



Kings of Israel and Judah

1

Key Theme

- God alone is to be worshipped.

Key Passages

- 1 Kings 12:15–20; **Israel:** 1 Kings 14:9, 15:25–26, 15:33–34, 16:25, 16:30, 16:33, 22:51–52; **Judah:** 2 Chronicles 12:1, 12:14; 1 Kings 15:11, 22:43; 2 Kings 18:3, 18:5–6, 24:19

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe the pattern of the kings of Israel.
- Describe the pattern of the kings of Judah.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

page 5

Students will practice the memory verse by writing out the first two letters of each word. They will then try to recite the verse using only the letter clues they have written on the sheet.



Studying God's Word

page 5

The nation of Israel was judged by God because of Solomon's sin of idolatry. After his death, God used Solomon's son Rehoboam and his foolish actions to judge Israel. Israel was split in two. The wicked line of kings led the people in Israel and Judah away from the Lord. God judged them again using the Assyrians and the Babylonians, who overthrew the nations and scattered the people.



Activity 1: Kings Chart

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Students will fill out the Kings Chart as you study the lesson.



Activity 2: Report On The King

page 11

Students will get into teams and work together to research one of the kings of Israel or Judah. They will record facts about the king they have been assigned and report their findings to the class.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Print one Divided Kingdom Map from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one Kings Pronunciation Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Divided Kingdom Map
- Tape or poster putty
- Kings Pronunciation Guide



KINGS CHART

- Print one Kings Chart from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.
- Print one Kings Scripture Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Kings Chart for each student
- Kings Chart Answer Key
- Kings Scripture Sheet for each student
- Pencils



REPORT ON THE KING

- Print and cut the Report On The King Cards. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Report On The King Cards
- Report On The King Answer Key
- Pencils



Memory Verse

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

What a mess! As we look at the history of the kings of Israel and Judah after the death of Solomon, we can't describe it any other way. Israel had existed as a united kingdom for about 120 years during the reigns of Saul, David, and Solomon, but the kingdom was torn in two and never restored. To truly study all of the details of the two kingdoms would take a very long time, so the goal of this lesson is to give a quick overview of the two kingdoms. We will take a specific look at the kings and prophets in the North and how that kingdom finally was taken captive to Assyria (2 Kings 17:5–6) in 721 BC. Then we will look to the Southern Kingdom—briefly reviewing the history that ended with its final destruction by the Babylonians (2 Kings 25:1) in 588 BC. As you read and study the Scripture passages, you will notice the kings of Judah and Israel are described as either doing good or evil in the sight of the Lord.

In Scripture, the Northern Kingdom is referred to as Israel or Ephraim. The Southern Kingdom is called Judah most of the time, with a few exceptions. The capital of the Northern Kingdom was originally in Shechem and later moved to Tirzah and then finally to Samaria. Throughout the books of First and Second Kings and Second Chronicles, we find accounts of the persistent wickedness of the 19 different kings who ruled in Israel—the worst being King Ahab and his queen Jezebel (1 Kings 16:33). The wickedness started with King Jeroboam I in 975 BC, and God revealed that these kings of the North (Israel) failed to worship Him and led the people astray with the worship of false gods (1 Kings 14:7–10). Altars and high places were constructed to worship false gods along with idolatrous Ashoreth poles and temples for Baal worship. It was a dark time for Israel as there were no kings that sought to honor the God who had given them the Promised Land as an inheritance.

Throughout over 200 years of these evil kings reigning in Israel, God sent His prophets—like Amos, Hosea, and Elijah—to call the people and the rulers to repentance. However, the kings and their people refused to return to God, seeking their own power and pleasure rather than God's glory. And so, finally, God acted in judgment by bringing the Assyrian army against them. In 721 BC, the capital of Israel, Samaria, fell and the people were taken captive (2 Kings 17:5–6). The Northern Kingdom was no more.

The kings of the Southern Kingdom, Judah, followed a different pattern. Rehoboam followed his father, Solomon, on the throne, and the line of David continued to rule in Jerusalem in fulfillment of God's promise to David (2 Samuel 7:13–16). Rehoboam angered the people and was cruel to them as he sought to establish his name rather than God's (1 Kings 12:10–11). His son Abijam (also called Abijah) continued in this tradition of cruelty and idolatry (1 Kings 15:3). Then came Asa, Abijam's son. He cleansed Judah of the idols and the perverted persons (1 Kings 15:11–14). Next was Jehoshaphat, who walked in the ways of his father, Asa (1 Kings 22:43). Jehoram, the son of Jehoshaphat, then began to reign in Judah. He did not walk in the way of his father Jehoshaphat, but followed the ways of the wicked kings of Israel and did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. This began a cycle of good kings/bad kings in Judah, continuing through all 20 kings of the Southern Kingdom.

