

WEEK 30 | SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2026

God's People Turn Away, and God Still Calls Them Back

Bible Passage: 2 Kings 17:7 to 15, Kings Overview

Big Idea: God's people repeatedly turned away from Him, but God's mercy and His promises never failed, leading all the way to Jesus.

1 MEMORY VERSE

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Lamentations 3:22 to 23

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning.

What It Means and How to Practice It

No matter how many times God's people turned away, God's kindness never ran out. Say the verse together each morning this week, since it is about mercy being new every morning, a good one for hard parenting days too.

Ask

Why do you think God's mercies are new every morning instead of just once? Suggested Answer: Because His kindness never runs out. Every day is a fresh start with Him.

2 TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

Today your child learned about roughly two hundred years of Israel's history after Solomon died, when his kingdom split into Israel in the north and Judah in the south. A pattern repeated again and again, God's people turned to false gods, God sent prophets to call them back, and sometimes a king listened while more often the pattern continued. Israel eventually fell to Assyria and Judah fell to Babylon, real consequences of generations of turning away. But God never broke His promise to David's family, a promise fulfilled perfectly in Jesus, the King who never turns away.

3 WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

This is not be good and get blessed, be bad and get punished. Its center is God's patient mercy, offered again and again, not because His people earned it but because of who He is. Turning away from God rarely happens all at once, it happens in small, repeated compromises over time, and that is exactly where His mercy meets us.

Simple Explanation

You can say, God's people did not stop loving God all at once, they drifted a little at a time, and God kept calling them back the whole way.

4 TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

Use one or two of these during dinner, bedtime, or in the car.

What happened to Solomon's kingdom after he died?

It split into two kingdoms, Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

What did God keep sending to call His people back?

Prophets, real people with real warnings.

How is Jesus different from every king in this story?

Every human king eventually failed, but Jesus never turns away and never fails.

Is there a small habit where you have noticed yourself drifting lately?

Personal reflection, encourage honesty, then pray about it together.

5 WHEN YOUR CHILD MAKES THE SAME MISTAKE

Your child keeps repeating the same mistake despite being corrected before. Resist responding only with frustration. Try saying, I see this keeps happening, and we are going to keep working on it together, God's mercy is new this morning, and so is mine. God's people repeated the same mistakes for two hundred years, and God kept offering a way back the whole time. That is the same patience Jesus offers us.

6 PRAYER TO PRAY TOGETHER

Dear Jesus, thank You for never turning away from us, even when we turn away from You. Thank You that Your mercy is new every morning. Help us come back to You quickly when we wander, and help us trust that You never give up on us. In Jesus' name, amen.

7 A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

God's own people repeated their struggles for two centuries, and His patience never ran dry. Your patience with your child, renewed morning after morning, reflects that same God who has not given up on you either.