

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; James 1:19–25

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.

LARGE GROUP TIME

Get your hard hats ready, blueprints out, and gather all your materials. This month, we are learning all about King Solomon, who built God's temple and magnificent palaces. As Solomon builds the temple, we will be building our own foundation on God's words and wisdom. So let's get *under construction*!

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Construction Zone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need two chairs or other bulky items and rolls of [caution tape](#) or yellow crepe streamers. To play, invite two groups of three kids each up to your main area to compete. Have each group stand by their chair, and on "Go!" the first group to fully wrap their chair in caution tape or streamers wins! Play as many rounds as time allows, bringing up new groups of kids for each round.
- Thank goodness you all followed directions and put up that caution tape to get our construction underway and keep everyone safe!
- Today, we are talking all about following directions ... but whose? We'll find out soon!

ACTIVITY | Building Blocks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to create a simple build with LEGO bricks and take a picture of it to show later. To play, have kids gather in groups of two to six with one large pile of LEGO bricks in the center of the room where everyone can easily access them. Make sure you have enough bricks for each group to be able to build your creation. For Round One, only give kids verbal instructions to construct your simple LEGO creation. Don't correct kids as they build—allow them to build what they think you want. Compare what everyone built following your verbal instructions. For Round Two, show them the picture or sample structure for them to follow.

✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Modify this activity to use less fine motor skills by providing larger blocks to build with. They can have free building time, or you can stack blocks in simple ways

for them to try to copy.

- Wow, that was some fierce building! **Did it make a difference having an example to follow?** There are times when having specific instructions really helps!
- In today's Bible story, we learn that God had specific directions for the people of Israel, but one person tried to follow his own plans instead.

POLL | Whose Directions?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask each set of questions and have kids hold up one, two, or three fingers to indicate their answer choice for family, friends, and coach or teacher, respectively.
- Answer the following questions with the following choices: 1) Family, 2) Friends, and 3) Teacher or coach.
 - **Whose directions do you trust the most?**
 - **Whose directions do you follow the least?**
 - **Who do you like to give directions to the most?**
- We all need directions to follow. They can be signs to avoid danger in a construction zone, advice from grown-ups to keep us safe, or recommendations from friends for a book to read or a movie to watch.
- These can all be great directions to follow sometimes, but there's someone who gives us directions that we should always follow ... God!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

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

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have a [sound bite](#) of construction noise playing in the background. Wear a construction hat and anything else to add to the construction vibe. Have your space decorated with items like caution tape, construction signs, blueprints, traffic cones, and more.
 - ✖ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Many fun construction sounds are played throughout this series. Be mindful of kids with noise sensitivities. Lower the volume of the sounds, provide noise cancelling headphones, or arrange for them to take a walk outside during modules with loud noises.
- Welcome to (name of your church)! As you can see, we are officially under construction! I'm so excited! We have blueprints from the architect that give very detailed directions, step-by-step. As long as we follow these directions, we shouldn't have any problems at all. But if we don't follow the directions ... the entire thing would fall apart and not look at all how the architect meant it to be.
- So my construction crew and I are going to follow the directions. But before we start breaking ground, I think we should learn some directions God gave us in the Bible!
 - **Can you think of a story in the Bible when someone didn't follow directions?** (Possible answers: Adam and Eve, Israelite community in the wilderness, Jonah)
 - There are quite a few different stories. Today, we'll talk about another person who didn't want to follow directions from God. His name is Adonijah.
- **Let's begin by reading 1 Kings 1:5.**
 - Did you catch that? Adonijah decided on his own that he would be the next king. He told some people, and they began to celebrate together, but this was not his father David's plan. It was also not the plan God had in mind.
 - Here's the thing. God didn't intend for the people to have kings in the first place, but God's people really wanted one. So God listened to their request but had special messengers, called prophets, anoint the king God had chosen.
- **Who can name the first two kings of Israel?**

