

Unit 11: Divided Kingdom

OT11.12 Josiah Finds the Lost Law

Scripture: 2 Kings 22-23 2 Chronicles 34

Lesson Goal:

During the last 50 years of the Kingdom of Judah just before the people were taken into captivity a young boy named Josiah became King of Judah. He was a king who brought great religious reform throughout the nation. In this lesson we will learn about the importance of reading and obeying God's Word.

Introduction:

The story of King Josiah is found in the books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. These books tell the history of the kings of Israel and Judah. It is in the second group of Old Testament books called the historical books. These books begin with Joshua and go through Esther. Let's say these books--Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther.

Attention Getter: "Lost"

Have you ever lost something very important to you? Maybe you could not find your favorite sport shirt that you wanted to wear to the big game! Or perhaps you lost the ear buds to your new I-Pad! Losing something that is very valuable can be very upsetting! It may mean that you are not able to enjoy things the way you would like! Did you know that God wants us to value His Word like that? When we fail to read and learn God's Word we have "lost" an important part of our life! If we don't know what God desires for us then we will miss out on many blessings!

In this lesson we will learn about a time when God's Word was lost! The people of Judah had forgotten how God wanted them to live! When Josiah became the King of Judah as a young man he wanted to obey God but he did not know how! Then a great discovery was made! In this lesson we will learn about the importance of reading and obeying God's Word.

Opening Prayer:

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for this lesson that teaches us the importance of reading and obeying your Word. Help us to repent of our sins like King Josiah did and turn to you for our salvation. Give us faith to trust in Your Son Jesus who died to pay the debt of our sin. Only you can give us mercy and forgiveness. Thank you for giving to us the gift of salvation. Help us to read and study God's Word everyday of our life and then obey it! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse:

The memory verse is 2 Timothy 3:15 "and now from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Lesson Video: <https://youtu.be/NohkLQguxbE>

For over 300 years the nation of Israel was divided into two kingdoms. Ten tribes lived in the northern kingdom of Israel while the two tribes of Judah and Ephraim formed the southern kingdom of Judah. During the years of the Divided Kingdom, twenty different kings reigned over the northern kingdom of Israel. All of them were evil and wicked. They built idols and worshipped false gods. God sent many prophets to warn these kings of their sins and coming judgment. Among them were Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Hosea, and Amos. Their message was one of repentance and a plea for God's people to return to Him. However their call to return to God was not heeded.

In the southern kingdom of Judah, there were also twenty different kings. Most of them were also evil and wicked except for eight good kings. God sent many prophets to the Southern Kingdom including Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk to warn these people of coming judgment if they did not obey Him. Despite their failure to obey Him, God had promised King David that in His family the tribe of Judah would be the one in whom He would send His Son Jesus to be the Savior of the world. He would be the King of Kings and His kingdom would reign forever.

From the time of Moses and God giving the Law on Mount Sinai, God's laws had been written on scrolls and read to people so they could learn and memorize them. God had instructed the tribe of Levi to be the priests who would be in charge of reading the Law to the people and making sure the scrolls were properly cared for and preserved. Moses had warned the people of Israel to not forget to assemble themselves together to listen to God's Word being read.

Parents were encouraged to teach God's laws to their children. They were to talk about the scripture when they were sitting at home, when they were walking along the road, and when they were lying down to rest and when they were getting up! Knowing what God said was very important!

During most of the years before Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonians King Manasseh had ruled the land. In his evil reign the scrolls of God's laws were destroyed and burned. It was thought that there was not a copy left in the land. Instead of obeying God people worshipped false gods. They built tall poles of idol worship to the Canaanite goddess Asherah. They engaged in sorcery, divination and other occult practices. All of these beliefs were totally opposed to God and His Word. Prophet and teachers of God's laws were attacked and put to death. During King Manasseh's reign, tradition says that the prophet Isaiah was killed when he was sawed in two when trying to hide in a hollow log. 2 Kings 21 tells us that King Manasseh shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end!

Although wicked King Manasseh later pleaded with God to forgive him and changed his wicked ways, the damage had been done. People did not care for God or obey Him. When Manasseh died he was buried in the palace garden. His 22 year old son Amon became king but only ruled for a year. He too had no time for God. His officials attacked and killed him. His murderers were arrested and executed.

King Amon's son Josiah was only 8 years old when he was crowned king. However this young boy decided he wanted to follow God rather than the wicked ways of his father and grandfather. We don't know who taught Josiah about God but it may have been the Hilkiah the high priest or one of the prophets such as Zephaniah or Jeremiah.

Because Josiah was only a young boy of 8 years old when he became king, Hilkiah the high priest probably also guided him in making decisions for the land of Judah. But without the scrolls of God's laws the people continued to worship false gods.

After reigning for 8 years at the age of 16 King Josiah began to "seek the God of His father David" on his own. Somehow God worked in Josiah's heart, making him serious about knowing God for himself. Although Josiah did not know much about God he believed what little he knew and obeyed! He came to trust God and "did what was right in the sight of the Lord."

This meant making big changes in his country. Josiah came to believe that the land of Judah must be purged of all the evil wrongs they were committing. The idols had to go! So four years later when he was 20 years old, he ordered the altars to the false gods on the hilltops to be torn down and ground into little pieces. The pieces were then to be scattered on the graves of those who had been idol worshippers!

When King Josiah was 26, he looked at the Temple in Jerusalem and saw that it was in great ruins. This building had once been the magnificent temple of God that King Solomon had built. He may have also

remembered that many years before King Jehoash had rebuilt the temple. People were still giving money to have it repaired. So King Josiah decided to restore the Temple!

He told Shaphan, the ruler of Jerusalem, to take the money and give it to Hilkiah the High Priest to hire workers to do the repairs. The money was also to be used to purchase timber and stone that would be needed. So laborers, carpenters, and builders were set to work repairing the damaged building. The Levites supervised the work. King Josiah knew that Hilkiah the High Priest could be trusted to get the work done properly,

Then while the repairs were being made, Hilkiah the High Priest made an important discovery. There in the dusty temple, hidden from view, was an old scroll containing the Book of God's Laws. He removed it carefully and must have trembled with excitement as he read it! The text of this book of the law was probably the Book of Deuteronomy or possibly the entire first five books of the Old Testament.

An excited Hilkiah rushed to Shaphan, and said, "I have found the Book of the Law in the Temple of the Lord." Shaphan looked and knew it was God's Law. He had never before seen a copy or held one in his hands.

"The king must know about this amazing discovery," he said. So he immediately set off to tell King Josiah the news.

The court secretary, Shaphan gave the king an update of the progress of the repair work and then announced the exciting news, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a scroll." He then read the Book of God's Laws to the king.

For the first time King Josiah learned what God expected of His people. When the king heard how God wanted everyone to live, he knew the nation of Judah was in great trouble because of their sin against God. Josiah became very upset and tore his robes in grief. Although the words he was hearing were written 800 years earlier King Josiah knew that they were God's words and they are never out of date. "God's anger must be great because we have disobeyed His laws," he wept. King Josiah wanted to know more about this coming judgment.

So the king sent Shaphan and Hilkiah the High Priest to a prophetess called Huldah. She had a message from God for the king. "Because we have been so disobedient, God's will is to bring a disaster on this land. But, as the king has humbled himself, tore his robes and wept, this disaster will not happen in his lifetime." The disaster that God was going to bring was the invasion by the Babylonian army which would happen after the death of King Josiah. The Babylonians would take the Jews back to their land as captives.

When King Josiah realized the great sin that Judah had committed, he called a meeting in the temple of everyone in Jerusalem and Judah, along with all the priests and Levites. The King stood by the great Temple pillar and read the words of God's laws to everyone. Then King Josiah promised to obey them with all his heart and soul. The people also pledged to do the same.

King Josiah's covenant with God would now mean even greater reforms to the land of Judah. King Josiah was not just a hearer of God's Word but he was a doer also! The king then ordered Hilkiah the High Priest and the priests to remove all the articles from the Temple that had been made for Baal and Asherah as well as the astrology idols that had been used to worship false gods.

All the pagan altars and sacred stones in the land were destroyed. He broke down shrines where the false idol priests had burned incense. Even the ones that were located at the gates of the city were demolished.

Figures of gods were pulled down and ground into dust. Even the altar at Bethel that King Jeroboam had made many years before was destroyed. It had been prophesied that a descendant of King David would do this.

Pagan priests who had led people into wickedness were rounded up and executed. King Josiah knew that his reforms had to remove not just the sinful *things* but also the sinful *people* who promoted and permitted this false worship.

King Josiah then ordered everyone to celebrate the Passover as it was written in God's laws. It was a great occasion. 30,000 lambs and goats and 3,000 cattle were sacrificed as people put their lives right with God. There had not been such a Passover celebrated like this since the days of the prophet Samuel.

King Josiah was now in the 18th year of his reign. There had never been a king who brought such great reforms as he had done. His passion was to "perform the words of the law which were written in the book."

