Preschool–Grade 6

King Manasseh

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God hears a humble prayer. It is never too late to turn back to God.
Bible passage: 2 Chronicles 33:1–20. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God." *2 Chronicles 33:13 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, two paper signs (one with a big heart, one with an arrow), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Tape the heart sign on one wall and the arrow sign on the opposite wall. Put bookmarks in your Bible at 2 Chronicles 33:12 and 33:13.

1. Opening game: Which Way? (5 minutes)

Point to the heart sign and say, "This is God's way." Point to the arrow and say, "This is my own way." Read a choice, and the kids walk toward the sign it matches: 1) You say "I'm sorry" to your sister. 2) You take a toy that isn't yours. 3) You pray before bed. 4) You won't listen to your mom. Each time someone walks to the arrow, call out, "Turn back!" and they turn around and walk to the heart. Say: "Today we will meet a king who went his own way for a long time, and then he turned back to God."

2. Bible story: Manasseh Turns Back (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Chronicles 33, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Manasseh was only twelve years old when he began to **reign**, to rule as king. He was king in **Jerusalem** for fifty-five years (2 Chronicles 33:1)! His father, King Hezekiah, had loved God (2 Kings 18:3). But Manasseh "did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD" (33:2). He built altars for **Baalim**, which means false gods (33:3). He even put an **idol**, a carved statue, in the house of God (33:7)! And he led the people of **Judah** to do wrong too (33:9).

God spoke to Manasseh and his people, "but they would not **hearken**" (33:10). Say: "Hearken means listen. They would not listen to God."

So the LORD brought the captains of the king of Assyria's army against them. They caught Manasseh, **bound him with fetters**, and carried him far away to **Babylon** (33:11). Say: "Fetters are chains. The king was a prisoner now."

The story continues: In his big trouble, Manasseh **besought** the LORD his God, and **humbled himself greatly** (33:12). Say: "Besought means he begged God for help. Humbled himself means he stopped being proud."

Read 2 Chronicles 33:13 from your Bible: "And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God." Say: "**Intreated of him** means God listened to his asking. **Supplication** means a prayer that asks for help. God heard him and brought him all the way home to Jerusalem! And now Manasseh knew: the LORD is God."

Then Manasseh did what was right. He took the idol out of the house of the LORD and threw all the false gods out of the city (33:15). He **repaired** the altar of the LORD, which means he fixed it. He gave offerings to thank God, and he told Judah to serve the LORD God of Israel (33:16).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How old was Manasseh when he became king? *(Twelve, 2 Chronicles 33:1)*
2. What did he put in the house of God? *(An idol, a carved statue, 33:7)*
3. Did Manasseh listen when God spoke to him? *(No, they would not hearken, 33:10)*
4. What did Manasseh do when he was in trouble in Babylon? *(He humbled himself and prayed, 33:12–13)*
5. What did God do? *(He heard his prayer and brought him back to Jerusalem, 33:13)*

4. Memory verse: Bring Him Home (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips on the floor in a line from the arrow wall to the heart wall: *And prayed unto him: / and he was intreated of him, / and heard his supplication, / and brought him again to Jerusalem / into his kingdom. / Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God. 2 Chronicles 33:13.* Explain the old words: **intreated of him** means God listened to his asking, **supplication** means a prayer asking for help, and **brought him again** means brought him back. Walk along the strips together from "Babylon" to "Jerusalem" and read each one. Then take one strip away and walk and read again. Keep taking one strip away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Manasseh did many wrong things, but when he humbled himself and prayed, God heard him. We have all done wrong things too. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. But God loves you very much. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it, like Manasseh turned back to God. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when you do something wrong, don't hide it. Tell God you are sorry, and turn back to doing right.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Manasseh word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/manasseh-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/manasseh-craft), or **Back to Jerusalem:** the arrow wall is "Babylon" and the heart wall is "Jerusalem." All the kids start at Babylon. Ask a question from part 3. For each right answer, the whole class takes one giant step toward Jerusalem. When they get there, everyone says, "Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God!"

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You hear us when we humble ourselves and pray. Help us say sorry when we do wrong, and turn back to You. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: 2 Chronicles 33 names more of Manasseh's sins. This lesson names two, in the Bible's words (altars for Baalim, 33:3, and the idol in God's house, 33:7), and leaves out the rest of 33:3–6, which is not for young children. Keep the focus on his humble prayer and God's mercy.

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