

LESSON 4

KING JOASH AND JEHOIADA

OBJECTIVES

1. To nurture a heart of servitude in the house of God from a young age.
2. To heed the advice of those who are spiritually wiser.
3. To have a faith independent of others, based a personal relationship with God.

MEMORY VERSE

"One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple."

(Psalm 27:4)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for bringing us safely through another week to gather here and worship You. We know that our lives and faith are precious in Your eyes. Thank You, Lord, for the sacrifice our parents, brothers and sisters, ministers, and everyone around us have made to help us build our relationship with You. May You guide us through this lesson and help us apply the teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Bible Story & Spiritual Teaching

- A. Jehoiada Raises Joash
- B. Joash's Rise and Fall

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—the Holy Spirit

3. Life Application

- a. A Lifelong Service
- b. Why Do I Worship?

4. Activity—Serving God Always with the Right Heart



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Below is a summary of events taking place from 1 Kings 16 to 2 Kings 11, covering the reign of the house of Ahab in the Northern Kingdom and the series of events that culminated in Joash's young anointing as king of Judah.

A Complicated Family

In the year that Joash was born, the two kingdoms of Judah and Israel were in a state of peace and alliance, though this was not forged through a common faith in the LORD God. Instead, this arose due to the dominance of the house of Omri (as recognized by historical writings) or, as recorded in the Bible, the house of Ahab. The strong political presence of the lineage of kings in the Northern Kingdom prompted a historical recording in the Mesha Stele, a Moabite inscription, mentioning the strength of house of Omri. 2 Kings 8:18 indicates that all sins pointed back to the house of Ahab, as Ahab was the one who married Jezebel, princess of the Sidonians, introducing the worship of Baal of Sidon to the people of Israel. Further credence is lent to the strong political presence in the north, as from 1 Kings 16 through 2 Kings, the lens of focus is almost entirely on the activities in the Northern Kingdom.

The house of Ahab's influence stretched to the Southern Kingdom when Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, made an alliance with Ahab, solidifying this alliance through the marriage of his son Jehoram to Ahab's daughter Athaliah (2 Ki 8:17-18). This continued when Jehoram's son Ahaziah united his forces with Joram of Israel and went to war against Hazael, king of Syria. The duplication of names between the two kingdoms' monarchs was another indication of the close ties. However, as a fulfillment of the LORD's words to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:17-18, Jehu's assassinated both the kings of Judah and of Israel, leading to a period of religious purge and reformation.

Religious Reform: A Spiritual Revival?

As was God's intention, the king's political decisions were interlinked with the religious faith of the people. Therefore, the high priest and kings had to work in tandem. Despite the close allegiance between the North and the South, there was still a war between the false god, Baal, and the one true God, the LORD God. This eventually simmered down to the survival of the Davidic line and the covenant with *YHWH*, or the survival of Ahab and the religious adultery Israel and Judah played with Baal. God had intended for Jehu's anointing as king to bring about the purging of Baal, as well as the renewal of the chosen people's covenant with their God. However, in yet another political move for power, Jehu instead chose to follow Jeroboam of Nebat's steps in setting up golden calf idols as a substitute, and human alteration, of true worship of the true God.

From a family standpoint, it may seem odd that Athaliah would choose to murder all of her grandchildren. However, from her standpoint, it was an attempt to eradicate the Davidic line, and any ties to the LORD God. This makes Jehoshabeath and Jehoiada's risky decision to save their nephew Joash all the more admirable. Jehoshabeath's decision to save Joash may have been influenced by her marriage to the high priest, Jehoiada. Entering into such a marriage, while her father and brother king continued to worship Baal, showed an indication of religious worship, which was comparable to adultery at the time. There was not one religion being practiced exclusively, but a so-called "battle" of dominance between Baal and *YHWH*, with supporters and religious leaders on both sides. While the move to save the young baby and raise him could have been out of compassion, the decision to anoint him as king was out of trust and belief in God's covenant with David and His people. Therefore, Joash's survival was by all means representative of the faith the Levites had in *YHWH*. It is interesting to note that, at this time, Elisha was working very closely with the kings of Israel. As a "man of God," Elisha not only served as a confidant, but also likely as one trying to turn their hearts back towards the one true God. Joash's survival and Jehu's violent usurpation was an opportunity for true worship to be re-established, but neither event brought the opportunity to fruition. For Joash, his lack of faithfulness after the death of his father figure and spiritual leader Jehoiada meant that he was eventually buried outside of the tombs of David. This was a grave omission and an indication that, despite the good heart he had when repairing the house of God, this good heart never developed into a personal faith or zeal. Where even Ahab showed a repentant heart, it seems that Joash suffered the negative influences of those around him. When the princes of Judah came to him seeking to reinstate the worship of Baal as the primary religion, he easily gave in, forgetting all that he had learned as a child and the sacrifices the servants of the one true God had made for his survival. This conclusion was truly a pitiful end for a man whose childhood was shrouded with the faithfulness of many true servants of God.



