

13. Josiah (2 Kings 22:1–23:23)

He did what was right in the LORD'S eyes. (2 Kings 22:2)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Find the Scroll
Bible Verse Scroll
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Passover Snack
Find the Differences
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper | Scissors

Gather: Scroll from Session 7 (or, craft or parchment paper; yarn; paper towel rolls)

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: *Invite a special visitor: Pastor or Leader of church council* | Matzoth | Jam, apple butter, or other spread (optional)

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

The leader we are talking about today is Josiah, one of the few kings of Israel that was faithful to God. After King David, Israel did not fare well when it came to kings. King Solomon, David's son, began well when he asked God for wisdom. But he turned out to be self-serving and oppressive. As a result of his unfaithfulness, the kingdom was divided into two parts: Israel and Judah.

After the split, the kings in the northern kingdom (Israel) were all failures. Judah didn't fare much better. A few of Judah's kings tried to do right by God, like Asa, Jehoshaphat, and Hezekiah. But even these kings did not uphold the laws of the Torah.

Then along came Josiah. Josiah was only eight years old when he became king, an age at which children today would be in second or third grade. Josiah received high praise from the writer of Second Kings: "He did what was right in the LORD'S eyes, and walked in the ways of his ancestor David – not deviating from it even a bit to the right or left" (2 Kings 22:2).

One of the things Josiah did during his reign was order the LORD'S temple to be restored. During the renovation, the high priest, Hilkiah, found an "Instruction scroll" hidden away. As Josiah heard the scroll read, he was overcome with grief for he realized the people had not been following the Law.

King Josiah read the discovered scroll to all the people and made a covenant with God to follow God's commandments. He urged the people to once again be faithful to God. Josiah then ordered that all religious objects made for Baal be removed from the temple. Josiah also set out to desecrate all the shrines to other gods in the areas around Jerusalem. Josiah ordered the people to begin celebrating Passover again as described in the discovered scroll. Passover had not been celebrated since the judges ruled over Israel. King Josiah demonstrated many qualities of a good leader.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15-18) at eye level. Put together the model of the school and the figures of Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “Be a Leader” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings.
- Help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
- Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the school and the Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.

TIP: *Have a quiet space in your room with books and soft toys for children who are not quite ready to join in an activity when they arrive.*

A—Find the Scroll (Game)

Before class: Create a scroll (see p. 46), or use the one the group made in Session 7.

- Have one child hide the scroll somewhere in the room while the other children close their eyes.
- Have the children search for the scroll. The child who finds it will be the next child to hide the scroll.
- Play until each child who wants to hide the scroll has had a turn or as time and interest allows.

OR

B—Bible Verse Scroll (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Read the instructions for Activity Sheets—Session 13. Decide which option you will use and set up the activity accordingly.

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheet—Session 13.
 - Invite the children to complete the scroll according to the option you select.
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Transition to Explore

- Give the children a rule such as, “You must walk on your tiptoes.” Have them follow the rule as they move to the Bible story circle.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: This month we are hearing stories about great leaders from the Old Testament part of the Bible. We have learned about Deborah and how she helped people solve problems and helped to lead Barak's army, about David who became a king, and about a servant girl who helped Naaman. I wonder who we will learn about today.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about a young boy who became king. We will find out about an important thing that happened when he was older.

- Tell the children the story, "Faithfulness" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 164).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 13 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: When have you been a leader? (*Allow time for the children to respond.*)

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Josiah" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 13).
 - Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 3 (Class Kit—p. 7) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 93 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 3 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Give the children a rule such as, "You must hop on one foot." Have them follow the rule as they move to the next activity.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 2) on a wall or bulletin board.

Invite a guest to join your class who is a pastor or church council leader. Share with the guest before the session that he or she will be explaining his or her role at the church and how leadership is a part of that role. Share that the children will be invited to ask the guest questions.

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: Josiah was a great leader and king. Today our guest is a (*pastor or church council leader*). (He or she) is going to tell us a little about how leadership is a part of the role (he or she) does at our church.

- Introduce your guest. Invite your guest to describe his or her job and the ways God helps him or her to be a good leader. Invite the children to ask the guest questions.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for (visitor's name). Please be with (visitor's name) as (he or she) shares (his or her) talent with others. Help (visitor's name) to be a good leader and to remember that you are always with (him or her). Amen.

A—Passover (Snack)

Before class: Always check for allergies and have the children wash their hands before activities involving food.

SAY: The instruction scroll that Josiah found reminded the people that it was important to follow God's laws. One of the things God wanted them to do was to celebrate Passover. On Passover, Jewish people eat unleavened bread, or *matzo* (MAHT-suh), to remind them of when the Jewish people escaped Egypt. Have you ever eaten matzo? Let's try some.

- Give each child a napkin and a piece of matzo to try.

OPTION: Provide jam, apple butter, or other spread for the children to eat with the matzo. Provide plastic spoons or knives for spreading the jam or other spread.

OR

B—Find the Differences (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of "Find the Differences" (p. 84) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Find the Differences," and invite the children to circle the differences and color the pictures. Help as needed.

TIP: This puzzle is a little bit more challenging. An answer key can be downloaded from www.DeepBlueKids.com/This-Sunday.

Transition to Bless

- Give the children a rule such as, "You must touch your forehead." Have them follow the rule as they move to the Bible story circle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 23) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 3—Bible Story Mural on a wall or bulletin board.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of young King Josiah to the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “Lamp Light” (Class Kit—p. 31).

TIP: *If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.*

Blessing

- Invite the children to stand in a circle.
- Turn to one of the children and say, “(Child’s name), God loves you!”
- Invite that child to turn to the child next to him or her and say, “(Child’s name), God loves you!”
- Continue around the circle until every child has had a turn to speak and hear a blessing.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for leaders like Josiah and like (visitor’s name). Help us to be good leaders too. Thank you for always being with us no matter where we go. Amen.

At Home with God

ASK: What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy Bible Story Sheets—Session 13. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 13 with each child.

We want to hear from you! You can help us continue to provide resources that are relevant, engaging, and helpful. We highly value the comments and observations of our children’s ministry partners. Please send us your feedback by completing the brief survey on our website: www.deepbluekids.com/surveys

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Find the Differences

