

Lesson 2

God's Word is Holy

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: II Kings 22:1 – 23:3

MEMORY VERSE: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."
Psalm 122:1

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.
Romans 10:17

CATECHISM: The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- know that God's Word, the Holy Bible, is a very special book given to us by God.
- understand that hearing God's Word teaches us to love and obey God.
- be thankful for God's Holy Word.

MATERIALS: Lesson sheets, activity sheets, a handmade scroll

LESSON OVERVIEW: Though only eight years old when he became king, Josiah was a good king. The Bible says Josiah "did right in the sight of the Lord and walked in all the ways of his father" (2 Kings 22:2). He got rid of idol worship and restored God's Temple. During the repairs, God's Law was found. When Josiah heard what it said, he tore his clothes in repentance. Josiah humbly asked what they should do to turn away God's anger and judgement. Because Josiah was humble and sorry that they lost God's word and had not obeyed it, God was merciful. Josiah made sure the people heard God's Word. Then Josiah led them into a covenant to obey God and receive His blessings.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: What does our lesson tell us about King Josiah? What do we learn about God's people who lived in King Josiah's country? What had happened to the temple where the people were to worship God? What did Josiah do when God's Word was found? How should we treat God's Word? Where can we learn about God and His word, the Bible?

ACTIVITY 1: Crossword Activity. Across: 1. Priest 2. Destroy 3. Forgotten 4. Realized 5. Important 6. Agreed. Down: 1. Kingdom 2. Repair 3. Discovered 4. Order

ACTIVITY 2: Word arranging activity. Number the books in the correct order. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it."

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- Bible Study
- One of the main purposes of the Lord's Day is for the church to assemble to hear God's Word. Where His Word is preached in truth and purity, God meets His people, and they worship Him. The Word refreshes and encourages a repentant people and equips them to serve God. The Bible lesson today tells about a time when the Word of God was literally lost right in the Temple and tells what can happen when the Word is restored to the hearing of the people.

Prayer Preparation

- Thank God for His Holy Word and for places where His Word is preached in truth.
- Thank God for all people who love Jesus as their Savior.
- Pray that you and your students would gladly hear and learn more of God's Word.

Prepare Materials

- If you made a scroll, hide it where the children are unlikely to find it and mess up the classroom--throw some papers on the floor, turn over some chairs.
- Lesson sheets
- Activity sheets
- Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Bible Background

II Kings 22:1 – 23:3

Josiah was one of only eight “good” kings of Judah. The name Josiah means “Healed of the Lord” or “The Lord will Support,” and in his day the Lord did bring healing to the people of Judah.

Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old. His father Amon had been a wicked king like so many kings before him, but his mother apparently had some godly influence on Josiah. At age 16, “In the eighth year of his reign” (2 Chr 34:3), Josiah began to seek the Lord. At age 26, in the eighteenth year of his reign (22:3), he ordered that the temple be cleaned and restored to its rightful state (22:8-20; 34:14-28). It seems remarkable that the book of the Law should be lost in the temple, but there had been several years of wicked kings and idolatry. The book that was found was probably a scroll of the five books of Moses. Finding this book in the temple is like losing the altar Bible in a church today and not finding it for several years. Even worse, it describes many modern churches that have “lost” the Bible by ignoring it or re-interpreting it according to the latest theological or societal fad.

When Josiah heard the words of God's Law and realized the extent of Israel's disobedience, he was struck with grief and fear and tore his clothes in repentance. Seeking advice on what to do, he sent some men to ask Huldah, the prophetess. She let Josiah know that God would indeed send His wrath upon the nation because of their repeated disobedience (2 Kgs 23:25), but Josiah would

be spared from seeing the great destruction (2 Kgs 22:20) because of his humility, sorrow and repentance before the Lord.

Josiah called all the people to assemble and the Law was read to them (22:1-2). The people had broken the old covenant with God so Josiah proposed a “new” covenant, or recommitment before the Lord (22:3). Making a “new covenant” or “renewing the covenant” was a familiar event in Jewish history, essentially a time of repentance and returning to the Lord. This was a covenant “to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant” (2 Kings 23:3). Even today when churches have failed to keep God’s Word, then it is time for corporate repentance and renewal.

After the call for national repentance, Josiah went on to make great and necessary changes in the kingdom as noted in chapter 23. He removed the utensils from the temple that had been made for Baal and burned them in the Kidron Valley (23:4). He removed the high places of pagan worship where they had burned incense to Baal, the sun, moon and constellations (23:5). He tore down the altar that *was* at Bethel *and* the high place built by Jeroboam, who led Israel into sin (23:15). These actions taken by Josiah were the fruit of repentance.

