



## Lesson 8—Our Creator *Helps Us Not to Sin*

**I Kings 22:1-38**

### Memory Verse

“I can do all things through  
Christ who strengthens me”

(Philippians 4:13)

### Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session,  
the students should  
be able to:

**Define** who Ahab and  
Jehoshaphat were

**Locate** Gilead on a map

**Describe** how Micaiah  
did what was right

**Express** in their own  
words how God gives  
us the strength we need  
to make right choices

**Materials Needed**  
See “Teaching Activities”  
for specific activities

## Teacher’s Bible Study

**G**od did not originally create sin, but by giving free moral agency to His created beings He did leave the door open for sin to be committed. One of these great beings--later named Satan the Devil--had been created full of wisdom and perfect beauty (Ezekiel 28:12). This being was actually perfect in his ways--until iniquity, sin, was “found in” him (Ezekiel 28:15). Satan is the one who introduced sin into the universe and became the adversary of God and man (Isaiah 14). Ultimately, God will place the full responsibility for sin on its originator.

Satan likewise introduced sin to mankind through Adam and Eve. Although created in moral and spiritual neutrality, Adam and his wife were deceived by Satan into disobeying God’s command that they must not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In turn all since Adam and Eve (except Jesus) have sinned and incurred the death penalty for their own sins. “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin: and so death passed upon all man, for that all have sinned...” (Romans 5:12).

Sin makes people miserable; it ruins their lives and their families; it maims, devastates, and kills; it is the cause of all human misery and suffering. This is why God hates sin so much—not because of what sin does to God, but because of what sin does to sinners whom God loves. Furthermore, sin perverts the mind; it can change the values of the sinner, his point of view and outlook, and make him rationalize that he is doing right when he is actually doing wrong. Sin blinds and deceives the sinner by causing a veil to fall over his eyes so that he cannot understand the reality of God’s truth as expressed in the Bible. More importantly, it cuts one off from God. “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2).

It is crucial that Christians deeply realize that God does not forgive sin begrudgingly. He is quick to forgive lovingly and mercifully any repentant person of any and all sins, no matter what their magnitude, number, or frequency may be—and then permanently block even the memory of those sins from His mind for eternity. God says He “hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust” (Psalm 103:10-14).

To prepare for this week’s lesson and to understand how God helps us not to sin, read the following: Genesis 22:1-19; Genesis 26:17–33; Genesis 39; and Romans 8:1–27.

## Presenting the Bible Story

Who is Ahab?

Ahab was the seventh king of Israel. Three times he went to war against Syria. He is seen as a wicked king who did more to anger God than all the kings of Israel before him.

Who is Jehoshaphat?

Jehoshaphat was the king of Judah. He was known as a good king. He destroyed idols and was sure that his people learned God's laws. He improved the legal system and appointed judges in major towns. His biggest mistake was getting involved with King Ahab.

**I Kings 22:1-4**

Ahab decides that he needs to take the city Ramoth in Gilead. King Jehoshaphat agrees to help King Ahab for political reasons. He should not have agreed to this for spiritual reasons.

**I Kings 22:5-7**

Jehoshaphat was not satisfied with the 400 prophets

Before heading out to battle, Jehoshaphat wanted counsel from God. The 400 prophets that Ahab called upon were prophets of God, but they were apostate prophets. We know this because Jehoshaphat was a faithful king and he would not listen to prophets of Baal.

**I Kings 22:8-12**

Ahab is not concerned with truth, only feeling good

Ahab considered prophecy to be magic. One prophet Zedekiah committed blasphemy when he claimed that the Lord had said that with the horns of iron they shall gore the Syrians.

**I Kings 22:13-14**

Micaiah was encouraged by the messenger to agree with the 400 prophets. Micaiah was not going to lie.

**I Kings 22:15-16**

Micaiah was giving a sarcastic answer to begin with. Ahab was being just as sarcastic in his reply. Ahab knew that Micaiah would not swear.

**I Kings 22:17-18**

When Micaiah said he saw no shepherd, no master, Ahab must have understood that this meant he would die in battle.

**I Kings 22:19-23**

God allowed a lying spirit to prevail. This does not mean that Ahab was not allowed to resist temptation. Ahab pleased in unrighteousness (II Thessalonians 2:11,12).

**I Kings 22:24-25**

During this period in history, it was an insult to be slapped in the face. Micaiah did not need to argue about who was right. He knew time would tell. He also knew that when Ahab was killed in battle, Zedekiah and all the false prophets would flee in terror.

