

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD...

I KINGS 1-11, II CHRONICLES 1-9
YEAR FIVE | FALL QUARTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR MIDDLE ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

SS05F-E

LESSON SEQUENCE

FALL QUARTER

The Lesson Sequence gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

LESSON ONE	I Kings 1
LESSON TWO	I Kings 2
LESSON THREE	I Kings 3, II Chronicles 1:1–12
LESSON FOUR	I Kings 4, II Chronicles 1:13–17
LESSON FIVE	I Kings 5, II Chronicles 2
LESSON SIX	I Kings 6, II Chronicles 3
LESSON SEVEN	I Kings 7, II Chronicles 4
LESSON EIGHT	I Kings 8:1–13, II Chronicles 5
LESSON NINE	I Kings 8:14–53, II Chronicles 6
LESSON TEN	I Kings 8:54–66, II Chronicles 7:1–11
LESSON ELEVEN	I Kings 9, II Chronicles 7:12–8:18
LESSON TWELVE	I Kings 10, II Chronicles 9:1–28
LESSON THIRTEEN	I Kings 11, II Chronicles 9:29–31

WINTER QUARTER I Kings 12–22,
II Chronicles 10–20

LESSON ONE | I KINGS 1

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Psalm 119:9–10
2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

King Saul
5 mins.

W.O.W!

Sovereign
5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2–3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

I Kings 1
20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Philippians 2:10–11
2–3 mins.

OVERVIEW

The Old Testament Book of I Kings continues the story of the Davidic reign over Israel. King David is now old, cold and in a near vegetative state. He is ill-equipped to rule over Israel, leaving the door open for his son, Adonijah, to stage a coup and grab the throne. The people of God are at great risk—or are they? Don't forget that the sovereign LORD is truly on the throne!

Adonijah's plot to take the throne is foiled by Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba, mother of Solomon. They work together to alert David to what is happening right under his nose. King David regains his strength to ensure that Solomon becomes the next rightful king of Israel. Adonijah, fearing for his life, is forced to bow in submission to King Solomon.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on I Kings 1 this week. You may also want to read over the last few chapters of II Samuel to place this lesson in its historical context.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Always remember that you are much more than a Sunday School teacher to the group of children before you. You are a covenant parent! Since God puts Christians together as members of His family, all Christian adults function as parents over the children of the congregation. This makes Sunday School teaching richer and broader in its scope. You are not to instruct simply as some sort of educational professional, but rather to teach as a parent teaches a child. So, what's the difference? A parent teaches with not only a God-given authority, but also a God-given love and affection. You must learn to look at the children in your classroom with eyes of love as if they were your very own blood relatives. Granted, some are easier to love than others; but, since they are all your covenant children, all must be loved and nurtured. You will mature tremendously in your teaching as you grow in genuine love and interest for those in your care.

THE **WELCOME** SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED. EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Psalm 119:9-10.

⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

Say: *This psalm of David calls us to study God's Word. Only by learning, loving and living God's Word can we keep our hearts pure. It is my hope and prayer that you are studying God's Word this morning so that you can learn to obey it, and seek God with all your heart. Let's follow God together!*



DRILL TIME

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *Who was king of Israel before David? How did Saul lose the throne? What made David different than Saul?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. Saul.
2. Saul's rebellion against God; God removed His Spirit from him.
3. David was a man "after God's own heart." His heart was fixed on God.

Say: *Saul and David were both human kings which means that they were both sinners like you and me. They sat on thrones and ruled, yet they did not have total power over their kingdoms. David enjoyed much success as king, because God's hand of protection and favor was on him. He enjoyed the grace of God. We will continue studying the kings of Israel this quarter, learning more about the King of kings and our necessary response to His rule.*



W.O.W!

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

Our *W.O.W!* (Word of the Week) this week is **SOVEREIGN**. Write it on the board. Who can tell me what this word means? **Allow answers.**

The word *SOVEREIGN* is actually another name for a *KING*. A *SOVEREIGN* is someone who rules; one who holds absolute authority and control over a group of people.

We can talk about the kings of Israel as beings *SOVEREIGNS*, but that isn't totally accurate. They do not have total authority or control over Israel do they? Who does? [God does!] That's why we say that God is *SOVEREIGN*—He rules as King over all kings. Only God has total control of the entire universe.

In our study today, you will read the phrase “sits on the throne” over and over again. That is another way to describe someone who is a *SOVEREIGN*. When you become a Christian, we say that Jesus “sits on the throne” of your heart. He is your absolute ruler. You now obey His authority. He is your *SOVEREIGN!*

Isn't it great that God is *SOVEREIGN*? He is in total control.

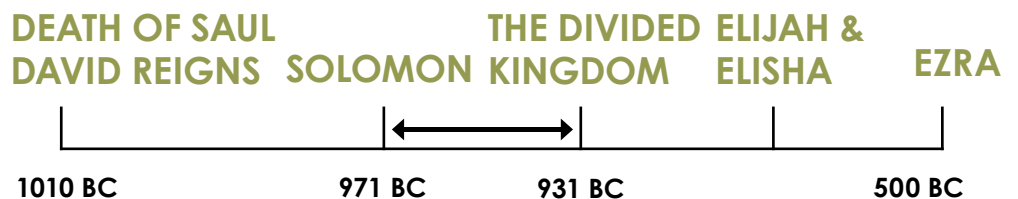


HISTORICAL CONTEXT

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** BY USE OF A TIMELINE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.

