

The Lost Scroll

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- no extra materials are needed for this lesson



Scriptures

2 Kgs 22:1-13; 23:1-3

Bible Truth Objective(s)

The word of God is our guide for daily living

Behavioral Objective(s)

Students should say with confidence that the Bible tells us how God wants us to live

Memory Verse

"Lead me in Your truth and teach me."
(Ps 25:5)



Bible Knowledge

Josiah

Two of Judah's worst kings were Manasseh and his son Amon. They worshiped idols and did evil in the sight of the Lord. Amon was king for only two years before he was assassinated by his servants (2 Kgs 21:10-23). At the tender age of eight, Josiah succeeded his father Amon to the throne. His reign lasted for thirty-one years (2 Kgs 22:1).

Unlike his father, Josiah sought vigorous religious reform among his people, trying to eliminate idol worship that had crept time and again into the lives of the Israelites. 2 Chronicles 34:3-7 records how Josiah began to seek God when he was only sixteen, and how he initiated a religious purge when he was around twenty years old. The purge included the tearing down of the high places and the breaking of the altars to Baal.

At the age of twenty-six, Josiah began repairing the temple, which had deteriorated greatly. During the renovation of the temple, the priest Hilkiah came across a long forgotten copy of the

law. Most scholars believe that this valuable section of the Bible included a prophecy like that in Deuteronomy chapter 5-26 or 12-26 and may have been a temple copy of the Pentateuch.

Hilkiah gave this scroll to Shaphan, the scribe who then read it to King Josiah. Once he heard the words of God, Josiah tore his clothes, a sign of grief and repentance. Josiah humbled himself before God and immediately asked Hilkiah to inquire of the Lord. He knew that his father and grandfather had not honored God, and was afraid the calamity described would fall upon the people. Because of Josiah's sincere heart, God assured him that the destruction would not happen during his lifetime (2 Kgs 22:20).

Josiah ordered all of Israel to hear these words from God. The reading affected the people, and a sweeping assault was begun upon idolatry in the nation.

The Bible does not record anything more about the life of Josiah until his death in battle. Although Josiah was only thirty-nine when he died, he was mourned throughout the land, and was remembered as one of Judah's greatest kings (2 Kgs 23:25).



Understanding Your Students

Your students are just beginning to learn how to read, so it will be helpful to provide them with an enthusiastic and nurturing attitude towards reading and the reading of the Bible. Whenever possible, have story pictures with short, easy-to-read captions below that explain the events in the Bible. You may wish to pick out sight words for the students to learn. These are high frequency words found in the Bible. The students can learn to read these words if they are presented to them on a regular basis. Some of these words include: God, Bible, Jesus, Holy Spirit, pray, save, and miracle. Post these important words around the room and review them every so often. Don't be discouraged if the students can't sound out the words. Many of them are still too young to use phonics. Although the

students may not be able to really read them in the beginning, over time they will be able to learn how to say the words by just seeing them, if they are reviewed consistently.

Inform the students that there are plenty of age-appropriate story Bibles that they can read from. Bring in a variety of children's Bibles for the lessons so that the students are exposed to them. You may wish to set aside time for them to explore the picture stories, too. Young students make much better connections to the stories when they have a picture to look at. Some of the students may not own any of these picture books at home. If the church or class has the budget, set up a library whereby the students can take turns bringing a picture Bible home for a week to read. Then they can be encouraged to read the words of God with their family. Ensure that they are brought back to class in a timely fashion. This will also promote responsibility among the students.



Vocabulary

Treasure

something very special

Altar

a place where people offer sacrifices to God

Scroll

a piece of writing on long paper that was rolled up around two sticks



Before You Teach

We know that the Bible is God-inspired. "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet 1:21). Though its many chapters were penned by various writers, all were moved by the Spirit of God. We can trust that the words are reliable and authentic. Why did God leave us such a book?

2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration from God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." First, the Bible is the source of all truth. It gives us God's commands and reveals who He is. It helps us come to

know our purpose in this world, which is to glorify our heavenly Father.

