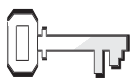


Hidden Treasure



References

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



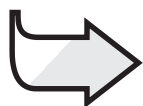
Memory Verse

“Your word is a lamp
for my feet, a light
on my path”
(Psalm 119:105, NIV).



Objectives

The children will:
Know that God’s
Word is the most
important guide for daily living.
Feel eager to know
what the Bible says
to help guide our lives.
Respond by often studying
the Bible with their family to learn
about God’s plans for us.



The Message

God leads us as
we study and
obey His Word.

Monthly Theme

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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When King Josiah is 26 years old, he orders the restoration of the temple. In the process “Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord that had been given through Moses” (2 Chronicles 34:14). Josiah studies the book. He asks Huldah, the prophet, to help him understand it. He gathers all the people in the temple and reads it to them. Standing before everyone, he promises to renew the covenant of the law and asks the people to do the same. All the people promise to follow the Lord and to obey the words of the covenant.

This is a lesson about community.

King Josiah led his “community”—the people of Israel—in a great revival. He shared the Book of the Law with them. That book is part of the Bible (Old Testament) as we know it today. God’s message for us is that He will lead us and our Christian community as we study and obey His Word today.

Teacher Enrichment

“In ancient times literary compositions were written on sheets of leather, parchment, or papyrus. A single sheet was sufficient for a short communication, but for a lengthy literary work a scroll, or roll, made by joining together a number of sheets of leather or papyrus in the form of a long strip, was required. For convenience of handling, the strip was rolled on end sticks. The common length of papyrus rolls was about 30 ft. (c. 9 m.), but some were much longer. The longest ever found, the great Harris Papyrus, now in the British Museum, has a length of 133 ft. (c. 40.5 m.).

“These rolls were usually written on one side only, hence the particular remarks of Ezekiel and John, who refer to scrolls written within and without (Eze. 2:10; Rev. 5:1). The writing was arranged in short columns according to the width of the roll” (*The SDA Bible Dictionary*, p. 990).

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>Treasure Hunt</i> B. <i>Eating the Right Things</i> C. <i>A Guiding Light</i>	small treasure, instructions for finding treasure homemade bread, knife flashlight, book, blankets
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> container used last week two dowels, tape or glue, paper, pencils
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes, scroll (see p. 37 for scroll text), crown, king's robe, three copies of script none Bibles, paper
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Bible Solutions</i>	Bibles
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Spreading Encouragement</i>	crayons/markers, lamp pattern (see p. 150)

***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:

- small treasure
- instructions for finding the treasure

A. Treasure Hunt

In advance, hide a small treasure/object of interest. (Large group, hide several treasures.) Prepare instructions leading to the treasure. For example, "Go to the door. Behind it you will find directions for what to do next." Say: **I have hidden a treasure in the room. Here are the instructions to find it.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Did you enjoy searching for treasure? How did you feel when someone else found it first? Today we are going to learn more about the treasure Hilkiyah found in last week's story. What was it?** (the Book of the Law) **It is part of our Bible today. God's law is like a map leading us to treasure. If we follow what it says, it will lead us to heaven. Today's message is:**



GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- homemade bread
- knife

B. Eating the Right Things*

Hold up the bread. Say: **I have some freshly baked bread. It smells delicious.** Give a piece to the children to smell. **Fresh bread is always soft. Feel this and tell me what you think.** Give a small piece to someone to feel. **If I just leave this bread on the table, what will happen?** (The bread will get moldy. I will be hungry.) **What will happen if I eat it?** (I will not be hungry; I will feel better.) If appropriate to your situation, let each child taste the bread. *Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happens if we don't eat?** (If we miss a meal, we will just be hungry. If we stop eating, we will die.) **Just as we need food to keep our bodies healthy, we need to keep spiritually healthy. Last week we learned about a great discovery made in King Josiah's day. The priest found something special. What was it? Today we will see what difference it made in their lives as the people began to read and understand God's Word. Today's message says:**



GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD.

Say that with me.

