Preschool–Grade 6

# Josiah, the Boy King

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

**Main point:** Josiah loved God's Word and obeyed it. I can follow God too.
**Bible passage:** 2 Kings 22–23. Read it yourself before class.
**Memory verse:** "be thou an example of the believers" *1 Timothy 4:12 (KJV)*. The old words **be thou** mean you be, and an **example** is someone others can copy.
**You need:** a Bible, blocks or paper cups to build with, a sheet of paper rolled up and tied with yarn (the "book"), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
**Before class:** put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Kings 22. Hide the rolled-up paper under a few of the blocks or cups.

## 1. Opening game: Fix God's House (5 minutes)

Say: "Let's be builders and fix God's house!" Kids pretend to hammer, saw, and carry stones. Then they build a little wall with the blocks or cups. As they lift the blocks, someone finds the rolled-up paper. Everyone cheers: "We found the book!" Hide it again and play two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a book that was found in God's house."

## 2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 22. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.
Josiah was a boy. He became the king when he was eight years old (2 Kings 22:1). *(Hold up eight fingers.)*
Josiah did what was right. He followed God (22:2). *(Walk in place.)*
Workers came to fix God's house (22:5–6). *(Pretend to hammer.)*
Hilkiah the priest found a book. It was God's book (22:8)! *(Pretend to pick up a book and hold it up high.)*
A helper read God's book to King Josiah (22:10). *(Cup your hand behind your ear.)*
Josiah was very sorry the people had not obeyed God. He cried (22:11, 22:19). *(Rub your eyes.)*
God said, "thine heart was tender." God heard Josiah (22:19). *(Put both hands on your heart.)*
Josiah read God's book to all the people, big and small (23:2). *(Open your hands like a book.)*
Everyone promised to obey God (23:3). *(Raise your hand.)*
**Say it with me: "I will obey God's Word!"**


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

## 3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. How old was Josiah when he became king? *(Eight! Hold up eight fingers, 2 Kings 22:1)*
2. What did the priest find in God's house? *(God's book, 22:8)*
3. Who did Josiah read the book to? *(All the people, 23:2)*

## 4. Act it out (5 minutes)

Some children are the workers: they hammer and stack the blocks. One child is Hilkiah the priest, who finds the rolled-up paper and hands it to a helper. The helper "reads" it to King Josiah (another child), who puts his hands on his heart and looks sorry. Then King Josiah holds up the book, and everyone else sits down to listen. All together say, "We will obey God!" Take turns so every child gets a part.

## 5. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'be thou an example of the believers.' That means you can show others how to follow God, even while you are little!" Teach the motion: point to yourself on "be thou," hold up your hands like a book on "an example," and point to all your friends on "of the believers." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "1 Timothy 4:12" and clap three times.


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post

## 6. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Josiah listened to God's Word and obeyed it. God's Word tells us about Jesus! God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
*Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

## 7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Your book, the Bible.
Help me listen and obey. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Activity:** give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw King Josiah holding God's book. While they color, ask: "How old was Josiah when he became king? What did the priest find?"

**Tips for little ones:** let every child find the book at least once. Keep the story happy: God heard Josiah, and the people promised to obey God. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

**What this lesson leaves out:** the preschool story says only that Josiah was sorry the people had not obeyed God, and that God heard him. It does not tell about God's warning of punishment on the land (2 Kings 22:16–17), the idols Josiah broke down and burned (23:4–20), or how Josiah died in battle (23:29–30). If a child asks why Josiah was sad, say simply: "The people had stopped obeying God's book. Josiah wanted everyone to obey God again."


Free to print & copy for church, classroom & home · Please don't resell or re-post