



HEZEKIAH AND JOSIAH

2 CHRONICLES 29; 34-35

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many kings. Most of the kings were evil; they did not follow God. Kings like Ahaz setup places to worship idols, and the people forgot about God.

When King Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah was not like his father. Hezekiah did what was right. He trusted God and obeyed His commands. Hezekiah made some changes around the kingdom. He led the people to worship God again, and God blessed him.

After Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh (muh NASS uh) became king. Manasseh was the most evil king of Judah. He set up the idols Hezekiah had destroyed and led the people to worship false gods. He ruled for 55 years. Then his son Amon (AM uhn) became king. He was evil too, and he ruled for two years. Then his son Josiah became king.

Josiah was just eight years old when he became king. He was a good king like his ancestor



David. Josiah lived in a way that pleased God. When Josiah was a teenager, he started to follow God. Then he made some changes around the kingdom. Josiah decided to get rid of the things that were not pleasing to God. He got rid of idols and the places where people worshiped false gods.

When Josiah was a young man, he wanted to repair the Lord's temple. As the temple was being repaired, the high priest found a very important document. "I have found the book of the law in the Lord's temple!" the high priest said. When King Josiah heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes! "God is very angry with us!" Josiah said. "Our ancestors did not obey God!"

A prophetess brought a message from God. God said, "I am going to punish the people of Judah because they turned away from me and worshiped other gods." But God had a special message for Josiah: "Because you were humble and were sorry for your sin when you heard the law, you will die in peace. You will not see the punishment I am bringing on the people."

Josiah went to the temple and read the words of the law to all the people. Then Josiah promised to follow God and obey Him like the book of the law said to do. The people at the temple also agreed to follow God and obey Him. As long as Josiah was king, the people followed God and obeyed Him.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to follow His commands. They wanted God's people to love God and obey the law too. When Jesus came to earth, He fulfilled the law by obeying it perfectly.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 34. Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. Why is the Bible important for knowing God?

Guide your kids to identify the Bible as the Word of God. Lead them to think of the Bible as God's love letter to His people. It tells us what God has done to rescue sinners. We know who God is and who we are because of what God has said in His Word.



2. How can we show we treasure God's Word?

Invite your kids to discuss evidence that the Bible is important to a person. Help them identify ways to treasure God's Word through reading the Bible regularly, studying the Scriptures, memorizing Scripture, telling others about the Bible, and so forth.

3. Why is it good news that Jesus obeyed God perfectly?

Prompt your kids to recognize that Jesus never sinned. When we trust in Him, we—who have failed to obey God perfectly—are counted righteous before God. Jesus' perfect obedience is credited to us and our sins are forgiven. Emphasize that we obey God not to earn His acceptance but in response to the acceptance we already have through Christ.



SAY:

The kings of Israel and Judah usually led God's people away from Him. As we saw in today's story, Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help kids find 2 Chronicles 34. Remind the kids that 1 and 2 Chronicles are part of the Old Testament History division, which tells the story of God's people from when they entered the promised land until they returned from exile.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Who was king before Hezekiah?

Ahaz, 2 Chron. 28:27

2. How old was Josiah when he became king?

Eight, 2 Chron. 34:1

3. What did Josiah do when he heard the words written in the book of the law?

Felt very sad, tore his clothing; 2 Chron. 34:19

4. Why is obeying God so important?

Guide your kids to discuss obedience as a picture of our love for God and our trust in God's plans. Remind kids that God made us, loves us, and has perfect plans for us. Obedience to God means doing things God's way, which is the best way. Obeying God both glorifies God and benefits us.

5. Why can't we obey God the way we should?

Guide your kids to discuss the sin nature we are all born with. We are broken by sin and cannot always tell right from wrong. Even when we can, we often choose wrong because it seems easier or better at the time. Remind kids that sin affects every part of our lives.

6. How can we have hope despite our sin?

Remind your kids that God sent Jesus to die for our sin and rise again. Help them see that when we repent and trust in Jesus, not only does God forgive our sin, but He sends the Holy Spirit to fill us with power and help us love and obey God. We also have hope that Jesus will return someday and fix everything sin has broken.

SAY:

Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God. But despite their efforts, God's people still turned back to sin eventually. They needed more than a few good kings; they needed a perfect, eternal King. King Jesus saves us from sin and will fix all sin has broken.