

# 5 KINGS OF JUDAH

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# Introduction

## Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked **CT**. These are also marked out in the lesson plan. You will notice that the central truths are marked with a **U** or an **S** to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as “If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ...” or “Christian, you ...” The application of the truth has been highlighted with bold print. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

## Making yourself available

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour at a later date. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say. As you also teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have. For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

### ***An example for use with the unsaved child***

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but you don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin. Only the Lord Jesus can do that, but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under the tree.”

### ***An example for use with the saved child***

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

## Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. If you are teaching the lessons as a series over five weeks it would be advisable to choose two or three verses to teach well, which the children will then remember. If you try to teach all five, the children may not really know any of them well.

## Practise using the visuals

It is wise to practise using the visuals before teaching the lesson to children. Become thoroughly familiar with the flashcards or PowerPoint slides and know when you need to use them in the lesson.

## PowerPoint® visuals

If you are using the PowerPoint version of this lesson, you can choose from two options on the CD.

- 1 The first version contains the flashcard images and lesson cover slides only.
- 2 The second contains the extra features of the central truth, applications and memory verse.

At the bottom right side of each slide you will see a small image (such as a Bible, a cross or a crown) which contains a hyperlink. If you click on this image, it will take you to the central truth for that lesson, thus allowing you to use the central truth at any stage in your teaching. Clicking on the arrow on the central truth slide will take you back to the slide you were previously showing.

## Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for each lesson. If you are using a flannelboard, back the card with flannel or pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

# Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Jehoshaphat 2 Chronicles 17 - 20	The Lord is the best Helper anyone can have	Unsaved: You need to be saved before you can know God as your Helper  Saved: Ask for God's help in all situations, and thank Him for it	"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you ..."  Isaiah 41:10
Joash 2 Chronicles 22:10 - 24:27 2 Kings 11:8-12	Second-hand faith is no good	Unsaved: Make sure you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour	"... the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me"  Galatians 2:20
Hezekiah 2 Chronicles 28:24 - 32:23	God's children should care about God's honour, as Hezekiah did	Saved: This will influence how you live and how you pray	"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power ..."  Revelation 4:11
Manasseh 2 Kings 21 2 Chronicles 33	Nobody is too bad for God to save	Unsaved: You can come to Christ, no matter how bad you have been  Saved: Keep praying for your unsaved family and friends	"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon"  Isaiah 55:7
Josiah 2 Chronicles 34 - 35 2 Kings 22 - 23:28	Take God's Word seriously - as Josiah did	Unsaved: Take heed to God's warnings and obey the Gospel invitation  Saved: Take action in obedience to what you read in the Bible	"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only"  James 1:22



# Lesson 1

## Jehoshaphat

### Scriptures for teachers

2 Chronicles 17 - 20

### Central truth

The Lord is the best Helper anyone can have

### Application

Unsaved: You need to be saved before you can know God as your Helper

Saved: Ask for God's help in all situations, and thank Him for it

### Memory verse

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you ..." Isaiah 41:10

### Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

And

◆ Have a picture of a family with parents, boy and girl to use as Spratt family

### Lesson outline

#### **Beginning**

Where do you look for help?

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 King Asa experiences God's help CT
- 2 King Asa fails to seek God's help
- 3 Jehoshaphat becomes king CTU
- 4 Jehoshaphat enters into alliance with Ahab CTS
- 5 Jehoshaphat escapes death in battle CTS
- 6 Enemy attacks Judah
- 7 Jehoshaphat prays CTS
- 8 God promises help and victory CTS
- 9 Choir leads Judah's army to battle

#### **Climax**

They see the enemy all dead CTS

#### **Conclusion**

They plunder the enemy

They return to Jerusalem and praise God  
CTS, CTU

## Lesson

Tom was worried about the football match! His team had to win to get to the semi-finals. "Let's see what the stars say," he thought as he picked up the newspaper. "You have a difficult day ahead," he read, "don't give up, you will succeed."

Simon had an important test in school. He needed to pass but was not sure if he would. His mother gave him some advice: "Simon, you should tell yourself 'I will pass, I'll not let it beat me'."

Tony was doing the same test. He had underlined these words in his Bible, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:2).

Here were three different boys looking for help. Where did Tom look? On whom did Simon depend? And Tony? Where do you look?

## Picture I-1

Looking to the Lord for help was something prince Jehoshaphat knew about. He knew of the famous battle his father, King Asa, had had with the Cushites. Their army had been twice the size of King Asa's; they had the added bonus of 300 chariots. It had seemed impossible for Judah's army to win.

But King Asa did not despair; he depended on the Lord to help. This is how he had prayed. "Lord, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God" (2 Chronicles 14:11).

The result was that the huge enemy army and their chariots had fled. Judah's army had followed, capturing treasure and cattle.

Prince Jehoshaphat knew that no king of the countries round about could have helped the way the Lord did. The Lord is the Maker of heaven and earth. He is "the Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle" (Psalm 24:8). No person or army can help in the way the Lord can. He is the greatest and most wonderful Helper anyone can have.

Yet, Jehoshaphat's father, King Asa, did not always depend on the Lord for help. Sometimes he depended on other kings, who did not even know the one, true God. Later the king had a very serious problem with his feet, he needed help. The Bible tells us, "yet in his disease he did not seek the Lord, but the physicians (doctors)" (2 Chronicles 16:12).

## Picture I-2

When prince Jehoshaphat was 35 years old his father, King Asa, died. What kind of king would Jehoshaphat be? We read in the Bible that in his early years he came to trust the Lord (2 Chronicles 17:3-4).

PowerPoint 1-1

CT

PowerPoint 1-2



Jehoshaphat knew that if he wanted to have the Lord's help, he must follow God's ways. It is the same today: the Lord promises to help those who belong to Him. You and I were born sinners, outside God's family. So we choose to disobey God. Perhaps you were caught copying answers in school and immediately you told the teacher, "I didn't copy, honestly." You told a lie and that is sin. You copied the answer and that is sin. We know from the Bible that those things are wrong. You need to have your sin taken away and be brought into God's family. When you trust Jesus Christ to take away your sins, this brings you into God's family.

Let's suppose this is the Spratt family. They live in Thomas Square. *(Show additional visual.)* Every week Dad gives Samantha and Darren pocket money, but he doesn't give pocket money to the other children in the street. Dad often takes them swimming on Saturday afternoons, but he doesn't take all the other children. He plays their computer games with them, he likes to give them treats. Why does he do all these things for Samantha and Darren? It is because they are his family. The other children on Thomas Square cannot expect Mr. Spratt to do those things for them. In the same way we should not expect God to help us, if we are not in His family. Are you in God's family? Think seriously about it. If, at the end of club, you want to talk to me about becoming God's child, I will be happy to explain more from the Bible. Stay in your seat when the others leave, then I will know you want to talk to me. Being in God's family makes all the difference in anyone's life.

