

# 10



## SOLOMON & THE PROPHET

Solomon's Fall / Elijah's Warning / Exile

### 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** I Kings 11

**Objectives** To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Solomon worshipped the gods of his foreign wives and turned his heart away from God. The people also disobeyed God's word and rejected God as their king.
- God sent prophets to warn the people. One of those prophets was Elijah. God answered Elijah's prayer to send down fire from heaven and consume the altar, but the people still would not turn their hearts to God.
- God's people were sent into exile and had to leave the land that God had given them because they would not have God for their king. Just like Adam and Eve when they were sent out of the garden. God was sending his people out of his place because of their sin.

**Memory Verse** "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory." (Romans 3:23 - NIRV)

**ACNA** Today's story is connected to the following Catechism questions:

**Catechism Connection** Q 12 What does it mean to repent? ... to have a change of heart, turning from sin to serve God, with God's help...

Q 32 What does it mean that the Bible is the Word of God? ... God has spoken through the prophets... Q 28 What is in the OT? ...the teaching of God's prophets...

Q 209 If God made the world good at its creation, why does he permit evil? ...we are made free to worship, love and obey but also free to reject God's love, rebel and choose evil.

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

**Lesson props:**

- Scroll with temple (from last week's story)
- Paper hearts – one side red, the other side black – one larger for Solomon
- Some sticks (to represent the altar)
- Bucket with pieces of blue tissue paper in it representing water
- Plastic red sheet (from the dollar store) to be thrown on the altar as if fire came down from heaven and consumed the altar.

**Costumes:**

- King Solomon
- The Prophet Elijah with a sign saying: "The Prophet Elijah"
- King Nebuchadnezzar with a sword

**Memory Verse:** (Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

## 2 | Lesson Outline

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Books of the Bible -Old Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Poster Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss this week's poster.</li> <li>• Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></b></p>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Poster Discussion

**Poster**

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (A king and a statue)

I wonder who this king is.

I wonder why he is lifting up his hands to the statue.

I wonder what the statue is.

Let's hear the story to find out more.



## 4 | Story and Life Application

**CROWN:** *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of 1 Kings, in the Old Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and all the words in the Bible are true.'*

**LESSON SUMMARY:** *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster.*

### **STORY:**

***ACTION:*** *Have all the children sit in a circle. Give them a paper heart that has one side red and the other side black.*

**TEACHER:** Today we are all going to be part of the story. We will be the Israelites. At first we loved God and followed after him. King Solomon was our king – who helped us understand God's love. We obeyed God and we were being blessed by him. We were all happy.

To represent your love for God, put your paper heart in front of you with the red side up. Red will symbolize "love" for God.

Today, we are going to hear about something very sad. We read in the Bible that King Solomon loved many women from many foreign lands, and they turned King Solomon's heart away from God. Let's watch King Solomon and see what will happen....

***ACTION:*** *King Solomon walks in and picks up the scroll. He opens the scroll and looks at the temple. He shows the children (Israelites) the picture of the temple. He drops the scroll to the ground beside the big "red" paper heart. King Solomon turns over the heart to the black side to represent that he has turned his back on God. King Solomon walks away.*

**TEACHER:** Wow – what was that all about? Wasn't that King Solomon, who loved God so much and built a beautiful temple for God? But, now King Solomon has turned away from God.

Unfortunately, not only did King Solomon turn away from God, but he caused the

Israelites to also turn away from God.

**ACTION:** Ask everybody to turn over their paper hearts to the black side.

**TEACHER:** Because the Israelites rejected God, they did not trust God's goodness and they did not obey His word.

God was disappointed with King Solomon and God told him that he would take the kingdom out of Solomon's hands.

After the death of King Solomon, the kingdom was divided (north and south). *(To dramatize this for older children, tear a piece of construction paper or cloth in two.)*

Although God was angry at the people for not obeying and serving him, God still sent prophets to tell the people to obey God's word and turn back to him.

