

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**
 Seeking Is the Key to Finding
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ a box that can be locked with a key
 - ✓ sign with the words, “Seek After the Key”
 - ✓ miniature chocolate bars (one for each child)
 - ✓ paper bag
- 4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
- 5. OBJECT LESSON 2** **15 MIN**
 Josiah Teaching Us
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ pencil and paper
- 6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
- 7. ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
 The Book of the Law Found
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper
- 8. CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
- 9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
 Not a Dot
SUPPLIES:
- ✓ photocopy (at 400 percent) the page of your Bible with the verse John 19:30 making sure the word “finished” makes it onto the page
 - ✓ highlighter

TOTAL 85 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

The Book of the Law

In 2 Chronicles 34:14, Hilkiyah found the “Book of the Law of the LORD given through Moses.” Later, in 34:30, it is called the “Book of the Covenant.” The first five books of the Old Testament are called the Pentateuch. Jesus refers to them in Luke 24:44 as the Law of Moses. In John 5:47, Jesus emphasizes the importance of believing what Moses wrote by saying, “if you do not believe [Moses’] writings, how will you believe my words?”

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

Seeking Is the Key to Finding

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a box that can be locked with a key
- ✓ sign with the words, "Seek After the Key"
- ✓ miniature chocolate bars (one for each child)
- ✓ paper bag

The object of this lesson is to illustrate how Josiah's reforms began when he sought the Lord (2 Chronicles 34:3).

Prior to class, place the candies in a paper bag on a shelf in an inconspicuous place. Write a note disclosing the location of the candy and place it inside the box and then lock it. Hide the key in the classroom. Display the box in a prominent place but withhold the sign until you are ready to begin the activity.

Read the story of Josiah and discuss the amazing events that began with Josiah seeking the Lord.

Place the sign on the box, read it together, and have them seek after the key. Be sure to use the word "seek" as it will serve to connect the lesson with Josiah seeking after the Lord.

When the key is found, have one of the children unlock the box and read the enclosed note. When the bag of candy is found, pass a piece to each member of the class.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **When you first came into class, did you know what was in the bag on the shelf?**
(No, we didn't know. This is just like Josiah not knowing the Lord when he began his reign.)

- **How did you find out about the candy?**
(They will likely say that it was in the note. Lead them back to the key and their seeking of the key.)

- **How is this exercise like Josiah's life?**
(We sought after a key to open the box; Josiah sought after the Lord and discovered the Word and God's will.)

Share with the children Jeremiah 29:13, and then ask the children to name all the things that happened as a result of Josiah seeking the Lord. End by telling them that seeking the Lord is the "key" to following God.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Josiah Teaching Us

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

Have the children read through the story of Josiah (2 Chronicles 34). Pass out paper and pencils and have the children write their answer to the following question:

- How does Josiah’s life challenge you to live differently?

Encourage the children to consider where their hearts are before the Lord and how they treat the Word of God. Give the children ten minutes to write, and then invite some of them to share what they wrote with the class.

Challenge the class to trust that God can do great things through their lives just like he did through Josiah’s. Encourage them to read their Bibles and look for opportunities to serve others.

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 15 MIN

The Book of the Law Found

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of the discovery of the Book of the Law.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Not a Dot

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ photocopy (at 400 percent) the page of your Bible with the verse John 19:30 making sure the word “finished” makes it onto the page
- ✓ highlighter

Before class use the highlighter to highlight the word “finished” on the magnified copy of John 19:30.

After telling the story of how the Book of the Law was lost and then found, read Matthew 5:17–20 and use the “Where Is Jesus?” section of this lesson to explain the passage. Hold up the magnified and highlighted copy of John 19:30. Tell the children you chose one word, one important word that will never be lost. Read the word “finished” to the children and see if they can figure out from what is printed on the page why that one word is important.

“Finished” is important because Jesus is telling us that the wrath of God, poured out upon him, was exhausted. Jesus endured the full punishment for the sins of everyone who believes. That message, the message of the cross, is written in God’s Word. It will never be lost.