Sometime later while Josiah was still the king, Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt gathered an army to march north. He was going to join up with the Assyrian army to fight the Babylonians. The Egyptians had to march through the land of Judah to get to the Assyrians. King Josiah did not want the Assyrians to become more powerful and so he decided to intercept the Egyptians at Megiddo.

Pharaoh Necho sent messengers to Josiah saying, "Why are planning to fight me? It is not you I am attacking. God has told me to hurry north. So stop opposing God, who is with me, or He will destroy you." Unfortunately there is no recorded prayer before the battle and King Josiah acted rashly. He was not perfect and he made mistakes just like we do! King Josiah ignored this warning which was actually from God and disguised himself as a soldier to lead his troops into battle.

Disaster struck! The king was shot by archers and badly wounded. "Take me away, I'm badly wounded," he groaned. His officers lifted him out of his chariot, put him in another chariot, and brought him back to Jerusalem, where he died. This was a very sad ending to one of the great kings of Judah.

The whole land mourned for King Josiah. Everyone was deeply upset. Josiah was a good king who did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David. He did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Later the prophet Jeremiah composed songs of lament about Josiah to show how much the King would be missed. Jeremiah wrote, "He did what was right and just, so all went well. He defended the cause of the poor and the needy and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me, declares the Lord."

A long line of bad kings had come before Josiah and helped to lead God's people away from Him. These wicked kings had led people to worship false idols and forget about God's Law. Josiah was young, but he loved God and wanted to honor Him. Josiah shows us that no one is too young to lead others to obey God!

For Josiah the Holy Scriptures was the Old Testament Law. When he heard the words of the Book of Law, he repented of his sin and trusted in God. The Word of God made a great difference for his whole life. The same is still true for us today. When we take God's Word seriously, we will not just hear what God says, we will do it! Obeying God brings many good blessings into our lives.

Our memory verse is 2 Timothy 3:15 "and now from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." These verses tell us that the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi is important because it points us to Jesus Christ. At the same time

faith in Christ makes the whole Bible more understandable. From the very beginning God made a way of salvation through His Son Jesus. Learning what the Bible says when we are young helps us obey God our whole life.

Do you live by God's Word? If you love the Lord Jesus, you can ask for His help to be a "doer" and not just a "hearer." If you are not a Christian, you have not taken God's Word seriously. John 3:18 says "He who believes in Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already." Won't you listen to God and obey Him today? Ask the Lord Jesus now to take away your sins and to be your Lord and Savior.

Let's pray. Dear Father in heaven, thank you for this lesson that teaches us the importance of reading and obeying your Word. Help us to repent of our sins like King Josiah did and turn to you for our salvation. Give us faith to trust in Your Son Jesus who died to pay the debt of our sin. Only you can give us mercy and forgiveness. Thank you for giving to us the gift of salvation. Help us to read and study God's Word everyday of our life and then obey it! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Remember read and obey God's Word!

Review Questions: "Searching for the Truth"

Preparation: You will need a non-breakable magnifying glass.

Say: "In this Bible lesson the people working to restore the Temple in the time of King Josiah found a missing scroll. The scroll was a copy of the Book of Law. This book was very important because it contained the words of God. God's words are always true for all time. They are a valuable treasure. When we are looking for something important like a treasure we may have to use a magnifying glass. Today we are going to use a magnifying glass to help us remember the facts about the Bible lesson."



Procedure: Demonstrate how a magnifying glass works by placing the glass over several different objects. Instruct the children to pass the magnifying glass around the group until you say, "Stop." The person holding the magnifying glass will need to answer the review question "truthfully." Continue passing the magnifying glass until all the review questions have been answered. Be sure to give all students an opportunity to answer the questions.

1. How many kings ruled in the northern Kingdom of Israel and what kind of kings were they? (Twenty kings ruled in Israel and all of them were wicked. They worshipped idols and turned the people away from God.)
2. How many kings ruled the southern kingdom of Judah and what kind of kings were they? (Twenty kings ruled the land of Judah and all but eight were evil and disobedient to God.)
3. What special promise did God make to the tribe of Judah? (God had made a covenant with David that the Promised Messiah would come from his descendants.)
4. Who were some of God's prophets who came to the northern kingdom of Israel to warn them of the coming judgment? (God sent Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Hosea, and Amos. Their message was one of repentance and a plea for God's people to return to Him.)
5. Who were some of God's prophets that came to the southern kingdom of Judah to warn them about disobeying God? (God sent many prophets to the Southern Kingdom including Obadiah, Joel, Micah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk to warn these people of coming judgment if they did not return to Him.)
6. Who was King Josiah of Judah? (He was a young boy who became king during the last 50 years of the Kingdom of Israel. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He was a king who brought

great religious reform throughout the nation. He did not follow the ways of his father Amon or his grandfather Manasseh.)

7. How was the nation of Israel to learn about God? (They were to assemble themselves together to listen to the priests and Levites read the Books of Law. They were to listen and obey what they heard. They were also to teach their children the commands of God every day.)
8. Who had destroyed all the copies of the Law of God? (King Manasseh had destroyed all the Books of Law.)
9. What did Josiah determine to do when he was very young? (He decided to love the Lord God with all his heart and soul and to obey all that God said. He did not want to follow the ways of his father Amon or his grandfather Manasseh.)
10. What were some of the decisions that King Josiah made as young person that showed his love for God? (He destroyed idols and altars to false gods. He wanted to rebuild the temple.)
11. Who did Josiah choose to head up the construction of the Temple? (Josiah trusted Hilkiah the High Priest to faithfully rebuild the temple. Hilkiah hired laborers, carpenters, and builders. He oversaw the construction and purchased wood and stone for the construction.)
12. What amazing discovery did Hilkiah find in the Temple? (He discovered a long lost copy of the Book of Law. It was probably Deuteronomy or perhaps the entire Books of Law)
13. What good news did Shaphan, the court secretary share with King Josiah? (He told King Josiah that Hilkiah the High Priest had found the Book of Law. He brought the scroll to King Josiah and read it to him.)
14. When King Josiah heard Shaphan read the Book of Law to him, what did he do? (He realized the great sin that Judah had committed against God by worshipping idols. He realized that Judah deserved the judgment of God. He tore his clothes and repented of his sin and the sin of Judah.)
15. What prophecy did Huldah the prophetess tell King Josiah about the coming judgment of sin on Judah? (She told him the God was going to bring disaster upon the land but it would not happen during the lifetime of King Josiah.)
16. What was the disaster or judgment that God was going to bring on Judah? (Judah would be invaded by the Babylonians and they would take the Jews captive and take them back to Babylon as slaves.)
17. What did King Josiah do when he realized the sin of Judah in worshipping idols and desecrating the Temple? (He called the nation together to come to the Temple and listen to the reading of the Books of Law. After the reading Josiah pledged to follow God's Law. The people also pledged to do the same.)
18. How did Josiah show that he truly believed in God and trusted Him? (He tore down all the idols and false places of worship. He even destroyed the false altar at Bethel that King Jeroboam had set up. He rounded up all the false pagan priests and executed them. He then ordered everyone to celebrate the Passover.)
19. What did Josiah do at the Passover to show that the people and he were repenting of their sins? (King Josiah had 30,000 lambs and goats killed and 3,000 cattle sacrificed in repentance of sin.)
20. What rash thing did King Josiah do later in his life? (He decided to go to war with the Pharaoh Necho of Egypt by going into battle disguised as one of his soldiers. He disregarded the warning that the Pharaoh gave to him from God that he would be destroyed in battle.)
21. What happened to King Josiah? (He was shot with an arrow and was severely wounded. He was brought to Jerusalem where he died.)
22. How did the people honor King Josiah? (They mourned for many days. Jeremiah the prophet wrote some songs of lament that told how Josiah had been faithful to God during his reign.)
23. What lessons can we learn from the life of King Josiah? (King Josiah read the Word of the Lord and obeyed it. His example teaches us the importance of reading and obeying God's Word. He also was very young when he led others to worship God. Young people can also lead others to love the Lord with all their heart and soul.)

24. What is the memory verse? (The memory verse is 2 Timothy 3:15 “and now from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”)
25. What does the memory verse mean? (This verse tells us that the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi is important because it points us to Jesus Christ. At the same time faith in Christ makes the whole Bible more understandable. From the very beginning God made a way of salvation through His Son Jesus. Learning what the Bible says when we are young helps us obey God our whole life.)

Bible Memory Verse Activity: “Scroll Necklace” Craft

Our memory verse is 2 Timothy 3:15 “and now from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.” Have students locate this verse in scripture and read it aloud together several times.

Say: “These verses tell us that the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi is important because it points us to Jesus Christ. At the same time faith in Christ makes the whole Bible more understandable. From the very beginning God made a way of salvation through His Son Jesus. Learning what the Bible says when we are young helps us obey God our whole life. We are going to make scroll necklaces to help us learn this verse.”

