



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 them from the future consequences of previous generations' disobedience.

WORD OF WONDER: Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The LORD who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us. —Psalm 46:10–11

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Team Cup Stack
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Moonwalk!
- Welcome Question: What is something that makes you really happy?
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Closer, Over & Over
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Responding in Worship: Holy
- Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

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 46:10–11

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.

LESSON 5 **ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN**

Large Group or Small Group

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 46:10–11

Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Kings and Prophets Series Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, **display the Josiah Welcome Question Slide** the following question on a whiteboard: “What is something that makes you really happy?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome kids by name. Show them the Welcome Question. Read the question aloud as more kids enter your space. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them. Younger kids are likely to think mostly of concrete objects, so consider offering suggestions like friendship or love between family members. After some time has passed, encourage kids to share their answers with those sitting near them. Some kids may prefer to draw their responses.

At your start time ...

Welcome everyone and tell them that you're delighted to see each of them. Ask for volunteers who would like to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **What is something that makes you really happy?**

These are all great examples of what makes us happy! Today we're going to learn about what makes God happy or what brings Him great delight. But first, it's time to be curious!

OPTION 1 Interactive Game: Team Cup Stack

SUPPLIES: large cardboard box, scissors or box cutter (prep only), 10 large plastic cups (in 5 different colors, 2 per color), sheet or blanket

Ahead of time, cut off one side of the box. Set the box on its side at the front of the room where kids will see it clearly, with the open side facing the audience. Place up five cups (each a different color) side-by-side in a row inside the box so that the audience will see them, but a person standing behind the box will not. Cover the box with a sheet or blanket. Set the remaining five cups (in the same colors but in a different order as the cups in the box) in a stack near the covered box.



This activity only works if the person leading doesn't know what order the cups are in, so if you plan on leading it, recruit someone to do the set-up when you're not watching! Or recruit another adult or teen to lead this game.

Display the **Team Cup Stack Slide** and gather the kids. **Let's play a game called Team Cup Stack!** Stand or kneel behind the box or crate so that you won't see the cups in the box once uncovered. Carefully remove the sheet or blanket. Take the stack of five cups nearby and place each cup side-by-side across the top of the box.



Our goal is to get these five cups (point to the cups on the top) **in the same color order as the cups in the box. But here's the catch: I can't see the cups in the box, and you can't tell me what order to put them in. What you can say is "Yes" or "No"! I'll point to a cup at the top of the box, and if it matches the cup directly below it, you'll shout, "Yes!" If it doesn't match the cup directly below it, you'll shout, "No!" I'll move cups around until they're in the same order as the cups below. Got it?** Kids respond.



Let's get started! Start slowly, pointing to one cup at a time and moving it into different spots based on kids' "Yes" and "No" shouts. Once all five cups are in the same color order as the cups in the box below, kids will naturally erupt into excited cheering! If time allows, play several rounds, mixing up the cup order and inviting other leaders or kids to lead.

Leader Tip: If your group is large, consider setting up two boxes and playing the game as a competition between two teams, each with their own leader. Whichever team gets their cups in order first wins!

Gather the kids together. **Wow! You all did a great job working together to get the cups in the right order! And I/the leader did a good job obeying your “Yes” and “No” shouts. Do you know what else I noticed? What happened as soon as the cups were in the right order?** Pause for kids to respond. **Yes, you cheered with delight! Display the Josiah Wonder Truth Slide.** Today in God’s big story, we’ll learn about a king named Josiah who heard God’s Word and obeyed, and his obedience delighted God! Today’s Wonder Truth is **GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE.**



Make It Inclusive: Provide noise-canceling headphones for kids who may feel overwhelmed by loud activities.

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Moonwalk!

Ahead of time, clear out enough space for all the kids to stand up, spread out, and do active motions. This game works well with any size group, as long as there’s space for all the kids!

Display the Moonwalk! Slide. **Let’s play a game called Moonwalk! It’s quite simple. I’ll tell you what to do when you hear certain key words, then you’ll do the matching action.** Invite kids to stand up and spread out. **Here are the first two key words and their actions:**



When you hear “Moonwalk,” you’ll walk in place with exaggerated big, slow movements, like you’re walking on the moon. Let’s try that now. Pause for kids to practice the action.

When you hear “Asteroid,” you’ll drop to the floor. Let’s try that now. Pause for kids to drop to the floor and then stand up again.

Let’s begin! Alternate between saying, “Moonwalk” and “Asteroid” several times, pausing for kids to do the matching actions. Then introduce two more key words or phrases and their actions:

When you hear “Flying Saucer,” you’ll spin in a circle. Pause for kids to practice this action.

