

LESSON 5

KING JOSIAH FINDS A SCROLL

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Josiah

At the young age of eight, Josiah succeeded his father, Amon, as king of Judah. At that time, the kingdom was a vassal of Assyria and as a result, Judah was strongly influenced to worship their false gods. Guided by a good mother and God-loving advisors, Josiah found his way to God at sixteen. By the time he was twenty, Assyrian power had declined somewhat and he seized this opportunity to rid the kingdom of idols. When he was twenty-six, Josiah ordered the repair of the damaged and neglected temple. The idols that had been placed in the temple area were also removed. During the renovation, the priest Hilkiah came across a copy of the Book of the Law. Many believe that this was the book of Deuteronomy and may even have been a temple copy of the Pentateuch. Josiah is known as one of the best kings of Judah and he worked hard to reform the kingdom and eliminate idol worship. Ironically, his father Amon and his grandfather Manasseh were two of the most wicked kings of Judah.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

It is hard to imagine an eight year old becoming the leader of a nation. Even more astonishing is that by the age of twenty-six, Josiah was able to lead the country away from sin. Josiah was able to accomplish all this because he worshipped God. He was able to rid Judah of the idol worship that had crept back into the hearts of the people and turn them wholly back to God. The Bible says that there was no king like Josiah again.

Josiah is a wonderful example of one who exemplified a lifetime of faith. Your students can learn many valuable lessons from his life. Josiah set the stage at a very young age and showed that it is never too early to demonstrate having faith in God. 1 Timothy 4:12 records: "Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." From the previous verse, we can see that being young is not an excuse. Everyone, including our six- to eight-year-old students can glorify God. Motivate your students by asking them how they can set examples for others in the areas of speech, life, love, spirit, faith, and purity. By discussing concrete ideas, students will know how to apply this verse to their lives. When they can successfully demonstrate an active faith at a young age, it will become a natural part of their lives as they grow up.

BIBLE TEXT

2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35

BIBLE TRUTH

God wants His followers to obey His laws.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To be wise and obey God's laws.
2. To carry out God's teachings at all times.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be doers of the word,
and not hearers only."

(James 1:22a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Lord Jesus, thank You for guiding us safely through another week. We want to learn Your words and obey Your commands. Even though we are still young, help us to set a good example for others so that we can give glory to Your name. Let us learn from the story of King Josiah today and apply it to our lives. Thank You for hearing our prayer. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

scroll: a roll of pressed plant fibers used as a writing surface
prophetess: a female prophet, one who delivers God's messages
scribe: a person who copies, writes; a government official

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about King Hezekiah. Hezekiah became king at the age of twenty-five. His father, King Ahaz, had been an evil king. However, unlike his father, Hezekiah wanted to do what was right in the eyes of God. What did Hezekiah do to the temple? (He cleaned it and restored the broken vessels.) After the temple had been cleaned and restored, Hezekiah called the priests and rulers together for a sin offering. At this time, the people of Israel had not celebrated Passover for a long time, and Hezekiah sought to change that. He sent messengers to Israel and told all the people in Judah to come together at Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Later on, Hezekiah also led the people in offering tithes by first bringing his own gifts to offer to God's house. Hezekiah put complete trust in the Lord and God blessed him in return. As he lay dying, Hezekiah pleaded to God to extend his life so he could continue to help the people. God answered his prayer by adding fifteen years to his life. We learned that it is important to worship God in spirit and in truth. That way, we can give glory to God in everything that we do.

BIBLE STORY

King Josiah

Today, we will learn about a king named Josiah. He became a king when he was very young. Can anyone guess how old he was? He was only eight years old! He was King Hezekiah's great-grandson. Like his great-grandfather, Josiah was a good king. He obeyed God's commands. He was very different from his father and grandfather, who had both worshipped idols.

When Josiah was still young, he saw that the temple Solomon had built was dirty and broken. He wanted to repair it and clean it up. When the people of the land heard about this, they were willing to help and they offered money. So Josiah sent his scribe, Shaphan, to take care of this. The king told Shaphan to make sure that the money that the people offered would be used to repair the temple. A high priest named Hilkiah was also in charge of the repair work. He made sure that everything was being done properly.