Reaching Out to Your Students

At this age, your students most likely have a faith that is still reliant on their parents' faith. The frequency of their Bible reading, prayer, and church attendance all stem from the impetus of the parents and the strength of their faith. Students have also begun to see you, their teacher, as a role model, someone to whom they look up and even admire. This bond will only strengthen as you spend more time with your students. To reinforce the idea of an independent faith, you can remind your students that they cannot always rely on their parents to determine the strength of their faith. You can use your personal faith as an example. Wouldn't it be silly if your parents were still reminding you to pray every day, helping you to read the Bible, and bringing you to church every week? So, during the years between childhood and adulthood, that personal faith must develop. It can begin with the simplest of things, such as volunteering to say grace before meals, asking for the whole family to pray together, or sharing with their parents the Bible teachings they learned that day. At the same time, students should be reminded that a mature faith does not equate to a disobedient faith. As they grow up and mature in their faith, they still need to honor and respect those who are more spiritually mature than they are, and always seek to learn from the actions and speech of others.



Opener

5 Minutes

Ask the students to think of one person in church to whom they look up—someone they think does a great job as a servant of God. Ask them, “What is one way that person serves God that makes you want to serve God?” Let each student share an answer. Their answers will reveal what they view as an admirable service and a servitude goal that they may be striving to reach.

Now ask, “What would happen if that person had to move to another country today? Would there be someone who can pick up that work? Would you be able to pick up that work?”

Today’s lesson will be about how we can learn from and listen to the faithful servants of God in church today in order to be just like them. We must prepare ourselves to serve so that we can, by the grace of God, serve God all the days of our lives.



Vocabulary

treason: an act of betrayal with the intent to take over a kingdom

heir: a person who inherits from their father

covenant: a solemn agreement; promise



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet to the students. Ask the students to complete it as you go over the lesson. Keep a copy of the worksheet for reference. After this section, go over the worksheet with the students to ensure correct completion.

A few weeks ago, we learned about an exceedingly evil king. Does anyone remember his name? (Ahab.) What made King Ahab so evil? (He married a foreign wife who introduced the worship of Baal to the Israelites.) If we remember, Ahab was the king of Israel, the northern kingdom. However, there was still a kingdom ruled by David’s descendants called Judah, the southern kingdom.

After King Ahab died, Ahab’s eldest son Ahaziah took the throne for two years. When Ahaziah died, his brother took the throne, as he had no sons to succeed him. Meanwhile in the northern kingdom, Jehoshaphat, a king who had followed God for the most part, passed away after reigning for twenty-five years, and his son Jehoram married Ahab’s daughter Athaliah. [Ask students to look at the family tree on the worksheet.] Students, we can see that a family that worshipped a false god and a family that worshipped the one true God were now united. Did this alliance end well? Jehoram, whose father worshipped the one true God, followed his wife Athaliah in worshipping Baal. After Jehoram died in battle, his son Ahaziah became

king. Looking at your family tree, who do you think Ahaziah was named after? Maybe his uncle, who was also a worshipper of Baal!

So, as Ahaziah ruled over Judah, he worked closely with his uncle Jehoram, even going to battle with him against their enemies.

