



Date: _____

Series: God Is Our King
Fall Year 1, Lesson 20

Josiah Hears God's Word

Bible Event: 2 Chronicles 34:14-33

Take Home Point: *GOD IS OUR KING – *God's word rules.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: God's Word tells us about Jesus.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God's word is very important. The Bible is a book that is made up of God's word. The Bible teaches us about how God wants us to be and tells us true stories about Jesus. It is very important to listen to God's word and remember what it says.
- Children will respond to God's love as they sing songs of worship, bring their offerings and offer their prayers.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Interactive Drama

The stage should be very messy – filled with crumpled papers, etc. Have a few idols – statues or dolls covered in aluminum foil lying around. Have a Bible or a scroll hidden under some trash in the corner.

The large group presenter should introduce the scene:

Josiah was a little boy who became king of Judah. The people of Judah had been bad and had not been going to church. They were worshipping false gods called idols. Josiah did not want the people to do this anymore. He wanted them to learn about God instead. The temple where they should have been worshipping was a big mess, so Josiah ordered it to be cleaned.

Have one child dressed as Josiah. He should have a crown and clothing that are too big for him. Have several children volunteer to come on to the stage to clean the trash. Provide a large trashcan for them. When they find the Bible or scroll, Josiah should not let them throw it away. He should say, “*Stop! That is God’s word!*” and have the large group presenter ‘read’ what God’s word says.

The large group presenter should then explain what the scroll or Bible says. He should remind the people to love God with all of your heart, love your neighbor as yourself and have no other idols. The large group presenter should also finish the story by explaining that Josiah made all of the people promise to listen to God's word and do as it said.

They had to get rid of all of the idols and had go to church again and repent. That meant they had to be sorry for all of their sins, and they had to be especially sorry for not doing what God had said for so long. Remember: *GOD IS OUR KING – *God's word rules!*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Make a scroll. Use tortillas spread with butter and cinnamon sugar or use a fruit roll-up. Tie the scrolls with red string licorice.

Drama Zone: Create a church for the children to practice going to church and reading God's Word. Provide seats, Bibles, or hymnals and an altar.

Puppet Zone: Have the children use puppets to act out the story of King Josiah from today's Bible Event, or simply have them use the puppets to practice going to church and reading the Bible.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of King Josiah from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #84, "Good King Josiah," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Create a book of God's word. Use half sheets of blank paper folded in half to make a book. Use crayons or markers to decorate the books and provide two pre-made labels. One should say "Hear the Word of the Lord" and go on the front of the book and one should say **"God is our King – God's word rules"* and go on the inside.

Play Zone: Play the "Garbage Game." Create a foursquare box. Place tape on the floor in an X shape with each strip approximately 20-30 feet long, creating four square areas, each about 10-15 feet wide. Divide the group into four teams, each assigned to a square. Provide newspaper for the kids to wad into balls. The object of the game is to keep your square trash free by throwing the newspaper into another square. Play several rounds lasting 30 seconds to one minute each. Provide a large trash can for clean up at the end.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of King Josiah, or that talk about the Bible, God's word.

Music Zone: Sing the song, *The B-I-B-L-E* or other music promoting the Bible.

Coloring Zone: “King Josiah Finds God’s word” coloring page.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out on stage excited because he knows that today's lesson is about God's word. He knows who God is and he knows that words are what come out of people's mouths when they talk. So God's word must mean that God talks to us. The large group presenter tells Bubba that he's right – God's word does mean that God talks to us. So, Bubba puts his hand up to his ears and waits impatiently to hear what God is saying. The large group presenter explains that God's word doesn't work like that.

You see, today's lesson is about God's written word. That means that God talks to us in a book called the Bible. We have to READ God's word or have someone bigger read it to us. The Bible is God's word! It tells us everything we need to know about how we are supposed to treat other people, or what God wants us to do, and it even tells us true stories about Jesus, God's Son.

Bubba wants to know where he can hear about God's word. The large group presenter tells him that Kids Church talks about God's word every week. Parents learn about God's word in church, too! And, we can even read God's word at home, when we read the Bible, or have our parents or brothers and sisters read it to us! That way, God's word can be with us no matter where we go. Remember: ***GOD IS OUR KING – God's word rules!**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate
- stage should be very messy – filled with crumpled papers, etc.; have a few idols – statues or dolls covered in aluminum foil lying around; have a Bible or a scroll hidden under some trash in the corner
- Josiah costume (should include a crown & clothing that are too big for the child)

Action Zones:

Snack Zone:

- tortillas, spread with butter and cinnamon sugar
- *Optional:* use a fruit roll-up
- red string licorice

Drama Zone:

- seats, Bibles or hymnals, and an altar to create a church for the children to practice going to church and praying

Felt Zone:

- felt board and materials to show the story of King Josiah from today's Bible event (For example, use Lesson #84, "Good King Josiah," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*--order from www.bettylukens.com)

Puppet Zone:

- puppets to act out the story of King Josiah from today's Bible event, or simply have them use the puppets to practice going to church and reading the Bible

Craft Zone:

- half sheets of blank paper folded in half to make a book of God's word
- crayons or markers to decorate the books
- two stickers* (Avery 5160) for each child; one should say, "Hear the word of the Lord" and go on the front of the book; the other should say, "God is our King – God's word Rules" and go on the inside of the book

Quiet Reading Zone:

- basket of books, include any stories about King Josiah, or about the Bible, God's word

Play Zone:

- masking tape (enough to create 20-30-foot long strips, for marking floor into squares for the "garbage game")
- newspaper (for the kids to crumple into balls)
- large trash can

Music Zone:

- sing the song, *The B-I-B-L-E*, or other music of your choice promoting the Bible.

Coloring Zone:

- crayons and markers
- "King Josiah Finds God's word" coloring page[†]

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books