The Book of Law Is Found

Every day, the people worked hard to repair the temple. Some people worked on the steps, some on the walls, and some just cleaned out all the dirt that had accumulated over the years. Every now and then, Shaphan would go and see how the reconstruction was progressing. Then, he would report back to Josiah.

One day, as Shaphan was finished looking over the repairs, Hilkiah came to speak to him. He had found something special while the people were cleaning out the temple. It was a scroll.

"Look at what I found," Hilkiah said, "It is the Book of Law."

Shaphan took the scroll and read it slowly. He realized that the scroll had the laws that God gave Moses a long time ago. He knew that the king would want to see it, so he took it and rushed back to the palace.

When Shaphan saw King Josiah, he showed him the scroll. The king had never seen this before. He asked his scribe to read it to him. As Josiah listened to God's word, he knew that his people had not obeyed God's rules. Josiah became upset. He stood up and tore his clothes. He realized that, for many years, the people had not followed God's commands. He turned and spoke to Shaphan.

"Go, ask the Lord for me about the words of this book which has been found," said King Josiah. "I know the Lord is very angry because our fathers have not obeyed God's laws."

So Shaphan, Hilkiah the high priest and three other men went to see a prophetess of God. Her name was Huldah.

Huldah Gives God's Answer

After they asked Huldah about the scroll, she gave them God's answer.

"The Lord says, 'I will bring disaster to this place and on the people who live there because they have forsaken me.'" For so many years, the people had forsaken God. Even though God loved them so much and cared for them, they worshipped idols and didn't care about the temple. So, God was going to punish them for their sins.

But Huldah told the men that God had a special message for Josiah: "Because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard what I spoke against this place, you will go to your grave in peace. Your eyes will not see the disaster which I will bring on this place." God saw that King Josiah had a good heart and led the people to worship God. So, King Josiah wouldn't see the disaster that would happen. After hearing these answers from God, the men brought these messages back to the king.

Josiah's Reforms

When Josiah heard the words of God, he was sad. Even though God had said that he would spare the land while Josiah was the king, he knew that he had to make changes now. It was his responsibility as a king. He realized everyone had to repent for their sins.

After he realized all the mistakes they had made, King Josiah tried his best to change. King Josiah wanted everyone to obey God. "I must read God's Law to the people," King Josiah thought. So, he gathered all the people and they went to the temple. He read all of the laws to the people. Then King Josiah made a promise to

the Lord. He promised to obey the words of the law and follow God with all his heart and all his soul. Everyone also joined in the covenant with him. They promised to do everything God told them to do. King Josiah got rid of all the idols that were in the land so that they could worship the Lord faithfully. He knew that his fathers were wrong to worship false gods. He also ordered the people to celebrate the Passover because they hadn't done so for a long time.

Josiah Follows God's Teachings

What are some things that we learned today? We learned that King Josiah followed God's teachings. Although he was young when he became king, Josiah did the right thing by obeying God. When King Josiah heard the words of the Book of the Law being read to him, he asked his men to go to Huldah because he wanted to ask God about the Book of the Law. Josiah didn't just stop after he heard the words of God. He carried out the words by making a covenant with God to follow the teachings and ordering the celebration of the Passover. We can see that Josiah was a good king who led the people to carry out God's teachings.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **How old was Josiah when he was crowned king?** Eight years old.
2. **What did Josiah want to repair?** The temple.
3. **How did Josiah repent before God when he realized the people had not been following God's commands?** He tore his clothes.
4. **What was King Josiah determined to keep?** God's commands/laws.
5. **What did Hilkiah find when the temple was being repaired?** The Book of the Law.
6. **What did Josiah and the people of Judah try to do after they heard the words in the Book of the Law?** They tried hard to obey God's laws.
7. **What does it mean to obey God's laws?** To listen to God's words and do them.
8. **Why did Shaphan, Hilkiah, and the other men go to find Huldah?** Because Josiah instructed the men to ask God about the words of the Book of the Law. They sought Huldah since she was a prophetess, or a messenger of God.
9. **Why did God spare Josiah from seeing the disaster that would happen?** Because Josiah humbled himself.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

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

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22a)

HOMWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. B
3. False; he obeyed God's laws.
4. True
5. True
6. temple
7. Moses
8. Answers may vary.
9. Answers may vary.
10. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

Spiritual Teaching

Carry out God's teachings.