God then anointed a commander of the Israelite army to be the next king of the northern kingdom. He wanted to wipe out the worship of Baal. This commander’s name was Jehu, and Jehu killed both the king of Judah and the king of Israel, as well as all the sons of the king of Israel. Now, let’s cross out the names of those who had been killed. You can see now that almost everyone who worshipped Baal was killed! This made Athaliah furious! She was so angry that she set out to kill all of her grandchildren. One of her grandchildren was one-year-old Joash, son of Ahaziah. Joash’s aunt, who had married the high priest of the Lord, knew how important it was to save Joash, so she kept him safe from Athaliah. He could no longer live in the palace. Students, where do you think would be the safest place to hide him?

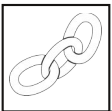
Joash’s aunt chose to hide him in the temple of God, where the Levites and priests protected Joash. Joash’s aunt’s name was Jehoshabeath. She was a good and faithful servant of God. Her husband was the high priest

Jehoiada. Together, they raised Joash as a loving mother and father would. For six years, Athaliah reigned over Judah because there was no king or male heir. When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada knew it was time to anoint him as king. So, he gathered the Levites and heads of the houses of Israel and said to them, "Behold, the king's son! Let him reign." Judah and Jerusalem would no longer be under the control of a Baal worshipper! So, Jehoiada commanded the Levites and priests to guard the boy at all times, and then they crowned Joash and anointed him king. The people shouted, "Long live the king!" What do you think Athaliah did when she heard this noise?

Athaliah heard the noise and ran out, yelling, "Treason! Treason!" Jehoiada ordered the guards to take her out, away from the house of God. After taking her outside, they killed her, for she had done many evil things. Jehoiada knew how important it was for the people to worship the one true God, so he made a covenant, a serious promise, between himself, all the people, and the king that they should be the LORD's people. For all the days of Jehoiada's life, Joash did what was right in the eyes of God. He even decided to restore the house of God. He commanded the Levites to collect money from the people to pay for the repairs. However, the Levites failed to do this for over twenty years. When Joash checked again, he saw that nothing had been done. So, he commanded the Levites to collect money from the people and the people happily offered their money to repair the house of God and all that was in it. When the house of the LORD was repaired, the people regularly offered burnt offerings to the LORD.

Sadly, people grow older over time and eventually pass away, and that was what happened to Jehoiada. He died at the age of 130 years old, and the people buried Jehoiada among the kings in the City of David because of all the good he had done in Israel, for God and for God's house.

Unfortunately, after Jehoiada's death, Joash did not continue being faithful to God. He listened to the words of the princes of Judah who wanted to return to the worship of their false god Baal, just as in the days of Ahab and Jezebel. This angered God so much that he sent servants, such as Zechariah, the son of Joash's uncle Jehoiada, to prophesy about this. Zechariah said to Joash, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He has forsaken you.'" This changed nothing, as the worshippers of Baal had the ear of the king, and they planned to have Zechariah killed. So, by the command of the king, they stoned Zechariah in the court of the house of the LORD! What a sad time this was. Joash did not seek God's help, even when the people were faced with battles against their enemies. Instead, he gave all the treasures and sacred gifts inside the house of God to their enemies instead. All these actions angered the servants who knew that Jehoiada and his son had been faithful servants of God. As a result, one day, Joash's own servants killed him in his bed. When the people buried Joash in the City of David, they did not bury him with the kings, as they had done with Jehoiada. What a sad end for such a promising king.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

The believers must rely on the Holy Spirit to pursue holiness, to honor God, and to love humanity.

Under the guidance of Jehoiada, Joash led a life of service to God, but once Jehoiada died, he started being influenced by those around him. These people were not as godly and Joash ended up committing many sins in the later years during his reign. At that time, the people in the Old Testament did not have the Holy Spirit. However, today, we have the blessing of being able to receive the Holy Spirit. This Spirit lives within us and works in us to guide us in our actions, our speech, and our thoughts. We must listen to the Holy Spirit and allow it to form us into people who honor God in their lifelong servitude.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **How old was Joash when he became king?** Seven years old.
2. **Who was trying to kill him as a baby, and why?** His grandmother Athaliah, because she was so angry that her son had been killed.
3. **Name one good thing Joash did as a king.** He repaired the house of God.
4. **Name one good thing Jehoiada did as the high priest.** He and his wife saved Joash; he led the people in making a covenant; he led Joash to be anointed as king.
5. **Name one evil thing Joash did.** He brought back the worship of Baal; he allowed Zechariah to be killed.
6. **Where was Joash buried?** In the City of David, but not with the kings.
7. **Where was Jehoiada buried?** In the City of David, among the kings.
8. **What covenant did Jehoiada lead the people into making?** To be the LORD's people.
9. **How long did Joash do good in God's eyes?** For as long as Jehoiada lived.



