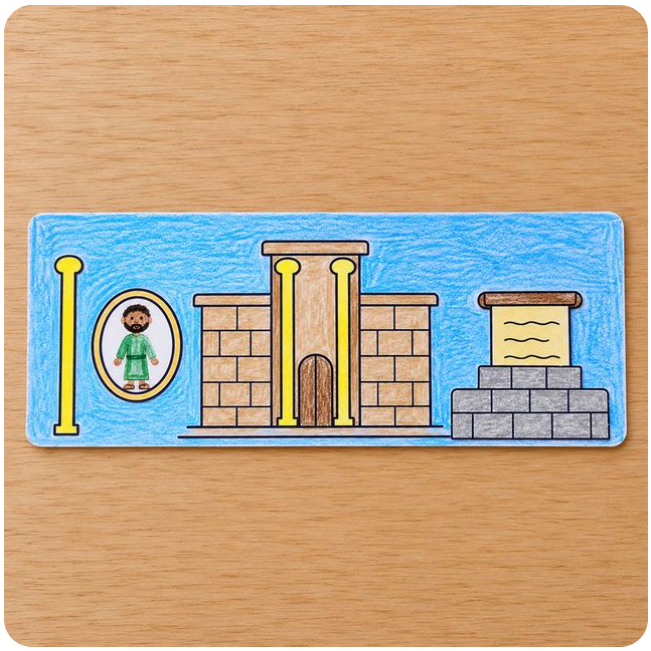
Preschool–Grade 5

Josiah Craft

The book of the law found in the house of the LORD · 2 Kings 22–23 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



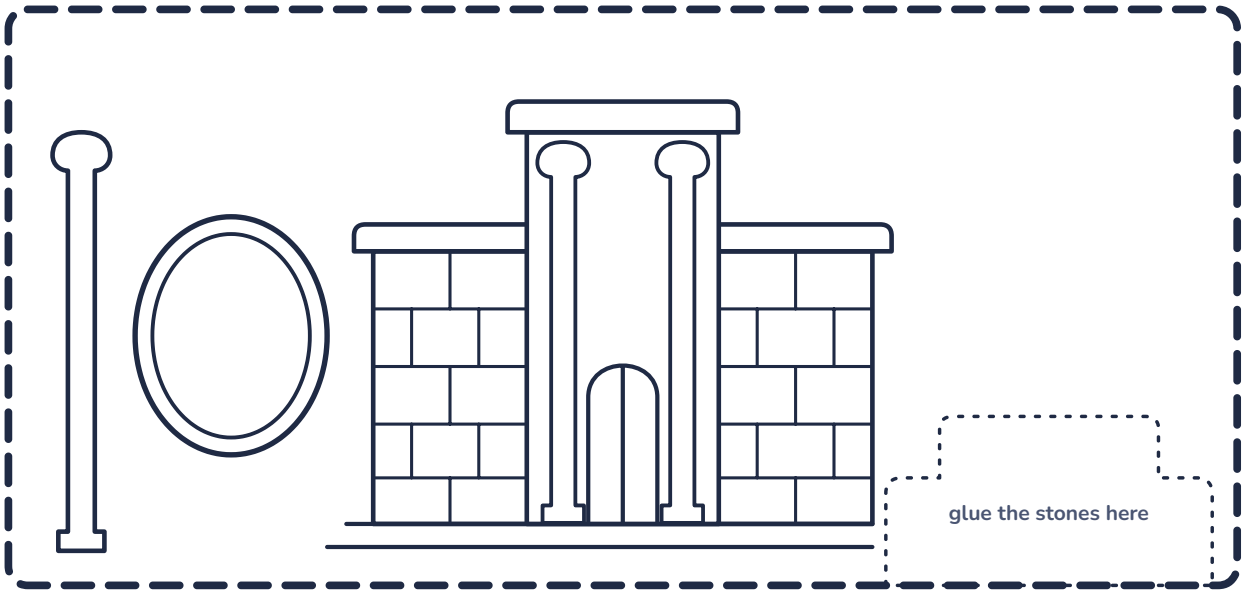
Harder

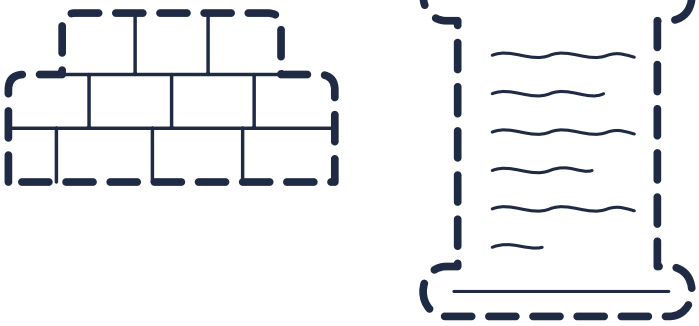
Both levels are a paper house of the LORD with a gray pile of hewn stones glued on as a pocket. The scroll, the book of the law, hides in the stones and pulls up out of them, the way Hilkiah found it while the house was repaired (2 Kings 22:6, 22:8). King Josiah is drawn in the window beside the tall pillar (23:3). Medium (left): the card, the stones and the scroll. Harder (right): the same, with a strip of five windows below the card where kids draw the people, small and great, who heard Josiah read the book (23:2).

