Bible Stories for Adults
The Kings of Israel and Judah
2 Chronicles 17 - 24

Opening

Gathering: In what ways have you seen people impacted by their parent's faithfulness or faithlessness?

Today's Focus: God continued to call the kings & people of Israel & Judah to Him despite continued rejection.

Key Verses:
The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them. Even Judah did not keep the commands of the Lord their God. 2 Kings 17:22, 19
Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The United Kingdom

How faithful was Saul, the first king of Israel? Did his own thing,
1 Chronicles 10:13-14 = Did not inquire of the Lord (didn't look for God's will or guidance)
How faithful was David?
1 Kings 15:5 = An example for all time of the faithfulness that God wants in His leaders
Was Solomon as faithful to the Lord as David had been? = Started strong, grew weak with age
1 Kings 11:4 = No, he was turned to other gods by his many foreign wives

The Divided Kingdom (1 Kings 11)

How did Solomon's unfaithfulness lead to a split kingdom?
1 Kings 11:9-13 = God's punishment was to take away ten tribes and give to a subordinate
Who was this subordinate and what caused him to pursue the kingship?
1 Kings 11:26, 29-31 = Jeroboam was called by God through the prophet Ahijah
Had God picked Jeroboam just to punish Solomon, or did He intend to bless Jeroboam?
1 Kings 11:37-38 = He offered to built Jeroboam's dynasty if he remained faithful

The First Kings of Israel - Jeroboam's and Baasha's Dynasties (1 Kings 12-16)

How faithful was Jeroboam as King of Israel?
1 Kings 12:26-31 = Created his own religion with calves, priests & festivals
How did God decide to punish Jeroboam for this evil?
1 Kings 14:7-11 = Destroy the household of Jeroboam
Who succeeded Jeroboam as king of Israel and how faithful was he?
1 Kings 15:25-26 = Nadab, Jeroboam's son, Walked in ways of his father
Why did Nadab reign only 2 years? = Baasha wiped out Jeroboam's family as prophesied
1 Kings 15:27-29 = Assassinated & succeeded by Baasha

How faithful was Baasha as king of Israel?
1 Kings 15:33-34 = Did evil & walked in the ways of Jeroboam
Who succeeded Baasha as king of Israel?
1 Kings 16:8 = Elah, his son
What happened to Elah?
1 Kings 16:9-10 = Assassinated and succeeded by Zimri, an official
Omri’s Dynasty  (1 Kings 16 - 2 Kings 12)

What did Zimri accomplish during his reign and why?
1 Kings 16:11-13  =  Wiped out Baasha's family as prophesied for Baasha's evil
How long did Zimri reign as king of Israel and why?
1 Kings 16:15-18  =  7 days, commit suicide when besieged by army (Omri was commander)

Who became the next king of Israel?
1 Kings 16:21-22  =  Omri, after challenger Tibni died
What notable change happened during Omri's reign? =  Palace in Tirzah was burned down by Zimri
1 Kings 16:24-25  =  He relocated capital from Tirzah to Samaria, made things more evil

Who succeeded Omri and how faithful was his reign?
1 Kings 16:29-33  =  Ahab, was the most unfaithful king ever, worshipped Baal

How did God reach out to His people during this evil time?
1 Kings 18:21, 39  =  He sent Elijah to remind the people The Lord is God!

Who succeeded Ahab and how faithful was his reign?
1 Kings 22:51-53  =  Ahab’s son Ahaziah, walked in the ways of his father
Who succeeded Ahaziah after he died within two years from falling through a window?
2 Kings 1:17  =  Joram (or Jehoram), his brother, Ahab’s son
How faithful was Joram?
2 Kings 3:1-3  =  Evil, but a bit better than his father Ahab

Jehu’s Dynasty  (2 Kings 9-10)

Who became the next king of Israel and why?
2 Kings 9:4-6 (1-6)  =  Jehu, one of Joram’s army commanders, chosen by God
What was Jehu’s most important responsibility as the new king?
2 Kings 9:7-8  =  Destroy the house of Ahab (eliminate all descendants)
Did Jehu accept this task?
2 Kings 10:11, 17 (9:7-10:17)  =  Yes, and killed any descendants he found anywhere
How faithful of a king was Jehu?
2 Kings 10:18-19, 24-29 (18-29)  =  Turned Israel from Baal worship, but left Jeroboam’s religion
How did God respond to Jehu’s faithfulness? =  More on his descendants next week
2 Kings 10:30  =  Promised descendants on the throne to the fourth generation

The First Kings of Judah  (1 Kings 14-15)

How many dynasties ruled Judah and why?
1 Kings 11:34-36  =  Only one, God told David he'd always have a lamp in Jerusalem
How did God keep this promise for eternity?
Matthew 22:41-45  =  Jesus was David's son sent to rule forever - the Messiah, Christ
While Jesus was a descendant of David, was He really a king of Judah?
Mark 15:2  =  Jesus said He was King of the Jews

How faithful was Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, as King of Judah?
2 Chronicles 12:1  =  Abandoned the Lord when his position was established
How did God punish Judah for Rehoboam’s unfaithfulness?
2 Chronicles 12:2, 9  =  Jerusalem was attacked & raided by Shishak of Egypt

Who succeeded Rehoboam as king of Judah and how faithful was he?
1 Kings 15:1, 3  =  Abijah, Walked in the sins of his father

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
Asa's Reforms  (1 Kings 15)