Jehoshaphat was in God's family and the way he behaved showed that he loved God. The new king set about making changes. He sent men out to towns to teach God's law to the people. He improved his army. Soon the people of nearby countries knew there was something special about Judah. What was it? The Lord was with Jehoshaphat and his people. He was their Helper. The other countries did not start to war against Judah. Can you think why they did not attack? *(Allow children to respond.)*

### Picture I-3

Judah's nearest neighbour was Israel where wicked King Ahab ruled. He encouraged his people to worship idols. One day King Jehoshaphat went to visit King Ahab.

"You and I and our armies could join together and fight against Ramoth Gilead," suggested the crafty Ahab. What should Jehoshaphat have said? *(Allow children to respond.)* Why?

But Jehoshaphat's reply was different. "Oh yes!" he agreed. "We'll do that - but we must first ask the Lord if that is what He wants."

King Ahab called his prophets and asked them, "Should we go together and fight Ramoth Gilead?" They gave him the answer he

wanted: “Go, for God will give you victory.” Jehoshaphat, however, was uneasy and suspected they were not true prophets of God. “Isn’t there another prophet?” he enquired.

Very reluctantly King Ahab called for Micaiah who really did speak for God and his answer was very different. “You will be defeated,” Micaiah warned.

Now King Jehoshaphat had to make a choice. He chose to pay no attention to God’s warning. He chose to go into battle relying on the help of King Ahab. This could only lead to trouble.

CTS

King Jehoshaphat’s choice did not please the Lord, for God does not want His children to look for help from those who are against Him. God will not help Christians to do things He has forbidden. If a Christian boy decides to beat up another boy he cannot expect God to help him do it. Perhaps a friend offers you her good luck charm to wear on sports day and tells you it surely helps - what should you do if you are a Christian? (*Allow children to respond.*) It is important to remember that God promises to help those who have trusted the Lord Jesus as Saviour. He helps with their problems, He helps when Satan tries to get them do wrong, He helps them to do the things that please Him.

PowerPoint 1-3

King Jehoshaphat certainly was not pleasing God as he prepared to join forces with King Ahab.

#### Picture I-4

PowerPoint 1-4

Crafty King Ahab decided to disguise himself for he knew the enemy would target him. Poor Jehoshaphat rode out in his royal robes - right into terrible danger.

“Look, there is the king of Israel,” called the enemy chariot commander when they saw Jehoshaphat. “Go for him.” They turned to attack Jehoshaphat who called out just in time. The enemy recognised that he was not the king of Israel. It says in the Bible, “the Lord helped him, and God moved them to turn away from him” (2 Chronicles 18:31). What a Helper He is, surely the best! God loved King Jehoshaphat and helped him even though he was in the wrong place with the wrong people. Perhaps you are a Christian, Jesus Christ is your Saviour, but you go to the wrong place with the wrong people. God is displeased with what you do but He loves you. You go to the park and meet up with other boys. They sniff glue, they smoke cigarettes, they read “dirty” magazines, they taunt old ladies. You can ask God to help you get out of this gang. He will help even when you have got yourself into a mess just as Jehoshaphat had. The battle against Ramoth Gilead continued. One soldier took his bow and shot an arrow at no one particular - but it hit someone. It struck King Ahab and seriously wounded him. He died that very evening. Ahab did not have God as his Saviour, or his Helper. He had not trusted God at all. What a bad life and what a sad death.

CTS

King Jehoshaphat returned home a wiser man. He had learned how foolish it was to depend on people or armies. The Lord was the One he would trust. He was a great Helper, no matter what the problem. Jehoshaphat remembered this lesson - especially when he received bad news some time later.

### Picture I-5

“Another huge army is coming against you! The Amorites and Moabites are coming to attack Judah!” What now? The king called the people of Jerusalem together to seek help from the Lord. The men, women and children listened as their king prayed in the Temple. *(Teacher or helper should read aloud 2 Chronicles 20:6,12.)* On whom was their king depending? Yes - on God alone. That is why he prayed before he did anything else.

What do you do when you have a problem? Sometimes those of us who love the Lord try to solve problems ourselves. Or perhaps we go to someone else for help. If that doesn't work, then we pray. We get things the wrong way round, don't we? We should remember to pray first for there is no helper like the Lord. He is great and mighty. He loves each of His children. He knows what is the best for us in every situation. He can help and He wants to help His children.

That is why He had a special message for the king and the people of Jerusalem. God sent His answer through one of the prophets. “Listen King Jehoshaphat and all people of Jerusalem and Judah. This is what the Lord says, ‘Do not be alarmed by this great army, for the battle is not yours, but God's. You will not even have to fight - go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you.’” (Based on 2 Chronicles 20:15-17.)

The king and people bowed to the ground to worship the Lord. He had promised His help, that was all they needed.

If you are saved, the Lord promises to help you too. Can you tell me times when you need His help? *(Allow children to answer.)* The Bible is full of promises of help. It is good to mark them and to learn them. Listen to these, “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you ...” (Isaiah 41:10). “The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do unto me?” (Psalm 118:6).

Will you remember these promises when you have a test in school, when there is quarrelling at home that really upsets you, when you are scared? I have these verses printed out. If you would like to have one to put up in your room, ask me for it at the end of the meeting. If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to know that He is your Helper.

PowerPoint 1-5

CTS

CTS

Next morning, believing God's promise of help, the king and people got ready for battle. The king reminded them, "Listen, have faith in God and you will succeed."

### Picture I-6

Then he set about organising them for the march unto battle. Who should go first? *(Allow children to make suggestions.)* It was most unusual, for the choir went first, followed by the soldiers!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for His love endures for ever," the choir sang as the army made its way to the point from which they would see the huge enemy army.

When they reached the lookout point they could only gasp in amazement. The valley was spread with dead bodies - not one enemy soldier had escaped. God had made their enemy fight among themselves and this was the result! Jehoshaphat and his men went down and took lots of plunder. There were clothes, riches and army equipment. There was so much that they were busy carrying it off for three whole days!

The Lord had kept His promise - He had won the battle for them. He will always keep His promises to help His children. Sometimes He does not help in the way we would like. Often we wish God would take away our problems and sometimes He does, but more often He helps us to cope with them. Whatever He does it is the very best and we can thank Him for it.

CTS

That is just what King Jehoshaphat and his people wanted to do. On the fourth day the king led a huge procession to the Temple in Jerusalem. What a happy day it was! People played flutes, harps and trumpets and the crowd sang praises to the Lord for this great victory.

CTS, CTU

If you know and love the Lord Jesus, don't forget to thank God for His help. Isn't it wonderful to know that He is your Helper. He is the best helper you can have.

Perhaps you have no help from God because you still live your own way. Do you want to be different? Do you want the Lord Jesus to take away your sin? Tell Him so now. Receive Him as your Saviour. Remember, it is to those who receive Him that God gives the right to become children of God (John 1:12). Then you will be in God's family and He will certainly be your Helper.

*(This lesson could be followed by a brief prayer time. Encourage Christian children to thank God for His help. Suggest they start with these words: "Thank you Lord for helping me when ...")*

# Lesson 2

## Joash

### Scriptures for teachers

2 Chronicles 22:10 - 24:27

2 Kings 11:8-12

### Central truth

Second-hand faith is no good

### Application

Unsaved: Make sure you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour

### Memory verse

“... the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” Galatians 2:20

### Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6

### Note to teachers

We are aware that some commentators view Joash as a backslider. Many, however, agree with the view that his faith was not genuine; this is the emphasis of this lesson.