As with Israel, God sent various prophets to Judah to proclaim His judgments and call the people to repentance. Judah was much more responsive to God's call, but most of God's warnings and calls to repentance were not heeded. Through all of the messages of coming judgment and calls for repentance, God knew that He would ultimately have to execute judgment against His children. Just as the Northern Kingdom, Israel, had fallen to the Assyrians in 722 BC, Jerusalem was to fall at the hands of the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 25:1). This would be the end of Judah as an established nation and the beginning of a period of control by the empires that would rule the Middle East over the next centuries.

As we look back over this history, we should be gripped by the patience of God to continuously send His messengers to call for repentance—over hundreds of years. We should also look soberly at the judgment that God sent against Israel and Judah and know that we face God's chastening if we sin and rebel against Him. As Christians, we need to be listening to the message God has given to us through His completed Word.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Sadly, looking at the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of the children of Israel, you won't find them to be much different than the kingdoms that were around them. The two kingdoms warred against one another throughout their history. Not unlike the professing

church in America today, there was much corruption and hypocrisy in Israel and Judah. You might think humanity would learn from these lessons of history, but it seems that we keep repeating the same mistakes over and over.

Outside of Israel and Judah, the Greek culture was developing, and the first Olympiad was held in 776 BC. Homer and Aesop were writing the classics of Greek literature, and, on the other side of the globe, the Mayan culture was blooming in Central America. In general, this period of history could be described as one of constant upheaval, accompanied by the rise and fall of major empires.

Despite all of the uncertainty and turmoil in the world, God was still reigning over everything, just as He is today. This is an important fact that we must keep in the forefront of our minds. God is still just as much in control of the world today as He was then. This is a truth that can help us understand how to live in the world today. It doesn't matter who is president or what country is invading which—we must fix our hope on God and what He has done for us on the Cross. Just as Paul exhorted the Christians in Colossae, we must set our minds on the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God, and not on the things on the earth (Colossians 3:1–4).

Confidence that God is sitting on His throne with Jesus at His right hand offers us great comfort and

hope. We can rejoice in His goodness, knowing that He is patient to call sinners to repentance as they look to Christ for forgiveness.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign Lord, I am at once amazed at your patience and humbled by your justice when I study the way you dealt with Israel and Judah. My heart breaks as I consider the idolatry that Israel practiced after all you brought them through. Lord, the sin and idolatry in my culture are so similar to Israel's. Sometimes I feel like the darkness of this world will swallow me up. Help me to be like Hezekiah—to hold fast to you. Thank you for the opportunity to teach this lesson to my class. May it bring light into the dark places in the lives of my students and their families. May our biographies say that we trusted in Jesus Christ, whose blood made us righteous, so that we were able to do what was right in the sight of the Lord even when life was hard and temptations came our way.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the Memory Verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Use the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson throughout the year to quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes before each lesson to reinforce the important truths the students have heard in the lessons.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain the continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the Quarter 2, Lesson 9 Lesson Theme Poster. It has been a while since we've talked about the kingdom of Israel being divided. Remember, the people rejected God as king and demanded that they have a man rule them like the other nations. Saul was the first king of Israel. Then God put King David on the throne. He was a good king, who sought God with his whole heart. David's son Solomon took over. Sadly, Solomon disobeyed God by marrying many wives and committing idolatry when he worshipped their gods. The Lord became very angry because of Solomon's sin of idolatry. He told Solomon that after his death He would take the kingdom from his sons. And He did. When Solomon died, the trouble started. Solomon's son Rehoboam took the throne. We are going to read about the events leading up to God's judgment being fulfilled.

Let's start by turning to a passage that explains just how wicked Rehoboam was—how he did not follow in the ways of his father Solomon, and how the history of bad kings in the northern nation of Israel began!

Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. Turn to 1 Kings 12:15–20. While you are turning to 1 Kings, let me give you some background. Rehoboam was taking over for his father Solomon. But he was wicked. He threatened to make the people slaves, whip them, and make things worse for them. He was convinced that he should be meaner to the people than his father Solomon had been. The people sent Jeroboam to speak for them and ask for mercy. Jeroboam was a leader among the people. The people respected him but

➤ Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

➤ Use the Kings Pronunciation Guide to assist you in pronouncing the names correctly.

the new king, Rehoboam, refused to listen. He wanted power and he was not ready to show any kindness. Let's pick it up there.

