

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... AT SCHOOL

II KINGS 13-22
II CHRONICLES 25-34
HOSEA, AMOS
MICAH, ISAIAH

5TH GRADE
BIBLE CURRICULUM
UNIT 1



USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

OVERVIEW

Investigating God's Word...At School is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the "big picture" of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

Introduction. Each "Day One" starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to "call" them to study.

Quiz Time. Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

W.O.W! The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

Historical Context. Each lesson, the Scripture text is placed in historical context by use of a timeline. It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

Bible Investigation. The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of discussion, questions, and application points. This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

Scripture Memory. At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

Quiz Time. Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

Historical Context. As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God's Word.

Bible Investigation. Again, this is the heart and soul of each day's Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God's Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

Worldview Builder. This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a "pillar" of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

Defend the Faith. A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

Scripture Memory. The day's lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

AND FINALLY...

Teaching God's Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

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LESSON 1 // II KINGS 13

OVERVIEW

We begin this year's studies smack dab in the middle of the book of II Kings. The nation of Israel has been divided since I Kings 12, so many years filled with good kings and evil kings have passed. This chapter briefly describes the reigns of Jehoahaz and Joash. Both kings followed their forefather, Jeroboam, in calf-worship. Both did evil in the sight of the LORD and faced continual conflict from other nations for their sinful leadership. Even when God had pity on Jehoahaz and the Israelites, they still did not repent of their sins, remaining hard-hearted.

We also read two last stories about God's great prophet, Elisha. In one, he uses bow and arrow to condemn Joash for his lack of faith in God's promises. Then after Elisha dies, we read a curious story of an unnamed man being raised from the dead when his corpse comes in contact with the bones of Elisha. This miracle shows not only the power of God to save one man, but also that God had not abandoned Israel when Elisha died.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on II Kings 13 this week. You may also want to skim the first twelve chapters of the book to gain some good context. Also, please locate a map of the "divided kingdom" to give your students some visual help in differentiating between Israel and Judah.

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

The art of reading the Bible to children is not rocket science. It always begins with your own love for God's Word, which should then explode into a passionate telling of the stories of Scripture. Teaching the Bible is not about entertaining the children or keeping them from becoming bored; rather, it's all about demonstrating how much YOU delight yourself in God's Word (and how THEY should too). Passion is contagious, and it will bring each story alive. Teaching God's Word is not just for those with exciting, outgoing personalities, but for all believers who relish and cherish the lessons of Scripture. Enjoy what you are called to do this quarter, by first enjoying the Scriptures yourself and secondly enjoying the children as they learn God's Word.

LESSON SCHEDULE

Day One

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 119:33-34
2-3 mins.

QUIZ TIME

OT History Books
3-5 mins.

W.O.W!

History
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
2-3 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

II Kings 13:1-13
12-15 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Psalm 103:13-14
3-5 mins.

Day Two

QUIZ TIME

Jehoahaz and Jehoash
3-5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline
3-5 mins.

BIBLE INVESTIGATION

II Kings 13:14-25
12-15 mins.

WORLDVIEW BUILDER

Fear of God
5 mins.

DEFEND THE FAITH

Total trust in God?
5 mins.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Psalm 103:13-14
3-5 mins.



INTRODUCTION

Start by reading Psalm 119:33-34.

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Say: *We gather together to learn from the LORD today. We read Bible stories so that we can learn to follow God's ways instead of our own. Let's join with the Psalmist and ask God for understanding as we study—so we can obey from the heart.*



QUIZ TIME

Now, let's move on to QUIZ TIME.

Today's QUIZ TIME review: *Name the twelve books of the Old Testament that we call the "History Books."*

Answer:

Joshua	Ezra
Judges	Nehemiah
Ruth	Esther
I & II Samuel	
I & II Kings	
I & II Chronicles	

Say: *We are beginning this year in the middle of the Book of II Kings. This book is referred to as an Old Testament "history book" because it consists of a further history of the nation of Israel—now divided into two kingdoms (Judah and Israel). Even though it is a history, let's always remember that it is fully inspired by God, meaning that every fact is perfect and every part is important for us to know.*



W.O.W!

Each week, we will define new words and add them to our growing Christian vocabulary. Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) for today is **HISTORY**.