I. "When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law."

How did the king react when he heard the words in the Book of the Law? The Bible said that he tore his clothes. The hearing of God's word had **a spiritual impact** on King Josiah. The tearing of clothing was an expression of horror and astonishment. In the strongest way possible, Josiah grieved for himself and for the nation. This was an expression of deep conviction of sin. Nowadays, we don't really tear our clothes, but the Bible teaches us that we should still repent when we do wrong. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." (Ps 51:17)

II. "Go, inquire of the Lord for me."

What did the king do after he tore his clothes? He sought after the Lord. He commanded Hilkiah the priest, Shaphan the scribe, and three others to "inquire of the Lord" for him. King Josiah didn't do this because he knew nothing of God or how to seek Him. He did it because he felt so convicted with sin that he did not know what to do next.

III. "For great is the wrath of the Lord that is aroused against us."

Josiah knew that the kingdom of Judah deserved judgment from God. He could not hear the word of God and respond to the Spirit of God without seriously confronting the sin of his kingdom. King Josiah decided to read from the Book of the Law for everyone to hear. The people listened carefully and were so surprised when they heard God's word. The people realized that they had been living against God's teachings and His laws. So, the king made a covenant before God. All the people who listened made a commitment to keep God's commandments, testimonies, and statutes, with all their heart and all their souls!

As we learned from today's lesson, it is very important to carry out God's teachings after we have heard them.

Encourage your students to apply God's teachings to their lives. Today, the students have just heard the story of King Josiah. Guide them to recognize what they can take away from the story, what they learned, and how they can apply God's teachings to their lives.

Just as Jesus Christ said before, when we carry out God's teachings, we are like a tree that bears good fruit.

Life Application

1. Be a wise builder

Jesus Christ said that anyone who hears God's words and practices them is like "a wise man who built his house on the rock." However, anyone who hears God's words but doesn't practice them "will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand." (Mt 7:24-26) Encourage the students to remember God's words and carry them out.

Tell the students: "Jesus Christ once talked about two people. One built his house on the rock, while the other built his house on the sand."

On the whiteboard, draw a man standing next to a house built on sand. Then, draw a man standing next to a house built on a rock. Draw rain, floods, and wind beating on the houses.

Ask the students: "What do you think will happen to these houses? Why?" Have students share in pairs or as a whole class. Emphasize that the house on the rock will stand despite the rain, floods, and wind because it is founded on the rock. Explain that we are like the builders of these houses. Jesus Christ taught us that if we only hear God's words, we will be like the man who built his house on sand. But, if we hear God's words and carry them out, we will be like the person who built his house on the rock. Encourage the students to be like the wise person who built his house on the rock!

Illustrate this teaching point with paper houses. Take two trays and put a rock in one and sand in the other. Tape one house onto the rock. Then, put the other house on top of the sand. Blow on the houses to represent the wind, and pour water onto the houses to represent the rain and floods.

Since we want to be like the wise man who built his house on the rock, we should carry out God's teachings!

What would you do in these situations? (Some possible answers are listed.) The students can discuss these with each other, act them out, etc.

1. A sibling or friend yells at them. (Forgive them by not holding a grudge.)
2. Mom or Dad reminds them to do their homework. (Obey without complaining.)
3. A sibling or friend apologizes to them. (Forgive them.)
4. Mom and Dad are very busy. (Love them by helping them do chores, asking them if they need anything, praying for them, etc.)
5. Mom or Dad says they can eat 2 cookies. They really like cookies, and Mom and Dad aren't watching them while they get the cookies. (Be honest and take 2.)

