

Lesson 4.29 Solomon – Prayer for a Nation

Topic: Peace in a Nation

Subtopic: Prayer for a Nation

2A. Prayer and Worship

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will be able to write or say a short prayer for the peace of their nation.

Attitude: Students will know that when a nation has problems, they need to turn away from sin and pray for God’s help.

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

Optional: News articles or headlines

References: II Chronicles 7:11-22

Memory Verse: II Chronicles 7:14

Teacher Activities

Introduction: Read II Chronicles 7:13. Talk about these verses and then ask students, “Are there any national or world events similar to this that are happening right now?” You may want to share news headlines or articles as examples.

Bible Story: Tell read the Bible story.
(1) II Chronicles 7:11-14 – What things are a warning to a nation? What should people do? (2) II Chronicles 7:19-22 What happens if people do not pray? (3) If we see warnings, what do we need to do?

Application: Discuss what things you might pray for in your nation. (Do not get political.) Invite students to join you in praying for your nation. Lead them in a prayer for peace for your nation. Then have students write a prayer.

Evaluation: Did students understand that when there are problems in a nation, prayer can make a difference? Do you pray regularly for your nation?

Student Activities

Introduction: Students share national and world events.

Bible Story: Students will listen to the story and participate in a discussion.
(1) Economic problems, sickness and lack of blessings that is a warning to a nation that they need to pray (2) God may destroy the nation (3) Repent, turn from sin and pray for God’s forgiveness and mercy

Application: Students will write a prayer for their nation.

Evaluation: Were students able to write a prayer for the nation? Do students understand that prayer can change things, even on a national level?

Extension Activities: *Review Pictures.* Review the stories by having each student make a picture of one of the stories we have studied this year. Take a piece of plain paper and cut it into four pieces. Lay the pieces over one picture so it is completely covered. Then remove one piece of plain paper. See if students can guess the story. If not, remove another piece of paper. Keep removing paper until they guess correctly or the whole picture shows.

Timeline. Take the story pictures that students just made or write the names of Bible characters on strips of paper. Have the students arrange the pictures or names in chronological order. Talk about the peace circles (Lesson 4.2) and how each story relates to the circles and to the other stories. This will help them see the flow of the Old Testament story.

Optional Stories. Share the true stories at the end of the lesson. They demonstrate how God has intervened to help nations that prayed. Perhaps you know of similar events related to your own nation that you can share.

Notes for Teacher

This story emphasizes the importance of prayer for national peace and blessing. The scripture passage is short and the students may want to read it together.

Key Point: When there are problems in a nation, the people need to turn away from sin and pray. God has promised that if they will do that, He will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

Introduction: Prepare ahead of time by finding news articles or headlines that relate events like those in II Chronicles 7:11. Some examples might be drought, flood or other events that cause economic hardship; epidemics or health problems that affect many people in the nation; other problems effecting the health or safety of citizens.

Bible Story: Explain that Solomon was David's son. He and the Israelites had just built a beautiful temple for God. When they had dedicated the temple to God, a cloud of God's glory came and filled the temple. This showed that God was making the temple His dwelling place. Later God appeared to Solomon in the night. Have students read the verses and then lead the discussion using the guide below.

Have a student read II Chronicles 7:11-14. Explain that when there are economic problems, sickness and lack of blessings that is a warning to a nation that they need to pray. If they do not, what could happen?

Have someone read II Chronicles 7:19-22. Explain that if people do NOT pray, God will destroy their land. God actually destroyed Israel because they turned away from him. Many years after Solomon died; the people started worshipping idols and not obeying God's laws. God sent many warnings but the people did not listen so He allowed kings from Assyria and Babylon to come in and destroy the temple, homes and the land. They took the people away as captives to another country. The people from the northern part of Israel were never allowed to return but after 70 years as captives in Babylon the people of Judah were allowed to return to Israel and rebuild the temple. Since then the Jews have always worshipped only one God.

Have a student read II Chronicles 7:14. If we see warnings from God, what do we need to do? Turn away from our sins and pray for our nation. We can pray for peace and blessing in our nation and God says, "I will hear them in heaven, forgive their sin and make their land prosperous again."

Application: Lead students in a prayer for peace in your nation. Then have the students write a prayer for their nation in their exercise book.

Optional Stories. You may want to share some of the marvelous stories of God's protection to people and nations who pray. Here are a few examples:

Jerusalem:

Jerusalem was destroyed in A.D. 70 (see Luke 21:20-24) and there was no nation of Israel for almost 2,000 years. Then in 1948, after the Holocaust of World War II, the Jews were once again given a homeland in Israel. As soon as the Britian turned Israel over to the Jews, it was attacked by five Arab nations surrounding it. God helped the nation to survive in spite of seemingly impossible odds. Derek Prince was living in Jerusalem and he could watch some of the battles from his back yard. He tells how he saw many prayers answered in his book Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting (Whitaker House, June 2002).

Reuvon Doron, an Israeli who fought in the Seven Day War (1967), reported that he saw incredible balls of fire falling as he fought against Egypt. It caused the Egyptians to retreat. He believes these kinds of interventions were the real reason the war ended so quickly even though they were never reported in the media. (Source: Sermon by Reuvon Doron at River of Life Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.) Another story from the Seven Days War tells how soldiers came to a mine field and could not cross it because they didn't know where the mines were. Then a big wind came and blew the sand away revealing the location of each mine so the soldiers could cross the field without harm. (Source: *It's Supernatural*, DVD produced by Sid Roth).

England:

During World War II the resources of England were nearly exhausted in the battle against the German Nazi air force (Luftwaffe). A British industrialist, W. Tudor Pole, suggested that every night at 9:00 p.m. there be a Silent Moment of Prayer. In September of 1940 it seemed that the British Air Force was hopelessly outnumbered by the German planes as they attacked England but, surprisingly, the German's turned back.

When asked why the Germans turned back, several Germans gave unexpected answers that indicated the Germans saw more planes than there really were. A German pilot claimed there were hundreds of planes coming at them when there were really only two. What had the pilot seen? Similarly, a German officer asked, "Where did you get all those planes you threw into that battle?" In reality, there had only been a handful of British planes. Finally, a captured Nazi intelligence officer asked, "What was that secret weapon that came at 9:00 at the striking of the Big Ben clock each evening?" The only secret weapon at 9:00 was the Silent Moment of Prayer. (Source: The Mighty Hand of God by Katherine Pollard Carter, Impact Books, 1991. This book has many more stories of God's intervention in nations as a result of prayer.)