The Bible is also our road map. It can answer our questions about faith as well as address the more practical aspects of everyday life. It can give us wisdom and lead us on the path of righteousness. Without God-given wisdom, it is hard to live in this world and have a clear sense of who we are and what we stand for. God's words can help us understand what is right and what is wrong.

Finally, God left us His words so that our faith can be strengthened and lead us to ultimately do His holy work. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded His followers to preach to the ends of the world. Today, we have the same commission.

Let us allow the God-inspired words of the Bible to encourage us as we live our life and do His will.



Bible Story

The Bible Is a Treasure

Before class, hide some things that the students can search for around the room (e.g. a pretty pencil, a toy, some treats). Make sure there are enough items so that each student can find one treasure. Tell the students that there is treasure hidden in the room. Ask them some of the places they might look in if they lost something (under things, inside things, behind things, etc.) Don't tell them what the treasure is, but tell them to look for what they think the treasure is and return to their seats with it. When all the children have returned, talk about their chosen treasure. Talk about why they think what they found is a treasure to them.

God's words are also a very valuable treasure. Where do we find God's words and stories? In the Bible. All the stories that we hear about in class are from this book (hold up a Bible)! The Bible is a special gift to us from God. It is full of stories that help us know how God wants us to live.

These books all look different, don't they? (Bring in a variety of children's Bibles and Bible story-books, especially those with large, colorful pictures. Encourage your students to leaf through them, commenting on any pictures they may recognize. Also include adult Bibles for your students to handle.) Some are big. Some are small. Some have pictures. But do you know what? They all say the same thing. They all tell us about God. They all have the same true stories inside. Do you have a Bible at home? (Allow students to respond.) The Bible is different from all the other books we read. It is a special book that God has given us to show us that He loves us. There is no other book like the Bible. Today, we are going to hear a story about someone who read the Bible and did something special after.

King Josiah Becomes the King

In our last lesson, we learned about a king who praised God with music. His name was Hezekiah. He cleaned the temple and told the people to come worship God with instruments and singing. It must have been a really happy time. But after King Hezekiah died, the next two kings did not love God at all. They did not take care of the temple and worshiped idols instead. They forgot all the rules that God had given

them. But after these two kings died, the next king loved God very much. This king's name was Josiah. He became the king of Judah when he was only eight years old!

King Josiah Repairs the Temple

Even though Josiah was young, he loved God. He spent his early years learning about God. When he was around twenty years old, he took down all the altars to the idols. He wanted everybody to love God. When he was twenty-six years old, he wanted the people to come back to the temple to worship God. Because many people didn't come to worship God at the temple anymore, it became very dirty. When King Josiah saw how dirty and broken the temple was, this made him sad. He wanted to fix it. He wanted to clean it up and repair it, but he was going to need help. So King Josiah told everybody to bring money to buy wood and stone to repair the temple. The people would clean out the temple and make it beautiful again. When the people saw how much Josiah loved God, they were happy to offer their money. People came to repair the walls and the steps. Other workers came and cleaned out the temple.

A Scroll Is Found

One day, as the people were cleaning the temple, the priest found a very old book that had been lost for many years. It was not the same kind of book as we have today. It was rolled up around two sticks. It was called a scroll (bring a small scale model scroll to show the children). When the priest looked closely at it, he saw that there were words written on the scroll! He knew he had found something really special.

"What have I found?" the priest must have thought. He was very excited and the scroll was brought to King Josiah.

King Josiah had never seen this book. He must have been excited too. He asked his helper to read it to him. He listened very carefully. Can you guess what was written in this old book? (Allow students to respond.) As King Josiah listened, he knew it was God's word. It had rules in it—the rules God had given to His people a long time ago!

As the king listened to God's word, he knew that he and his people had not been obeying God's rules. This made King Josiah very sad. He was so sad that he cried. He knew God was sad because for

many years the people had not been following Him.

King Josiah Reads God's Words to the People

King Josiah knew what he had to do!

