

Josiah

Bible Story: Josiah • *2 Kings 22–23*

Bottom Line: You can know God through His Word.

Memory Verse: “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)*

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review - Josiah’s Quest

What You Need: White Board, pencils, markers, 2 lengths of butcher paper

What You Do:

- Split the kids into 2 groups.
- Explain that each group will have several minutes to create a video game of Josiah’s story.
- The main character (anyone they choose; it can even be based on one of the people in their group or a cartoon character) will travel through the game to collect the items listed below.
- Kids will draw out scenes from the game board on the butcher paper
- Go over each of the **objects/plot points** from the story (**see below**) and draw them in order on the white board for kids to refer to as they’re working.
- There are suggestions below about how to create their game.
- Give the kids time to work and then have each group quickly explain their “game”.

Objects /Plot Points: *DRAW IN ORDER ON THE WHITE BOARD *

1. Player collects a crown – Josiah becomes king at age eight.
2. Player collects an eye– Josiah did what was right in the eyes of God.
3. Player collects a scroll – The high priest Hilkiah find the book of the law.
4. Player smashes all the statues / false gods – Josiah realizes they are not doing what God says and orders all false gods to be destroyed.
5. Player discovers the Bible and wins the game – We now have all of God’s Word—the Bible—so we can know God.

Game Creation Ideas:

1. They can create a large game board where the “player” travels to different areas to collect each item and you can see the entire game on one piece of paper.
2. They can simply come up with a list of rules about how the game is played and write them down.
3. They could make each item to collect a different “level” of the game and use a different piece of paper to describe each level.
4. Obstacles – Kids can create a series of obstacles that can throw the player off course such as birds that fly by or something he/she has to jump over.
5. Points – Kids can make their players earn a certain number of points each time they collect one of the items or overcome an obstacle.
6. Additional Objects – Kids can require the player to acquire something else in order to get to the five listed above. For instance, if the crown is up in a tree, the player may have to grab a ladder to climb up to reach the crown.

What You Say:

- “What amazing imaginations you have!
- I LOVE your Josiah’s Quest video games.
- Great job, friends.
- I love this story of King Josiah and how even at such a young age, he followed God.
- Josiah recognized that God’s Word was very special.
- And after it was read to him, he had all those false gods torn down so that everyone would follow the one true God.
- After reading God’s Word, he made a change.
- That happens sometimes for us too.
- When we read about how God wants us to be kind or honest, it helps us to see what we need to change.
- And it also tells us that God is kind and honest too.
- **[Bottom Line] You can know God through His word.**

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you read something in Scripture that helped you know God better. How did knowing that truth about God help you live differently? Feel free to also share a verse that is special to you. Remember to always keep your examples age appropriate.)

- “I’m so thankful that **[Bottom Line] you can know God through His Word.**”

SNACK TIME

TALK ABOUT MEMORY VERSE DURING SNACK

2. Memory Verse “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” *2 Peter 1:3a (NIRV)*

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Encourage a child to look up **2 Peter 1:3a** and read it to the group.

Say:

- “God has given us everything we need to Power Up and live the way he wants us to live.
- I’m so thankful for the Bible and how it helps me to know who God is and how He loves each one of us.
- He doesn’t stay hidden from us.
- Invite children to share their favorite Bible story they might know or a favorite Scripture they would like to tell about.
 - Thank you for sharing

Open the Bible and flip through the pages from Genesis to Revelation

Say:

- “Every word in the Bible is to tell us that **God loves us** and to teach us to:
 - Love God
 - Love Others
 - Love Life
- He wants us to know Him and has given us His Word so that we can.
[Bottom Line] You can know God through His Word.”

3. (IF TIME ALLOWS) Live for God – Question Boxes

What to do:

- Pass out kids' "Question Boxes" from yesterday.
- Hand out strips of paper.
- Ask kids to write down one thing they've learned about God from His Word and add it to their box.

What You Say:

- "I love that every time I open my Bible, I learn something new about God.
- That's why I spend time in God's Word every day.
- Sometimes I just read my Bible.
- Other times, I read a devotional book that helps me understand what I'm reading in my Bible.
- Did you know that there are devotional guides out there just for kids?
- It's true.
- There's even a devotional called Power Up that follows along with what we're learning each day this week.
- There is always something new to learn about God from His Word!
- Remember, **[Bottom Line] you can know God through His Word.**"

COLLECT THE BOXES TO USE AGAIN TOMORROW

4. Prayer

What You Say:

- “I’d like you to think about what you have learned today about God’s Word – the and spend a minute or two praying.
- Thank God for this truth you’ve learned about Him and ask God to help you get to know Him better this week.
- Remember, **[Bottom Line] you can know God through His Word.**
- In just a moment, I’ll close out our time together with a prayer.

(Allow a minute for kids to pray silently.)

“God, thank You for giving us Your Word so that we can KNOW You. Thank You that You don’t want to hide who You are from us. Help us to read Your Word, to ask questions when there is something that we don’t understand, and to APPLY what we’ve learned so we can live the way You want us to. Thank You for being a God who loves us and wants to have a friendship with each one of us. Amen.”

5. Travel Time

As you travel to the next track, use the following questions to keep the conversation going and to keep kids thinking about what they’re learning!

- What is something you know about God that you learned from His Word?
- How is the Bible different from other books?