

LESSON 2

KING JOASH REPAIRS THE TEMPLE

BEFORE YOU TEACH

A Divided Kingdom

After the reign of Solomon, the kingdom split in two, just as God had revealed. The two tribes of Judah and Benjamin made up the southern kingdom of Judah. Sometimes, they were referred to as one tribe, because they shared a border and Benjamin was relatively smaller. Judah was led by Solomon's son, Rehoboam, and David's kingdom was passed on through this bloodline. The northern kingdom of Israel consisted of the remaining ten tribes. Israel was led by Jeroboam, a general who had once served under Solomon and rebelled when Rehoboam came into power. The kingdom of Israel produced a great number of evil and corrupt kings.

Rulers of Judah

These dates are based on E.R. Thiele's writings, other authorities differ. Several reigns overlapped because some kings ruled jointly with their families. All dates are BC.

Rulers of Judah

1. Rehoboam	930-913	11. Jotham	750-732
2. Abijam	913-910	12. Ahaz	735-715
3. Asa	910-869	12. Hezekiah	715-686
4. Jehoshaphat	873-848	14. Manasseh	697-642
5. Jehoram	853-841	15. Amon	642-640
6. Ahaziah	841	16. Josiah	640-609
7. Athaliah	841-835	17. Jehoahaz	609
8. Joash	835-796	18. Jehoiakim	609-598
9. Amaziah	796-767	19. Jehoiachin	598-597
10. Azariah	792-740	20. Zedekiah	597-586

Joash

Joash, also known as Jehoash, was one of Ahaziah's sons. After Ahaziah died, Joash had the right to the throne, but was unable to immediately succeed his father because of his grandmother, Athaliah. She had been married to Jehoram, Ahaziah's father. When Athaliah found out that her son Ahaziah had died, she saw the opportunity to secure the throne for herself. She ruthlessly murdered her grandsons so that no one would be able to challenge her authority (2 Chr 22:10). However, Jehosheba, Ahaziah's half-sister from a different mother, saved Joash from certain death by hiding him in the temple. Her brave act prevented Athaliah from completely destroying the house of David, which was a crucial part of God's plan of salvation. Joash became a good king. Unlike his parents, who zealously worshipped idols, Joash worked diligently to eradicate idolatry and repair the temple.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 11:2-12:16
2 Chronicles 22:10-24:14

BIBLE TRUTH

Joash repaired the temple of God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand that God can do amazing things through us, even when we are young.
2. To understand that we can be cheerful givers.
3. To understand that we can take care of things for God.
4. To show respect for the church and help keep it clean and beautiful.

MEMORY VERSE

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing."

(Psalm 100:2)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for guiding us to church safely. We know that we are always under Your protection and love. In today's lesson, please help us learn how to take care of the church because it is Your house. We want to keep it clean and respectable so that everyone can come and worship You with joy. In this way, we praise Your holy name. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Joash had grown up in the temple. Over the years, it had been severely neglected by his father Ahaziah and the evil queen Athaliah. It needed repair, so Joash began a fund-raising program for its restoration. The repairs were important because Joash realized that the temple was a holy place, set apart for worshipping God.

Your students can follow Joash's example. He did everything he could to take care of the temple. Likewise, your students can do their best to look after the house of God. At this age, they may not care if the classroom is messy or dirty, but it is important to encourage them to clean up. Set examples for them to follow. When asking

them to pick up scraps, tell them that they need to clean up because the church is a place where God lives. Talk about the cleaning duties that other brothers and sisters are involved in. Everyone takes part because they care about God's house. Help them realize that it is their own spiritual house as well. Discuss other ways they can keep the church neat and organized. If possible, set up a special time when they can all participate in one task to beautify the church (i.e., cleaning the windows, organizing the Bibles, etc.). By allowing them to care for the church, they can come to understand the importance and holiness of God's home.

VOCABULARY

covenant: agreement

repair: to fix, patch up, renovate

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how God delivered the army of Judah. If you remember what happened, raise your hand. Yes, the enemies of King Jehoshaphat decided to get together and attack Judah. When the king found out, he told everyone to gather at the temple and pray to God. After their prayers, a Levite got up and gave them a message from God. He said that they should not be afraid to go to battle the next day because He would fight for them. The people praised God and prepared for battle. The next day, the army marched towards the battlefield. The king appointed singers to walk at the front of the group and praise God with their songs. When they arrived at the battlefield, they discovered that their enemies had already fought and killed each other. No one was left alive. Judah's army won the battle without even fighting! How amazing and wonderful is God's work? God had kept His word and won the battle for them. The people thanked God. We learned that we should always rely on God for everything, whether it is big or small. God will certainly listen to our sincere prayers and help us in our time of need in ways we can't even imagine.

