Preschool–Grade 6

King Joash

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God kept Joash safe, and Joash did what was right when he listened to a 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, a paper crown, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at 2 Kings 11:12. Hide the paper crown somewhere in the room.

1. Opening game: Find the Hidden Crown (5 minutes)

Say: "Somewhere in this room, a crown is hidden." Kids look for it. When they get close, say "Warmer!" When they walk away, say "Colder!" Whoever finds it hides it again while one child covers their eyes. Then ask: *Was it hard to find? Why would someone hide something?* Say: "Today we will hear about a little boy who was hidden for six whole years, and then he became the king!"

2. Bible story: The Boy Who Was Hidden (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to 2 Kings 11, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Long ago, the king of Judah, Ahaziah, died. His mother was a wicked woman named **Athaliah** (2 Chronicles 24:7). She tried to get rid of the whole royal family, and then she ruled the land herself (2 Kings 11:1, 11:3).

But one little boy was saved! His name was **Joash**, and he was the son of King Ahaziah. His aunt **Jehosheba** took Joash away from the other king's sons. She hid him and his nurse, the woman who took care of him, in a bedroom, so that he was not hurt (11:2).

Then Joash was hidden in the **house of the LORD**, God's temple, for **six years** (11:3). The wicked queen ruled the land, but Joash was hidden from her (11:2–3).

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The story continues: In the seventh year, the priest **Jehoiada** called the captains and the guard to the house of the LORD. He made a covenant with them, which means a serious promise, and he showed them the king's son (11:4). The guards stood all around the young king, to keep him safe (11:11).

Then Jehoiada brought out Joash. **Read 2 Kings 11:12 from your Bible:** "And he brought forth the king's son, and put the crown upon him, and gave him the testimony; and they made him king, and anointed him; and they clapped their hands, and said, God save the king." Say: "The people clapped and cheered: Joash is the king!" The **testimony** was God's law, God's Word (Psalm 19:7). The king stood by a pillar, the trumpeters were by the king, and all the people were glad and blew trumpets (11:14).

Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and the people: they would be the LORD's people (11:17). Then they brought the king to the king's house, and he sat on the throne (11:19). How old was the new king? **Seven years old** (11:21)! And Joash did what was right in God's eyes all the days that Jehoiada the priest taught him (12:2).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Who hid little Joash? *(His aunt Jehosheba, 2 Kings 11:2)*
2. Where was Joash hidden for six years? *(In the house of the LORD, 11:3)*
3. What did Jehoiada put on Joash? *(The crown, 11:12)*
4. How old was Joash when he became king? *(Seven years old, 11:21)*
5. Who taught Joash to do right? *(Jehoiada the priest, 12:2)*

4. Memory verse: Crown the Speaker (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. Say the verse together twice in these five parts: *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.* Then put the paper crown on one child, who says the first part. Pass the crown to the next child for the next part. Everyone claps and says "2 Kings 12:2!" at the end.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "God kept Joash safe, and Joash listened to Jehoiada and did what was right. God loves you very much too. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: listen to the grown-ups who teach you about God, like Joash listened to Jehoiada, and do what is right even when no one is watching.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **King Joash word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/king-joash-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the King Joash craft (vbshq.com/crafts/king-joash-craft), or **God Save the King:** one child sits in the middle with the paper crown. Everyone claps and says, "God save the king!" (2 Kings 11:12). Then the king names one right thing to do this week, like "share my toys" or "obey the first time," and passes the crown to the next child.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You kept Joash safe in Your house. Thank You for the people who teach us about You. Help us listen to them and do what is right in Your sight. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks what happened to Athaliah: answer simply. The wicked queen was stopped, and she could not rule anymore (2 Kings 11:16). God is always good and fair. Keep the focus on Joash and on doing right.

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