

Josiah—The Boy Who Became King

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY What To Do...	5	1–6		 A-C	envelopes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON Josiah—The Boy Who Became King	5	1–6	 	 D-H	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1–6	 	 I	
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Scripture Scroll Craft	5	1–6			11" x 17" paper, straws, ribbon
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Crown	10	1–6		 J	glitter, beads, stickers
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Pointing In The Right Direction	10	1–6			compass, magnet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Temple Troubles	5	1–2			
Josiah, The Boy King	5	3–4			
Josiah, The Obedient King	5	5–6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1–2			
iSPEAK	5	3–4			
iSPEAK	5	5–6			

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson will help junior soldiers understand what it means to be faithful to God. Through the example of Josiah, junior soldiers will learn what it means to be responsible, to love God, and to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

YOU ARE HERE!



Place the timeline marker on **639 B.C.** on the **Old Testament** timeline.

*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

Josiah—The Boy Who Became King

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

BIBLE REFERENCES:

This lesson is based on the following Bible references:

2 Kings 22-23

UNIT AIM:

This unit will introduce junior soldiers to four people from the Old Testament who are powerful examples for young people. Junior soldiers will learn the importance of relying on God, listening to God, following His guidance, and having complete trust in Him.

UNDER THE RULE OF King Manasseh, Judah ignored the one true God, and worshiped false gods. The Assyrian army captured King Manasseh and took him to Babylon. While in Babylon, King Manasseh prayed to God for help. God restored Manasseh to his throne in Jerusalem, where he tried to direct the people to worship the one true God. Shortly after returning to Jerusalem, King Manasseh died. In 639 B.C., when Josiah was eight years old, he became king in Jerusalem. He reigned for 31 years. There was no other king like Josiah. The Bible says that Josiah followed the Lord with all his heart, soul, and strength (2 Kings 23:25).

During the reign of Josiah, a great revival affected the nation. Under the guidance of God, and with the help of his advisor Hilkiah the high priest, Josiah led a movement that caused the greatest revival the people ever experienced since the reigns of David and Solomon.

The first thing Josiah did when he became king was to repair the Temple. While restoring the Temple, Hilkiah found the lost Book of the Law. He presented it to Josiah, who, returned the Word of God to a place of prominence in the Temple. Josiah made a covenant to follow the Lord and obey His commands. He took his responsibilities seriously.

Josiah's reign lasted 31 years. During his reign, he carried out an amazing religious reform in Judah. He removed the altars, idols, and all symbols of ungodly worship. He destroyed the pagan centers of worship throughout Judah. Josiah reintroduced the teaching of the Law of Moses and lived according to the law. No other earthly king who ruled Judah was as sincere or devout as Josiah.



TEACHER TIPS:

Look ahead to lesson 3. You have to gather some unusual supplies that may be difficult to obtain on short notice.



OPENING ACTIVITY
What To Do... 

Before class, copy  A. Cut along the dotted lines and place each card in its own envelope. Place the envelopes around the room. Make one copy of  B-C for each junior soldier. As junior soldiers arrive, instruct them to cut along the dotted lines to create six “yes” cards and six “no” cards.

Say: **All around the room there are envelopes. Each envelope has a card inside. If you agree with what’s on the card, place one of your “yes” cards in the envelope. If you don’t agree, place one of your “no” cards in the envelope.**

After all junior soldiers have placed “yes” or “no” cards in each envelope, gather the envelopes. Review each card and tally up the junior soldiers responses. Discuss each situation.



TEACHER TIPS:

If your brigade is mostly younger junior soldiers read each scenario aloud and ask junior soldiers to hold up a “yes” or “no” card.

LESSON
Josiah—The Boy Who Became King  

Before class, make copies of  D-H. Cut on the dotted line, color them, and mount them on construction paper. Place the pictures on a table, but don’t put them in the correct order. Each time you read a portion of the story that you have a  to illustrate, ask a junior soldier to come forward, select a picture, and stand in front of the class holding the picture. An asterisk (*) marks each time you have a  for that section of the story.

Say: **Today we’re going to learn about a boy who became king of Judah when he was only eight years old. His name is Josiah. As I tell you the story of Josiah, if I call on you I want you to come forward and choose a picture that shows what I just told you about Josiah. After you choose a picture, stay standing in front of the class, and we’ll review the story together.**



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A-C
- six envelopes
- scissors



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  D-H
- construction paper
- markers/crayons



In 639 B.C., a little boy name Josiah became king.* He was only eight years old. Raise your hand if you're eight years old. (Allow response.) Josiah's mother was Jedidah and his father was Amon. Josiah was the king of Judah for 31 years!

Josiah tried to live a good life. He wanted to make God happy. Josiah was like King David—they were both men that loved God very much.

When Josiah was about 26 years old, he wanted to make some changes in Judah. He sent a messenger to the Temple with the following message: (Read 2 Kings 22:4-7).

Say: When the king's messenger, Shaphan, arrived at the Temple, he gave Josiah's message to Hilkiah, the high priest. Hilkiah had a message for the king too. He found the Book of the Law, God's Word! Hilkiah gave the Book of the Law to Shaphan and asked him to give it to King Josiah.

Shaphan returned to King Josiah and said, "Your servants have bagged up all the money collected at the Temple, and have given it to the construction workers." Then he told the king, "The priest gave me a book." At once Shaphan read the book to Josiah.*

When Josiah heard the Word of God, he tore his robes. He tore his robes because he was upset that the people of Judah weren't following God's commands. Josiah gathered his advisors and the high priest and told them: (Read 2 Kings 22:13).