Let's read 1 Kings 12:15–20. *Divide the passage among the students to read aloud.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

That portion of Scripture is a little hard to understand at first. But let's take time to observe it closely, so we can figure out what happened that led the nation of Israel to split up. This is an important event in Israel's history.

Observe the Text

? First look at 1 Kings 12:15. Why did the king refuse to listen to the people?
The turn of events was from the Lord.

? Good! Right away, we are reminded of an attribute of God. God was directing these events. God was in control of them. Which attribute does this phrase remind us of? *Sovereign.*

When we study the history of Israel, or any event in history, we should keep in mind that God is sovereign. God is in complete control of everything. His ways are perfect, and we can trust Him. These events with King Rehoboam were part of God's judgment. When Solomon sinned against God by marrying many wives and taking part in their idolatrous worship, God promised to take the kingdom away from Solomon's sons. God was using the foolish ways of Solomon's son Rehoboam to accomplish His sovereign judgment.

? Let's look at 1 Kings 12:16. The people didn't like the king's response to their requests at all! When they said, "We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse," they were rebelling against their king. Then where did Israel depart to? *To their tents.*

? Yes. They were turning their backs on Rehoboam as their king because he announced that he would make them work harder than his father Solomon did—like slaves. Let's move on to 1 Kings 12:18. The king sent out the head of his labor department, Adoram, as a kind of negotiator to talk to the people. What happened to him? *1 Kings 12:18. He was stoned and he died.*

? That's awful! The people were very, very angry, weren't they? What did King Rehoboam do in response to this? *1 Kings 12:18. He fled to Jerusalem.*

Right! Rehoboam realized that all of Israel was ready to rebel against him. He ran for his life to Jerusalem. Where is Jerusalem—in the north or the south?
Hold up the Divided Kingdom Map. Point out the boundary where the kingdom split. In the south.

Jerusalem was the capital of the southern kingdom of Judah. So this is where Rehoboam went. And that's when the kingdom split. Until this time, Israel was one nation; this whole map was the land the Lord brought them to. This event divided Israel into two nations. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin were loyal to Rehoboam. So the southern kingdom of Judah became Rehoboam's kingdom.

SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

? Look in 1 Kings 12:20. Who did the people of Israel, in the north, choose to be their king? *Jeroboam.*

Yes. Jeroboam had been Solomon's servant! And now he was the king of the northern kingdom of Israel. The kingdom was now divided. *Point out the separate kingdoms on the Divided Kingdom Map again. Stick the map to the wall for display during the rest of the lesson.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to the Divided Kingdom Map and the Lesson Theme Poster. God used Rehoboam's foolishness to fulfill His judgment against Solomon. Rehoboam was Solomon's son, and God had said that Solomon's son would no longer rule over all of the nation. Solomon's servant Jeroboam took over the northern nation of Israel. Its capital was Samaria. And Rehoboam escaped south to Judah. Judah split away from Israel and kept Jerusalem as its capital. Rehoboam ruled Judah in the south. Jeroboam ruled Israel in the north.

Both the northern and the southern kingdoms turned away from God in idolatry, disobedience, and sin. Today we are going to take a look at the kings of Israel and Judah to try and figure out why the nations were so sinful. We'll start with the nation to the north—Israel.



Kings Chart

MATERIALS

- Kings Chart for each student
- Kings Chart Answer Key
- Kings Scripture Sheet for each student
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Each student should get a Kings Chart and Kings Scripture Sheet. Students will read the verses and complete the chart as the lesson progresses.

We're going to find out how many of the kings of Israel and Judah were evil or good. Take a look at your Kings Chart. The kings

are listed as either good or evil. Some are already filled in for you. We're going to mark the others as we go along. This was a sad time in Israel's history. Some say the kings went from bad to worse. Let's find out what the Bible says.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When we finish filling in our Kings Chart, we will have a better idea of what the nations of Israel and Judah were like over hundreds of years after King Solomon's death. *Refer to History of Israel Poster.*

► Assign students to read the Scripture verses on the Kings Scripture Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM. As the verses are read, students will complete the Kings Chart.

1 Kings 14:9, 15:25–26,
15:33–34,
16:25, 16:30, 16:33,
22:51–52

READ THE WORD

As we read these first verses from the Kings Scripture Sheet and complete our Kings Chart, we will get a better understanding of the kings of Israel—and how they ruled.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

As you read through these verses, refer to the kings listed on the History of Israel Poster.

