

JOSIAH - EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KING

God's Word will never pass away.



THE STORY: 2 CHRONICLES 34:1-7

MONDAY

Josiah's heart for the Lord brought good changes to the nation

Josiah's heart for the Lord brought good changes to the nation – Josiah was only eight-years-old when he became the King of Judah. When he was sixteen, he began to seek the Lord. Four years later, he attempted to remove all idols from the land. Josiah did not just knock down the idols, he ground them into powder and scattered the powder over the idol worshippers' graves. He further defiled the false altars by burning dead men's bones on them. This would have made them unfit for pagan worship forever.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Josiah do to the false idols so no one would worship them? *(Josiah ground them to powder. Then he burned human bones and scattered the ashes on the altars. Throwing these ashes on the altars was like someone spitting in your drink – you would never want to drink it again.)*

Can God use young men and women to do great things? *(Yes. Josiah was only a boy when he began to rule. He was a young teenage man when he began to cleanse the land of idols. What an encouragement for young men and women this is! God can use people even when they are young to do great things.)*

PRAY:

Take time to ask God to use each of your children. Have your other children place their hands on each other and as a family pray for each child.





The Book of the Law was found in the house of the Lord

The Book of the Law was found in the house of the Lord – When Josiah was twenty-six years old and the job of restoring the temple was about to begin, Hilkiah found the Book of the Law (2 Chronicles 34:15). When Josiah heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes. Josiah realized just how wicked God’s people had become. The prophetess Huldah returned to Josiah (2 Chronicles 34:26) and prophesied Judah’s destruction. But she also told Josiah that God heard his cry and that the destruction would not come in Josiah’s lifetime.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What was the Book of the Law? *(The book of the Law was the Bible they had at the time, the first five books of the Old Testament).*

Was it “luck” that the priest found the Book of the Law? *(No. Luck makes it sound like God was not a part of the process. In reality, finding the law and keeping it from being lost was a part of God’s plan.)*

What did Josiah do when he heard the words of the law spoken? Why? *(Josiah tore his clothes because he realized just how sinful God’s people had become. Because of his humble response, God blessed Josiah. See 2 Chronicles 34:27-28).*

PRAY:

Ask God to keep you sensitive to His Word so that when you read it or hear it preached, you will respond.





Where is Jesus?

Though Amon, Josiah's father, forgot the Word of the Lord because it was lost for a season, God ensured that it would not be lost for good. God's mercy allowed young Josiah to be made king. It was God who gave Josiah a heart for righteousness and led him to preserve the Word of God. In this Word was 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 His Son Jesus. Not the smallest portion of God's Word will pass away until it is accomplished. God's Word will never be lost, but it can be forgotten by sinful men.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How can we be sure we never forget God's Word? *(The Bible tells us to impress His Word upon our hearts. If we read and follow God's Word every day, it won't be lost. It is only when we ignore God's Word that we are a step closer to forgetting it.)*

Read Isaiah 40:8. Will God's Word the Bible ever pass away? *(No. God's Word will never pass away. Isaiah 40:8 says, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God (the Bible) will stand forever.")*

PRAY:

Thank God for preserving His Word for us.





The Passover was restored like never before

The Passover was restored like never before – Josiah followed the Book of the Law and restored true worship (the worship of the one true God) to the land. Even the Northern Kingdom was cleansed under his reign. Josiah commanded that the holy ark be returned to the temple and that a great Passover be celebrated. Josiah contributed thousands of animals as sacrifices for all the people. The people celebrated the Passover.

No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah. (2 Chronicles 35:18)

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the Passover celebration remind us of? (*The Passover points forward to the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins.*)

Were the thousands of animals sacrificed able to take away the sins of God's people? (*No. The sacrifice of animals could never take away sin. They only reminded God of another sacrifice, Jesus, who was able to pay the debt for sin and make a way for God to forgive His people.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus, a far better sacrifice than that of bulls and lambs.





On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus repeatedly called Himself the Son of Man (Mark 2:10 and Matthew 16:13). Jesus also claimed the kind of authority spoken of in Daniel 7:14 (Matthew 28:18).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who was Daniel prophesying about? How do you know? *(Jesus was called the Son of Man and He had the kind of authority spoken of in Daniel 7:14.)*

Why couldn't this passage refer to any other man? *(No other man comes from the clouds or has dominion, glory, or a kingdom which is everlasting.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for Jesus the Son of Man who, though He was God, became a man so that He might live and die in our place.

