

PARENTS INFORMATION

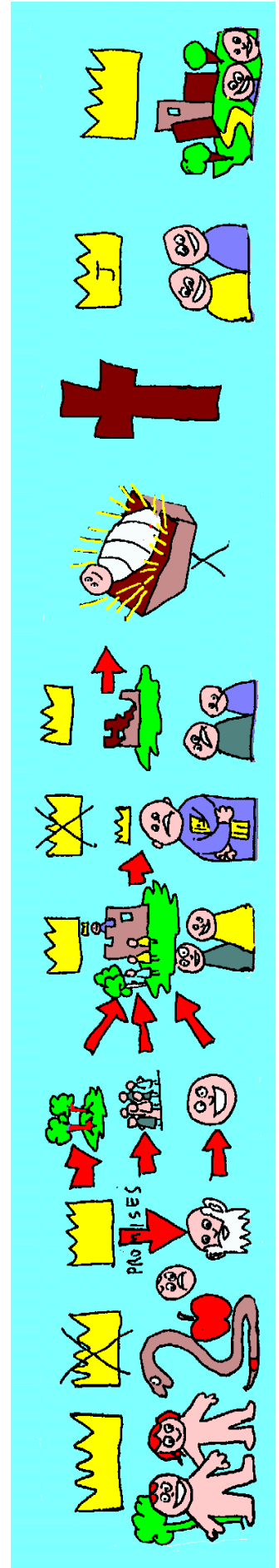
Welcome to The King, The Snake and The Promise – working through key Bible stories in 10 easy sessions

For most of us, the fact that the Bible has a storyline that spans from Genesis to Revelation wasn't something we picked up in Sunday School! In fact, the average Christian will be hard pressed to remember if Abraham comes before David, or Noah and his famous Ark came before or after Samson and Solomon. The bits and pieces of bible stories are all there - but how do they fit together? This is what our sessions aim to cover!

Each session has a passage of the Bible you can read together with your child and then some ideas of activities and thoughts you can chat about.

The banner which goes alongside this set of teaching is KEY as it enables the children to tell the story pictorially and gives them a reminder of the previous stories. You can either do this on material (and cut the pieces out of felt) or you could print the pictures and cut them out and stick them onto a long piece of wallpaper, or in a book, or get your child to draw them – it's up to you!

Original material produced by Phil and Louise Campbell including the banner pictures. Adaptations have been made to make it age specific. Additional activities have been provided by SundaySchoolResources.co.uk All permissions have been sought and granted.



LESSON 5

Solomon Gets it Wrong!

Aim

To explain the un-doing of God's promise of blessing through the disobedience of Solomon who followed other gods. Just like Adam and Eve, Solomon **IGNORES GOD'S WARNINGS** and disobeys.

Revision

Look over the banner, starting from week 1. Help your child to recall the main events it describes. **ASK** particularly about God's promises to Abraham, and the fulfillment of the promises we saw last week in the Kingdom of David. **LOOK BACK TO THE GARDEN OF EDEN** on the banner, and compare the similarities. **ASK** "What went wrong in the garden." [Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rules]

EXPLAIN that today we're going to look at what happened next. **ASK** your child if they can guess.

Storytime

King David was a very good king. And last week we saw how he ruled over God's people in God's special land. Everyone was happy.

But you know, God had given his people some rules for living in his land. A bit like there are rules at school or at home.

ASK: What rules do you have at school? What rules do we have at home? Why do we have these rules? (They help everyone get on together safely and happily)

There were ten main rules for the people living in the land of Israel. They were rules like "Don't tell lies to each other." And "Don't kill each other." But the first rule was the most important.

The first rule was very simple. And very important. The first rule was this. God said, **YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME.**

EXPLAIN how other people in other places had other gods that were not really gods at all. They prayed to idols, which were pretend gods carved out of wood or stone or made of gold.

God was very worried that his people would stop being HIS. He was worried that his people would forget about HIM, and start thinking that the pretend gods were real. Because they weren't real at all. They hadn't made the world. Those gods hadn't made the first man and the first woman and put them in the garden. Those gods were just pretend gods. And following the wrong god is a terribly big mistake. In fact, it's the worst mistake you can make.

