

JOSIAH, THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II CHRONICLES 34:1-33



The STORY

Read "The Great Find" and "Josiah Lights a Bonfire" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories pages 220-222.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

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

- How old was Josiah when he became king? (Josiah was eight-years-old when he became king.)
- Why did Josiah become king so young? (Amon his father was wicked like Manasseh his grandfather. Amon's officials conspired against him and killed him in his palace.)
- What happened to the temple during the time when Manasseh and Amon were kings? (The temple was not used to worship God and fell into great disrepair. Instead of worshipping God, the people worshipped idols and eventually forgot all about God.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: the scroll of the law being pulled out of the temple wreckage. Engage the children by asking:

- What was on the scroll? (The scroll was the Bible for God's people and contained at that time the first five books of the Old Testament.)
- 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.)

JOSIAH, THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II CHRONICLES 34:1-33

SNACK QUESTIONS

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

Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-8

• What did Josiah do to the temple? (Josiah began to seek God. He had people tear down the altars and high places to the other gods.)

Read 2 Chronicles 34:26-27

• What did God promise Josiah? (Josiah would not see God's judgment on Israel's idolatry because he had humbled himself.)

• 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.)



JOSIAH, THE EIGHT-YEAR-OLD KING

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II CHRONICLES 34:1-33

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