Write it on the board. That's an easy one, isn't it? You all probably take a HISTORY class in school every day. So who can define this word for me?

Allow answers.

A HISTORY is a chronological (ordered by time) telling of significant events. If you were to tell me your HISTORY, you would tell me all the important things that have happened in your life since your were born.

In the Bible, the HISTORY books tell us stories about God's people mostly, and sometimes about another nations as well. But if you look closely at the word HISTORY, you can see two smaller words in it—HIS and STORY. HISTORY is really "HIS" STORY. HISTORY is God's story! It is the story of God working in HIS world, from creation onward.

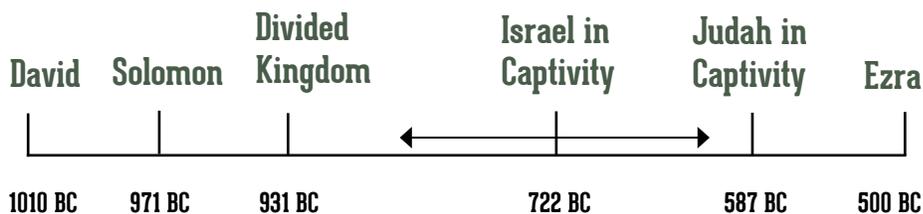
So, as you and I continue to study HISTORY together, always remember that we are simply studying HIS STORY!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Have the students turn in their Bibles to II Kings 13.

Introduction: *We begin this year of Bible study right in the middle of the Book of II Kings. Israel is still torn apart and divided into two kingdoms because of Solomon's rebellion. Both Israel and Judah have been ruled by a mixture of good kings and evil kings, yet God's people are still surviving.*

*Let's plunge into our story today! **Read II Kings 13:1.***

¹ In the twenty-third year of Joash the son of Ahaziah, king of Judah, Jehoahaz the son of Jehu began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned seventeen years.

Discussion: *This first verse gives us some context. We are told about King Jehoahaz, king of Israel (northern kingdom). He reigns at the same time that King Joash is reigning in Judah (southern kingdom). King Jehoahaz was son of whom? [Jehu.] Was Jehu a good king of Israel or an evil king of Israel? Who remembers? [He was an evil king.] So, what can we expect from his son?*

*Let's see. **Read verses 2-3.***

² He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and followed the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin; he did not depart from them. ³ And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them continually into the hand of Hazael king of Syria and into the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael.

Discussion: *No surprise here. The text says that Jehoahaz followed the sins of Jeroboam. Remember Jeroboam? He was the first king of Israel when the nation was divided after Solomon died. Jeroboam was promised to always have his sons on the throne of Israel if he just followed God's commands. But Jeroboam didn't obey God—he even built golden calves for the people to worship. So, Jehoahaz must have done the same thing. Was the LORD happy with Jehoahaz? [No!] His anger burned against him and God used foreign kings to punish Jehoahaz and the Israelites.*

*Let's continue. **Read verse 4.***

⁴ Then Jehoahaz sought the favor of the LORD, and the LORD listened to him, for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Syria oppressed them.

Discussion: *Does that surprise you? This evil king actually sought the LORD and asked for mercy. Does it also surprise you that the LORD actually listened*



to Jehoahaz? It shouldn't. We serve a God of mercy. He does not want to see His children suffer.

Let's see what happens next. **Read verses 5-6.**

⁵ (Therefore the LORD gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Syrians, and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly. ⁶ Nevertheless, they did not depart from the sins of the house of Jeroboam, which he made Israel to sin, but walked in them; and the Asherah also remained in Samaria.)

Discussion: *Oh no! The LORD delivers Jehoahaz and the children of Israel, but they keep on worshiping other gods. God's mercy on them had no impact on their hard hearts.*

Application: *We are often just like the Israelites, aren't we? We ask for God's help, we get rescued from a situation, and then we turn our backs on God again, going back to our sin. God's mercy should soften our hearts, boys and girls! We must continue to turn back to God from our selfish desires.*

Let's continue. **Read verses 7-9.**

⁷ For there was not left to Jehoahaz an army of more than fifty horsemen and ten chariots and ten thousand footmen, for the king of Syria had destroyed them and made them like the dust at threshing. ⁸ Now the rest of the acts of Jehoahaz and all that he did, and his might, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ⁹ So Jehoahaz slept with his fathers, and they buried him in Samaria, and Joash his son reigned in his place.