He is remembered for his efforts. “Before him there was no king like him who turned to the LORD with all his heart, all his soul, and all his might, in conformity to all the Law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him” (2 Kgs 23:25). Josiah ruled for 31 years (640-609 BC) and walked in the ways of the Lord.

But Josiah did one thing that was of greatest importance: he reinstated the Passover which kept the people in fellowship with their redeemer God who had delivered them from slavery in Egypt. The Passover had not been celebrated since the days of the judges, and now Josiah celebrated the Lord’s Passover in Jerusalem (23:21-23).

Repentance for sin requires restitution, if possible, but forgiveness and reconciliation with God is found only in the Passover Lamb who has now been sacrificed (1 Cor 5:7). The Church today needs this reminder of Jesus delivering us from slavery to sin. We hear His word and receive His body and blood for the remission of sins as we do in the Lord’s Supper, which should be celebrated regularly according to God’s command. There we are taken to the cross to see God’s love and faithfulness to us in Christ, and to renew our love and faithfulness to Him for so great a salvation.

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

kingdom: a nation or group of people ruled by a king or queen

faith: belief and trust

Josiah: a young king in Israel

priest: a leader in the church whose work is to help people know about, love, and worship God

Word of God: the message of salvation. The Word of Christ. The Bible. Commandments and rules for living given by God.

Christ: the Messiah (the Anointed One), Jesus, the Son of God

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Mess up the classroom ahead of time and hide the scroll (see above in Prepare Materials).

Then, greet the children as they arrive.

Say: It looks like we need to do some cleaning today before we can start our lesson. After things are straightened up, **SAY:** Look what I found as we were cleaning up. Show them the scroll and let them handle it. **SAY:** In today's lesson we will learn about a boy king who found a scroll something like this one.

Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like. Ask God to help you love His Word and honor it.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”” Psalm 122:1.

Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Review main ideas from the previous lesson.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Ask: What do you think it would be like in our Sunday School and Church if nobody had a Bible? How could we learn about Jesus? How could we sing “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so”?

Imagine if we only had one copy of the Bible and that Bible got lost under papers and things? If somebody found that Bible, how would we all feel? What would you do with that Bible?

Let's read the title of the lesson today. **Ask** for a volunteer to read the first paragraph

Read the Lesson

Read or tell the story of Josiah making sure you include details (If you read the story live, you could use the scroll to hold the teachers' manual as you read or tell). **Say:** When Josiah was king, the Bible was written on a long piece of paper rolled up. This was called a scroll. When we cleaned up our room, we were like the workers cleaning the temple. One of the workers or priests found God's Word that was lost. How old was Josiah when the Word of God

was found? How did God's Word get lost? (We don't really know, but there was only one copy left and the people had become careless and neglected it.) What did King Josiah do after he heard what the Word of God said? (He got sad, tore his clothes, repented, and had the Bible read to the people.) What did King Josiah promise to do? (Follow God and obey His Word.) What orders did he give? (for the priests to destroy the idols and the idol temples.) The words on the scroll that was lost and then found became part of the Old Testament in the Bible we read today.

Ask: Why is it important to not forget God's Word? (It's God's message of salvation; Every word is true and given by God; we must hear it so we can obey and love God.) When can we hear God's Word? (In Sunday school and church, in daily devotions at home, at Vacation Bible School).

Repeat the Memory Verse

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Crossword Story

Activity 1

Do the crossword puzzles using new words from the lesson.

ACTIVITY CENTER

Activity 1

CROSSWORD STORY

Do the crossword puzzle using new words from your lesson.

ACROSS

- Hilkiah was a _____.
- God's enemies had tried to _____ the book of the law.
- God's people had almost _____ about God.
- King Josiah _____ his people had sinned.
- Hilkiah found an _____ book that had been lost.
- The people _____ to worship the true God.

DOWN

- King Josiah called the leaders from his _____ to come to the temple.
- King Josiah wanted to _____ God's temple in Jerusalem.
- Hilkiah _____ the book of the law in the house of the Lord.
- King Josiah was eighteen when he gave an _____ to repair the temple.

Honoring God's Word

Activity 2

Number the books in the correct order for the Third Commandment and meaning

Activity 2

HONORING GOD'S WORD

The Third Commandment teaches us to honor God's Word. Number the books in the correct order for the Third Commandment and meaning.

The Third Commandment

What does this mean?

Read all the words in the correct order.
Talk about ways you can honor God's Word.

CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

“Thy Word” -Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant. Lyrics are words of Psalm 119:105.

Additional activities for a multi-age class: