

OCTOBER 11-17

FOR PARENTS

When King David died, Solomon, his son, became king. Solomon was a wise king who loved God. He built the great Temple in Jerusalem. He had good advice for how people could live a good life and be happy. When Solomon died, the nation did not do a good job of following God, and things got a little rough. The northern tribes of Israel rebelled, civil war broke out, and the United Kingdom was divided into two kingdoms – Israel to the north and Judah to the south. These two kingdoms went through many kings. Some trusted God and served faithfully and others did not.

Although God judged the people when they sinned, God still loved them and remained faithful to them. God sent them prophets to speak God's word. God gave them priests to make sacrifices for their sins. God called kings to protect the needy and guarantee justice. At last God promised to send the Messiah.

KID CONNECTION

In the time of the prophets and kings, life was uncertain and hard. Today our world seems chaotic and sometimes out of control, too. The message of hope for the people of God at the time of the collapse of the nation of Judah can also bring hope to us. As disciples of Jesus, we always have hope in the new and abundant life that comes in the promises of Jesus.

REMEMBER 1 THING

Even when things look hopeless, with God there is always hope. Hold on to God's promises!

READING PLAN

Day	Chapter Titles	Scripture
	<i>From Read and Learn Bible</i>	
10/11	King Solomon's Temple (repeat)	1 Kings 5-8
10/12	King Solomon's Wise Words	Selected verses from Proverbs
10/13	Elijah and the Bad King; Who is the True God?	1 Kings 12; 17; 18
10/14	Elijah Goes Away; Elisha's Miracles	2 Kings 2; 4-5
10/15	A Lost Book Is Found	2 Kings 22-23
10/16	A Sad Ending; Jonah and the Big Fish; Peace Will Come	2 Kings 24-25; Jonah 1-4; Micah 4-5
Sunday	Jeremiah and the Exile	2 Chronicles 36

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Instructions and discussion tips are available on the church website.

Choose one or more activities that will interest your family as you make this week's stories your own.

Make a King's Cake

Celebrate our readings about all the historical kings by making a king's cake in the tradition of New Orleans's Mardi Gras.

Supplies needed: three cans refrigerated sweet roll dough, two cans vanilla frosting, milk, and sprinkles.

Learn about King Nebuchadnezzar, who took the Hebrew people from the Promised Land to Babylon.

A local Nashville pastor (Chuck Knows Church) shares information about King Neb in a fun conversational style. Link to this video is in the directions on the website.

Sadness Paper Airplanes

Supplies needed: drawing utensils and printer paper.

Share sad feelings and create paper airplanes to fly those feelings to God.

Better Than an Hallelujah

Listen to this Amy Grant song and talk about the words the composer chose to describe her belief that God accepts and loves all prayers, including those said in fear, sadness, and hopelessness.

October 11-17

Make a Kings Cake

To celebrate our readings about the kings of Israel, make a king's cake.

What you'll need:

- 3 cans refrigerated sweet roll dough
- 2 cans creamy vanilla ready-to spread frosting
- ¼ cup milk
- ½ cup multicolored sprinkles or colored baker's sugar.

What to do:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a baking sheet.

- Open the cans of sweet roll dough. Separate the dough into individual strands.
- Working on a clean surface, place three dough strands side-by-side and gather them together to make one large strand. Fold the large strand in half and roll slightly to make a fat log. Repeat steps with the remaining dough.
- Place each log on the prepared baking sheet and shape to make a ring, overlapping the ends and pinching them together to make a complete circle. Pat the dough into shape as necessary to make the ring even in size all the way around.
- Cover loosely with foil. Bake in preheated oven until firm to the touch and golden brown, 50-60 minutes. Do not overbake. Place on a wire rack and cool completely. Frost with the vanilla frosting. Add colored sprinkles or sugar.

Enjoy the king's cake and talk about these questions as you eat:

- I wonder how you get a job as a king or queen?
- I wonder what you would do if you were king or queen for a day?
- I wonder what makes a king good or bad?

Learn about King Nebuchadnezzar from a Nashville Pastor in this episode of *Chuck Knows Church*

<https://youtu.be/BNypIT9WDMU>

Sadness Paper airplanes

Supplies: copy/printer paper (8.5"x11"), something with which to write or draw.

The Hebrews who were taken into exile felt that God had abandoned them. They felt afraid, sad, and lonely. But God didn't leave them. God provided messages of hope through the prophets.

1. Invite family members to explore sad, lonely, or unhappy feelings. Give each family member a piece of paper. Recall together what the Bible readings told about the people who were taken into exile. Talk about the feelings they might have felt. Reading the first 4 verses of Psalm 137 might give family members an idea of what the people in exile were feeling.

2. Invite family members to write their feelings on the paper they were given. Perhaps they want to share their highs and lows of the week (refer to Faith5). Once they have written or drawn what they are feeling, show them how to fold their paper into a paper airplane. There are several YouTube videos on easily folding planes.
3. Enter a time of prayer and invite family members to fly their airplanes away from them and imagine God catching the plane and all the feelings written/drawn on the paper. God welcomes all our feelings and remind your child that God is with them even if they feel alone.

Amy Grant, *Better than a Hallelujah*

Invite family members to listen to Amy Grant singing *Better than a Hallelujah* or watch a [YouTube video](#) of this song. Invite family members to share an image or phrase that stood out for them as they listened to the song. Listen to the song a second time and wonder together using the questions below.

- In the song the lyric writer says, “We pour out our miseries, God just hears a melody. Beautiful the mess we are. The honest cries of breaking hearts are better than a Hallelujah.”
I wonder if you believe that God loves to hear about what makes us sad and miserable? Why or why not?
- When we share our feelings with other people, we are putting trust in them to care about us and our life situations. When we share our feelings in our prayers, are we putting our trust in God? Why or Why not?
- I wonder how you know that God cares about you and your feelings?
- I wonder how comfortable you are sharing your thoughts and feelings with God?