So God warned them with his very first rule. **DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER GODS.**

Well, we already saw King David was a good king. He made some mistakes, but in the end he always said sorry to God, and turned back to doing things God's way.

But then King David got old and died. And his son SOLOMON became king instead. King Solomon was very clever. And when he was King, on the outside, it looked like everything was good. His palace was full of gold and jewels. He had a great big throne made of ivory and gold, with great big carved lions as armrests. When Solomon was sitting on his throne he looked very wise and powerful. And even other Kings and Queens used to come and bow down to him.

But that was only on the outside. Because Solomon was making a very big mistake. Here's what he did. Instead of just having ONE WIFE like everyone else, he decided to have lots of wives. After all, he was King. And he could do whatever he wanted to!

But that wasn't the real problem. The real problem was that the wives he married came from other countries. That wouldn't have been such a problem either, except in those other countries, the people followed other gods - they prayed to statues made of wood and stone and gold. And guess what happened when Solomon's wives came to live at the palace? Guess what they brought with them?

They **BROUGHT THEIR IDOLS.** They brought their silly statues. And they had special dinners and sacrifices and parties for their pretend gods.

And you know the worst thing? Can you guess what Solomon did? Do you think he stopped them? Well, it's a pity he didn't. King Solomon didn't stop them. King Solomon did it with them! King Solomon joined in the parties. And he offered sacrifices to the statues instead of to God. And he even built special altars and buildings so other people could join in too. And

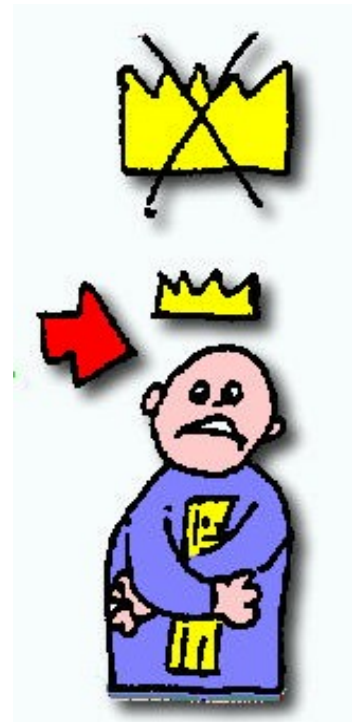
almost everybody did! King Solomon had made a terrible mistake. He was doing just what God said not to do, just like Adam and Eve in the garden. And God was very, very angry.