- ? *Read 1 Kings 14:9. According to 1 Kings 14:9, was Jeroboam a good or evil king? Evil, because he did evil. Circle evil on your Kings Chart. Jeroboam wasn't faithful to the Lord. He was an evil king.*
- ? *Read 1 Kings 15:25–26. Next let's read about King Nadab, Jeroboam's son. What about Nadab? Do you think he was good or evil and why? Evil. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. Circle evil on your Kings Chart. Nadab was another evil king.*
- ? *Read 1 Kings 15:33–34. Now. Let's read about Baasha. What does 1 Kings 15:34 say about Baasha? He did evil in the sight of the Lord. Baasha was wicked too! Another evil king. Circle evil on the Kings Chart.*
- ? *Read 1 Kings 16:25. What about Omri? What does this verse tell us about King Omri? He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. Circle evil on your Kings Chart for King Omri. Omri was worse than all the kings before him!*
- ? *Read 1 Kings 16:30, 16:33. Ahab was the next king of Israel we need to read about. Let's see how he did. What did Ahab do that provoked the Lord? He made an idol. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. He was evil, too. Circle evil on your Kings Chart for King Ahab.*
- ? *Read 1 Kings 22:51–52. Perhaps King Ahaziah did better. Let's read 1 Kings 22:51–52. What does verse 52 say about King Ahaziah? Was he good or evil? He did evil in the sight of the Lord. Yes! King Ahaziah was evil. Circle evil on your Kings Chart.*

We don't have time to look into all the kings of Israel. But on the Kings Chart you can see there were 19 of them.

- ? *How many of the 19 kings of Israel were evil? Count them on the chart. All of them. That's right! Now complete the Israel side of your Kings Chart. How many good kings and how many evil kings were in Israel? 19 evil kings and 0 good kings.*

Discover the Truth

We looked at 6 of the 19 kings that reigned in Israel, the northern kingdom, after King Solomon died. This was a very dark time for Israel. Every king who reigned during this time was evil and wicked. None of them did what

was right in the eyes of the Lord. Every king turned from God, built idols to other gods, and turned the people away from the holy God.

Refer to the History of Israel Poster. We'll see in a few weeks that after 250 years of bad, evil, wicked kings, God punished the northern nation of Israel by sending another nation, Assyria, to conquer them.



READ THE WORD

Refer to the Divided Kingdom Map and Lesson Theme Poster. Now let's see how the southern kingdom of Judah did. We are going to read through several more verses that tell how some of the kings of Judah ruled. Look at the Judah section of your Kings Scripture Sheet and Kings Chart.

2 Chronicles 12:1, 12:14;
1 Kings 15:11, 22:43;
2 Kings 18:3, 18:5–6,
24:19

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Read 2 Chronicles 12:1 and 14. Rehoboam was the first king of Judah. Who was he related to? *King Solomon's son.*

? How did Rehoboam treat the Law of the Lord? *2 Chronicles 12:1. He forsook the Law of the Lord.*

? What does forsook mean? *Allow discussion.*

Forsook (past tense of forsake) means to turn away from or to abandon. So we could read this verse by saying Rehoboam abandoned the Law of the Lord. He started off his kingdom honoring and worshipping the true God. But he soon slipped into disobedience against God.

? What does 2 Chronicles 12:14 tell us about Rehoboam? *He did evil; he did not seek the Lord.*

That's right. He was an evil king. Circle evil on your Kings Chart. Let's move on to 1 Kings 15:11.

? Read 1 Kings 15:11. How did King Asa rule? *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.*

What? He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord! Finally, we found a good king who followed the ways of the Lord! Circle good on your Kings Chart for King Asa! Let's see if there were any other good kings that ruled Judah.

? Read 1 Kings 22:43. Jehoshaphat was King Asa's son! What does that verse say about Jehoshaphat? *He did right in the eyes of the Lord.*

Yes! Another good king. Jehoshaphat walked in the ways of his father Asa. He was a good king. You can circle good on the Kings Chart for King Jehoshaphat.

? Now we'll move on to King Hezekiah. Someone read 2 Kings 18:3, 18:5–6. *Assign a reader.*

Forsake: to turn away from entirely, to abandon.