Josiah called all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem to meet together. They followed Josiah to the Temple where he read the Book of the Law to them.* Josiah stood before everyone and made a promise to God to obey the laws found in God's Word. Josiah promised to follow the laws with all of his heart and all of his soul. The people of Judah and Jerusalem agreed with Josiah; they promised to obey God's law.*

Because the people of Judah hadn't obeyed God's laws or worshiped Him for many years, they had a lot of work to do so that they could keep their promise to God. Many things in the Temple didn't honor God. Josiah instructed Hilkiah to destroy all objects in the Temple that honored the gods Baal and Asherah instead of Jehovah God.

Hilkiah removed the priests who worshiped other gods.* He removed the Asherah pole from the Temple.* He destroyed rooms used for sinning. Hilkiah destroyed the high places at Geba and Topheth. He removed the statues of the horses from the entrance to the Temple.* He pulled down the altars built by the old kings, and he smashed the sacred stones.* The only thing he didn't destroy was the tomb of a man who loved God.



LESSON 1

After cleaning the Temple of everything that didn't honor God, Josiah told the people, "Celebrate the Passover Feast to honor the Lord your God. Do what is written in this Scroll of the Covenant" (2 Kings 23:21 NIV).^{*} It had been many years since the people of Judah celebrated Passover.^{*}

No other king in Judah was like Josiah. He did many wonderful things because he trusted God, and obeyed His commands. God wants us to follow Him too! He wants us to have faith in Him, and obey His commands. God wants us to love Him with all of our hearts and all of our souls—just like King Josiah.



TEACHER TIPS:

Write difficult or unfamiliar words on the board for junior soldiers so they can find the proper spellings without asking you to spell them each time.

MEMORY VERSE

2 Kings 22:2 (NIV)

"Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He lived the way King David had lived. He didn't turn away from it to the right or the left."

Before class, make 16 copies of  I. Write one word of the memory verse on each foot. Make a path throughout the classroom by placing the footsteps in the proper order. Instruct the junior soldiers to walk on the footsteps as they read the verse. Then, remove one set of footsteps at a time as you review the verse.



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  I
- tape



The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.



REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

Scripture Scroll Craft (Option 1)



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 11" x 17" paper (cut to 5.5" x 17")
- straws (or unsharpened pencils)
- markers/crayons
- glue
- ribbon

Help junior soldiers make an inspirational scroll like the scrolls found in the Temple during the reign of Josiah.

Before class, cut sheets of 11" x 17" paper to be 5.5" x 17". Give each junior soldier a piece of paper, two straws (or unsharpened pencils), art supplies (crayons, markers, glue, etc.), and a piece of ribbon.

Instruct junior soldiers to write the memory verse on the piece of paper. If you have younger junior soldiers, allow them to write only the words in italics. Next, instruct junior soldiers to glue one straw (or unsharpened pencil) to each end of the paper. After the glue has dried, instruct junior soldiers to roll the scroll toward the center, and tie the ribbon around the scroll.

Crown (Option 2)



MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  J
- construction paper
- scissors
- markers/crayons
- glue
- glitter
- beads
- stickers

Before class, make copies of  J. Let junior soldiers use  J as a template for their crowns. Give each junior soldier a piece of construction paper and art supplies (glitter, glue, stickers, beads, scissors, etc.). Instruct junior soldiers to make and decorate a crown. While junior soldiers are making and decorating their crowns, review the lesson.

Say: **Josiah was only eight years old when he became king of Judah. Even though he was just a little boy, he did great things for God. Josiah helped bring his entire kingdom back to God! If you were the President of the United States, what would you do to help America obey God's commands?** (Allow response.)



WORSHIP PROGRAM

CHORUS: Song #3: "What a Mighty God We Serve"
(Track #3, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 22:2 (NirV), Jeremiah 22:15-16 (NirV), 2 Kings 23:25 (NirV)

CHORUS: Song #24: "Jesus, Name Above All Names"
(Track #24, *Great Big Praise* CD 1)

DEVOTIONAL

Pointing in the Right Direction

Say: **Who knows what this is?** (Allow response.) **It's a compass. A compass helps people stay on track when they're walking in the woods, mountains, or other places.**

Do you know in what direction a compass points? (Allow response.) **A compass points north. By looking at a compass we know which way is north, south, east, and west.**

As Christians, we should be like a compass. A compass points north so the person using it can figure out which path to take. As Christians, we should point to God so others know how to live lives that make God happy.

A compass should always point north, but (Put a magnet next to the compass.) **when I place this magnet next to the compass, what happens?** (Allow response.) **The compass point shifts directions—it no longer points north. Sometimes bad influences change our direction away from God. What are some things that are bad influences on our lives?** (Allow response.)

Say: **For the compass to be correct, and point north, we must remove the magnet. For us as Christians to be good examples and point others to God, we must remove the bad influences from our lives.**

Josiah removed the bad influences from Judah so that the people in his kingdom could worship God the way they should. Josiah removed the false gods and idols from the Temple so that the people of Judah would worship God alone. We should be like Josiah. Let's pray and ask God to help us remove the bad influences in our lives so we can show others how to love Him.

PRAYER



MATERIALS NEEDED:

- compass
- magnet



Remember to fill out the *What Do You Think Evaluation* on page 109.