Preparation: You will need different colored paper strips 1 and 2 inches wide of various lengths, scissors, tape, a darning needle, beads, glitter glue, and string. Include extra items such as straw pieces, buttons for students to string with the beads and scrolls.

Procedure: Distribute the materials. Have students cut the strips diagonally to form long triangles. Encourage students to use a variety of different colors of strips. Instruct students to write each word of the memory verse on each of the strips of paper.



Have students start at one end of the strip and roll it around a darning needle into a small scroll shape. Roll the longest edge of the strip around the needle twice and then spread glue on the rest of the triangle. Continue rolling the needle to the end of the triangle pressing down firmly as you roll. Use the tape to hold the scroll in place. Slide the bead off the needle and let dry. Roll a scroll for each word of the verse. Once beads are dry you can squirt a dollop of glitter glue onto scrap paper. Roll each bead in the glitter to form a sparkly effect.

Have students push the string through the middle of the scrolls to make the necklace. Students may also use the beads and straw pieces to add variety to their necklace.

Say: “Scrolls in Bible times were like our paper today. People wrote on the scrolls so others could read what was written. We have written the words of our verse on our scroll necklace so we can remember it!”

Group Learning Activity: “Hot and Cold” Game (Grades K-2)

Preparation: You will need a roll of paper and some string or tape. Roll the ends of the paper to the center and tape or tie close to make a scroll.

Say: “In our lesson today we learned about a time long ago when Hilikah the High Priest found a lost scroll while they cleaned and repaired the temple. The lost scroll was a copy of the Book of Law. This book might have been the Old Testament Book of Deuteronomy or possible all the books of Law from Genesis to Deuteronomy. Today we are going to play a game that will help us remember how important this discovery was to King Josiah.”



Say: “I will choose one person to close his eyes. I’ll choose another person to hide the scroll. When it is time to look for the scroll, everyone else will help the person find the scroll by saying “hot” or “cold”. We will say “cold” when he is not near the scroll and “hot” when he is getting near the scroll.”

Procedure: Choose the first two children to play. Use the words hot and cold to lead the child to locate the scroll. Repeat choosing kids to hide and find the scroll. Play as time permits.

Say: “We hit and found a scroll in our game. In Bible times the Scriptures were written on scrolls. Today the Scriptures are in our Bibles. Just as it was in the time of King Josiah reading the Bible and obeying the commands of God are very important. We today have the words of the Bible very easy to find! The problem we face is not reading what God has spoken to us! Let’s promise to faithfully read His Word every day. Knowing and obeying God’s Word will bring much happiness to our life!”

Group Learning Activity: “Book Awards Show” Object Lesson (Grades K-6)

Preparation: You will need a display of children’s books as well as a children’s Bible on a table. You will also need the printed copy of awards tops below. Before the class time, make the awards by cutting out the tops and taping 5 inch length of blue ribbon to each one.

Say: “Today we are going to have a book awards show. I have some trophies and ribbons that we are going to give to these books.”

Procedure: Talk with the children about each of the books on display. Ask the children to share what their favorite book is. Talk about the Bible last. Invite one child at a time to present an award ribbon to one book. Have students tell why they think the book they have chosen deserves the award. The awards are “The Most Important Book,” “The Biggest Book,” “The Smallest Book,” “The Most Colorful Book,” and “The Prettiest Book Cover.”



Reserve the award, “The Most Important Book” to last.

Say: “(Hold up the Bible.) This is the most important book ever written because it tells us what God wants us to know. Not all stories are true. Some stories are made up by writers. All the words in the Bible are true. The Bible is an important and true book.”

Review the Bible lesson about King Josiah Finding the Lost Law.

Say: “The people who cleaned the temple found a scroll. The scroll had instructions from God. King Josiah knew that the words were important. He read the Law to the people. He and the people decided to follow and obey all the words of the book! The same is true for us today. We can read God’s words in the Bible. They tell us about God’s love for us and how He sent His son Jesus to save us. We know that

God's words are true, special, and important. We can trust God's Word because He is faithful and good to always keep His word. We can believe in Jesus as our Savior. We can follow the commands of God because we know that it will bring us many blessings."

Conclude by praying and thanking God for the Bible and His Son Jesus as our Savior.

Group Learning Activity: "Passover Meal" (Grades K-5)

Preparation: You will need the following items: sheet or tablecloth, paper plates, saltine crackers, applesauce with a little granola in it, green parsley, salt water, hard boiled eggs, and grape juice.

Say: "In this lesson we learned the when King Josiah read the Book of Law he discovered that the people of Judah should be celebrating the Passover Meal. The Passover meal had not been eaten for many years in the kingdom. The Passover Meal was to remember how God saved the Israelites from the death angel when the last plague came over the land of Egypt. All the Israelite families who had killed an innocent lamb and put its blood over the doorposts of their home were spared the death of their first born son. On the night that the death angel passed through Egypt the Israelites were to be in their homes celebrating the Passover Supper."

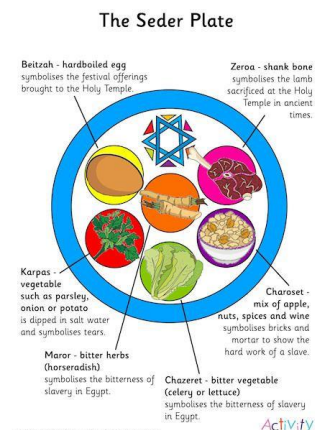
Say: "The Passover Supper was a picture of how Jesus the Messiah would come and be the substitute Lamb that would die to pay for the sins of the people. The shedding of His innocent blood was the substitute for the payment of our sin. Each of the items in the Passover meal were a picture of God's salvation and the death of Christ on the cross. We are going to eat some of the items from the Passover meal and understand their meaning."

Procedure: Distribute the paper plates and have children seated at a table covered with the white tablecloth. Distribute each of the following items of food and discuss their meaning: Print and use the "Sedar Plate" as a guide.

1. Matzah: Represents God's swift salvation (demonstrate with saltine crackers.)
2. Charoseth: Mortar for bricks to remind the Israelites of their slavery in Egypt (applesauce with a little granola in it.)
3. Green Parsley: Hope was to come in the spring. (The Messiah was to come and bring salvation.)
4. Salt water: The tears cried in sin and bondage in Egypt (use one small bowl of salt water to dip the parsley into.)
5. Hard boiled eggs: The rebirth as represented in Jesus' coming birth as the Messiah.
6. Grape juice: Blood of the Lamb (Jesus' death on the cross for the payment of our sin.)

Say: "King Josiah led the people to celebrate the Passover as it was commanded in the Book of the Law. Because King Josiah was diligent in leading the people in its observance, the Passover observance was the greatest celebration since the days of Samuel."

Say: "The Passover was a time to enjoy God's blessings, celebrating His love and faithfulness to His people."

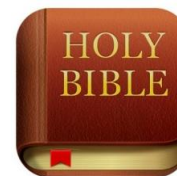


Group Learning Activity: Bible Study: “God’s Word” (Grades 3-5)

Purpose: To understand what Psalm 119 teaches us about God’s Word.

Preparation: You will need Bibles, pencils, and spiritual journals.

Procedure: Look up the following scriptures to learn what Psalm 119 teaches us about God’s Word.



- *Psalm 119:9* “How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.” The world is an evil place and has many tempting influences that are all around us. We cannot lead the Christian life by ourselves. We must have counsel and strength from God to lead a pure and holy life. We find that strength and counsel by reading and obeying God’s Word.
- *Psalm 119:11* “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” If we memorize God’s Word the knowledge of truth is always with us in every situation. God can bring it to our minds if we have been faithful in submitting it to our memory. Hiding or keeping or obeying God’s Word will be a guide for everything we do.
- *Psalm 119:16* “I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.” Following God’s Law is not restricting. In fact it is the opposite! God’s laws were given to so we can be all God wants us to be! They lead us away from doing what might cripple us and keep us from being our best. We can rejoice when we follow God’s paths. God’s laws free us to be all we can be!
- *Psalm 119:89* “Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.” God’s Word is not just for this life! We can rest assured that God will always keep His promises. We can trust what God says because it will always be true! He has promised to give us eternal life and we will dwell with Him in heaven where His Word will reign forever!
- *Psalm 119:101* “I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.” God’s Word makes us wise—wiser than our enemies and wiser than any teacher who ignores it! True wisdom is more than just amassing knowledge. It is applying knowledge in a life changing way. Highly educated people are not necessarily wise. Wisdom comes when we allow what God teaches us to guide our life!
- *Psalm 119:105* “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” To walk safely in the woods we need a light so we don’t trip over tree roots or fall into holes. In this life we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won’t stumble as we walk. It reveals the entangling roots of false values and philosophies. We study the Bible so we can clearly see the way God wants us to go.

Say: “What are some reasons that God wants people to read and obey His Word? (To guide our life in the right way, to do what is right, to do what is good, to show love to God and others, to serve and please God, and to avoid evil)

Students are to record what they have learned in their spiritual journals. Challenge students to recite the names of the Books of the Old Testament without any assistance. Encourage them to practice saying the books of the Bible at home.

