



Sunday, March 22, 2020

Sweet Families,

Our children who attend Story Kids began a new set of lessons a few weeks ago based on a kids' version of *From Garden to Glory*, a study written by Courtney Doctor that many of our women have been through and loved. The version for children takes us on an overview of the Bible using the familiar images of fairy tale stories: a kingdom, a villain, a king, a good knight and so on. The study is super simple and easy to follow for children of all ages.

Today's lesson is written out below. A list of optional supplies will be included; you will most likely have all of these items at your disposal. Read the lesson through with your children. Get the family involved in discussion and in reading any scripture that's included. Do the activities – because they're FUN! Pray. We pray at least twice during our time together. I'll include things you can pray for, but feel free to do your own thing. ☺

There are eleven lessons in this study and we are on lesson four this week. Previous weeks focused on: Once Upon a Time (a giant overview – truth, love, hope – the whole nine yards), The Kingdom (creation), The Villain (you know who), and now The King.

Enjoy!!! And please let me know if you have any questions.

Much love,

Ms. Libby
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From Garden to Glory: A Bible Study on the Bible Story
by Jennifer Zell

Lesson 4: The King

Supplies suggested:

- Bible
- White paper for printing
- Printer
- Coloring utensils
- Ribbon, string or tape
- Fairytale dress-up clothes (definitely optional)

* Words in blue can be read verbatim to your child/children.*

- 1 - **Pray** for your time together. Pray that God would open everyone's heart to the beauty and truth of his story and that he'd work through our lives to help us show others this beauty and truth.
- 2 - **Review.**
Ask your child/children to tell you what they learned in the last lesson, if they were with us.

During our last lesson, we talked about the Villain. Who was the Villain? We learned that Satan used to be an angel, but became very evil and God sent him away. He hates God now and hates us. Remember that Satan came in the form of a snake, lied to Eve, and caused the kingdom to be broken because of their sin. Remember that sin is anything that disobeys God's commands. We all sin everyday.

We discussed that God created Adam and Eve, Adam and Eve sinned, and that God hates sin. Can anyone tell me if God now hates Adam and Eve?

No, he loved them and loves us even when we sin. Our King's steadfast love for us is so awesome that he isn't going to leave this broken kingdom how it is, he wants to restore the kingdom.

3 - **Lesson.**

Today, we'll pick up the story from there and learn more about God, the King.

Before we do, tell me what you think of when you think of a king? What does he wear? Where does he live? How much power does he have?

Did you know that kings can make anything they want into a law that everyone has to follow? That is called a *decree*. A decree is when a king says something like, "All in my kingdom will wear blue shirts on Mondays." They might say, "All in my kingdom will have two cats as pets." All a king has to do is say something and it is law. If you broke a king's law, you would be punished. A punishment might be being thrown in jail or even forced to leave the kingdom forever.

If you lived in a kingdom, would you rather follow a good king that makes good decrees or a bad king that makes bad decrees? Of course – you would want to be ruled by a good king!

Let's look up some verses that describe God, our King, and see if we can determine whether he is one we should be happy to follow.

Feel free to help your child hunt for these verses or just read them off of this page.

- **Lamentations 3:22:** "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end."
- **Jeremiah 31:3:** "I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."
- After God delivered the Israelites from slavery, Moses records **Deuteronomy 7:8:** "It is because the Lord loves and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh."

Well, what do you think? Is God a king that we should be happy to follow? Of course! We all have learned that God's love for us is so strong and steadfast. Some kings made decrees that gave them more power even when it hurt some people in their kingdom. But God tells us that everything he commands us is for our good. We just need to trust in his steadfast love and work hard to follow his commands.

So, because God is the greatest king, all he had to do was speak and Adam and Eve would have been destroyed. Remember, he created the world and everything in it by speaking; destroying Adam and Eve would probably have been very easy. But he loved Adam and Eve. They had to be punished now that the kingdom was ruined and sin was in the world, but God's love continued. God showed Adam and Eve mercy.

Not only could they still live, but God made Adam and Eve the parents of all people. They had children and those children had more children. Many years later, there would be lots of people living on the earth. All those people were Adam and Eve's children. Did you know that you and I came from Adam and Eve's children, waaaaay back?

We are sinners, just like our first parents, Adam and Eve. Our loving King punished our sin. It is like when our parents punish us for disobeying. If we ask for five cookies and our mom says we can have two, but we have to wait until after dinner, then we take them anyway, we have disobeyed. When our mom finds out and punishes us, does she stop loving us? No, it is just the opposite! Our mom loves us too much to let us grow up to be a person who takes things they are not supposed to. She uses our disobedience for our good, to teach us the right way to live.

God is no different. Remember, he hates our sin, but he LOVES us. What a King!

- 4 - **Pray** the Lord's Prayer and a quick wrap up.
Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Suggested: Father God, our King, thank you for the commands you give us. We know in our hearts that your commands are for our good. They help us to learn to obey – both you and the people around us. Thank you, Father, for always knowing what is best for us and for loving us unconditionally. Help us to love others like you love us. Amen.

- 5 - **Activity 1**
- Print off the "Decree" sheet at the end of this lesson.
 - Have your child/children write down or draw a picture of a decree they would make if they were king.
 - At the bottom of the decree, have them sign their name.
 - Roll up the decree and tie it with a piece of ribbon or string, or hold it together with a piece of tape.
- 6 - **Activity 2**
- Play Simon Says, except use, "The King says."
 - Give fairytale themed actions, like: pretend to ride around a castle on a horse, or pretend to build a castle out of bricks.
 - Want to play while you're dressed as fairy tale characters? Yes!!!

YOU are amazing! Thank you for working on this as a family.
Enjoy the precious moments that *will happen* this week!

Decree