



### LESSON 5

## JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Delights in Our Obedience

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After many years of ungodly kings, King Josiah leads God's people in obeying God. God is delighted in their obedience and protects that generation from punishment.

**WORD OF WONDER:** Be still, and know that I am God. —Psalm 46:10a

- Play Stations:
  - Digging for Objects
  - Reading Books
  - Josiah and the Book of the Law Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Hot or Cold
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 46:10a
- God's Big Story Video
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing
- Circle Time: Happy or Sad Choices
- Craft: Delightful Faces
- Game: Clean Up



SCAN FOR THIS  
WEEK'S VIDEO!



## LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Delights in Our Obedience

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34

**WORD OF WONDER:** Psalm 46:10a

This week, you'll be exploring the narrative of King Josiah choosing to obey during years of disobedience. Take some time to read 2 Chronicles 34:1–3, 8, 14–21, 29–32.

I'm currently in a season of teaching my strong-willed, independent, and passionate three-year-old about obedience. We are using the phrase "make good choices" to help instill the principle of obedience in him. Sometimes I think this piece of parenting is more challenging than teaching him how to eat or complete other physical necessities. However, when he comes home from preschool with a report of a good day, he's so excited to tell me, "I made good choices today!" When I hear that, my heart is filled with a sense of love, pride, and overall delight in him. While I wouldn't love him any less if he made poor choices or disobeyed his teacher, as his mom, I want what's best for him, and I know that comes through obedience.

It is when we make good choices and choose to obey God, even as adults, God is delighted in us! Pause for a moment and reflect on your life. Are you being obedient in everything you do? The choices King Josiah had to make are vastly different from those we make each day. Even so, each choice is an opportunity to align ourselves with God's best—an opportunity to obey Him. How can you obey God this week? How will God be delighted in you?

—Ana Dutton

Children's Ministry Leader  
Contributor to Wonder Ink

## LESSON 5 **FOR LEADERS**

### **JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

##### **WHO?**

Josiah was the grandson of Manasseh, the king who did the most evil in the sight of the Lord. Somehow, in spite of his family, Josiah had a heart that desired to serve God. When Josiah discovered God's Word, he immediately obeyed it.

##### **WHAT?**

The book of God's law, possibly the entire books of Genesis through Deuteronomy, was found in the temple. God's people had strayed so far from Him that they didn't even know God's law existed. The way to live for God and represent Him had been lost.

##### **WHERE?**

The beautiful temple that Solomon had built for the Lord had been ignored and filled with false idols. Josiah got rid of all the items in the temple that were dedicated to Baal (BAY-ul) and Asherah (uh-SHAIR-uh). He traveled throughout the land of Israel, cleansing it of idols.

##### **WHEN?**

After Solomon's reign, the kingdom of Israel split into two separate nations. Josiah was one of the last kings of Judah, reigning from 640–609 BC. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon completely conquered Jerusalem, destroying the temple and exiling God's people.

##### **CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:**

The law showed people how to represent God's character to the world. But by Josiah's time, that had been lost. Jesus, the Word made flesh, showed us how to perfectly live out God's law as He fulfilled it.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Delights in Our Obedience

**SCRIPTURE:** 2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chronicles 34

**WORD OF WONDER:** Psalm 46:10a

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** bin; shredded paper; assorted small objects such as toy farm animals, toy cars, beads, pencils, markers; sticky note; variety of children's picture books; coloring utensils; blank booklets (optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** [Josiah and the Book of the Law Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

**Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?**

#### Play Station: Digging for Objects

**Set up:** Set out the bin partially filled with shredded paper. Add the assorted small objects (such as toy farm animals, toy cars, beads, pencils, markers) and mix them up in the shredded paper. Roll up a sticky note like a tiny scroll and hide it somewhere in the bin.

**Play:** Encourage kids to sift through the paper in the bin and look for hidden objects. Ask kids what they find and as they locate objects. Encourage them to find the tins, rolled-up scroll.

