Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

GOOD KING JEHOSHAPHAT

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Jehoshaphat loved God and obeyed His word. He also taught his people God's word.

The countries around Judah would not fight Jehoshaphat because they were afraid of the Lord.
They made friends with him and gave gifts of silver, sheep and goats.

God blessed Jehoshaphat and made him rich and strong.



One day, Jehoshaphat went to see King Ahab of Israel. But Ahab was a man who hated God.

Together they sat around the table and feasted.

Ahab asked Jehoshaphat, 'Will you help me fight my enemy?'

'Yes, I will', said Jehoshaphat, 'but first let us ask the Lord to see if that is what we should do.'



Ahab called in his 400 prophets and asked, 'Should we go and fight my enemy or should we not?'

These prophets said, 'Go, and God will help you win.'

Jehoshaphat did not think they were speaking for God. So he asked Ahab, 'Is there one of God's prophets we can ask?'

'Oh yes,' said Ahab,
'There is Micaiah.
But he never tells me good things.
I do not like him.'



As Micaiah was being brought to the king, the messenger said to him, 'The other prophets have said that the king will win if he fights his enemy. You should say the same.'

Micaiah answered, 'I can only say what God tells me.'

So when Micaiah came to the King he began acting like the other prophets and said, 'Go into battle and you will win.'

Immediately, King Ahab knew that this was not God's word.



'Tell me the truth,' said Ahab.

So Micaiah answered, 'Your prophets, King Ahab, have been tricked into telling lies.

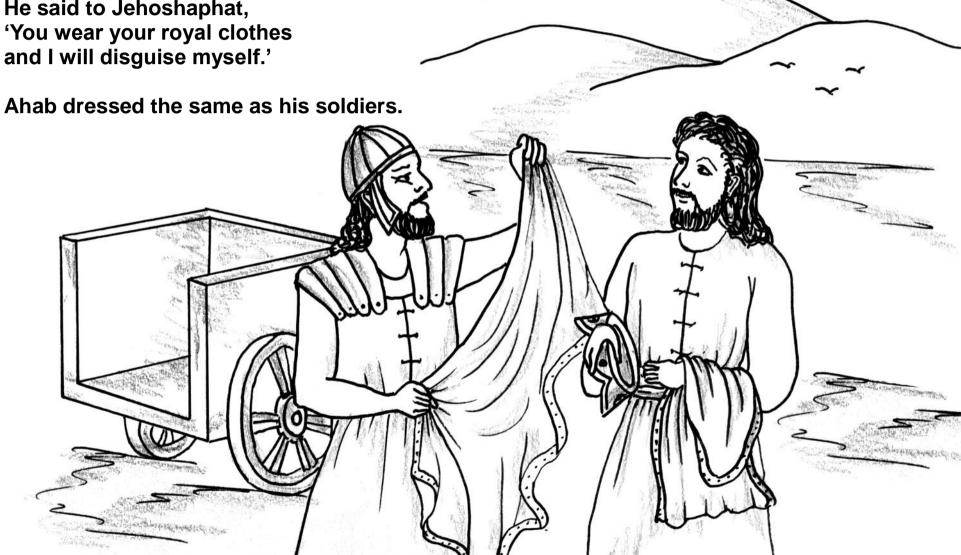
You are going to be killed in battle.'

This made Ahab so angry that he shouted, 'Take Micaiah away and put him back in prison.'



Ahab was afraid as he and Jehoshaphat prepared for battle. He was afraid because the prophet said he would be killed.

He said to Jehoshaphat,



Out on the battlefield the enemy looked for Ahab. When they saw Jehoshaphat they thought it was Ahab and chased him. Jehoshaphat cried out and the Lord helped him. The enemy turned away.

Then one of the soldiers pulled back his arrow and let it go. That arrow hit King Ahab and wounded him.

Later that day, he died, just as God said he would.

God saved Jehoshaphat in the battle.