- The first king was a man named Saul, who was good at first but then let his power go to his head and disobeyed God.
- God replaced Saul with David, who loved God, even though he made mistakes, too. God promised David that his son Solomon would be the next king.
- **Let's see how Adonijah took matters into his own hands in 1 Kings 1:9–10.**
 - Adonijah basically took a wrecking ball to what God had wanted by declaring himself as king. He knew what he was doing was wrong as it divided God's people.
 - One group supported Adonijah, and the other group decided to do something about it.
- **Let's read 1 Kings 1: 11–14.**
 - When Bathsheba, Solomon's mom, heard that Adonijah declared himself as king, she went to King David to figure out the situation. Adonijah didn't tell Bathsheba, Solomon, or King David what he was doing. Adonijah tried to build a kingdom on his own and didn't follow the directions of others or God.
 - David knew that he needed to take action.
- **Let's read 1 Kings 1:29–35.**
 - God's plan was for David to appoint Solomon to take his place as king. David vowed that Solomon would take over and even put plans in motion to secure his reign.
 - Then he called a crew of people to help Solomon, like Zadok, Nathan, and Benaiah, and gave them specific directions for how to lead the kingdom of Israel.
- **What do you think King David did about Adonijah and his plans?**
 - It was time to bulldoze Adonijah's attempt to become king and send him home! Adonijah wanted to be the king so badly. I can understand that ... it sounds amazing to rule over your own kingdom!
 - **Would you want to be the ruler of your own kingdom?**
 - But just because you want something and think it would be great doesn't mean you should just do it. Adonijah knew what he was doing was wrong and that it was going against God's plan. That's probably why he didn't even tell his dad, King David, about it.
- King David was determined to follow God's directions because he knew following God is always the wisest thing to do.

BIG IDEA | God gives us directions to follow.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the words of the Big Idea on pieces of large painter's tape and attach them to one side of large cardboard building blocks (like [these](#) or make your own using tissue boxes). Stack them up so that the words are on the back. Create a "wrecking ball" by attaching a beach ball or indoor [sensory ball](#) to the ceiling or high fixture using string and duct tape. Allow kids to swing the ball to knock down the blocks (you can also have kids simply throw the ball). Have kids help you restack the blocks in order of the Big Idea.
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** To simplify this activity, have them "build" the Big Idea by laying out large blocks in the correct order. Provide one set or provide multiple sets, and see which group can build it quicker.
- What a build-up to the Big Idea! Let's say the Big Idea together: **God gives us directions to follow.**

ACTIVITY | Build-A-Story

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need everyone to sit in a circle. (For larger groups, you can form multiple story circles). To play, invite kids to recreate today's Bible story by taking turns adding only one word at a time. You can facilitate this by acting as the narrator and having kids only supply the dialogue. For example, you can say, "Adonijah wanted to be king. He said to his friends ..." and allow the kids to add one word at a time about what Adonijah might have said. Feel free to get silly!
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Help preteens recognize directions that are in God's words and make a cool poster. Have preteens identify the action words (or verbs) in the Bible story and write them on

[*architect sketch paper*](#). Afterward, they can hang their paper up on a wall or take them home.

- ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** To make this activity more accessible for non-verbal kids, pair them up with a buddy or leader to act out the Bible story. Choose specific scenes from the story ahead of time that would be easy and fun to recreate!

- Look at how we built that story together! It was tough to stick to the directions only to supply one word, and it might not have been easy to see the big picture, but we all did our best to follow through. Great job remembering the Bible story!
- When **God gives us directions to follow**, the reasons for them might be hard to understand sometimes. Adonijah probably thought he would make a great king and deserved the throne as much as his brother. But God's directions were clear that Solomon would be king.
- It's a good thing that Solomon had people in his corner who followed God's directions!

ACTIVITY | Group Directions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to have kids form a circle. To play, have the kids put their hands on the shoulders of the kid in front of them. Tell them you will give them one of three directions: "Forward" (everyone hops forward at the same time), "Reverse" (everyone hops backward at the same time), and "U-Turn" (everyone spins around 180 degrees and puts their hands on the shoulders of the kid who was behind them). Increase the speed of the commands to make the game more challenging.
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Consider taking preteens out for a walk around the church building or even a playground. Talk about the planning that goes into making a structure. Why are foundations needed? What materials are used? Why do certain parts of a building need to be in place before others when it's under construction? Relate the discussion to having a foundation in God and following God's directions in their own life.
- **God gives us directions to follow.** Following God's directions means following all of them, not just the ones you want. Can you imagine what would happen to a building if some of the builders decided not to follow the directions on the blueprints? Or imagine what a disaster this game would have been if some of you decided not to follow the direction that was given!
- Even when God's directions tell us to do the opposite of what we might want to do, we should listen to what God says. Because God's plans for us are good, and if we follow God's directions, we will always be on the right path.
- We don't have to go it alone. Just like how you had to work together to go in the same direction, we don't have to follow God's directions all by ourselves. Solomon and David had people like Nathan and Bathsheba who reminded everyone of God's plans and made it happen. We can surround ourselves with people who help us go in the way God wants us to.
- **Who are the people in your life who help you follow God's directions?**