C. A Guiding Light

If possible, darken your room completely. Or huddle under some blankets with the children. Say: **Look around. How much can you see? Who is sitting next to you?**

How do you know? (Feel them. Hear their voice.) **I have a book that I want you to read. What do we need so we can see?** (light) **Turn on the lights or shine a flashlight under the blanket.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think about sitting in the dark? Were you able to read? Not having God's Word in our lives is like living in the dark. The Israelites had been in the dark for a long time because God's Law had been lost. God's Word is still important today. Why? Today's message tells us:**



GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- a dark room or heavy blankets
- flashlight
- book

Prayer and Praise **Any Time**



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)
- "The Bible, God, Is Wise and True" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 19)
- "Bless His Holy Name" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 9)
- "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 139)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **Our offerings go to help others who may not have places to worship and do not know about God's Word.**

You Need:

- container from Lesson 1



Prayer

Invite each child to write/draw a prayer request. Tape or glue the papers to form a prayer scroll. Base your prayer on the prayer scroll items. Use this for several weeks.

You Need:

- two dowels
- tape or glue
- paper for each child
- pencils

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes
- scroll with Ten Commandments printed on it (see p. 37 for text)
- crown
- king's robe
- three copies of the script

Experiencing the Story

Characters: Josiah, Huldah, Shaphan, Israelites

Setting the Scene

Have "Josiah" sitting in a special chair (throne) in one corner of the room. Place Huldah seated on a simple chair in the opposite corner. Designate a third corner as the site of the Temple.

Have three good readers read the parts of Josiah, Hulda, and Shaphan where appropriate. Or ask the children to mime as you read/tell the complete story.

Remind the children that Josiah had been crowned king at the age of 8. Unlike his father and grandfather, Josiah tried to do what was right. Under his direction the people had destroyed the altars to false gods and their idols. He had ordered the restoration of the temple. While the high priest was looking around the temple, he found a scroll, which he gave to Shaphan to give to the king.

Read or tell the story.

Shaphan returned to King Josiah and reported about the work on the temple.

"The builders have done their job. They have used the money for rebuilding the temple. Materials have been bought, and they have paid the workers."

Then he added, "And Hilkiah, the high priest, gave me a book." Shaphan showed the scroll to the king. (*Take out scroll and hand it to "Josiah."*)

"What is this?" asked King Josiah. (*Look puzzled.*)

"This scroll contains the Book of the Law that was lost during your grandfather's reign," said Shaphan.

King Josiah sat up in his chair. He opened his eyes wide. "Really?" he said with a big smile. "This is wonderful! Please read it to me." (*Mime reading the scroll.*)

King Josiah listened very carefully. As Shaphan read, Josiah's smile turned into a frown. He moaned and cried. Then he jumped up and ripped his clothes. (*"Josiah" jumps up and pulls at his cloak.*) He couldn't believe what he had heard. The Book said the Israelites would be punished for their sins. King Josiah had tried so hard to help the people do right.

"We must ask the Lord about the words in the Book," he said to Shaphan. "I know my father and grandfather did wrong. And they led the people to do wrong. Find out what will happen to the people who are alive today."

Shaphan and some others went to see the prophet Huldah. (*Group goes to see Huldah.*) When they got to her house, they showed her the scroll.

"Huldah, please tell us what these words mean," they asked as they opened the scroll.

"Tell the king this is what the Lord God is saying," said Huldah. "I will do everything that is written in this book. The people disobeyed Me. They worshipped other gods. They've done a lot of bad things. They will be punished so they will know that sin causes trouble."

"But tell King Josiah that God has a special message for him," Huldah continued. "God says to Josiah, 'You have listened to My words about what will happen to your people. You are sorry for what they have done. You even tore your clothes to show how troubled you were. I have heard your sorrow. I will let you die in peace. You won't see all the trouble that will come to your people.'"

Shaphan took Huldah's message back to King Josiah. (*"Shaphan" returns to "Josiah."*)

King Josiah knew now that he couldn't save the people from their punishment. But he could keep it from happening right away. While he still lived, he would help them follow God. And they could teach their families to do the same. He would do all he could to help the people.

He called all the people together, from the least to the greatest. (*"Josiah" leads everyone to the temple.*) Together they walked to the temple. There Josiah read to them from the Book of the Law. (*Have the people sit and listen as Josiah reads the Ten Commandments from the scroll.*)*

"My people, I want to follow the Lord and obey all His commands," King Josiah said. "Will you promise me that you'll do the same?"

And the people said, "We will." (*All repeat "We will."*) "We will obey the Lord, our God."

Will you make that same promise to God? Will you do it today?

Debriefing

Ask: **What was on the scroll that was found in the temple?** (the Book of the Law) **How did King Josiah react when the scroll was read to him?** (He cried, moaned, tore his clothes.)

Who was Huldah, and why did Joash send the high priest to her? (She was God's prophet; to ask her what the words on the scroll meant.) **What did Huldah say would happen?** (The people would be punished for past sins, but not during Josiah's lifetime.)

