

**Unit 15 • Session 2**  
**October 26-27, 2019**  
**4-5's Lesson**  
**Hezekiah and Josiah**

**Bible Passage:**  
2 Chronicles 29; 34-35

**Story Point:**  
Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.

**Key Passage:**  
2 Chronicles 7:14

**Big Picture Question:**  
How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

**Kid Connect**  
(30 minutes)

**Large Group**  
(15 minutes)

**Small Group**  
(15 minutes)

## **LEADER Bible Study**

After God's people split into two kingdoms—the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah—each nation was ruled by a series of kings. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was ruled by mostly bad kings (like Ahaz who worshiped idols and did not respect God, God's law, or God's prophets) and a handful of good kings. Hezekiah and his great-grandson Josiah were two notable reformers who had a lasting impact on Judah.

Hezekiah took the throne after evil Ahaz. During Hezekiah's reign, the kingdom of Israel—which had endured more than 200 years of bad kings—was captured by Assyria and ultimately destroyed. Hezekiah "did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his ancestor David had done" (2 Chron. 29:2) He destroyed the places of idol worship and cleansed the temple. The Lord was with Hezekiah, and Hezekiah prospered.

Then Hezekiah's son Manasseh became king. For 55 years, he led the people of Judah away from God, essentially reversing the progress Hezekiah had made. Manasseh's son Amon followed in his father's evil ways but was assassinated by his own servants. The people of Judah made Amon's son Josiah king when he was just 8 years old.

Unlike his father, Josiah began to seek God. He tore down the altars and idols of false gods, and he initiated the repairing of the Lord's temple. During the temple repair, the discovery of the book of the law of the Lord led Josiah to make a covenant to follow God and obey His commands. Those who heard the law vowed to do the same. When Josiah died, he was remembered as the greatest king in Judah. (2 Kings 23:25)

Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to follow His commands. They wanted God's people to love God and obey the law too. When Jesus came to earth, He fulfilled the law by obeying it perfectly.



# The BIBLE Story

## Hezekiah and Josiah

*2 Chronicles 29; 34-35*

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many kings. Most of the **kings** were evil; they did wrong things and led the people away from God.

Hezekiah was not like the other kings. **Hezekiah did what was right. He trusted God and obeyed Him.** Hezekiah made some changes around the kingdom. **He led the people to worship God again, and God blessed him.**

**After Hezekiah died,** his son became king. Hezekiah's son was the most evil king of Judah. He set up the idols Hezekiah had destroyed and led the people to worship false gods. He ruled for 55 years. Then his son became king. He was evil too, and he ruled for two years. Then his son **Josiah became king.**

**Josiah was just a boy** when he became the king of Judah, and he was a **good king.** He did what was right. When Josiah was a little bit older, he started to follow God. Josiah wanted people to obey God, but some people in Judah did things that God did not like. They worshiped idols—things that were not God. So Josiah got rid of the things people worshiped, and he destroyed the places where they were not supposed to worship.

**The temple of God needed to be fixed. So Josiah collected money for the workers to buy stones and wood. The workers would fix up the temple and make it like new again. While the workers were fixing the temple, the high priest found an old book. It was a very important book that Moses had written down long ago. The words were from God. The words told the people what they were supposed to do.**

**"I have found the book of the law!"** the high priest said. When King Josiah heard the words from God's law, he was very upset. He tore his clothes.

**"God is very angry with us!"** Josiah said. **"Our people have not obeyed God for a long, long time. They did not do everything this book says to do!"**

Josiah went to the temple of God. He invited all of the people to the temple, and he read the law to them. **Josiah made a promise to God. "We will follow You and obey You,"** Josiah said. **"We will do what You want us to do."** All the people agreed. As long as Josiah was king, the people followed God and obeyed Him.

*Christ Connection: Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to obey Him. They wanted God's people to love God and obey Him too. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed the law perfectly.*

### Bible Storytelling Tips

**Thumbs-up or down:** Encourage children to give a thumbs-up when you describe a good king or action and to give a thumbs-down when you describe a bad king or action.

**Emphasize the Bible:** Before the session, hide a Bible near your storytelling area and create a small mess. Tidy up as you describe the workers fixing the temple and hold up the Bible as you describe the high priest finding an old book. Display the Bible reverently whenever you talk about the book of the law throughout the story.



