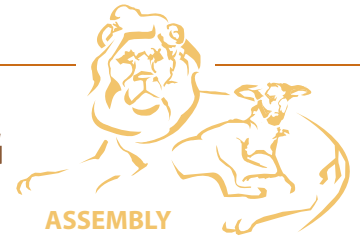


JOSIAH, THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II CHRONICLES 34:1-33



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

FIND THE SCROLLS

Supplies:

purchase a pack of index cards and draw a scroll on ten of them

Take the ten illustrated cards along with 40 blank cards and place them face down on the floor. Divide the class up 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.

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PUPPET SHOW

Supplies:

various objects, keys

This short skit is to show how we are excited 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 loose 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 off stage.) Puppet, I'm calling you.

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

Teacher: (Voice calling from off stage.) 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 keys he lost.) Here they are. I found the keys. I found the keys! (Puppet dances around and repeats: I found the keys! I found the keys!)

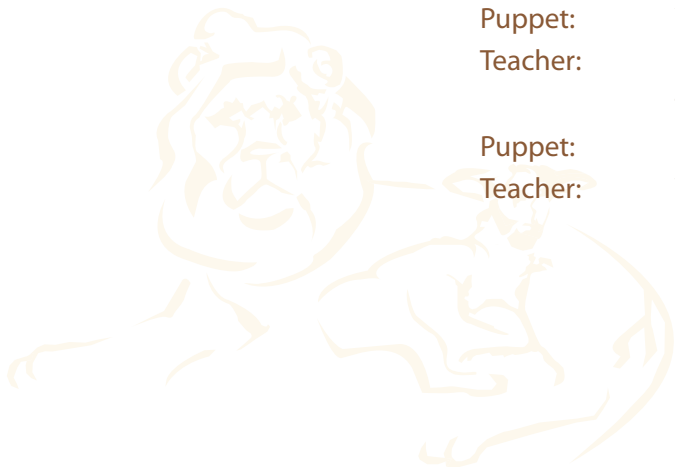
Teacher: (Arrives on the scene.) Puppet, do you have my keys?

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

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

Puppet: Oh no.

Teacher: Why did you say, Oh no?



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- 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.)

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.

Jesus said,

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV)

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 His son Jesus. Not the smallest portion of God's Word will pass away until it is accomplished.