

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 12

II Kings

Objects to have:

Your sign reading: II KINGS

More About Kings

Flannel board or bulletin board

Six separate strips of paper with one of these names on each: Saul, David, Solomon, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha,  
prepared to stick to your flannel board or your bulletin board

Three cut-out crowns

Three cut-out Bibles

A picture of a chariot

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review the names of the Old Testament books which we have studied thus far in this series of lessons. Remind the children that we told a story from First Kings last Sunday, and tell them that today our new book is Second Kings. Explain to the children that we read about preachers and kings in the books of I and II Samuel and I and II Kings.)

There are three most important kings in First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings. These kings (while giving their names, put their names on the board) are Saul, David and Solomon. (While saying the following, put a crown after each name:) Saul was a king, David was a king and Solomon was a king.

In the books of First and Second Samuel we read also about a preacher named Samuel. (Put his name on the board.) In First and Second Kings we read about two more preachers; they were Elijah (put his name on the board) and Elisha (put his name on the board). (While saying the following, put a Bible on the board after each Preacher's name:) In First and Second Samuel and First and Second Kings there were three preachers: Samuel, Elijah, and Elisha.

Remember our Bible story from last Sunday? We had the happy path and the sad path. King Solomon's life did not end up as a happy life. He had been wicked; he had decided to worship other gods and not to live according to God's way.

Telling the story:

There were many kings after King Solomon. Some of those kings were good kings; some of them were bad kings. Because of Solomon's wickedness, there were bad times for the people of the land.

This was one of the bad times: God let an enemy army come into the land of Israel. The enemy army was called the Syrian army. They came marching into Israel. Some of the Syrian army also came riding in their chariots which were pulled by horses. (Put your chariot on the board.) The Syrians came with their spears and their swords; they came fighting and killing.

The Israelites gave up; they had stopped trusting God. The Syrians won the war. Then the Syrians started taking people from their homes as captives. They took ladies and men. They also took boys and girls; they took them back to their own country of Syria.

The book of II Kings tells us about one particular little Israelite girl who was taken to Syria. She was a pretty little girl. I imagine that she was frightened at being taken from her house. Maybe the soldiers took her in a chariot that was pulled by horses. They took her to the strange country Syria far away. Because she was such a well-behaved little girl she was taken to a very big, beautiful house to live and work there.

The soldier who was the chariot driver told the horses, "Whoa." They stopped in front of this great big, beautiful house. The little girl looked at the house. I'm sure she wondered what kind of people lived inside that house. The soldier lifted her out of the chariot. He led her up to the door of the house. They walked through the door of the house. The little maid saw a lady and a very important man.

The soldier said to the little girl, "This is Naaman, the captain of our army. This lady is Naaman's wife. You will work for Captain and Mrs. Naaman." The little girl looked at Naaman and at the lady. They looked kind. She was right; Naaman and his wife were kind; they were called honorable people even though they lived in the country of Syria.

In the days that followed, the little maid from Israel was a busy little girl. I think that she had many jobs to do for Naaman's wife. I think that Mrs. Naaman had the little maid help her straighten up her room each day. She helped Naaman's wife in many other ways. I think that she had the little maid get dresses from the closet for her when it was time to dress up to go places. How wide the little maid's eyes must have opened when she saw the beautiful clothes that were hanging in Mrs. Naaman's closet!

The little girl learned to love Captain and Mrs. Naaman. Even though she was in a strange house in a country away from her own home, she loved these people.

She soon learned, however, that there was sadness in the house. What would make these people so sad? One day she discovered the truth. Naaman was very sick. Oh, he was not so sick that he had to go to bed. It was a disease in the skin. A sore would get on his skin someplace and then the sore would not get better. You have never had sores like the sores that Naaman had. There would be another sore, and it would not get better, either. The disease was very bad; it was the disease of leprosy. No one knew how to cure leprosy. Naaman's skin just got worse and worse. This skin disease could after a while kill Naaman.

The little maid went to Naaman's wife one day and said, "Lady, I wish that Naaman could go back to my country. There is a preacher in my country who knows God very well. He has power with God. When he prays, God listens to him. That preacher's name is Elisha. I wish that Captain Naaman could go see Elisha. I know that Elisha would cure him of his leprosy."

