

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 (NIV)

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 -King Me

What You Need: Prepared “King Me!” crowns and “Crown Jewels” (Activity Pages); markers, stickers, and/or other items; glue dots, color-coding labels, or tape

What You Do:

- Give each child a “King Me!” crown. Invite kids to tell what they remember about King Josiah from today’s story.
- Give each kid a set of “Crown Jewels” stickers and guide them to tell what’s happening in each picture.
 - Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.
 - While Josiah was still a young man, the high priest, Hilkiah, found a special scroll. It was the Book of the Law, God’s Word.
 - When Josiah heard God’s Word, he tore his royal robes. In Bible times, people tore their clothes as a way to express deep sadness. Josiah promised to serve the Lord and obey His rules with all his heart and soul. And so did all the people.
 - Then King Josiah got rid of everything that didn’t honor God.
- Lead kids to place the stickers in order, from left to right, on their crowns.
- Invite kids to decorate the crowns as they choose.
- When they finish, use the glue dots, stickers, or tape to fit the crowns to the kids’ heads.

What You Say:

- “Josiah tore his robes when Shaphan [SHAY-fuhn] read God’s Word.
- In Bible times people tore their clothes when they felt really, really sad.
- Why do you think Josiah was sad when he heard God’s Word?
 - *(This inference may be a stretch for your kids. Even so, give kids some time to think about the question. Their brains will be working!)*

- **Examples: The people weren't following God's rules; he loved God and the people weren't doing what God wanted; he was sad because He knew that since the people weren't following God's rules; God was sad; etc.)**
- "Yes! Josiah loved God, and he didn't want the people to do anything that made God sad.
- The Bible tells us: ***There was no king like Josiah either before him or after him. . . . He obeyed the LORD with all his heart and all his soul. He obeyed him with all his strength. He did everything the Law of Moses required*** (2 Kings 23:25 NIV).
- "Josiah loved God, but without God's Word, he didn't really know God.
- So he had to make a lot of changes when he heard the Book of the Law.
- But if we want to know more about what God wants for our lives, all we have to do is open the Bible and read it or hear it for ourselves.
- The Bible is filled with God's best for us: it has rules and wisdom from God, stories from our past, and the BIG story of how God sent Jesus to save us.
- When you read or hear the Bible, you may find there are things about you that need to change.
- But more than that, when you read the Bible, you'll come to know the one true God who loves you more than you can imagine.
- Because **[Bottom Line] you can know God through His Word.**

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you came to know God through His Word, either by hearing it or doing it.)

- "Have you ever done something that God wanted you to do? (Pause.)
- What was it? (Pause.)
- Did you learn anything about God?
- Did you learn that you can trust God or that God loves you and wants what's best for you? (Pause.)
- So remember: **[Bottom Line] you can know God through His Word."**

SNACK TIME-

DURING SNACK TIME TALK ABOUT THE MEMORY VERSE:**2. Memory Verse** 2 Peter 1:3a (Nlrv)**What You Need:** Bible**What You Do:**

- Show the kids how to look up the verse in the Bible
- **Read:** “God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.” 2 Peter 1:3a (Nlrv)

What You Say:

- “When we know God, He gives us everything we need to live in ways that please Him. One of the things God gives us is His Word—the Bible!
- “So if you want to know more about God and what He wants for your life, one thing you can do (*open the Bible*) is open this book and read it for yourself or ask someone to read it to you.
- The Bible is filled with wisdom from God, stories from the past, and the BIG story of how God sent Jesus to save us.
- But remember: just like Josiah heard what God said and then did what God said, God wants you to hear AND do what He says, too.
- “So what’s something the Bible says that you can do this week?
 - (*I can treat others the way I want to be treated; I can be kind; I can tell the truth; etc.*)
- Great ideas!
- Remember, **[Bottom Line] you can know God through His Word.**”

NOTE: If possible, reaffirm kids’ answers with Scripture:

- “In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you” (Matthew 7:12 Nlrv).
- Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37 Nlrv).
- Do not steal. Do not tell lies. Do not cheat one another (Leviticus 19:11 Nlrv).
- Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him (1 Thessalonians 5:18 Nlrv).

3. Prayer

What You Need: Power up Stickers, Bible – **GOD'S POWER UP!**

What You Say:

- “In video games, you go after power-ups to help you win the game or get to the next level.
- Every day, YOU can go after God's power-up—the Bible—to help you know Him better.
- This week, I'm going to go after God's power-up by . . . **[Make It Personal] (share a way you'll make the Bible a priority this week).**
- “How can YOU go after God's power-up?
 - *I can ask my grandma to read Bible stories to me*
 - *I can read my Bible every day*
 - *I can memorize a verse*
 - *I can do what the Bible says; etc*
- Great ideas!
- “God is AMAZING, and when you read His Word, the Bible, you can learn how to make the wise choice, how to treat others the way you want to be treated, and how to trust God no matter what.
- But even more, when you read God's Word, you'll come to know the one true God who loves you more than you can imagine!
- Wow! **[Bottom Line] You can know GOD through His Word!**
- **Let each child choose a sticker to place on the back of their hand.**

“I want you to hold your hands together with your palms up, as if you're forming an open Bible. (*Demonstrate.*) Pray silently along with me.

Dear God, thank You for the story of Josiah and how he let Your Word be heard. Thank You that he obeyed You with all his heart, soul, and strength. Lord, help all of us make hearing and doing Your Word an important part of every day. We thank You that we can know You through Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.”

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!

- Josiah was eight years old when he became king. How would you feel if you became a king or queen at eight years old?
- What's your favorite story from the Bible?
- *For older kids:* If you could make a video game about the Bible, what would it look like? How would you play?