

LESSON 70

Josiah, the Eight-Year-Old King

2 CHRONICLES 34:1 – 35:19



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD'S WORD WILL NEVER PASS AWAY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Chronicles 34 from the Scriptures or read story 70, “Josiah, the Eight-Year-Old King,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
The Law Is Found
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ strips of paper with the following passages written one to a strip: Exodus 20:12; John 3:16; Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 3:5–6; Proverbs 4:1; Psalm 1:1–3; Psalm 119:9; Psalm 119:33–34; Psalm 119:105
 - ✓ candy for prizes
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Tender Heart, Hard Heart
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ clay that can be baked and hardened in the oven (enough for each child to have a small piece)
 - ✓ a few heart-shaped cookie cutters
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 70—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
Idols Everywhere
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ several pictures of idols, including a calf idol
 - ✓ glue
 - ✓ paper

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Josiah had a heart for God—Josiah was only eight years old when he became the king of Judah. Among all thirty-nine kings of the divided kingdom of Israel and Judah, he was arguably the best. He was energetic and determined to rid the land of idols. Even more importantly, he maintained his passion for the glory of God. As other kings grew older, they tended to become more wicked. But as Josiah grew older, he only became more determined to honor God and restore the worship of God to Judah.

The book of the law was found in the house of the Lord—Josiah, as a sixteen-year-old, embarked on a campaign to destroy the idols in the land of Judah. Ten years later, he began to restore the temple. There in the temple, neglected and covered with dust, workers found the book of the law, which had probably been lying there for about seventy-five years. When Josiah heard the words of the law read to him, he tore his clothes because he realized how wicked God's people had become.

The ark of God was returned to the temple—Josiah took a great step forward in returning the true worship of God to Judah. He returned the ark to Solomon's temple. He used the book of the law that had been found in the temple and writings from David and Solomon, so that he could properly celebrate Passover. He and his officials donated more than forty thousand animals to be used in sacrifices on behalf of the people.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW

5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY

10 MIN

Read 2 Chronicles 34 from the Scriptures or read story 70, "Josiah, the Eight-Year-Old King," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1

10 MIN

The Law Is Found

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ strips of paper with the following passages written one to a strip: Exodus 20:12; John 3:16; Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 3:5–6; Proverbs 4:1; Psalm 1:1–3; Psalm 119:9; Psalm 119:33–34; Psalm 119:105
- ✓ candy for prizes

This is a fun exercise to help the children understand how important it is to remember God's Word.

Fold the strips of paper with the verses printed on them, and hide them around the class.

After reading the story, tell the children that God's Word is hidden all over the classroom. Release them to find the strips of paper and bring them up for a prize. Read the verses and talk to the class about how important it is to keep God's Word in our hearts.

Explain to the class that the kings before Josiah were wicked and did not follow God's Word; therefore, it was disregarded and lost.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2

10 MIN

Tender Heart, Hard Heart

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ clay that can be baked and hardened in the oven (enough for each child to have a small piece)
- ✓ a few heart-shaped cookie cutters

This exercise is designed to help the children understand the benefit of a tender heart.

Prior to class make a small heart out of the clay, and bake it in your oven to harden it.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:22–33. Ask the class how the Bible describes Josiah's heart. Remind them of Pharaoh's hard heart and ask them how Josiah is different from Pharaoh.

Pass out a small portion of clay to each child. Have them form a heart with the clay and then using a pencil press a design into the heart. Pass around the hard heart and ask the children to notice the difference and how the hard heart can no longer receive any image or mark.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- What do you think it means to have a tender heart toward God?
(A tender heart toward God allows his Word to make its mark in our lives. That means that when we read something in the Bible, we should make sure that when we walk away from that Word it remains impressed on our hearts, and when people see us, they can see God's Word at work in our lives.)
- What kinds of things did Josiah do that demonstrated his tender heart toward God?
(He tore his clothes and cried when he realized how they had not followed God, he cleared the land of idols, and he restored the house of God.)

Take the hearts home and bake them and then return them to the children.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 70—one copy for each child

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

- 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER

5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Idols Everywhere

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ several pictures of idols, including a calf idol
- ✓ glue
- ✓ paper

To prepare, glue the pictures of idols onto copy paper and then make one hundred copies. Finally cut the sheets into eighths. This will leave you with eight hundred pictures of idols. (When you glue the photos on, keep in mind the way you will be cutting apart the page to allow for at least half an idol on each eighth of the page.)

Prior to class, overturn the furniture and scatter the eight hundred idols throughout the room. Now when the children come in, you can tell them they are just like Josiah, the eight-year-old king, who came into power and had to deal with a mess in Jerusalem.

After reading the story of Josiah to them, have the children clean up your classroom clearing out the idols.

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

