

MICAIAH TELLS THE TRUTH

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(For Bible class use only)

Lesson Text:

1 Kings 22:1-40; 2 Chron. 18:1-34; 2 Kings 6:16-18; Titus 1:2 Colossians 3:9-10; Rev. 21:8; Hebrews 4:13; James 1:23-25

Question:

What does it mean to tell truth? To tell exactly what happened.

What does it mean to tell a lie? To change the story or not tell exactly how something happened.

Storyline: Pictures 1-22 (Paraphrased)

1. Today our Bible lesson comes from the Old Testament book of **1 Kings Chapter 22.**
2. **Globe and Labeled Maps – (United and Divided Kingdoms.)** This is the land where the Israelites lived. (Show on globe 3 X's of United States, Israel, and Aram/Syria.) Our Bible lesson takes place during the time of the Minor Kings, after the Kingdom of Israel had divided and became 2 Kingdoms, known as the
 - Northern Kingdom – Israel
 - Southern Kingdom – Judah**(Show on time line)**
3. Sometimes these Kingdoms would be at war with other nations.
Map – (Locate Aram/Syria.)
Syria was one of the nations that had made war against the nation of Israel and had taken over the area of Ramoth-Gilead, **(Locate on map).**
It had been 3 years **(show #3 on paper)** since Israel and Aram/Syria had been at war.

4. It was during this 3rd year that Jehoshaphat the good King of Judah, who was also rich, went down to visit Ahab the bad King of Israel. **(Show faces)**. King Ahab did not like to listen to God very well that is what made him a bad King. Listening to God is VERY important!

(Teacher note:

#1. Jehoshaphat's son was married to Ahab's daughter. So a visit may not have been out of the ordinary. 2 Chronicles 18:1; 2 Kings 8:16-18.

#2. From Judah to Israel is going downhill so that is why Jehoshaphat went "down" to Israel.)

The Kings had just gotten done eating and talked as they wore their royal robes and sat on their thrones at the entrance of the gate of Samaria (In Israel). King Ahab said to his servants, "Do you know that Ramoth-Gilead belongs to us and we are doing nothing to take it back from the King of Aram/Syria?"

Then King Ahab of Israel asked King Jehoshaphat of Judah if he would go into battle with him at Ramoth-Gilead against the King of Aram/Syria.

*(Teacher's note: Kings in the Orient had portable thrones.) **

King Jehoshaphat said, "I am as you are. My people as your people, my horses as your horses – "YES!"

But first, please, ask the Lord if this is a good thing."

5. **Who can tell me what a prophet is?** – A prophet is someone who boldly spoke God's messages to God's people during this time. They could tell what would happen in the future. The prophets could tell the Kings if going into battle against Aram/Syria would be a good thing or not. **(Smiley faces)** Today we listen to God by reading His Words in the Bible. We think about what He said **(head)**, then feel like obeying what He said **(heart)**, and then we do what He wants us to **(hand)**.

6. So King Ahab called his prophets together. There were about 400 of them. **(Show picture of 400 stick figures.)** They were bad prophets. They knew that Ahab REALLY wanted to fight. They also knew that Ahab didn't care what God wanted or thought. Ahab didn't really want to do what was right.
7. The prophets ended up saying "Go fight!" Just to please King Ahab. **(Show prophets with words).**

(Teacher note: God was really behind the prophet's lies. He had put a deceiving spirit in their mouths. But in any case they lied. 1 Kings 22:19-22))

8. Now King Jehoshaphat WASN'T convinced that these were prophets of God and that God wanted them to go into battle. He asked. "Do you have any prophets of the Lord here that we may ask?"
9. King Ahab said, "I have one, but I don't like him. His name is Micaiah (Mie-KAY-yah). He always tells me bad messages from God, but I will send for him." **(Show name)**
10. A messenger **(Show face)** was sent to find Micaiah the prophet and when he found him he said, "Hey Micaiah, the other 400 prophets said that if King Ahab fights he will win. I think you should tell the King the same thing."
11. But Micaiah answered, **(Show face)** "I will only tell him the truth about what God tells me."
12. When Micaiah arrived he saw the 2 Kings and the 400 prophets. King Ahab asked him if they should go fight with the nation of Aram/Syria. Micaiah knew what the King WANTED to hear so he ended up telling a lie like the other prophets saying, "Go fight, you will win." **(Say this in a depressed tone and show Micaiah with word lie)** But then Ahab must have realized he was not telling the truth and told Micaiah to tell the truth.

