

## WEEK 1

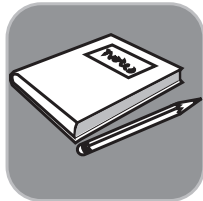
### Disregarding God's Word

#### Preparation:

Read 2 Chronicles 17:1 – 19:3, using the Bible study notes to help you.

#### Lesson Aim:

To teach that we should not make friends with God's enemies.



**King Jehoshaphat** - see series overview.

**King Ahab** was the 7th King of Israel (c.874-852 BC). He married Jezebel, daughter of the king of Sidon and priest of Astarte. During his reign he was frequently at war with Syria. Ahab was a wicked king and allowed his wife to persecute the prophets of God, including Elijah. He was also involved with the fake trial and subsequent death of Naboth, whose vineyard he coveted (1 Kings 21:1-16). During Ahab's reign Baal worship flourished in Israel.

for the professional soldier. There is also evidence in Scripture that numbers were particularly difficult to copy accurately, e.g. cf. 2 Samuel 10:18 with 1 Chronicles 19:18. (For more detail see The Large Numbers of the Old Testament by John Wenham in *The Lion Handbook to the Bible*, pp.191-192). If each figure is divided by 10 we have a more likely figure, which ties in with the evidence of archaeology and with the number of soldiers available to Ahab.

17:1-2 Judah and Israel were often at odds and it was sensible for Jehoshaphat to strengthen the borders as a deterrent.

17:7-9 Jehoshaphat not only destroyed the pagan places of worship, but also ensured God's law was taught.

17:9 The Book of the Law was probably Genesis - Deuteronomy.

17:14-18 These numbers are probably inflated. The ancient Hebrew text was written without vowels, which made it possible to confuse 2 words - 'eleph' and 'alluph'. Eleph was the ordinary word for 1,000, but it could also be used to mean family unit or clan. Alluph was used for the commander of a fighting group or 'thousand' and also

18:1

This kind of alliance was common as a way of obtaining peace between countries. However, Jehoshaphat did not need this alliance (17:10) and was later rebuked for it (19:2).

18:2

Ramoth-Gilead had been captured by the Syrians. It was one of the Cities of Refuge for the tribe of Gad (Joshua 21:38).

18:4

It was common practice to consult God before going into battle.

18:6

This verse implies that Jehoshaphat recognised that the 400 prophets were not speaking the truth.

18:15

Ahab recognised that Micaiah was not speaking the truth.

18:19-21

'The lying spirit' - some people have difficulty in accepting that God can send deceiving and evil spirits, but this is consistent with other passages of Scripture (cf. 1 Samuel 16:14-23, Job 1:12; 2:1-6).



God is in control of everything - and that includes Satan. However, man still has the power to choose which way he will go. Jehoshaphat and Ahab were given the choice - and chose wrongly (18:28).

- 18:29 Ahab sought to avert possible disaster (18:22) by disguising himself and setting up Jehoshaphat in his place.
- 18:31 Jehoshaphat was rescued through God's intervention.
- 18:33-34 Ahab was killed 'by chance'. He could not hide from God!

Show the younger children several items that make a noise, e.g. a squeaky toy, a bell, a toy telephone that rings, a musical instrument, etc. Demonstrate the noise that each item makes. Use the items one at a time to make a noise without the children seeing which item is being used. Ask the children to tell you which item is being used. Point out that the only way you knew they were listening was by what they said.

Tell the older children that you are going to make a cake. Produce the necessary equipment and ingredients. Give a leader (or one of the children who can read) a simple recipe to read out to you. As the instructions are read out do what is said, changing it slightly, e.g. measure the wrong quantity of flour, use hard boiled eggs, leave the butter or margarine in its container. At the end show them the mess and ask why it has not become a cake. Point out that, although you listened to what was said, you disregarded it.

In today's true story from the Bible we will hear about a king who did not do what he should. Tell the children to listen carefully so that they can tell you the name of the king, who he listened to and who he should have listened to. Also ask the older children to state the result of not listening to the right person. Tell the story.

At the end of the story go over the answers to the questions and teach the memory verse. Draw the children's attention to how silly King Jehoshaphat was to listen to Ahab rather than to God. By making friends with someone who was an enemy of God, Jehoshaphat stopped doing what God said.

### Lesson Plan



Items that make a noise or equipment and ingredients to make a cake.

### Visual aids



Flannelgraph or individual pictures that can be pinned onto the board as the story progresses. Alternatively, use stand up figures (see diagram). You need Jehoshaphat, Ahab, some prophets, Micaiah, Ahab disguised, Jehu.