### Lesson outline

#### **Beginning**

Looking for personal survival certificate

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Death of Ahaziah
- 2 Queen plans murder
- 3 Joash is rescued and lives in Temple CT
- 4 Jehoida plans coronation of Joash
- 5 Queen intervenes unsuccessfully
- 6 Reforms under Jehoida's advice CTU
- 7 New advisors, Joash goes another direction
- 8 Joash orders the death of Zechariah CTU

#### **Climax**

Syria army invades

#### **Conclusion**

Joash is wounded and dies CTU

## Lesson

“What are you searching for?” Mrs. Scott asked her son Adam.

“I am looking for Alex’s personal survival certificate,” explained Adam. “You know the one he got when he proved he could swim in his ordinary clothes. I need it.”

“Whatever for? You took your own to the sailing club last week. You don’t need your brother’s,” said Mrs. Scott.

“It’s for Harry. He can’t join without a personal survival certificate,” replied Adam, continuing to hunt.

“Wait a minute son, Alex’s certificate will be no good to Harry. They won’t accept it.”

“Why not? You always say second-hand things can be as good as new,” argued a disappointed Adam.

“Indeed they can - but a second-hand survival certificate is no good at all. It only qualifies the person whose name is on it.”

Today we are going to meet Joash who had something else that was second-hand - second-hand and no good.

## Picture II-1

Very scary things happened to Joash when he was a baby. His father, Ahaziah, king of Judah, was killed. The dead king’s mother, Joash’s grandmother, was determined that she would be queen and set about having the rest of the royal family killed. The baby Joash was in dreadful danger; he and the other royal princes were being kept in a secret place, waiting to be murdered.

An aunt of Joash, a brave lady, discovered where they were. One day, when nobody was watching, she carried out a rescue mission and hid him and his nurse in a bedroom. It was a very narrow escape for the young prince - and he was still in danger.

This lady, Joash’s aunt, and her husband, Jehoida, lived and worked in the Temple, where Jehoida served God. They brought the young prince to their own home and kept him hidden. It must have been very difficult to hide him and keep him quiet, but they managed. They really loved this little lad and cared for him as if he was their own son. They taught him about the Lord and His ways. They made sure he knew God’s commands and wanted him to know the Lord as they did. They did their very best for Joash, but they could not change his sinful heart, they could not make him a believer. It is just the same for every child who has Christian parents. Christian parents can teach their children the Bible, they can pray with their children, but they cannot take away their sin and make them Christians. You must be born into God’s family “not of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:13). Joash needed to come to know God for himself.

CT

As he grew up with his aunt and uncle, he believed what they taught him, but it was second-hand faith, which is just as useless as a second-hand personal survival certificate. I am sure his aunt and uncle prayed that Joash would really come to know the Lord.

Jehoida worked at the Temple as a priest, he taught Joash and cared for him and he even found time to work out an amazing plan ...

### Picture II-2

One day he sent a message throughout Judah, "All Levites and all heads of families must come to Jerusalem," and a big crowd gathered at the Temple. Jehoida told them, "The king's son shall reign." They were going to crown seven year old Joash as king! Jehoida knew it was a dangerous business, so he organised the men into groups who did guard duty. An armed guard was placed around the young prince who was brought out into the Temple by Jehoida and his sons. A crown was placed on his head, he was anointed with oil and everyone called out, "Long live the king! Long live the king!"

The wicked queen heard all the commotion so she hurried to the Temple to investigate. She could hardly believe her eyes - there by a pillar at the entrance to the Temple was Joash, with a crown on his head. Crowds of people were singing, music was playing. It seemed as if the whole country was celebrating. The queen was furious and horrified. Tearing her royal robes she called out, "Treason! Treason!" But there were few to listen to her protests and she was quickly arrested, taken out and put to death.

### Picture II-3

Seven year old Joash was king of Judah! He needed Jehoida to advise him. Jehoida, who was officially known as the high priest, guided the king wisely and we read in the Bible that Joash did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Things changed for the better in Judah. The king ordered that the Temple should be repaired. A big chest was made and placed outside the Temple. The people were ordered to put the money they were going to give to the Lord in the chest. It filled up every day and Jehoida and a royal servant emptied it. The money was used to buy timber and stone needed to repair the Temple, and to pay the workmen. There was even enough to buy golden and silver dishes for the Temple. (Joash's father had removed these from the Temple.) What a great day it was when the Temple looked beautiful again. Sacrifices were made regularly as the Lord had commanded. The altars to Baal were torn down.

Joash certainly did the right things as he followed Jehoida's advice and it looked as if he trusted God, but his was a second-hand faith and it wasn't faith at all. He had no "link" with God. Are you like Joash? It may be that you behave like a Christian and talk like a Christian. You know a lot about God, you may read the Bible, but

PowerPoint 2-2

PowerPoint 2-3

CTU

there is a big difference between knowing about God and knowing Him. I'm sure the boys know a lot about ... (*name popular sportsman*). Tell me what you know? Has anyone met him, visited him? You don't know him. You come to know God when you realise that you have sinned against Him and are truly sorry. You must see that Jesus Christ died to save you from sin and you must trust Him to be your Saviour. Paul, who wrote several books of the Bible, wrote, "I know whom I have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). Do you? It is only when you trust Jesus Christ for yourself that you are "linked" to God ... anything else is second-hand faith and it is no good - as we'll soon see in the life of King Joash.

#### Picture II-4

After a number of years his uncle Jehoida died at the ripe old age of 130 years. Other people began to advise the king and he liked their ideas too. He had no convictions of his own, he had no real faith in the living God. Things began to change for the worse in Judah. The king and the people turned back to idol worship. The Temple was no longer as important. God sent messages to warn the king and the people but they would not listen. Jehoida's son, Zechariah, warned that God would punish them, "Because you have forsaken the Lord, He has forsaken you!" Joash detested Zechariah and was determined to silence him. "Stone him!" he ordered the people. And that is what they did. Right in the Temple court they stoned this good man to death.

It is shocking to think that Joash ordered the death of the son of the good man who had rescued him, hidden him, cared for him and advised him. The king was showing his true colours!

#### Picture II-5

What sort of a person are you when your parents and Christian friends aren't around? Maybe you are totally different and you do the things and say the things the non-Christians say and do. You do just as they do because you are just as they are. You still have your sinful heart, you want to go your own way - although sometimes you behave as a Christian and perhaps even talk like a Christian. You may fool your parents but you cannot fool God: "man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). He knows if you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your Saviour, He knows if your faith is second-hand. He wants to save you, He wants you to trust Him and to know Him. Perhaps you realise that you have only second-hand faith and that it is no good. If you want to talk with me about trusting the Lord Jesus as your personal Saviour, I will be happy to do so. Come to ... (*designate place*) after the meeting. It is really important that you should know God for yourself. Joash did not and his life went from bad to worse.

