

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 | Construct-A-Throne

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, put a kid-sized chair in the block area and provide big blocks or a bunch of small empty boxes for kids to build around the chair with. A red or purple blanket would be a great addition. If you have a large group of kids, you can have teams construct more than one throne. If the kids want, they can put a red or purple blanket over the throne to add some pizzazz.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Drape a blanket over a chair and provide a crown, scepter, and toddler-sized royal robe. Have kids take turns sitting on the throne being royalty.
- Let's use our blocks to make a special, fancy throne for a king! Today's Bible story is about who gets to be the king of the land.
- You followed directions to make a great throne for the king. The Bible gives us directions, too.

ACTIVITY | Who Is The King?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prior to the session, cut a small crown from yellow or gold foam paper. 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.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddlers won't understand taking turns hiding the crown. Provide a few crowns for the toddlers to play with instead. You can even hide some toy crowns under a blanket for the toddlers to discover.
- 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. Additionally, have a sound bite of [construction noise](#) playing in the background and decorate your space with items like caution tape, construction signs, and blueprints. As you tell the Bible story, there will be fun directions for the kids to follow. Hold your Bible in your lap as you tell the Bible story.
- **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:** Before the session, put the poster of the Big Idea (available in the Graphics folder) at the bottom of a sheet pan and cover the poster with dried black beans. Let the kids use toy construction vehicles to push the beans off the "road" to see the poster underneath.
- 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](#).

ACTIVITY | Celebrate The King

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give the kids toy instruments to play and ribbons or flags to wave as they march in a circle around the room or up and down the hallway. Prepare fun, fanfare music [like this](#) to march to.
- **Who is ready to celebrate the new king?** We are going to make some music and march in a parade for King Solomon!
- God's plan was for Solomon to be the next king. David followed God's directions even when Adonijah tried to become king all by himself.

- Maybe we're not all going to become rulers like David or Solomon but God has plans for all of us. That's why **God gives us directions to follow.**

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

SNACK | Yummy Jewels

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Be sure to plan for kids with allergies to any of the following items. Gather crackers, whipped cream cheese, spoons, and candy like Skittles or M&M's. Show the kids how to use a spoon to spread their cream cheese on their crackers and then add candy "jewels." Take each step one at a time to make sure the kids are following directions. For added fun, serve snacks on construction-themed party plates or napkins.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Use sprinkles in the place of M&M's or Skittles as those candies may pose a choking hazard.*
- You are going to put jewels on your snack today just like the jewels a king has on his crown.
- **Did Adonijah follow directions when he tried to be king instead?** *He didn't.*
- You followed directions to make your snack just like the people did to make Solomon the king. **God gives us directions to follow.**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Sit in a circle together. Pass around a dress-up crown so kids can take turns answering questions. 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.*

ACTIVITY | Shiny Throne Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prior to the session, print plenty of copies of the throne [printable](#). Cut up small one-inch squares of tin foil. Provide [jewel stickers](#) and glue sticks as well. Show the kids how to use a glue stick to stick the foil onto the throne. Let the kids add jewel stickers when they finish adding foil.*
- You get to make your own throne today.
- **Who was the king that was supposed to sit on the throne?** *Solomon. Because David followed God's directions, his son Solomon became the new king.*
- **God gives us directions to follow.**

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.

ACTIVITY | Construction Zone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Fill a kiddie pool with playground sand or shredded tan paper and bury small or toy items like plastic cones, construction vehicles, construction hats, shovels, and buckets. Feel free to save this for later weeks.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Replace the sand with shredded paper and use larger construction toys.

ACTIVITY | Castle Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a play castle or make one from a box like [this](#). Add some people figures for pretend play. You could even affix a paper crown to one of the people figures, Solomon.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Remember, toddlers are naturally self-centered and not ready to take turns. Be sure to provide plenty of things for the toddlers to choose from and sit nearby to help guide toddlers who want to take away another kid's toy.