#### Play Station: Reading Books

**Set up:** Set out a variety of children's picture books. If available, you can even set out blank booklets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Encourage the kids to look at the pictures. Invite older kids or leaders to read the books to the kids. Ask what they learned from the books. If available, you can let the kids draw and write to make their own books using markers and blank booklets.

#### Play Station: Josiah and the Book of the Law Coloring Sheet

**Set up:** Ahead of time, print one copy per kid of the coloring sheets and set out coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of a happy face.

**Leader Tip:** Allow kids to choose more than one play station if time allows. Kids who arrive early may have more time to spend at the play stations. A preschool-age kid typically has an attention span of about 4–8 minutes.

## Curiosity Activity: Hot or Cold

**SUPPLIES:** note cards (5), marker

Ahead of time, use a marker to write one word of the Wonder Truth on each of five note cards: God Delights in Our Obedience. Hide the cards around the room.

Gather the kids together. **I have an important message for you today, but it seems that I have lost it! Can you help me find the pieces of the message?** Allow kids to respond. **There are note cards around the room. We'll take turns looking for a card. I will tell you if you're hot or cold. Hot means you're close to a hidden card. Cold means you're far from a card. Any questions?** Answer any questions kids may have. **Ready? Let's go!**

Lead kids in the game of Hot or Cold until they have located each of the cards. Kids should hunt for one card at a time as they follow your hot or cold verbal clues. When all the cards have been found, gather the kids back together.

**Was it easy to obey the directions I gave as you hunted for the cards?** Allow the kids to respond. **The cards tell us our Wonder Truth for today. Let's read our Wonder Truth today: GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE.** Wow! What a great message. **Delight means being very happy. We're going to learn how a king followed God's directions in His Word and how it delights God, or makes God happy, when His people follow and trust Him.**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Word of Wonder Game Cards (1/SG)

### WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

—Psalm 46:10a

Ahead of time, print a set of the Word of Wonder Game Cards, cut apart the cards, and arrange them face down.

**Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from Psalm 46:10a. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.**

Open a Bible to Psalm 46:10a and practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to line up near the cards.

**In our story today, Josiah found a special book that changed everything. What was it?** Allow the kids to respond. **It was God's Word—the Bible! The Bible helps us know God and know how to live. The Bible can change our lives too. When we memorize God's Word, we always have it with us. Let's do an activity to help us remember God's Word.**



**We'll line up by the cards, and each person will turn over one card. When it's your turn, choose a card to turn over. If it's blank, go to the end of the line. If it has a picture of a Bible on it, you can say the verse. If you need help, choose someone to say it with you.**

Practice the verse again with the kids, then let them take turns choosing a card to turn over. If it has a Bible on it, they can say the verse. Play several rounds.

Encourage the kids to say the verse and do the motions with you.



- **BE STILL**,—Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.
- **AND KNOW**—Point to your head.
- **THAT I AM GOD**.—Point up.
- **PSALM 46:10a**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do we know about God?** (Possible answers: God made us; God is powerful; God loves us, etc.)
- **What's a story or verse from the Bible that has helped you or inspired you?**
- **How can the Bible help us obey and live the way God wants?**

**VIEW THE GOD'S BIG STORY VIDEO**  
**Watch the God's Big Story Video as**  
**kids eat their snacks!**



## Declaring God's Wonder

Show the Early Childhood Declaration Slide and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up and then to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

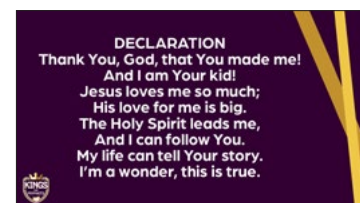
Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from above, making a path in front of you.



**And I can follow You.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

March in place like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shake your fingers, and celebrate ("praise hands").