Who succeeded Abijah as king of Judah and how faithful was he?  =  Even deposed his grandmother 1 Kings 15:9, 11-13  =  Asa, Did right like David, enacted reforms
How serious was Asa about returning Israel to faithfulness? 2 Chronicles 15:10-15  =  Made great sacrifice and nation made covenant to seek the Lord
Who succeeded Asa as king of Judah and how faithful was he? 2 Chronicles 17:1, 3-4  =  Jehoshaphat, Did right like David

Jehoshaphat's Reforms  (2 Chronicles 17-20)

How did Jehoshaphat further the reforms of his father Asa?  =  Removed high places and Asherah poles 2 Chronicles 17:7, 9  =  Sent leaders throughout Judah to teach God's Law
How did he make sure this faithfulness would last in the nation? 2 Chronicles 19:4-7  (4-11)  =  Appointed judges and commanded them to be faithful
How did God bless Jehoshaphat for his faithfulness? 2 Chronicles 17:5, 10  =  Was given peace, wealth (tribute from Philistines & Arabs) & power

Jehoshaphat's Downfall  (2 Chronicles 18-20)

How did Jehoshaphat end the civil strife with Israel? 2 Chronicles 18:1  =  Married son (Jehoram) to Ahab's daughter (Athaliah)
Did he take any steps more direct than a political marriage? 2 Chronicles 18:3  (2-34)  =  Joined Ahab in battle against Aram at Ramoth Gilead 2 Kings 3:7  =  Joined Joram in battle against Moab in Desert of Edom
How did God feel about Jehoshaphat's alliance with Israel? 2 Chronicles 19:2  (1-3)  =  Should you help the wicked & love those who hate the Lord? 2 Chronicles 20:35-37  =  Fleet of trading ships Jehoshaphat built with Ahaziah were wrecked

Judah's Period of Baalism  (2 Chronicles 21-22)

Who succeeded Jehoshaphat and how faithful was his reign? 2 Chronicles 21:5-6  (1-7)  =  Jehoram, Walked in ways of Israel since he married Ahab's daughter
How did Jehoram show his faithlessness at the beginning of his reign? 2 Chronicles 21:4  =  Killed his brothers to protect his throne

Who succeeded Jehoram and how faithful was his reign? 2 Chronicles 22:1, 3-4  (1-6)  =  Ahaziah (Athaliah's son), Ways of Ahab, Advised by Ahab's house
Why was Ahaziah's reign so short? 2 Chronicles 22:7-9  =  Killed by Jehu in purge of Ahab's family (visiting Uncle Joram)

Who was Athaliah? 2 Chronicles 22:2  =  Daughter of Ahab & Jezebel, Jehoram's wife, Ahaziah's mom
What was Athaliah's top priority when she took rule? 2 Chronicles 22:10  =  To purge David's line (killed off royal family)
Joash Becomes King  (2 Chronicles 23)

How was God's chosen line of David protected from Athaliah's purge?
2 Chronicles 22:11-12 = Joash (A's son) was hidden by Jehosheba (Jehoram's d, Jehoida's w)

How did Joash become king?
2 Chronicles 23:2-3, 11 (1-11) = Put in power by priest Jehoida & leaders of Judah

What happened to Athaliah, the last member of Ahab's family?
2 Chronicles 23:12, 15 (12-21) = She was killed

How was Athaliah responsible for her own fate?
Matthew 26:52 = All who draw the sword will die by the sword

Joash as King  (2 Chronicles 24)

How old was Joash when he became king and how faithful was his reign?
2 Chronicles 24:1-2 = 7; Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord all the years of Jehoida

What was one of the things Joash did that showed Judah’s faithfulness?
2 Chronicles 24:4, 13 (4-14) = Repaired the temple with donations by the people

How faithful did Joash remain after Jehoida died?
2 Chronicles 24:17-19 (15-29) = Abandoned God, worshipped idols, ignored prophets

How did the people respond when shown their unfaithfulness by Jehoida’s son?
2 Chronicles 24:20-22 = Forgot Jehoida & killed his son Zechariah

Did Joash at least turn to the Lord when attacked by an enemy?
2 Kings 12:17-18 = Gave temple treasures to Aram (Syria) to buy freedom

Firm to the End  (Matthew 10:22)

How was Joash punished for his faithlessness?

What lesson did Joash forget that we should remember?
Matthew 10:22 = he who stands firm to the end will be saved

What reward have we been promised if we remain faithful to the end?
Revelation 2:10b = Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I seen God's blessings in response to my faithfulness?
   (1 Chronicles 17:7-14; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:1-12; 25:14-46)

2. How have I seen troubles in response to my unfaithfulness?
   (1 Kings 14; 16:1-7; Deuteronomy 28:15-68; 11:26-29; Luke 17:1-2; Mark 16:16)

3. How have I seen people's lives impacted by the faithfulness of prior generations?
   (1 Kings 11:34-38; Exodus 20:4-6; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2 Kings 10:30; Luke 1:50; Acts 2:38-39)

4. How have I seen people's lives impacted by the faithlessness of prior generations?
   (1 Kings 11:31-35; 14:7-14; Exodus 34:6-7; John 8:42-44)

5. How have I built on the faithfulness and avoided the faithlessness of my earlier generations?
   (2 Chronicles 14:1-5; 17:1-6; 19:4-11; 24:1-14; Ezekiel 18; Joel 1:3; Luke 18:28-30)