PowerPoint 2-4

PowerPoint 2-5

CTU



Imagine ordering the death of Zechariah who had probably lived in the same house as him for a time. Just before the prophet died he said, “May the Lord remember what you have done, and make you answer for it.”

### Picture II-6

The Lord did act against Joash. He used the king of Syria whose army marched into Judah and attacked Jerusalem. Although the Syrian army was small God allowed it to defeat Joash’s army. The king’s chief advisors were all killed - to whom could the king then turn? That is one of the results of second-hand faith. If you only know about God and do not know Him, you will often find yourself with no one to whom you can turn for help. Joash had to plan quickly. He decided to take the valuable silver and gold cups and other vessels out of the Temple and sent them as a gift to the king of Syria. “Perhaps this will persuade him to leave Jerusalem,” was Joash’s idea. The king of Syria and his army did withdraw but not before King Joash was seriously wounded and carried off the battlefield.

The wounded king was lying in his bedroom when two of his servants crept in. They were angry at how he had treated Zechariah, Jehoida’s son, so they killed him. Do you think Joash’s second-hand faith was any use to him when he died? No, it was not - He did not know God for himself. It must have been dreadful for him to meet God for it is only people who know God who go to Heaven. The Lord Jesus warned that people who look like Christians, and act like Christians, but are not Christians, could never be with Him in Heaven. He will have to say to people like that, “I never knew you; depart from me” (see Matthew 7:21-23). God does not want you to have second-hand faith, He wants you to trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and your Lord. Will you not come to Him now? Listen to these wonderful words from the Lord Jesus, “the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out” (John 6:37).

If you come to Him and ask Him to forgive you and to come into your life, He will. He promises that He will not turn you away. Then you will know God, you will be different from Joash who only knew about Him.

PowerPoint 2-6

CTU

### Additional lesson

The emphasis in the lesson on Joash is for unsaved children. We suggest that you include the following during your programme in order to provide instruction for the saved child.

### Walking by faith

#### ***Needed***

A large garbage bag  
Cornflakes  
Blindfold

#### ***Directions***

Cut down the sides of the garbage bag (do not cut the bottom) and spread on floor.

#### ***Scripture***

2 Corinthians 5:7  
Romans 10:17

#### **Lesson**

The object of this activity is for the blind-folded person to walk safely along the plastic, avoiding little heaps of cornflakes, by listening only to his leader's instructions.

Blind-fold one child who will walk barefoot. Place little heaps of cornflakes on garbage bag. Then leader correctly instructs child. "Large step ... small step ... to the right ... to the left ..." Allow two other children to call out wrong directions.

Explain how Christians must listen to God's voice and obey Him. We do that because we trust Him to lead us right. When we trust, listen and obey we will go the right way.

# Lesson 3

## Hezekiah

### Scriptures for teachers

2 Chronicles 28:24 - 32:23

### Central truth

God's children should care about God's honour, as Hezekiah did

### Application

Saved: This will influence how you live and how you pray

### Memory verse

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power ..." Revelation 4:11

### Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5 and 3-6

### Lesson outline

#### **Beginning**

An untidy bedroom

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Hezekiah becomes king of Judah
- 2 He destroys the idols
- 3 He destroys the bronze snake CTS
- 4 He repairs the Temple CTS
- 5 He re-instates the Passover CTS
- 6 Sennacherib attacks
- 7 Hezekiah makes peace CTS
- 8 Sennacherib attacks
- 9 Hezekiah prepares for the attack
- 10 Assyrian messengers intimidate the citizens of Jerusalem
- 11 Hezekiah takes Sennacherib's letter to Temple and prays CTS
- 12 God promises success

#### **Climax**

Death in the Assyrian camp

#### **Conclusion**

Sennacherib returns home

The nations praise God CTS

## Lesson

### Picture III-1

Have you ever gone into your bedroom and it seemed that every centimetre was untidy? Perhaps your mother's words, "You must tidy your bedroom - NOW", were ringing in your ears. You looked at the untidy mess and wondered, "Where do I begin?"

That is how Hezekiah must have felt when he became king of Judah. The palace was not untidy, but there was so much that was wrong and wicked in the country, it was hard to know how to begin to put things right. Hezekiah's father, King Ahaz, had encouraged the people to worship idols. The more they did this the more they ignored God's commands. So there was lying, cheating and murder in the land. The Temple where God should have been worshipped was closed, dirty and in bad repair.

King Hezekiah was sad and displeased. His mother had taught him God's Word. Hezekiah himself trusted God and belonged to Him. He knew that the people of Judah should have been worshipping the Lord, the only true God. They should have been obeying His commands but the people had no place for God. God was being robbed of the worship and praise He should have received. The king was determined that things would change. He took swift action.

Before long the idols were smashed to pieces. Even the bronze serpent that Moses had set up in the wilderness was destroyed, because the people had started to put their faith in it, some even burned incense before it. God had commanded that He alone should be worshipped. He says in the second commandment that we should never bow before an image of anything, whether it looks like something in heaven or on earth. This is something we must be careful about. We should not pray before pictures of the Lord Jesus, kiss pictures of Him or put our faith in a cross hanging around our neck. It is God whom we should love and worship. He made all things, He is great and mighty and He should have all our praise. The Bible says "You are worthy, O Lord ... for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (Revelation 4:11). Hezekiah longed for God to be honoured in his country, Judah.

### Picture III-2

He ordered a clean up of the Temple. Anything to do with idol worship was thrown out. The whole building was cleaned and repaired. The priests and Levites who used to serve God in the Temple were brought back. What a great day it was when a huge crowd of citizens of Jerusalem, led by their king, gathered for worship. The sacrifices God had instructed His people to make, were once again offered. There was singing, music and great rejoicing. Did God deserve all

PowerPoint 3-1

CTS

that praise? Yes! - and far more. He deserves the praise and worship of all people.

Suppose you are doing a science project in school. You have Bobby, the science genius, in your group. He has a brilliant idea and shows how to set up the experiment. Your group gets the highest marks. Should you get the praise for the success? No! Everyone did their part but without Bobby it would not have been so successful. Bobby should get credit for what he did.

Look at our world. Who made it? God. Who makes sure the seasons come and go? God. Who planned to save sinners? God. Who sent His only Son to be our Saviour? God. Who raised Him from the dead? God. God should be loved and obeyed all over our land, and all over the world. People everywhere should be singing praise to Him. Hezekiah was certainly very pleased to hear the singing in the Temple.

He decided to start celebrating the Feast of the Passover again; this had been neglected for years. Letters were sent throughout the kingdom inviting people to come. Some mocked and refused to accept the invitation but many came. What a celebration it was. In fact it was so successful that it lasted for fourteen days rather than the usual seven! We read in the Bible, "So there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem" (2 Chronicles 30:26).

Were the people praising the king? No, they were praising God and the king was delighted. This was how it should have always been. Hezekiah really cared about God's honour, and if you love the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you should too. When you are taught about how the world began and God is not mentioned, do you care that God is not being given the credit for what He did? You could say, "I believe God made the world."

Perhaps you are a Christian, but a secret one. You do not tell that you are honest, helpful, kind because God has changed you. Don't you want God to have the honour for what He has done in your life? In the Bible we read, "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory ..." (Psalm 115:1).

