

THE STORY OF MANASSEH, KING OF JUDAH

Manasseh became a king when he was 12 years old. Manasseh's father, Hezekiah, had been a good king that followed God. Manasseh's grandfather, Ahaz, was a king that did not follow God. What would Manasseh do?

Manasseh chose not to follow God. Instead, he made lots of idols for the people to worship. He even put idols in God's house, the temple. Manasseh worshipped every god he could think of, but not the one true God.

Most of the people were happy to follow Manasseh. Manasseh killed the people who tried to worship the one true God. Sometimes he even killed people thinking he was honoring the idols he made. A lot of very bad things were being done in honor of the idols.

God tried to get Manasseh and the people to stop doing evil things, but they wouldn't listen. So, God sent an army to capture them and make them slaves. Manasseh was put in chains, a hook was put in his nose, and he was taken to Babylon. There he was so miserable that he prayed to God. Manasseh was sorry for the life he had lived. God heard his prayer and made Manasseh king again.

Back in Jerusalem, Manasseh got rid of all the idols and told the people to worship only the one true God. God was pleased with who Manasseh had become, but the people had a hard time giving up the way they worshipped idols. When Manasseh's son, Amon, became king he forgot the one true God and again had the people worshipping idols and doing evil things.

The story of Manasseh (2 Kings 21:1-18 & 2 Chronicles 33:1-20) is a bit like the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).

FAMILY RESOURCE

BIG IDEA: God always wants us back.

READ 2 CHRONICLES 32:33-33:1

What would it be like to be a king when you are 12 years old?

Tell each other what you would do as a king.

READ 2 CHRONICLES 33:2-6

How was Manasseh different from his father?

Look at family pictures.

How are you like/unlike other family members?

READ 2 CHRONICLES 33:9

Who is watching you?

Play "mirror", copying the actions of "it".

READ 2 CHRONICLES 33:10-12

What did it take for God to get Manasseh's attention?

Pantomime ways to get each other's attention when you are out in public.

READ 2 CHRONICLES 33:13

How did God respond to Manasseh's change of heart?

Draw a picture of someone you need to forgive.

READ 2 CHRONICLES 33:15-16

How did Manasseh change?

What was the most recent change you made in your life?

READ 2 CHRONICLES 33:17-20

What did the people think of Manasseh's change?

How did others respond to your most recent change?

MEMORY VERSE:

Let us examine our ways and test them,
and let us return to the Lord.

Lamentations 3:40 (NIV)

MANASSEH

Q	L	G	D	S	Y	S	C	B	Y	F	N	H	M	P	X	U	V	J	D	M	D
R	D	V	I	G	Y	F	Z	Q	Y	G	H	W	G	Z	X	S	D	E	P	U	R
R	R	D	O	K	N	F	L	E	R	E	C	T	E	D	C	E	Y	T	V	P	A
L	Y	E	Q	D	K	I	W	Z	H	Y	N	R	U	T	K	A	Q	M	C	R	R
C	D	K	S	A	P	B	W	D	Y	E	Q	B	R	O	R	Q	O	F	L	E	I
O	P	E	X	T	O	O	E	O	T	T	F	O	V	T	S	C	D	U	W	I	D
A	S	G	V	S	O	U	M	S	L	Q	U	O	S	A	Y	E	F	D	U	G	Y
E	W	C	M	L	N	R	I	F	K	L	R	A	K	J	V	J	A	Y	J	N	D
A	B	R	N	I	E	L	E	A	C	P	O	B	D	O	D	X	V	R	F	E	H
C	X	T	T	P	J	W	D	D	E	J	H	F	M	X	I	D	O	N	S	D	P
P	F	N	U	K	L	Y	T	G	U	E	P	E	E	Z	S	E	R	T	D	E	D
G	O	T	B	Y	C	U	A	C	O	B	R	S	S	F	A	P	E	V	Y	Y	C
C	C	K	A	E	C	G	N	S	M	T	O	Q	S	Q	S	S	C	G	D	A	Z
E	W	I	N	U	R	U	W	D	M	N	G	A	O	P	T	R	T	B	E	R	D
X	N	N	A	E	V	R	E	Q	E	I	C	F	U	A	E	Q	S	J	M	P	A
T	E	N	S	C	W	V	U	G	O	R	T	E	B	D	R	I	I	Y	O	W	T
G	H	O	G	J	I	R	F	N	I	E	E	L	G	O	B	W	R	T	L	T	G
C	I	C	O	L	K	K	K	F	M	T	E	D	W	I	P	I	N	G	I	S	P
F	A	E	C	C	Z	L	I	P	U	O	S	H	A	C	K	L	E	S	S	K	L
A	U	N	A	Q	Y	C	L	D	B	C	Y	Z	J	X	X	C	E	V	H	Z	Z
B	K	T	P	Z	E	E	I	C	U	Y	P	Q	D	W	E	W	A	G	E	N	K
C	E	U	T	D	V	X	F	B	V	W	U	R	S	Z	N	T	X	Z	D	Z	P

TWELVE

REIGNED

EVIL

FOLLOWING

DESTESTABLE

SACRIFICED

PROVOKED

TEMPLE

LISTEN

DISASTER

WIPING

PLUNDERED

INNOCENT

DEMOLISHED

ERECTED

ASTRAY

NOSE

SHACKLES

FAVOR

PRAYED

KNEW

REMOVED

RESTORED

CONTINUED