Life Application

10 Minutes

A LIFELONG SERVICE

If we want to serve God, it has to start with baby steps. We can begin with the smallest and, maybe, simplest things. Joash slipped up in a simple thing; he started to listen to the wrong advice, and allowed others to convince him that worshipping Baal was the right thing to do. How can we serve God faithfully and continuously?

Service to God

From a young age, Joash grew up in the house of God under the guidance of the high priest. This is a similar privilege many second, third, or fourth generation believing children receive now and may take for granted. But growing up in the LORD does not guarantee that we will remain in the LORD forever. Share with the students the importance of having a faith that grows, a faith that can be seen, and a faith that learns (Eph 3:17; Jas 2:26).

Joash had an initial zeal to repair the house of the LORD, but how much of this zeal originated from genuine faith and how much of it was from obligation as king of Judah? After all, he did leave the matter for twenty-three years before revisiting it. Furthermore, he committed the heinous offense of murdering a priest, his own kin, in the house of God. Remind students that they should not serve only because they have been assigned a duty or because they think people expect them to serve. Rather, they should serve out of a pure heart for God (1 Tim 1:5). Sing the hymn "The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows" with your students.

* * * * *

WHY DO I WORSHIP?

Many of your students are just slightly older than Joash was when he started off as king. Joash did what was right in God's eyes, but only for as long as Jehoiada lived. This highlights the importance for students to understand the "whys" of their faith and worship (Heb 5:12-6:1). "Why do I keep these rules? Why do I come to church?"

To help the students understand, pose these questions and challenge them with the question "Why?" Allow them to ask until they reach the root of the reason they do things, including worship and serve:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Why do I have to brush my teeth every day? | 5. Why do I preach to my friends? |
| 2. Why do I help cleaning up at church? | 6. Why do I need to sleep? |
| 3. Why do I do school homework? | 7. Why do I need to pray every day? |
| 4. Why do I do RE homework? | |



Activity

Serving God Always with the Right Heart

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To reinforce the importance of being a good friend.

Materials

- Bookmark-sized pieces of cardboard
- Colored pencils
- Ribbon
- Photograph of the church building exterior