As you study *I Kings* this quarter, draw this timeline on the board. Always remember that the students need to understand God's Word in its historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS. THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Have the students turn in their Bibles to I Kings 1.

Introduction: *The Book of I Kings is just a continuation of the Book of II Samuel. We begin our reading this quarter with King David still ruling over Israel—but not for long! Let's be good investigators of God's Word today.*

Read I Kings 1:1-4.

¹Now King David was old and advanced in years. And although they covered him with clothes, he could not get warm. ²Therefore his servants said to him, "Let a young woman be sought for my lord the king, and let her wait on the king and be in his service. Let her lie in your arms, that my lord the king may be warm." ³So they sought for a beautiful young woman throughout all the territory of Israel, and found Abishag the Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴The young woman was very beautiful, and she was of service to the king and attended to him, but the king knew her not.

Discussion: *This is sad, isn't it? Old King David is not doing well; he can't even get warm. He is getting close to death. This is a scary time for Israel, don't you think? With a king so weak, God's people could easily be destroyed by other stronger kings and nations. But who is really on the throne? Yes, God is the SOVEREIGN king of Israel. He continues to rule.*

Application: *Even when things don't look like they are going so well in our world today, God is still on the throne!*

Let's see what happens next. Read verses 5-6.

⁵Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. ⁶His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.

Discussion: *Adonijah is one of David's sons. What kind of young man does he sound like to you? [Proud, arrogant, selfish, spoiled.] He seems to have been spoiled by David, much like Absalom, another handsome and rebellious son of the king. Can Adonijah just announce that he is king? No! David must decide who will be king after him. It is not Adonijah's place. But since David is weak, he is taking his opportunity, isn't he?*



THIS GREY SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION MAY ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR.

Let's see what happens. **Read verses 7-10.**

⁷He conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah and with Abiathar the priest. And they followed Adonijah and helped him. ⁸But Zadok the priest and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada and Nathan the prophet and Shimei and Rei and David's mighty men were not with Adonijah. ⁹Adonijah sacrificed sheep, oxen, and fattened cattle by the Serpent's Stone, which is beside En-rogel, and he invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, ¹⁰but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the mighty men or Solomon his brother.

Discussion: *Looks like we have a split among the leaders of Israel. Some are siding with Adonijah. Some are staying with David. Adonijah had a big party to declare himself king of Israel, but did not invite Nathan the prophet, David's mighty men or even Solomon. Why not? [He knew they were loyal to David and against this move.] Will Adonijah get away with this?*

Let's continue. **Read verses 11-14.**

¹¹Then Nathan said to Bathsheba the mother of Solomon, "Have you not heard that Adonijah the son of Haggith has become king and David our lord does not know it? ¹²Now therefore come, let me give you advice, that you may save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³Go in at once to King David, and say to him, 'Did you not, my lord the king, swear to your servant, saying, "Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne"? Why then is Adonijah king?' ¹⁴Then while you are still speaking with the king, I also will come in after you and confirm your words."

Discussion: *Do you remember Bathsheba? Do you remember their son Solomon? David had promised Bathsheba that Solomon would be king after him. David, in his weakened state, had no idea what was going on with Adonijah. It took Nathan the prophet to step in and alert the king to what was happening. In Israel, two witnesses were required to make anything true—that's why Nathan needed Bathsheba's help. Nathan also knew that if Adonijah became king, he would kill Solomon to keep him from the throne.*

Let's read on! **Read verses 15-27.**

¹⁵So Bathsheba went to the king in his chamber (now the king was very old, and Abishag the Shunammite was attending to the king). ¹⁶Bathsheba bowed and paid homage to the king, and the king said,



APPLICATION POINTS ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF THE DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN BEING LEFT TO THE END OF THE LESSON.

“What do you desire?”¹⁷ She said to him, “My lord, you swore to your servant by the LORD your God, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne.’¹⁸ And now, behold, Adonijah is king, although you, my lord the king, do not know it.¹⁹ He has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the sons of the king, Abiathar the priest, and Joab the commander of the army, but Solomon your servant he has not invited.²⁰ And now, my lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to tell them who shall sit on the throne of my lord the king after him.²¹ Otherwise it will come to pass, when my lord the king sleeps with his fathers, that I and my son Solomon will be counted offenders.”²² While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet came in.²³ And they told the king, “Here is Nathan the prophet.” And when he came in before the king, he bowed before the king, with his face to the ground.²⁴ And Nathan said, “My lord the king, have you said, ‘Adonijah shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne’?²⁵ For he has gone down this day and has sacrificed oxen, fattened cattle, and sheep in abundance, and has invited all the king’s sons, the commanders of the army, and Abiathar the priest. And behold, they are eating and drinking before him, and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’²⁶ But me, your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he has not invited.²⁷ Has this thing been brought about by my lord the king and you have not told your servants who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