SCRIPTURE | James 1:19–25

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids close their eyes and listen as you read the passage to them.
- In this Bible passage, we learn that it is wise to "be quick to listen and slow to speak."
 - **Who do you think we should be quick to listen to?**
 - **Why do you think we should be slow to speak?**
- This Scripture reminds us that we should listen to God and those around us who also love God. Instead of thinking we have all the answers and speaking them out loudly, we can pause our own opinions and listen first. We might hear something that helps us follow God's directions better.
- But listening is not enough! This Scripture tells us to "*not merely listen to the word ... do what it says.*" Adonijah knew the right thing to do, but he decided to act against what he knew. Listening is only the first step. When it comes to God's directions, we have to do what God says.

- When God's son, Jesus, was on earth, he showed us how to follow God's directions. He taught everyone what it meant to obey God's commands and demonstrated it through his actions. Jesus was both a listener and a doer!
- This passage also reminds us that **God gives us directions to follow** for our benefit! The Bible says whoever remembers God's directions and does them *"will be blessed in what they do."*
- Don't you see? God wants us to follow and obey so that we may receive the blessings God has in store for us!

VIDEO | *Under Construction*, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | Construction Break!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ring a bell or play an alarm on your phone to pretend you are taking a construction break. Invite kids to sit casually around the room and provide a snack if you'd like. For today's sharing and reflection time, use the [image provided](#) of a "Road Closed" sign as you talk with kids.
- It's time for a construction break! We built up our knowledge of God's words today with the story of Adonijah and how he missed all the signs about God's directions for the next king of Israel.
- Signs play a big role in a construction zone. Take the "Road Closed" sign, for example. When roads need to be repaved or repaired, this sign helps people know that they can't travel down that road anymore. They're going to need to turn around.
 - **What did Adonijah do even though he knew his road to becoming king was closed?**
 - **What do you think might have happened if Adonijah had become king?**
 - **How did God provide for Solomon and his supporters?**
 - **Can you think of a time in your life when God might have given you a "road closed" sign so that you could keep following God and not go the wrong way?**
- How much trouble would Adonijah have saved himself and everyone else if he had simply followed the clear directions from God? His story serves as a reminder to all of us not to ignore what God is telling us but to follow the directions God gives us. **God gives us directions to follow.**

RESPONSE | Following Signs

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Distribute a copy of the [printable](#) to each kid. Have kids write or draw out different ways they can follow God's directions moving forward on each of the signs.
- Sometimes it's hard to know what God's directions are. That's why God gave us the Bible and people we can trust to help us out.
- **What is one way you can follow God's directions ...**
 - **At home?**
 - **At school?**
 - **When you're playing with friends?**
 - **When you are by yourself?**
- Write or draw your responses on these construction signs. Then place them up somewhere you can see them every day. We may all be under construction still, but God has a plan for you ... a blueprint for your life. When you're not sure what to do next, just ask! **God gives us directions to follow.**

MEMORY VERSE | James 1:5 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided:

[memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!

- **"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."**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving us directions to follow. We know we can find these directions in the words you gave us and the people who love us. Whenever we want to go our own way, help us to follow you and seek your wisdom first. Amen.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **Who was supposed to be the rightful king after David?** *Solomon.*
 - **How do we know Adonijah was going against God's directions?** *He tried to sneak about in his quest to become king. He declared himself king, and he didn't tell or include those who should have known.*
 - **How did David make sure God's directions were followed?** *He had Solomon ride in on his mule and had a celebration for the announcement of Solomon being the king, as well as had him be escorted to sit on the king's throne.*
 - **Read James 1:22. How does this verse remind us of today's Big Idea?**
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
 - **Where can we find directions from God?**
 - **Who are some people I can surround myself with to help me follow God's directions?**
 - **What does it mean to follow God's directions?**

ACTIVITY | Blueprint Builders

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need blue construction or art paper, white or black colored pencils, and rulers and geometry compasses. To do this activity, have kids draw a picture of your church campus or just the room they're in. Encourage them to add as many details as possible, including pictures of themselves and today's Big Idea.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Do an actual blueprint layout of your church campus on grid paper, [like this](#).*
- Blueprints are a very important part of any building project. Builders need the blueprints so they know where everything goes and to build a structure that is safe for everyone inside.
- **Where can we find blueprints for how we should live?** That's right, the Bible! **God gives us directions to follow** through Scripture, which is why it's so important to gather together in a room like this to keep learning!