Hezekiah did not want to be the centre of attention, he wanted God to have that place. When he made decisions his first thought was not, "What will I get out of it?" His main concern was, "What will God get out of it?" This helped him make wise decisions. He decided to end an agreement that his father had made with King Sennacherib, the powerful ruler of Assyria. This agreement had made the king and people of Judah servants of the Assyrians. Hezekiah believed that it was wrong for God's people to be under a pagan king. When

CTS

PowerPoint 3-2

CTS

Hezekiah ended the agreement King Sennacherib was furious, and waited for an opportunity to hit back.

### Picture III-3

In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib struck. The Assyrian army invaded and captured many of the cities of Judah. For a time Hezekiah became so fearful that he lost some of his concern for God's honour. He sent a message to King Sennacherib: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from Judah and I will pay whatever you ask." King Sennacherib asked for plenty and Hezekiah had to take treasures from the palace to pay him. Worse than that, he had to take treasure from the Temple. He even stripped off the gold that had been used to cover the Temple doors. Hezekiah did not honour God in this decision - even though he was God's child. God wants all His children to bring honour to Him. You can be like a mirror. A mirror reflects light and you can reflect God in the way you behave, in the way you speak. You will "reflect" God when you get up to go to church on Sunday morning, even when nobody else in your family goes. You honour God when you respect your parents and teachers, because you are a Christian. You can refuse to be mean to that unpopular boy in your class. You honour God when you do your school work as best you can. You do these things, not to show that you are someone special, but to show that your God is Someone special. Remember the words in the Bible: "Not unto us, O Lord, ... but to Your name give glory" (Psalm 115:1). The most important thing in life is to bring honour and glory to God.

Hezekiah usually lived like that, but fear took over and he tried to buy off the great King Sennacherib. His efforts failed. Soon the terrifying Assyrian army was heading for Jerusalem. The citizens of Jerusalem knew that these cruel soldiers had taken their neighbours, the Israelites, off to Assyria. Would they be taken captive too?

King Hezekiah called his princes and together they made some important decisions. The walls of Jerusalem were repaired at once, and a second wall was built around the first. The rivers outside the city were blocked so that the approaching army would have no water supply. The king carefully organised his soldiers and set a guard on the walls of Jerusalem. Hezekiah was not, however, trusting his clever ideas or his army. Listen to what he told his men: "Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him ... With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to fight our battles" (2 Chronicles 32:7-8). The king let his men know that he trusted God. He knew that God was greater than the super power Assyria. He honoured God, didn't he?

PowerPoint 3-3

CTS

### Picture III-4

They did not have to wait long before enemy soldiers approached Jerusalem. They did not come to fight, but to deliver a message, which they did very loudly, and in the language of the Jews. Their message is here in the Bible. (Read 2 Chronicles 32:10-15.) “Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria: ‘In what do you trust, that you remain under the siege in Jerusalem? Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, “The Lord our God will deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria”? Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, “You shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it”? Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the people of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands in any way able to deliver their lands out of my hand? Who was there among all the gods of those nations that my fathers utterly destroyed that could deliver his people out of my hand, that your God should be able to deliver you from my hand? Now therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you, or persuade like this, and do not believe him; for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand, or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand?’”

Of course all the people on the city walls heard the message, that was exactly what the Assyrians wanted. They were sure the message would strike terror into the Jews and turn them against their king.

“Can’t you speak to us in Assyrian, not in Hebrew?” called one of Hezekiah’s men. “No!” was the loud, blunt reply. The enemy came closer and called out the message again. The people on the walls were terrified but they did not reply for that was what King Hezekiah had ordered.

### Picture III-5

The Assyrians had a letter for King Hezekiah. It was the same bullying type of message, saying that Hezekiah’s God was weak and helpless. Hezekiah could see that the enemy was laughing at his God. This was something Hezekiah cared for more than anything else. This threat was not just about Judah and Assyria, it was about God’s honour. Hezekiah took the letter and hurried to the Temple. There he spread it before the Lord and prayed. Listen to part of his prayer. “Now therefore, O Lord our God ... save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God” (2 Kings 19:19).

Of course Hezekiah wanted God to keep him safe, of course he wanted God to protect his army, of course he did not want the enemy to enter Jerusalem, but most of all he wanted God to be honoured.

PowerPoint 3-4

PowerPoint 3-5

CTS

He wanted all the nations to know that God was greater than the proud King Sennacherib and his army. What do you think of when you pray, Christian boy or girl? Do you concentrate on what you want? We should always want the answers to our prayers to honour God. Let's think of some prayers. Adam prayed, "Lord, please give me a play station because Simon has one and I really need one too." Brian prayed, "Lord, please make Alan a Christian. Life would be a lot easier for me, and all the kids would see that You can change bullies." This is Charlotte's prayer, "I'm ashamed of my bad temper Lord, I really let You down. Please help me to keep my cool." Who thought of God's honour when they prayed? How do you know?

*(Allow children to respond.)*

Hezekiah prayed that the world would know that his God was the only true God. He was encouraged to keep trusting God by a message he received from the prophet Isaiah: "Sennacherib will not enter Jerusalem, nor shoot an arrow in it. God will defend the city and save it for His own Name sake."

But how could such a thing happen? The Assyrian army was so powerful, there were so many soldiers.

### Picture III-6

Hezekiah and his people did not have to wait long. Next morning they went to view the approaching army from the city walls. They must have gasped in amazement. There was no movement in the enemy camp. All 185,000 soldiers were dead. The Bible tells us that during the night the angel of the Lord came and brought death to the Assyrians. The Assyrian army was shattered. King Sennacherib who must have been staying away from the main army base, was devastated by the news. He was now weak and powerless, his boasts had seemed foolish.

CTS

God had looked after His honour. News of the great victory by the Lord God spread like wildfire. Neighbouring nations soon heard and all the conversation was about "the God of Judah", "the God of Hezekiah". Many of these people even brought gifts to the Temple, and to Hezekiah too.

If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God wants you to live to honour Him. You and I should feel sad when people mock Him. We should think very much about God's honour when we pray. Let's talk to God now and ask for His help to learn this important lesson.

*(Allow children to participate in this prayer time.)*

PowerPoint 3-6



## Additional lesson

*The lesson is applied only to the saved child. We suggest that you include the following Gospel presentation in your programme.*

### **Materials**

Large piece of paper or card  
Marker

### **Lesson**

Write the word “sIn”. Who can tell me what sin is? Yes, it is disobeying God. He tells us in the Bible what we must do, and what we must not do. When we disobey, that is sin.

In Romans 3:23 God tells us, “... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Does “all” mean people who go to church? Does it mean children? Does it mean me? Does it mean you? Yes! The big “I” reminds me that I am a sinner. This is a very serious problem, for sin keeps us away from God, it will keep you out of heaven.

But God sent His only Son into the world. He became a man and lived here for 33 years. He never sinned, yet He died on the cross (draw a line across the “I” to form a cross) and was punished by God for our sin. “Christ died for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:3). He did not stay dead, He came back to life three days later. He is still alive and He can take away our sin. You must “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

Have you trusted Him to save you? There are only two answers to that question. (Print “ye” before “sIn”.) Yes – If you trust Him, He promises to save you. How wonderful!