BIBLE STORY

Can you imagine being the king of an entire nation when you're only seven? That's what happened to a boy named Joash! Now let me tell you the story!

Queen Athaliah Reigns

After King Jehoshaphat died, his son Jehoram took over the throne. Jehoram married a very wicked woman called Athaliah. Neither the king nor the queen followed God faithfully and wholeheartedly like Jehoshaphat had. After reigning for about ten years, King Jehoram also died. Then, one of his sons, Ahaziah, became the new king. Ahaziah only led Judah for one year before he passed away.

According to the tradition, one of Ahaziah's sons should have become the next ruler. However, at this time, the wicked Queen Athaliah, grandmother to the rightful heir, wanted to take over the throne. She didn't even care about her own family. Rather, she set out to kill all her

grandsons, since they could keep her from assuming the throne if they were alive.

Ahaziah had only been king for one year, so his sons were probably very young. They did not know about their grandmother's evil plan. The princes were killed, one after another. Soon, it looked like Ahaziah's sons were all dead. Now no one could take the throne away from Queen Athaliah.

Joash Is Saved by Jehosheba

As Queen Athaliah was celebrating her victory, a woman was secretly trying to save one of Ahaziah's sons. Her name was Jehosheba and she was Ahaziah's sister. She heard about Athaliah's terrible plan, so she risked her own life to save at least one of her brother's children. Jehosheba managed to sneak out a small baby and his nurse before he could be killed. The baby's name was

Joash.

Where could she hide the little prince? Jehosheba needed to make sure he wouldn't be found and killed like all the king's other sons. Luckily, her husband was a priest of the temple at the time. His name was Jehoiada. They decided that the best place to hide baby Joash from the wicked queen was in the temple. Since the queen was very evil and worshipped idols, she would never come to the temple.

Joash was hidden in the temple for six years.

Joash Is Anointed King

Joash grew up in the temple, and for six years, he lived under the care of God and his uncle and aunt. Since Joash's uncle Jehoiada was a priest, he taught Joash to worship, obey, and serve God.

The days passed by very quickly and soon, Joash turned seven years old. Jehoiada thought this was the right time to make Joash king. The wicked Athaliah had been queen for about six years now. She led the people to worship idols and did not live according to the laws of God. Jehoiada knew that things had to change.

Jehoiada made an alliance with five army captains, and together, they went and gathered all the Levites and chief leaders in Judah. The people gathered in the house of the Lord.

"This is the king's son, Prince Joash," said Jehoiada. "He should be our king." Jehoiada divided up the people and set them in different parts of the temple, so together, they would all help protect Joash. Each person had his weapon. Levites surrounded Joash and followed him wherever he went. Then, Jehoiada put the crown on Joash's head and anointed him king. The people were very happy to see that Joash had survived and would be their new king. Now they would not have to live under the rule of the evil queen. They rejoiced and shouted, "Long live the king!"

Athaliah Is Killed

Meanwhile, Queen Athaliah heard a lot of noise coming from the temple grounds. The sound of people running and praising the king could be heard. It must have seemed strange to her. Who could be in the temple of the Lord? She wondered what was happening and went to see for herself. When she arrived, the scene horrified her. One of her grandsons had survived and the people had crowned him the new king! Now, they did not have to listen to her orders anymore. What was she going to do? She called out, "Treason! Treason!" Maybe she thought people would come to help her. Jehoiada ordered the captains to grab her, take her outside the temple of the Lord to the king's house, and kill her there.

The Two Covenants

After many years under Athaliah's evil reign, the people of Judah wandered far away from God. But Jehoiada was

determined to change that. He made a covenant with the Lord that King Joash and all of the people were to be His special people. This meant that they were making a commitment to follow Him. At this time, God led the whole nation to get rid of all of the idols and false gods that they had been worshipping. They went to the temple of the idol called Baal and tore everything down, smashing the altars and idols to pieces. They also killed Mattan, a priest of Baal. The people were turning back to the Lord, and God was going to use seven-year-old Joash to lead them. God can use children to do great things!

After they destroyed all the idols, Jehoiada set priests to offer burnt offerings with rejoicing and singing in the house of the Lord. He also set gatekeepers at the gates of the temple to keep those who were unclean from entering. Jehoiada wanted to make sure that God's house was protected and that people could worship Him there. Then, Jehoiada took the captains, nobles, governors, the king, and the people, and went to the palace. King Joash sat on his throne, and the city was quiet for Athaliah had been killed.