When you hear “Saturn,” you’ll do giant arm circles with both arms. Pause for kids to practice this action.

Continue the game. This time, alternate relatively quickly and in random order among the four prompts: Moonwalk, Asteroid, Flying Saucer, and Saturn. Give kids several seconds to do each action, then move to the next prompt. At this point in the game, it will become difficult (and possibly frustrating) for some kids. Keep it lighthearted and even silly, encouraging kids to do their best to keep up with all the actions!

After about one minute, pause to teach kids the final two key words and their actions:

When you hear “Sun Walk,” tiptoe quickly in place as though you’re walking on the very hot surface of the sun! Pause for kids to practice this action.

When you hear “Earth Walk,” walk leisurely in place and hum a little song of your choice. Pause for kids to practice this action.

Continue the game, alternating in random order among all six prompts: Moonwalk, Asteroid, Flying Saucer, Saturn, Sun Walk, and Earth Walk. If kids seem to have it down, speed the game up to make it more difficult for them to keep up with all the actions. Laugh with them as they try their best to obey each prompt—keeping the atmosphere fun!

If time allows, play several rounds and invite kids to take turns as the leader. Then if you're physically able, play the game alongside the kids. They'll surely delight in watching you play!

Leader Tip: To play this game as a competition, invite one leader or kid to be a referee. If they notice someone doing the wrong motion, they can tap them on their shoulder to indicate they're out of the game until the next round. The last kid playing wins!

Gather the kids back together. **Obeying all the instructions in this game was difficult, but I think we all still enjoyed the game! In fact, I found it delightful to watch you obey (or try to obey) my instructions! Display the Josiah Wonder Truth Slide. In God's big story today, we'll learn about a king named Josiah who followed God's instructions—and God delighted in his obedience! Our Wonder Truth today is GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE.**



Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the Josiah Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

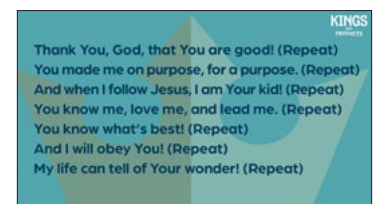
And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You know what's best! (Kids repeat.)

And I will obey You! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, we love You and are so thankful that You are with us. Help us to listen and understand Your Word today. Guide us to delight in Your Word just as You delight in our obedience. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

God loves us, and His ways are always good. Let's delight in Him as we worship through music! Play songs [Closer](#), [Over & Over](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

[Display the Josiah Title Slide](#). Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles.

Help kids recall that 2 Chronicles is in the Old Testament among the books of history that tell of real events that happened long ago. The books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles both tell the true story of King Josiah.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!

[Watch the God's Big Story Video](#)



Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. The read-aloud verses from today's passage skip around some. Invite younger kids to put a finger on 2 Chronicles 34 and leave it there as they listen carefully to the verses.

LESSON 5 JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: posterboards or large sheets of paper (2), permanent marker (prep only), masking or painter's tape (prep only)

Ahead of time, write the word "GOD" in large print at the center of one posterboard or large sheet of paper. Write "AWAY FROM GOD" in large print at the center of the other. Tape the "GOD" poster to the wall at the front of the room (where the leader or storyteller will be standing). Tape the "AWAY FROM GOD" poster to the wall on the opposite side of the room.

Leader Tip: If the size of your group or physical space makes it difficult for kids to line up shoulder to shoulder in the center of the room, invite kids simply to stand up, spread out, and walk toward and away from God during the story as prompted.

Invite kids to form a line in the center of the room, standing shoulder to shoulder. If you have a large group of kids, they can form several shoulder-to-shoulder lines, as long as there's space for each line to walk in the room.

Stand at the front of the room with the kids facing you. **I need your help telling today's part of God's big story! All of you will represent the people of Judah. Whenever the people of Judah follow God and His ways, you'll face the poster that says, "GOD."** Point to the "God" poster. **Whenever the people of Judah turn away from God, you'll turn away from the "GOD" poster and toward the "AWAY FROM GOD" poster.** Walk to the back of the room and show kids the "Away from God" poster. **Sometimes you'll even walk toward or away from God, so listen carefully and be ready!** Return to the front of the room where you'll start the story.

