

THE STORY FOR CHILDREN

The Story For Children devotionals are broken up into three days. Each day has something to read together, do together, think about together, and pray together with your children. These times together with your family will help your children understand and live out The Story of God's Word!

Chapter 13 – The King Who Had It All Day One – A Really Smart Guy

Today's reading: Pages 122-123

This reading covers: 1 Kings 3; various Proverbs

Summary: King Solomon asks God to help him be wise.

Do together: Go around the table and take turns making a Wish List. Put on this list anything that you would like to have; a new bike, a vacation, a new car. Have fun! Be creative!

Think about: God told King Solomon he would give him anything he asked for. But Solomon didn't ask for a lot of money or to live a long time. Instead, Solomon asked God for wisdom so he could make good decisions. Wouldn't wisdom be good to have? Wouldn't it be great to make good decisions? How would you be different if you had wisdom and made good decisions?

Also read: Proverbs 3:13-14; James 1:5

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for giving me so many good things. But even more than these things, please give me wisdom so I can make good decisions. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 13 – The King Who Had It All

Day Two – God’s House

Today’s reading: Pages 124-126

This reading covers: 2 Chronicles 6-7

Summary: Solomon builds a house for God

Do together: Use building blocks, Legos, or other materials to build a house.

Think about: Since God is everywhere, we know that God is too big to fit into a building. But God let King Solomon build a special place called a Temple where God could be worshipped. This was a beautiful building made of the best materials in the world. But get this – the Bible says that you are the temple of God! You were made with the best material in the world. You are a special place for God to live.

Also read: 2 Chronicles 3; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Prayer: Dear God, how wonderfully you have made me. How special I must be. Help me to live to show the world that this temple is yours. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Chapter 13 – The King Who Had It All

Day Three – Falling Hard

Today's reading: Pages 127-129

This reading covers: 1 Kings 10-11

Summary: Even a king can make bad choices.

Do together: Play the game called Concentration. Using a deck of playing cards, select two of each card (2-twos, 2-threes, 2-fours, etc.). You will end up with 26 cards. Start with just the twos through sevens. Shuffle those 12 cards (2 of each). Place the cards face down in three rows with four in each row. Take turns turning over only two cards. Look carefully at the cards. If they match, remove the cards. If not, turn them back over and let the next person take a turn. Do this until all cards are matched. For a more challenging game, start with more cards.

Think about: In the game you just played, you had to choose which cards to turn over. But these were not just random choices. By paying attention to the game, you could think about what cards to turn over and make a good choice. Life is all about choices. But we have to pay attention and be sure to make good choices. If we are not careful, we will make bad choices. What are some decisions you have to make every day? What would making a good choice look like? What would making a bad choice look like?

Also read: Joshua 24:15

Prayer: Dear God, help me to pay attention to what I'm doing so I can make good choices. Thank you for your wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 14 – A Kingdom Torn in Two

Day One – Falling Away

Today's reading: Pages 130-131

This reading covers: 1 Kings 14

Summary: God's people turn away from him.

Do together: Have a scavenger hunt. You and the children go through your house and gather any items that are not honoring to God. You might find music or movies, games or toys, books or magazines.

Think about: Discuss the things you have gathered and decide as a family what you should get rid of. Why should these items not be in your home? Notice how easily we can turn away from God by some of the simple things we have.

Also read: Exodus 20:3

Prayer: Guide us, Lord, not only to clean our house, but also to clean our lives and our hearts. Help us to place nothing before you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 14 – A Kingdom Torn in Two

Day Two – Good King

Today's reading: Pages 132-133

This reading covers: 1 Kings 15

Summary: King Asa committed his whole life to following God.

Do together: Pretend to make your child into a puppet. Take two 24-inch slats of wood, cross them at their centers and attach with staples. Then attach four 3-foot pieces of thin nylon cord to the end of each stick. Attach the four cords to the wrists and ankles of a child. Now make them move in particular directions wherever you want them to go, like puppets, and move their hands as you wish.

Think about: Discuss how you controlled the child to go where you wanted him/her to go and do what you wanted him/her to do. Tell them that God does not do that. He gave us free will and then watches to see if we make right choices in our actions and the places we go. Also talk about how we must choose what friends we hang out with and where we go with them.

Also read: Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Prayer: Lord, let my guide be your word and let my strength be you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Chapter 14 – A Kingdom Torn in Two Day Three – Bad King

Today's reading: Pages 135-136

This reading covers: 1 Kings 16

Summary: King Ahab disobeyed God more than anyone had ever done.

Do together: Take the same slats of wood and cords and this time attach them to your own wrists and ankles. This time, let the children control your steps and actions.

Think about: Ask the children how it felt to be able to control a person. Does God control us that way? What does God do? What is our responsibility - to behave as puppets or to be sensible, functioning human beings who simply make right choices based on the word of God?

Also read: Psalm 119:9-11

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you did not create puppets. You created human beings with free wills. Let my will be in tune with yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.