**I Kings 22:26-28**

Ahab did not repent and heed the warning. Micaiah called on all those present to remember what had been spoken.

**I Kings 22:29-33**

Do you think Jehoshaphat realized the danger he put himself in when he arrived looking like a king and Ahab disguised himself? Maybe Jehoshaphat did not realize how much Ben-Hadad hated Ahab. By going to battle, Ahab was breaking a treaty with Ben-Hadad (I Kings 20:34).

**I Kings 22:34-38**

Ahab died just as God said he would. Read I Kings 20:42; 21:19,21. He did not escape God's judgment.

## Teaching Activities

### Art and Activities

#### Activity Pages

Provide a copy of the Activity Page suitable for each of your students.  
Provide pencils and crayons.

## Explore the Subject

**Explore the following questions with your students:**

1. What was the difficult decision that Micaiah had to make? (Whether or not to tell the truth.)
2. Did Micaiah ever have a doubt about what choice to make? (No)
3. Why do you think he did not?
4. Do you think Micaiah was afraid?

## Respond and Reinforce

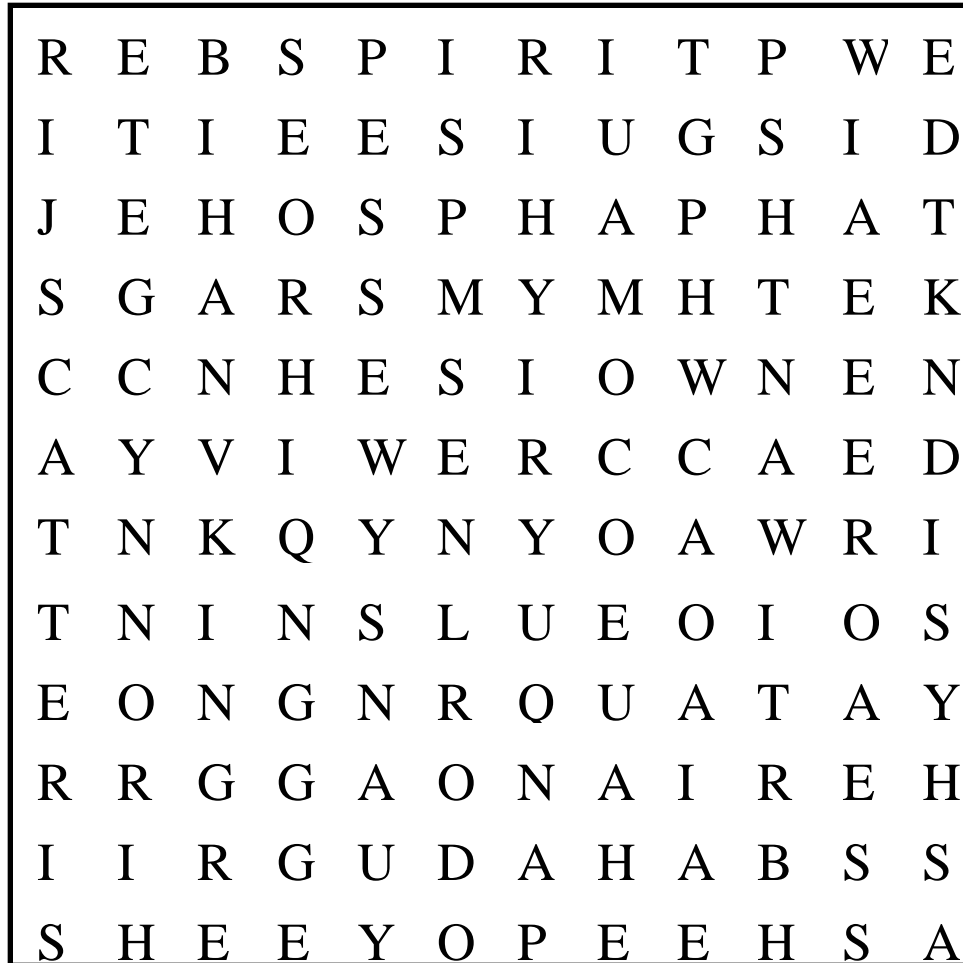
**Always close your class with prayer**

1. Are we to only make right choices when it is easy?
2. Will God give us the strength we need when making a hard decision?
3. Discuss memory verse.

## Activity Page

### Ahab and Jehoshaphat I Kings 22:1–38

Read the Scriptures. find the words hidden in the word search puzzle below.



