



## Mustard Seed Sunday School

Lesson for November 12, 2006

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**“Josiah Brought Reform”**

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“The king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord . . . And all the people stood to the covenant” (II Kings 23:3).

**LESSON THEME:** Josiah led his people to return to obeying the law of God.

### SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

**II KINGS 22:8** And Hil-ki'ah the high priest said unto Sha'phan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the lord. And Hil-ki'ah gave the book to Sha'phan, and he read it.

**9** And Sha'phan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the lord.

10 And Sha'phan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hil-ki'ah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Sha'phan read it before the king.

**23:1** And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Ju'dah and of Je-ru'sa-lem.

2 And the king went up into the house of the lord, and all the men of Ju'dah and all the inhabitants of Je-ru'sa-lem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found In the house of the lord.

**3** And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the lord, to walk after the lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

21 And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

**22** Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Is'ra-el, nor in all the days of the kings of Is'ra-el, nor of the kings of Ju'dah;

23 But in the eighteenth year of king Jo-si'ah, wherein this passover was holden to the lord in Je-ru'sa-lem.

## TEACHER'S NOTES ON LESSON

Josiah became the sixteenth king of Judah. He reigned in Jerusalem over the southern kingdom. He was the son of Amon and Jedidah. Living in his day were Jeremiah and Zephaniah, who were prophets; Huldah, a prophetess; and Hilkiah, a priest.

Although Josiah's father and grandfather were wicked kings, he was like Hezekiah, his great-great-grandfather, who had a personal relationship with God.

Under Josiah's leadership the temple was cleaned out, idols were destroyed, and the worship of God was restored. His dedication to God and His Word saved Israel from destruction as long as Josiah lived.

This lesson emphasizes the importance of God's Word and our determination to obey it. Living as God's covenant people requires a love for the Word of God.

## THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children the importance of the Word of God in the daily life of a believer.

## TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Josiah acted righteously after hearing the Word of God.
2. The Bible is important to all believers.
3. The children need to learn from God's Word.

## PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For **Telling the Lesson**, you need to hide a Bible in the classroom. You will use the time line.

Before class, write on the chalkboard: "

1. The book of the \_\_\_\_\_
2. The book of the \_\_\_\_\_
3. The \_\_\_\_\_

For **Telling How to Live**, write Psalm 119:11 on the chalkboard. For each child you will need his promise box, two 3-by-5-inch cards, and pencils.

For **Helping to Remember**, from heavy stock paper cut a 2 1/2-by-8-inch bookmark for each child. Crayons and Bibles are also needed.

## BEGINNING THE LESSON

(Gather the children on the floor around you. Ask these questions and allow time for answers.) Have you ever lost something? Have you ever found something that you had forgotten about?

Something was lost in our lesson today. It was a special book. We will find out what book was lost. We will learn about a boy who knew this book was important.

## TELLING THE LESSON

(Gather the children around a table with Bibles.)

Today we will learn about a boy named Josiah and a hidden book. We will find out how old this boy was.

First we must review the books of the Bible listed on our time line. (Recite the books in unison. Then help the children find II Kings 22.) Find Josiah's age in verse one. At eight years old, Josiah was the youngest king in the Bible.

We will find out what kind of boy Josiah was. (Read II Kings 22:2; then read it together.) Would you like to have Josiah for a friend? Why? (Discuss.)

When Josiah had been king for eighteen years, he looked at the temple, the house of God. He was sad, for the temple was falling apart. No one took care of it.

Josiah sent men to repair the temple. God's house should look nice. The people had not taken care of it. They worshiped idols. They had forgotten God and God's house.

Josiah sent men to repair the temple. When the trash was cleaned out, a special book was found.

There is a special book hidden in our room today. See who can find it. (Allow time for the search.)

The special book found in the temple was the Word of God. It contained the words of our Old Testament. These books were written before Jesus was born.

The book was taken to Josiah. (Hold up the Bible.)

Look at verse 8 in II Kings 22 to find what Josiah called the book. (After finding the name, point to number 1 on the chalkboard. Ask a child to write "Law" on the line.)

Find another name for the book in II Kings 23:2. (Ask a child to write "Covenant" on the line in number 2.)

What do we call this book today? (Write "Bible" in number 3.)

The words in the book were read to King Josiah. It told of the covenant God had made long ago with His people. In the covenant God promised to bless them if they obeyed Him, but the people disobeyed and broke the covenant. God would no longer bless them. They would be captured by their enemies. They would suffer many bad things.

Josiah was troubled when he heard these words. He was very upset and frightened. His people disobeyed God, and they would be punished. He did not want this to happen to his people.

Josiah decided to do something about it. He read the words from the book to his people.

## **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

(Read together the words of Psalm 119:11 written on the chalkboard. Erase one word after each reading.)

Why is it important to read and learn the Bible? It helps us obey God.

(Distribute promise boxes, cards, and pencils. Instruct the children to write "Bible" on one card and "Read" on the other. They should put both cards in their promise box.)

Someone read the book to Josiah. You may ask someone to read the Bible to you.

## **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Distribute bookmarks and crayons. Write the word "Read" vertically on the chalkboard for the children to copy on their bookmarks. Let them decorate both sides.

Help the children find Psalm 119:11 in the center of their Bibles. Read the verse together; then have them use their bookmark to mark this verse. Encourage the children to read this verse every day.

## **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT**

**"The king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, . . . And all the people stood to the covenant" (II Kings 23:3).**

A covenant is an agreement between two or more people. Josiah agreed to obey God. The people agreed to obey God. They all promised to obey God.

117. THE BOOK OF THE LAW IS FOUND  
(2 KINGS 22:3-20)

H U M B L E D N Q K K Y D O D  
H B I O S O B C N W U H F N W  
T D Y B S R G V Y L N N B I T  
T C O J O M E S H A P H A N L  
R D B G S O C P M W U O E S A  
R W B W D J K C E W D K I N G  
Y K P H I R Z O A E H I H V O  
E I P Y I K O C F A K R T U A  
N E Y T A L H L I T L R L U P  
O D F I G G K S E Z H R O A A  
M N H M W H O I S H U E E O D  
W U T A A J K H A O T F L A D  
P O A L F G K R V H F Y U A D  
N F R A U D R E Y A L N W D W  
K P W C T V E M H U L D A H Y

BOOK OF THE LAW  
CALAMITY  
DOORKEEPERS  
FOUND  
HILKIAH

HULDAH  
HUMBLER  
JOSIAH  
KING  
MONEY

READ SHAPHAN  
THE LORD GOD  
WRATH