2. Know God's words

King Josiah listened carefully to God's teachings. He had to remember them in order to carry them out. Encourage your students to follow after King Josiah and memorize God's words so they can carry them out. Apply this teaching by taking time to focus on the memory verse. Feel free to share a Bible verse that you like with the class. Encourage students to memorize Bible verses. "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (Jas 1:22a).

ACTIVITY

1 Be a Doer!

Objective: To remind students to listen to and carry out God's words.

Materials

- Pencil
- Colored pencils or markers
- Scissors
- Poster board
- Bible templates

Instructions

Today, we learned that after King Josiah heard the words from the Book of the Law, he immediately repented. Then, he put God's commands into action. What's one thing that he did? [Have students share.] We can see that Josiah was not only a hearer of God's words, but also a doer! Let's also be doers of God's words!

1. Have students brainstorm one thing that they will do. Distribute one Bible template to each student. Ask students to write their goal on the left side of the Bible and draw a corresponding picture on the right side.
2. When students are finished, have them sit in a circle. Have one student share his/her goal and picture with the class and then tape it on the poster board. Repeat until everyone has shared.
3. Conclude by encouraging the students to carry out their goal.

2 "A Young King" Role-play

Objective: To encourage the students to obey God's words by role-playing King Josiah.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Pencil
- Assorted yarn
- Markers
- Glue
- Scissors
- Tape or stapler

Instructions

1. Cut out the crown template and trace it onto construction paper.
2. Cut out the two crown pieces and decorate them with yarn or markers. You can coil some yarn for a jeweled look.
3. Tape or staple the two crown pieces together so that the crown fits securely on your head.
4. Have each student take turns pretending that they are the young King Josiah. Let each student tell the class how they obeyed God as the king.

3 An Interview with a Young King

Objective: To review the story by interviewing and role-playing King Josiah.

