

# JEHOSHAPHAT

**Scripture:**

**Materials Needed:**

**Memory Verse:** *I Corinthians 15:33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

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

**To Know—** Even though Jehoshaphat kept bad company by allying himself with Ahab through marriage, going to war with him, and making a fleet of ships with Ahaziah, he never turned away from seeking God. However, his choice to love what God hated resulted in the spiritual devastation of his country after he died.

**To Realize—** Even if one may keep bad company and never personally turn away from God, his choices to love what God hates will still result in spiritual devastation for those upon whom he has an influence.

**To Respond by—** by choosing to avoid company with what God hates because even if they don't see the effects in their own life, others will still be affected by their actions.

## Setting up the Story:

Write on the board: "Bad Company Corrupts Good Morals" Ask if they agree or disagree and give time for them to share rationale.

I have another question for you: ***If*** bad company didn't corrupt good morals (let's say a person got away without being corrupted), would it be okay to hang around bad company? (play Devil's Advocate here—if they say, "It would still not be good" ask "But why? You're not getting hurt. You're still doing what is right." There actually is an answer to that why question in today's lesson:

Scripture

### Telling the story:

I. Jehoshaphat Keeps Bad Company

- A. Son to Ahab's daughter
- B. Allies In war
- C. Makes Fleet of ships

II. Jehoshaphat doesn't turn away from God

- A. Reforms Judah
- B. Asks for God's direction

### As you tell the story:

Description of Ahab. I Kings 16:29-33

Description of Jehoshaphat II Chron. 17:3-6

II Chron. 18:1-

vs. 2-3 Ahab dies as a result of this battle, son becomes king

II Chron. 20:35-36

Okay, we've seen the company Jehoshaphat has chosen to keep. Based on the verse, I want you to tell me what you think his spiritual condition is going to look like. What is he going to be like morally?

II Chron. 17:7-9

<p>C. Calls out to God in battle D. Reforms again</p>	<p>II Chron. 18:4-6 vs. 18:31 II Chron. 19:7 II Chron. 20:3-4</p>
<p>E. Calls out in battle again</p>	<p>So what's the point? How is it that the Bible can say that bad company corrupts good morals, but then show us an example like Jehoshaphat where it didn't seem to corrupt his morals? The reason I picked Jehoshaphat--most popular choice of my high school students for this reason. What's wrong with this picture?</p>
<p>III. Jehoshaphat's Choices Result in Spiritual Devastation</p> <p>A. God is not pleased B. Jehoram slaughters other sons C . Baal worship instituted D. Ahaziah slaughtered in Samaria E. Athaliah (Jezebel's daughter rules the country)</p>	<p>II Chron. 19:1-2 Jehoram reigns eight years</p> <p>Ahaziah reigns 1 year</p> <p>Athaliah reigns 7 years II Chron. 22:10ff</p>

### Concluding the Story:

Does bad company corrupt good morals? (Yes) Is Jehoshaphat the exception or the norm? Jehoshaphat is the exception that the bad company didn't corrupt HIS good morals. **But** he didn't escape the truth. It destroyed his country spiritually because he was so influential. Others were watching him. Others were following his lead. They were corrupted because of his bad company.

Let's say you keep bad company through friends, music, or movies. There are people you love listening to, watching, or being with that God would hate. And let's suppose that you are the exception like Jehoshaphat and somehow it doesn't pull you away from the Lord like it would most people. What is still the problem? You are still influencing others. Like who?

Brothers, sisters. Others in Sunday School. Others in school. Younger kids. The movies that I have watched that have been stumbling blocks in my spiritual life have with I think one exception, been recommended by other Christians who for one reason or another seemed to not be bothered by it at all. Their bad company probably affected them, but I know it has affected me.

Close in prayer not to choose to keep company with those God hates.