

# Joash and the People Bring Their Offerings to God

## Overview



### Materials You'll Need

- clear plastic cups
- tissue paper
- scissors
- craft glue
- paper plates
- cotton swabs or craft sticks
- construction paper
- markers or crayons



### Scriptures

2 Chron 24:1-14

### Bible Truth Objective(s)

We show love and honor to God when we offer our gifts to Him

### Behavioral Objective(s)

To offer to God on a regular and consistent basis

### Memory Verse

"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:7)



## Bible Knowledge

### Baal Worship

Rehoboam (930-913 BC), the first king of Judah, greatly increased Baal worship. Baal was a god of the Canaanites and was worshiped as a god of fertility. Many generations later, when Ahaziah became king (841 BC; he was king for only one year), he also zealously worshiped Baal. After Ahaziah's death, his evil mother Athaliah seized the throne and fanatically promoted Baal worship. Her followers even took treasures from God's temple and put them in a temple honoring Baal.

Athaliah massacred her own grandsons, including Ahaziah's sons, so they could not take the throne from her. But Jehosheba, a sister of Ahaziah, rescued the infant prince, Joash. Jehosheba and her husband Jehoiada, the high priest, hid Joash in the temple for about six years (2 Kgs 11:3).

### King Joash

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada drew civil and military leaders of the nation into a pact to protect the rightful king (2 Chron 23:1-3). After Joash received the crown of David, the wicked

queen Athaliah was overthrown and killed.

Joash ruled for forty years (835-796 BC). As long as his uncle Jehoiada lived, the young king remained faithful to God and did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. At the end of his reign, however, he forgot about God and even killed the son of Jehoiada. In the end, Joash was assassinated (2 Chron 24:17-26).

### Offerings

2 Kings 12:4 refers to money brought to the temple as dedicated gifts. This collection was derived from three kinds of offerings: money collected in the census (at the age of twenty, Israelite youths were required to register for military service and to make an offering of half a shekel), money given as part of a personal vow (these were promises an individual made to God beyond the required tithing; see Lev 27:1-1-25), and money brought voluntarily to the temple (a freewill offering; see Lev 22:18-23).

Apparently, the priests did not take this money out to repair the temple. Later, the priests agreed not to take any more money from the people but would still keep what had been given to them already as their due (2 Kgs 12:8).



## Understanding Your Students

Most young children enjoy putting money in the offering box. Many of them will actually remind their parents that they need some money before class. So they understand the routine of offering and do so quite willingly. Unfortunately, they probably don't understand the meaning of offering very well. We need to explain to them that everything we have comes from God. They often see their parents buying food and clothing, and don't realize that it's God who ultimately provides for all of our needs.

We can also help them see concretely how the money that is offered is being used. Let them know how the money is used to help others who may be in need. Talk about how much supplies cost. Let the stu-

dents know that they help pay for these items with their offering money. And most of all, let them know that offering makes God happy. It is a part of worship. In today's lesson, the people were moved to offer what they could to rebuild God's temple. Encourage the students with this example so that they may develop the habit of tithing.

If the class doesn't have an offering box or the current one is in need of repair, this would be an excellent time to create a new one. By involving the students, it can make the experience of tithing even more personal. After putting the offering box together, remind the students of the routine of offering (e.g. students walk into class single-file, put their money into the offering box, and sit down at their seats to wait for class to begin). Whatever the class routine is like, they should be reminded that offering to God is orderly and respectful.



## Vocabulary

### Prophet

a worker and messenger of God; he tells others what God wants them to hear

### Repair

to fix something

### Offer

to give something to another person

### Tithe

to give a tenth (or a part) of our money to God



## Before You Teach

In today's lesson, King Joash ordered the priests to repair the temple because it had fallen into disrepair over the years. When they failed to do so right away, Joash took matters into his own hands. He decided that the offering received from that point on would be used for temple repairs. So a chest, similar to that of our offering box today, was placed beside the altar in the temple so that the people could tithe. When the people realized their money would be used for temple repairs, they gave generously. In the end, the temple was restored.

We can learn a number of lessons from Joash. First, Joash understood that God's temple was an important place of worship. Even though Queen Athaliah was dead, the influence of her Baal worship could still be felt. People continued to offer sacrifices to idols at the high places (2 Kgs 12:3). In order to encourage the people to turn back to God,

the temple needed to be repaired so that there would be a place to worship in.

But when Joash did not see the priests doing the needed work, he encouraged the people to offer what they could by placing a free-will offering box by the altar. That way, the priests would not be put into a financial bind. Joash took immediate action to solve the problem but was also sensitive to the needs of all the people involved.