Mrs. Naaman listened very carefully to the little girl. She said, "Really? Would that preacher Elisha be able to cure my husband of leprosy?" The little maid said that he could.

Naaman's wife ran to Naaman. "Naaman, my little maid has just told me something very important and very wonderful. She says there is a preacher in Israel who has power with God. Go to this preacher. He can cure you of your leprosy."

That sounded like good news to Naaman. Naaman commanded his servants, "Get my chariot ready. Get presents ready for me to take to Israel. Get the horses and hitch them up to the chariot. I am ready to go to Israel."

Naaman's servants got directions on how to get to the house of Elisha. Naaman's chariot, pulled by horses and driven by his chariot driver, went up the hills and down the hills until they came to Israel. They got to the right town, then they came to the right street in that town. Elisha's house was on that street. Elisha knew that Captain Naaman was coming; somebody had told him. Elisha knew what God wanted him to do whenever Naaman would get to Elisha's house.

Naaman in his chariot stopped at the door of the house of Elisha. Elisha looked out the window and saw this important man, this captain of the army of the country of Syria, in his chariot at the door. Elisha said to the man in the house with him, "Go downstairs. Talk to Naaman. Tell Naaman that he should go to the River Jordan. When he gets to the river, he should get out of his chariot and go down into the river. He should dip down into the Jordan River seven times. When he comes up out of the Jordan on the seventh time, his skin will be completely healed."

The man went downstairs. He told Naaman what Elisha told him to tell him.

Naaman got angry. Naaman said, "This is not what I expected at all. I expected that preacher to come down and see me himself. I expected him to call on the name of God, to put his hands over the places where the leprosy is and heal the leprosy which I have. I don't want to go wash in this dirty Jordan River. The rivers where I live are much cleaner and prettier than the rivers in Israel. Why can't I wash in them and be clean of this disease?" Then Naaman commanded, "Driver, drive on! Take me back home to Syria!"

The servants who were with Naaman said, "Sir, if the preacher had said for you to do some hard thing, would you not do it? Why won't you do this easy thing? Please do what Elisha is telling you to do."

Naaman listened to his servants. He said, "All right. Take me to the Jordan River. I will do what the preacher says to do."

The chariot driver drove Naaman to the Jordan River. Naaman got out of the chariot. He walked down to the edge of the river and on into the river. He stooped down until the water completely covered his head. I think that he held his nose, don't you? Then he got up out of the water. He was certainly dripping wet! He looked at the leprosy. The sore places were still there. Naaman remembered what he had been told to do. He dipped down the second time. He came up out of the water. The leprosy still was the same. He dipped down into the water the third time and the fourth time and the fifth time and the sixth time. The leprosy was no better; the sore places were still there. He dipped down the seventh time. When he straightened up out of the water this time, I think that maybe he was afraid to look to see if the sore spots were gone. He looked! The sore spots were gone! Just as Elisha, the man of God, had said, Naaman's leprosy was all gone. In the places where there had been the terrible sores, the skin was now well and smooth and soft again like a baby's skin.

How happy Naaman was! How happy were all the men who were with Naaman! Naaman had to go tell Elisha, "Thank you." First, maybe his servants put up a tent so that he could change his clothes and be all dry. Then Naaman said to his chariot driver, "Drive fast to the house of Elisha."

This time Elisha came down to see Naaman. Naaman said to Elisha, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except the God Whom the Israelites worship. I believe in the only, true, living God; I know that you, Elisha, are a man of God. Please take some presents from me."

Elisha said, "I cannot take any presents from you for something that God did. God healed you of the leprosy. Be on your way. I am so glad that you are healed of your leprosy."

The little girl, I'm sure, was thrilled when Naaman came home. She had known that the preacher Elisha could help Naaman.

Our preacher knows how to help us, too. He preaches the Bible. Whenever people have big problems, they can go to the pastor and talk with him. Trust God, obey God, and obey the man of God.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: II Kings 5:14, "Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean."

(As time permits, review the names of the Old Testament books taught so far—along with their themes.)