I hope no-one here will say “no” to the Lord Jesus. (Add an “o” after “sIn”.) Remember if you say “no” to Him you are separated from God and will be for ever. Has the Lord Jesus made a difference in your life - “yes” or “no”?

yes†no



# Lesson 4

## Manasseh

### Scriptures for teachers

2 Kings 21

2 Chronicles 33

### Central truth

Nobody is too bad for God to save

### Application

Unsaved: You can come to Christ, no matter how bad you have been

Saved: Keep praying for your unsaved family and friends

### Memory verse

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” Isaiah 55:7

### Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5 and 4-6

And

◆ Bring a bowl and a towel

### Lesson outline

#### **Beginning**

“No Adam, you are not to be friends with that boy ...”

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Manasseh becomes king
- 2 He encourages idol worship
- 3 He dabbles in witchcraft CTU
- 4 God warns Manasseh and Judah CTU
- 5 Manasseh and people pay no attention
- 6 Assyria invades and Manasseh taken captive
- 7 In prison in Babylon CTU

#### **Climax**

God pardons Manasseh CTU  
Manasseh returns to Jerusalem

#### **Conclusion**

Manasseh carries out reforms CTS, CTU

## Lesson

“No Adam, you are not to spend so much time with that boy. It isn’t on.” “But why?” Adam queried. His mother had many reasons. “Isn’t he the one who wrote graffiti on the walls of the Post Office? Isn’t he the one who dumps his litter in the stream? Isn’t he the one who sniffs glue? Isn’t he the one who often skips school? You are not to be his best buddy, he’s just too bad for words!”

“Too bad for words.” Those words could be used to describe this king of Judah. He was good King Hezekiah’s son Manasseh, and we would expect him to be good and wise. But he wasn’t! He became king when he was twelve years old and soon let it be known that he would not worship or obey the Lord God.

## Picture IV-1

Hezekiah had destroyed the places where false gods were worshipped, but Manasseh gave the order, “Build them up again.” He made altars to the false god Baal and encouraged the people to worship this idol. He himself worshipped the sun, the moon and the stars and had altars for this sort of worship set up in the Temple court. He took a carved pole for the worship of false gods right into the Temple and the people knew perfectly well that God, and God alone, should be worshipped there. He even had his own baby son burned in the arms of one of the false gods. It was as if he was saying to God, “No, I won’t worship You, I’ll worship anything or anyone but You!” He was defying God.

## Picture IV-2

Is there someone here today like that? You know it is wrong to tell lies, but you lie to your teacher, and boast about it to your friends. You know it displeases God to look at “dirty” magazines but you enjoy it and get others to look too. You know God commands, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” But you do, you even make jokes about His Son. You too defy God, as Manasseh did.

As a child in the palace he must have heard of the wonderful things God had done for his father Hezekiah. Can you remember some of these? (*Allow children to respond.*) As a boy he had been taught God’s law. He knew the commandments, “You shall have no other gods before Me” and “You shall not make for yourself any carved image” (Exodus 20:3-4). He must have heard the great prophet Isaiah preach. But none of these things changed him. The Bible tells us, “the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jeremiah 17:9). This means that everyone is really sinful on the inside. Manasseh let that badness be seen in his life. But in every case it is there. Having Christian parents, knowing the commandments, reading the Bible, doesn’t change your sinful heart. This is something only God can do and Manasseh had no intention of asking Him.

PowerPoint 4-1

PowerPoint 4-2

CTU

CTU

He went from bad to worse, even dabbling in black magic. There were real witches who could cast spells, there were fortune tellers and people who tried to talk with the dead. Manasseh encouraged all this, even though he knew what God said about them: “Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord” (see Deuteronomy 18:12, NIV). Manasseh was very unfair in the way he ruled. He allowed criminals to go free, and killed innocent people. He was indeed “too bad for words.” He was the worst king of Judah.

*Put book aside.*

God was disgusted with Manasseh and very displeased with the people of Judah. God is very holy and good. We read in the Bible that He can never, never approve of sin. He must punish all sin and Manasseh certainly deserved immediate punishment. But very kindly and patiently God gave the king and the people a warning.

*Demonstrate wiping a dish with a cloth.*

“Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Behold, I am bringing such calamity upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whoever hears of it, both his ears will tingle ... I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish.’” (2 Kings 21:12-13). *(It would be good to do this as you teach.)* God still gives warning to those who defy Him and go their own way. It is very important to pay attention to God’s warnings, we have them in the Bible. Listen! “The face of the Lord is against those who do evil” (1 Peter 3:12). “He who does wrong will be repaid for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality” (Colossians 3:25). “The way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psalm 1:6). The Bible makes it clear that those who go on defying God will never be in Heaven with God but will be punished for ever and ever. Will you take these warnings seriously? Did Manasseh and the people of Judah? The Bible tells us exactly what happened. *(Read 2 Chronicles 33:10.)* “And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen.” What God said made no difference. They paid no attention.

### Picture IV-3

But God paid attention to Manasseh and the people. As always, He did what He had promised. He sent the mighty Assyrian army into Judah, and soon it attacked Jerusalem. The great city was indeed wiped out like a bowl. Precious things of gold and silver were stolen, people were captured. King Manasseh was taken prisoner, a hook was put in his nose and he was taken off like a slave to Babylon. The Assyrians were proud to have captured him so they dragged him through the streets of Babylon as crowds jeered and cheered. He ended up in a dark uncomfortable prison. All this reminds us of something God says in the Bible: “the way of the transgressor is hard” (Proverbs 13:15, KJV). Anyone who insults God and defies Him will find himself suffering a lot. It may not happen immediately, but it will happen, as it did to Manasseh.

PowerPoint 4-3

CTU

## PowerPoint 4-4

**Picture IV-4**

In prison Manasseh had time to think. The gods he had trusted had failed him. Perhaps he remembered how his father had faced a far bigger army and had won. Why? Manasseh knew the answer - the Lord, his father's God, had won the victory.

Manasseh thought of God - the One who can do anything He pleases. He realised that this great God was pure, holy and good. All sin displeases Him. He must punish all sin. He cannot even bear to look at sin. What a God! Manasseh thought of himself too. He knew he had been very, very wicked and that he deserved all that had happened. Probably he felt God wouldn't want anything to do with him. After all he had worshipped false gods, and encouraged thousands of others to do the same. He had sacrificed children, he had gone to witches and fortune tellers. He had paid no attention to God's warning. I am sure he cried as he thought of his life. He knew he was "too bad for words". He certainly deserved nothing but punishment from God.

CTU

Have you ever felt like this? You feel you are too bad for God to have anything to do with you. You have done many things of which you are ashamed. You know you deserve God's punishment and, like Manasseh, you are very sorry about the mess you have made of your life. If, at the end of the meeting, you want to talk to me about coming to God for forgiveness, you will find me ... (*designate a suitable place*). I will be glad to show you from the Bible how God can forgive you, no matter how bad you have been.