Once enough money was collected, the jobs were divided accordingly so that each person could do what they were skilled at. The money due to each worker was also paid out in full. Thus, the people worked happily and did their best.

Joash knew it would take a lot of work to restore the temple. Instead of relying on someone else or just procrastinating, he took practical measures to ensure that the temple would be repaired. Through his actions, he demonstrated his willingness to offer his best to God and to put Him first, which are the real purposes behind tithing.



## Bible Story

### **Giving and Receiving Gifts**

Have you ever given or received a gift before? (Let students respond.) How does it make you feel when someone gives you a gift? It usually makes you feel special. When you give gifts to others, it shows that you like those people.

We often think of giving people presents on birthdays or special occasions. We do it because we love them and want to make them feel special. But did you know you can give gifts to God as well? Have you thought about how God feels when we give Him gifts? He feels special too. Giving gifts to God shows that we love Him. One of the ways we can give a gift to God is by offering money in church. Our Bible story today talks about some people who gave gifts to God.

In the last lesson, we learned about two kings who wanted to go to war. Do you remember their names? They were King Ahab and King Jehoshaphat. They wanted to ask God first to see if they would win. 400 false prophets told the kings they should go because they would definitely win. But King Jehoshaphat wasn't sure they were telling the truth. He wanted to ask a true prophet of God. So King Ahab asked Micaiah. Micaiah told the truth and said that they would lose, and King Ahab would die because of this battle. The kings did not listen and went to war anyway. In the end, King Ahab was shot by an arrow and died later that day. Micaiah told the truth even though it was hard. 400 other prophets said something else. It would have been easier to say the same thing as they did. It is hard to be different sometimes. But Micaiah knew he had to tell the truth no matter what. That is what God wants all of us to do. Today, the story continues with a different king. He was the great-grandson of King Jehoshaphat, and the king of Judah.

### **A Seven Year Old King**

Have you ever heard of anyone who became king when he was only seven years old? (They will probably answer "No.") When we think of a king, we usually think of a grown-up, one who is old enough to make decisions.

But once there was a king who was only seven

years old. His name was Joash. When he was still only a baby, he had a wicked grandmother, called Athaliah, who wanted to kill him. She wanted to kill him as well as all of his brothers so she could become queen. She did kill all of the brothers but God protected baby Joash. His aunt and uncle took him and hid him in God's temple. His uncle was the high priest. That means his job was to look after the people who came to worship God in the temple. So for the next seven years, Joash was kept safe in the temple, while his grandmother became the queen. She was not a good queen because she did not worship God. She told the people to worship idols instead. Joash's uncle, Jehoiada, knew it was bad for the people to keep following Queen Athaliah. So when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada knew it was the right time to make Joash king.

One day, the high priest gathered many people in the land and told them that Joash, who was supposed to be the real king, was alive. The people were glad Joash was not dead. So they crowned him the king of Judah. When Athaliah found out, she was mad. But since the people knew they had the real king now, the soldiers took her and killed her.

After Joash was made king, he tried to do all the things God wanted him to do. Since he was so young, he listened to the grown-ups around him. But soon Joash grew up, and he still wanted to be a good, and wise king. Joash loved God very much.

### **Joash Repairs the Temple**

One day King Joash noticed that the temple needed some repairs. The temple was the big building where everyone worshiped God. The temple was getting old and had not been properly looked after for many, many years. What parts of the temple might have needed repairs? (Allow students to brainstorm. This would be a good time to share a bit on what the temple looked like). Maybe the temple steps and the pillars were cracked and broken. The floor was probably also worn out from where many people had walked for over a hundred years. When Solomon built it over a hundred years ago, it was a beautiful building. Now, it was old and cracked. This was not the way the temple should look! Joash also saw that there were things missing inside the temple. The gold and silver pans and dishes were missing because his wicked grandmother had stolen them from God. Joash made up his mind: he was

going to fix the steps and the pillars; he was going to mend the floor; he was going to replace the things his wicked grandmother had stolen from God. He wanted to make the temple look like new again. God's house had to be looked after. Joash was going to make the temple a beautiful and safe place to worship God.

How was Joash going to do this? He knew that he needed a lot of people to help out because the temple was big and needed a lot of work.

Joash probably thought to himself, "We need people who are good at building and fixing things. We will need to pay builders to help fix the temple. We will need a lot of gold and silver to make new pans and dishes. There's a lot of work to do but I'm sure there will be people who will want to help out. There are lots of people who love God and who will want to offer their gifts to God."

