

Old Testament

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Through the Old Testament in Two Years

Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

Jehoshaphat

Last week we learned that Rehoboam became king of Israel. The people wanted relief from their work so they went to him. Rehoboam asked for counsel from the elders and from his friends. He rejected the wise counsel of the elders. When the people learned he planned to make them work harder, they rebelled.

II Chronicles 20

Read the Bible

READ: II Chronicles 20:1-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Memory Verse:

God has saved us from deadly dangers. And He will continue to do it. We have put our hope in Him. He will continue to save us.
(II Corinthians 1:10 NIV)

Another king that lived long ago was Jehoshaphat (Ja-hoe-sa-fat). The Bible tells us that he loved God and followed God with all his heart. (II Chronicles 20:32) One day when he was king, he had an opportunity to really trust God. King Jehoshaphat received news that was very frightening.

A lookout guard for the city brought the terrible news to the king. Their enemy had unexpectedly come to fight them. They were very close to the city. The army was large and very powerful. The situation looked frightening for King Jehoshaphat and his people. (II Chronicles 20:1-2)

Goals

1. Understand that when Jehoshaphat was scared, he prayed and asked God for help.
2. Recognize that Jehoshaphat also praised God.
3. Learn that Jehoshaphat trusted God and obeyed Him.
4. Understand that God caused the enemies of Israel to destroy each other.

The first thing that Jehoshaphat did was to pray and ask God for help. He asked all the people not to eat for the day. Instead, he asked them to pray and ask God for help. (II Chronicles 20:3-4)

In the New Testament, Paul also talks about trusting God. "We have put our hope in Him. He will continue to save us." (II Corinthians 1:10 NIV)

Then, King Jehoshaphat stood in front of the people and prayed to God. He praised God for how powerful and wonderful He (God) is. He asked God to help them defeat this horrible enemy. He told God that they could not do anything without God's help. (II Chronicles 20:5-6) Jehoshaphat trusted God.

God heard King Jehoshaphat's prayer. God sent a messenger named Jahaziel to speak to all the people. He told them to listen to what the Lord said. He said, "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this big army. For the battle is not yours, but God's." (II Chronicles 20:14-15)

God told them to wait until the next day to fight. God shared that when they marched to fight, they would see how God would win the battle for them. (II Chronicles 20:17)

When Jehoshaphat heard the news, he bowed down and worshipped the Lord. He was so grateful for God's help and for God's kindness to him and his

Jehoshaphat — Bible Facts

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Jehoshaphat was the king of Israel. | 2. An enemy was approaching Israel. |
| 3. The king and the people prayed and asked for God's help. | 4. God caused their enemies to destroy each other. |

people. He thanked God and told God how wonderful He is. (II Chronicles 20:18-19) Jehoshaphat trusted and believed God could deliver them.

Early the next morning, Jehoshaphat and his army went out as God told them. King Jehoshaphat reminded the people to trust God and obey. Then the king did an amazing thing. He asked people to come and sing songs to God and play beautiful music to God. They sang at the front of the army. The musicians said, "Give thanks to the Lord for His love continues forever." (II Chronicles 20:20-21)

As they sang, God sent another army to ambush this enemy. That means that another enemy came and tried to fight them. They were surprised. The two enemies fought each other. Ultimately, both enemies were destroyed. (II Chronicles 20:22-23)

When King Jehoshaphat and his army got to the edge where they could see, they were amazed at what God did. Just as God said, the army was destroyed. God had won the battle! (II Chronicles 20:24-27)

When the army returned to the city, they praised God and thanked Him for winning the battle. They played harps, flutes, and trumpets in God's temple as a way to praise Him and thank Him for delivering them from their enemies. (II Chronicles 20:28) Because Jehoshaphat loved God, his kingdom lived at peace during his reign as king.

Review

1. **Who was Jehoshaphat?** (The king of Israel.)
2. **What news did Jehoshaphat receive?** (An enemy was approaching Israel.)
3. **What did Jehoshaphat and the people do?** (They prayed and asked for God's help.)
4. **What did God do?** (God caused the enemies of Israel to destroy each other.)

Do You Know Jesus?

God has made a way to save us, too. We don't have an enemy like Jehoshaphat. Instead, our wrongs (sin) are our enemy that separates us from God. (Romans 3:23) To help "save" us, God made a way to break down the wall of sin that separates us. Jesus died on the cross for all of our sin. (John 3:16) If we believe that He died and came back to life and if we ask Him to come into our life and forgive us, He will. (Romans 10:9-10) If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to your teacher.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you seek Him in times of trouble.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to seek God in their times of trouble.

Application

King Jehoshaphat was scared. He prayed and asked God for help. Jehoshaphat did not only ask for help, he also praised God by telling God how good He is and all the wonderful things God had done. Jehoshaphat obeyed God and trusted God. God performed a miracle and caused their enemies to destroy each other. When we are afraid of something, we can trust God to deliver us. "God has saved us from deadly dangers. And He will continue to do it. We have put our hope in Him. He will continue to save us." (II Corinthians 1:10 NIV)

Planning for the next week:
Joash Forgets God — II Chronicles 24

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: II Chronicles 20:1-6, 14-19 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Teachers: Make instruments with which to praise God.