CTU

There in prison Manasseh talked to God. He knew that in the past God had forgiven people who had done wrong against Him. Manasseh told God he was sorry and pleaded for God to forgive him. Now listen to what happened next. "The Lord was moved by his entreaty, and listened to his plea" (2 Chronicles 33:13, NIV). Isn't that wonderful! God did not treat Manasseh as he deserved, rather He loved this man and forgave him all the wrong he had done! It happened just as Isaiah the prophet had written. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). In these words God promises that when someone is sorry enough to quit his or her wrong ways and turns to God, God will not treat him as he deserves. God promises "abundant pardon". This means God will gladly forgive all the wrong and that is just what He did for Manasseh!

**Picture IV-5**

## PowerPoint 4-5

But how is that possible? Isn't it unfair? Let's make a list of some of Manasseh's sins. (*Children call out his sins and teacher makes a list.*) God cannot say, "I'll just forget all these things." No, He is so holy and good that He must punish every sin. Hundreds of years later God sent His

only Son into the world. He was good through and through, but He died on a cross. God punished His only Son for all Manasseh's sin, but not only for Manasseh's sin. We read in Isaiah, "The Lord has laid on Him (the Lord Jesus) the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). That means that you could make a list of your sins, no matter what you have done. And if you are willing to turn from your bad ways and thoughts and trust the Lord Jesus to be the One who took the punishment you deserve, you can be forgiven too! Of course you don't have to write out a list, but please remember that no-one is too bad to come to the Lord Jesus. Listen again to these very special words. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord." You must turn away from the wrong things in your life and turn to the Lord, "and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). God will keep His word to you, as He did to Manasseh in that horrible prison.

### Picture IV-6

God made sure that Manasseh was freed from prison too. The Assyrian king allowed him to go back to Jerusalem. It was exciting to be "home" again.

What would you expect him to do when he arrived back in Jerusalem? *(Allow children to respond.)* Yes, he tried to put right the wrong he did. He set about having the idols and altars removed from the Temple and thrown out of the city. Never again did he ask advice from witches or fortune tellers. He commanded the people to serve God, and set a good example by going to the Temple himself. Of course, he could not put everything right. He could not bring back the people who had been killed. He could not really change the people he had encouraged to worship false gods. Many secretly wanted to continue worshipping them. When you make up your mind to go against God you may do harm that cannot ever be put right. Manasseh had to accept that but he was a very different person and his people could see the change in his life. This will happen to you too. If you turn to God, knowing that His Son died for your sin, He will make you different too. We read in the Bible, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). He makes bullies into thoughtful, kind people, He makes liars honest, He helps glue sniffers break the habit. Whatever you have done, God can change you ... No one is too bad!

Manasseh proved that - right to the end of his life. The change that happened in prison in Babylon lasted. Manasseh ruled for 55 years altogether, longer than any other king of Judah.

I am sure God wants us all to learn from Manasseh that no-one is too bad for God to save. Perhaps you have a friend, or someone in your family, for whom you thought there was no point in praying.

PowerPoint 4-6

CTU

CTS

Don't give up. God saved Manasseh, He can save your friend, your dad, your sister.

Are you happy to have learned that God can save you too. No-one deserves God's forgiveness, but no matter how bad you have been, God can forgive you and change you. Our Bible verse tells you what to do.

CTU

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7).



# Lesson 5

## Josiah

### Scriptures for teachers

2 Chronicles 34 - 35

2 Kings 22 - 23:28

### Central truth

Take God's Word seriously - as Josiah did

### Application

Unsaved: Take heed to God's warnings and obey the Gospel invitation

Saved: Take action in obedience to what you read in the Bible

### Memory verse

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only"  
James 1:22

### Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

### Lesson outline

#### **Beginning**

What laws would you make?

#### **Progression of events**

- 1 Josiah is king at eight years of age CTU
- 2 He seeks the Lord
- 3 He carries out reforms
- 4 The Book of the Law is found
- 5 The Book of the Law is read to Josiah
- 6 The king is distressed CTU
- 7 The king receives message from Huldah
- 8 King and people gather at Temple
- 9 King promises to obey the Lord CTS
- 10 People promise to obey the Lord CTU
- 11 King continues his reforms CTS
- 12 Josiah re-introduces the Passover CTU

#### **Climax**

Josiah wounded in battle

#### **Conclusion**

Josiah dies and nation mourns CTU, CTS

## Lesson

**Picture V-1**

If you were made king or queen, what law would you make? (*Allow children to respond.*) It is fun to imagine being a ruler, but it might not be such fun if it really happened!

**PowerPoint 5-1**

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It wasn't fun for Josiah who was made king of Judah when he was eight years old. Of course, he needed people to advise and help him. But when he was 16 years old he made some important choices. The Bible tells us that he began to seek God. This is quite surprising for his father had no interest in God and worshipped idols. We do not know how the young Josiah learned about God, but somehow he did and God worked in his heart, making him serious about knowing God for himself. The little he knew, he took seriously. Do you? You know far more than Josiah. What do you know about sin? What do you know about Jesus Christ? What do you know about salvation? (*Allow children to answer these questions.*) You see, you know a lot. This is very different from knowing a lot about science, history or geography. When you know the Bible, you know the message God has given us. God's message must be obeyed because it is the most important message you will ever receive. Of course, you do not know everything that is in the Bible, but you know some of it. God expects you to obey what you know. Josiah knew only a little, but he obeyed. He came to trust God and "did what was right in the sight of the Lord" (2 Chronicles 34:2). This meant making big changes in his country. The idols had to go! He ordered that they should be ground into little pieces and scattered on the graves of those who had been idol worshippers.

**Picture V-2**

He ordered the repair of the Temple. The men worked hard: some cleaning, some building, some repairing. It was a hive of activity. Hilkiah, the high priest, was there too. One day he was sorting out the finances of the building project when he discovered an old scroll in a dusty corner of the Temple. He removed it carefully and must have trembled with excitement as he read it. "I have found the Book of the Law of God in the Temple," he told Shaphan his secretary, and handed it to him.

**PowerPoint 5-2**

Shaphan looked and knew it was God's law. He had never before seen a copy, he had never before held it in his hands. The king must know about this amazing discovery. He hurried to report it to the king. "Hilkiah, the priest has given me a book." And he started to read it aloud. He read God's laws. Do you know some of them? He read the punishment God had promised if they would disobey Him.

### Picture V-3

The king had never heard these words read before. He must have trembled. He wept. He tore his robes to show how distressed he was.

Although the words he was hearing were written 800 years earlier, given by God to Moses, the king knew they were God's words and always up to date. He knew he must take action. Do you react like that to the Bible? Yes, it is an old book because it was written long ago, but it is up to date for all the words are God's words and are never out of date. We read that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Timothy 3:16). All the words in the Bible are God's words, so they are all true. Do you take the warnings as seriously as Josiah did? Listen to this one! "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already" (John 3:18).