Group Learning Activity: “Making Ripples” Object Lesson (Grades K-5)

Preparation: You will need a bowl or pan of water and a pebble or small stone for each child.

Say: “In our lesson King Josiah found the lost scrolls. He read the Book of Law to the people. Then Josiah committed his life to obeying the commands of God. When the people of Judah heard King Josiah’s promise to obey God they responded in agreement and committed themselves to obeying Him also. What King Josiah did had a tremendous effect on the people of Judah and their willingness to serve God. We see how a young boy’s influence spread over a whole nation.”

Say: “What are some things we can do that will help us become a positive influence on others? (List responses such as smile, be friendly, be helpful, be kind, obey God’s rules, etc.)”



Procedure: Have the children gather around the bowl or pan of water. Drop a pebble or small stone in the water.

Say: “What happened when the stone hit the water? (It sank or made ripples in the water.) Call attention to the ripples.

Say: “Our actions are like ripples. What we say or do affects others in some way. We want to have a positive or good effect on others like King Josiah did. Let’s try your pebbles and see what effect they will have.)

Give each child a pebble or stone

Say: “What can you do to be a good example to others at home, at school, or on the playground this week? When you think of something you will do, drop your pebble in the water and watch the ripples.”

Let students drop their pebble into the water. Watch as each pebble makes ripples in the water. Allow students to respond. Then remove the pebbles and give one to each child.

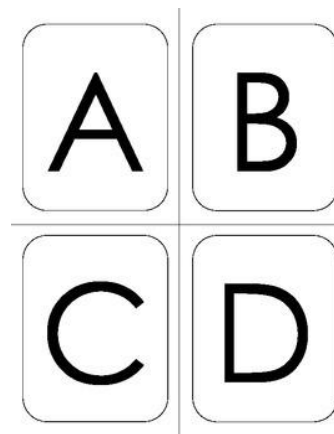
Say: “Take your pebble with you and show it to someone today. Give them the pebble and tell them about the ripple effect and how you want to try to be a good example too. That’s the way the ripple effect works. Who wants to share what they have decided to do to be a better influence on others this week? Who will you help as you try? How do you think others will react to your example? How will you feel about it? Let your pebble help you remember that even small things we do affect others. Remember you can be a good example to others just like Josiah was.”

Group Learning Activity: “Spell the Historical Books of the Old Testament”

Preparation: You will need Bibles and at least two sets of wooden letters from a game of Scrabble. Scrabble tiles may be ordered online or obtained from art and craft stores. You may also choose to use poster size letters printed in two sets.

Have students open Bibles to the Table of Contents page.

Say: “Find the name of the book our lesson was from today. (This lesson is found in the book of 1 Kings.) What section of books is 1 Kings in? (It is in the second group of Old Testament books called the historical books. This book tells the history of the kings of Israel and Judah). What are the names of the other books of History? (These books begin with Joshua and go through Esther.) Let’s say these books--Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah and



OT11.12 Josiah Finds the Lost Law

Esther. Even though many of the people forgot God and His Laws during the time when the events in the books of History took place, God still took care of them. Who was the one person from our lesson who remembered God's laws and whom God helped with His great power? (King Josiah, Jeremiah)

Procedure: Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a set of scrabble letter tiles to be divided as evenly as possible among team members. The teacher or leader calls out "I Kings." Students on each team holding the appropriate letters line up in order so that they spell the book name correctly. Students may use the blank cards or letter tiles for duplicate letters and refer to the Bible contents page to check spelling.

When team members think they have the letters in the correct order they call out the name of the book they have spelled. The other team must freeze in position. If the book is spelled correctly the team gets one point. If the book is not spelled correctly the other team unfreezes and continues lining up in order to spell the book name. Repeat with the other books of History as time allows. At the end of the playing time, the team with the most points wins.

Craft Learning Activity: "Bible Paper Scroll" (Grades K-5)

Preparation: You will need a roll of paper, 1 cup coffee grinds, and 3 cups of hot water. You will also need black permanent markers, two wooden dowel rods for each student as well as string or twine for the tie.

Procedure: Put coffee grinds into the hot water and stir. Let stand for 5 minutes. Strain the coffee grinds out of the liquid. Use the strong coffee liquid as a dip for the paper. You can crumble the paper to have stronger dye lines in the paper. Water color paper makes a really pretty parchment color. Let the paper dry on cookie sheet or blow dry with a hair dryer. You can also layer the paper for very interesting designs. Dry paper thoroughly before rolling into scroll.



Roll the paper from the ends toward the center using dowel rods sticks as the rolling pins. Students may write the memory verse on the center of the scroll using black markers.

Say: "(Display a finished scroll.) Books looked different in Bible times than they do today. Words were written on scrolls—rolls of parchment, papyrus, or leather. The scrolls were rolled up to be carried or stored. (Demonstrate how the scroll was rolled.) The scroll was written by moving the "pages" along as the scroll rolled and unrolled with the long poles on each side."



Say: "When Josiah was eight years old he became king in Jerusalem. He was a good king because he did what God wanted him to do. When Josiah commanded that the Temple in Jerusalem be restored, Hilkiah the High Priest found the lost scroll. When King Josiah heard the message in the scroll, he led the nation of Judah to repent and turn back to God. When we read the Bible we too can be changed by the message that God gives to us. We must decide whether we will obey God. He promises to give us many blessings when we allow Him to guide us."

Close in prayer asking God to help students to remember to read God's Word daily and obey it.

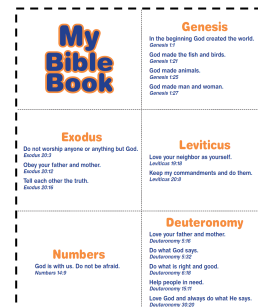
Optional: You can use tea bags to stain the paper as well.

Craft Learning Activity: “Bible Flip Book” (Grades 2-5)

Preparation: You will need glue, paper (construction, decorative, wallpaper pieces, etc.), colored markers, chenille stems, hole puncher, scissors, and ruler. You will also need printed copies of the “Bible Flip Book” pages below for each student.

Say: “What is the most important book ever written? (Bible) The temple workers in our lesson found a scroll that had the Book of Law written on it. The book of Law refers to the first five books of the Old Testament. We are going to make Bible flip books with verses from the first five books of the Old Testament.”

Procedure: Distribute the materials to each student. Have students measure and cut the decorative paper or wall paper into six 4 ½ inch squares for each child. Have students cut apart the printed page of Bible Flip Squares below. Have the students glue the square of the Bible Flip page onto the larger squares of decorative paper. With teacher assistance have the students punch a hole into the corner of each Bible Flip page. Students may use the colored markers to decorate the edges of each page.



Have students assemble the pages in the correct order with the Bible cover on top, then Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy in order. A back cover page is optional. Have student push the chenille stem through the holes and twist together to close. Demonstrate how to do this with the students. Encourage the students to flip through the pages to see the verses.

Say: “The Bible is the most important book because it tells us what God wants us to know. We need to read God’s Word faithfully each day to know what He desires for us. Another way to know God’s Word is to memorize verses of Scripture. The scripture verses in our Flip Book can be a good place for you to begin to know God’s truth.”

Say: “Let’s review our memory verse. 2 Timothy 3:15 “and now from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Craft Learning Activity: “Treasure Boxes” (Grades K-2)

Preparation: Each child will need a disposable “take home” Styrofoam box with a lid and a copy of the “What the Bible Says” verses below. You will also need colored markers, stickers, glitter, and glue.

Say: “In this lesson we learned that King Josiah found the lost scroll of the Book of Law while he was restoring the Temple. The scroll was a great treasure because it was God’s Word. God’s Word teaches us what to do. King Josiah and the people of Judah pledged themselves to obey the commands of God. We too should treasure the Word of God by reading and obeying its commands. We are going to make treasure boxes to hold some scriptures that we can read and study at home.”



Procedure: Give each child a disposable “take home” Styrofoam box with a lid and a copy of the “What the Bible Says” verses. Students are to cut apart the Bible verses and put them in the treasure chest. Have students read the verses as they cut them apart.

Have students decorate their take-home box with glue, yarn, stickers and colored markers. Be sure to have students make a latch to seal the edge of their treasure box. Lift the latch to open the box.

Say: "King Josiah read the lost scroll to the people. The scroll had words from God that told the people what to do. The Bible teaches us what to do. The Bible helps us know the right things to do. Read the verses with your family this week."

Close in prayer asking God to help students read and obey God's Word.

Craft Learning Activity: "Divided Kingdom Kings" Bulletin Board (Grades K-5)

Preparation: You will need 40 printed crowns on cardstock. Use the crown template below. You will also need black marking pens and colored markers. You can print 8 of the crowns on yellow cardstock if desired. You can also purchase paper party crowns from the Dollar Store if desired.

Say: "In this lesson we learned that during the time of the Divided Kingdom there were 20 wicked kings who ruled over the northern kingdom of Israel and 20 kings who ruled of the southern kingdom of Judah. Most of the kings of Judah were also evil except for eight. We are going to all work together to make a bulletin board that shows the kings of Israel and Judah during the Divided Kingdom."

Procedure: Pass out the printed crown templates. Have students form groups to write the names of the Kings of Israel and the Kings of Judah on the crowns. Be careful that students get the names of the kings who are good on the yellow crowns. Attach the crowns to the bulletin board in order of their reign.

Optional: Use a colored paper to make a pennant with the names of the kingdom and hang it across the crowns. See the picture as an example. You can add a map of the divided kingdoms and a castle if desired.

Use the following chart to identify the kings:

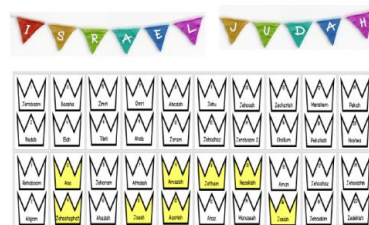
Kings of Israel

1. Jeroboam I
2. Nadab
3. Baasha
4. Elah
5. Zimri
6. Tibni
7. Omri
8. Ahab
9. Ahaziah
10. Jehoram
11. Jehu
12. Jehoahaz
13. Joash
14. Jeroboam II
15. Zechariah
16. Shallum
17. Menahem
18. Pekahiah
19. Pekah
20. Hoshea

Kings of Judah

1. Rehoboam
2. Abijah
3. Asa (good)
4. Jehoshaphat (good)
5. Jehoram
6. Ahaziah
7. Athaliah
8. Joash (good)
9. Amaziah (good)
10. Uzziah (good)
11. Jotham (good)
12. Ahaz
13. Hezekiah (good)
14. Manasseh
15. Amon
16. Josiah (good)
17. Jehoahaz
18. Jehoiakim
19. Jehoiahin
20. Zedekiah

The Divided Kingdom Bulletin Board

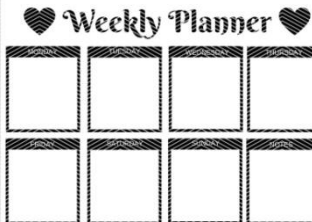


Life Application Challenge: “Daily Bible Reading”

Preparation: Make copies of the Weekly Planner below so each student has a copy.

Say: “In this lesson we learned the importance of reading and obeying God’s Word. Knowing what God wants us to do is important if we are going to be obedient. The only way to know God’s will for us is to be faithful in reading His Word. Will you make a commitment to do that this week?”

Say: “I am going to give you a weekly planner chart. You can write the scripture that you read that day in each box. You will be surprised at how much you can read in just 5-10 minutes each day. Will you take the planner and see how this will help you keep track of what you have read? You can bring the planner back next week and we will share it together.



The image shows a 'Weekly Planner' chart. At the top, the text 'Weekly Planner' is written in a decorative font, flanked by two heart symbols. Below the title is a grid of eight empty boxes arranged in two rows and four columns. Each box is intended for a student to write the scripture they read on that day.

Josiah Finds the Lost Law

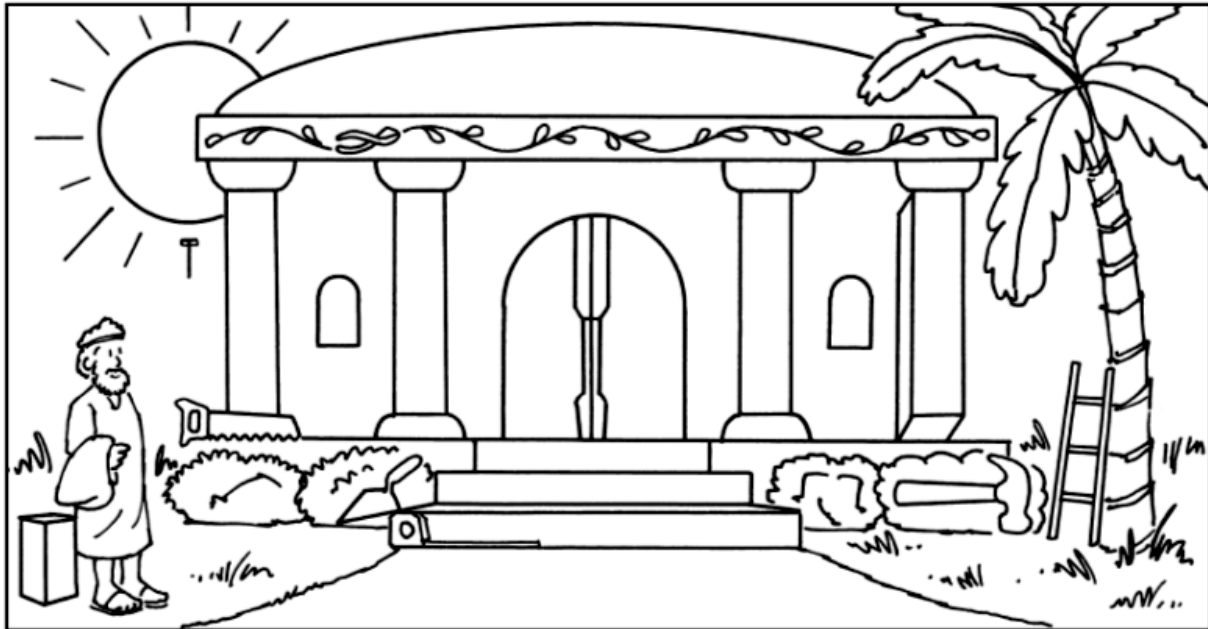


2 Timothy 3:15

“and now from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

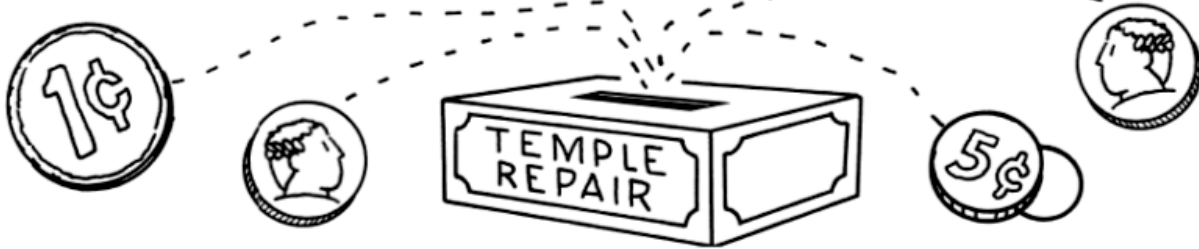
King Josiah sent men to repair the temple.
He hired carpenters, builders, masons and overseers.

Find these things
hidden in the picture.
Circle them.



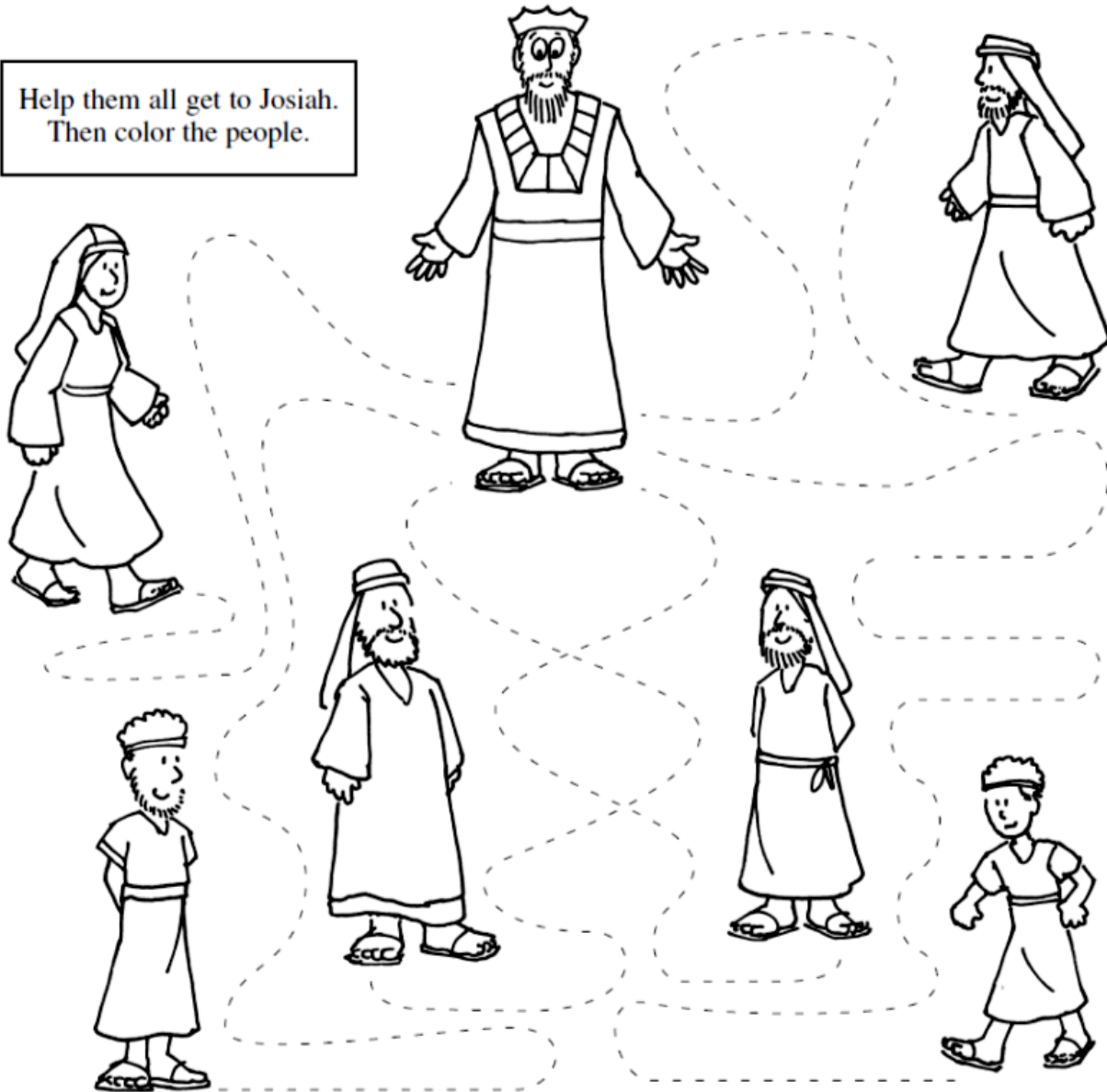
The people gave offerings to pay for the temple repairs.

Put the money in the box.



Josiah called his people together. He told them of God's laws.

Help them all get to Josiah.
 Then color the people.



They promised to keep God's commandments.

Josiah commanded the people to celebrate the Feast of the Passover.
It was very successful.

The people were happy 😊 . Draw their faces.



Draw a line to match these pictures with the things on the table.



lamb



bitter herbs



wine



wine jug



unleavened bread

Josiah was only a child when he became king, but he did well.

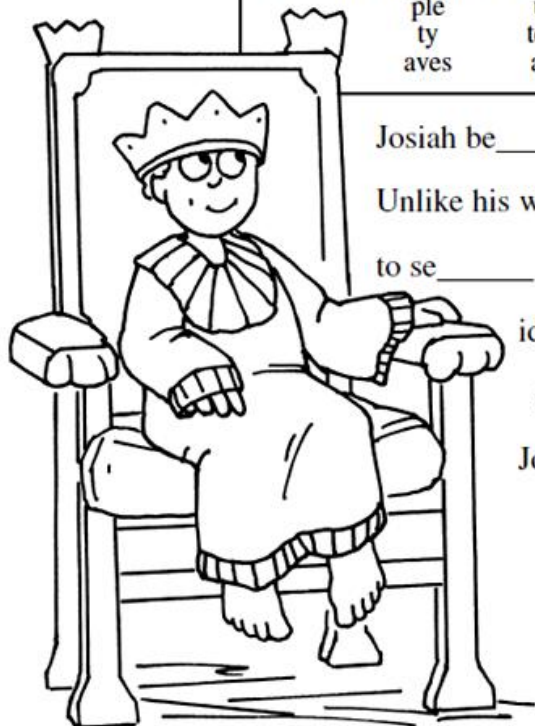
Fit these vowels, in the order given, in the blank spaces.

IEEIAAAOOIAEEIEIOAAEAAEEIEIEIEIEIOO
 EAEIEOOEIAEIEAEAUEEAEOEAEEIIAOOOIA

K__ng H__z__k__h w__s __ g__d k__ng. __ft__r h__ d__d, h__s
 s__n, M__n__ss__h, w__s __n __xtr__m__ly w__ck__d k__ng. Wh__n h__
 d__d, h__s s__n, Am__n, b__c__m__ k__ng. H__ f__ll__w__d h__s
 f__th__r's w__ck__d w__ys. H__ w__s m__rd__r__d __ft__r tw__ y__rs.
 Th__ n__xt k__ng w__s Am__n's s__n J__s__h.

Find the missing endings to the words that are underlined in the list below.

ple	und	came	gan	stroyed	tore	nt
ty	tered	ed	ek	shipped	ship	ther
aves	aces	maged	pair	ng	ue	ght



Josiah be_____ ki_____ when he was ei_____ years old.

Unlike his wick_____ fa_____ and grandfather, he be_____

to se_____ the LORD. He de_____ the pl_____ where

idols were wor_____ . He gro_____ up the idols

and scat_____ them on gr_____ . When

Josiah was 26 years old, he set out to res_____

tr_____ wor_____ . The LORD's

tem_____ was dir_____ and da_____ .

He se_____ men to re_____ it.

The temple was being repaired and restored during King Josiah's reign. During the construction, Hilkiah, the priest, found something. What was it?



Find a word to fit the definition given. Write the letters from the words in the boxes indicated.

An inland body of water

13 14 7 3

Give assistance

2 12 13 17

A water vehicle

4 5 14 10

12 inches

9 8 6 1

To toss something

10 11 16 6 15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15			

Shaphan read what Hilkiah found. What did it contain?

Cross out the letters found 12 or more times. Write the remaining words on the lines.

T	H	E	Y	B	L	A	W	S	J	B	T	H	E
J	B	L	O	R	D	Y	Y	B	H	A	D	B	Y
J	G	I	V	E	N	J	Y	T	O	J	H	I	S
B	J	J	P	E	O	P	L	E	J	B	A	N	D
Y	T	H	E	J	Y	C	U	R	S	E	S	Y	B
A	N	D	B	W	A	R	N	I	N	G	S	Y	Y
T	H	A	T	J	B	W	O	U	L	D	Y	J	J
Y	F	O	L	L	O	W	Y	I	F	Y	T	H	E
L	A	W	S	J	W	E	R	E	J	N	O	T	Y
Y	B	F	O	L	L	O	W	E	D	B	J	Y	J

King Josiah eliminated idol worship. He cleansed Judah and Samaria. He was very faithful in keeping God's laws.

Follow the arrows to fill in the blanks.



W	I	E	A	R	I	T	H
A	T	H	T	A	W	A	L
L	H	I	S	S	N	D	L
A	L	H	U	O	S	H	D
L	H	T	L	C	I	R	A
L	W	I	A	C	O	C	N
H	I	D	N	A	W	E	A
S	E	N	N	I	T	H	L
S	R	G	I	A	L	E	L
T	T	H	O	W	O	H	T
S	E	S	B	M	F	W	V

Josiah turned to the LORD

“ W I → ↓ ↓ ↖ ↓ ↘

→ ↑ →

↖ ↑ → → ↙

→ ↘ → ↖ ↑ → →

↙ → ↓ ↖ ↙ ↑ ↖ ↓ ← ↓ ↓ ↓ ←

↖ → ↑ ← ↖ ↓ ↓ ↓ → ↙

↓ ↓ ↗ ↑ → ↓ ↙ → ↗ ↑

↗ ↑ ↑ ↘ ↗ ↗ ↓ ↓ ← ↓

← ↙ → → ↗ ↓ ↓ ↓ ← ↑

← ← ↓ → ↓ ← ↖ ↙ ←

S.”

The Lost Book

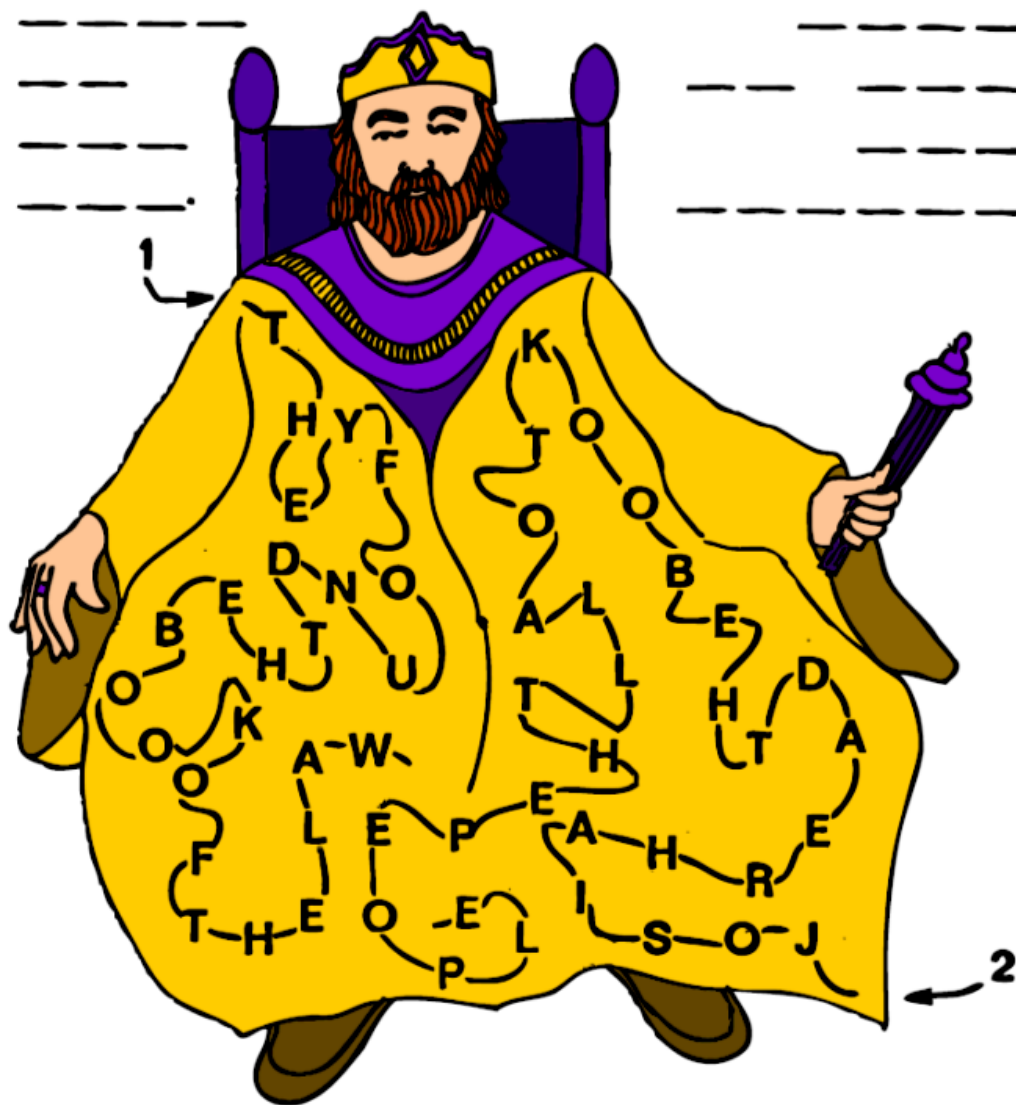
2 Chronicles 34

What happened when King Josiah ordered the temple to be cleaned?

Follow the maze of letters.

1. _____

2. _____

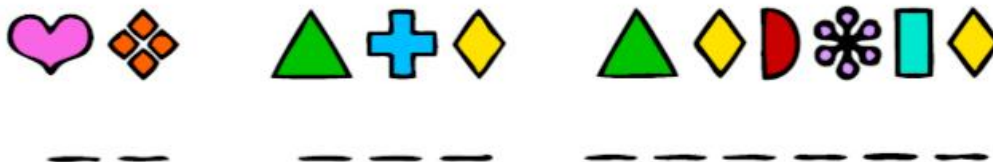


The Young King

2 Chronicles 22-24

Joash was very young when he became king of Judah. Use the code below to answer the questions.

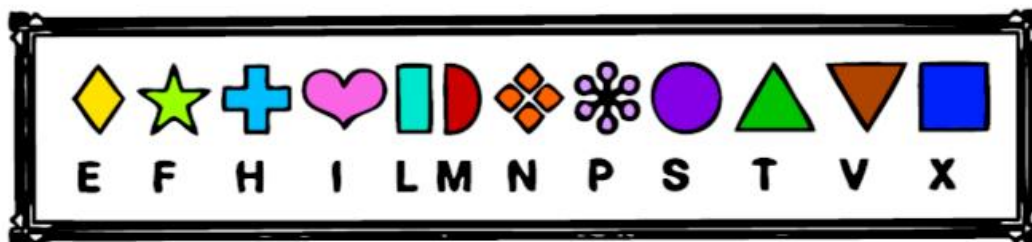
Where did Joash live during the first six years of his life?