"I must read God's word to the people," he thought to himself. So the king called everyone to come to the beautiful temple. All the people, young and old, gathered at the temple. Then the people listened to God's word. They were so glad to hear the king read it to them.

When King Josiah finished reading the book, he and all the people made a promise to God. Do you know what they promised? They promised to obey God. They promised to do everything God told them to do. The king and the people were happy to obey because they knew it was the right thing to do. For many years, the other kings and people had forgotten about God and His commands. But now, after hearing God's words once again, they knew they

wanted to do what made God happy. God was pleased that His people loved Him and wanted to follow His rules.

We Should Read God's Words

Today, we don't have to look at long pieces of paper wrapped around sticks to read God's words. We have the Bible. As we saw at the beginning of class, not all Bibles look the same. There are ones with just words in them. They are for grown-ups and good readers. Even though many of you cannot really read yet, you can still read the Bible. There are Bibles for children like you. They have a lot of pictures to help you understand the stories. They also have some simple sentences on each page so that you can read the story. We are not too young to learn the words of God. When we learn about God's stories, we will love God even more, just like King Josiah.



Check For Understanding

1. **How old was Josiah when he became king?** (He was only eight years old.)
2. **When King Josiah saw how dirty and broken the temple was, how did he feel?** (He felt very sad.)
3. **How did he repair the temple?** (He asked the people to offer money so the workers could buy wood and stone to repair the temple.)
4. **While the people were repairing the temple, what did the priest find?** (He found an

old book called a scroll.)

5. **While the scroll was being read to King Josiah, was he sad or happy?** (The king was sad because he knew the people were not following God's commands.)
6. **What did the king decide to do?** (He decided to ask the people to listen to God's word.)
7. **What did the people do after they heard God's word?** (They promised to obey God.)
8. **Do you read the Bible at home?** (Allow students to answer. If they do not, encourage them to, possibly by supplying them with children's Bibles they can borrow.)



Life Application Story

A Very Special Book

Ding dong! The doorbell rang. Ben rushed down the stairs to open the door because he knew who it was. It was Josh, one of his best friends from

school. Josh was going to church with his family today. He was going to learn about God.

"We're not going to leave for another ten minutes," Ben said. "Do you want to come to my room first? I still need to get ready for church!"

"Sure," Josh said.

They went upstairs to Ben's room. Josh looked around. Ben had decorated his room with all his

favorite things. He walked over to the bookshelf and saw a lot of cards and models.

"Who made these?" Josh asked Ben.

Ben said, "Oh! Those are all the things I made at church during class. This is the poster we made last week about the lost sheep and this is a clay model we made about the Good Samaritan!"

"Wow! I don't know those stories but that's really neat!" Josh said.

Behind all these things that Ben had made were lots and lots of books. It was a huge bookcase filled with books.

"You sure do have a lot of books," Josh said. "Did you read all of them?"

"Well, I try to," Ben said. "But I still have a book that I haven't finished reading that is not in the bookcase."

"What book is that?" Josh asked.

"It's my Bible," Ben said. "I need to bring it to class at church. It's right by my bed because I read it every night."

Josh went to his bed and picked up the Bible. It was pretty heavy.

"Why do you read it every night?" Josh asked.

"Well, I like all the stories in it. All those stories

that I told you about come from the Bible and every week at church we learn a new one. Some are exciting, some are hard, some are happy, and some are sad," Ben answered. "But they're all true. And the best thing about the Bible is that I learn what God wants me to do."

"Wow," Josh said, "do you think I could borrow your Bible sometime to read some of these stories?"

"Well, Josh, when we get to church you can join my class and listen to a story. I am sure you'll love it! I can ask my teacher if we can get you your own Bible to keep!" Ben answered.

"Thanks Ben! I'd really like that!" Josh said.

Just as Ben packed up, his mom called from downstairs.

"I guess it's time to go," Ben said.

"I'm ready," Josh replied as they headed downstairs.

Questions to Think About

1. **What is the Bible all about?** (It contains the words of God.)
2. **Why should we always read the Bible?** (Allow students to share.)



