins. Jesus' kingdom will last forever.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

The entire Bible is true, without error, authoritative, and clear; however, there are times—perhaps when trying to discern about a new job opportunity or other circumstances when there is seemingly more than one good option—when we may ask, “What does God want of me?”

The Bible contains some very clear directives about what we should and should not do. It is abundantly clear that we are to honor our father and mother and that we should avoid immorality. What happens when we go against God’s directions?

In 1 Kings 13, we see a prophet from Judah who had clear direction from God about what not to do, but King Jeroboam did not fully adhere to this instruction. The results were devastating.

The prophet expressed that he was, “Comanded by the word of the Lord: ‘You must not eat food or drink water or go back the way you came.’” On two occasions he explained that admonition to those inviting him to do otherwise.

But, in a moment of temptation, he dismissed that instruction at the deceptive advice of an old prophet. The prophet from Judah returned to where he came from, ate, and drank water with them—ultimately disregarding the clear instruction of the

Lord. The prophet’s disobedience led to death by a lion.

The intent of this encounter is not to scare us into obedience but to remind us of the seriousness of sin, the consequences of sin, and the grace of God under which we live in Christ.

So often we spend hours deliberating things God has not made crystal clear to us while simultaneously disregarding those things that He has made known to us through His Word. It may serve us well, as Jesus’ followers, to give ourselves fully to those things that God has made clear. When we become more aware of what God commands of us and as we grow in faithfulness to those things, it is likely that our discernment will grow as well. We ought to live as graciously obedient people seeking to know and obey God’s ways, with God’s help.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Jeroboam: first king of the Northern Kingdom, Israel. He became the example of evil kings in Israel because he built temples with golden calves.



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Have you ever been influenced by someone? Have you ever influenced someone else? Was the influence good or bad? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Love God with All Your Heart” on the activity page.

SAY “ Our hearts were made to worship and love God. But because of sin, we allow other things to take God’s place in our hearts. In today’s Bible story, we will learn about a king whose heart turned away from loving God. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: THE RIGHT ORDER



Form three or four teams of kids. Direct kids to listen carefully to your instructions and line up in the order given. The first team to line up in the correct order the fastest wins that round.

Call out the following instructions:

- “Line up from shortest to tallest.”
- “Line up from youngest to oldest.”
- “Line up from biggest shoe size to smallest shoe size.”
- “Line up from longest hair to shortest hair.”
- “Line up with darker eyes on the left and lighter eyes on the right.”

SAY “ We had lots of different ways we could order our lines. We also have choices in how we order our lives. But God should always have the place of being first. We were made to worship Him and love Him above all else. Let’s read today’s Bible story to understand how a king led the people to order their lives incorrectly. ”

OPTION 2: FOLLOW THE KING

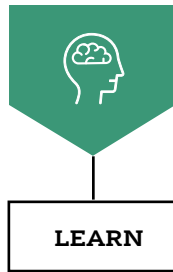
Choose three kids to stand at the front of the room. Designate one of the kids as the King, but don’t tell the other kids who the King is. Instruct the three kids to each perform a movement, one at a time, such as hop, clap, or wink. Instruct the King to always blink his eyes twice after each movement. Lead the other kids to choose to follow the movement of one of the three kids they believe is the King.

Stop the round and reveal who the King was. Ask kids to share how they figured out who was the true King. The kids who did not choose to follow the King are out. Play again choosing three new kids to stand at the front of the room and designate one of them as the King. Be sure to give the King a signal that separates him from the others.

SAY “ In today’s Bible story, the people of Israel chose to follow the king who rejected the one true God. We should only follow the one true King who always leads us to what is right and good. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hello! I am so glad you all are here! I’m [your name] and today we will be studying a story from the Word of God. Some stories we study are ones you might have heard and some may be brand new to you. Do you think that every story in the Bible is important? Why? [Allow kids to respond.] Yes, every story in the Bible is important because they provide us with truth.

The Bible helps us know who God is and what He has done. When we read God’s Word, we are reminded that there are no other gods. Our hearts should love and worship the one true God. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

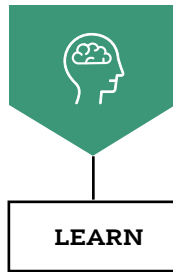
SAY “ When we meet together to study God’s Word, it is important to learn what is true. Our big picture question and answer helps us understand truth from God’s Word. Our big picture question for the next several weeks is, **What is idolatry?** Does anyone know what idolatry is? [Allow kids to respond.] **Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.**

The Bible has many examples of people who committed idolatry. But idolatry is not a sin of the past. We, too, struggle with idolatry today. Through Jesus, we can turn away from idols and turn back to God. Let’s read our big picture question and answer together. **What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.** ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ We have studied how God cared for His people and was faithful to always be there for them. We also learned that He listened to their request for a king to lead them. Some of the kings were men who followed the Lord, like King David. But every king sinned. Some kings were very wicked and completely rejected God. In today’s story, we will read about a king who practiced idolatry and led the people to practice idolatry too. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 1 Kings 12–13. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jeroboam Disobeyed God.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JEROBOAM DISOBEYED GOD

“**Jeroboam (JER uh BOH uhm) was the king of Israel. One day, he started thinking, If the people of Israel want to worship God, they have to go to the temple in Jerusalem.** Jerusalem is in the kingdom of Judah, where their old king, Rehoboam (REE huh BOH uhm), is ruling. **Maybe the Israelites will start thinking of King Rehoboam as their leader!**”

That was not what Jeroboam wanted, so Jeroboam made two golden calves. Then he made an announcement to the northern tribes.

