

Lesson #2

Josiah: The Boy King

Bible Story: Josiah becomes King and rebuilds the temple (2 Kings 22: 1-10 & 23: 1-3)

Life Focus: God should always come 1st in our lives.

Kidspiration of the Week: Laurie Hernandez, "Giving God the Glory"

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:6a

"In everything you do, put God first."

Goals: By the end of the session, the children should:

1. Discover that God wants us to put Him first.
2. Realize that God has plans for us.
3. Recognize that young people can inspire others toward God.

Visual: Week 2: Josiah Becomes King at 8 years Old (See Poster Ring Set)

Teacher Prep:

This week we will dive into a great example of youth leadership at its best! King Josiah was put in charge of an entire kingdom when he was just 8 years old. Can you imagine?! God used the faith and simple obedience of this child to change the heart of a kingdom. Even though his own father and grandfather chose to reject God and follow an evil path, Josiah worked hard to restore the people's love and respect for God. Josiah also charged the people of Judah to rebuild the temple and obey God's commands. He is a rare example of a King who humbled himself; dedicating his life to fulfilling the will of God. He destroyed the idols of his father and grandfather and led the kingdom on a path to righteousness. He served as a great role model for the kingdom and is still a great role model for each of us today!

God put Josiah into the perfect place and position of power to be able to influence people for good. The message from Josiah's life is very clear- In whatever you do, put God first. Today, God is still putting His followers into places and positions to inspire others. Laurie Hernandez is a modern-day example of this and serves as this week's Kidspiration. At only 16 years old, Laurie pronounces her God-given talent as a gymnast to the world. In 2016, she had the whole world watching her routines at the Rio Olympics. Her sparkling personality and can-do attitude captured the world's attention. Laurie continues to do interviews and inspire people around the world, giving all the glory to God! She shares her faith and favorite Bible verses as often as she can and promises to continue to do so as long as she has the opportunity! God loves to use His people and the talents He has gifted us with to inspire people around the world. How will God use you? How will He use the children you inspire today?

Welcome Activities and Bible Story Time

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible (Place next to you or on display where children can see the source of the story)
- Lesson Introduction (Optional object lesson items from video below: 3 different sized candies and 3 large containers)
- Poster Set: Week 2: Josiah Becomes King at 8 years Old and Kidspiration #2: Laurie Hernandez
- See “Reinforcing Activities” below for further optional materials needed

Before students come in, write on the chalkboard or display paper the memory verse: “In everything you do, put God first.” –Proverbs 3:6a

LESSON INTRO:

Teachers can choose to show their class the following video as a lesson introduction or physically do the same object lesson shown in the video below.

Video URL:

<http://www.pursuegod.org/put-god-first-kids/>

BIBLE STORY:

***OPTION 1 (Read with students following along in Extreme Faith Bibles, “fill in the blank” option available on the following page.)**

King Josiah of Judah

22 Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah, and he ruled thirty-one years from Jerusalem. His mother Jedidah was the daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath. ² Josiah always obeyed the LORD, just as his ancestor David had done.

³ After Josiah had been king for eighteen years, he told Shaphan, one of his highest officials:

Go to the LORD's temple ⁴ and ask Hilkiah the high priest to collect from the guards all the money that the people have donated. ⁵ Have Hilkiah give it to the men supervising the repairs to the temple. They can use some of the money to pay ⁶ the workers, and with the rest of it they can buy wood and stone for the repair work. ⁷ They are honest, so we won't ask them to keep track of the money.

⁸ While Shaphan was at the temple, Hilkiah handed him a book and said, “Look what I found here in the temple—The Book of God's Law.”

Shaphan read it, ⁹ then went back to Josiah and reported, “Your officials collected the money in the temple and gave it to the men supervising the repairs. ¹⁰ But there's something else, Your Majesty. The priest Hilkiah gave me this book.” Then Shaphan read it out loud.

23 King Josiah called together the older leaders of Judah and Jerusalem.² Then he went to the LORD's temple, together with the people of Judah and Jerusalem, the priests, and the prophets. Finally, when everybody was there, he read aloud The Book of God's Law^[a] that had been found in the temple.

