



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

- Welcome Question: What is something that makes you really happy?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Day by Day Obey
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Delightful Obedience Stations



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

Pre–Service Connection (15–20 min)

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

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "**I'm curious..**" before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the questions:

- **What do you think makes God happy?**
- **Who are some people you obey? Why do you obey them?**

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

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 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, scissors (prep only), bowls (1 per small group)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Word of Wonder Instruction Cards (1 per small group),

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Word of Wonder Instruction Cards for each small group. Cut apart the cards and place them in bowls. Each small group should have its own bowl of cards.

The Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series reminds us that God rules over the whole earth, and He is with us! We know that when we obey God, it brings delight to Him! Let's say the verses together! Open your Bible to Psalm 46:10–11. Read Psalm 46:10–11 several times together.

Let's play a game to help us memorize our Word of Wonder. Explain that kids will choose a card from the bowl and then practice saying the Word of Wonder while obeying the instructions on the card. There are different ways to play the game—do what works best for your small group:

- One kid pulls a card and then all the kids say the verses together while following the instructions.
- Kids pull a card with a partner and say the verses as a pair while both kids follow the instructions.
- Kids take turns pulling a card one at a time and saying the verses by themselves. If they need help, they can invite a friend to say it with them.

For your reference, these are the instructions on the cards: Say the verses ... in a funny voice, while talking like a robot, while talking like a pirate, in a happy voice, in a whisper, while hopping on one foot, while spinning around, while jogging in place, while doing toe touches, and while clapping to the rhythm of the verses.

Make It Inclusive: If any kids in your group have limited mobility, select only the instruction cards that can be followed from a seated position and consider adding a few cards of your own that work for everyone.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

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 reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!

Invite three or four volunteers to take turns reading 2 Chronicles 34:1–3, 8, 14–21, 29–32 aloud to the group while the other kids follow along in their Bibles. Then do one or both of the following:

Elementary Questions

- **In the beginning of today's story, God's people were not being obedient. What were some of the ways they disobeyed God?** (Possible answers: worshiped false gods, filled God's temple with idols of false gods, rebuilt altars to other gods all over the hills)
- **Who was the young boy who became king at the age of eight?** (Josiah)
- **King Josiah was a good king who made good choices. What were some of the good choices he made while he was king?** (Possible answers: told priests to fix up the temple and clean out idols, listened to God's Word, read God's Word to the people, tore down statues to false gods, celebrated Passover; Josiah followed God with his whole heart!)
- **Why do you think King Josiah decided to be different and follow God?**
- **What happened to King Josiah and the people of Judah because they obeyed God?** (They were protected from the consequences for the disobedience of the people who lived before them.)
- **What are some ways we can obey God? Why do you think our obedience delights God?**

We saw in God's big story that God delights in obedience. This doesn't mean that God stops loving us when we're disobedient. God loves us always, no matter what! But He's sad when we don't follow Him because He wants His best for us. Just like Josiah made a hard choice to obey when others were not, we can choose to obey and follow God too! Let's talk with Him in prayer now.

Preteen Questions

- **In the beginning of today's story, God's people were not being obedient. What were some of the ways they disobeyed God?** (Possible answers: worshiped false gods, filled God's temple with idols of false gods, rebuilt altars to other gods all over the hills; Some evil kings even killed innocent people!)
- **What was the consequence of the people's disobedience?** (All of Judah would be destroyed one day, they would not get to keep their homeland, and they would be sent away as slaves.)
- **Josiah became king when he was eight years old! What made King Josiah different from the kings before him?** (Josiah followed God and served Him with his whole heart.)
- **What happened to King Josiah and the people of Judah because they obeyed God?** (They were protected from the consequences for the disobedience of the people who lived before them.)

- Do you think it's easy or difficult to walk in God's ways? Why?
- God delights in our obedience! What does that tell you about Him? How can you obey God this week?

We saw in God's big story that God delights in obedience. This does not mean that God stops loving us when we're disobedient. God loves us no matter what—His love is unconditional! But

He's sad when we don't follow Him because He wants His best for us. Just like Josiah made a hard choice to obey when others were not, we can choose to obey and follow God too! Let's talk with Him in prayer now.

Small Group Prayer Time

Invite kids to reflect and identify one area in which they would like extra prayer to help them obey God and walk in His ways this week. Some may want to share their one area out loud; others may want to keep it between themselves and God. Either is OK! Open the time up for kids to share any other prayer requests and praises. Allow kids to pray aloud in the group; then close the prayer out when they're done.

LARGE GROUP

refer to large group leader guide

Elementary Responding in Worship: Day by Day Obey

SUPPLIES: Bible, highlighter (optional), sticky tabs (optional)

Ahead of time, consider highlighting the following verses in your Bible and marking them with sticky tabs so you can flip to them quickly during this activity: Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:39, James 1:19, Ephesians 4:29.

God delighted in King Josiah's obedience, and He delights in our obedience too! Josiah chose to go against what others were doing and turn back to God. Obeying and following God isn't something that comes easily all the time. It's a choice we make, and sometimes it can be hard to do.

