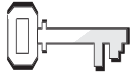


Josiah Gets It Right



References

2 Kings 22;
2 Chronicles 34;
Prophets and Kings,
pp. 384, 385, 392–406



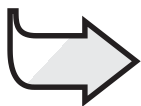
Memory Verse

"[Josiah] did what
was right in the eyes
of the LORD"
(2 Chronicles 34:2, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that
others are influenced
by our faithfulness to God.
Feel a desire to do what is
right at all times.
Respond by asking God to
lead in everything we do.



The Message

I can be a good
example to others.

Monthly Theme

The Bible teaches us that we belong to the family of God.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

At the early age of 8 Josiah becomes king of Judah. He reigns for 31 years. As a young man he begins "to seek the God of his father [ancestor] David" (2 Chronicles 34:3). He travels throughout the land of Judah ordering that all the idols be broken, altars torn down, and places of idol worship destroyed. He orders the priests to use temple offerings to restore the temple as a place of worship to the true God. The priests take charge of the work. Under Josiah's leadership, God's people work together to put God first in their land.

This is a lesson about community.

King Josiah, though very young, had a great influence on his people. He led them away from idolatry to worship of the true God. We, too, can encourage others in our community of faith to worship God in the right way.

Teacher Enrichment

"According to Bible usage idolatry includes both the worship of false gods in various forms and the worship of images as symbols of Jehovah. The New Testament broadens the concept of idolatry to include such practices as gluttony (Phil. 3:19) and such attitudes as covetousness (Eph. 5:5). . . .

"Idolatry has been practiced from early times. The immediate ancestors of Abraham 'served other gods' (Joshua 24:2, KJV). . . . Idolatry was a frequent sin of Israel (Deut. 32:16; 2 Kings 17:12; Ps. 106:38), and was of more than passing concern to the early Christian church (1 Cor. 12:2). . . .

"From the time of the conquest of Canaan to the Babylonian captivity idolatry was a persistent, undermining influence in the experience of Israel. In the earlier period there was a series of cycles: Israel would lapse into idolatry and would fall victim of aggression. In time a judge would arise who would free the people from oppression and restore the worship of Yahweh. This pattern was repeated over and over (see Ps. 106)" (*The SDA Bible Dictionary*, p. 519).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 1.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Domino Effect</i> B. <i>A Book With a Difference</i>	set of dominoes shelf paper, dowels, glue
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container used last week
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	scroll (see Readiness B), Bible-times costumes, chair, blanket/sheet, crown, royal cloak large scroll Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Putting God First</i>	scrolls from Readiness B or use the following to make one: dowels, glue, shelf paper
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Making Ripples</i>	bowl, water, small stones

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- set of dominoes (several if a large class)

A. Domino Effect

Have the children line up the dominoes, a half inch (1.5 cm) apart, standing on their shortest end. When they are finished lining them up, ask one of the children to push over the first domino. Watch the effect.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **What happened? How could one domino make the whole group fall? We call that a “domino effect.” Each domino had an effect on the next one. Our actions are like the dominoes. What we do affects others. In our lesson today we will learn how a young boy’s influence spread over a whole nation. Today’s message says:**



I CAN BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- 24 inches (60 cm) of shelf paper per child
- 2 dowels per child
- glue

B. A Book With a Difference

Help the children glue the dowels to each end of the paper. Show how to roll it up from both ends to form a scroll. (Save the scroll for Applying the Lesson.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Where did people use scrolls? (In Bible times.) Do you know where people still use scrolls today? (In synagogues every Sabbath.) The scrolls were made of leather. We are going to learn about a special scroll that had been hidden for a long time. It was discovered because one boy was a good example. Today’s message is . . .**



I CAN BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 4)
- "Bless His Holy Name" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 9)
- "We Are the Church" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 141)
- "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 139)
- "Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 16)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Emphasize how people's actions affected others.



