



Unit 15, Session 2

October 26-27, 2019

4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Lesson

## Hezekiah and Josiah

2 Chronicles 29; 34–35

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

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*Tell the story from the following Bible story script.*

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many kings. Most of the kings were evil; they did not follow God. Kings like Ahaz set up places to worship idols, and the people forgot about God. When King Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah was not like his father. Hezekiah did what was right. He trusted God and obeyed His commands. Hezekiah made some changes around the kingdom. He led the people to worship God again, and God blessed him.

After Hezekiah died, his son Manasseh (muh NASS uh) became king. Manasseh 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 Amon (AM uhn) became king. He was evil too, and he ruled for two years. Then his son Josiah became king.

Josiah was just eight years old when he became king. He was a good king. Josiah lived in a way that pleased God. When Josiah was a teenager, he started to follow God. Then he made some changes around the kingdom. Josiah decided to get rid of the things that were not pleasing to God. He got rid of idols and the places where people worshiped false gods.

When Josiah was a young man, he wanted to repair the Lord's temple. As the temple was being repaired, the high priest found a very important document. "I have found the book of the law in the Lord's temple!" the high priest said. When King Josiah heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes! "God is very angry with us!" Josiah said. "Our ancestors did not obey God!"

God said, "I am going to punish the people of Judah because they turned away from me and worshiped other gods." But He told Josiah, "Because you were humble and were sorry for your sin, you will die in peace. You will not see the punishment I am bringing on the people."

Josiah went to the temple and read the words of the law to the people. Then Josiah promised to follow God and obey Him like the book of the law said to do. The people at the temple also agreed to follow God and obey Him. As long as Josiah was king, the people followed God and obeyed Him.

*Christ Connection: 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.*



## Kid Connect

### WELCOME TIME

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to name something they treasure. What evidence shows that they treasure that thing?

## Large Group

### Large Group Game *Halloween Edition*

#### Mouthful of Dirt

**SFX: Game Intro Music**

**VIDEO: Halloween Music/Countdown**

**Pumpkin buckets, Cocoa Pebbles, bugs, spoons, bowls**

To setup the game, fill each of the pumpkin buckets about 3/4 full with Cocoa Pebbles Cereal. It will look like dirt. Once each bucket is filled, add in a handful of gummy or plastic insects and shake the pumpkin to mix them into the “dirt,” making sure they are not visible from the top of the bucket. Place one large “dirt” filled pumpkin, one spoon, and one bowl next to each other on a table for each contestant. Select 2 kids to play the game (1 boy and 1 girl). You can also choose the 2 best costumes in the room. Have them stand behind their buckets. When you say go, they must put the spoon in their mouth and, using only the spoon, dig in the dirt for bugs. As they find a bug, they must transfer it using only the spoon from the large pumpkin into the bowl. Whoever digs out the most bugs when the timer ends wins!

## Worship

**VIDEO: Raise Your Hands High**

**VIDEO: Alive**



## Large Group

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

Ahaz was the king of Judah when the kingdom of Israel fell. Today's story is about two kings who came after Ahaz: Hezekiah and Josiah. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

### Tell the Bible Story

CG: Story Picture  
CG: Question 1  
CG: Question 2

- What does this story teach us about God?

The kingdom of Judah had many bad kings, but Hezekiah and Josiah were good kings. In today's story, Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God. **God wants us to turn away from our sin and turn back to Him!** This was His plan all along.

- How did Josiah lead Judah back to God?

When the temple was being repaired, the book of the law was found. Those Scriptures revealed what God wanted from His people. Josiah realized the people of Judah had not been obeying God, so **Josiah shared God's law with the people.**

### CHRIST CONNECTION

*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.*



## Large Group

### CG: Big Picture Question

#### Big Picture Question

How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

#### PRAY

Before we head to small groups, I want to let everyone know that this weekend we are having baptisms. Baptism is a celebration when a person shares that they have decided to follow Jesus. Do we have any kids in here getting baptized today? (If so, celebrate with kids) I want to encourage everyone to go outside and cheer on all our friends getting baptized today right after service.

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## THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



**GOD RULES.** Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



**WE SINNED.** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



**GOD PROVIDED.** Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



**JESUS GIVES.** Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



**WE RESPOND.** Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.





## Small Group

### Big Picture Question

**How did God plan to fix what sin broke?  
Before He created the world, God planned to send the  
Messiah to save sinners.**

We know that the people of Judah couldn't just stop sinning; they were slaves to sin! Not even their kings could lead them back to God forever.

- **How do you read the Bible?**
- **Why is it important to read God's Word regularly?**

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 34. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 34:30-31. Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to follow His commands. They wanted God's people to love God and obey the law too.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 34:30-31 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

**1. Why is the Bible important for knowing God?**

*Guide kids to identify the Bible as the Word of God. Lead them to think of the Bible as God's love letter to His people. It tells us what God has done to rescue sinners. We know who God is and who we are because of what God has said in His Word.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:9-11.)

**2. How can we show that God's Word is special to us?**

*Invite kids to discuss evidence that the Bible is important to a person. Help them identify ways to treasure God's Word through reading the Bible regularly, studying the Scriptures, memorizing Scripture, telling others about the Bible, and so forth.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:103.)

**3. Why is it good news that Jesus obeyed God perfectly?**

*Prompt kids to recognize that Jesus never sinned. When we trust in Him, we – who have failed to obey God perfectly – are counted righteous before God. Jesus' perfect obedience is credited to us and our sins are forgiven. Emphasize that we obey God not to earn His acceptance but in response to the acceptance we already have through Christ.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:8.)



## Small Group

### KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

*Supplies: Bibles, Key passage word printable, plastic Ziploc bag*

Before the session, cut each word of the key passage out from the printable and place them in the Ziploc bag. Then mix up the words. Instruct kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 7:14. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Scatter the verse words on a floor or table and challenge kids to arrange the words in the correct order. Prompt kids to say the key passage together.

### PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His love for us. Pray that God would reveal Himself to kids through His Word.

### Bible Story Bingo

*Supplies: Bible Story Bingo printable 1 per kid, markers, Key Words printable, 1 per group*

Display the Key Words printable for the kids to see: *Judah, kingdom, Hezekiah, good, evil, king, idols, Josiah, temple, priest, law, sin, punishment, obey, Jesus, God, follow, son, trusted, commands, Manasseh, David, changes, read.*

Give each kid a Bible Story Bingo sheet. Explain that they should draw a star in the center square and then write the key words in the remaining squares in any order they choose, one word per square. Explain that the goal of the game is to mark off five spaces in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal).

Read the Bible story script, pausing briefly after each paragraph for kids to mark off spaces. When someone shouts “Bingo!” prompt that player to list the words she marked off to check her answers. Continue playing through the end of the story.

Review that Hezekiah and Josiah were two kings of Judah. They lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Both Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God. God wants all people to turn from their sin and turn to Him!