



Use Week of:

Unit 15 • Session 2

Hezekiah and Josiah

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Chronicles 29; 34–35

STORY POINT: Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How did God plan to fix what sin broke?
God planned to send Jesus.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

After God's people split into two kingdoms—the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah—each nation was ruled by a series of kings. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was ruled by mostly bad kings (like Ahaz who worshiped idols and did not respect God, God's law, or God's prophets) and a handful of good kings. Hezekiah and his great-grandson Josiah were two notable reformers who had a lasting impact on Judah.

Hezekiah took the throne after evil Ahaz. During Hezekiah's reign, the kingdom of Israel—which had endured more than 200 years of bad kings—was captured by Assyria and ultimately destroyed. Hezekiah “did what was right in the LORD's sight just as his ancestor David had done” (2 Chron. 29:2) He destroyed the places of idol worship and cleansed the temple. The Lord was with Hezekiah, and Hezekiah prospered.

Then Hezekiah's son Manasseh became king. For 55 years, he led the people of Judah away from God, essentially reversing the progress Hezekiah had made. Manasseh's son Amon followed in his father's evil ways but was assassinated by his own servants. The people of Judah made Amon's son Josiah king when he was just 8 years old.

Unlike his father, Josiah began to seek God. He tore down the altars and idols of false gods, and he initiated the repairing of the Lord's temple. During the temple repair, the discovery of the book of the law of the Lord led Josiah to make a covenant to follow God and obey His commands. Those who heard the law vowed to do the same. When Josiah died, he was remembered as the greatest king in Judah. (2 Kings 23:25)

Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to follow His commands. They wanted God's people to love God and obey the law too. When Jesus came to earth, He fulfilled the law by obeying it perfectly.

The BIBLE Story

Hezekiah and Josiah

2 Chronicles 29; 34–35

The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many kings. Most of the **kings** were evil; they did wrong things and led the people away from God.

Hezekiah was not like the other kings. **Hezekiah** did what was right.

He **trusted God and obeyed Him**. Hezekiah made some changes around the kingdom. **He led the people to worship God again, and God blessed him.**



After Hezekiah died, his son became king. Hezekiah's son was the most evil king of Judah. He set up the idols Hezekiah had destroyed and led the people to worship false gods. He ruled for 55 years. Then his son became king. He was evil too, and he ruled for two years. Then his son **Josiah became king.**

Josiah was just a boy when he became the king of Judah, and he was **a good king**. He did what was right. When Josiah was a little bit older, he started to follow God. Josiah wanted people to obey God, but some people in Judah did things that God did not like. They worshiped idols—things that were not God. So Josiah got rid of the things people worshiped, and he destroyed the places where they were not supposed to worship.

The temple of God needed to be fixed. So Josiah collected money

for the workers to buy stones and wood. The workers would fix up the temple and make it like new again. While the workers were fixing the temple, the high priest found an old book. It was a very important book that Moses had written down long ago. The words were from God. The words told the people what they were supposed to do.

“I have found the book of the law!” the high priest said. When King Josiah heard the words from God’s law, he was very upset. He tore his clothes.

“God is very angry with us!” Josiah said. “Our people have not obeyed God for a long, long time. They did not do everything this book says to do!”

Josiah went to the temple of God. He invited all of the people to the temple, and he read the law to them. Josiah made a promise to God. “We will follow You and obey You,” Josiah said. “We will do what You want us to do.” All the people agreed. As long as Josiah was king, the people followed God and obeyed Him.

Christ Connection: Hezekiah and Josiah loved God and wanted to obey Him. They wanted God’s people to love God and obey Him too. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed the law perfectly.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Thumbs-up or down:** Encourage children to give a thumbs-up when you describe a good king or action and to give a thumbs-down when you describe a bad king or action.
- **Emphasize the Bible:** Before the session, hide a Bible near your storytelling area and create a small mess. Tidy up as you describe the workers fixing the temple and hold up the Bible as you describe the high priest finding an old book. Display the Bible reverently whenever you talk about the book of the law throughout the story.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Hezekiah and Josiah

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KEY PASSAGE: 2 Chronicles 7:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.

Welcome time

- “Come, Thou Fount” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Repair the Temple” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Guide preschoolers to draw a line connecting each shape with where it fits in the temple.

SAY • In our Bible story today, we will hear about how the temple of God needed to be fixed. The temple is where God met with His people, but the people had turned away from God and did not take care of His temple. It was falling apart, and there were even stones missing! Listen to the story to find out if the people turned back to God and fixed the temple.

LOW PREP

Guess the emotion

Show children an exaggerated expression and invite them to guess which emotion you are displaying. Continue play, allowing preschoolers to act out emotions as desired. Suggested emotions: happy, sad, brave, afraid, surprised, angry.

SAY • Good job recognizing the different emotions! The people in our Bible story today experienced some of these feelings. One person got so upset about something that he tore his clothes! Listen to our Bible story today to find out what upset him, and think about how you would feel.

Find the Word of God

Hide a Bible in the classroom and invite preschoolers to search for it. The child who finds it should announce “I found the Word of God!” Celebrate, then continue play as desired, inviting children to close their eyes while you hide the Bible again.

SAY • The Bible is God’s Word. It is the most important book there is! We should treat it that way! But in our Bible story today, the people had forgotten about God’s Word. They did not even remember where they left it. They were very surprised and upset when someone found the book of God’s law!

**LOW
PREP**

• Bible

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Select a child to be the “king” and lead everyone to Bible study performing whatever motion he chooses. Guide all the other children to follow and imitate the “king.”

• countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at 2 Chronicles 29 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • Today's story comes from the Book of 2 Chronicles in the Old Testament part of the Bible. The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Hezekiah and Josiah" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Judah had many evil kings that led the people away from God, but kings **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.** They loved God and wanted to obey Him. They wanted God's people to love God and obey Him too, but Hezekiah and Josiah were not perfect kings and none of the people obeyed God perfectly either. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed God's law perfectly. Jesus is the perfect king Who leads us back to God!

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at 2 Chronicles 7:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Ask the children to face the back of the room and try to recite the key passage alone. Then invite preschoolers to turn around and say it with you.

SAY • Our key passage is words God said when the temple had just been built. God knew that most kings would lead the people away from Him. But He promised to forgive them if they turned back to Him.

Sing the key passage song, “If My People,” and the theme song, “Come, Thou Fount.”

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “If My People” song
- “Come, Thou Fount” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God,** but other kings led the people away from God again. Even good kings couldn’t stop the people from sinning forever. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.*** When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed the law perfectly.

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • We are going to watch a video about a very special football team. This team is learning about football and Jesus. Winning games is fun, but these players now know that there are more important things than winning—knowing Jesus!

Show the “10:12 Sports (Part 1)” missions video. After the video, read 2 Samuel 10:12 aloud to preschoolers. Explain that 10:12 Sports gets its name from that verse.

- “10:12 Sports (Part 1)” missions video

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- “If My People” song (optional)
- “Come, Thou Fount” song (optional)

Play a game

Arrange chairs in a circle facing outward. Make sure there is a chair for each child. Place the key passage marker in a Bible. Place the Bible in one of the chairs. Invite children to stand in a circle around the chairs. Play music while children move around the chairs. When the music stops, each child should sit in a chair. (Tell the child to pick up the Bible before sitting rather than sitting on the Bible.) Instruct the child sitting in the chair with the Bible to open it to the key passage marker. Lead the group to say the key passage together.

SAY • The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many evil kings that led the people away from God. No one even knew what God’s Word said anymore! When the high priest found the book of God’s law, King Josiah invited all of the people to the temple, and he read the law to them so they would know how to obey. **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.** They wanted God’s people to love God and obey Him. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed the law perfectly and made the way for us to be forgiven!

- large piece of paper
- marker
- crown stickers

Make a chart

Draw two columns on a large piece of paper. Label the first

side “evil king” and the other side “good king.” Pass out crown stickers for the children to place in the appropriate column of your chart as you review the beginning of the story. Ensure that only two crowns land in the “good king” column and several crowns fill the “evil king” column. Finish by placing one crown above them all and name it “perfect king.”

SAY • The Southern Kingdom of Judah had many kings. Most of the kings were evil; they did wrong things and led the people away from God. Hezekiah and Josiah were not like the other kings. **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.** But after they died, more evil kings ruled Judah. When Jesus came to earth, He obeyed the law perfectly. Jesus is the only perfect King who always lives and can lead us back to God forever!

Build with stones and wood

If weather allows, go on a walk outside and encourage children to collect rocks and sticks. Bring preschoolers to a grassy area and invite them to work together to build a temple with the collected materials. If weather or space does not allow for going outside, collect rocks and sticks before the session to bring to class.

SAY • The temple of God needed to be fixed. So Josiah collected money for the workers to buy stones and wood. The workers would fix up the temple and make it like new again. But like our temple made from rocks and sticks, Josiah’s temple of wood and stone wouldn’t last forever either. Sin breaks everything in this world. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.***

• rocks (optional)
• sticks (optional)

Tip: Watch carefully to avoid sticks with thorns or ones that could cause splinters.

Clean up

- baby wipes
- paper towels
- tools such as small brooms & dustpans, dusters, or hand-held vacuums (optional)

Invite preschoolers to work together to clean the classroom. Provide baby wipes and paper towels for preschoolers to wipe surfaces. Consider providing small brooms and dustpans, dusters, and hand-held vacuums. Commend their efforts to serve your church.

SAY • The temple was where the people of God met to worship Him, like our church building. But the people of Judah had stopped worshipping God, and so the temple needed to be fixed. **Josiah led the people back to God** and fixed the temple. Taking care of the place where we worship God is one way we honor Him and help others worship Him, too.



Play catch

- small inflatable or foam balls
- “If My People” song (optional)
- “Come, Thou Fount” song (optional)

Guide preschoolers to work with a friend or small group of friends to toss and catch a ball. If space or safety does not permit tossing, guide preschoolers to sit on the floor and roll balls to one another. Sing a song about Jesus or play music as they toss and catch the balls.

SAY • Remember 10:12 Sports in Baltimore? A teenager in Baltimore named Jordan really liked to play football. He met Coach Sean who loves Jesus and told him that Jesus loves him too. Like **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God**, God used Coach Sean to lead Jordan to Jesus. Coach Sean and Jordan play football together, but now Jordan knows more about Jesus.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Hide a packaged snack in the room. Invite preschoolers to find the snack. Invite all preschoolers to the table and serve the snack. Talk about how the high priest found the book of God's law while the temple was being fixed. King Josiah invited all the people to the temple to hear God's law.

Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Were Hezekiah and Josiah prophets, priests, or kings? (*kings*)
2. Where did the high priest find the book of the law? (*in the temple*)
3. How did King Josiah feel when he heard the words from God's law? (*very upset*)
4. Could any of Judah's kings or people obey the law perfectly? (*no*)
5. ***How did God plan to fix what sin broke? God planned to send Jesus.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- packaged snack (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "If My People" song
- "Come, Thou Fount" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers