

## OUTLINE

### Introductory Story – “What’s Most Important?”

(Visual Aids J2-L27-S1 through J2-L27-S4)

### Main Lesson

#### Jump-Start Questions

1. Waiting for the True King  
(Luke 1:32)  
(Visual Aid J2-L27-1)
2. Not a True King  
(Exodus 20:4)  
(Visual Aid J2-L27-2)
3. The Birth of the True King  
(Matthew 2:2b,3,5-6,8,13b,16)  
(Visual Aids J2-L27-3 and J2-L27-4)  
Object Lesson: “Free Access”

#### Crossing the Finish Line

### Summary

King Herod was a ruler over the land of Judea at the time Jesus was born. He was a ruthless leader. If he thought someone might present a threat to his leadership, he had them killed. He was afraid that the baby Jesus might be a threat to him, so he ordered that all Jewish boys under the age of two be killed to make sure he would kill Jesus. But Herod wasn't nearly as great as God, so the plan failed.

### Gospel Presentation

Satan and many important people throughout history have tried to ruin God's plan for mankind. But no one is as great as God, so we can be assured that His plan will prevail. We can know for sure that we will spend eternity in heaven if we trust in the finished work of the Cross. Why? Because it's God's plan, and no one is great enough to change God's plan.

### Application

Herod was ruthless and cruel because his kingship was the most important thing in his life. He destroyed anyone who got in his way. What is most important to you? If the Bible told the story of your life, would it be a story of great things done by God through you? Or would it be a story of greed, cruelty, and vengeance against your enemies?

### Memory Verse

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

**Psalm 145:3**

#### Verse Review Game - “Praise Phrases”

Review the verse several times with the class. Write the verse on the board (or on three pieces of paper) dividing the verse at the punctuation marks to make three phrases. Select three students and give them each one part of the verse. Ask each of them, “How great is God?” Have them answer with their portion of the verse. Continue with remaining students until verse and reference are recited easily.

### Lesson Theme

There is no one greater than God.

### Visual Aids

J2-L27-1 through J2-L27-4  
J2-L27-BB  
J2-L27-S1 through J2-L27-S4

### Supplies

Standard supplies  
Take Home Sheet J2-L27  
AOL disc

### Clue “Killed”

### Jump-Start Questions

1. For Whom had Israel been waiting many years?
2. How could one be considered a “true” Jew?
3. What makes a king a “true” king?
4. What was the purpose of Jesus' first coming?

Permission is given to photocopy this page as a ready reference while teaching your class or club.

# Junior Year Two – LAW

## Herod: The Ruthless Ruler



# 27

## Lesson

## LEARNING & REVIEW ACTIVITIES

### Review Question Game – “Herod’s Enemies”

Reserve a portion of the classroom to be the arena (like the arena that Herod used to lock up his prisoners). Ask the students individually the following review questions. For every incorrect answer, the student must report to the arena. For each correct answer, the student has the option of freeing all the students held in the arena (like Herod’s sister). The student must decide to free or retain all the prisoners before the next question is asked, or the option is over. Please free all of the students at the end of class!

### REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **What did God’s law say in Exodus 20:4 about worshiping graven images?** (The Jews were not to make any graven images—not in the likeness of anything in heaven, earth, or in the waters under the earth.)
2. **What did the Magi or wise men ask King Herod when they visited him?** (Where is He that is born King of the Jews?)
3. **Where did the chief priest and Jewish scribes say that the Christ was to be born?** (In Bethlehem of Judea.)
4. **What did Herod tell the wise men to do when they found the baby Jesus?** (They were to tell him where to find the baby Jesus so that he could go and worship Him also.)
5. **Name two things we learn from the Bible about lying.** (God cannot lie. Satan is the father of all lies. We are NOT to lie.)
6. **What gifts did the wise men bring to the young child, Jesus?** (Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)
7. **Both the wise men and Joseph received messages from God in a dream. What were they told to do?** (The wise men were to return home a different way and not to visit Herod. Joseph was to take Jesus and His mother and flee to Egypt because Herod wanted to kill the child.)
8. **What cruel plan did Herod invent when he discovered that the wise men went home without reporting the location of Jesus?** (He ordered all children two years old and under to be killed. He thought this would surely kill the baby that was to be King of the Jews.)
9. **True or False: Herod tried his best to destroy the true “King of the Jews,” but he could not stop God’s plan from being fulfilled.** (True)
10. **Wise men followed a star, and Herod searched to find Jesus. Today, how can we have access to God?** (Believe or trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection.)

### Object Lesson – “Free Access”

**Supplies:** An AOL disc (These are free at any office/computer supply store)

Most of you have probably seen one of these in your mailbox. This is a computer disc given away by America Online or AOL. You can get one of these free at a computer or office supply store if you haven’t received one in the mail. If I put this disc in my computer and install the program, it will allow me to have free access to the Internet and e-mail and all of the benefits of AOL membership for up to 90 days. But after that I will have to pay for access. AOL sends out these discs as an invitation to try their service.

God sends out invitations like these discs to people through faithful believers and through His Word. Every day, He is pleading through us for people to access heaven. All you have to do to access heaven is believe that Jesus died on the Cross for your sins, was buried, and rose again the third day. If you believe that Christ paid the price for your sins, you have direct access to God and can enjoy all the benefits of salvation and heaven for free! After 90 days, this access is **still** free. In fact, Christ paid for everyone to have free access FOREVER. Have you trusted Christ? Do you have access to God? Or have you discarded your invitation like you would an AOL disc?

## REVIEW LAST WEEK'S LESSON

In our last lesson, we learned about an ordinary orphan girl turned extraordinary queen! Do you remember her name? That’s right, it was Esther, the niece of Mordecai. King Ahasuerus dethroned his queen, Vashti, because she would not parade her beauty in front of his guests. Beautiful women from around the kingdom were brought into the castle to audition for the job of queen.

The king loved Esther more than all the other women and chose her to be queen of Persia. Esther’s uncle, Mordecai, was a gatekeeper at the king’s court, but neither Esther or Mordecai told anyone that they were related. The king’s right-hand man, Hamaan, was a conceited snob. He insisted that everyone who worked at the court must bow to him. But Mordecai would not bow to him, and it angered Hamaan greatly. So Hamaan plotted to kill Mordecai by killing all of the Jews in the kingdom. He presented his devious plan to the king in a way that made the king think that he would gain lots of money while eliminating evil-doers. The king agreed to the plan, not knowing that his queen, Esther, was a Jew. According to the plan, Esther, Mordecai, and all of the Jews would be killed.

Esther was in a position to do something to save herself and her people, but she was afraid to approach the king because she could be killed. Esther prayed and was brave and approached the king. He ordered Hamaan and his ten sons to be hanged! He could not change the law he had made, but the king made a new law that the Jews could defend themselves. God used Esther to save His people!

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