

Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard

1 KINGS 20-21



Old Testament 7
Part 2: The Divided Kingdom

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 7 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

1 Kings 20-21; Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21; Proverbs 21:26; Micah 2:2; Matthew 16:26; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Luke 12:15; Romans 1:29; 13:9; Ephesians 5:3,5; Hebrews 13:5

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "You shall not covet" (Exodus 20:17a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15b).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Ten Commandments"](#)
- ["I'm Happy Today"](#)
- ["Be Kind to Others"](#)
- ["Being Kind to Others"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [The Divided Kingdom 1 Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 7 Bible Facts")
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Pictures/drawings from any books listed under 3rd-4th Grader Pre-Class Activities/ Learning Centers
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Elijah A Beka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book; skip card 4.3)
- Let children role play the story or ask some young people to act out the story.
- ["Map of the Divided Kingdom"](#) (provided in activity sheets)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God does not want me to be greedy or covet what others have. He wants me to be happy (content) with what He has given me.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION:

How do you feel when one of your friends gets something that you really want? Do you get mad at your friend when that happens, or mad at your parents for not getting it for you? God tells us that we should be happy with what we have and not want what others have. When we get angry because we don't have what someone else has, that means we are "coveting." Today we will talk about a king who wanted something another man had. Let's see what happened.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. King Ahab fought many battles against the Syrians (Arameans) and their king, Benhadad. Ahab defeated the Syrians and even made a special deal with King Benhadad. God sent a prophet to Ahab to tell him that God was not pleased he had made such an agreement with someone who was not an Israelite. The prophet told Ahab that many lives would be lost because he was willing to work with idol-worshipping kings and not willing to obey God. Ahab returned to the capital city of Samaria very "sullen and displeased" (upset and pouting).
2. Sometime later, he went to Jezreel (the city to which Ahab fled after the contest on Mount Carmel) because he wanted to buy the vineyard of a man named Naboth. But Naboth would not sell his land to anyone, not even the king. Ahab was really angry and went to his big fancy palace to pout because he did not get what he wanted.



NOTE: Naboth's refusal to sell his land is related to the original division of the land of Canaan under Joshua's leadership. The land was God's, and the Israelites were God's chosen people who were entrusted with caring for the land (Leviticus 25:23). Land given to a tribe or family was not to be transferred or sold from one tribe to another (Numbers 36:7). When Ahab and Jezebel took the land away from Naboth, they denied his descendants its use and profit—what was understood, under the Law, to be their God-given heritage.

3. Jezebel was Ahab's wife, and she was one of the most wicked women who has ever lived. She couldn't understand why her husband, the powerful king of Israel, would pout over land that he wanted. If he was king, he should have whatever he wanted. She was more than happy to lie, steal, murder, and use other people and situations for her own benefit. [Describe Jezebel's trick, the false witnesses in a court setting, Naboth's death, etc.]
4. Naboth was stoned to death, not because he had done anything wrong, but because Ahab and Jezebel were greedy. They coveted what he had. One day Ahab went to the vineyard that he had stolen from Naboth, and Elijah the prophet went there to talk to the king. He told Ahab in no uncertain terms that he had stolen the vineyard from Naboth, and he warned Ahab that he and Jezebel would soon die as punishment for what they had done to a good man (and his family). Elijah said that Ahab had "sold [himself] to do evil in the sight of the Lord" because Jezebel his wife had "stirred him up" (1 Kings 21:20,25).

5. When Ahab heard Elijah’s words, he tore his clothes and put on rough sackcloth. He went without food and went around the palace very depressed (overcome with sadness). He was very sorry for what he had done and “humbled himself” before God. God accepted his actions of repentance.
6. One of the Ten Commandments is “You shall not covet” (Read Exodus 20:17 with OLDER CHILDREN). As the Israelites were struggling in the wilderness, God gave them the Ten Commandments, and many other laws, to tell them how they should treat Him and how they should treat one another. God knew that if they had no respect for one another—or for one another’s property—chaos and fighting would result. He also knew that the Israelites, just like all other groups of people, needed rules and boundaries to be a unified nation of people—all looking out for each other and caring for each other—not taking from each other or wanting what others might have.
7. “Greed” is basically another word for coveting. King Ahab was very rich, but he was greedy for what an ordinary farmer had (Do you remember another rich king in the Bible who was also greedy for something that one of his subjects owned?). In today’s world, we are encouraged (through game shows, movies which glamorize stealing, commercials on TV, etc.) to want what others have. Bad things always happen to us and to those around us when we want what others have. Instead of always looking to see what others have and wanting those things, we should be content (happy, satisfied) with what we have and look for ways to share what we have with others (1 Timothy 6:17-19). We cannot go to heaven if we are greedy (covet) (Ephesians 5:5).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Ahab and Naboth’s Vineyard Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Write the memory verse on the board or a sheet of poster board. Using magazines, toy catalogs, etc., let the children cut out pictures of things they want and things their friends already have. Put the pictures on the board (with tape or magnets) or the poster (with tape or glue). Discuss being happy for our friends when they have things versus being angry that we don’t have those same things. Talk about scenarios when two toddlers are playing with two different toys: one takes the other’s toy, the second child cries, etc. Babies and toddlers are selfish and think they should always get their way. But God expects us to grow out of that selfish, “gimme” behavior, and be happy for others when they have things—even things we want. We should never hurt anyone just to get something we want.
- I Am Thankful: Draw a branch with leaves on a piece of construction paper. At the top of the page write “I am thankful a BUNCH!” Make a copy of the page for each child in your class. Give each child 8-10 purple circles (“grapes”). Help the children write something for which they are thankful on each circle (or put a sticker on each circle). Let them glue their purple circles onto their branches like a cluster of grapes. Discuss: When we have thankful hearts, we won’t be worried about what we don’t have, but thankful for what we do have! (“[I Am Thankful a BUNCH’ Activity](#)” provided in activity sheets)
- Review Game: On a white poster board, draw a branch with leaves. Put Velcro® pieces where you want the children to add the “grapes.” Cut out 10-12 circles from purple construction paper; write one review question on each circle; laminate them and add corresponding pieces of Velcro® to the backs. Let the children take turns drawing “grapes” from a basket, then answering the questions on them. As they answer correctly, they can stick their grapes to the poster board. (After the review,