Offering

Say: **When we give our offerings, we support the work of mission pastors, doctors, nurses, teachers, mechanics, pilots, and many more. By supporting their work, we are able to influence others.**

You Need:

- offering container from Lesson 1



Prayer

Ask each child to name a way that they would like to be a better influence. Form pairs and ask the children to pray for each other. Allow time. When the pairs finish, have an adult ask God to fill each child with the Holy Spirit.

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- scroll
- chair covered with cloth to make a throne
- crown
- royal cloak
- Bible-times costumes

Experiencing the Story

Characters: King Josiah, Hilkiyah, Shaphan. The remainder of the children should be divided up as “courtiers” standing near the king, people giving offerings, builders, gatekeeper-priests. (Children may need to have more than one role.)

Setting the Scene

Invite a man to play the role of Josiah. As he tells his story have workmen, courtiers, Hilkiyah, and Shaphan mime the story. Before Sabbath School starts, hide a scroll. Tell “Hilkiyah” where it is before you begin the lesson.

Read or tell the story.

My name is Josiah. When I was about your age I became king. To be exact, I was 8 years old. Although I was young, I had heard a lot about my grandfather and father, and I knew that they were not good kings.

My grandfather, King Manasseh, did many evil things. He built idols and places for people to worship false gods and the stars in the sky. He even burned one of his sons in the fire as a sacrifice to heathen gods. And he built altars to the false gods in God’s temple. He talked to evil angels and killed many people who had not done anything wrong.

King Manasseh also lost the Book of the Law, God’s special message to His people. The priests were supposed to read this Book to the people every day. Without the Book, the people would not learn to live as God wanted them to.

My father, King Amon, became king when he was 22, but he followed grand-

father’s example. He was so evil! Some of his officers hated him so much that they murdered him in the palace. When the people heard this, the officers were put to death. It was after this that I became king.

I had seen how so many people had suffered, and I was determined that I was not going to be like grandfather Manasseh or my father Amon. I was going to obey God.

I dedicated myself to God and asked Him to use me to help the people learn more about Him. I began to understand that we needed to get rid of all the idols and altars to the false gods. I went through the land asking people for their help. (*Mime asking people for help. Groups of children mime breaking down altars and idols.*) When they broke down the idols, they ground them to powder. (*Children mime grinding.*) Then I sprinkled the powder on the graves of the people who had worshipped false gods. (*Mime sprinkling powder.*)

By the time I was 26, I knew what I wanted to do most of all. I wanted to purify and repair the temple. I called my assistant, Shaphan, and gave him some instructions to pass on to Hilkiyah, the high priest.

“Tell Hilkiyah to gather all the money the gatekeeper-priests have collected from people at the temple. Tell him that this money is to be used to repair the temple. He is to give the money to the builders. They are to pay workers and buy supplies with it.”

Shaphan went to see Hilkiyah right away. (*Mime going to see Hilkiyah.*) He gave him my instructions. Hilkiyah told the gatekeeper-priests to gather the money. (*Send priests to collect money.*)

Hilkiyah began looking around the temple. (*“Hilkiyah” starts looking around as*

if searching for something.) Suddenly he shouted, "Come see what I have found!" Everyone came running. (All go to Hilkiyah who pulls out the "hidden scroll.")

"What is it?" asked Shaphan.

"What happened?" asked the other priests.

"Look at this," said Hilkiyah holding up a big scroll and smiling. "I found the Book of the Law! It was right here in the temple all along."

"Let me see it," said Shaphan. Hilkiyah handed it to him.

Shaphan read a few paragraphs. "The king needs to see this!" he exclaimed.

"Please take it to him," Hilkiyah responded. "He will be so pleased."

So Shaphan brought God's Book of the Law to me. And, yes, I was pleased.

Next week I will tell you more about what happened when we read the Book of the Law.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why did the people do such bad things while King Manasseh and King Amon ruled? What kind of example were those kings?**

How was Josiah different?

What did Hilkiyah find?

When we try to do right things, we encourage others to do right things too.

Let's say today's message together:



I CAN BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

Memory Verse

Write the memory verse on the scroll. Open the scroll to show the verse. Have the children repeat the verse and do the actions.

