

King Jehoshaphat

Theme: God keeps giving us more chances when we get it wrong.

Opening Game - Balloon Relay:

Materials: 2 balloons (have some spares in case these break) The players are divided into two groups and a goal is set up. The players on each team go one-by-one to the goal, hopping on one foot and kicking the balloon with the other foot. At the goal they switch the feet they are hopping on and kicking with, and return. The team that gets all its players to the goal and back first wins. A small sponge ball could be used instead if children are afraid of balloons.

Memory Verse: Psalm 32 verse 1. "Happy are those whose sins are forgiven." Write the verse out four times on different coloured paper, with each word on a separate piece of paper. Hide the pieces round the room. Divide children into four teams and each team must search for their given colour and put their verse together in the correct order.

Introduction: Ask the children if they have ever broken any of the rules their parents have given them. Did their parents give them another chance even though they did something wrong? How many chances do they think their parents would give them?

Story: 2 Chronicles 17-20 See story in resources section.

Application: Did God keep giving Jehoshaphat more chances even when he did wrong? Yes. Although Jehoshaphat messed up, God gave him more chances to get things right. And because Jehoshaphat kept trying to please God, God kept giving him even more chances. God will do the same for us, even when we mess up really badly, if we ask for forgiveness and try our best to do what is right.

Prayer: Sit the children in a circle and get them to pass round a crown. Play some music and when it stops, the child left holding the crown must put it on their head and say a "thank you", "sorry" or "please" prayer. It might help if the leaders could give some examples to start with.

Song: "Hey hey!" Track 7 Doug Horley's Fandabidozzie

Final Game - Number race: Sit in a circle and number children 1,2,3,4, or 5. Place a crown in the centre. Call a number; everyone with that number gets up, runs round the circle, through their gap and tries to pick up the crown in the middle. The person who gets the object first calls the next number.

Resources: The story and a fun sheet are in the resources section.

King Jehoshaphat

Jehoshaphat was King, King of Judah. Jehoshaphat was what you might call a “nice guy”. He was good to speak to, could get on with almost anyone and he tried to follow God’s rules.

But he failed to listen to what God really wanted him to do.

Israel and Judah had been at war for about sixty years. But King Jehoshaphat wanted to make up with Ahab, King of Israel. So, because he wanted peace, he went to see Ahab and said: “Please can we have peace between our countries and if you agree, I will let a member of my family marry a member of yours!”

This seemed like a very good idea to almost everyone. King Ahab thought it was good; King Jehoshaphat thought it was good and most of the people of Israel and Judah thought it was a good idea too. So that’s what happened. Jehoshaphat’s family and Ahab’s family were joined together through marriage.

Unfortunately, God did not think this was a very good idea. He had forbidden his people to marry evil people and you couldn’t get much worse than Ahab and his family!

God sent one of His prophets, Jehu, to tell Jehoshaphat off and warn him not to do it again. But God also told Jehu the prophet to say: “The Lord knows you are trying to follow His will and there is some good in you.”

And although Jehoshaphat did make more mistakes, God still allowed him to rule over Judah until he was sixty years old.

Circle the facts about Jehoshaphat that are true.

Trusted God's prophets.

Wanted peace.

Wanted a statue of gold and silver.

Enjoyed pizza and chips.

Prayed for help in war.



BUT

Jehoshaphat didn't always listen to God or the warnings of his prophets. He quickly returned to God when things were going wrong though.



If w_t_lk to God
_bout _v_rything th_t
go_s wrong, h_will
h_lp us m_k_it b_tt_r.

"Happy are those
whose sins are
forgiven."

Psalm 32 v 1