



LESSON 1

REFERENCES: 2 KINGS 11; PROPHETS AND KINGS, PP. 215, 216.

The Little Prince

Have you ever been picked on by someone bigger or older than you? Did you have someone who could help and protect you? Prince Joash did.

Prince Joash lived in the royal palace in Israel. But even though Joash was a prince, he still needed someone to protect him. He needed protection from Athaliah, the queen.

Queen Athaliah was cruel and mean. She didn't want Joash to become king. Joash could not protect himself from Queen Athaliah, because he was just a baby. So God sent someone to take care of him.

Memory Verse

“Love each other like brothers and sisters.”

ROMANS 12:10, ICB

The Message

In God's family, we love and protect each other.

Joash's aunt Jehosheba lived in the temple with her husband, Jehoiada, the priest. She chose to listen to God and protect Joash from the cruel queen. So Jehosheba secretly took baby Joash and his nurse to the temple. There she and her husband hid them in a bedroom.

For six years Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada kept him hidden. They secretly taught him that someday he would be king.



Though he was just a little boy, Joash knew that one day he would rule over Israel.

And finally that day came. When Joash was 7 years old, Uncle Jehoiada decided it was time to make him king. Uncle Jehoiada called soldiers to the temple. "Prince Joash is alive," he told them. "Aunt Jehosheba and I have been protecting Prince Joash from Queen Athaliah for six years. Now it is time for you to protect the prince from the queen. It is time for Joash to be crowned king."



The soldiers agreed. They knew the queen was evil. They promised to stay close to Joash wherever he went.

Soon after that, Uncle Jehoiada led Prince Joash out of the temple to a place where a crowd had gathered. Just as they had promised, the soldiers gathered around Joash.

Uncle Jehoiada poured sweet-smelling oil on Joash's head. He gave Joash a copy of the law and then proclaimed him king. The crowd watched quietly as Jehoiada put the crown on Joash's head. Then all the people cheered and shouted, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" The trumpeters blew their trumpets, and the singers led songs of praise.

Queen Athaliah heard all the noise. She rushed to the temple. There she saw a boy who had just been crowned king! She was surprised. And she was very angry! She ordered the soldiers to take Joash away. But the soldiers took her away instead. She would no longer be queen.



Joash would be safe now as he ruled over Israel. He knew that God had led Aunt Jehosheba and Uncle Jehoiada to help and protect him all those years. And he was a good king all the years his Uncle Jehoiada lived. He led his people to know God again.

We can help and protect babies and little children too. We can make sure they are safe. We can play gently with them. We obey God when we protect and care for His children.

Do and Say

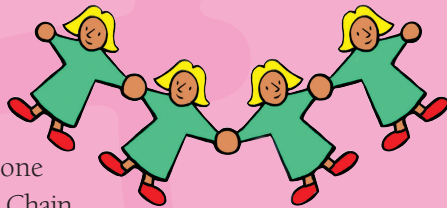
SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse by using the following motions:

- Love** Cross arms over chest.
- each other** Point to others.
- like brothers** . . . Point to a boy.
- and sisters.** Point to a girl.
- Romans 12:10** . . Palms together; then open as if opening a book.

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to share with someone the Paper People Chain they made in Sabbath School and tell them about Joash. Or help them cut out and color a simple paper doll chain of four people. Say: In God's family, in our church, we love and protect each other.



MONDAY

Read 2 Kings 11 together, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: How many years was Joash hidden at the temple? Who hid him? What happened when he was 7 years old?

Have your child hide while you count slowly to seven. Find them. Ask: How old are you now? How many more years until you are 7? Help them count to seven.

TUESDAY

If possible, have your child play with a younger child while you supervise. Remind your

child of ways they can help and protect younger children. Show your child a stuffed animal that is often used as a pet. Have your child act out ways to show love and protection to this animal and to animals in general. Talk about how people need to be cared for and protected even more than we care for our animals.

WEDNESDAY

Help your child draw a picture of themselves protecting someone. Have them draw small happy faces around the edge of their drawing.

Tell your child about a time when someone protected you as a child.

THURSDAY

Talk about what it is like trying to keep a baby quiet and happy. Use a doll and let your child show how they would try to keep a baby quiet and safe. Ask: What do you think Jehosheba and Jehoiada did to keep Baby Joash quiet and happy? Who helped them keep Joash safe? Who keeps you safe today?

Help your child make and decorate a crown. Save the crown for tomorrow.

FRIDAY

Act out the Bible story with your family. "Crown" your child with the crown made yesterday.

Thank God for sending people to help protect your family.

Sing "Plenty of Room in the Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 248).