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines





card: sky blue · house: tan
door: brown · pillars: yellow
window: draw King Josiah

stones: gray · glue only their left,
right and bottom edges
on the dotted stone shape

scroll: rollers brown,
paper light yellow;
slide it down behind the stones

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.
1 Timothy 4:12 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the stones, the scroll and the verse strip. Glue the stones' left, right and bottom edges on the card to make a pocket, and hide the scroll in it.

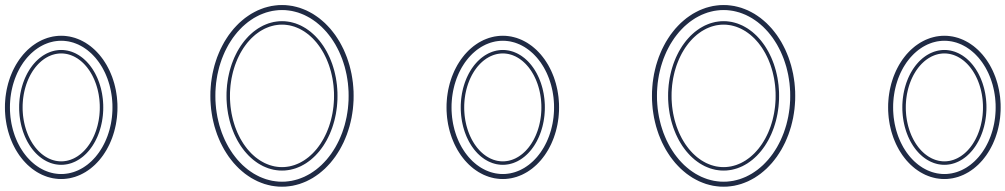
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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

The people, both small and great (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines.

glue this top band on the back of the card, along its bottom edge



windows: draw the people, young and old · around the windows: tan

the people hang below the card, in front of the house of the LORD

And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

2 Kings 23:2 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card, under 1 Timothy 4:12

How to make the people strip

1. Make the card, the stones and the scroll from page 2 first (steps on page 4).
2. Draw a person in each of the five windows: grown-ups in the big windows and children in the small ones, because "all the people, both small and great" came to hear God's book (2 Kings 23:2). Color around the windows tan.
3. Cut out the strip on the dashed lines.
4. Turn the card over. Put glue on the top band of the strip, above the dotted line, and press it on the back of the card along its bottom edge, so the people hang below the card.
5. Glue the 2 Kings 23:2 strip on the back of the card, under 1 Timothy 4:12.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/josiah-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), blue, tan, brown, yellow and gray crayons or markers (plus any colors to draw the people), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out all the pieces and glue the stones on each card (left, right and bottom edges only), so the pocket is ready.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the stones on the card. Kids color the card, the stones and the scroll, and draw King Josiah with your help. Glue the verse strip on the back for them. Then they hide the scroll in the stones and "find" it, and you read the verse together.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, glue the stones to make a pocket, and hide the scroll in it. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level. Then draw the people in the five windows of the strip from page 3, glue it behind the bottom edge of the card, and glue the 2 Kings 23:2 strip on the back. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the sky blue, the house of the LORD tan, its door brown and the pillars yellow. Draw King Josiah in the window beside the tall pillar. Color the stones gray, the scroll's rollers brown and its paper light yellow.
2. **Cut:** cut out the card, the stones, the scroll and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Make the pocket:** turn the stones over and put glue only along their left, right and bottom edges. Press them on the dotted stone shape, with their bottom on the bottom edge of the card. Leave the top open.
4. **Hide the book:** slide the scroll down into the pocket behind the stones.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card.
6. **Tell the story:** the workers repair the house of the LORD, and Hilkiah the high priest finds the book of the law (2 Kings 22:8). Pull the scroll up out of the stones. King Josiah hears it and rends his clothes (22:11), then reads it to all the people (23:2). Turn the card over and read the verse together.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to King Josiah's window. How old was Josiah when he became king? *(Eight years old, 2 Kings 22:1)*
- Point to the stones. What were the workers doing at the house of the LORD? *(Repairing it with timber and hewn stone, 22:5–6)*
- Pull up the scroll. Who found the book of the law? *(Hilkiah the high priest, 22:8)* Who read it to the king? *(Shaphan the scribe, 22:10)*
- What did Josiah do when he heard God's words? *(He rent his clothes and wept, 22:11, 22:19)* What did God say about his heart? *(It was tender, 22:19)*
- Point to the pillar. What did the king do by the pillar? *(He made a covenant before the LORD to keep His commandments, and all the people stood to it, 23:3)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** to **reign** is to rule as king; to **repair** is to fix; **hewn stone** is stone cut into blocks; **rent his clothes** means tore his clothes to show great sorrow; a **tender** heart is soft toward God; a **covenant** is a serious promise made before God; **both small and great** means everyone, young and old; **despise** means look down on, **thy youth** means you being young, **conversation** means the way you live, and **charity** means love.
- **What the Bible says:** the workers were repairing the house of the LORD with timber and hewn stone (2 Kings 22:5–6), and Hilkiah found the book of the law "in the house of the LORD" (22:8). The Bible doesn't say where in the house he found it, so hiding it in the stones is just the craft's way to "find" it. The house, the scroll and the colors are a simple choice too; the Bible doesn't describe them in this story.
- **The pillar:** "the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD" (23:3), so Josiah's window is beside a tall pillar.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** kids draw King Josiah in the window (and the people in the harder level's strip).
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything, glue the stones on ahead of time, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child hide the scroll and find it again.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free King Josiah lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/josiah.

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