Discussion: *Not a good ending from Jehoahaz, was it? God is serious about our sin, and Jehoahaz's sin brought much destruction to Israel.*

Let's move on to our next king. **Read verses 10-13.**

¹⁰ In the thirty-seventh year of Joash king of Judah, Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz began to reign over Israel in Samaria, and he reigned sixteen years. ¹¹ He also did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin, but he walked in them. ¹² Now the rest of the acts of Joash and all that he did, and the might with which he fought against Amaziah king of Judah, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel? ¹³ So Joash slept with his fathers, and Jeroboam sat on his throne. And Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.



Discussion: *Who followed Jehoahaz as king of Israel? [Jehoash.] Did King Jehoash follow his father's evil ways, or did he follow God's ways? [He also did evil in the sight of God.] We see yet another king following Jeroboam's sin. Our sin can have consequences down through the generations, can't it?*

Conclusion: *When we get together for Bible class next time, we will study a very important story in the life of King Joash. It has to do with God's prophet, Elisha. Until then, be thankful that we have King Jesus ruling over us every day, and not one of these kings of Israel or Judah!*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 103:13-14) together.

Psalm 103:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Say: *Even though the kings of Israel and the people of Israel were following false gods, the LORD had compassion on them. He knows we are weak and feeble people. His ultimate compassion was sending Jesus Christ to die for our sins. We continue to enjoy His compassion as we walk with Him.*

Review the verses.

Close in prayer.

DAY TWO



QUIZ TIME

Let's begin today with QUIZ TIME. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *What sort of king was Jehoahaz? What happened when Jehoahaz sought God's favor? What sort of king was Jehoash? Who did both of these kings follow? How did the people of Israel respond to these two kings?*

Answers:

1. He did evil in the sight of the LORD.
2. The LORD listened to him and gave him relief from his enemies.
3. He did evil in the sight of the LORD.
4. Jeroboam (and his idol worship).
5. They followed them into evil.

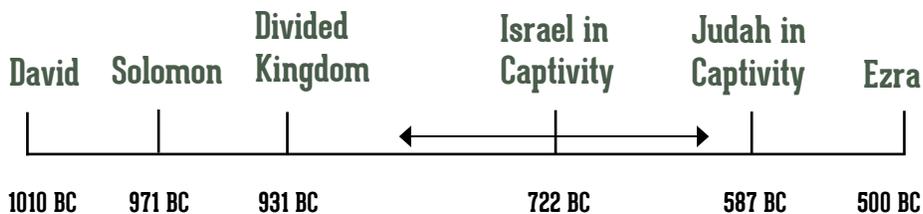
It is so important to have leaders that follow the LORD instead of pursue evil!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Introduction: *Let's get back into our study of II Kings 13.*

Read II Kings 13:14.

¹⁴ Now when Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die, Joash king of Israel went down to him and wept before him, crying, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!"

Discussion: *Yes, I know we read last time that Joash died. Good observing! This story obviously happened before King Joash died—it serves as a flashback for us. It must be an important part of his HISTORY if it is included here. Remember Elisha? He was Israel's prophet and is now about to die. Joash knew that this was bad for Israel. Elisha brought Israel protection from the LORD.*

*Let's read this next part carefully. **Read verses 15-17.***

¹⁵ And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and arrows." So he took a bow and arrows. ¹⁶ Then he said to the king of Israel, "Draw the bow," and he drew it. And Elisha laid his hands on the king's hands. ¹⁷ And he said, "Open the window eastward," and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot," and he shot. And he said, "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Syria! For you shall fight the Syrians in Aphek until you have made an end of them."

Discussion: *Do you get what's happening here? Elisha uses the arrow as a demonstration to Joash of the LORD's victory over Syria, Israel's enemy. He was telling Joash to put his faith in God, and He would destroy Syria completely.*

*Let's continue. **Read verses 18-19.***

¹⁸ And he said, "Take the arrows," and he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground with them." And he struck three times and stopped. ¹⁹ Then the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck down Syria until you had made an end of it, but now you will strike down Syria only three times."