Joash Repairs the Temple

God had blessed King Joash with a kingdom and a family. Now, it was his turn to do something for God. "The temple needs to be repaired," the king said to himself.

He gathered the priests and the Levites, and told them, "Go out to the cities of Judah and gather money from all the people of Israel so that repairs can be made to the house of God. Do it quickly." It was a wonderful plan, but the Levites did not follow his orders quickly.

Joash called Jehoiada and asked why the Levites had not followed the orders of collecting money from Judah to repair the temple. They hadn't obeyed because Athaliah's wicked sons had broken into the temple and dedicated God's things to idols.

Joash had a new plan. Instead of having the priests and Levites go from town to town asking for money, he ordered a chest to be made and for it to be placed outside the gate of the house of the Lord. Then, an announcement was made in Judah for the people to bring money offerings to the Lord.

The leaders and the people rejoiced, brought their offerings, and put them in the chest. Soon, the chest was filled with a lot of money. It was so full that the king's scribe and the high priest's officer emptied the chest every day to allow people to continue offering the next day. Eventually, there was enough money to begin fixing the temple. King Joash and Jehoiada gave the money to those who worked for the house of the Lord. Masons who worked with stone, carpenters who worked with wood, and people who worked with iron and bronze were hired to repair the temple. The workers began to fix every part of the house of God. They not only returned it to the way it looked before, but also made it much stronger. What was left of the offerings of gold and silver were brought

before King Joash and Jehoiada. These were used to make tools and containers for serving and offering.

Once all the repairs were completed, the people offered burnt offerings to the Lord. They continued worshipping God in this way during King Joash's reign. The reconstruction of the temple was an important job that required everyone's contributions with offerings and work. God is pleased when we cheerfully give to His temple and when we participate in keeping His house clean and beautiful. When the temple was restored, every person could come to praise God and give offerings.

Joash reigned as king for 40 years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord during his 40 years. This was because he had a good teacher as he was growing up. The priest Jehoiada taught him in the ways of the Lord, which helped him to do what was right. We can learn from King Joash that when we start off with the Lord at a young age, God will do wonderful things through our lives. But it is important to always keep our eyes on the Lord through our entire lives. Let's always keep our eyes on Jesus!

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Queen Athaliah wanted to kill her _____ (grandsons).
2. _____ (Joash) was the only one who escaped, because his aunt saved him.
3. Joash hid in the _____ (temple) until he was seven years old.
4. Joash wanted to repair the temple. True.
5. The people placed their offerings in a chest outside the gate of the temple. True.
6. Why did Athaliah kill her grandsons? She wanted to become queen and rule over Judah. She didn't even have mercy on her own family.
7. Why do you think Joash became a good king? He became a good king because he had been raised in the temple, where he was taught to worship, obey, and serve God.
8. Why was it important for Joash to repair the temple? The temple was a place where people could come to worship and give offerings to God.
9. How can you take care of the church today? Clean the classroom, pick up trash, put away hymn books and Bibles, clean the bathrooms, etc.
10. Are we ever too young to do God's work? No. God can do amazing things through anyone, even children.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing." (Psalm 100:2)

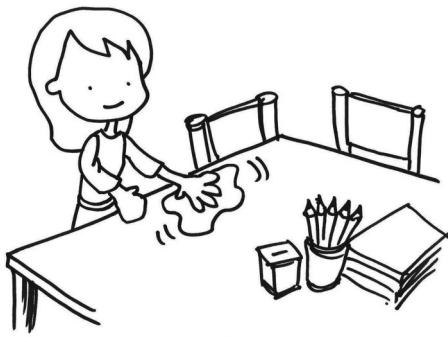
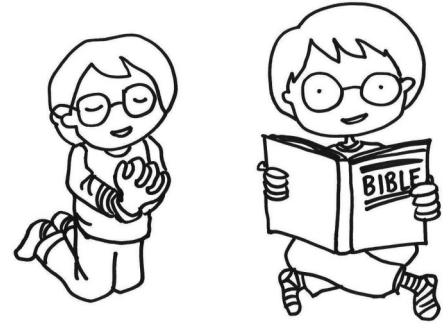
HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Jehoiada
2. Ahaziah
3. Athaliah
4. Levites
5. Jehosheba
6. Joash
7. Jehosheba took Joash and hid him in the temple for six years.
8. The people and the Levites gathered in the temple to protect Joash. Athaliah went to the temple, but the people caught her and killed her at the palace. Jehoiada anointed Joash as the new king.
9. Joash had a chest made, placed it outside the temple gate, and asked people to bring their offerings. The people offered daily until the money needed to repair the temple was collected.
10. He did what was right before the Lord. He cared about God's house. He worked with others to help make the temple clean and beautiful.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1a. God can do amazing things through our lives, and we don't even have to wait until we are grown up to do them.