³ After Josiah had finished reading, he stood by one of the columns. He asked the people to promise in the LORD's name to faithfully obey the LORD and to follow his commands. The people agreed to do everything written in the book.

STUDENT COPY: King Josiah of Judah

22 Josiah was _____ years old when he became king of Judah, and he ruled thirty-one years from _____. His mother Jedidah was the daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath. ² Josiah always _____ the Lord, just as his ancestor David had done.

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***OPTION 2 (Students' Script to act out the story)**

Reader's Theater Script below for

"Josiah becomes King and rebuilds the temple"

Characters: (4 student parts total)- Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Josiah, Worker

Student Script: "Josiah becomes King and rebuilds the temple"

NARRATOR 1: *Today's story begins a long, long, long, long, long, long, long...*

NARRATOR 2: Okay, okay! We get it! This didn't happen yesterday.

NARRATOR 1: *Right...So anyway, a long time ago, in a Kingdom called...(Put your finger on your forehead like your thinking hard)*

NARRATOR 2: (Whisper to Narrator 1 loudly) *The Kingdom was called JUDAH!*

NARRATOR 1: *Right...(whisper loudly to Narrator 2) Thanks! So, a long time ago, in a Kingdom called Judah, lived a young boy who was only... 8 years old. (Look over at Narrator 2 to see if that's right)*

NARRATOR 2: (Nod your head in agreement.) *That's right. Josiah's father and grandfather had both been King of Judah. But they hadn't been good kings. In fact, they had been pretty mean to the people that lived in Judah. They were selfish and they didn't take care of God's temple and it began to crumble. They had even lost the great scrolls that had God's words and instructions written on them.*

WORKER: *That's right! I lived in Judah at the time and the nation was so happy when Josiah became King (point to Josiah)-even though he was only 8 years old. He had a good heart and cared about all of us.*

JOSIAH: *Yes, you heard that right! I was only 8 when I had to take over the Kingdom of Judah. I was pretty nervous, but I knew that my father and grandfather had done some pretty bad things and I wanted to fix that!*

WORKER: *The King brought carpenters, masons, and other workers like me, all together to work on repairing the temple. King Josiah knew that the temple was an important place for all of us to go. We could worship there and learn about God.*

JOSIAH: *One day, after the workers had begun to repair the temple, one of them brought me a GREAT surprise! It was the lost scrolls! These scrolls had God's words written on them and gave instructions on how we could obey God. When I read God's words from the scrolls, I knew I had to share them with the entire nation of Judah so that all of the people could hear God's wonderful words!*

WORKERS: *So, King Josiah sent a message across the whole nation and gathered everyone together in front of the temple. He read the scrolls out loud and right then and there, Josiah made a promise to always follow and obey God! Many other people made the same promise to follow in Josiah's footsteps and obey God.*

NARRATOR 2: *King Josiah might have been a young King, but he was a great role model for his people. You see people in those days didn't have Bibles. So, it was difficult for them to learn about God without having these scrolls read to them. King Josiah made that possible for everyone!*

NARRATOR 1: *Wow, King Josiah sure put the nation of Judah on the right path! But, what do you mean they didn't have Bibles?!*

NARRATOR 2: *It's true, they didn't! Only certain people knew how to read and write. They were called Scribes and they had to hand write copies of all the words that God had given long ago. So, without King Josiah rebuilding the temple and finding these scrolls, God's words might have remained lost for a long time! That's why we should be so thankful for our Bibles! Today, all of us can learn about God anytime we want...all we have to do is open up our Bibles. So every day when you see your Bible, thank God for it. Then open it up and READ it! God just might have something really important for you to learn that day!*

Kidspiration: Laurie Hernandez

Our Kidspiration of the week comes from Laurie Hernandez. (Hold up the Kidspiration Poster #2: Laurie Hernandez.) Laurie has spent her whole life exceling at the sport of gymnastics. She has competed and won in many different competitions all around the world. In 2016, when she was just 16 years old, she received gold and silver medals at the Rio Olympics for her routines! Even though Laurie was the youngest on the American Olympic team, she always stood out because of the way she encouraged others and was always smiling. Each time Laurie is asked about her talent and experience at the Olympics, she gives God all the glory. She has been interviewed on TV and for many different written articles in which she gives her story and describes how she always puts God first. She is well known for talking and tweeting about her faith in Jesus and sharing her favorite bible verses with the world. Just like King Josiah, Laurie uses her God-given talents and position to spread God's message to the World.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

(Please remember, Kids For Christ is a non-denominational organization. Please follow these questions so that denominational discussion does not develop.)

- 1. King Josiah and Laurie both put God first in their lives. How can we put God first in our own lives?***
 - a. Obey God
 - b. Read our Bible
 - c. Love others and treat each other with kindness and respect
 - d. Share God's word with others
- 2. God has created each of us with certain gifts that we can use to help others. What are some of your gifts or talents that could be used for God?***
 - a. Anything! Examples: Musical talent, encouraging others, helping with younger siblings, teaching others about God...etc.
- 4. What does the Bible say about putting God first? (Have students look up the following verses)***
 - a. See the following verses for examples: 1 Corinthians 10:31, Mark 12:30, Romans 11:36, John 15:5, John 15:16, Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:2, and of course our memory verse- Proverbs 3:6

REINFORCING (OPTIONAL) ACTIVITIES:

1. "Search for the scrolls": (Materials Needed: scrolls- rolled up paper tied with string OR snack scrolls- fruit roll ups) Have students participate in a scavenger hunt for the scrolls. If you use paper scrolls you can write the memory verse on them or the 10 commandments.

2. "Game Idea that Reinforces Putting God First":

- a. Categories: (Materials Needed: Tennis balls, labels or permanent marker, 3 buckets) Write or label 1 word on 10-14 different tennis balls. Use the following mix of words on the tennis balls: God, Jesus, Praying, Bible, Faith, Family, Friends, School, Homework, Video Games, TV Shows, Sports, Music, Money, etc. Label the 3 buckets with 1st priority, 2nd priority, 3rd priority. Set all the tennis balls in the middle of a big area. Have students form 2 teams and work as a relay race. Each student runs to the tennis balls, grabs 1, and runs to the other end where the buckets are located. The student must choose which bucket to put their tennis ball in (1st, 2nd, 3rd, priority) and run back to their team to tag the next in line. After both teams finish, you can discuss the choices that were made as a group.
3. "Think, Pair, Share": Ask the students, "Josiah read the scrolls with God's laws written on them to his whole nation. Why do you think he did that?" Have students think for 1-2 minutes by themselves. Then, have them partner up with someone else and talk about their answers. Lastly, have a few partners share with the entire group.
4. "Take Home Talk": (Materials Needed: Copies and Markers/Crayons) King Josiah Decoder or Memory Verse Coloring Page (both are attached).
5. "Challenge of the Week": Challenge the students to remember this week's memory verse in their daily prayer time- asking God to reveal ways that we can put Him first and share our faith with others.

CLOSING PRAYER:

God, thank you for teaching us about King Josiah and Laurie. Help us to always put you first in our lives and obey your commands. Please help us to glorify you in everything we do. Amen.

Lesson Teacher Notes: All lessons would be a great bridge to the gospel message. If you bridge into the gospel message, please be mindful of the Kids For Christ non-denominational policy. Remember the children in your class will have a variety of church backgrounds or perhaps no biblical background at all. Any questions or comments from the children which have a denominational subject matter needs to have the following response from you: "That would be a good question to discuss with your family." Also after the gospel message is presented please follow up with this sentence: "Going to Church, praying, reading your bible, and baptism are all good things, and you can talk to your family about these things too."

**King Josiah
Obeys the Law**

— 2 Kings 22, 23

Obey God's Word

King Josiah decided to repair the temple of the Lord. Carpenters, builders, and stoneworkers began to work. While clearing out the temple they found something very important. To see what they found, black out all the letters in the broken bricks and fallen timbers. Then transfer the letters left in the saws, chisels and hammers to the spaces below.



