

Old Testament

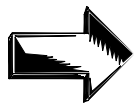
Joash cleans up 2 Kings 12:1-12

Younger Verse

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. John 3:16

Older Verse

God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



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

What would you think if a 7 year old became king? It really happened in the Bible. Let's see who it is.

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.*

Teachers: In several weeks we will talk about another boy king, Josiah.

We have talked much about the different kings that God's people had. Some were good kings that loved God. Others did not follow God and were very bad. Sometimes mean people did very bad things to try to become king or queen.

Joash (Joe-ash) was a special little boy when he was born. He was a prince. He knew that someday he might be king. God watched over him because He had a special plan for his life.

One day, his father died and mean people took over the palace. Joash's aunt and uncle hid Joash in their home because they knew he would be the next king. They took care of him and he grew up from a baby to a little boy.

Joash's uncle was a man who loved God. In fact, he was a preacher. He taught Joash about God. They would probably talk together and sing songs to God.

One day when he was 7 years old, his uncle knew it was time to tell the country that the right king was alive.

When the people heard the news, they were so excited! They cheered for their new king! It was a very happy time.

Joash's uncle and aunt helped him rule the country. They listened to God and did things God's way.

When Joash grew into a man, he saw how God's church was dirty and needed repair. He asked the preachers and teachers to collect money from the people and repair the church.

Lesson Goals

God can use people of all ages
God wants us to take care of His church
Don't be lazy doing God's work

However, the preachers and teachers did not clean the church and repair broken things. The church was still dirty and unkept.

Finally one day, King Joash saw that the church was not being cleaned. He called in all the preachers and teachers and asked them why they were being lazy. Then he told them to hand over the money to him. Joash found skilled workers to repair the temple.

One of the preachers found a box chest and drilled a hole in the top. He put it in the church as a place for people to put money for God. When the chest was full, the preachers would take the money and give it to Joash to finish repairs on the church.

God was pleased that Joash helped clean up His church and repair the damage. Now God's people could come and worship in a beautiful place!

Even though Joash was a little person, God used him to do BIG things. God loves us too and has special things for us to do if we will listen and obey Him.

The preachers in today's story were lazy. They did not clean out God's house (church). It took the king to make things happen. What does our church look like? Is it clean? We can help make it look beautiful so that it is a special place to come and worship God.

Sometimes our hearts can be a picture of the dirty church in today's story. Our hearts may be dirty with the wrongs that we have done. This is called sin. When we are dirty and unclean, it separates us from God who is pure and clean. God saw our dirt and found a way to help us. Jesus, God's Son, cleaned up our sin by dying on the cross for all our wrongs. If we believe in Him and ask Him to forgive all our wrongs, Jesus makes us pure and comes into our hearts. He promises to stay with us forever and help us with our problems. When we make more mistakes, He helps us learn and do right. He also forgives our wrongs. Would you like to know more about Jesus? Talk to us about it!

Learning Activities

Try activities to help the kids learn from the lesson.

Memory Verse Activities

John 3:16 is a great verse to memorize. Really work on the verse so that the kids will learn it and hide it in their hearts.

Prayer Time

Take time to pray and thank God for loving us. Ask God to help us obey Him and do things His way.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Just like Joash had the church cleaned up, let's clean up our church today! Bring trash bags and cleaning supplies to beautify the church!

Preschool Lesson
For
Joash cleans up

One time, long ago, there was a little king named Joash (Joe ash). He was only 7 years old when he became king! They put a very shiny gold crown on his head.

Joash lived with his aunt and uncle. They took care of him. He loved them. His uncle was a preacher who loved God. Joash's uncle told him many things about how much God loved him and cared for him. Joash loved God too.

One day when Joash grew up, he saw how God's church was very dirty and things inside were broken. He asked the preachers to collect money and repair the church.

After some time, Joash noticed that the church STILL looked bad. He called the preachers into the palace and asked them why they had not worked on the church.

One of the preachers found a box and drilled a hole in the top. He put it in the church. He asked people to drop coins into the box to help fix God's church. Lots of people gave money to help clean up the church.

When the box was full, they gave the money to King Joash. When Joash got the money, he gave it to carpenters who build and repair things of wood. They hammered, sawed, and painted until the church looked beautiful. (make hammer noises)

God was pleased that Joash and His people repaired the church. Now it was a beautiful place to come and sing songs to God.

God loves us too! He wants us to come to church and sing songs to Him. Let's sing "God is so Good" and thank God for loving us and giving us a special place called the church.

Hands-On Activities
For
Joash cleans up

Make a Box like in today's lesson. You may want to use a shoe box, or make little paper boxes. Let the kids take it home and drop money in it to give to God.

What a great lesson to teach the kids the importance of a clean place to worship God. Our churches should be sparkling and neat instead of dirty and broken. Take time to look at your Bible study church and see how it could be repaired and cleaned up.

In today's lesson, some people were lazy. They did not do the task that was asked of them. God does not want us to be lazy. He wants us to work hard and do our very best for Him. This week, let's do our best and work hard for God.

Just like God used little Joash to do BIG things, God can use you too. All through the Bible, God used people who were little, or different, to help do amazing things. Encourage the kids that God can use them if they listen and obey.

There may be some children who are being raised by someone other than their mom or dad. Encourage them by reminding them that King Joash was raised by his aunt and uncle. They loved him very much and helped him know about God.

Make paper crowns and act out the story. Bring plastic hammers to use to "repair" the church.

Preschoolers love to build things. Let them pretend to "work" or "repair" the church. If you have blocks, let them build a beautiful church. Praise them for their excellent work. Bring tissues to use as feather dusters. Let them "dust" the church and make it clean! Sing fun songs as your work.

Joash Poem

There was a young man named Joash,
His aunt and uncle did hide.
Not even the people knew,
There was a king inside.

By the time Joash was seven,
It was time to let the secret out.
They crowned him and gave him a book of law,
Long live the king the people did shout.

When Joash grew up he did see,
That the temple was in need of repair.
So they made a wooden money box,
And said, "Place it by the church door, there."

When the people came to the temple,
They dropped their money inside.
The temple was clean and fully repaired,
And the people were filled with pride.

They came to God and thanked Him,
For all that He had done.
They knew the church was special,
And always lots of fun!

(adapted from a poem by the Adventist church)