1b. Did you know that God has a wonderful plan for your life, just as He did for King Joash? How can you start? You can start by studying your Bible as much as you can and asking the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Ask God to give you the knowledge of His will for your life. God will hear your prayers! God can use children to do great things!



2a. The king said that people should give what they **purpose in their heart**.

2b. It is a blessing to be able to give to God's work. He never forces us to do it. When the Lord puts something on our hearts, we should do it faithfully, and He will bless our obedience.

3a. God wants us to be good stewards of His things. A good steward is someone who takes really good care of someone else's things.

3b. God has entrusted all of us with certain things. We need to be responsible and use them in a way that gives glory to God.



4a. The Bible says that God loves a "cheerful" giver.

4b. To give to God's work is a joy. We also see that God supplied enough to get the work done. It was also a blessing that the people handling the money were faithful. They didn't try to steal anything, but were good stewards of God's money.

5a. The church is God's house and is a spiritual home we share with our family of believers. Therefore, we should be respectful to the church and work to keep it clean and beautiful.

5b. How would we feel if someone came to visit us at our house and left books and papers all over the place and scraps of trash on the floor? Why do you think they would do that? When we are asked to help clean the house of God, how does that make us feel? What can help us do it cheerfully? What does the cleanliness (or dirtiness) of a church show about the members? Would you trust or like someone who belongs to a very untidy and disorganized church? How about a person who belongs to a clean and beautiful church?



As a child of God, I can GIVE!

John chapter 6 tells of a boy in a big crowd who ended up being the source of the food that fed more than 5000 hungry grown-ups. He had only five barley loaves and two small fish.

It wasn't much, but it was probably everything he had. He could have withheld the food. Perhaps others had food but were unwilling to part with it. The boy gave it all to the Lord and he, along with 5,000 others, saw a miracle happen. His gift was multiplied to feed everyone.

As a child of God, I can PRAY and read the Bible!

Your prayers mean a lot to God! Never forget that there is almighty power in God when you pray and have faith! As a child of God, learn to pray often and believe that God will keep His promise and answer.

As a child of God, I can WITNESS!

The young girl who waited on Naaman's wife, said, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." Just as she could not heal Naaman but pointed him to the one who could, we can point others to the One who can make them whole. Always share with your friends what God has done for you. Invite them to come to church with you on the Sabbath!

ACTIVITY

1 Scrambling to Do Something for Church

Objective: To encourage the students to help take care of God's house.

Preparations

1. Write two sets of the five scrambled words in large font on colored construction paper. Use different colored construction paper for each word, or use different colors for each letter for added difficulty.
2. Cut out each letter in each of the words. Make sure to keep the letters of each word together.

Instructions

1. Divide the class into two groups.
2. Give each group one set of words.
3. Write the first sentence on the board, including the scrambled word.
4. The groups must first try to unscramble the word and then place the letters in the right order. The group that unscrambles the word first wins that round.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for the remaining sentences.
6. When all the sentences have been completed, ask the students to vote for two things on the list that they would like to do for church.

Sentences

1. I'll pick up scraps from the _____OLORF. (floor)
2. I'll put the _____IBBELS back on the bookshelves. (Bibles)
3. I'll wash the _____DONWIWS. (windows)
4. I'll push my _____RAICH under the table. (chair)
5. I'll leave the classroom as _____ATEN as I can before I go home. (neat)

2 In the House of God

Objective: To remind the students to respect and love the house of God.