? How did King Hezekiah rule his kingdom? These verses tell us four things he did. What are they? *2 Kings 18:3, 18:5–6. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He trusted in the Lord. He held fast to the Lord. He did not depart from the Lord. He kept the Lord's commandments.*

? How did King Hezekiah compare with the other kings of Judah? *2 Kings 18:5. There was none like him among all the kings of Judah.*

Hezekiah was a good king—there were no kings in Judah who compared to him. Circle good next to Hezekiah on the Kings Chart.

Now we'll go to the bottom of our list and read about the last king of Judah, King Zedekiah. Someone read *2 Kings 24:19. Assign a reader.*

? How did Zedekiah rule? What does this verse say about him? *Zedekiah did evil in the sight of the Lord.*

Yes, he was another evil king. Circle evil next to King Zedekiah.

Again, there were too many kings of Judah to go over each one in class. But the chart tells us which kings were good and which were evil. Count up how many evil kings ruled Judah and how many good kings ruled. If a king started off good but ended up evil, he is considered an evil king because he was not able to stand strong in the Lord until the end. *Have students add up their totals. They should have 14 evil kings and 6 good (or somewhat good) kings.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to the History of Israel Poster. There were 20 kings who reigned in the southern nation of Judah. Some of these kings did evil in the sight of the Lord and some obeyed and trusted in the Lord God. King Hezekiah was a good king. In fact, the Bible tells us that there were none like him among all the kings of Judah. Zedekiah was the last of the kings. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. Even though some of the kings in Judah were obedient to God, not all of them were. And just like in Israel, God would finally bring judgment on Judah. During the reign of the last king, Zedekiah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and all his army came against Jerusalem. And the people of Judah were taken into captivity. We'll hear more about that later in the year.





Report On The King

MATERIALS

- Report On The King Cards
- Report On The King Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out one Report On The King Card to every 1–4 students depending on the time you have and the size of your class. Students will work together to answer the questions on the card by looking at the Scriptures referenced. Teams will then give a report on the king they have been assigned by giving the answers to the questions on their card.

If you have the History of Israel Poster available, have the students locate the king they are reporting about on the poster before they give their report.

Pass out the Report On The King Cards. There were many kings in Israel and Judah. We talked about just a few of them. You are going to find out more about some of these kings. Each of these cards references one of the kings of Israel or Judah. Your team will locate the king you

have on the History of Israel Poster. Then give the class a report about the king by sharing the answers you have written down.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

There were so many kings in Israel and Judah. So many did evil in the sight of the Lord. A few did right in the sight of the Lord.

This part of the Bible covers a lot of history. And it is true history! God included many very specific details about these kings—how old they were, who their fathers and mothers were, how long they reigned, when they reigned, how they reigned. These details are confirmation to us that this is real history. These are details no one would have or could have made up. God is a God of details. And He wanted us to know the details about the history of these kings.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Solomon sinned against God when he took many wives and then worshipped their false gods. God said He would judge Solomon by taking Israel from Solomon's son. He did it during the reign of Solomon's son Rehoboam. It was then that the nation of Israel split into the northern and southern kingdoms.

Then, for 250 years God warned the people of the northern kingdom of Israel to turn from their wicked ways and turn back to Him. NONE of the kings of Israel did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. They ALL sinned against God by worshipping idols and following their own ways. God would finally judge the northern kingdom by sending the wicked army of the Assyrians to conquer the people.

The people of Judah were not much better. God showed mercy on them for almost 400 years. Some of the kings of Judah were good, like Hezekiah, but most were not. Finally, during the reign of the wicked king Zedekiah, God sent Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and all his army to defeat Jerusalem.

The people of Israel and Judah were eventually scattered by their enemies and foreigners were brought in to live in their land. It was a dark day for God's chosen people. We will be talking more about the Assyrians and Babylonians later in the year.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

God was patient through the years as His people sinned against Him. But He is a God who demands all glory and honor from His people. For hundreds of years, the people of Israel and Judah did not worship God or remember the things He had done for them. So God judged them by sending their enemies to destroy them.

God is the same God today. He still demands that we worship Him alone. The first and the greatest commandment is that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all of our soul, and with all of our mind. When we put anything before God in our lives, we are not obeying this first and greatest of all commandments. Our disobedience may look different from what the people in Judah and Israel did, but it is still disobedience that is evil in His sight. And, although the Lord is patient and offers His amazing grace, He will, in the end, judge all who do not submit to Him through Jesus Christ.



► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God that He is sovereign and works out the events of nations and leaders for His glory.
- Thank God that He is sovereign in our lives as He works everything out for the good of those who love Him.
- Ask God to help us to be faithful to follow in His ways.