

## LIFE OF ASA

**Scripture:** II Chronicles 14-16

**Materials Needed:**

**Memory Verse:** II Chron. 16:9 *The eyes of the Lord range throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*

**Objectives:** As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When Asa wholeheartedly sought the Lord by cleaning up the land of idolatry and calling out to Him when facing the massive Ethiopian army, God strongly supported him, but when he relied on his own understanding by seeking the king of Syria to remove the threat of Israel and by seeking the physicians to cure his foot disease, his life ended in spiritual ruin.

To Realize--that when they wholeheartedly seek the Lord by doing what is pleasing to Him and calling to Him in times of trouble, God will support him, but when they rely on their own understanding in times of trouble, their life will end in eventual spiritual ruin.

To Respond: by seeking the Lord in every situation and not relying on their own understanding to solve the problems they face.

### Setting up the Story:

I like August because I'm a huge football fan, and August is the start of the pre-season. And this year is going to be interesting to see what Lou Holtz can do with the Gamecocks. What has been the Gamecocks biggest problem? They have had a hard time finishing in the second quarter. They have led in many games at the half but then lost it in the second quarter. And then it will be interesting to see what happens in Clemson this year with Brad Scott as offensive coordinator.

What I would like to do this morning, is to look at a person in the Bible and look at his life as a football game. I've really thought about this, and I've made it simple enough so that even you non-football fans can follow. Turn to II Chronicles 14. Who is the man? Someone tell me who Asa is--who is his grandfather, great-grandfather?

Scripture

### Telling the story:

I. Asa wholeheartedly seeks the Lord

- A. First quarter: First ten years  
1. Land has peace

### As you tell the story:

Background on Asa's father.

(Taken some cities of Israel; secured peace treaty with Syria.)

Look up I Kings 15:10 and tell me How long did Asa reign? (41 years) this is really convenient

2. God's gameplan: seek me

3. Asa reforms Judah

\*removes foreign altars

\*tears down high places

\*cuts down Asherim

\*commands Judah to **seek the**

**Lord**

\*builds and fortifies key cities

B. Second quarter: War with the Ethiopians

1. Ethiopian army of 1,000,000 come to Mareshah.

2. God's gameplan: seek God

3. Asa calls out to God

\*We are helpless

\*we trust in you and are

coming in your name.

**C. Half-time report: by Azariah**

1. "Be strong and do not loose heart"

2. Asa institutes more reforms:

\*all idols

\*repairs bronze altar

\*removed Maacah and burned her idol

\*brought dedicated things into God's house.

II. Asa relies on his own understanding

A. Third quarter: Threat from Israel

1. Baasha fortifies Ramah.

2. God's Gameplan: seek me

3. Asa turns to King of Syria for help

\*gives money from temple

\*makes a treaty

\*Baasha withdraws

because we are going to divide his life into four quarters.

(Probably about 10-12 when he starts to reign.)

What does God want from Asa?

(To follow him.) We are going to call this the Gameplan.

Let's see what Asa does.

Read vs.4

Then in the **15th year**--which quarter are we in?--there is the threat from a massive army.

Look in vs. 9

Read 15:2

Let's see what Asa does.

15:7

"What does Asa have to do in the second half to win this game?"

OK--let's go back to the game.

In the **25th year**--which quarter?--there is the threat from Israel.

Yeah--the threat is gone. How did Asa do?

What does his coach think about what He did?

Vs. 16:7-9 Why was his coach telling him this?

B. Fourth quarter: Disease in feet  
1. Severe disease  
2. God's gameplan: seek me  
3. Asa turns to physicians for help

C. Post-game wrap-up: by Hanani  
1. Asa relied on own understanding  
2. Figured out how to handle things himself

Let's see if Asa is able to make adjustments in the fourth quarter. **It's the 39th year.**

Hanani, you saw Asa seek the Lord from the beginning. Things were looking so good at the halftime. What is your opinion of what happened in the second half?

### **Concluding the Story:**

How do you feel when your team has been leading in half, they fall behind in the third quarter and then they don't pull it out in the fourth quarter? You leave the stadium and there's this down feeling. But the purpose of this lesson is not to leave here with a down feeling about Asa.

I want you to divide your life into four quarters. We don't know how long each of you is going to live, so we are going to make each life here last 60 years, just for convenience. Which quarter are you in? First quarter. What is God's gameplan for you? "Seek Him with your whole heart." In which kind of situations: just the big helpless situations? What is it that will keep us from winning the game? What was it for Asa. He stopped seeking, but what did he rely on instead? His own understanding. **The moment you and I start figuring our problems out for ourselves, and we stop seeking the Lord--even in the little things--we are setting ourselves up to end in spiritual ruin.** How is your life going to end up?