Preparations

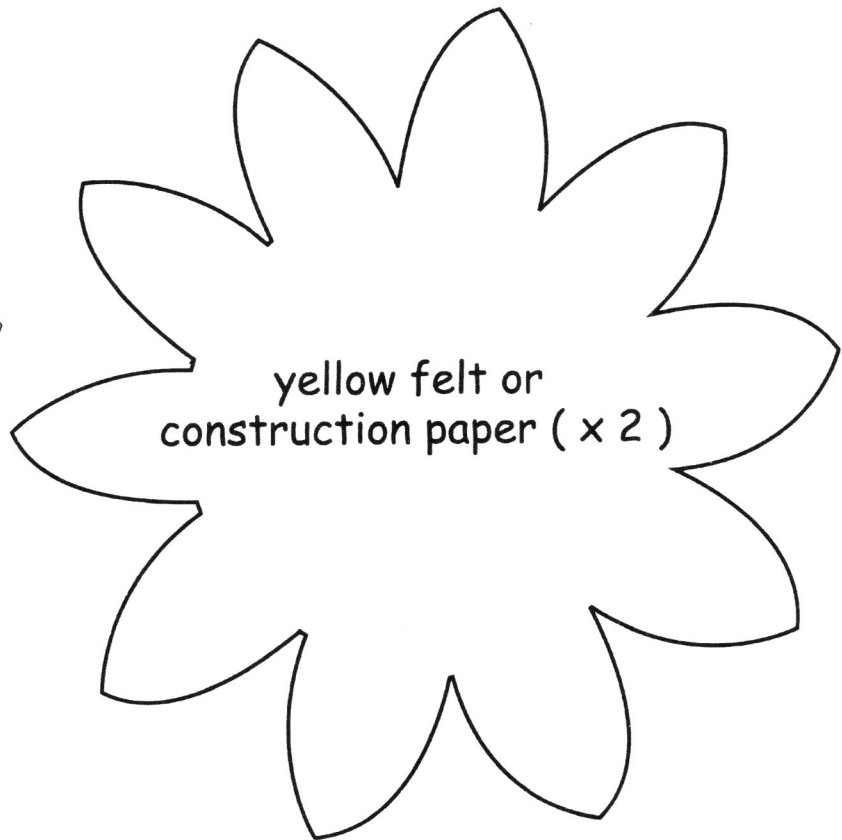
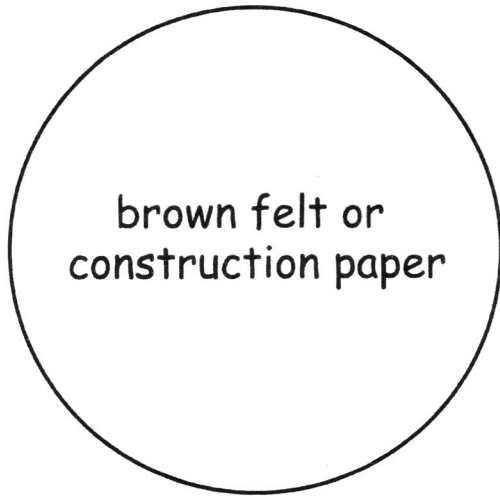
Make copies of the flower patterns and cut them out to create templates. The students will trace these onto construction paper to create their flowers.

Materials

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| • Cutout of Psalm 23:6b | • Popsicle sticks | • Glue | • Markers |
| • Yellow and brown construction paper | • Scissors | • Felt, optional | |

Instructions

1. Each student gets a cutout of the Bible verse, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever" (Psalm 23:6b).
2. Color or decorate the verse.
3. Cut out two yellow flowers and one brown circle (see patterns).
4. Glue the Bible verse on the brown circle.
5. Glue the brown circle on one of the yellow flowers.
6. Glue the yellow flower with the brown circle on the tip of the popsicle stick.
7. Glue the remaining yellow flower at the back of the first yellow flower so both pieces cover up the tip of the popsicle stick.
8. Write your name on the stick with a marker. This can be used as a bookmark or decoration.



E1 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 2—King Joash Repairs the Temple

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Joash repaired the temple of God.

- Lesson Objectives:**
1. To understand that God can do amazing things through us, even when we are young.
 2. To understand that we can be cheerful givers.
 3. To understand that we can take care of things for God.
 4. To show respect for the church and help keep it clean and beautiful.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 100:2)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week







1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fish for the Word

Draw a line to match the description to the right character.

(1) priest and uncle	(2) father and king	(3) grandmother and queen	(4) priests	(5) aunt and wife	(6) grandson and king
					

Amos	Aaron	Athaliah	Amnon
Joash	Joshua	Jehosheba	Jonathan
Luke	Levites	Ahaziah	Lazarus

Short Answer

7. How was Joash saved from Athaliah? _____

8. How did Joash become king? _____

9. How did they collect the money used to repair the temple? _____

Life Application

10. Joash became a king when he was only seven. It was a very great responsibility for someone so young, yet he did what was right and reigned for forty years. What are some qualities that made Joash a good king?