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, thank You for today. Help us listen to Your Word as we learn how You delight in our obedience. Please let the Holy Spirit lead us in understanding Your message to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Worship

**Today we'll learn about how God delights in our obedience. Let's sing about obeying God in everything that we do and thank Him for His Word.**

Play songs [Closer](#) , [Over & Over](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, [Bible Story Picture \(1/SG\)](#)

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible, and what do I see?** (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

**God's big story, waiting for me!** (Point to yourself.)

**Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles in the Bible.**

Read the God's Big Story Script provided. You can show the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

## GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

Use the script below to tell today's part of God's big story. When you say something good, encourage kids to give a thumbs-up. When you say something bad, encourage kids to give a thumbs-down. To make it more fun, you can have them pop up for the thumbs-up and get down low on the ground for the thumbs-down.

**A long time ago, God's people, the Israelites, asked God to give them a king. King Saul was the first king of Israel and David was the next king. Then David's son, Solomon, became king. King Solomon built a temple for God. The temple was a big, beautiful building where people went to worship God. Later, a king named Ahab told the people to worship fake gods.** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-down. **A man named Elijah was a messenger of God and showed people that God is the one true God.** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-up.

**There were lots of bad kings who didn't follow God or worship Him. The bad kings told the people to worship the fake gods.** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-down.

**After many bad kings, a new king changed everything. His name was Josiah. He was only eight years old when he became king!**

**Josiah was the king for 31 years. The Bible says, "There was no king like Josiah either before him or after him. ... He obeyed the LORD with all his heart and all his soul. He obeyed him with all his strength" (2 Kings 23:25).** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-up.

**Josiah told the priests, the people who taught about God, to clean up the temple. While they were cleaning, one priest found a really old scroll. A scroll is like book. This scroll was part of God's Word.** Hold up a Bible and encourage the kids to point to it.

**Josiah listened while someone read it. Hearing God's Word helped Josiah know who God is. Josiah realized his people were not following God. He felt so upset that he tore his clothes!** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-down.

**Josiah found a woman who was a prophetess—a messenger of God. The prophet told Josiah that God was not happy that His people forgot about God. But the prophet also said God was happy that Josiah was obeying God's Word. Josiah told all the people this. They promised to obey God and His laws. Josiah turned everything around in his land.** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-up. **Josiah got rid of all the fake gods. He told the people to worship God. Josiah followed God, and that delighted God—which means it made God very happy!** Encourage kids to give a thumbs-up. **Josiah showed that it's so important for us to walk in God's way because He is in charge and He is good. We can follow God. God delights in our obedience.**

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask kids the following question to help them connect the WonderTruth to God's big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

**God's words showed people what God is like and how people can be like God and can show others what He's like. But by Josiah's time, that had been lost. When Jesus—the Word made into a person—came to the earth, He showed us what God is like. He is God's Word as a person!**

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them and thank God for guiding us to make good choices and helping us obey Him.

**Dear God, thank You for being with us and giving us Your Holy Spirit to guide us and help us obey. Help us make good choices and follow You this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** May God be delighted in your thoughts and actions this week as you seek to follow and obey Him.

## Circle Time: Happy or Sad Choices

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Choices Pictures (1/SG)

Ahead of time, print one set of the Choices Pictures.

**We're learning that God delights in our obedience. Did Josiah obey God?**

Allow the kids to respond. **Yes. After the prophetess told Josiah what God said, Josiah told all of the people to obey God's Word. They promised to obey God and His laws. Josiah turned everything around in his land. Josiah got rid of all the fake gods. He told the people to worship God. Josiah followed God, that delighted God—which means it made God very happy!**

**Let's look at some pictures and see whether the people in the pictures are making good or not good choices. If you see a good choice, show a thumbs-up. If you see a not good choice, show a thumbs-down.** Model the thumbs-up and thumbs-down motions for kids.



