

Kings to Judges

Lesson intended for ages 5-7

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Memory Verse:

For they were men of sound understanding, and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.

Alma 12:4

Review:

Mosiah was King of the Nephites.

Rebellious sons converted to the gospel by an angel's appearance.

Sons desired to go to the land of the Lamanites to teach them about God.

None of sons desired to be king.

Introduction:

Picture of a crown

Picture of a paper gavel or a picture of a judge

Glue items to popsicle stick, with a picture of a crown on one side and a picture of gavel on the other.

Ask what these items are. What do these do? How is it the same/different from today? If you were king and had no one to give the kingdom to, who would you choose? King Mosiah was in that very position. We learned last week that his sons decided to go and tell the Lamanites about God. Lets read about what King Mosiah decides to do.

Story to read or tell:

King Mosiah's sons have just headed to the land of the Lamanites to try and teach them about God. (**Mosiah 12:14**) King Mosiah has translated the records that King Limhi's people found in the land of Desolation. The people were curious about those people and what had caused their great destruction. Those records contained an account of the Jaredites, a people that had left the Tower of Babel and were led by God to this land. (**Mosiah 12:22**) King Mosiah gave the records into the care and keeping of Alma II, the young man that was struck dumb when an angel appeared unto him and his friends. (**Mosiah 13:1**)

King Mosiah asked the people who they would like to be there next king. They chose his son Aaron. Now King Mosiah had a problem, Aaron went to the land of the Lamanites and didn't desire to be king. (**Mosiah 13:5**)

King Mosiah wrote to the people. He explained that his sons didn't desire to be king and even if they did appoint another king, there could be contention later because of it. He reminded his people how quickly a wicked king could harm the righteous. How difficult it is to remove an iniquitous king from power. Instead of a king, he presented a plan to appoint judges to judge the people, by the voice of the people. (**Mosiah 13:15**) He reminded them to choose these judges in the fear of the Lord. (**Mosiah 13:41**)

King Mosiah wanted to see this land as a land of Liberty, that every man could enjoy his rights and privileges. (**Mosiah 13:45**)

After the people read King Mosiah's words they were convinced of the wisdom of this change in government. They assembled and appointed Alma II to be the Chief Judge. He was also the High Priest in the church. Alma II walked in the ways of the lord and he judged righteous judgments in the land. (**Mosiah 13:62-64**)

Review questions:

1. Where had King Mosiah's sons gone?
2. Why didn't King Mosiah give his kingdom to his sons?
3. What had Mosiah's sons decided was more important in their lives than being King of Zarahemla?
4. Why didn't Mosiah think the people should select another king?
5. How did the people choose judges?
6. Why did Mosiah think that they should choose them by the voice of the people?
7. How is a judge different from a king? By whose law did these judges govern?
8. What important job did Alma II the have now?
9. What records were turned over to him? Why was it important for a godly man to keep them?
10. If we had such judges today, where do you suppose they would find the laws to judge us by? (Scriptures)*Does the voice of the people always choose rightly?*

Activity

Have students copy on a sheet of old looking paper:

I desire this land to be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike, so long as the Lord seeth fit, that we many live and inherit the land...
King Mosiah

If children are unable to copy a long passage, print it out in a gray print for them to trace.



Kings



Judges

I desire this land to be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike, so long as the Lord seeth fit, that we many live and inherit the land...

King Mosiah