King Jehoshaphat (Ja-hoe-sa-fat) was a king that loved God very much. He knew that God would help him and care for him and his people. The Bible tells us that King Jehoshaphat followed God and obeyed Him.

One day, King Jehoshaphat got news that a big, mean army was coming to fight them. King Jehoshaphat immediately asked the people to pray and ask God for help.

All the people came together. Then, King Jehoshaphat stood in front of the people and prayed to God. He praised God for how powerful and wonderful He (God) is. He asked God to help them win against this horrible enemy. He told God that they could not do anything without God's help.

God heard King Jehoshaphat's prayer. God sent a messenger named Jahaziel to speak to all the people. He told them to listen to what the Lord said. He said, "Do not be afraid or sad because of this big army. For the battle is not yours, but God's."

God told them to wait until the next day to fight. God shared that when they marched to fight, they would see how God would win the battle for them.

When Jehoshaphat heard the news, he bowed down and worshipped the Lord. He was so glad for God's help and for God's kindness to him and his people. He thanked God and told God how wonderful He is.

Early the next morning, Jehoshaphat and his army went out as God told them. King Jehoshaphat reminded the people to trust God and obey. Then the king did an amazing thing. He asked people to come and sing songs to God and play beautiful music to God. They sang at the front of the army. The musicians said, "Give thanks to the Lord for His love continues forever."

When King Jehoshaphat and his army got to the edge where they could see, they were amazed at what God did. Just as God said, the army was destroyed. God had won the battle!

When the army returned to the city, they praised God and thanked Him for winning the battle. They played harps, flutes and trumpets in God's temple as a way to praise Him and thank Him for delivering them from their enemies. Because Jehoshaphat loved God, he and his people lived in peace in the land.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us from sin.
3. Ask God to help you seek Him in times of trouble.

Memory verse for younger children

We have put our hope in [God]. II Corinthians 1:10

Learning Activities

- Memory verse activity** — Bring coloring pages of someone praying. Add the Bible verse. Practice the Bible verse.
- Test your memory** — Create a book of drawings of the events in Jehoshaphat's life. Draw pictures of Jehoshaphat being fearful, praying, hearing the prophet, praising God, obeying God by marching, watching the enemies, and praising God. Have the children make their own book of drawings.
- Taste activity** — Make jello. Add Teddy Graham Crackers to represent Jehoshaphat's enemies. Cover with cool whip to show that God defeated them.
- Think about it** — Jehoshaphat's first response was to pray. Talk about the importance of going to God first when we have a crisis.

Jehoshaphat praised God in his prayer. Talk about things for which you can praise God.

God told Jehoshaphat that He would fight the battle. Talk about how God does that for us.
- Touch activity** — Make musical instruments. Make a rain stick using paper towel rolls. Place beads inside and cover with construction paper. Make a tambourine using a paper plate and bells. Use sticks to play rhythm. Sing songs to praise God.

Bring toy soldiers and demonstrate how the enemies of Israel attacked each other.
- Run and play** — March around and sing songs of praise. Use portions of the memory verse as a battle cry.

Play "Simon Says." Talk about how Jehoshaphat obeyed God.
- Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to seek Him when we are afraid.
- Sing** — Sing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord," "Praise Him, Praise Him," "He is Able to Deliver Thee," "Faith, Faith, Faith," "Obedience Is," or another song related to the story.
- Reach out** — During class, pray (by name) for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the handouts to those who were absent. Take the coloring page with the memory verse for each child. Pray with the children who were absent. Encourage them to read the story in the Bible.

Memory Verse

God has saved us
from deadly dangers.
And He will continue
to do it. We have put
our hope in Him.
He will continue
to save us.

II Corinthians 1:10

Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

Jehoshaphat

was afraid

and prayed

to God

Word Search

L Y R A T E R C M S R N F R C T B
T S H B S F B K A D A F E S K D I
I K D S D T J E T D R D R K R S N
S S N N I H N S A H E E F M R A H
D B O K E E C A H N E K B B J B P
E V A A M A H A P L L L S E R F G
L T N I R R R L A B N L P A L F D
L B E E T D B F H C H N M K D M B
E S D E R G M C S V D T W E H R G
K F I T P N C N O C R N Y T M P Y
I W M L D P G K H M G A S P R T L
N G D M B K T C E J R R C L S T B
G D E S I A R P J P M D H L B F P