Discussion: *So Bathsheba and Nathan tell old King David the same exact story. But what can weak, cold David do?*

Let’s find out. **Read verses 28-31.**

²⁸Then King David answered, “Call Bathsheba to me.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before the king.²⁹ And the king swore, saying, “As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my soul out of every adversity,³⁰ as I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel, saying, ‘Solomon your son shall reign after me, and he shall sit on my throne in my place,’ even so will I do this day.”³¹ Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the ground and paid homage to the king and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

Discussion: *Wow! Is our strong King David back? Where did he get his strength? [From the LORD.] Do you see how David is relying on the LORD, recognizing the LORD as the one who has delivered him*



from every trouble? David reasserts himself as king!

Let's continue. Read verses 32-35.

³² King David said, "Call to me Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada." So they came before the king.

³³ And the king said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. ³⁴ And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' ³⁵ You shall then come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, for he shall be king in my place. And I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and over Judah."

Discussion: *Who will be king after David? Adonijah? No, it will be Solomon! God's people will be ruled by God's man.*

Let's read on. Read verses 36-37.

³⁶ And Benaiah the son of Jehoiada answered the king, "Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, say so. ³⁷ As the LORD has been with my lord the king, even so may he be with Solomon, and make his throne greater than the throne of my lord King David."

Application: *Do you see it? God is SOVEREIGN. He is the one who establishes rulers. No one can take the throne for himself. God is in control. HE will make Solomon the next king of Israel.*

Let's continue. Read verses 38-46.

³⁸ So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon ride on King David's mule and brought him to Gihon.

³⁹ There Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the tent and anointed Solomon. Then they blew the trumpet, and all the people said, "Long live King Solomon!" ⁴⁰ And all the people went up after him, playing on pipes, and rejoicing with great joy, so that the earth was split by their noise. ⁴¹ Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they finished feasting. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, "What does this uproar in the city mean?" ⁴² While he was still speaking, behold, Jonathan the son of Abiathar the priest came. And Adonijah said, "Come in, for you are a worthy man and bring good news." ⁴³ Jonathan answered Adonijah, "No, for our lord King David has made Solomon king, ⁴⁴ and the king has sent with him Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet,



and Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and the Cherethites and the Pelethites. And they had him ride on the king's mule. ⁴⁵And Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet have anointed him king at Gihon, and they have gone up from there rejoicing, so that the city is in an uproar. This is the noise that you have heard. ⁴⁶Solomon sits on the royal throne.

Discussion: *If you were Adonijah, what would you be thinking now? Uh-oh, the party's over! He's in big trouble, isn't he? Let's see what happens next.*

Read verses 47-48.

⁴⁷Moreover, the king's servants came to congratulate our lord King David, saying, 'May your God make the name of Solomon more famous than yours, and make his throne greater than your throne.' And the king bowed himself on the bed. ⁴⁸And the king also said, 'Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who has granted someone to sit on my throne this day, my own eyes seeing it.'

Discussion: *Now Adonijah knows the reality that this act has been done by King David. It was not just Solomon trying to take the throne on his own. More trouble for Adonijah!*

Read verses 49-50.

⁴⁹Then all the guests of Adonijah trembled and rose, and each went his own way. ⁵⁰And Adonijah feared Solomon. So he arose and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.

Discussion: *The party-goers knew this was big trouble for Adonijah. So, why did Adonijah take hold of the horns of the altar instead of running away? [This was the way for Adonijah to ask Solomon to spare his life. He knew that Solomon would want to kill him.] Adonijah was now at the new king's mercy.*

Let's finish the chapter. Read verses 51-53.

⁵¹Then it was told Solomon, "Behold, Adonijah fears King Solomon, for behold, he has laid hold of the horns of the altar, saying, 'Let King Solomon swear to me first that he will not put his servant to death with the sword.'" ⁵²And Solomon said, "If he will show himself a worthy man, not one of his hairs shall fall to the earth, but if wickedness is found in him, he shall die." ⁵³So King Solomon sent, and they brought him down from the altar. And he came and paid homage to King Solomon, and Solomon said to him, "Go to your house."



Discussion: *Do you see what a fair and just decision this was? Adonijah would have just killed Solomon. King Solomon shows mercy and does not kill Adonijah as long as Adonijah does right and doesn't try to take over the kingdom in the future. Finally, Adonijah must bow before the true king of Israel.*

Conclusion: *Boys and girls, this is a picture of what all people will do one day. We will all bow the knee—not before King Solomon, but before King Jesus. He is the King of kings. The question is: Are you serving King Jesus now? Is He on the throne of your heart?*

We'll pick up our reading here next week.



LESSON-AT-HOME

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Philippians 2:10-11) together.

Philippians 2:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Say: *These verses sums up where we ended our lesson today—God has given His Son Kingship over the whole world. All will bow to King Jesus. All will one day confess Him as LORD!*

Review the verses.

Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.