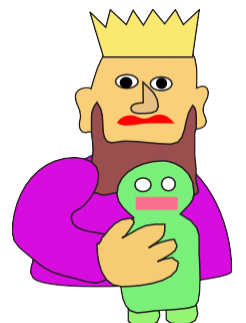
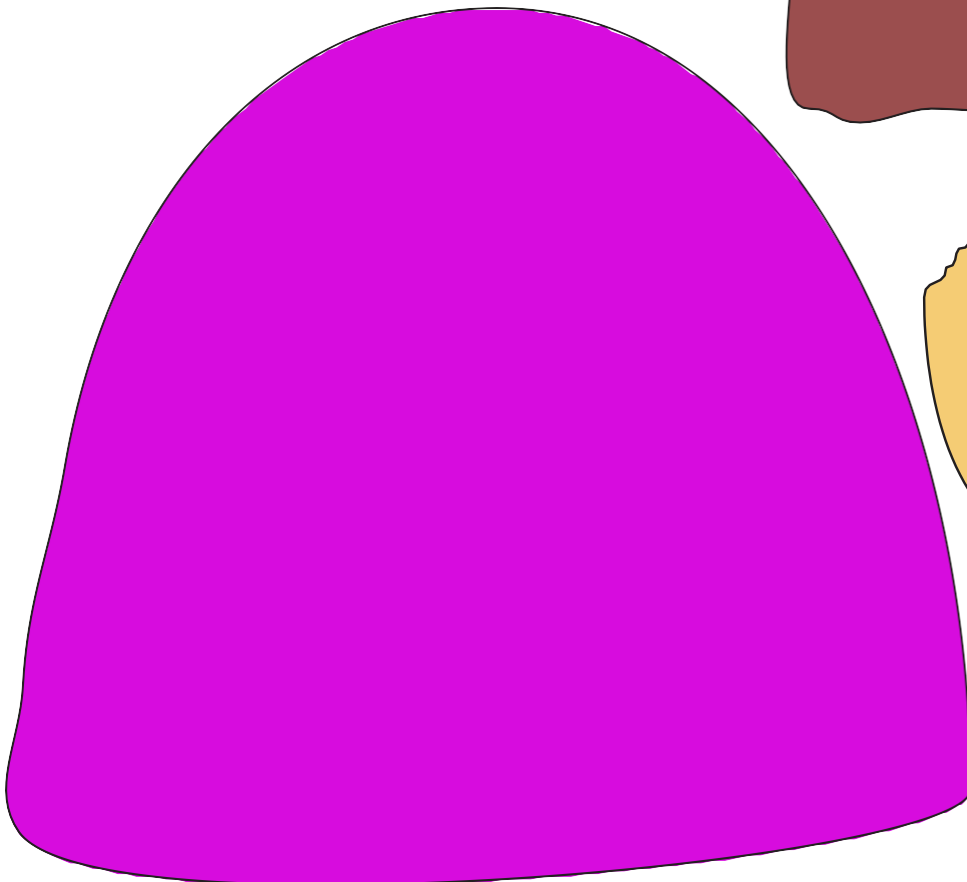
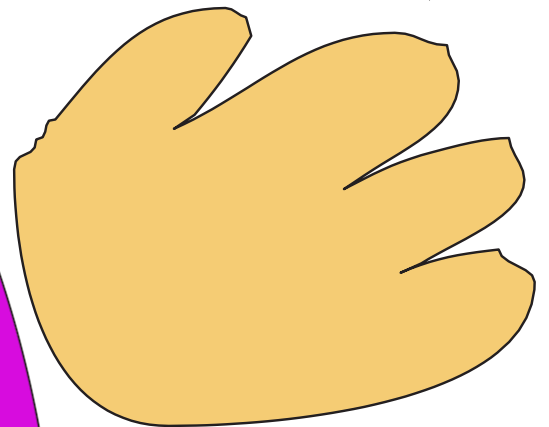
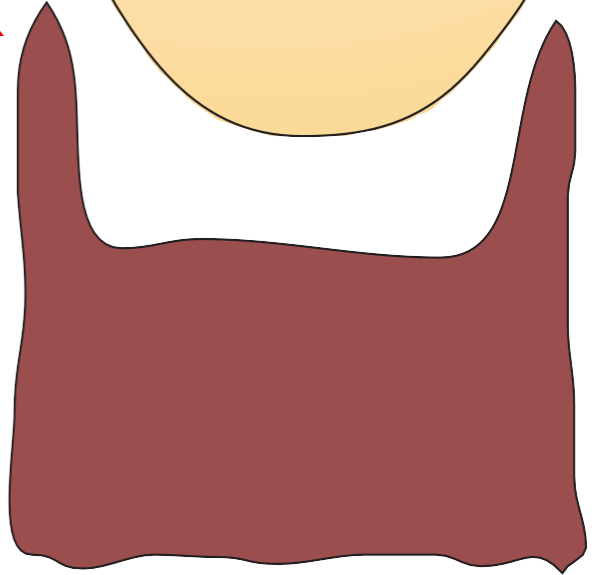
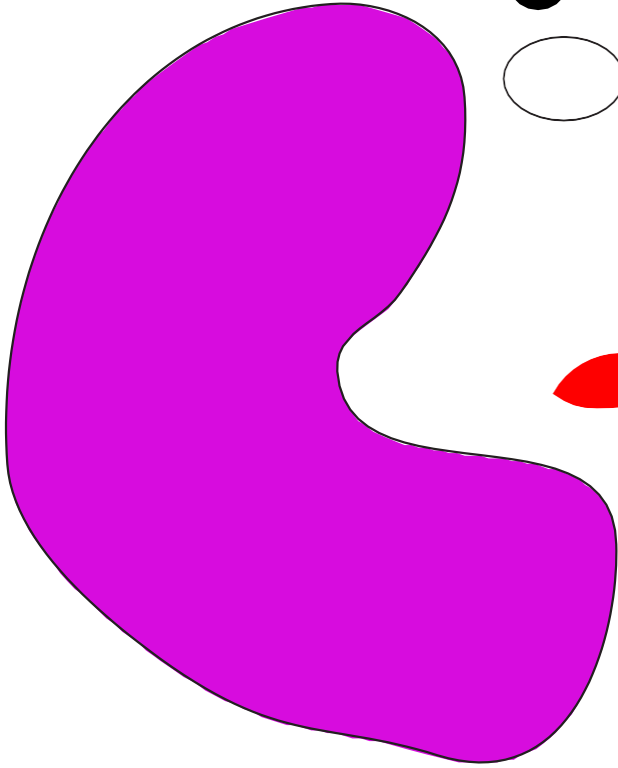
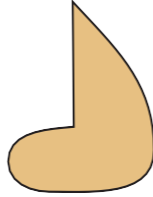
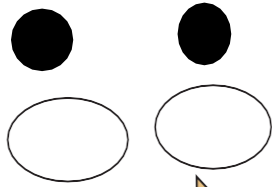
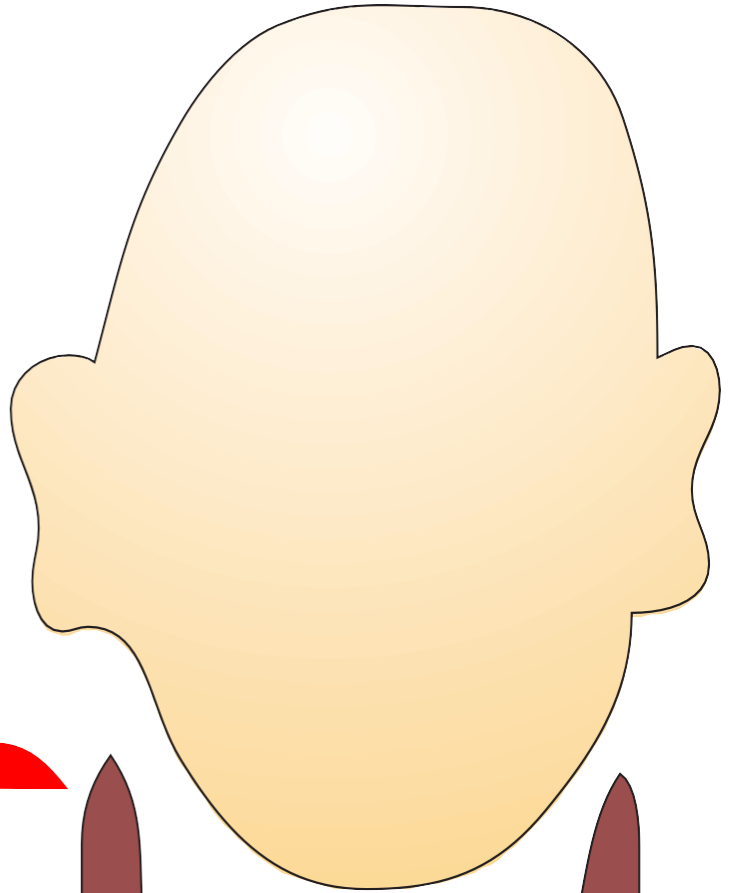
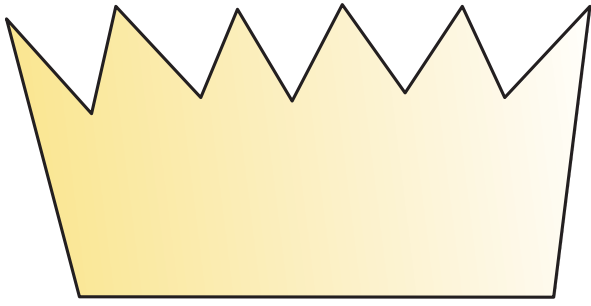
ASK: What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. [They were sent out of the garden] ASK What do you think will happen to Solomon and the people of Israel? [Look for the answer "They'll be sent out of the land." Then move on to the conclusion of the story.]