give the kids grapes as a snack. Cut the grapes in half for the 2- and 3-year-olds.)

1st-2nd Graders:

- In magazines and toy catalogs, find pictures of things kids like to have (new bike, new game system, iPod, good grade, etc.). As you show the pictures, discuss how they feel when a friend gets something they really want (happy/angry/jealous, etc.). Discuss what it means to covet. [It is more than wanting a bike like your friend. It is wanting the bike your friend has so badly that it makes you upset—maybe upset with your friend enough to even want to hurt him because he has the new bike. It is being angry with your friend because he made the All-star team and you did not. It is being jealous and angry of someone who makes a better grade than you—and being ugly toward him.] Discuss how we need to be content with the things we have and be happy for others when they get something new.
- [“Ahab and Naboth Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets). As each student finds a word, ask him to tell the importance of that word to the Bible story.
- [“Ahab and Naboth Word Scramble”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Review Game: On a white poster board, draw a branch with leaves. Put Velcro® pieces where you want the children to add the “grapes.” Cut out 10-12 circles from purple construction paper; write one review question on each circle; laminate them and add corresponding pieces of Velcro® to the backs. Let the children take turns drawing “grapes” from a basket, then answering the questions on them. As they answer correctly, they can stick their grapes to the poster board.

3rd-4th Graders:

- In magazines and toy catalogs, find pictures of things kids like to have (new bike, new game system, iPod, good grade, etc.). As you show the pictures, discuss how they feel when a friend gets something they really want (happy/angry/jealous, etc.). Discuss what it means to covet. [It is more than wanting a bike like your friend. It is wanting the bike your friend has so badly that it makes you upset—maybe upset with your friend enough to even want to hurt him because he has the new bike. It is being angry with your friend because he made the All-star team and you did not. It is being jealous and angry of someone who makes a better grade than you—and being ugly toward him.] Discuss how we need to be content with the things we have and be happy for others when they get something new.
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- Have the children read the following:
 - 1 Kings 20-21
 - *The Berenstain Bears and the Green-Eyed Monster*, by Stan and Jan Berenstain
 - *Too Bad, Ahab: Naboth's Vineyard*, by Marilyn Lashbro, Me Too! Readers

SONGS:

“THE TEN COMMANDMENTS”

Author: Jeff Miller
(Tune: See “[Kids Prep](#)” CD)

“I’M HAPPY TODAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: See Internet)

I’m happy today.
Oh, yes, I’m happy today.
In Jesus Christ, I’m happy today.
Because He’s taken all my sins away.
And that’s why I’m happy today.

VERSE 2:

I’m singing today....

VERSE 3:

I’m praying today....

VERSE 4:

I’m sharing my faith....

“BE KIND TO OTHERS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*
(Tune: “Jesus Loves Me”)

Help somebody when you can,
Baby, woman, child, or man;
There is work for you to do,
Be forever kind and true!

CHORUS:

Be kind to others. Be kind to others.
Be kind to others. God wants you to be kind.

“BEING KIND TO OTHERS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook
(Tune: “Bringing in the Sheaves”)

Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Being kind to others, every night and day.
Being kind to others, being kind to others;
Jesus ever taught us that we must obey.

CHORUS:

O we must be kind! O we must be kind!
Jesus ever taught us that we must be kind.

(REPEAT)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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1 KINGS 20-21



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Part 2: The Divided Kingdom

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

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INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 7 Bible Fact Flash Cards](#) (provided under “O.T. 7 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson. (See [O.T. 7 Review Questions](#) for example questions.)
2. Spend more time talking about what it means to covet (in age-appropriate terms) and what we can do to overcome those feelings. With OLDER CHILDREN discuss how today’s society is pushing all the “things” we must have to be happy. Talk about how TV commercials are designed to make you want more than you have—to not be content with what God has given you; to want what others have; to covet.
3. Do we really need all those things to go to heaven? What does God want us to be focused on while we are here on Earth? Read and discuss Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:8; Philippians 4:11-13.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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