You Need:

- large "scroll" with memory verse

[Josiah] did what was right

Thumbs up.

in the eyes

Point to eyes.

of the Lord.

Point up.

2 Chronicles 34:2

Palms together; then open.

Repeat several times showing fewer words each time you open the scroll.

Bible Study

Form five pairs or small groups. Give each pair one of the following questions. Assist nonreaders. Allow time for reporting to the class.

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? (2 Kings 22:1)
2. How long did Josiah remain king? (2 Kings 22:1)
3. What kind of person was Josiah? (2 Kings 22:2)
4. What did Josiah tell Shaphan to do with the money the people had brought to the temple? (2 Kings 22:3-6)
5. What did Hilkiyah the high priest find in the temple? To whom did he give it? (2 Kings 22:8)

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you like to be made king or queen? How do you think Josiah felt? What made him different from his father and grandfather?**

How did Hilkiyah react when he found the scroll?

Say: **Although we may not be kings or queens, we are still part of a community that we can influence. God will help us. Let's say today's message:**



I CAN BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- scrolls from Readiness B (or direct the children to use the following to make a scroll)
- 24 inches (60 cm) shelf paper per child
- 2 dowels per child
- glue

Putting God First

Use the scrolls made in Readiness B or help the children glue the dowels to each end of the shelf paper; then show them how to roll it up from both ends to form a scroll.

Allow response time as you say: **In today's story the Israelites had been led by bad kings to worship idols. Today we do not bow down to images as they did.**

Ask: **Is it still possible for us to have idols in our lives? What could be an idol today?** Allow discussion time and list responses where all may see.

Say: **An idol is anything that is more important to us than God. Idols affect our relationship with God because they take our mind and attention away from Him. Draw or list on your scroll some things that may become idols.**

Ask: **What can we do to stop these things from becoming idols?** Allow discussion and list responses as before.

Draw or write on your scroll some of the things that help us put God first.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How does putting God first help us become a positive influence on those around us?**

Is it always easy to put God first? How can we do that? One way is to ask God to be with us.

Say: **Let's say a prayer right now asking God to help us put Him first in our lives. If you want to make that commitment, put your hand up while we are praying.**

At the end of the prayer say: **Let's say today's message together.**



I CAN BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Making Ripples

Ask: **What are some things we can do that will help us become a positive influence?** List responses. (smile, be friendly, be helpful, be kind, obey God's rules, etc.)

Have the children gather around the bowl or pan of water. Drop a pebble or small stone in the water. Ask: **What happened when the stone hit the water?** (It sank; it made ripples in the water.)

Call attention to the ripples and say: **Our actions are like ripples. What we say or do affects others in some way. We want to have a positive or good effect on others.**

Ask: **What can you do to be a good example for others at home, at school, or on the playground this week? When you think of something you will do, drop your pebble in the water and watch the ripples.**

Allow time for the children to respond. Then remove the pebbles from the water and give one to each child.

Debriefing

Say: **Take your pebble with you and show it to someone today. Give them the pebble and tell them about the ripple effect and how you want to try to be a good example to others this week. Invite them to be a good example too. That's the way the ripple effect works.**

Ask: **Who wants to share with us what you have decided to do to be a better influence on others this week? How will you make it happen? Who will help you as you try? How do you think others will react to your example? How will you feel about it?**

Let your pebble help you remember that even small things we do affect others. And remember our message:



I CAN BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS.

Closing

Sing "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 57). Close with prayer, asking God to help the children be a positive influence on those around them.

You Need:

- bowl or pan of water
- pebble or small stone for each child

Josiah Gets It Right

References

2 Kings 22;
2 Chronicles 34;
Prophets and Kings,
pp. 384, 385,
392–406

Memory Verse

"[Josiah] did what
was right in the
eyes of the LORD"
(2 Chronicles 34:2,
NIV).

The Message

I can be a good
example to others.

Have you ever been in a situation where a friend tries to get you to do something you know is not right? How easy is it to say no? Josiah was surrounded by people doing bad things, but he learned to say no and changed a whole country.

King Josiah was not at all like his father, King Amon, or his grandfather, King Manasseh. His grandfather did a lot of evil things. He built places for people to worship false gods and to worship the stars in the sky. He even offered one of his sons as a burnt sacrifice to one of the gods. King Manasseh built strange idols and altars in God's temple. He hurt a lot of people who did not do anything wrong.

While Manasseh was king, the scroll with God's Book of the Law disappeared.

The priests were supposed to read from this scroll to the people every day. Without the scroll, the people could not learn about God.

Josiah's father, King Amon, did even worse things. His officers hated him so much that they killed him in his own palace. And then the

people killed those officers. And that's how Josiah became king when he was still just 8 years old.

King Josiah was not like his father and grandfather. He really loved God. He always tried to do the right thing. As a teenager he dedicated himself to God.

When King Josiah was 20, he began to get rid of all the idols and altars to false gods. He destroyed their worship places. He tore down their altars. He had men break up the idols and grind them into powder.

When King Josiah was 26, he decided to purify the land and repair the temple. He sent his royal assistant, Shaphan, to see Hilkiah, the high priest. Before Shaphan left, King Josiah gave him some instructions.

"Tell Hilkiah to gather all the money the gatekeeper-priests have collected from people at the temple," King Josiah said. "Tell him that this money is to be used to repair the temple. He is to give the money to the builders. They are to pay workers and buy supplies with it."

Shaphan entered the temple and found Hilkiah. Hilkiah listened carefully to King Josiah's instructions. Immediately Hilkiah told the gatekeeper-priests to gather the money. The temple would be repaired! At this same time, Hilkiah had news for King Josiah. He said to Shaphan, "I have found the Book of the Law!"

"Look at this," he said, holding up a big scroll and smiling. "It was right here in the temple all along."

Hilkiah handed the book to Shaphan. Shaphan read a few paragraphs. "The king needs to see this!" he exclaimed.

"Please take it to him," said Hilkiah. And Shaphan did.

Next week we will discover what happened when King Josiah received the long-lost book.



Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Hide a small object and ask your family to try to find it. Then read the lesson story together.
- If possible, go for a walk near some water. Toss a stone in it and look at the ripples. Ask your family: How are the ripples like our influence?
- Thank God for the good example you have in your family.

Sunday

- Read and discuss 2 Kings 22 for worship. What did you learn about King Josiah?
- Make a scroll and write your memory verse on it.
- What is the oldest book in your home?
- Ask God to help you to do what is right.

Monday

- Think of Bible stories about things that were lost and found. (See Luke 15.) Make a list to share with your family.
- Make a book by folding four sheets of paper and stapling them together. Write some of your favorite texts in the book and share them at worship.
- Plan a “good example” surprise for someone today. Ask Jesus to help you.
- Thank God for your family.

Tuesday

- For family worship, review 2 Kings 22. How did the priests get things to rebuild the temple?
- Look up 2 Corinthians 9:7. What kind of giver

does God want us to be?

- Find a box or jar and decorate it. Start saving for a special offering for your church.
- Sing a song of praise at worship and ask God to help you to be a happy giver.

Wednesday

- Ask your family whom they admire most and why.
- Draw five things that could become idols for your family. During family worship, talk about how to stop these from becoming idols in your home.
- Review your memory verse; say it to an adult.
- Ask God to help you make Him the center of your life.

Thursday

- The builders worked to repair God’s house. What can you do to help your church be a better place? Make a plan with your family.
- Have a tug-of-war with your family. How is this like the struggle to do the right thing? With God on our side, who will win? How can we resist sin? (See Philippians 4:13.)
- Pray for strength to resist temptation.

Friday

- Act out the lesson story at family worship. Ask your parents to tell about someone who has been a positive influence in their lives.
- Say your memory verse together.
- Thank God for the Sabbath and for your church family.