Who knows what a prophet is? *(Answer: A prophet is someone who delivers a message from God to the people.)* In those days there were good prophets who listened to God and spoke for him. But, there were also bad prophets – who just made up things.

One of the good prophets was named Elijah.

**ACTION:** Have Elijah walk in, with a sign on him that says, "Prophet Elijah".

**TEACHER:** One day, Elijah told the bad prophets to ask *their* god to send fire down on an altar. The bad prophets kept asking their god to do this, but no fire came down.

Afterward Elijah built an altar.

**ACTION:** Have Elijah build an altar (wood in a pile).

**TEACHER:** "Pour water on the altar that I built" Elijah told the people. He told them to pour water, and more water, and to do this several times.

**ACTION:** Have one of the children pour the bucket of "water" on the altar.

**TEACHER:** Then Elijah prayed, "O Lord, God of Abraham, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel. Please cause fire to come down upon the altar. "

**ACTION:** Have a teacher come and cover the altar completely with a red plastic sheet.

**TEACHER:** Just then, God answered Elijah's prayer. Fire came down from the sky and burned up the sacrifice that was on the altar.

Even with this amazing miracle, the people did not turn away from their sin and say they were sorry to God. They did not turn back and obey God's Word.

**ACTION:** *Ask the children to pick up their black paper hearts and shake their heads "no" at Elijah. Elijah walks away.*

**TEACHER:** So God had to punish his people. We find that when God had punished the people in the past, they then realized their wicked ways and turned back to God.

This time, God sent a ruler to go to war against the Israelites. Many of God's people were killed or taken away.

**ACTION:** *Have King Nebuchadnezzar come in with a sword and collect all the paper hearts on the floor in front of the children.*

**TEACHER:** King Nebuchadnezzar was from Babylon, and he destroyed Jerusalem. He burned the temple that King Solomon had built for God and he took the rest of the people to a faraway land.

**ACTION:** *Have King Nebuchadnezzar leave. He is cheering and laughing! He has won the war!*

**TEACHER:** This was a sad day. The Israelites had to leave their beautiful land, the place God had given them, because they would not obey God.

How many people remember when God sent Adam and Eve away from him...out of the garden of Eden?

A similar thing happened this time. Because the people rejected God as their King, God sent his people out of his place (Canaan, the Promised Land).

Yes, it was a very sad day.

**SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (God sends warnings to his people, he wants people to turn their hearts to him, he disciplines)
- **What does this story tell us about people?** (we are sinful and need our hearts to be changed to love and follow God)
- What did King Solomon and many people do that was bad?(worship false gods)
- Who did God send to warn the people to stop disobeying him and turn back to Him? (Elijah. He was a prophet sent by God.)
- Why did God send a prophet? (to warn the people)
- Describe the contest that Elijah set up to prove that the other gods were false and that there is only One True God?
- What does repent mean? (have a change of heart, turn from sin to God)
- What happened to the people and to the temple when they refused to repent and to turn back to God? (the people were taken into captivity and the temple destroyed)

**Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):**

*Hold up the large black/red heart.*

Just like Solomon, we have a choice to follow God or to turn away from him.

What are some of the things we do that show that we follow God? (Loving, obeying God and our parents, reading our Bibles, praying, caring, sharing, helping etc.)

What are some of the things that we end up doing when we don't follow God? (Lying, cheating, stealing, bullying, making our toys more important than God, etc.) How does this make us feel? (sad, hurt, sorry, mean) Who can help us get back to God? (a parent, a priest or a Christian friend, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God)

## 5 | Response Activities

### Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### Optional activities

- Make paper hearts that are red and black. On the black side write with chalk or white pencil crayon things that are wrong (lying, cheating, stealing, bullying etc.) The younger children can just draw a sad face. On the red side of the heart, write things that are good (loving, caring, sharing, helping etc.) The younger children can draw a happy face.
- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



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(Romans 3:23)