Discussion: *What happened? Elisha told Joash to shoot his arrows more times if he wanted the LORD to have complete victory. But Joash only shot three times! This proved to Elisha that Joash only had half-hearted faith in the promises of God. So, Joash would only have three victories over Syria, not complete victory.*



Application: *This is a good warning for you and me too. Do we fully believe in the promises of God to us, or do we accept them only half-heartedly? In Christ we have salvation and even more blessings beyond—do you truly believe that? Or, do you act like that isn't true? **Allow discussion.***

*Let's continue. **Read verses 20-21.***

²⁰ So Elisha died, and they buried him. Now bands of Moabites used to invade the land in the spring of the year. ²¹ And as a man was being buried, behold, a marauding band was seen and the man was thrown into the grave of Elisha, and as soon as the man touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

Discussion: *Now this is a very strange and funny event! What happened to a dead man who was thrown into Elisha's tomb? [He was miraculously resurrected!] We don't quite know what this means, but we do know that Elisha, as prophet of God, was still given power by God to raise the dead! God can do all things, can't He? This also might have been a message to Israel that even though Elisha had died, God did not. He was still with His people.*

*Let's finish the chapter. **Read verses 22-25.***

²² Now Hazael king of Syria oppressed Israel all the days of Jehoahaz. ²³ But the LORD was gracious to them and had compassion on them, and he turned toward them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, nor has he cast them from his presence until now. ²⁴ When Hazael king of Syria died, Ben-hadad his son became king in his place. ²⁵ Then Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz took again from Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Joash defeated him and recovered the cities of Israel.

Conclusion: *Just like Elisha said, Joash only defeated Syria three times because he did not trust God. But we also see that God continued to have compassion on His sinful people. Why? [Because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.] He has compassion on all His children today because of His covenant of grace with Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus we can be saved from our sin too!*

We'll pick up our reading here next time.



WORLDVIEW BUILDER



Say: Now, it's time to use what we have learned in God's Word this week to build our Christian minds. God has given us minds to think rightly and to believe the TRUTH. So, each week we will connect what we learn from God's Word to HOW we are to think about all of life!

Draw the "Fear of God" pillar on the board. We will be building on our "Fear of God" pillar today. To fear God is to love Him, honor and worship Him, and obey Him. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom!

So, what things did we learn about the FEAR OF GOD in II Kings 13? **Assist your students to think of the following truths (connect them to the pillar on the board):**

1. King Jehoahaz did not fear God.
2. King Jehoash did not fear God.
3. King Jehoash had a half-hearted faith.
4. God was gracious to His people even when they did not fear Him.

We have the choice to serve God and obey Him, or serve ourselves and reject the LORD!



DEFEND THE FAITH

Say: Now, it's time to build our "defenses" up. You and I must always be prepared to defend and protect our faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember what the apostle Peter said:

I Peter 3:15 (ESV)

- ¹⁵ ...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

Let's get more PREPARED to give answers about the hope we have in Jesus Christ! Let me ask you a question and see how you do...



Q: Why is it so hard to totally trust God?

*King Jehosh certainly had a half-hearted trust in the LORD. He was known more for his evil idolatry than his faith. So why do we find it so difficult to trust in the LORD? He is all-powerful and perfectly in control of the universe. How would you answer this important question of the faith? **Allow answers.***

Make sure the children have these elements in their answer:

A: We like to think we are in control of our lives. Our sin makes us want independence rather than to be dependent on someone else. We look to trust other things and other people instead of trusting the only One who is perfectly trustworthy. It is our foolishness that keeps us from totally trusting in God!

Say: *You will have opportunities all of your life to grow in your trust in the LORD. Even now, every day, you choose to either rely on yourself and your own understanding, or seek the strength and wisdom of God. Get in your head that He is the only One you can ever fully trust!*



SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Review the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 103:13-14) with the students.

Psalm 103:13-14 (ESV)

¹³ As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him. ¹⁴ For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

Use any method to review the memory work with the students.

See if any student can say it from memory.

Close in prayer.