Joash decided to ask the people to offer a gift to God. That way, Joash could pay for builders to fix the temple and make new pans and dishes.

### **Many People Bring Their Offerings**

Joash commanded an offering box be placed at the temple. He had messengers tell the people to bring their gifts so that God's house could be fixed.

Soon people came from everywhere to put an offering in the big box. Some people were rich and put in a lot of money. Some people did not have as much money and they gave less. But everyone gave

money to God because they loved God. God was happy with the offerings that the people had brought, whether it was a lot or a little. God was pleased with everyone because they gave their money happily. And do you know what? The people brought so many gifts that the box had to be emptied every day.

Soon there was enough money to fix everything. Joash and the high priest called the workers together. The workers brought their tools and got to work. They hammered and sawed. They cut and chiseled. Soon the steps and the pillars were fixed. The floor looked just like new again. With the leftover money, the workers made new pans and dishes that were used in God's house.

Now the temple was made beautiful again. The people were happy to come to worship God in a beautiful building. They were glad they brought their offerings to help. And God was happier still because He knew His people offered their gifts because they loved Him.

Today, we can be like the people during the time of King Joash. We can offer our money by giving tithes. That means we give a part of our money to God. If we don't have a lot of money, or any money, we can still offer gifts to God. We can offer our time and effort by cleaning the class and returning Bibles to the shelves. We can offer our prayers to God too. These are all beautiful gifts to God. These are all ways we can show God we love Him.



### Check For Understanding

- 1. Who was the ruler of Judah when Joash was just a baby?** (His wicked grandmother.)
- 2. Who kept Joash safe in the temple until he was old enough to become the king?** (His aunt and his uncle, who was also the high priest.)
- 3. How old was Joash when he became king?** (He was seven years old.)
- 4. What was old and needed repairs?** (The temple.)

- 5. How did Joash collect the money that was needed to repair the temple?** (The people put money in an offering box by the temple.)
- 6. What does offering money to God show?** (It shows we love Him.)
- 7. Was there a little or a lot of money in the offering box?** (There was a lot of money.)
- 8. After the people offered their money, what did King Joash do?** (He called workers to fix the temple.)
- 9. What was the temple like after it was fixed?** (The temple was beautiful again and the people came to worship God.)





## Life Application Story

### A Gift for God

It was Sunday afternoon, and Julie Lewis was at the supermarket with her mom. They were doing their regular weekend grocery shopping. But on this particular Sunday, Julie was especially excited. Her mom had promised that she could use the money she had saved up for a small toy. She looked around at the toy section for a long time. Her mom was down the aisle looking at the magazines. There were just so many things to choose from. There were toys of different colors. Some made sounds and some lighted up. It was a very hard decision to make.

As Julie was thinking about what to pick, someone tapped her on the shoulder. She turned around and expected to see her mom. But instead, it was Nicole.

"Hi Nicole, are you buying something?" asked Julie.

"Yes, we ran out of eggs and I came to get some. My mom wants to bake some cookies today," replied Nicole.

"I am trying to decide what to buy. My mom said I could spend my money on something from here," said Julie excitedly.

"Well, have you picked something out?"

"No, I can't decide," said Julie.

"Maybe I can help you. How much money do you have?" asked Nicole.

"I have ten dollars."

"Well, how about this glitter sticker set? It's five dollars," suggested Nicole.

"That means I will have five dollars left, right? What else should I buy?"

Nicole thought for a minute. "Well, you could pick something else out that is close to five dollars... or you could give a part of that money to God," said Nicole.

"Give it to God?" asked Julie.

"Yes, it is called tithing. That means we give a part of our money to God. It helps the church buy the things it needs so God's house can grow," explained Nicole.

"Oh, I do that at class time. But usually, my parents give me some money before class."

"That's also offering to God. But when you are

willing to offer to God the money you saved up, it shows that you really care about Him. Usually when I save up money, I make sure I give some of it to God," said Nicole.

"Does that mean I need to give Him the rest of my five dollars?" asked Julie.

"No, when we give to God, it doesn't matter how much or how little. What matters is that when we give our money to God, we are happy about it. We don't feel sad that we gave our money or wished we had used it to buy a toy instead," Nicole said.

"Okay. I think I will give some of my money when I go to church next week. I want God to know that I care about Him and His house," said Julie.

Just as Julie finished saying that, Mrs. Lewis walked up.

"Hi Nicole. I thought it was you," Mrs. Lewis said.