Hold up a Bible for kids to see. **God's ways are always good, and He always wants what's best for us. The Bible—God's Word—includes many wonderful instructions from God.** Invite kids to stand up and spread out.

There are many ways we can obey God every day. Let's practice some of them now! I'll read some of God's instructions to us from the Bible. After each one, I'll give you a chance to silently act out one way you can follow His instruction. Are you ready? Pause for kids to respond.

Read Deuteronomy 6:5, directly from the Bible if possible: **"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength."**

How can you obey God and love Him with all your heart? Silently act out one way you can love God! Pause for kids to quietly act out (like charades!) one way they can obey and love God.

Next, read Matthew 22:39, directly from the Bible if possible: **“And the second is like it. ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”**

Our neighbors are the other people in our lives. How can you obey God by loving other people? Silently act out one way you can love others! Pause for kids to quietly act out one way they can love others.

Next, read James 1:19, directly from the Bible if possible: **“My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry.”**

When can you listen before speaking? Silently act it out! Pause for kids to quietly act out calm listening.

Next, read Ephesians 4:29, directly from the Bible if possible: **“Don’t let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.”**

How can you obey God by speaking kind words to others? This time, act out one way you can show kindness to someone by saying one kind sentence out loud! Pause for kids to say something kind out loud.

Make It Inclusive: Kids who are especially energetic, including some with ADHD, often do well when given opportunities to help lead. Inviting a few kids to the front to demonstrate the actions can support their engagement and help others follow along.

Day by day, we can trust that God’s ways are good and obey Him! Let’s close this time by praying together! I will read a prayer to God, and at the end of every line, I’ll point to you, and you’ll say, “Day by day, I will obey!” Let’s practice it now. Point toward the kids and have them say, “Day by day, I will obey!”

Pray the following prayer, pointing toward the kids each time it’s their turn to pray:

God, You love me always and no matter what!

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

You always want what’s best for me!

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

The Bible is filled with Your good instructions.

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

And You delight in my obedience!

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

Amen.

Kids repeat: **Amen.**

Preteen Responding in Worship: Delightful Obedience Stations

SUPPLIES: masking tape; table or other hard surface; paper (printer and/or construction); art supplies such as paint, paint brushes, small cups of water, coloring utensils, pencils, glitter glue, paint markers; scissors (prep only); string (10" lengths, 1 per kid); beads; note cards (several per kid); writing utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Station Signs



Ahead of time, print the Station Signs. Set up these three stations and tape the respective sign next to each.

Art Station: Set out the following supplies at a table or on another hard surface: construction paper and/or printer paper and art supplies kids can use to write or paint simple prayers. Here are some ideas: paint/paintbrushes/small cups of

water, coloring utensils, pencils, glitter glue, paint markers.

Bracelets: Before kids arrive, cut the string into 10" segments. Set out the precut string and beads.

Journaling: Set out note cards and writing utensils.

Gather the kids together. **God delighted in King Josiah's obedience, and He delights in our obedience too! Josiah chose to go against what others were doing and turn back to God. Obeying and following God isn't something that comes easily all the time. It's a choice we make, and sometimes it can be hard to do.**

Take a moment to think about one way you can follow God this week. Maybe it's at home, at school, or in an after-school activity. Maybe it's a way you can follow God when you're with your family or hanging out with your friends. Give kids a few seconds to think quietly.

God loves you, and He delights in your obedience! God's ways are best, and He wants to help us follow Him! For the next few minutes, we're going to talk with God about how we can obey and follow Him this week. There are three Delightful Obedience Stations set up around the room where you can think and pray about how you can follow God this week. Visit each station, briefly explaining to kids what they can do at each station:

- **Art Station:** Kids will use the art supplies to write one way they want to obey and follow God this week. Then they can pray to God, to ask Him to help them, and they can decorate their papers—transforming them into works of art!
- **Bracelet Station:** Kids will create bracelets to wear this week to help them remember to obey and follow God, who loves them! They can pray to God and tell Him how they want to follow Him and asking Him for help!
- **Journaling Station:** Kids will write a prayer to God. They can tell Him how they want to follow Him this week and ask Him for help!

Leader Tip: As kids reflect at each station, encourage them to start by simply being still. They can invite God to fill their creative imaginations with ideas and thoughts about Him. How will they obey God this week? They can invite God to give them ideas!

As you create word art, make a bracelet, or journal, I invite you to talk quietly with God. Ask Him to help you obey and follow Him this week. Remember, He loves you and delights in your obedience! You can quietly go to any station you'd like. There are instructions at each one to help guide you.

Give kids time to move to a station of their choice. Encourage all leaders to be available to help kids read the Station Signs if needed and to tie their bracelets on. Softly play worship music from the [Kings and Prophets Elementary Spotify playlist](#) during this time. Consider circulating among the stations to pray for kids as they respond to God.

Make It Inclusive: If some kids struggle to focus or understand and follow instructions, pair them with a peer helper or offer them a seat near a leader who can encourage and help them as needed throughout the lesson.