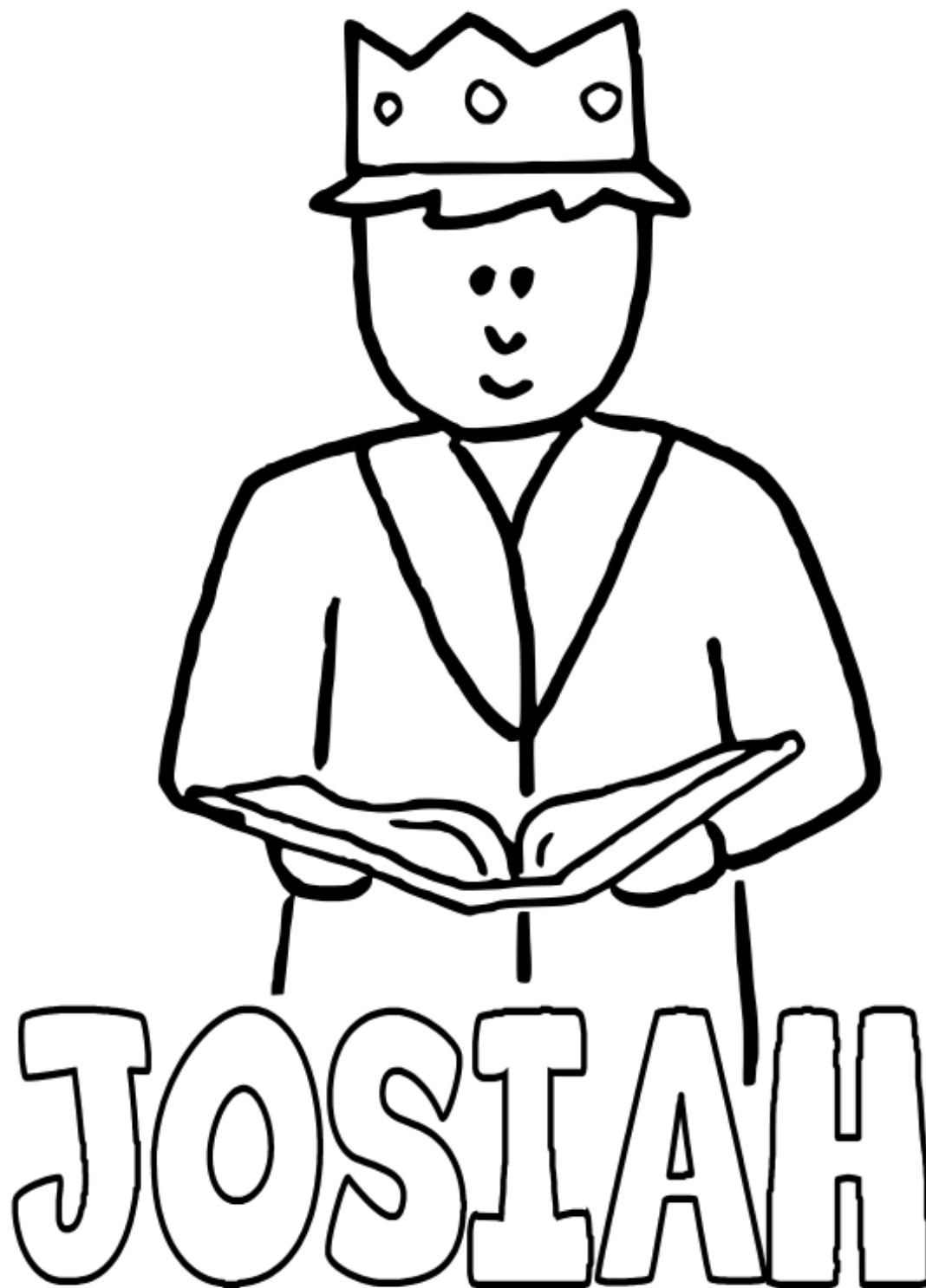


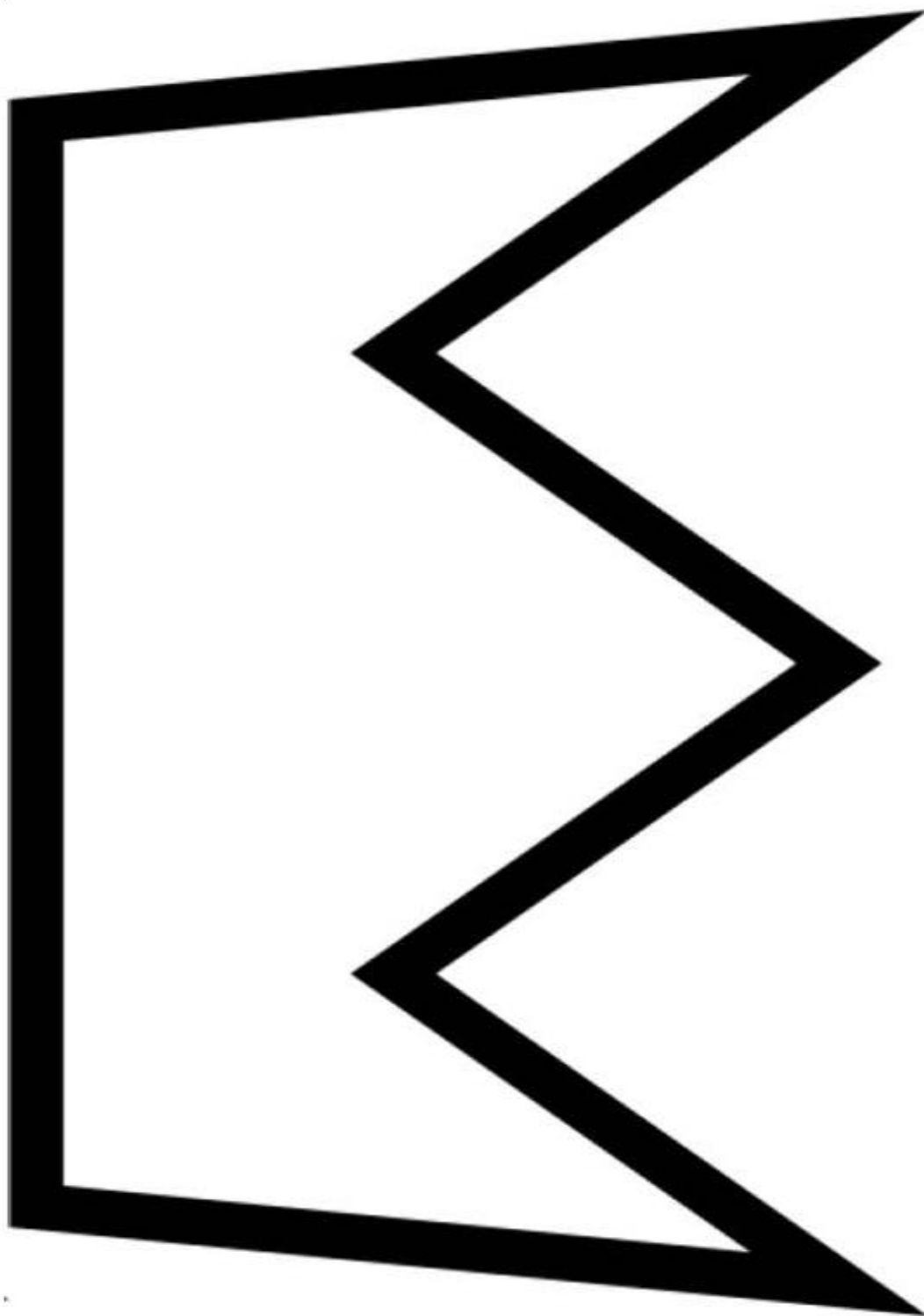
How old was Joash when he became king?



What did Joash command to be done?







My Bible Book

Genesis

In the beginning God created the world.

Genesis 1:1

God made the fish and birds.

Genesis 1:21

God made animals.

Genesis 1:25

God made man and woman.

Genesis 1:27

Exodus

Do not worship anyone or anything but God.

Exodus 20:3

Obey your father and mother.

Exodus 20:12

Tell each other the truth.

Exodus 20:16

Leviticus

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Leviticus 19:18

Keep my commandments and do them.

Leviticus 20:8

Numbers

God is with us. Do not be afraid.

Numbers 14:9

Deuteronomy

Love your father and mother.

Deuteronomy 5:16

Do what God says.

Deuteronomy 5:32

Do what is right and good.

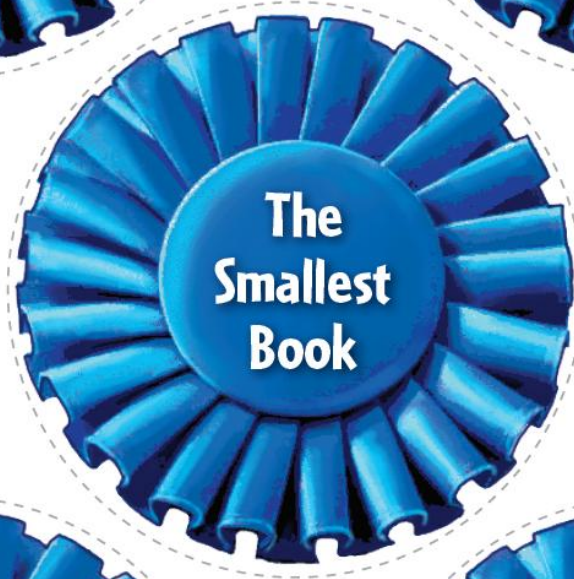
Deuteronomy 6:18

Help people in need.

Deuteronomy 15:11

Love God and always do what He says.

Deuteronomy 30:20



What the Bible Says Verses for Treasure Box

Do what God says.

Exodus 19:5

Love God with all your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:5

Sing to God.

1 Chronicles 16:9

Bring an offering to thank God.

1 Chronicles 16:29

Look at the wonderful things God made.

Job 37:14

Give thanks to God for He is good.

Psalms 107:1

A friend loves at all times.

Proverbs 17:17

Speak the truth to one another.

Zechariah 8:16

Tell everyone about Jesus.

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus said, "Love others as you love yourself."

Mark 12:31

Be kind to those who do not like you.

Luke 6:27

Do good to everyone.

Galatians 6:10

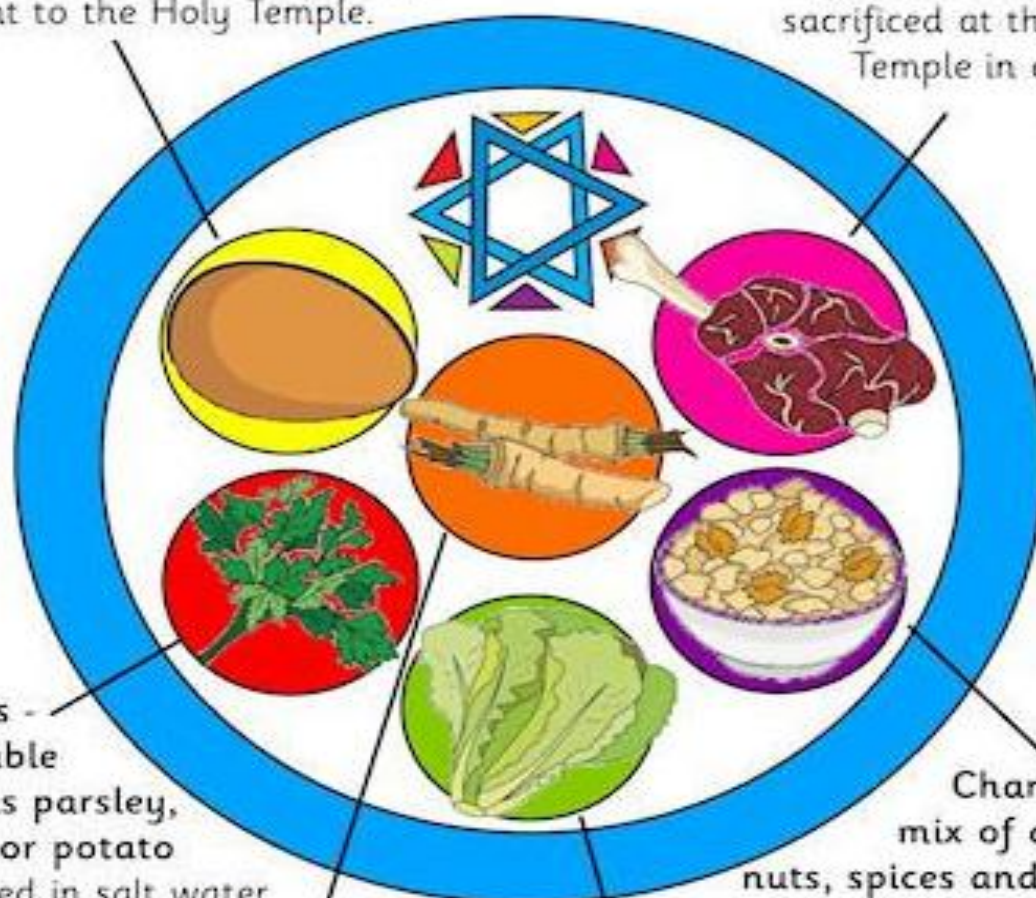
Love one another.

1 John 4:7

The Seder Plate

Beitzah - hardboiled egg
symbolises the festival offerings
brought to the Holy Temple.

Zeroa - shank bone
symbolises the lamb
sacrificed at the Holy
Temple in ancient
times.



Karpas -
vegetable
such as parsley,
onion or potato
is dipped in salt water
and symbolises tears.

Charoset -
mix of apple,
nuts, spices and wine
symbolises bricks and
mortar to show the
hard work of a slave.

Maror - bitter herbs
(horseradish)
symbolises the bitterness of
slavery in Egypt.

Chazeret - bitter vegetable
(celery or lettuce)
symbolises the bitterness of slavery
in Egypt.

Weekly Planner

MONDAY		FRIDAY	
TUESDAY		SATURDAY	
WEDNESDAY		SUNDAY	
THURSDAY		NOTES	