

LESSON 70

Josiah, the Eight-Year-Old King

2 CHRONICLES 34:1-33



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S WORD WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 70)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 70

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Find the Scrolls

SUPPLIES: fifty index cards

Puppet Show

SUPPLIES: puppet

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION

5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn the story of how an eight-year-old boy became king of Judah.

Ask the children to raise their hand if they have an eight-year-old brother or sister. (show of hands) Ask them to show the class how tall their brother or sister is. How strong are they? Are they stronger than a teenager? Are they stronger than an adult? Give several children a chance to respond.

Then ask the class if the eight-year-old is allowed to live at home without an adult? (no) Can they drive a car? (no) Are they allowed to go to bed whenever they want? (no) Why? (They have to obey Mom and Dad.)

Ask if their brother or sister is a king or queen or president of any country? (That might get laughter.) Laugh at the idea of a child ruler. Play on the silliness of it in battle, in wisdom, in respect.

Ask the kids what kinds of things they would like to do if they were king. (Accept any answer.)

Don't mention Josiah until you read his story.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read story 70, "Josiah, the Eight-Year-Old King," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION

5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- How old was Josiah when he became king?
(*He was eight years old when he became king.*)

- Why did Josiah become king so young?
(Amon, Josiah's father, was wicked like Manasseh his grandfather had been. The king's officials plotted against Amon and killed him in his palace.)
- What happened to the temple during the reigns of Manasseh and Amon?
(The temple was not used to worship God and fell into disrepair. Instead of worshiping God, the people worshiped idols and eventually forgot all about God.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What good things did Josiah do when he became king?
(Josiah began to seek God. He had people tear down the altars and high places to the other gods [2 Chronicles 34:1–8].)
- What did God promise Josiah?
(Josiah would not see God's judgment on Israel's idolatry because he had humbled himself [2 Chronicles 34:26–27].)
- What should we learn about God from this passage?
(God is holy and will not allow sin and disobedience to continue unpunished. He is also merciful and will forgive those who trust in him.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 70—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Matthew 5:17–20

Though Amon forgot the Word of the Lord and it was lost for a season, God ensured that it would not be lost for good. It was God's mercy to allow Amon to be killed and young Josiah to be made king. It was God who gave Josiah a heart for righteousness, and it was God who led him to preserve the Word of God and the promise of a coming deliverer, Jesus.

Jesus is called "the Word" in the Gospel of John. God in his faithfulness would not let his Word pass away because his Word is all about his Son, Jesus. The Word of God describes the sinfulness of man and the promise of redemption by God through Jesus. Not the smallest portion of God's Word will pass away until it is accomplished.

- **What was on the scroll that was found?**
(The scroll was the Bible for God's people and most likely contained the first five books of the Old Testament.)
- **What is wrong with the temple in the picture?**
(It is messed up and in disrepair.)
- **How could such an important book get lost?**
(The Bible was lost because the people turned from God and began to worship other gods.)
- **Could we ever lose the Bible for good?**
(No, Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." God's Word will never be completely lost to all, but it can be lost to some. If we do not follow God's Word, we will not care about it and will likely forget about it just as Israel did.)

Find the Scrolls

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ fifty index cards

Before class draw a scroll on ten index cards.

Take the ten illustrated cards along with forty blank cards and place them face down on the floor. Divide the class into two teams. Have the teams take turns guessing which of the cards has a scroll. As they play, tell them it is their mission to find the lost Law of God. The team with the most scrolls when you are done is the winning team.

Puppet Show

Recruit a helper to participate in the puppet show.

This short skit shows how excited we are when something important has been found. This should help the children understand how exciting it was for Josiah and the people of Israel when the book of the Law was found.

Puppet: (*searching for something in a pile of items*) I can't believe they are gone. What is she going to say when I tell her I lost them? (*moving around various objects*) I am really going to be in a lot of trouble. She told me to keep them in my mouth so I would hold on to them and not lose them. I had them in my mouth and then the next thing you know I started playing around and forgot about them. Now she is going to be calling and ...

Teacher: (*voice calling from offstage*) Puppet, I'm calling you.

Puppet: (*frantically searching all over, tossing things around, some into the crowd*) Oh no! She is coming and I can't find them.

Teacher: (*voice calling from offstage*) Oh Puppet, where are you?

Puppet: Oh no, she is getting closer. What am I going to do? Let me think. Yes, that's it, be calm. Okay. What was the last thing I did? Well, I was coming into my room ... oh yes, then I heard the phone ring, and I ran to answer it. It was my dad asking me not to forget to walk the dog. So I had to get my shoes on, but I couldn't find my shoes, so I looked under my bed. Hey, maybe they are under my bed! (*Puppet drops out of sight and recovers the lost keys.*) Here they are. I found the keys. I found the keys! (*dancing around and repeating*) I found the keys! I found the keys!

Teacher: (*entering*) Puppet, do you have my keys?

Puppet: Yes, I do. Here they are. *(Puppet gives keys back.)*

Teacher: Good, I was so afraid you might lose my keys when you went to walk the dog.

Puppet: Oh no.

Teacher: Why did you say, oh no?

Puppet: I forgot to walk the dog.

Teacher: Well you are going to have to walk the dog now. Here are my keys. Keep them in your mouth so you don't lose them.

Puppet: Oh no, here we go again.

Questions for the children:

- Why was the puppet upset?
(The puppet was upset because he lost the keys, which are very important.)
- What happened when he found the keys?
(He was very excited.)
- Why was it exciting that the Book of the Law was found?
(The Book of the Law is much more important than a set of keys. It is God's Word.)
- How should we treat our Bibles in light of this story?
(We should take care not to lose our Bibles and memorize Scripture to keep it in our heart.)

PRAY

5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 70 - JOSIAH, THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KING