**King Josiah
Obeyes the Law**

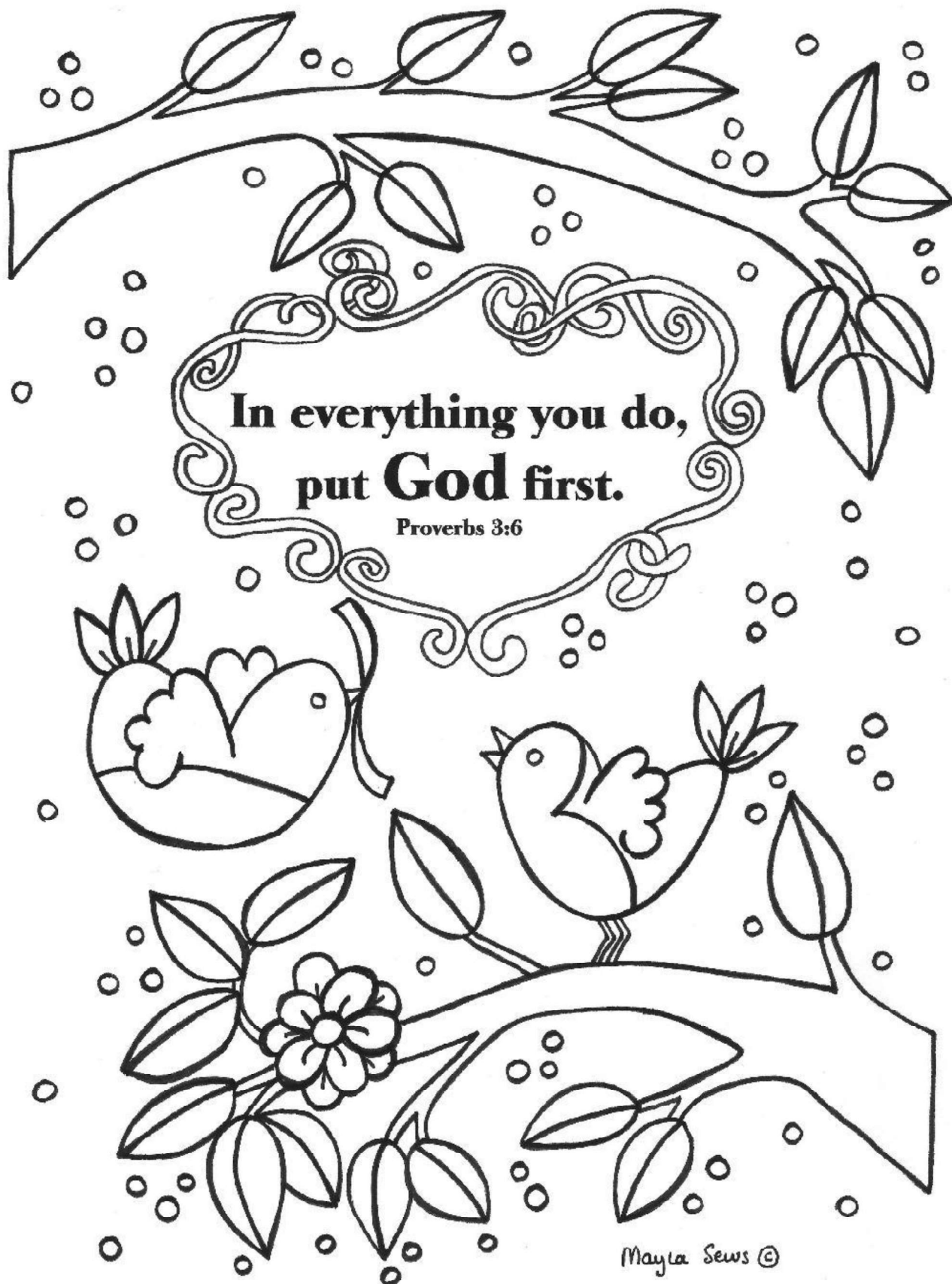
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ANSWER: BOOK OF THE LAW



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