This warning is from God to those who do not trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. He says you are condemned already. Supposing a criminal is in court and the judge promises the death sentence. It will not be carried out for a month or two, but the criminal is condemned already. It is the same with those who are not Christians. They are "condemned already". God says they will be punished for ever and ever for their sins, and this will happen after they die. You must take His Word seriously. Don't laugh it off. Don't push it out of your mind. Listen, think and trust the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Perhaps right now you realise that you must do that. You want to know how to be saved. I will be glad to show you how from the Bible. After club, come to me, I will be ... (*designate place*) God wants you to take His Word to heart, just as Josiah did.

The king turned to Hilkiah and four other men and said to them (*read 2 Chronicles 34:21*), "Go, inquire of the Lord for me, and for those who are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found; for great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord."

The priest and the others hurried to the one who spoke for God. It was a lady called Huldah, a prophetess, that is a lady who was God's spokesperson. She told them the Lord's answer. "This is what the Lord says. All the curses you have heard will happen, because the people of Israel and Judah turned away from Me to other gods. Tell the king that because he has been truly sorry when he heard the Book of the Law, the punishment will not come during his reign."

The delegation took the answer back to the king. It was good news and bad news, wasn't it?

### Picture V-4

The king must have hoped that when the people heard the words of God, they too would change their ways. He called together a huge

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PowerPoint 5-4

CTS gathering of people in Jerusalem. He read from the scroll that had been found in the Temple. The people had never heard it read before. The king then stood by his pillar in the Temple and made a solemn promise that he would follow the Lord and keep His commands with all his heart. God's Word made a difference in his heart. God's Word made a difference in Josiah's life. It should be like that for you and me too. The Bible is God's message and it is very wrong not to pay attention to it. Supposing your friend says, "I'm going to give you extra homework each evening this week." You pay no attention, but if the headmaster says those words it is a different matter. It is the person who says the words, that makes the difference. God - the great, mighty and holy God - has said the words in the Bible. We must read them, believe them and obey them. If you are a Christian, do you read the Bible? Does it make a difference in your life? It certainly should.

Josiah wanted God's Word to make a difference in the lives of the people gathered at the Temple. He made them all promise to serve the Lord. They made the promise all right but we know that many of them did not really mean it. They obeyed the king's laws about worshipping God, but in their hearts they did not love and obey God. (We know this from the early writings of Jeremiah, e.g. Jeremiah 3.) The reading of the law did not mean too much to them. That is why after Josiah's death, they were captured and taken away as slaves.

CTU God does not want you to be a person who only listens to His words. He says in James 1:22, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only." It would be strange if you had a dirty face, you look in the mirror, and say, "Oh, my face is dirty!" You put the mirror away and off you go to school. Looking at the mirror would have made no difference to you. You need to do something about your dirty face. It is like that when you listen to the Bible being taught. You know what you should do. It is foolish not to do it.

King Josiah was a doer. He was even more determined to get rid of anything to do with worshipping other gods. There were stables close to the Temple in which were kept fine horses that one of the kings had given to the sun god. King Josiah took away the horse and burned the chariots. He had the houses of the witches pulled down, so that nobody would consult them again. He tried to make sure that all the places where other gods were worshipped, would never be used again. Why did he do these things? He was obeying the Word of God.

*Put flashcards aside. Show chart.*

CTS If you are a Christian, it is a good idea to write down what you should do about something you read in the Bible. We have a little chart here, which you may wish to use. You write in the Bible verses you read, then you write the action you will take. For example, you read Colossians 3:22-24 in your quiet time. (*Read these verses aloud.*) What action

might you take in obedience to God's Word? (*Allow children to make suggestions.*) You may take one of these charts home and use it in your quiet time. Josiah would have had a long list in the "action column", wouldn't he?

### Picture V-5

Another action that the king took was to start celebrating the Passover again. He led the people in remembering how God had rescued their ancestors from Egypt. They remembered how they had been saved from a visit by the angel of death because the blood of the lamb was sprinkled on the door posts. God had written in His Book that the Passover was to be remembered. He had written how it should be remembered. Josiah did it, just as it was written. We are much better off than Josiah; he had the first five books of the Bible, we have all 66! In the New Testament we read that Jesus Christ is our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). He gave His blood to save us from eternal punishment. If you trust Him as your Saviour, then His blood keeps you safe from the punishment of God which you deserve. God said long ago, and it is still true! "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). Have you ever taken this seriously? Have you trusted the Lord Jesus "with all your heart". When you do, then God helps you to understand His Word and to obey it. He helped Josiah in many ways.

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CTU

PowerPoint 5-5b

### Picture V-6

But Josiah wasn't perfect. He made mistakes, just as we do. He learned that the king of Egypt was going to war. Josiah quickly decided to fight against him. I do not think he asked the Lord what he should do. The king of Egypt sent Josiah a message, "I do not want to fight you, I'm fighting against the Assyrians. God has told me to hurry, so stop opposing God. He is with me." But Josiah had made up his mind to fight. He decided to disguise himself before going into battle, he went looking like an ordinary soldier. Disaster struck as an archer's arrow hit him.

PowerPoint 5-6

"Take me away, I'm badly wounded," he groaned. His men lifted him out of his chariot, placed him on another and headed for Jerusalem where he died.

The people of Jerusalem were heartbroken. Josiah had been a good king. He had lived by God's Word. Jeremiah the prophet wrote songs of sorrow about Josiah, they are in the Bible; in the book called Lamentations.

Do you live by God's Word? If you love the Lord Jesus, ask for His help to be a "doer" and not just a "hearer".

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If you are not a Christian, you have not taken God's Word seriously. You have already heard these words: "He who believes in Him is not

condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already” (John 3:18). 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 Saviour.

# Memory verse tokens

(Lesson 1)

Fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am  
your God. I will strengthen you,  
yes, I will help you.



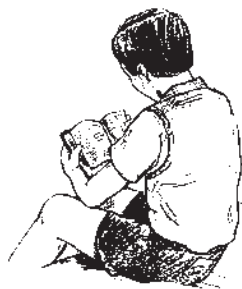
Isaiah 41:10

Fear not, for I am with you;  
be not dismayed, for I am  
your God. I will strengthen you,  
yes, I will help you.



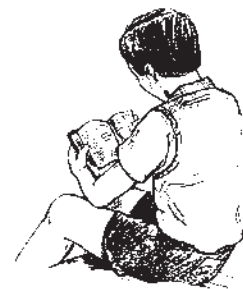
Isaiah 41:10

The Lord is on my side;  
I will not fear.  
What can man do unto me?



Psalms 118:6

The Lord is on my side;  
I will not fear.  
What can man do unto me?



Psalms 118:6

# Bible reading chart

(Lesson 5)

Bible reading	Action list

Bible reading	Action list





Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



## Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

### Make sure the child understands about

#### God

Who is God?  
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.  
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

#### Sin

What is sin?  
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.  
Speak about specific sins.  
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)  
Sin deserves punishment.

#### The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?  
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.  
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.  
He is Lord of all.

### Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.  
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).  
What does the Lord want you to do?  
What will the Lord do?  
Warn about difficulties.  
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"  
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

### Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.  
Speak about a changed life.  
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

### Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.  
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.  
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.  
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.  
Meet with other Christians.  
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).