Instructions

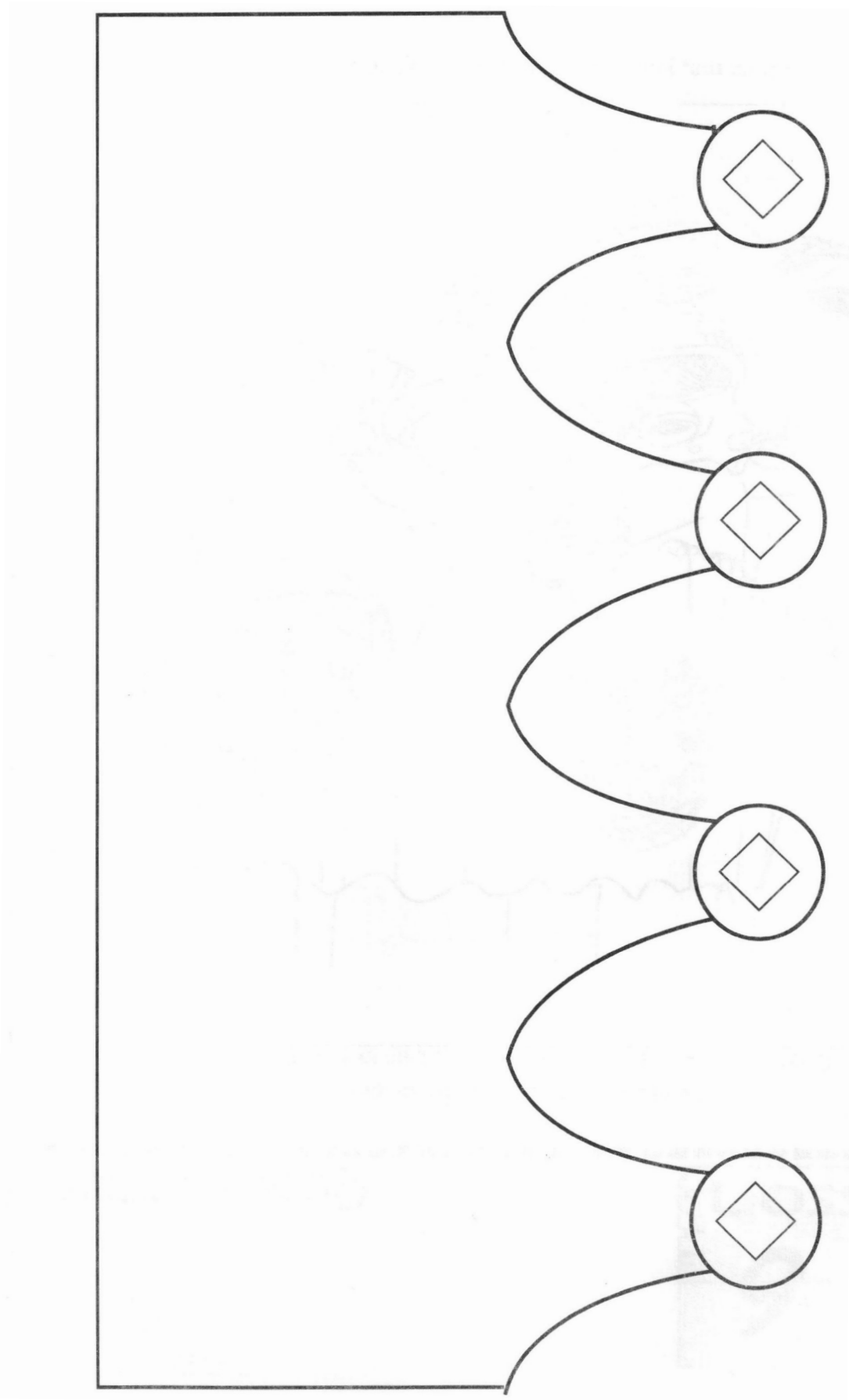
1. Have students write 3-5 questions that they would ask King Josiah. Explain that the questions should be about the story and questions to which they know the answer. [Sample questions are listed at the bottom. You can demonstrate the interview with a question or two.]
2. Arrange students into pairs.
3. Designate one student in each pair to be King Josiah and the other student to be the interviewer.
4. Have the interviewer ask their questions first. Interviewers can pretend to be holding a microphone by making a fist. Then, switch roles.
5. Some sample questions are listed below:
 - a. Hi, I'm very glad to be able to interview you today King Josiah. How old were you when you became king?
 - b. I learned that while the temple was being repaired, Hilkiah found something. What did he find in the temple?
 - c. Why did you tear your clothes?
 - d. What were the messages that God gave to Huldah?
 - e. I understand that you realized the people needed to repent for their sins. What action did you take so the people would realize that?

I will _____

(Name)

I will _____

(Name)



E1 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 5—King Josiah Finds a Scroll

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God wants His followers to obey His laws.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To be wise and obey God's laws.
2. To carry out God's teachings at all times.

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.

(James 1:22a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

1. ____ : Who was Hilkiyah?
 - a. A high priest who was in charge of the temple's repairs
 - b. The person who found the Book of the Law
 - c. Both A and B

2. ____ : King Josiah's men went to find Huldah, because _____.
 - a. Huldah could read very well
 - b. King Josiah wanted to ask God about the Book of the Law, and Huldah was a prophetess of God
 - c. King Josiah didn't care about the Book of the Law

True or False

3. King Josiah was like his father and grandfather. He did not obey God's laws. _____
4. After the Book of the Law was found, King Josiah and the people made a promise to obey God. _____
5. King Josiah ordered the people to celebrate Passover because they hadn't done so in a long. _____

Fill In the Blank

6. The people offered money to help repair the _____.
7. The Book of the Law contained laws that God gave _____ a long time ago.

Life Application

8. When we do something wrong today, what can we do to repent?

9. Have you ever replied, "I am too young to do that," when asked to help out? What if you were asked to do the same task today? What would your answer be?

10. We learned that it is important not only to listen to God's words, but also to follow them. We should be doers of God's words. Write two ways you can be a doer of God's words.
