

Date | **November 13, 2022** Family Theme | **Boldly Honoring God's Word**
Study Text | **2 Kings 22:1–23:3, 21-25**

Objective: Family members humbly obey God's Word, setting an example for those around them.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: The events of 2 Kings took place after the kingdom was divided following the reigns of David and Solomon. This section took place around 620 BC when the book of the Law was found and Josiah led the people in a covenant to follow God's Law.

Bible Basics: Memorize Deuteronomy 26:17 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word:

 2 Kings 22:1–23:3, 21-25

Disciple Your Kids

Talk with your children and grandchildren about how we are to set good examples by turning away from sin to honor and obey God's Word.



Key Truth: Believers Honor and Obey God's Word, Making It Their Final Authority on What to Believe and Practice (2 Kings 22:1-20)

Chapter 22 announces the beginning of young Josiah's 31-year reign over Judah. Unlike many of his predecessors, Josiah did what was right and walked in God's ways as his ancestor David had. This literally postponed God's judgment on Judah (verses 1-2). Among other reforms, Josiah called for the repair of the Temple, which had fallen into disuse and disrepair. He used the money that had been given by the people to pay for workers and materials to make the repairs (verses 3-7). During this process the high priest found the Book of the Law, which had been neglected, in the Temple. It was read to Josiah, who tore his clothes in mourning when he heard it, realizing they had not been obeying it (verses 8-13). Josiah sent for a word from the Lord through Huldah the prophetess. God said He would bring disaster on Judah because they had turned away from Him and worshiped false gods (verses 14-17). They were to tell Josiah, however, that because he had humbled himself and realized they had sinned, God had heard him and would delay the judgment until after his death (verses 18-20).



Key Truth: Believers Set an Example of Obedience and Deal With Sin (2 Kings 23:1-3, 21-25)

Having discovered God's will and commands in His Word, Josiah sought to lead the people in repentance to God. He assembled representatives of all the people for a public reading of the Book of the Law (verses 1-2). He then encouraged the people to total commitment and obedience to God by making a covenant to the Lord. Josiah led the people by example, fully committing himself to walk with God and obey His commands with all his heart. All the people promised to do the same (verse 3). One such command was to keep the Passover, the celebration commemorating the Lord's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery and bondage. This Passover was conducted with more careful attention to the Law of God than it had been since before the period of the Judges (verses 21-23). Josiah also cleansed the land of idols, abominations, and those who practiced evil rituals. He turned to the Lord with all his heart, obeying all the law of Moses (verses 24-25).

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with family members this week. Questions in **bold** will be good to use with elementary age children.

- **How can we honor God's Word and give it priority?**
- Why is obedience to God best for us?
- What are some commands in God's Word that are mostly ignored or disobeyed in our culture?
- What are some steps we might take to deal with some sin we struggle with?
- In what area could I take steps this week to put away some sin?
- In what area could I more fully obey God this week?
- **What change took place in King Josiah's heart when he heard God's Word?**
- **Are there any changes you need to make in your heart to have a better attitude toward God and His Word?**

Everyday Extras

We honor our country's flag. Have your children list ways that people treat the flag with respect (standing when it comes by, saluting, taking ball caps off, not letting it touch the ground, etc.). Do we honor our Bible the same way? This is God's Word, given to us straight from God Himself. We should treat it with great respect, not just as a symbol, but as the authority in the way we think and act. Josiah was an excellent example of that. This week, your family could stand as a sign of your respect when you read the Bible together.

A treasure hunt in your kitchen cabinets! Let the children help clean out a seldom used cabinet or closet to see what you've stored there from the past. Can you clean it up and use it again for some special occasion? (Fry Daddy, Bundt cake pan, ice cream maker, fondue pot, popsicle molds—there must be something!) While Josiah's wicked grandfather and father had been in charge of Judah, the Temple had fallen into disrepair. When they restored it and finally discovered the book of the Law, the king and the priests began to obey it. All of Judah kept the Passover again and remembered what God had taught their parents and grandparents.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned God showed a prophet named Jeremiah a basket with good figs which represented the people who followed Him. God also showed Jeremiah another basket with rotten figs which represented the people who did not. Jeremiah told the disobedient people to return to God, but they chose not to. **God's Word Is Special** and helps me obey God and do what is right.