



FAMILY TIME
TRAINING

Activity: Josiah

Teaching Goal: We need to know God's Word, the Bible, in order to understand how God wants us to live.

Scriptures: 2 Kings 22 - 2 Kings 23:30, 2 Kings 23:25 Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

Materials Puzzle design included with this activity, 2 copies

Cardboard or heavy construction paper

Paper and pen

Blindfolds

In Advance: Use one copy of the puzzle design to trace the five puzzle pieces onto cardboard or heavy paper. Cut out the five pieces. Make one puzzle for each person. Use a second copy of the puzzle design to create an "answer sheet" for the puzzle activity. Fold the answer sheet in half and write "Answer Book" on the cover. Hide the answer sheet booklet somewhere in your home.

Lesson and Discussion: Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

- A. Put the story of Josiah from 2 Kings 22-23 in your own words. **Josiah was eight years old when he became King of Judah. Josiah's father set a bad example for Josiah. His father Amon was a King who, "Did evil in the eyes of the Lord." Josiah's dad worshiped idols and did not follow the commandments of the Lord.**
- **Despite the bad example of his father, Josiah chose to be a good King, "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord."**
- **When Josiah was 26 years old, he hired people to repair the temple. The temple was their church. The priest at the temple...the priest is like our pastor...found the Book of the Law in the rubble while repairing the temple. The Book of the Law is like our Bible. But in those days not everyone had a Bible like we do today. The Book of the Law was rare and Josiah had never seen it before.**

Continued....

FAMILY FUN TIME ACTIVITY

....Continued Lesson and discussion:

After King Josiah read the Book of the Law, he was very sad because he realized that his people were not doing what God wanted them to do. Josiah asked the priest to pray to the Lord and ask God about what was written in the Book of the Law. The priest prayed and said that the Lord was angry because the Kings of Judah had not obeyed the words in the Book of the Law.

Josiah learned that God was planning to bring disaster on his country, Judah, because the people were not following the Lord's commandments. They were **doing** things like worshiping idols...an idol is anything we value more than God.

When Josiah heard about the coming disaster, he humbled himself before God and turned his heart toward God. Because Josiah was sad and humbled himself, the Lord delayed the disaster so that Josiah could live his life in peace.

So Josiah read the Book of the Law out loud to the people. Josiah renewed his commitment to the commandments of God. He pledged to follow the commands, regulations, and decrees with all his heart and soul. The people then also pledged to follow the Book of the Law.

Josiah had all the idols destroyed from all over the country of Judah. Josiah told people to start celebrating the Passover again. It had been over one hundred years since the people had celebrated the Passover.

Invite a volunteer to read 2 Kings 23:25. Josiah didn't even know the way he was living was wrong. But when he learned the right way that God wanted him to live, he changed his ways and followed God with all his heart.

B. ACTIVITY: Hidden Book

We are going to play a game to help us remember the story of Josiah. Mix up each player's individual puzzle pieces and instruct them to use all five pieces to make a perfect square. Give them one minute to finish the puzzle. **IMPORTANT:** you do not want players to be able to complete the puzzle!

When time runs out, say: **Looks like we weren't able to complete our puzzles. Wait a minute!! I remember there is a book with instructions on how to put the puzzle together!! I lost it, but maybe you can find it.** Provide a clue to help them find where the puzzle is hidden. After the Answer Book is located, allow everyone to complete their puzzle. **With the Answer Book we are able to complete the puzzle in less than one minute.**

This activity will help us remember the story of Josiah. The puzzle represents life. Josiah and the people of Judah were living their lives the wrong way. Just like at the beginning of the activity, we couldn't put the puzzle together correctly. Then Josiah found the Book of the Law that told the people how to live life the right way...a life pleasing to God. In the same way we found the Answer Book which helped us put the puzzle together in the right way. The Bible is God's Answer Book that teaches us how to live.

C. APPLICATION: **Is our Bible hidden? Has it been sitting on a shelf for days or weeks or longer? Let's keep our Bible someplace where we will always see it and remember to read it.**

Close in Prayer

Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.