**NB** the figure of Jehoshaphat will be needed for the next lesson.

### 3-5s

Photocopy pages 9 and 10 for each child. Prior to the lesson cut out the figure of

### Activities



King Jehoshaphat from page 9 and fold along the dotted line. Cut along the dotted line on page 10. The children glue King Jehoshaphat back to back and colour. Insert the tab on King Jehoshaphat through the slit in page 10 and sellotape to the back of the page with King Jehoshaphat facing Ahab. Colour the picture.

**NB** King Jehoshaphat can be turned to face Micaiah, but tends to turn back to face Ahab. Point out to the children that King Jehoshaphat deliberately ignored God's word and listened to King Ahab instead.

### 5-7s

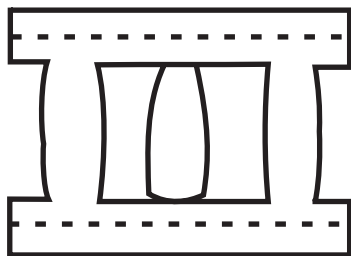
Each child requires page 11 photocopied on card, a 16 cm. long garden stick and a length of wool to make a hanging loop. Prior to the lesson cut along the thick black lines to leave Micaiah facing Ahab, joined along the top and bottom. Cut out the double-sided figure of Jehoshaphat and fold in half along the dotted line. Cut out the 2 rectangles. Score and fold along the dotted lines above and below the 2 figures. With the top section folded, punch 2 holes at X.

### Instructions

- Colour the 3 figures.
- Glue Jehoshaphat around the middle of the garden stick (see diagram).



- Open out the folds above and below the 2 figures and place face down on the table. Place Jehoshaphat between the 2 figures (see diagram).

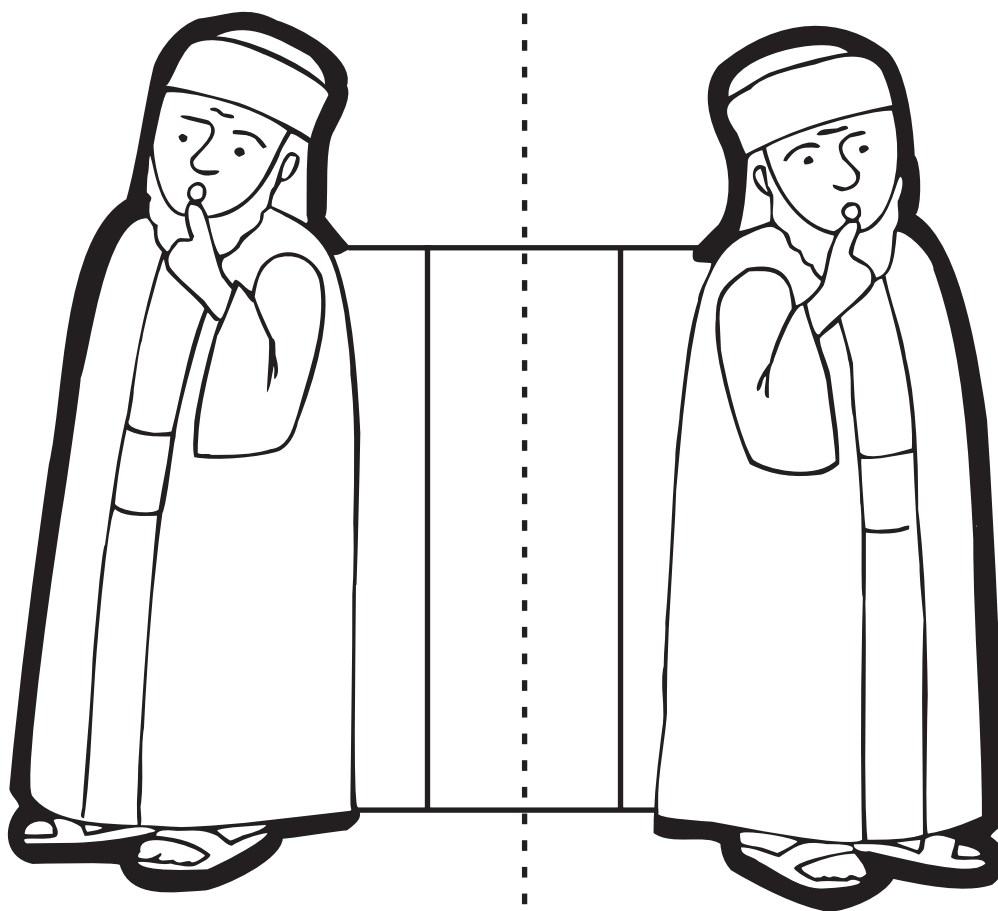


- Put glue on both ends of each rectangle and use to secure the stick to the top and bottom of the activity. Make sure that the stick can still turn to face Jehoshaphat in the opposite direction.
- Fold the top and bottom of the activity along the fold lines and glue in place, making sure that no glue is put on the section around the stick.
- Thread the length of wool through the 2 holes on the top bar to make a hanging loop.