"Hi Mrs. Lewis. I was just about to go and get some eggs. I will see you later," said Nicole as she headed to the dairy section.

"Well, what were you two talking about just now?" asked Mrs. Lewis.

"We were talking about giving gifts to God," explained Julie.

"Oh, that's interesting."

"Yes, and I have decided to buy this sticker set, Mom," Julie said. "Then I will give some of what is left over to God as my gift."

"I am very proud of you for thinking about God. And I am sure God is happy you are thinking about Him too," Mrs. Lewis said as they walked to the checkout.

### Questions to Think About

1. **Have you given your money to God before?** (Allow students to answer.)
2. **How does it make you feel when you offer your money to God?** (Allow students to answer.)
3. **Why do we tithe or offer a part of our money to God?** (Allow students to share. We tithe because it is God's command. We also tithe because we want to show God we love Him and His house, the church. The church needs to buy many things (e.g. food, classroom supplies, Bibles, etc) and we give money to help the church grow.)



## Activity 1

### King Joash Repairs the Temple

Put the pictures in order. Which one happened first?

1. Joash is hidden as a baby.
2. Joash is crowned king when he is seven years old.
3. The people offer their money to repair the temple.
4. Joash repairs the temple with the help of the people.



## Activity 2

### What Can We Offer?

Look at each picture. What are the people offering to God? Connect the picture to the right words.

1. Money.
2. Best work.
3. Voices.
4. Prayer.



## Activity 3

### Cups of Offerings

#### Materials:

1. clear plastic cups
2. tissue paper, assorted colors
3. craft glue
4. scissors
5. paper plates
6. cotton swabs or small craft sticks
7. construction paper
8. markers or crayons

#### Directions:

1. Cut tissue paper into 1- to 2-inch squares.
2. Pour the glue onto several paper plates so that the students do not have to reach over.
3. Provide each student with a cotton swab or craft stick, and one clear plastic cup. Have them spread glue on the outside of their cups with the swab or stick.
4. Help them press the tissue scraps to the glue to create a stained-glass effect.

5. Set the cups aside for drying.
6. Provide each student with three strips of construction paper (one by four inch strips).
7. Brainstorm ways the students can offer to God (e.g. they can offer a prayer, they can try their best at school, they can offer tithe, they can offer time by reading the Bible, etc).
8. Help the students pick three and write and/or draw those offerings on the strips of paper.
9. Have the students fold their papers so that they will fit into their offering cup.
10. Ask students to take their cups home. They can draw a piece of paper out each week to remind them of the things they can offer to God.

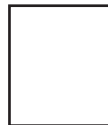
Activity 3:1

### King Joash Repairs the Temple

Put the pictures in the right order. Which one happened first?



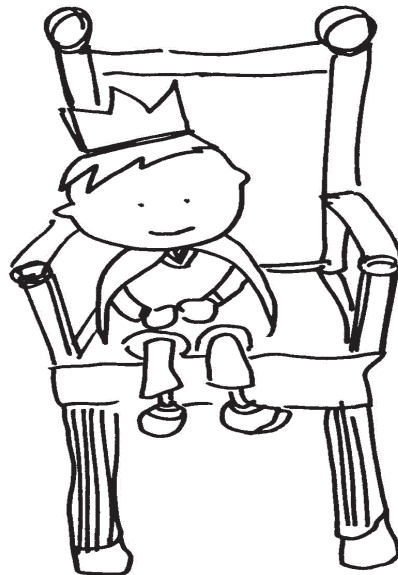
Joash is hidden as a baby.



Joash repairs the temple with the help of the people.



The people offer their money to repair the temple.



Joash is crowned king when he is seven years old.

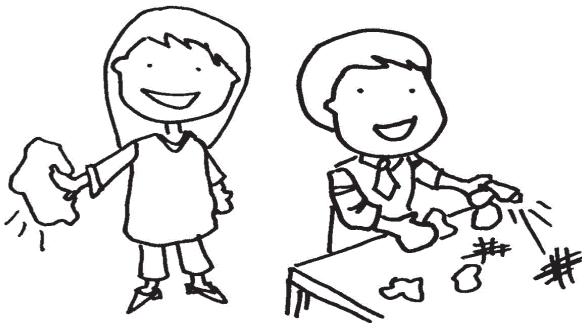
Activity 3:2

### What Can We Offer?

Look at each picture. What are the people offering to God?  
Connect the picture to the right words.



\*  
BEST  
WORK



\*  
MONEY



\*  
PRAYER



\*  
VOICES