

Story: **Jehosaphat**

Background Scripture: **2 Chronicles 20:1-30**

YOU WILL NEED: *Signs that say: Man on the Road, Half Dead Man on the Road, Priest, Levite, Robber 1, Robber 2, Samaritan.*

Jehosaphat

Based on 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Ask the Kids—***What is something that you are afraid of?***

Tell them something that you are afraid of or something you were afraid of as a child.

Then tell them that they are going to act out a story out of the Bible of someone who was afraid.

Choose 2 volunteer—

Give one a sign that says *Jehosaphat*. Your name is Jehosaphat, not “Your horse is fat.”

Have the kids say “Jehosaphat”. Then tell them that any time you do a certain hand motion that you want them to say “Jehosaphat.” [i.e., King (hand motion) Jehosaphat] King (hand motion) Jehosaphat was the King of Judah. Give one a sign that says **Some**.

The Bible says that one day “some” came and reported to Jehosaphat saying (Have *Some* repeat after you), “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea!”

Choose 3 volunteers—

These were the enemies of Judah: the Moabites, the Ammonites, and the army of Mount Seir. (Give each volunteer a sign) Sounds like there’s going to be a battle, huh? But there’s a problem.

You see, to protect his kingdom King (hand motion) Jehosaphat had stationed most of his troops along the border, but his enemies hadn’t come that way. They had taken a longer, less direct route and now they were closer than his own army. (*Move the kids representing the enemy armies around to show what you are saying.*) He is basically defenseless.

Ask the Kids—***How do you think the king felt? How would you feel if a large army of your worst enemies had come to kill you and were only a day or so away.***

Ask the Kids—***If you were the king, what would you do? Would you retreat—hit the high road and leave town? Would you take whatever troops you did have into battle and stand your ground?***

The Bible says that “**Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the Lord**” (2 Chron. 20:3).

King (hand motion) Jehosaphat called all the people together and they PRAYED and this is part of what he said, "...we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You" (2 Chron. 20:12).

Even though they were afraid, they **trusted God**, and **God answered their prayer**. As they prayed God told one of the people that the battle was not their, but his (v. 15). He said, "*Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out and face them, for the Lord is with you*" (v. 17).

The next morning the Israelites went out to face the invading armies.

Choose 1 volunteer—

Give him the Jehosaphat sign. Ask him the following question. Then ask the other kids:

Ask the Kids—If you were sending an army into battle, who would you choose to lead the way: (a) the strongest soldiers, (b) the weakest soldiers, (c) soldier on horses and chariot, or (d) a singing choir?

SAY: King Jehosaphat sent the people who sang praises to the Lord and led other in worship out before the army. But when they reached the invading armies, they were already destroyed.

Ask the Kids—Can anyone guess what happened?

SAY: You see, when the singers began to praise him, God set an ambush for the invading armies. The armies of Moab and Ammon rose up and began fighting the people of Mount Seir, and when they had finished with them, they destroyed each other. The Israelites didn't even have to lift a finger. God protected them and delivered them which leads us to our memory verse today

Verse of the Day

Tell the students that have hidden 11 words throughout the room (or area—set boundaries if necessary) and that when you say "Go!" they are to search the room to find them as fast as they can. After they find all the words (you may need to give hints if this runs long), have them sit down and begin to put the words in the right order. When finished it should read, "Cast all your cares on him, because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Choose 1 volunteer—

SAY: I am going to show you what it means to cast something. Ask your volunteer to move about 10 to 15 feet away from you—Then throw the bean bag found in your Mission packet to them. Have them throw it back. This is "casting."

Examples—

- (1) Let's say your parents get in a fight and your worried they might get a divorce (throw the ball)—Give it to God.
- (2) Let's say your grandpa gets really sick and is in the hospital (throw the ball)—give it to God.

(3) Let's say a bully at school steals your milk money and picks your nose every day and you dread going to school (throw the ball)—give it to God...and then tell your teacher or your parents.

Ask the Kids—**Do you remember what cares the verse said to cast on God?** Answer: *All cares*

SAY: God cares about everything that happens in your life, no matter how small. He cares about every breath you take.

Ask the Kids—**In what ways does God show his care for you?** Answers: *creation, gives dad a job to have food, answers prayer, etc.*

Ask the Kids—**Can anyone guess the biggest way God showed his care for us?**

Answer: Romans 5:8 says, "But God showed his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

SAY: That's how much God loves you and cares about you. That he made a way for you to go to heaven and have a relationship with him.

Ask the Kids—**A moment ago you were seeking these words. When Jehosaphat was afraid, do you remember what he did?** Answer: He "turned his attention to seek God."

SAY: The Bible says, "**Seek** first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).