

ASA WAS A GOOD KING WHO WENT BAD**2 Chronicles 14–16**

Lesson Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:31 **“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.”** (Grades 1 & 2 memorize portion printed in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: God can give you victory over your enemies, but you must always trust Him and not men.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have any of you ever been sent to the hospital to get well? (Let the children tell of their experiences for a few minutes. If none of them have spent time in a hospital maybe they know of someone who has.) People are sent to the hospital to help them get well and make them strong again. But what should we do if we get sick and are weak in our spiritual lives? Our memory verse has the answer to that question. Let us find it in our Bibles.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is found in the Old Testament. It is Isaiah 40:31. (Have this verse printed on the whiteboard so you can point to the difficult words and explain them to them) When we get sick in our spiritual lives, we do not go to the hospital to get well, but we should go to the Lord. What do you think makes a person sick in his spiritual life? (Sin) When we are spiritually sick, we must wait on the Lord. That means we go to the Lord and think on the verses that we have memorized and read the Bible so God can speak to us. Waiting on the Lord also means that we go to the Lord to ask Him to show us the sins that are making us sick and weak in our spiritual lives. He may use the lessons that I am teaching you to show you the sins that are making you weak in your spiritual life. When He shows you the sins that are making you spiritually sick, you should confess them to the Lord and stop doing them. The Lord will cleanse you of those sins and help you to stop sinning against Him. When this is done you will get strong again; you will “renew” your strength as a Christian. **Words and phrases to explain:**

“Wait upon the Lord” – to go to the Lord for help. He will remind you about the lessons that you have learned from His Word and will show you the sins in your life that you need to confess and stop doing.

“Renew their strength” – to become a strong Christian again

“Mount up with wings as eagles” – to be strong as an eagle that flies high in the sky

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our Bible lesson for today will tell us about King Asa who was very strong when he trusted the Lord, but became very weak when He trusted the king of Syria.

I. King Asa's Reward (14:1-15)

During the early years that Asa was king, the Lord blessed him with riches and peace (14:7). He had no wars to fight and Israel was a safe place to live. Asa was given riches and peace because he put away sin in his country. He put away idols and broke down the altars of these idols (14:3). Idols are images of false gods. The sacrifices to these false gods are burned on their altars. The worship of false gods is really the worship of demons (1 Cor 10:20; Rev 9:20)

WE: We may not have idols like Asa smashed, but anything that we love more than God is an idol in our hearts. What kind of idols do Christians need to remove from their hearts? (Let the children name some. Here some that could be named: Sports that keep us away from church services; TV programs that are more important than reading the Bible and praying to God; spending more money on our pleasures than on missions or other works of the Lord; talking about our heroes more than we talk about the Lord.)

After King Asa had peace in his land for many years, Satan put a wicked thought into the mind of Zerah, a king from another country, to make war against Asa and his country (14:8-15). Zerah had a much larger army than Asa. It looked like Zerah would win the war easily. What do you think Asa did? (He waited on the Lord) Yes, Asa waited on the Lord for His strength to defeat Zerah and his large army. The Lord heard Asa's prayer and gave him so much help that he won the battle against Zerah. That is how the Lord rewarded Asa for putting his trust in Him.

WE: We have a great God, who loves us and is all powerful, so He can help us when we put our trust in Him. I hope this story about the great victory that God gave to Asa will encourage you to trust Him when you are in trouble. Be wise and wait on the Lord. He will make you strong and reward you with a great victory over your all troubles, no matter how great they are.

II. King Asa's Revival (15:1-19)

Following the victory over Zerah, Asa was met by Azariah the prophet and he told Asa that the Lord would be with him as long as he stayed close to the Lord, but if he left the Lord, the Lord would also leave him. This message caused Asa to stay close to the Lord and he prepared the nation for a revival to come to his people. A revival is when people get right with God and want to be close to God. Asa put away more idols that he found in the land and he repaired the great altar for sacrifices where sacrifices would be offered in worshipping God (15:8). Then he called for the people to come to the Temple in Jerusalem to confess their sins and to worship the Lord with a holy life. He wanted them to wait on the Lord and be strong.

WE: We need to be revived in our love for the Lord. It is easy to let idols creep into our hearts and soon we are far from the Lord; we no longer love Him like we used to love Him. We need to wait on the Lord and be revived by confessing our sins and putting them out of our lives. Then we can draw close to Him and be strong in our spiritual lives.

That is what Asa and his people did when they renewed their covenant with the Lord and brought their sacrifices to Him (15:11-15). When the Lord saw this, He gave them peace and many riches (15:18-19).

WE: When we obey the Lord and love Him, we will have a revival in our lives. And when we have a revival and draw close to the Lord, He will bless us with joy and peace and supply all of our needs.

III. King Asa's Rejection (16:1-14)

Now after Asa had many years of peace and riches, Then Baasha, king of Israel, began to build the city of Ramah into a strong fortress against Judah. This made Asa afraid. But instead of waiting on the Lord for help and strength, he went to the king of Syria for help. He asked this unsaved king to attack Baasha in the northern part of his kingdom so that he would leave the building of his fortress at Ramah in the southern part of his kingdom. When the king of Syria attacked Baasha's kingdom in the north, Baasha stopped building his fortress to fight the Syrian king. This is exactly what Asa wanted to happen. While Baasha was fighting the king of Syria, Asa tore down Baasha's fortress and carried the stones and timbers away to make two of his cities in Judah stronger. Everything worked out just like Asa wanted, but this did not please the Lord. What did he do that was wrong? Asa trusted the king of Syria for help and did not wait upon the Lord like our memory verse tells us to do. Because Asa trusted an unsaved king to help him instead of the Lord, the Lord sent the prophet Hanani to tell him of his sin. Asa did not like to be told he was wrong and he got angry with Hanani and threw him in prison (16:10). Then the Lord gave Asa sickness in his feet. He should have waited on the Lord with his problem, but he did not. He was stubborn and would not ask the Lord for help (16:2). Instead he asked the doctors to cure his feet, but they could not do it. So King Asa died and was buried in the city of David without getting any help from the Lord for his feet.

WE: We must wait on the Lord for His help when we are young and when we are old. He wants to give us His help, if we are Christians. He is our heavenly father and we are His children. He wants to teach us that going to Him is the best way to get help. It is natural for us to go to our parents for help when we are young, but He wants to teach us that it is better to go to Him for help, even when we are young. When you ask the Lord for encouragement and strength, He will help you. You can count on Him to do it!

BE (for Action): King Asa was a good king in the beginning of his long reign. What did he do to show that he was a good king? (Let the children review the lesson briefly.) But late in his rule over Judah, Asa sinned. Do you remember how he sinned? (He trusted the king of Syria to help him instead of the Lord.) How did the Lord punish him? (He gave him a painful disease in his feet). Did this cause Asa to repent? (No) Asa tried to get help from physicians, but he died with diseased feet. Do any of you have a problem? What are you doing to get help for your problem? I hope this lesson will cause you to go to the Lord for help. If you need help from the Lord, stay after the class is dismissed and I will be happy to show you how to get help from the Lord. He will solve the problem and make you strong when you trust in Him.