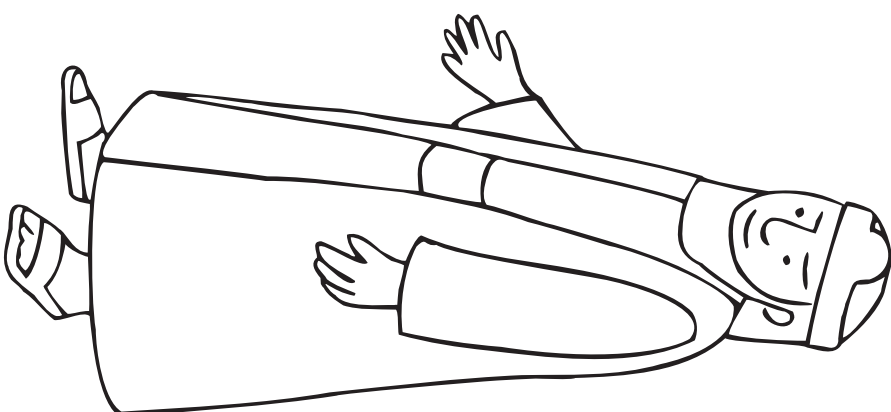
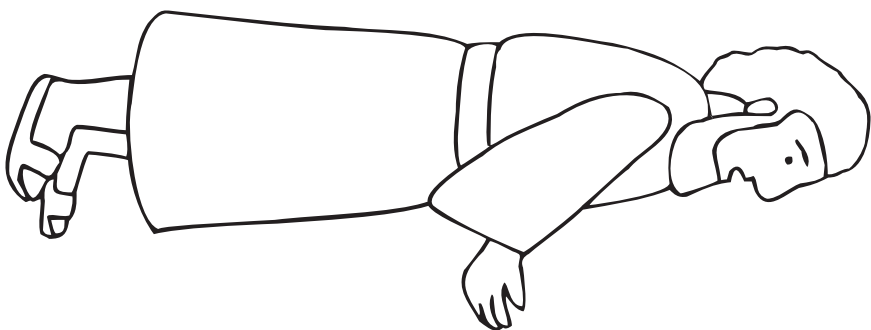
### 7-9s

Photocopy page 12 for each child. The children decode the memory verse then answer the questions. Discuss the importance of having friends they can trust. Many children are attracted to naughty children who then lead them into trouble! Jehoshaphat made the wrong friends and listened to the wrong people.