THREE YEARS

WAR

JEHOSHAPHAT

KING

MICAH

HORNS

IRON

ENCOURAGE

SCATTER

SHEEP

AHAB

LYING

SPIRIT

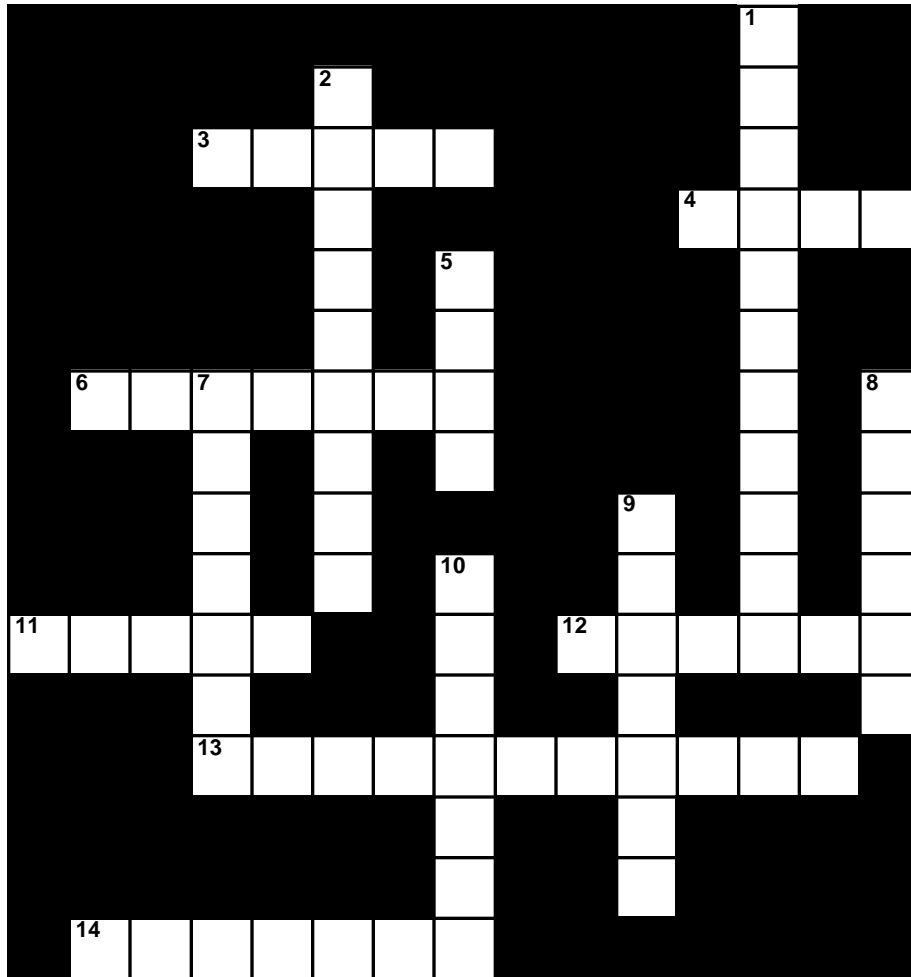
DISGUISE

WOUND

# Activity Page

## Ahab and Jehoshaphat I Kings 22:1–38

Read the Scriptures and complete the crossword puzzle below



**Across**

- 3. Any break in the skin or an organ caused by violence or surgical incision.
- 4. Plural of dog.
- 6. The northern kingdom of Israel.
- 11. An Asian country at the east end of the Mediterranean.
- 12. A hostile meeting of opposing military forces in the course of a war.
- 13. Zedekiah...made him \_\_\_\_\_ (I Kings 22:11; three words).
- 14. Hand over to the authorities.

**Down**

- 1. King of Judah.
- 2. Hurting.
- 5. King of Israel and husband of Jezebel.
- 7. Son of Imlah (K Kings 22:8).
- 8. The descendants of Abraham.
- 9. A two-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle.
- 10. To gain in wealth.

Charlot; 10. Prosper;

Across: 3. Wound; 4. Dogs; 6. Samaria; 11. Syria; 12. Battle; 13. Horns of iron; 14. Deliver. Down: Jehoshaphat; 2. Suffering; 5. Ahab; 7. Micaiah; 8. Israel; 9.

## Activity Page

### Our Creator Helps Us Not To Sin

He wants us to learn of His ways, and look to Him for guidance through the Word of God. By the power of His Holy Spirit we come to know Him.



*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Romans 15:13*

## Activity Page

### Our Creator Teaches us

God gave us His Ten Commandments to live by. He gave us a guide.  
As our parents teach us how to do things, God also teaches us by His Word.

