

Unit 15 • Session 2
October 26-27, 2019
2nd-3rd Lesson
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? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

Kid Connect
(10 minutes)

Large Group
(30 minutes)

Small Group
(20 minutes)

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.



Kid Connect

Welcome time

[Intro Music](#)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about how they could tell if a person believes God's Word.

SAY • If someone said she loved God and cared about what He said in His Word, would you expect her to obey God's Word? What if that person saw many people disobeying God? What do you think she might do? Today we will hear about a king of Judah who saw the disobedience of God's people and was very sad.

Transition to Large Group

LARGE GROUP

Countdown

[VIDEO: Countdown](#)

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Large Group game *Halloween Edition*

[SFX: Game Intro Music](#)

[VIDEO: Halloween Music/Countdown](#)

Mouthful of Dirt

Pumpkin buckets, Cocoa Pebbles, bugs, spoons, bowls

To setup the game, fill each of the pumpkin buckets about 3/4 full with Cocoa Pebbles Cereal. It will look like dirt. Once each bucket is filled, add in a handful of gummy or plastic insects and shake the pumpkin to mix them into the "dirt," making sure they are not visible from the top of the bucket. Place one large "dirt" filled pumpkin, one spoon, and one bowl next to each other on a table for each contestant.

Select 2 kids to play the game (1 boy and 1 girl). You can also choose the 2 best costumes in the room. Have them stand behind their buckets. When you say go, they must put the spoon in their mouth and, using only the spoon, dig in the dirt for bugs. As they find a bug, they must transfer it using only the spoon from the large pumpkin into the bowl. Whoever digs out the most bugs when the timer ends wins!

Worship

[VIDEO: The River](#)

[VIDEO: Let Revolution Start](#)

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

leader attire, mailbox, letter

[Leader enters wearing casual clothing. He or she walks to the mailbox and opens it, withdrawing a letter from within.]

Leader • Howdy, neighbors! I'm just checking my mail again. I love getting mail. *[Glance at letter.]*
Hmmm, this is an official letter from the city council. *[Open the letter and pretend to read.]* It



says here they are changing the city bylaws to provide larger bins for recycling. I can expect the city to deliver the larger bin next week, or I can go pick up a bin if I have a way to transport it.

Normally, mail from the city is a little boring, but this is pretty great. I can really get behind this kind of reform. *Reform* means to change something in a way that improves it or makes it right again. I'm a big fan of recycling. God created this beautiful world for us to enjoy, and I think it's important to take care of it and use resources responsibly.

You know, God's Word is like a letter to people. It tells us about His love for us, and it also tells us His laws. Today, I want to tell you a story about a time God's people had wandered far from Him, and about the kings who helped lead the people back.

Big picture question (1 minute)

CG: Big Picture Question

Leader • To guide our learning, let's review our big picture question and answer. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.* God knew all along that we would reject Him and choose sin. He created the world anyway because He is glorious and loving. When Adam and Eve sinned, He did not abandon the world but continued His plan to fix the brokenness caused by sin.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

CG: Giant Timeline

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

Leader • God's people were living in two kingdoms, the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. In both kingdoms, the effects of sin were causing all kinds of problems. Last week, we learned that **the prophet Isaiah told about the Messiah**. God saw His people's sin and brokenness and refused to leave them there. Despite God's good promise, the kings of Judah were still leading the people away from God to worship false gods and idols. That's where our story picks up today. It's called "Hezekiah and Josiah."

Watch the Bible story

Bible

VIDEO: Hezekiah and Josiah

CG: Bible Story Picture

CG: Story Point

CG: Big Picture Question

Show the Bible story video "Hezekiah and Josiah."

Leader • The Southern Kingdom of Judah had been ruled by many kings over a few hundred years. Ahaz was the sixteenth king of Judah, and he was not a good king. The Bible says he did not do what was right like his ancestor David; instead, he was like the kings of Israel who worshiped idols and trusted in other nations for protection.

When Ahaz died, his son Hezekiah became king. Hezekiah was 25 years old when he became king. Was Hezekiah a bad king like his father? (*No.*) Hezekiah started making changes in Judah. He led the people to worship God again. When he died, his son Manasseh became king. Do you think Manasseh was a good king like his father? (*No.*) Manasseh was not a good king; neither was his son Amon. Finally, Amon's son Josiah took the throne. Was Josiah a bad king like his father and grandfather? (*No.*) Josiah was a good king like his great-grandfather Hezekiah.

Do you know how old Josiah was when he became king? [*Allow kids to respond.*] He was just



eight years old! Josiah decided to repair the Lord's temple, and what important thing was found? (*the book of the law*) Those Scriptures revealed what God wanted from His people. Josiah realized the people of Judah had not been obeying God, so Josiah shared God's law with the people. Both **Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God.**

Christ connection

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Leader • 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. Then, despite having no sin, Jesus died on the cross as a sinner should die. He paid the penalty for our sin. When Jesus rose again on the third day, it proved that His sacrifice was enough to defeat sin once and for all. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will be forgiven and receive new life from God.

Key passage

CG: Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read together 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Leader • Our key passage comes from the time right after Solomon finished building the temple. God reminded Solomon that, even though the people would not be faithful to Him, He would love them and restore them whenever they called out to Him. He remains faithful even when we do not. He sent Jesus to rescue us while we were His enemies.

Pray and dismiss to small group

Before we head to small groups, I want to let everyone know that this weekend we are having baptisms. Baptism is a celebration where a person shares that they have decided to follow Jesus. Do we have any kids in here getting baptized today? (*If so, celebrate with kids*) I want to encourage everyone to go outside and cheer on all our friends getting baptized today right after service.



SMALL GROUP

Session Title: 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

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster, "Key Passage Flip Cards" printable

Display the "Key Passage Flip Cards". Help the kids fold the cards in half so that only one level is visible at a time. The kids will start on level one and fill in the missing words. After completing each level, kids will flip the card and fold back the completed levels to work on the next level without peeking at the completed levels.

SAY • Great job filling in the missing words on those flip cards! Our key passage reminds us that God wants to forgive us. He wants us to repent of, or turn away from, our sin and follow Jesus. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us new life.

The great wind blows

The game is simple. One person in the middle starts by saying "Great wind blows for everyone who..." and then says any characteristic that is true for that person. For example, if the kid has been to Lego Land before, he or she can say, "Great wind blows for everyone who has been to Lego Land." All players who have been to Lego Land before must stand and quickly find a new seat that is more than 2 seats away from them. If the player is not able to find a vacant seat, he or she is the new kid who is in the middle.

Discussion questions

Why is the Bible important for knowing God? *Guide kids to identify the Bible as the Word of God. Lead them to think of the Bible as God's love letter to His people. It tells us what God has done to rescue people. We know who God is and who we are because of what God has said in His Word. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:9-11.)*

How can we show God's Word is special to us? *Invite kids to discuss evidence that the Bible is important to a person. Help them identify ways to love God's Word through reading the Bible regularly, studying the Scriptures, memorizing Scripture, telling others about the Bible, and so forth. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 119:103.)*

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils, Journal Page, "Compare Kings" activity page, 1 per kid

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for His love for us. Pray that God would reveal Himself to kids through His Word.

Connect with parents/Influencers

Send home the activity page for families to interact with during the week.

