

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/Discussion

What You Need: Bibles (*2 Kings 22-23, 2 Timothy 3:16*), coin, balloons

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Review** the Bible story by passing a coin and taking turns flipping it.
 - If it lands on HEADS, the student shares something that happened in the story that was good, happy, or right.
 - If the coin lands on TAILS, he shares something that was bad, sad, or wrong.
 - Keep your Bible open to *2 Kings 22–23* and refer to the passage as needed.
- **Read 2 Kings 22:2** to the students. Ask:
 - What are some key words in this verse that describe Josiah?
 - How did Josiah know what was right in the eyes of the Lord?
 - What does it mean when it says that he did not “turn aside to the right or to the left”?
 - How can we know the Lord and the way He wants us to live?
- **Give** each person a balloon.
- **Explain** that you will read aloud *2 Timothy 3:16*, which is a verse that describes the Bible.
- **Tell** students that you’ll pause after each sentence in the verse and give them time to breathe one time into their balloon. Explain that they will want to take deep breaths because you’re looking for the largest balloon when you reach the end of the verse.
- **Tie off** the balloons.
- **Point out** that the amazing thing about Scripture is that it’s God’s way of speaking to us in unique ways at many different times in our lives.

- **Take turns** sharing answers to the following questions, beginning with the largest balloon, and then moving to the smallest, allowing every child a turn to answer if they feel comfortable.
 - Explain what you think the phrase “God breathed into Scripture” means. *(Refer to whatever wording is used in the translations your students are reading.)*
 - What is something Scripture (or the Bible) has taught you?
 - What mistake have you made that Scripture helped you see was wrong?
 - Tell about a time when a verse encouraged you in some way.

Ask:

- Why is it important to discover what God says?
- What would you say is the best part about the Bible?
- How do you go about learning what the Bible says?
- How do you respond when someone says they don't believe the Bible? What can you say that will help them?
- How is the Bible different from other books?
- How do you know what to do with what you've read in the Bible?

Wrap Up and Say:

“The Bible should be at the very center of what a follower of Jesus believes. Like a beautiful tapestry, the amazing message of Jesus is woven in and out of every part of the Bible. It's unlike any other book ever written. God led men to write the things we need to know about Him and about His plan for us. It teaches us how to live wisely and how to treat others. It's filled with true stories of people who lived for God and those who didn't. We can follow the example of those who pleased God and learn from the mistakes of those who went their own way. Reading the Bible helps us come to know the one true God who loves us more than we can imagine.”

SNACK TIME**DO “VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU” DURING SNACK****2. Verse to Take with You**

What You Need: “Verses” activity page, scroll die cuts, pens

What You Do:

- **Give** each kid a scroll die cut
- **Invite** kids to read over the verses.
- **Have** them choose one scripture to copy onto their scroll
- **Prompt** discussion using the following questions and sentence starters:
 - God's Word is important to me because . . .
 - The reason I choose this verse is because...
 - I like to read the Bible when I'm . . .
 - If you could thank God for one thing about the Bible, what would it be?

3. Make It Personal with Prayer

What You Need: “Power Up Prayer Cards”

What You Do:

- **Give** students the “Power Up Prayer Cards.”
- **Invite** them to choose one of the prayer options that the group will use today. If students can't decide on one option, form groups based on their choices.
 - **Download:** Kneel and pray silently at the same time with one or more friends.
 - **Upload:** Pray standing with hands raised in the air.
 - **Live Chat:** Choose one student or adult to lead in prayer while pausing to let others echo the same words.
 - **One-Up:** Pop up and pray one-sentence prayers with a friend or in a group.
 - **Offline:** Write a short prayer for someone else to pray.
 - **Online:** Write out a prayer and include the words HELP, THANKS, and LOVE.
 - **Triple Play:** Three kids, three minutes, three prayer requests.
 - **Blitz:** Write out a prayer request, wad up the paper, sit in a circle, and volley the paper wads to one another for ten seconds. Then grab a paper wad and pray silently for whatever is written on it.
- **Direct** them to focus their prayers around this statement: **“You can know God through His Word.”**

4. 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 the Bible?
- What's your favorite Bible story or verse?
- Do you have your own Bible? Where do you keep it? When do you read it?