

WEEK 1

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God gives us directions to follow.

BIBLE

Adonijah Tries To Be King:
1 Kings 1:5–14, 29–35

ABOUT THIS WEEK

At a construction site, workers need to listen to all kinds of instructions to keep them safe and help them build their projects. This week, we'll look at a story where David's son, Adonijah, didn't follow the directions and tried to become king himself. His story reminds us that **God gives us directions to follow**, and each one is for our benefit.

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Who Is The King?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the provided crown cut out. Have the kids sit or stand shoulder-to-shoulder in a circle and put their hands behind their backs. Choose one kid to come to the middle of the circle and cover their eyes. Place the crown in the hands of one of the kids. The one that is covering their eyes won't know who has been handed the crown. When the group says, "Who is the king?" the kid who had been covering their eyes will look around the circle and guess who has the crown. Play the game a few times so each kid gets a turn to guess.
- In our game, it was tricky to figure out who the king was. In our Bible story today, we will learn about Adonijah, who *tried* to be king, when really, Solomon was the true king.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 1 Kings 1:5–14, 29–35 (Adonijah Tries to Be King)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below.
- **Do you know how to follow directions?** Construction workers need to follow directions. They build things like houses, stores, and churches. They have directions to follow that show them what to build.
- Today's Bible story is about how a man named Adonijah did not want to follow directions.
- King David was old. He was so old that he needed to lie in bed all day. It was time for a new king. **Lie down and pretend to be old King David.**
- Adonijah decided on his own that he would be the next king. So, Adonijah had a party and told everyone he was the king. But Adonijah wasn't following God's directions. **Say, "Uh, oh!" with me!**
- God gave directions for King David to make Solomon the new king. **Who did God want to be the new king?** Solomon!

- Adonijah wanted to be king. I know it sounds amazing to be the king or queen of your own kingdom. **Raise your hand if you want to be a king or queen.**
- But just because you want something doesn't mean you should just do what you want. You should follow what God wants you to do.
- Queen Bathsheba and God's prophet Nathan told King David what Adonijah was doing. King David said Adonijah would not be king. David knew that God had given directions for Solomon to be king. David made Solomon the new king. **Everyone say, "Go King Solomon!"**
- David followed God's directions. God gives directions that all of us can follow!

BIG IDEA | God gives us directions to follow.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce the Big Idea using the following hand motions:*
- Our Big Idea today is **God gives us directions to follow.**
 - **God** (*point both hands to the sky*)
 - **gives us** (*pretend to give someone a gift with both hands*)
 - **directions** (*point with one hand as you look to your side*)
 - **to follow.** (*turn your body in the directions you just pointed, and point straight ahead with both arms*)

VIDEO | Under Construction, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](https://vimeo.com/935662613/40ca559ca2?share=copy). (<https://vimeo.com/935662613/40ca559ca2?share=copy>)*

PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving us directions to follow. Help us do what you want, God, and not just what we want to do. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Sit in a circle together. Pass around the crown. The person holding or wearing the crown gets to speak.*
- **Why was it time for a new king?** *David was old, and his time as king was over.*
- **Who tried to be the new king all on his own?** *Adonijah.*
- **Based on God's directions, who was supposed to be the new king?** *Solomon.*
- **Whose directions should we always follow?** *God.*
- **Who helps us follow God's directions?** *Parents, teachers, other people who follow God.*

MEMORY VERSE | James 1:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.*