



JOSIAH THE BOY KING

Preschool-K • #OT21 • October 29, 2023

Concept

God is the best leader.

Goal

Children will learn that God is the best leader; if they follow God they can be good leaders even when they are very young. They will learn that they begin to follow God when they ask Jesus to forgive their sins.

Passage

2 Kings 21:26-23:30; 2 Chronicles 34 & 35

Key Verse: "Josiah led everyone in Israel to serve the Lord their God."

2 Chronicles 34:33b

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods, Glen Keane</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rag or towel</i> • <i>Crown</i> • <i>Bible</i> 	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "What's Important?" coloring sheet, 1/child • Markers, crayons <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Die-cut crowns – gold, silver or yellow cardstock, 2 strips/child • Key verse printed on labels, 1/child • Gem Stickers, 8/child • Staplers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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How often do we consider what it takes to be a good leader? Do we take time to learn how to lead well? Do we look for biblical character in those who lead us—or do we follow blindly?

Josiah became king of Judah when he was only 8 years old. Idol worship had infested the land for over 50 years and the Law was lost. In the midst of all this Josiah became the leader of a great revival in Judah, turning the hearts of the people back to the Lord. How did this happen?

When Josiah was 16 years old he decided to follow the Lord with all of his heart. He set his eyes on the best leader of all and he carried out that decision by taking action wherever he could. The idols were destroyed—even in Israel. The Temple was repaired and, because Josiah did the little he knew to do and did it faithfully, the Law was found in the rubble. Josiah shared the Law with all of the people of the land.

"... hope is passed from person to person. God-given visions of hope are shared—shared by leaders who see the vision with people who don't. But sharing is more than talk. Hope bursts into flame when leaders begin to act. As they follow their vision, clearly and openly facing the difficulties, God mobilizes the many by the challenging actions of the few."^[1] Because of Josiah's leadership Judah returned to worshipping God alone, as long as Josiah lived.

"Josiah wasn't a perfect leader. Apparently he neglected to teach his children to love the Lord, because when his son became king he turned the country back to idolatry. Still, there is much to learn from Josiah and much that our children need to learn. They are tomorrow's leaders. Maybe some of them will become great leaders in the decades to come!

"There has always been a true elite of God's leaders. They are the meek who inherit the earth (Mt 5:5). They weep and pray in secret, and defy earth and hell in public. They tremble when faced with danger, but die in their tracks sooner than turn back. They are like a shepherd defending his sheep or a mother protecting her young. They sacrifice without grumbling, give without calculating, suffer without groaning. To those in their charge they say, 'We live if you do well.' Their price is above rubies. They are the salt of the earth."^[2]

[1] John White, *Excellence in Leadership*, (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1986), p. 48.

[2] John White, *Excellence in Leadership*, (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1986), p. 89.

Set Up

- The week before class – Read through the lesson. Study the life of Josiah. Pray that the Spirit will give you insight into the passage and that He will use you to teach the children that He is the best leader.
- In classroom before class – Pray with the other teachers for the class time.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Coloring – What's More Important?**
 - **Instructions:** Have children color the pictures of the 12 printed items. Have them circle the item/s they'd really like to have or that they have and are favorites. As the children work, read the Adam Raccoon book.
- **Story – Adam Raccoon in Lost Woods**
 - **Instructions:** Read the story as the children color the pictures of the printed items. Discuss with them how our things can be more important to us than people or God. Tell them that they will learn about Josiah who decided that God was more important than his things. Because he believed God, he was able to lead the people to serve Him because God is the best leader.

Introduction Lg. Group

Hey boys and girls, can you follow me (or the student assistant)? (Play Simon Says or lead them around the room, under tables, around chairs, under the slide, etc. Finally end up at the story area.) That was fun! Today we're going to talk about a boy in the Bible named Josiah. Josiah was the leader, the king of his country, Israel. He was only eight years old when he became the king. Josiah was a good leader because he followed God and taught the people to follow God. The Bible says in the book of 2 Chronicles that "Josiah led everyone in Israel to serve the Lord their God." Listen while I tell you about him.

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: As you tell the children about Josiah, follow the instructions in ()s.

Can you imagine becoming a king when you are eight years old? (Put the crown on your head.) Even though he was very young Josiah wanted to be a good king and lead the people to follow God. He wanted everyone to follow God because God is the best leader. The people in Israel had forgotten about God. So Josiah's first job was to clean out the temple (start cleaning with dust rag). Whew, boy was it dusty inside!

While they were cleaning, one of the workers found the book of God's Word. (Wipe dust off your Bible and hold it up, smiling.) It had been lost so no one knew what it said. They didn't have God's Word and they had forgotten that God is the best leader.

Lesson Continued

When God's Word was read to Josiah, he knew that he and all of the people in Israel were not following God. They had turned away from God who is the best leader. They loved their things more than they loved God. This is like in our story— Adam Raccoon loved his things and his things got in his way of following King Aren. This made Josiah very sad. (Make a sad face.) Josiah prayed and told God that he was very sad. He responded to God and humbled himself before God (2 Chronicles 34:27)! (Explain the word "humbled".) Josiah then also chose to follow God!

God forgave him, just like he forgives any person who asks for the forgiveness God offers us through Jesus. (Make a happy face.)

The Bible says "Josiah led everyone in Israel to serve the Lord their God" (2 Chronicles 34:33b). Josiah was a good king because he loved God and led the people in Israel to follow and serve the God of the Bible. They had a big feast, a party with lots of food, to celebrate God and His goodness. They celebrated that God is the best leader. God had rescued them from their bad choices and they loved and served Him.

You and I can be like Josiah. First you can choose to ask God to forgive your bad choices. You can tell Him that you want His Son, Jesus, to take your punishment for you. And right now even while you are young, God will help you to be a good leader who leads people to Him. He loves all people and He wants people to know that Jesus died on the cross for them. "Josiah led everyone in Israel to serve the Lord their God" (2 Chronicles 34:33b). When we follow God we learn to be good leaders and we will lead people to serve the Lord, too.

Transition

Let's get into small groups to talk about what it looks like to be a good leader.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

Discussion

- What does a line leader do? (Stands in front of the line and leads the line to the place they are to go.) A good line leader will lead the group safely to the playground or the drinking fountain or wherever the group is supposed to go.
- A good leader loves the people she is leading. She makes sure everyone is safe and knows the right way to go. A bad leader only cares if he gets where he needs to go. He doesn't care about the other people.
- Why is God the best leader? (Suggestions: He loves everyone the same, He wants to be everyone's friend, He always knows what we need and wants to help us do what is best, He always takes good care of us, He is never mean.)
- How can you be a good leader? (Suggestions: take care of others, make sure others are safe, share, be kind, etc.)

**Learning
Activity#1
Continued
Transition**

Let's pray and thank God that He is the best leader. Let's ask Him to show us what it means to serve and follow him as our good leader!

Let's make a crown to remind us that Josiah was a boy king who led the people to serve God.

**Learning
Activity#2
Lg. Group**

Craft – Crown

Instructions: Give each child two crown strips to decorate. Add the Bible verse label. Use stickers and crayons or markers to decorate it. Try the crown on the child, mark the correct size, and staple or tape it together.

Transition

Let's play Follow the Leader and practice being good leaders.

**Learning
Activity#3
Lg. Group**

Game – Follow the Leader

Instructions: Using the chairs, set up a simple obstacle course for Follow the Leader. As you play, talk about how Josiah led the people to follow God because God is the best leader. Talk about ways to be a good leader.