13. **(Show truth picture of Micaiah)** So Micaiah tells the truth and again the King is disappointed with “Micaiah’s” (The Lord’s) news.
But it WAS the truth!
14. Micaiah said, “I saw the people wandering around like lost sheep without a shepherd.” **(Show shepherd picture with X)**
God said, “They have no leader. Send these people home.”
The message meant that something bad would happen to King Ahab if he went to war. He would no longer be able to lead his soldiers. (He would die.)
15. **(Show picture of Kings.)** King Ahab said, “I told you so! This one prophet **(Show face of Micaiah)** tells me nothing good about myself.” Ahab is not thinking about how the message is really from God, he just thinks Micaiah doesn’t like him.
But it was the truth. It WAS God’s message and King Ahab had asked for the truth, but did not want to believe it.
16. Micaiah told Ahab that all the other prophets had lied.
(Show prophet picture with word lied put over go fight)
17. When one of the prophets named Zedekiah heard what Micaiah said about them he became so angry he struck Micaiah on the cheek. **(Show picture)**
After hearing what Micaiah said, Zedekiah did not want to put up with being told his words were not to be trusted or good enough.
18. Then King Ahab ordered the prophet Micaiah to be put in prison. But wait Micaiah told the truth! He was put in prison for telling the truth!!
King Ahab fed Micaiah with only bread and water to eat until Ahab returned from battle in peace. **(Show prison picture)**
So the Kings are going to go out and fight. But Micaiah said, “If you return from battle, then I did not tell you the truth about God’s message.
The truth was that Ahab WOULD die in battle.
19. King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat) took their armies into battle.
(Show Ramoth-Gilead again)

Ahab didn't want the enemy to know that he was the King, so he disguised himself and took off his royal Robes and put on a soldiers uniform.

But he told King Jehoshaphat to stay in his royal robes.

(Hold up a real robe or picture of robe and picture of uniform)

20. The King of Aram/Syria told his army to only fight King Ahab, so when they saw King Jehoshaphat still wearing his robes they thought that he was King Ahab and **chased him. (Show picture)**

Well, soon they found out he wasn't King Ahab and left him alone.

21. Then a soldier shot an arrow in the air without aiming it at anyone. **(Show picture)** The arrow came down and I'd say it found its target for it hit King Ahab in the crack of his armor. King Ahab died from the wound.

(For more about King Ahab's death - Read 1 Kings 22:34-38a.)

22. The Army came home just like Micaiah the prophet had said, "Like sheep without a shepherd." **(Show shepherd picture with X)**

Their King was not with them anymore.

23. God saw the kind of man King Ahab really was. Evil.

He saw what King Ahab was trying to do. (Go into battle.)

God did send a warning to him but he did not want to listen.

(Show your ear) King Ahab should have listened to Micaiah when he warned him about God's true message.

Question: Did Micaiah do the right thing by telling the truth? Yes he did, but sometimes those who are honest end up being hurt like Micaiah. He did nothing wrong but told the truth. Can anyone tell me of someone else in the Bible who did nothing wrong but ended up being hurt? (Jesus)

* **1 Kings 22:10** [Sat each on his throne] Or, "were sitting." They had removed from the banquet (**2 Chron 18:2**) to the void place, or empty space at the entrance of the gate (**Ruth 4:1; 2 Sam 15:2**), where Ahab daily sat to hear complaints and decide causes. Each was seated upon his throne, the Oriental kings having portable thrones, which they took with them upon their journeys.

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Application:

- God always wants us to tell the truth no matter what.
- Discuss what might tempt or make someone want to lie.
 - Being afraid to tell the truth.
 - Being embarrassed to tell the truth.
 - We don't want to hurt someone's feelings.
 - Know that someone doesn't want to hear the truth.
 - How did you think they felt after telling a lie?
 - I hope we are never tempted to lie, but if we are here are some Bible verses to help us!

Colossians 3:9-10 - God tells us not to lie to each other but to tell the truth.

1 John 2:21 - ...no lie is of truth.

John 8:44 - Who is the Father of lies?

- **Honesty poster.** (God is watching us.)
(See printable file – the file includes poem, pictures and instructions.)