Instructions

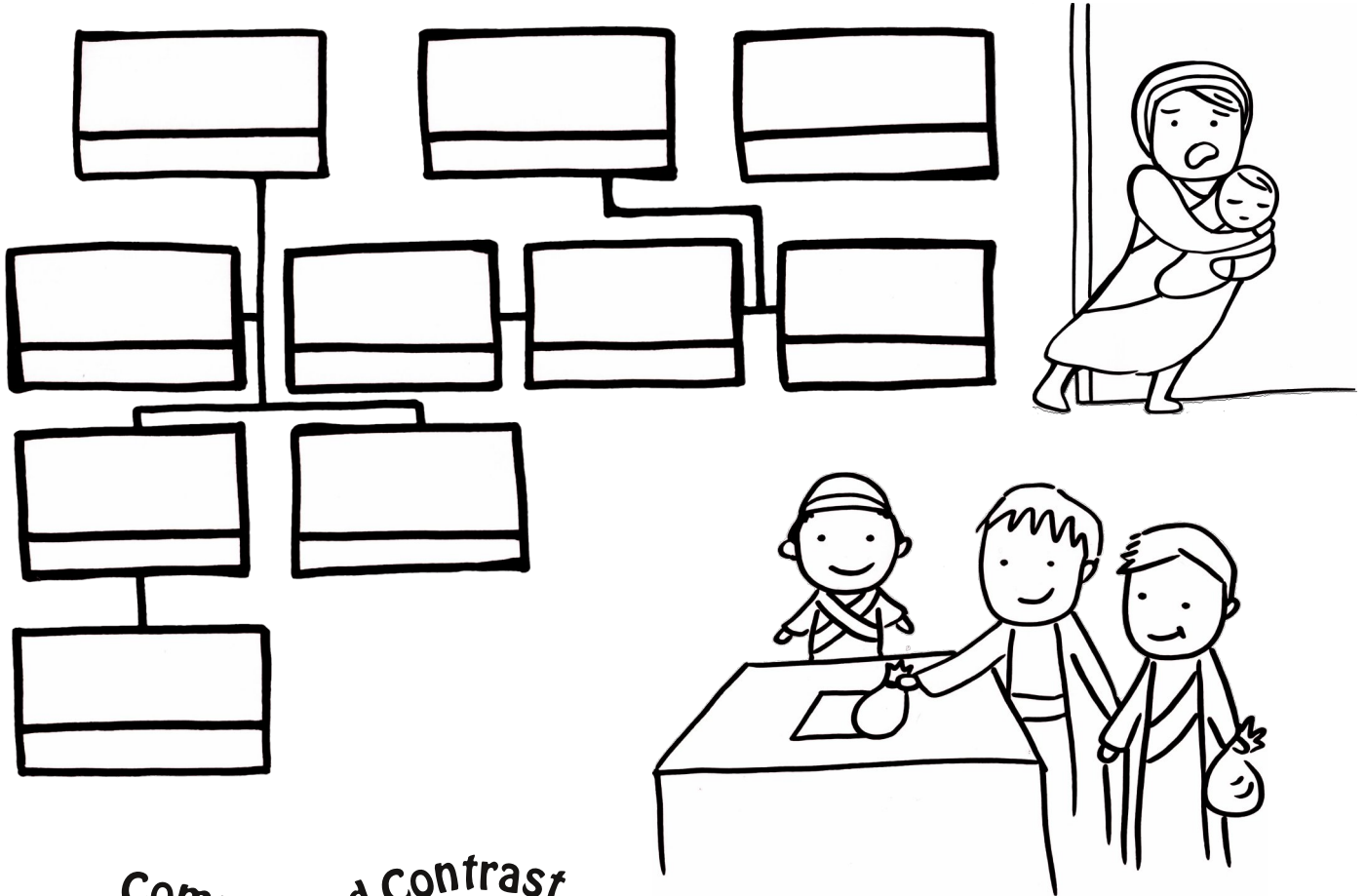
1. Ask the students to draw the exterior of their local church on one side of the bookmark. Below it, ask them to write the memory verse: Psalm 27:4.
2. On the reverse side, ask students to write the character, aspect, or service they most admire and/or respect in their role model (chosen at the beginning of the lesson).
3. Ask the students to share what they wrote on the bookmark and why they chose to write that.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

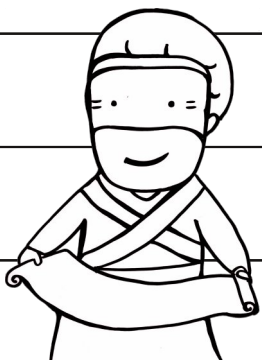

1. seven, Jehoiada
2. Levites, money
3. 130, right, eyes, God
4. Check for signatures
5. Answers may vary.
6. Answers may vary. Students should encourage him not to listen to advice from people who worship false idols (the princes), but to advice from people who are spiritually wise (Zechariah).

King Joash and Jehoiada

For each name, write down whether this person served in the northern kingdom of Israel or the southern kingdom of Judah. Then, write down if this person worshipped Baal or the Lord. Lastly, if the person reigned as king, write down how many years the person reigned.



