Preschool–Grade 6

King Joash

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: God protected Joash and kept His promise to David, and Joash did what was right as long as he listened to his godly teacher.
Bible passage: 2 Kings 11:1–12:2. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him." *2 Kings 12:2 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, paper and pencils, a paper crown, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Who Taught You? (5–10 minutes)

Give each child paper and a pencil. Say: "Write down three things you know how to do, like tie your shoes, ride a bike or read. Next to each one, write who taught you." Let a few kids share. Then ask: *What would you not know if nobody had taught you? Who teaches you about God?* Say: "Today we will meet a boy who became king at seven years old, and the man who taught him."

2. Bible story: The Hidden King (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to 2 Kings 11. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

The wicked queen. King Ahaziah of Judah was dead. His mother, **Athaliah**, "destroyed all the seed royal," which means she set out to kill the whole royal family, and then she ruled the land herself (2 Kings 11:1, 11:3). The kings of Judah came from King David's family, so David's line could have ended. But God had promised David that his family would always have "a light," a king to carry it on (2 Kings 8:19).

Hidden in God's house. Look up 2 Kings 11:2. Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram and the sister of Ahaziah, was Joash's aunt. She **stole** him away, which means she secretly took him, from among the king's sons, and hid him and his nurse in a bedchamber, a bedroom. **Look up 2 Kings 11:3.** Joash was hidden in the house of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

The seventh year. Jehoiada the priest called the rulers over hundreds, the captains and the guard into the house of the LORD. He made a **covenant** with them, a serious promise, took an **oath** of them, which means they swore to do it, and showed them the king's son (11:4). He told them exactly where to stand to guard the king's house, the gates and the young king in the house of the LORD (11:5–8). The captains did "according to all things that Jehoiada the priest commanded" (11:9). Jehoiada gave the captains King David's spears and shields that were in the temple (11:10), and the guard stood all around the king (11:11).

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God save the king! Look up 2 Kings 11:12. Jehoiada brought out the king's son, put the crown upon him, and gave him **the testimony**. That means God's law, God's Word ("the testimony of the LORD is sure," Psalm 19:7). They made him king and **anointed** him, which means they poured oil on him to show he was chosen to be king. The people clapped their hands and said, "God save the king."

The queen comes. Athaliah heard the noise and came into the temple. The king stood by a pillar, "as the manner was," which means as kings did, with the princes and the trumpeters by him, and all the people rejoiced and blew trumpets (11:13–14). Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason, Treason." Jehoiada had the captains take her out, because he said she should not be killed in the house of the LORD, and she was put to death by the king's house (11:15–16). Her wicked rule was over.

A new start. Look up 2 Kings 11:17. Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people, "that they should be the LORD'S people." The people broke down the house of **Baal**, a false god, and its altars (11:18). They brought the king to the king's house, and he sat on the throne. The people rejoiced, and the city was quiet (11:19–20). **Look up 2 Kings 11:21.** Joash was seven years old when he began to reign. **Look up 2 Kings 12:2.** Joash did right "all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him."

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Jehosheba hid Joash from the wicked queen (11:2). Do you think that took courage? How did God use her to keep His promise to David (8:19)?
2. Where was Joash hidden? Why do you think God's house was a good place for him to grow up?
3. The captains did *all* that Jehoiada commanded (11:9). Why did it matter that they obeyed exactly?
4. Joash did right while Jehoiada taught him (12:2). Who are the godly teachers in your life?
5. Why is it important to choose friends and teachers who help you do right?

Recall questions

1. How many years was Joash hidden? *(Six years, 2 Kings 11:3)*
2. What did the guards hold that had belonged to King David? *(Spears and shields, 11:10)*
3. What did the people say when Joash was crowned? *("God save the king," 11:12)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **Jehoash** is another way to say Joash, **in the sight of the LORD** means the way God sees it, **wherein** means while, and **instructed** means taught. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God kept His promise to David and kept Joash safe. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
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.
This week: thank one person who teaches you about God, and do one right thing they taught you, even when no one is watching.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. 2 Kings 11:2: Who was Jehosheba's brother? *(Ahaziah)*
2. 2 Kings 11:2: Who was hidden with Joash? *(His nurse)*
3. 2 Kings 11:4: In which year did Jehoiada show them the king's son? *(The seventh year)*
4. 2 Kings 11:10: Whose spears and shields did the captains get? *(King David's)*
5. 2 Kings 11:14: Where did the king stand? *(By a pillar)*
6. 2 Kings 11:14: What did the people blow? *(Trumpets)*
7. 2 Kings 11:19: What did the king sit on? *(The throne of the kings)*
8. 2 Kings 12:1: How many years did Jehoash reign in Jerusalem? *(Forty years)*

For more, use the **word search, crossword, maze or worksheet** (vbshq.com/bible-stories/king-joash).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You always keep Your promises, and that You kept Joash safe. Thank You for the people who teach us Your Word. Help us listen to them and do what is right in Your sight all our days. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks whether Joash always did right: read 2 Kings 12:2 again and point to the words "wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him." Later, after Jehoiada died, King Joash listened to other leaders, and the people turned away from God (2 Chronicles 24:17–18). That is why it matters who we listen to.

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