

# Old Testament

## Josiah reads the Bible

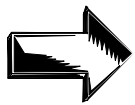
## 2 Kings 22-23:25

### Younger Verse

Obey the Word of God. James 1:22 NLV

### Older Verse

Obey the Word of God. If you hear only and do not act, you are only fooling yourself. James 1:22 NLV



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God’s ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

Ask the kids if they like to play “Hide and Seek.” Share how king Josiah found something very important in the church temple one day.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Lots of different kings came to power to rule God’s people. Each one seemed to want to do things their way instead of God’s way. After Hezekiah, many kings did not serve God.

Finally, a very young man was named king. Believe it or not, he was 8 years old! His name was Josiah (Joe-sigh-a). He loved God and tried to do what God said was right.

When he was older, Josiah began to really obey God. He did what God wanted. One day, when he was 20 years old, he saw that people were worshiping statues instead of worshiping God. He gave an order for all statues to be destroyed. He did this in every city.

Then, Josiah realized that God’s house, the church, needed to be repaired and cleaned up. King Josiah took the money that the people had collected and had workmen repair the temple. They did their best job and worked very hard.

One day they found a surprise! There in the church was a book of God’s teaching. It was a scroll of the Bible. It was so dusty and dirty. It had not been read in years.

One of Josiah’s helpers came to him to tell of all their work in the temple. The man also shared the surprise Bible. This Bible was different from our Bible. It was rolled up and words were probably written on material similar to cloth (it was most likely an animal hide).

Josiah was surprised and afraid. He couldn’t believe what they found. They read part of the scroll Bible and Josiah tore his clothes. Back then, people did this to show that they were very sorry and sad for something wrong that had happened. Josiah realized that God’s people had forgotten Him and had not completely done all He wanted.

### Lesson Goals

Share what Josiah’s helpers found  
Help the children learn how to find things in the Bible and read them  
Understand the special gift that God gave us—His Son

Josiah knew that the people had not been reading the Bible either. He was very sad that everyone had forgotten to read God's Word.

Josiah had the priest talk to God about their wrongs. He told Josiah that God was very upset with the people. He shared that God planned on punishing the people for their ways. He also said that God decided to let them live in peace because they were sorry for the things they had done wrong and asked God to forgive them.

Josiah gathered all the people together and went to the temple church. He had the priest open the Bible scroll and read as all the people listened. Josiah made an agreement that he would always love God and do what God said. He would love God and obey all His rules and laws. He also made the people promise to obey and follow God.

After this, Josiah had a big party to celebrate God. All the people gave gifts to God to show how much they loved Him.

God shows us today that He loves us too. He gave us a surprise gift too. He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus' gift was to make a way for us to get to Heaven. How do we get there? We must believe Jesus died and came back to life. WE must trust Him and ask Him to forgive all our wrong sins. Then, we must obey God and do what He wants us to do. He wants us to pray and read the Bible just like Josiah did. He wants us to go to church and tell others about Jesus. If you want to know more about how to get to heaven, talk to us about it.

**Learning Activities**

Use activities to teach your children about the lesson.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Make a scroll today out of paper and sticks (or straws) and write the verse on it. Talk about how we must obey God's Word, the Bible. Share examples from your life.

**Prayer Time**

Let each child make a prayer tree and place hearts on it of people or situations to pray for. Let the kids take them home to remember to pray for the requests this week.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Take time to clean up like Josiah did. Enjoy fruit roll up "scroll" snacks.

Planning for Nov. 21st  
Nehemiah listens to God  
Nehemiah 1-2

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Josiah reads the Bible

One day a long time ago, a little boy became king. He was only 8 years old! (Count to 8 together).

When he grew up, he saw how God's church was very dirty and things were broken. He asked workmen to repair the dirty church.

They worked and hammered to fix the church temple. One day they found something in a dusty, dirty pile. A man picked up the surprise and brought it to the king.

The surprise was a scroll Bible! They brushed the dust off the Bible and opened it. When they read the Bible, Josiah called all the people to come and listen to God's Words. They listened and promised to obey and follow God with all their hearts.

God was pleased with Josiah and His people.

Sing, "The B-I-B-L-E." Another song is to the tune of "BINGO."

There was a treasure that they found inside the temple chur-rch  
B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, they found God's Bible.

They showed the scroll to the kind king  
And read it to the people  
B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, the people heard the Bible

They promised to walk with God and obey His commandments  
B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, B-I-B-L-E, they loved to read the Bible.

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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Josiah reads the Bible

Make scrolls out of paper grocery bags and place sticks or straws on the end. Write the memory verse in the middle or draw pictures of Josiah.

Play hide and seek in a new way. Hide a Bible and have the kids find it!

Talk about how the scroll Bible got dusty. The people and the priest stopped reading it. Help the kids see the importance of reading their Bibles and learning about God. Be sure to bring enough Bibles so that everyone has one today. Help the kids find this story in the Bible. It is also in 2 Chronicles 34. Take time to find the memory verse in the Bible too. Have fun playing games to help the kids learn where things are in the Bible. Also take time to share how to find books, chapters and verses.

Make a calendar of the week. Have the kids mark a check mark each day that they take time to read their Bibles. They may want to start by learning how God made the world in Genesis 1:1. Another good place to start is to read about Jesus in Matthew or Luke. Share how the Bible is fun to read to help us learn more about how much God loves us.

Write the books of the Old Testament and New Testament on pieces of paper. Scramble the two (in different piles) and have the kids put the books in the correct order. At first, you may need to have to open a Table of Contents page from the Bible so they can see the order. As they learn, remove the contents page. It is fun to have girls and boys race to see who can finish first. Be sure to let both teams know they did a great job.

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