Does anyone remember who Solomon was? Allow kids to respond. **Yes! King Solomon was King David's son. After Solomon died, his son, Rehoboam (RAY-oh-boh-am), became king. Rehoboam had a disagreement with a guy named Jeroboam (jer-roh-BOHM), and things went downhill from there. Things got so bad that Jeroboam took a bunch of the tribes of Israel and formed a whole new country. Those tribes lived in the north and called their land Israel. The other tribes remained in the south and called their land Judah. Remember, that's who you're representing today—the people of Judah!**

For many years, there were two families of kings: one in Israel and one in Judah. But hardly any of the kings followed the Lord. Direct kids to turn around, so their backs are facing you. **The kings and their people worshiped many false gods.** Direct kids to take a step away from you (and toward the "Away from God" poster). **God's beautiful temple was filled with idols of false gods, and the people rebuilt altars to other gods all over the hills.** Direct kids to take a step away from you. **Judah had one king named Manasseh (muh-NASS-uh) who was so evil that God promised that all of Judah would be destroyed one day.** Direct kids to take a step away from you.

The nation had disobeyed God so much that they would not get to keep their homeland but would be sent away as slaves again.

Leader Tip: For Preteens. Help kids understand the context of the story by explaining that hills and mountains in the Ancient Near East were considered spiritual places because they were physically closer to heaven. Sadly, these "high places" were often used as places to worship false gods and build idols.

But then, evil Manasseh's grandson, Josiah, became king when he was only eight years old! Even though Josiah's family had been very wicked and had even killed innocent people, Josiah chose to follow God. Direct kids to face you (and the "God" poster) and take a step back toward you. **For 31 years, Josiah served God with his whole heart. In fact, the Bible says that "There was no king like Josiah either before him or after him. None of them turned to the LORD as he did. He obeyed the LORD with all his heart and all his soul. He obeyed him with all his strength" (2 Kings 23:25).**

Josiah told the priests to clean out the temple—to get rid of all the idols and to fix it up. Direct kids to take a step toward you. **While they were doing this, one of the priests found a scroll—part of God's Word—in the temple.**

They brought it to Josiah and read it to him. He had never heard it before. Can you imagine—God’s people had gotten so far away from Him and had worshiped so many other gods that they had never heard His Word before. It had become lost, and they didn’t know anything about it!

When Josiah heard the words from the scroll, he tore his clothes because he realized that he and the people hadn’t been obeying God at all. They had ignored His law.

The priests went to a prophetess named Huldah (HOOL-dah), who was a messenger of God. She told them that God was still going to discipline His people. But because King Josiah had delighted in obeying God’s Word, the discipline would not come while he was king. Direct kids to take a step toward you.

Josiah gathered all the people together and read God’s Word to them. Direct kids to take a step toward you. They made a new promise to obey God and His law. Direct kids to take a step toward you. Josiah went through all the land and tore down statues and shrines to false gods. Direct kids to take a step toward you. He got rid of the priests who worshiped false gods. Direct kids to take a step toward you. He cleansed the temple and the land from all the idols that the people had worshiped. Direct kids to take a step toward you. Then Josiah called the people together and had them celebrate the Passover—a holiday when everyone remembered all that God had done for them. Direct kids to take a step toward you.

Josiah turned everything around in his land. Direct kids to spin around in a full circle and face you again. Although the king knew he couldn’t change the past, and there would still be consequences for the people’s disobedience, King Josiah protected his people during his reign. God was delighted that Josiah obeyed Him. Josiah showed that it’s so important for us to walk in God’s way because God is in charge, and He is good. We can follow God because God delights in our obedience!

Leader Tip: While it may seem like God’s being unfair to King Josiah and the other Israelites, who were not individually responsible for their ancestors’ sins, the covenant that God made with the Israelites required their corporate obedience. At the same time, God is merciful to Josiah and his contemporaries, delaying the exile of the nation until after Josiah was no longer king.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Josiah Wonder Truth Slide.

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE**.

Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

The law showed people how to show the world what God is like. But by Josiah’s time, the law had been lost. When Jesus came, He showed us how to perfectly live out God’s law. John the disciple even says, “The Word became flesh ” (John 1:14 NIV). Through Jesus, we see what God is like and are shown what it means to reflect God to the world. God delights in our obedience as we reflect who He is to the world!



In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What surprised you most in this part of God's big story? What questions do you have about it?

Allow kids time to think and share their thoughts. It's OK if you don't have answers for their questions.

The act of asking questions can lead us to deeper places of wonder and discovery!

When King Josiah first heard God's Word read from the scroll, he tore his clothes because he was so upset that God's people had ignored His law! How do you think you would have responded? Why? Allow kids time to imagine and share openly.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.



WORSHIP VIDEO: [Holy](#)

Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: You are deeply loved by God, always and no matter what! May you obey Him this week as He delights in you!