Activity 1

Josiah Reads the Words of God

Review the story by folding the page along the dotted lines into a booklet. The students can read along and color in the pictures.



Activity 2

The Bible is God's Words

Look at the picture. How many Bibles can you find? Circle them.



Activity 3

All About the Bible

Today's lesson is about the importance of God's words. Kindergartners may not know very much about the Bible. Share the following information with them about God's wonderful book so that they may be encouraged to learn more about His teachings. Feel free to add more questions and statements.

1. Did you know the Bible begins with "In the beginning"?
2. Did you know Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan?
3. Did you know Noah sent a raven and a dove from the ark?
4. Beside preaching the good news, did you know Paul was also a tentmaker?
5. Did you know Solomon spent seven years build-

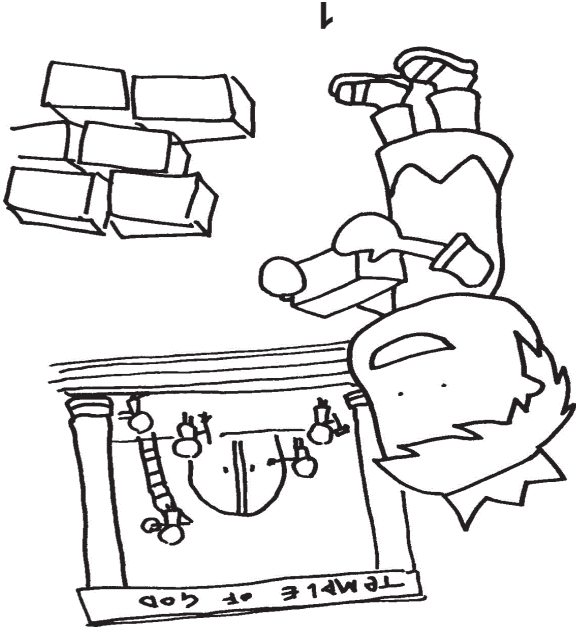
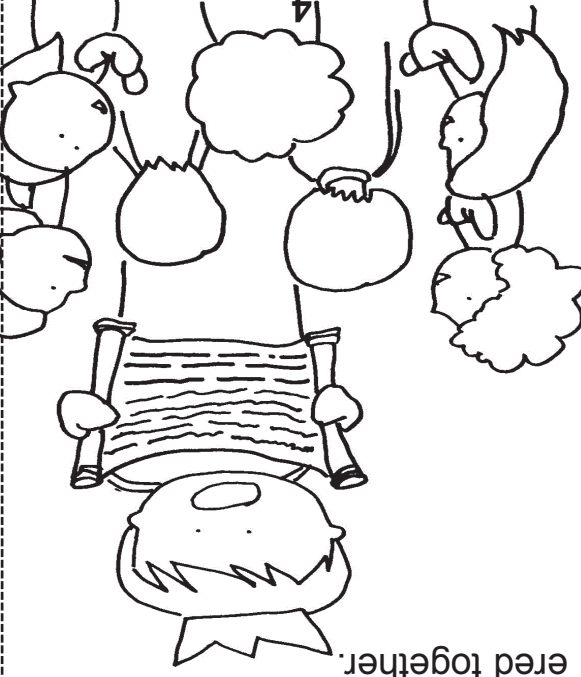


ing the temple?

6. *Did you know there are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament?*
7. *Did you know that Jesus was born in a manger?*
8. *Did you know the fifth commandment says to honor your father and mother?*
9. *Did you know the last words spoken by Jesus before He died were, "It is finished"?*
10. *Did you know Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights when he received the Ten Commandments the second time?*

Activity 5:1

Josiah Reads the Words of God

Review the story by folding the page along the dotted lines into a booklet .

 <p>King Josiah repairs the temple.</p>	 <p>Josiah reads the words of God to all the Israelites who were gathered together.</p>
<p>The priest finds the scroll in the temple.</p>  <p>2</p>	<p>A servant tells Josiah what was found.</p>  <p>3</p>

Activity 5:2

The Bible Is God's Words

Look at the picture. How many Bibles can you find? Circle them.