Well, here's what God said to Solomon. And it's very, very sad. Because everything had been so good when his father David had been King. God said, "Solomon, because you wouldn't obey me, I'm going to take your Kingdom away from you." And next week we'll see that's exactly what God does!

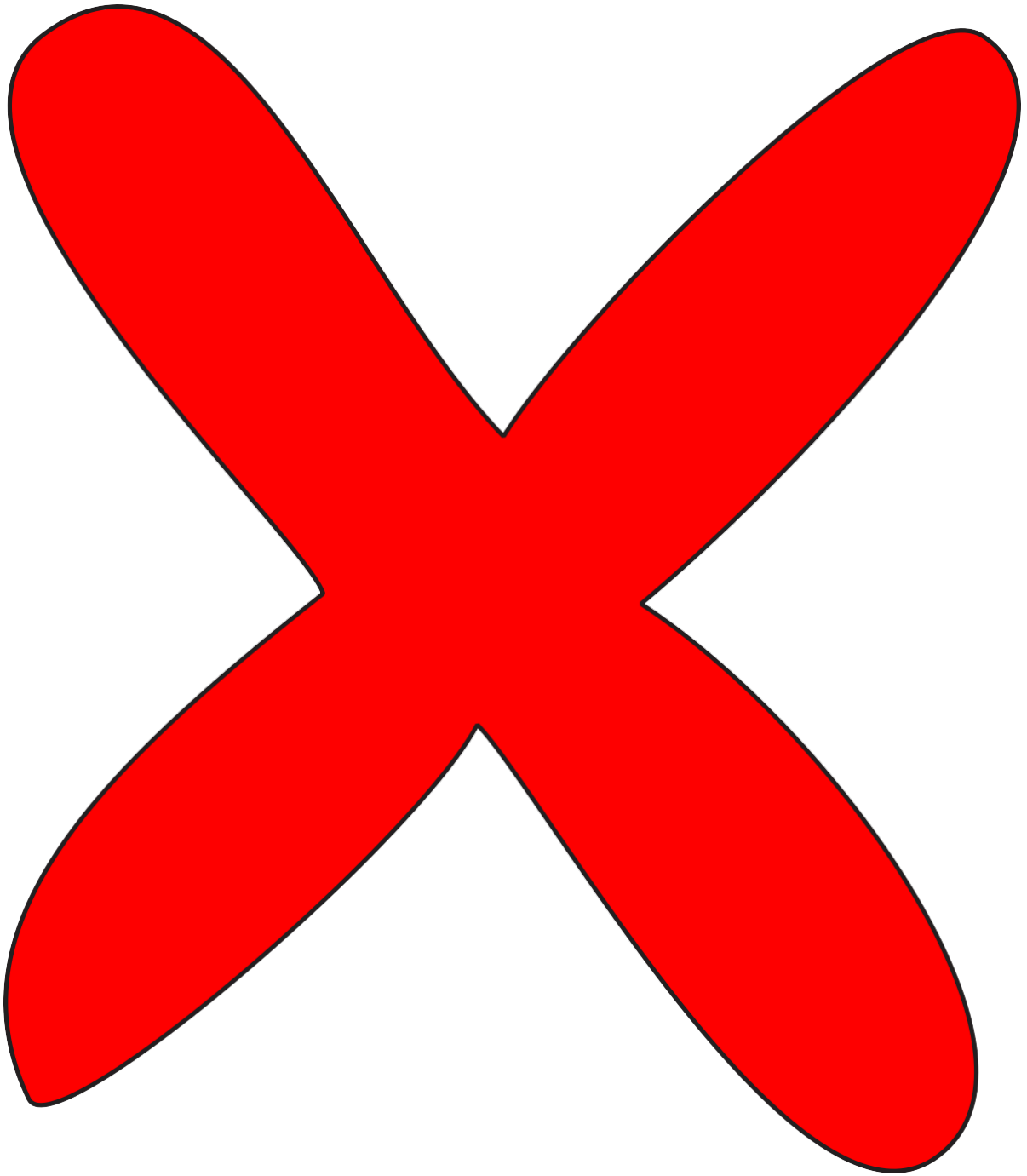
Banner

King Solomon clings to his idol. God's crown is crossed out above him showing his rebellion against God's rule.









The cross overlays the crown, it reminds us that people were not listening to God

Solomon and Idol Assembly