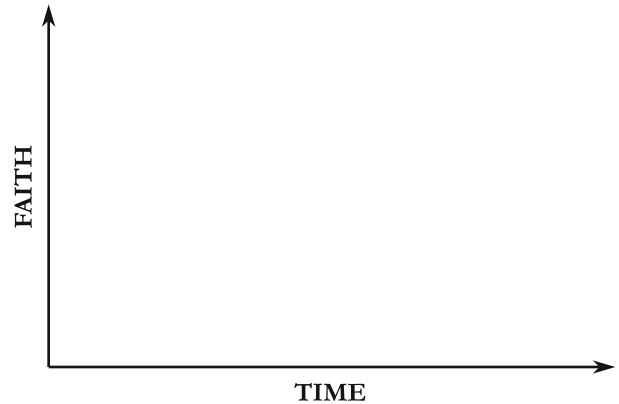
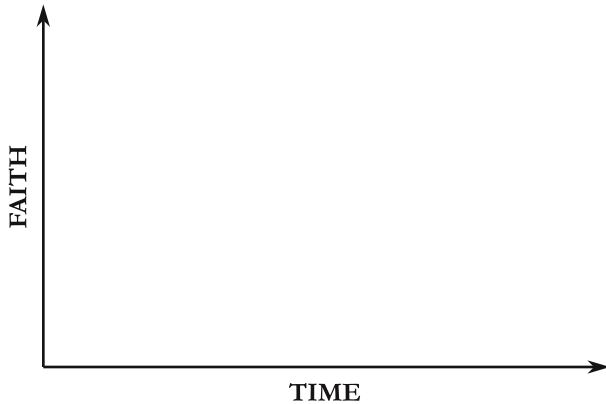
Compare and Contrast

	Jehoiada	Joash
Occupation		
Years of service to God		
Most memorable act		
How did he die?		
Where was he buried?		

A Lifelong Service

Map out what you think **Jehoiada's** life of faith looked like.

• Map out what you think **Joash's** life of faith looked like.



HONORING PARENTS

Sally was angry with her parents. They had just told her that they wouldn't let her go to her church friend Chrissie's place. She wasn't a child anymore; she was about to enter junior high school and she was perfectly capable of making her own decisions! In fact, Sally sometimes felt she was already smarter than her mother, who had been raised without proper schooling. Sally's mother couldn't read the Bible very well, and she was always making embarrassing English grammar mistakes. Why couldn't Sally make this decision herself? She just wanted to spend some time with her friend. It just wasn't fair!



1. Was there anything wrong with Sally's thoughts? If so, what was wrong?
2. How can Sally improve her service to God by honoring her parents?

BIBLE WHIZ KID!

Daniel let out a great big yawn as his RE Teacher was explaining the lesson on Moses. Daniel had heard this story for at least the third time since kindergarten. Hearing it again would just be so boring. He knew what was going to happen anyways, and the Bible teachings would always be the same: "pray and read the Bible." RE classes were such a snooze-fest.



1. Was there anything wrong with Daniel's thoughts? If so, what was wrong?
2. How can Daniel improve his service to God through his learning of the word of God in class?

UGH! DO I REALLY NEED TO PREACH?

Melinda looked out of the corner of her eyes, and tried not to make eye contact with Harriett who was sitting next to her. Melinda couldn't wait for the lunch bell to ring so that she could run off and avoid a conversation with Harriett. Harriett was the new girl, and she was very talkative, especially about her Christian faith. Melinda knew that as a True Jesus Church member, she should speak up to Harriett, but she was afraid her classmates wouldn't think she was popular. Plus, she figured that Harriett would find the prayer in spirit to be awkward and off-putting.



1. Was there anything wrong with Melinda's thoughts? If so, what was wrong?
2. How can Melinda improve her service to God in personal evangelism?

E2 Year 3 Book 4 Lesson 4—King Joash and Jehoiada

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Psalm 27:4**)

Fill In the Blank

1. Joash was _____ years old when he was anointed king by _____ and his sons
2. As king, Joash commanded the _____ to collect _____ for the repair of the house of God.
3. Jehoiada lived for _____ years old and, during his days, Joash did what was _____ in the _____ of _____.

Reflection

4. Share this week's Bible story and teachings with a parent and/or older sibling.

"I, _____, have shared the story of Joash and Jehoiada with _____."

_____ (Student Signature)

_____ (Listener Signature)

5. Ask your mother or father to share with you one aspect of their faith that they hope you can copy. Write it out below.

6. You are Jehoiada at 129 years old. You are about to pass away, but you want to share with Joash some final encouraging words to make sure that he stays on the path of worshipping the true God. Write your letter below.

My dear Joash,