KING

JEHOSHAPHAT

SCARED

ENEMIES

PRAYED

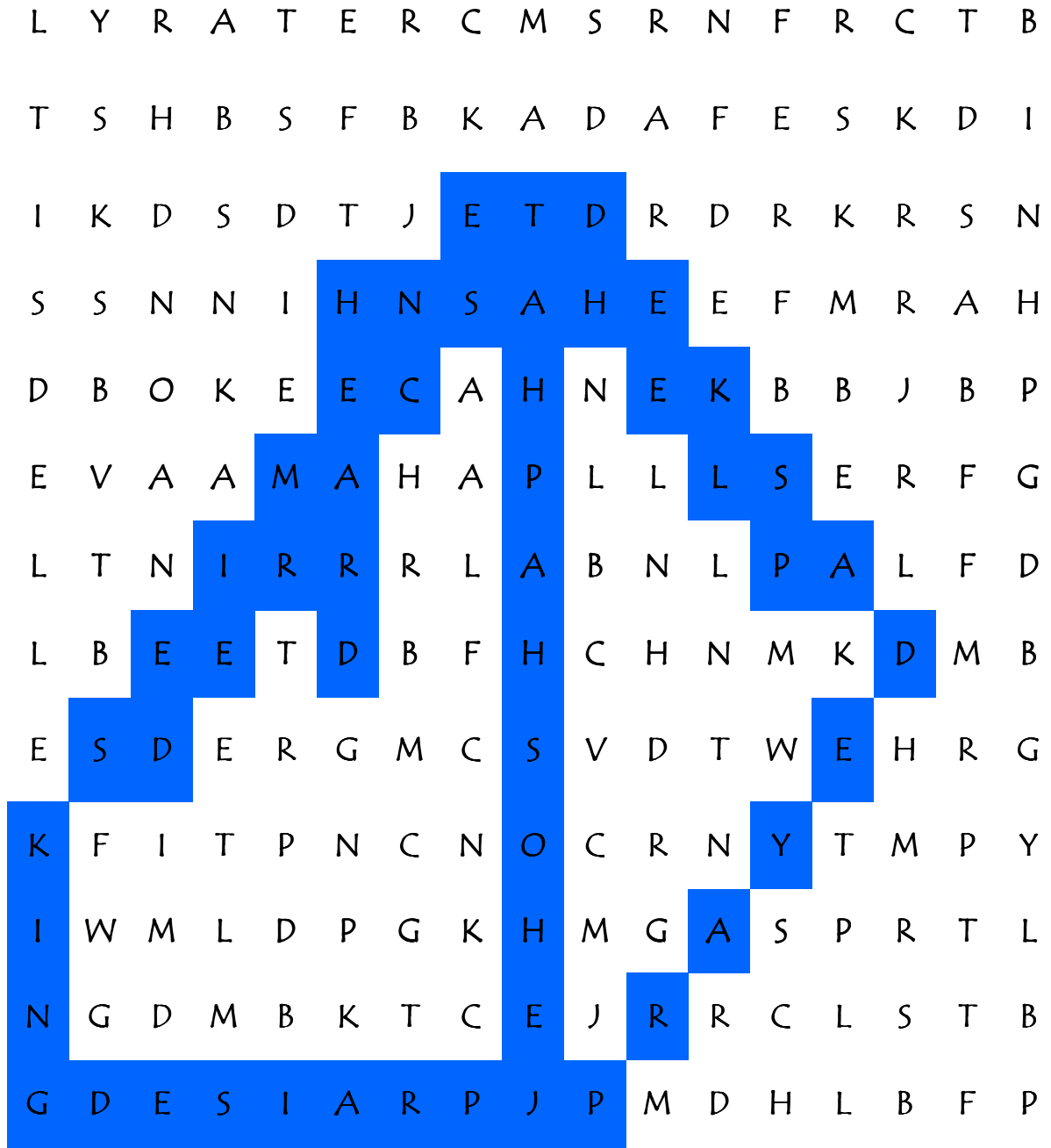
PRAISED

ASKED

HELP

HEARD

Word Search



KING

JEHOASHAPHAT

SCARED

ENEMIES

PRAYED

PRAISED

ASKED

HELP

HEARD

Word Search

K H B L D F J H D F L J
S W S C A R E D S D P M
B L B D F P H E A R D N
S B M H F R B L D C R S
P R N B L T S D V D C P
J F C H F P R A Y E D M
S T A S K E D R K B N P
D R S F D F R M C N D S
R N C J M S V M T J D H
N R K T D M H E L P S M
P H K I N G T S J P C T
J B S D F H G W F D G W

KING

SCARED

PRAYED

ASKED

HELP

HEARD

Word Search

K H B L D F J H D F L J
S W S C A R E D S D P M
B L B D F P H E A R D N
S B M H F R B L D C R S
P R N B L T S D V D C P
J F C H F P R A Y E D M
S T A S K E D R K B N P
D R S F D F R M C N D S
R N C J M S V M T J D H
N R K T D M H E L P S M
P H K I N G T S J P C T
J B S D F H G W F D G W

KING

SCARED

PRAYED

ASKED

HELP

HEARD

Anagram

EOASPTHHHJ

DRAEYP

DAEKS

PLEH

DRSAIEP

DOEEYB

DEUTT SR

MIEEESN

ODDEEYRST

Anagram

JEHOSHPHAT

PRAYED

ASKED

HELP

PRAISED

OBEYED

TRUSTED

ENEMIES

DESTROYED