# KID CONNECT

## Welcome time

Arrival music

favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Guess the emotion

Show children an exaggerated expression and invite them to guess which emotion you are displaying. Continue play, allowing preschoolers to act out emotions as desired. Suggested emotions: happy, sad, brave, afraid, surprised, angry.

**SAY** • Good job recognizing the different emotions! The people in our Bible story today experienced some of these feelings. Listen to our Bible story today to find out what upset him and think about how you would feel.

## Pumpkin Toss

6 Plastic pumpkin buckets, 10 ping pong balls

Create two pumpkin toss stations with three pumpkins each. Give each child a turn by letting them toss five ping pong balls into the buckets. After their turn, have them return to the back of the line.

**SAY** • Great job friends! We are so glad you are here today. I can't wait to sing with you and listen to our Bible story together.



# LARGE GROUP

## Transition to Large Group

**VIDEO: Countdown**

Show the countdown video to gain the attention of all the preschoolers and move them to Large Group.

## Worship

Sing "You are Good" and "Return".

**VIDEO: You are Good**  
**VIDEO: Return**

## Introduce the Bible story

Bible, bookmark

**CG: Giant Timeline**

Place a bookmark at 2 Chronicles 29 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

**SAY** • Today's story comes from the Book of 2 Chronicles. The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true!

*Point* to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

## Watch the Bible story

**VIDEO: Hezekiah and Josiah**  
**CG: Bible Story Picture**  
**CG: Story Point**

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

**SAY** • Judah was a place that had many evil kings that led the people away from God, but kings **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God**. They loved God and wanted to obey Him. They wanted God's people to love God and obey Him too, but Hezekiah and Josiah were not perfect kings and none of the people obeyed God perfectly either. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed God perfectly. Jesus is the perfect king Who leads us back to God!

## Practice the key passage

Bible

**CG: Key Passage**

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. "If my people (display arms in front) ...turn from their evil ways (turn your body), then I will (point up) ...forgive their sin and heal their land (cross arms over chest)." 2 Chronicles 7:14

**SAY** • Our key passage is the words God said when the temple had just been built. God knew that most kings would lead the people away from Him. But He promised to forgive them if they turned back to Him.



## Learn the big picture question

### CG: Big Picture Question

SAY • Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God, but other kings led the people away from God again. Even good kings couldn't stop the people from disobeying God forever. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.* When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed the law perfectly.

## Pray and transition to small group



## SMALL GROUP

SESSION TITLE: Hezekiah and Josiah

Bible Passage: 2 Chronicles 29; 34-35

Story Point: Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.

Key Passage: 2 Chronicles 7:14

Big Picture Question: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

### Take turns being king/queen

Toy or paper crown, small blanket (optional), 1 per group

Provide a toy or paper crown and a small blanket to be a royal robe. Help a preschooler dress up like a king or queen. Help her stand, wave a pretend scepter, and say, "Love God." Guide the other children to bow or cheer. Play again so each preschooler has a turn. Retell the Bible story.

**SAY** • Judah had many bad kings, but Hezekiah and Josiah loved God. Judah obeyed God when the king obeyed Him. **GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS** to rescue us from sin forever. Jesus helps His people obey God.

### Play catch

small balls or bean bags, 1 per group

Guide preschoolers to work with friends to toss and catch a ball or bean bag. If space or safety does not permit tossing, guide preschoolers to sit on the floor and roll balls to one another.

Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

"God had a plan to rescue us, rescue us, rescue us!

God had a plan to rescue us. God sent Jesus."

**SAY** • Hezekiah and Josiah loved God, but they still made wrong choices. Sometimes we disobey our mommies and daddies too. Ask children if they obey all the time or if they find it hard to always obey. Jesus always obeyed God perfectly. **GOD PLANNED TO SEND JESUS** to save us.

### Review

Bible Story Picture Poster

Talk about how the high priest found the book of God's law while the temple was being fixed. King Josiah invited all the people to the temple to hear God's law. **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Who did God plan to send? (*Jesus*)
2. Where did the high priest find the book of the law? (*in the temple*)
3. How did King Josiah feel when he heard the words from God's law? (*very upset*)
4. Could any of Judah's kings or people obey the law perfectly? (*no*)

**>How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.**

### Connect with Parents/Influencers

Preschool Activity Page, crayons

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.