Why was finding the scroll an important discovery? How did it make a difference in the lives of the people? (The people promised to obey the Lord, to stop sinning, etc.)

*See page 37 for text for the scroll.

Remember today's message:



GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD.

Memory Verse

Divide the children into two groups:

Group one says:

Your word Palms together; then open.

is a lamp Form a circle with your hands.

for my feet, Point to feet.

Group two says:

a light Shade eyes.

on my path. Point to ground.

Psalm 119:105 Palms together, then open.

Repeat several times. Then switch the groups and continue until the children can say the whole verse.

Bible Study

In advance, number and write the texts below on slips of paper.

Form nine groups or pairs. (Small group: Give more than one text.) Team nonreaders with readers or have adults assist. Say: **Apparently the Book of the Law had been lost for some time. Let's find out more about that book. What was it? Where had it come from? Find and read the text I give you; then be ready to tell us what you learn.** Have the children read the texts in order.

1. 2 Chronicles 34:14
(law came through Moses)
2. Exodus 19:20
(God gave the law on Mount Sinai)

You Need:

- Bibles
- slips of paper

3. Exodus 20:1–17
(The Ten Commandments)
4. Deuteronomy 5:4, 5
(God spoke the law)
5. Deuteronomy 5:22
(God wrote the law on stone tablets)
6. Deuteronomy 9:7–17
(golden calf; Moses breaks tablets)
7. Deuteronomy 10:1, 2
(God wrote the law again)
8. Deuteronomy 10:3–5
(Moses put the tablets in ark)
9. Deuteronomy 6:6, 7
(children to learn law)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Where did the Book of the Law come from? (It was the same law God spoke on Sinai and wrote on stone tablets.)

What do we call that law today? (the Ten Commandments) **How important is that law to us today?** (It is just as important as it was to the Israelites.)

Which commandments tell us how to relate to God? (first four) **Which tell how to relate to people around us?** (last six)

How does knowing the commandments help us in our daily lives? (They are a guide to right living, etc.) **Let's read God's promise to those who keep His law.** Find and read aloud Jeremiah 31:33, 34. **What do you think about that promise?** Let's remember our message:



GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD.

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:
• Bibles

Bible Solutions

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group one or more of the following scenarios. Let them discuss possible solutions. Then give them the text to read. Allow time for each group to report to the whole class.

1. Rita is having problems with kids who bother her at school and is feeling very discouraged. Can you think of something that will help her? (Deuteronomy 31:6)
2. Jerry is feeling afraid. What might give him comfort? (Psalm 34:4)
3. Julia feels as if God doesn't hear her prayers. What might encourage her? (Psalm 34:15, 17)

Debriefing

Ask: **How does the Bible help you when you are in a difficult situation?**

If you don't know a text that helps you, whom can you ask to help you find one?

What do you think about getting help from reading the Bible?

Does the Bible have answers for every situation? How do you know?

Say: **I believe God's Word can help us in whatever situation we are facing.**

Remember . . .



GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD.

Say that with me.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Spreading Encouragement

Distribute a copy of the lamp to each child. (See page 150.) Ask them to copy the memory verse onto the lamp, substituting the word *God's* for the first word.

"Your word is a lamp
for my feet, a light
on my path"
(Psalm 119:105).

Ask the children to think of someone they want to share this message with, someone who may need comfort or encouragement.

Divide the children into pairs. Say:
Tell your partner whom you plan to give your card to. Then talk together about other ideas to encourage the person.

Debriefing

Ask: **What are some of the ways you can encourage others?**

Can you think of a time you felt discouraged and someone helped you? What did they say or do? If they say no, ask: **What would have made you feel better?**

Say: **God's Word will always help us and our friends no matter what the difficulty. Let's say our message together:**



**GOD LEADS US AS WE STUDY
AND OBEY HIS WORD.**

Closing

Have the children form a circle. Ask God to help them as they learn from His Word during the week ahead.

You Need:

- lamp pattern (see p. 150)
- crayons/ markers

Text for scroll to be used in Experiencing the Story, page 34

Have no other gods.

Worship only God.

Respect God's name

Remember the Sabbath.

Honor your parents.

Do not murder.

Do not commit adultery.

Do not steal.

Do not lie.

Do not covet.

Hidden Treasure

References

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

Memory Verse

“Your word is a
lamp for my feet, a
light on my path”
(Psalm 119:105,
NIV).

The Message

God leads us as
we study and
obey His Word.

Have you ever looked forward to something, and then everything seemed to go wrong? Josiah was so excited when Shaphan came with the scroll from the temple, but then . . .

Shaphan returned to King Josiah and reported about the work on the temple.

“The builders have done their job well. They used the money as directed for rebuilding the temple. They have bought materials and paid the workers.”

Then he added, “And Hilkiah, the high priest, gave me a book.” Shaphan showed a scroll to the king.

“What is on this scroll?” asked King Josiah.

“It is the Book of the Law that was lost during your grandfather’s reign,” said Shaphan.

King Josiah sat up in his chair. He opened his eyes wide. “Really?” he said with a big smile. “This is wonderful! Please read it to me.”

King Josiah listened very carefully. As Shaphan read,

King Josiah’s smile turned into a frown. He moaned and cried. Then he jumped up and tore his clothes. He couldn’t believe what he had heard. The book said the Israelites

would be punished for their sins! *I have tried so hard to help the people to do right*, he thought.

“We must ask the Lord about the words,” he said to Shaphan. “I know the Lord is angry because of what my father and grandfather did. They led the people to do wrong. Find out what will happen to the people who are alive today.”

Shaphan and some other men went to see the prophet Huldah. When they got to her house, they read to her what the king had heard.

“Huldah, please explain this to us. What do these words mean?” they asked.

“Tell the king this is what the Lord God is saying,” said Huldah. “I will do everything that is written in this book. The people disobeyed me. They worshipped other gods. They’ve done a lot of bad things. They will be punished so that they will know that sin causes trouble.

“But tell King Josiah that God has a special message for him,” Huldah continued. “God says to Josiah, ‘You have listened to My words about what will happen to your people. You are sorry for what they have done. You even tore your clothes to show how troubled you were. I have heard your sorrow. I will let you die in peace. You won’t have to see all the trouble that will come to your people.’”

Shaphan took Huldah’s message back to King Josiah.

King Josiah knew now that he couldn’t save the people from their punishment. But he could keep it from happening right away. He would help them follow God. And they could teach their families to do the same. He decided to do all he could to help prepare the people to obey God.

He called all the people together, including the older leaders of the kingdom and the priests. Together they



went to the temple. There he read to them from the Book of the Law.

“My people, I want to follow the Lord and obey all His commands,” King Josiah said. “Will you promise me that you’ll do the same?”

And the people said, “We will! We will obey the Lord, our God.”

God wants us to make that same promise. And He will lead us as we study and obey His Word.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- Go for a walk with your family. Talk about what it means to have God leading in your life. How can you be sure He leads you and your family?
- Count the number of Bibles in your home.
- Thank God for His Word—the Bible.
- Teach the memory verse to your family.

Sunday

- Draw a lamp or a lightbulb and write the memory verse underneath it. Place it where you can see it every day.
- How many different light sources can you find in your house? Count the lightbulbs.
- Sit in a dark room and think what it would be like to live without light. Thank God for light.

Monday

- Read and discuss 2 Chronicles 34 during family worship. Where did the Book of the Law come from? Who was Huldah?
- Begin to memorize the names of the books of the Bible. How many do you already know? See if anyone in your family can say them all.
- Ask each family member to name their favorite book or story in the Bible.
- Thank God that we have the Bible to guide us.

Tuesday

- What did Jesus call the Word of God? (See Matthew 4:4.)
- Ask if you can help bake bread or some other good thing to share at supper. Explain to the

family that Jesus says that reading the Word of God is like eating good food.

- Ask your family to make a family promise to “feed” on the Word of God every day.
- Pray that God will help you keep your promise.

Wednesday

- Read and discuss Psalm 40:8 for family worship.
- Make a bookmark with the memory verse on it. Share the bookmark with a friend.
- Ask five people to name a text that has encouraged and helped them. Find those texts and underline them in your Bible.
- Pray for the friend you shared the bookmark with.

Thursday

- A concordance is a special index to help us find texts. During worship today, ask an adult to help you find a Bible with a concordance. Look up the word *law* and find and discuss two or three of the texts.
- Sing a praise song during worship, then thank God for His law to guide you each day.

Friday

- Before worship begins, hide some favorite Bible texts around the room. Play hunt the text at the beginning of worship. When you find the hidden text, read it aloud.
- Review the story of Josiah. Act it out with your family during worship.
- Choose a psalm and read it responsively. Then repeat your memory verse for your family.
- Ask God to bless you all on His special day.