“It is so inconvenient for you to travel all the way to Jerusalem to worship at the temple,” he said. “Look! These golden calves are the gods who brought your ancestors out of Egypt. You can worship them.”

What Jeroboam did was a sin! Those calves did not lead God’s people out of Egypt; God led His people out of Egypt. Jeroboam also built forbidden shrines and celebrated made-up festivals so Israel would seem like a better place to live than Judah. **Jeroboam led all the people in worship to the false gods.**

One day, Jeroboam was standing by an altar to make a sacrifice to a false god. **God sent a prophet from Judah to share a message. The prophet said that a son named Josiah would be born into the family of King David. He would bring judgment on the priests who make sacrifices to false gods.**

King Jeroboam pointed at the prophet and shouted, “Arrest this man!” But suddenly Jeroboam couldn’t move his arm, and the altar next to him broke into pieces.

“Help!” Jeroboam told the prophet. “Pray and ask God to heal my arm!” So the prophet prayed to God, and God healed Jeroboam’s arm. Still, Jeroboam’s heart was hard and he did not turn from his evil ways. He continued to sin by leading the people away from the Lord. **Because of this sin, Jeroboam’s kingdom would one day be destroyed.**

Christ Connection: Sin always leads us away from God. Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is the true King who gave His life as a sacrifice so we can be forgiven of our sins. Jesus’ kingdom will last forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use drama: Tell the story as Jeroboam. Dress as the king and tell the story from his perspective; how his sin and disobedience to God ultimately led to the destruction of his kingdom.

Display a picture of the temple: Display a picture of the temple. Explain that this is the place where God’s people would travel to worship Him.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Jeroboam lied to the people and led them to sin against God. How did Jeroboam’s pride lead him to sin? Look at 1 Kings 12:27. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 12:27.] Jeroboam was concerned that if the people of his kingdom had to travel to Jerusalem to worship God in the temple, they would start recognizing the king of Judah, Rehoboam, as their king. Jeroboam decided to come up with a plan to protect his kingdom and his authority.

What did Jeroboam do to try to keep the people from traveling to Jerusalem? [Allow kids to respond.] Jeroboam made idols that they could worship in their own kingdom of Israel. He lied and told the people that the idols had saved their ancestors from Egypt. The people should have known the truth of God’s Word and rejected Jeroboam’s lie.

God showed mercy to Jeroboam by sending a prophet to warn him about his sin. How did Jeroboam respond? Look at 1 Kings 13:33-34. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud 1 Kings 13:33-34.] Jeroboam chose to continue to disobey God. Because of this, Jeroboam’s kingdom would eventually be destroyed.

Many things can tempt us to worship something other than God. In this case, Jeroboam’s own pride was more important to him than loving God with all of his heart. When we fail to love God as we should, we can ask Him to forgive us. Jesus brings us back to God and helps us to love Him. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Sin always leads us away from God. Jesus came to bring us back to God. Jesus is the true King who gave His life as a sacrifice so we can be forgiven of our sins. Jesus’ kingdom will last forever. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 13, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Is it OK to pray to someone besides God?
2. What are some things you can tell others about the one true God?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Play the missions video.

SAY “ During the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, international travel was not allowed in many places throughout the world. The Haun family stayed 15 months in the United States while they waited for the time when they could return to Ghana.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Haun family used the time while they were away from being missionaries in Ghana for William to edit videos that shared the good news of Jesus in other languages. Many missionaries had to think of new ways to tell people about Jesus until they could return to the countries they served. ”

Close in prayer, thanking God for missionaries who stay faithful to telling people about Jesus, even during difficult times.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 6:4-5 together.

Form kids into three or four groups. Distribute sticky notes and markers to each group. Direct kids from each group to write out the key passage by writing one word on each sticky note. Challenge them to mix the sticky notes up and then work as a group to place the sticky notes in the correct order on the wall. For an added challenge, time the groups to see which one can complete the key passage first.

SAY “ God’s Word helps us remember that God is to be loved above all else. Let’s try to memorize this Bible verse so we can recite it when we may be tempted to put something else before God. ”

Lead kids to sing “The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, Lord, for providing a way through Jesus for us to come back to You when sin leads us away. Help us to turn from sin and live in a way that is pleasing to You. We love You, Lord. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