### Activity for 3-5s

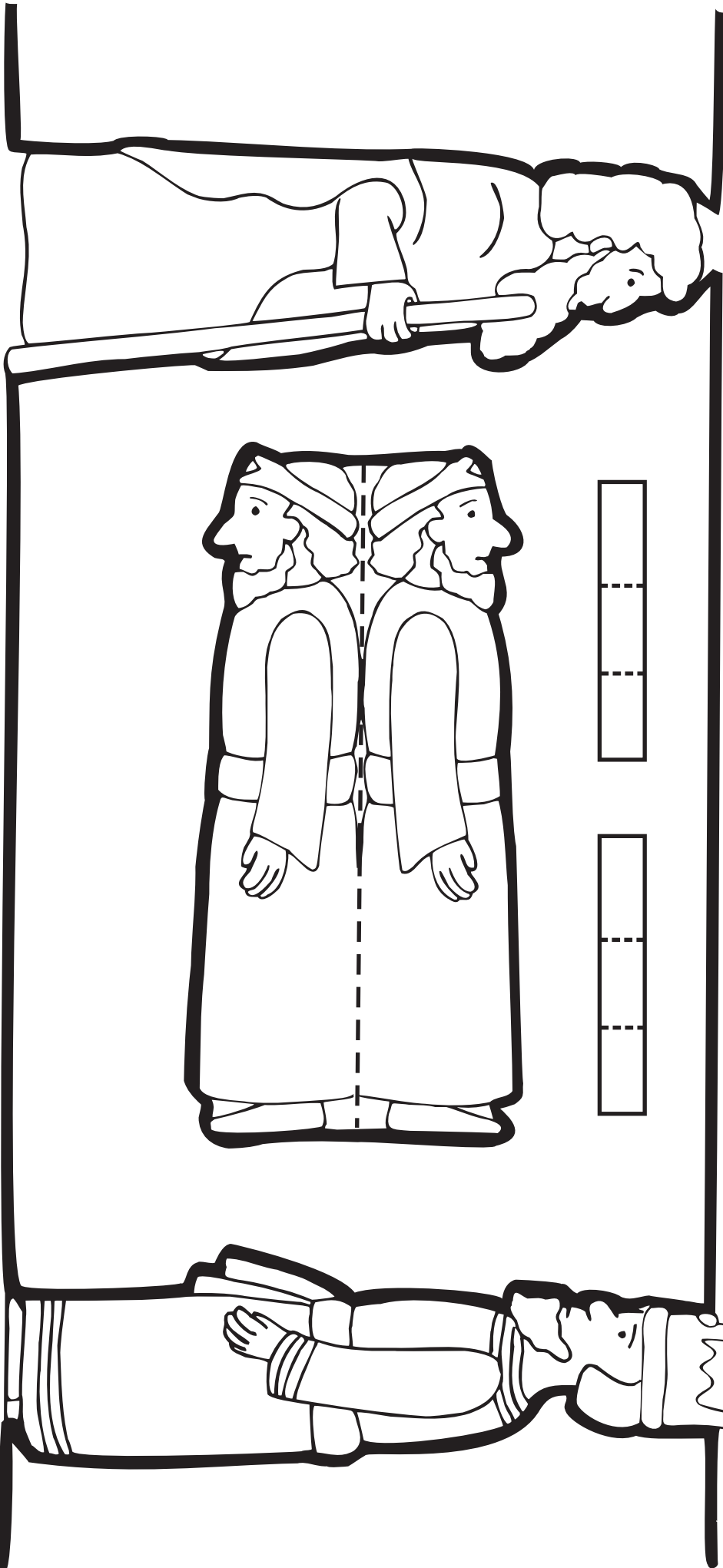


We will listen and obey. Deuteronomy 5:27



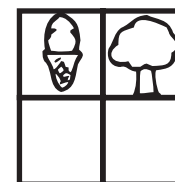
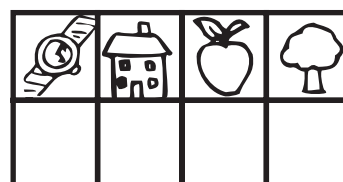
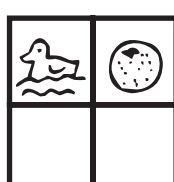
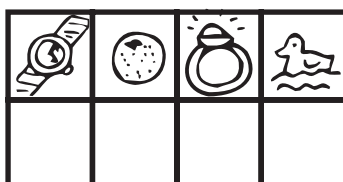
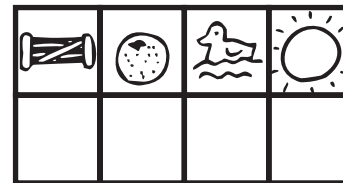
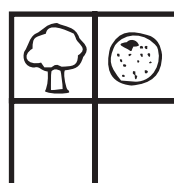
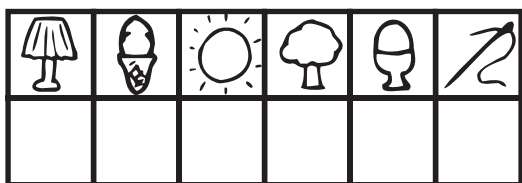
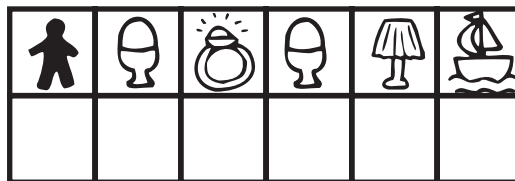
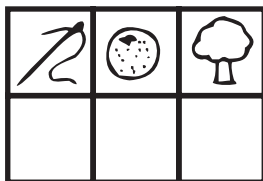
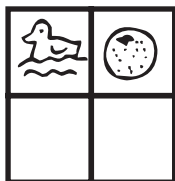
Did King Jehoshaphat listen to King Ahab or to God's prophet?

Did King Jehoshaphat listen to King Ahab or to God's prophet?



Do not merely listen to God's word. Do what it says. James 1:22

Write the first letter of each object in the box below to discover the memory verse.



James 1:22

Did King Jehoshaphat listen to God's word? yes/no

Did he do what God said? yes/no