**Make It Inclusive:** Keep in mind that kids with disabilities or special needs may struggle to “obey” or follow directions, and it doesn't always mean they're doing something wrong. Be sensitive to the kids in your ministry who struggle with following directions as you're talking with the kids.

Show the Choices Pictures one at a time. Encourage kids to identify what is happening in the pictures. Use the discussion questions below to help guide your conversation as you move through this activity. After a picture has been discussed, ask one of the questions from the list below.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What is the name of the king who chose to obey God?** (*Josiah*)
- **What did the priest find while cleaning up the temple?** (*a scroll—part of God's Word*)
- **In what ways did Josiah obey God and do the right thing?** (*He took down fake gods, or idols, and helped the people celebrate God, then told them to follow and obey God.*)
- **Is it hard or easy to obey God? What makes you think so?**
- **What are some ways you can obey God this week?**
- **Why do you think God delights in our obedience?**
- **How do we know what God wants us to do? Has the Bible ever helped you know God and follow Him?**

**When we make good choices, God is delighted in our obedience. We can choose to obey because we love God, and He always knows what's best. Let's talk to God now in prayer!**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for hearing us and caring about us. God hears all our prayers!

### Craft: Delightful Faces

**SUPPLIES:** paper plates (1 per kid), markers, glue (optional), yarn (optional), googly eyes (optional)

**Today we're learning how God is delighted with us when we follow Him, trust Him, and obey Him. Loving God is not just about doing certain things and following certain rules. He always loves us, and He forgives us when we do wrong. God is delighted when we live how He wants out of an overflow of our love for Him. Delight is another word for happy. What does God delight in? Allow kids to respond. Yes! God is so happy when we obey Him. We can choose to obey God because we love Him and know that His way is the best way to live.**

Give a paper plate to each kid. Set out markers. You can also set out other supplies such as glue to put yarn for hair and googly eyes to add more variety to the faces.

**Let's make a delightful face on our plates. Start by drawing eyes. We can look with our eyes to see people and the world as God sees it: with love.** Pause and allow the kids to draw eyes on their plates (or add googly eyes). **Do you think we need a happy face or a frowning face?**

Allow kids to respond. **That's right! Let's add a big smiley face on our plate. We can use our mouths to praise God, to speak God's truth, and to speak words that please God. What can we say that would make God happy?** Give kids time to respond and encourage them to make smiles on their plates. **Now you can use the markers and other supplies to decorate the rest of the face in any way that makes you happy. We can obey God with our hearts and our lives.**



Encourage the kids to use markers and decorating supplies to finish decorating their plates. Then use a marker to add the Wonder Truth, God Delights in Our Obedience, on each kid's plate.

End by asking kids to hold up their delightful face plates as you read the following passage aloud:

**I will always obey your law, for ever and ever.**

**I will lead a full and happy life, because I've tried to obey your rules.**

**I take delight in obeying your commands because I love them.**

**I reach out for your commands that I love. I do this so that I may think deeply about your orders.**

(Psalm 119:44–45, 47–48)

## Game: Clean Up

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper (1 sheet, optional)

Ahead of time, scatter a variety of objects all over the floor and hide a Bible or a rolled-up paper like a scroll somewhere in the room, not immediately obvious.

**Let's play a game of Clean Up. One of the things that God's people did was clean up the temple. The temple was where the people came to meet with God. But they forgot about God. When Josiah had the priests clean up the temple, they found part of God's Word. Josiah had someone read God's Word, and it turned everything around! Josiah followed God and helped the people in his land follow God too. Let's clean up and see if we can find God's Word in this room.**

Encourage the kids to clean up the room and look for the Bible (or rolled-up scroll).

**Leader Tip:** If there's anything else in the room that needs to be cleaned up (such as toys or craft supplies), kids can help clean it up also. To make it more fun, the kids can clean up the items in different ways, such as while their eyes are closed, using only their feet, or while working with a partner. See who can find the hidden Bible first.