

Unit 15 • Session 2
October 26-27, 2019
K-1 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

[VIDEO: Intro Music](#)

Welcome time

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 them 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.]* Hmm, 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 • Most of Judah's kings were evil men. But God raised up some kings who loved Him. Hezekiah was one of those good kings. He loved God and led the people to love God too. Sadly, when Hezekiah died, his son became another evil king, as did Hezekiah's grandson. Hezekiah's great-grandson was different, though.

Josiah, though only a boy when he became king, went on to be a very good king, who passed a lot of laws to lead the people back to God. But despite all the good things Josiah did, God's people eventually would turn away from God again.

Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God, but good kings were not good enough. God's people needed a perfect King. God's people needed a Savior!

You see, God had a plan to fix the damage caused by sin. Good kings passing good laws to help people obey God was not the end of God's plan; that was just one small step toward the completion of God's plan. *How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.*

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 (5 minutes)

[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 when 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

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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.

Obey right away

Invite the kids to stand on one side while selecting one kid to stand on the opposite side of the group. He/she will issue commands. The other kids must obey the commands as quickly as they can. (examples: touch your toes, hop on one foot, do a push up, do the floss). The last kid to obey will be out. Play until one kid remains. The winner will issue commands in the next round. Play as time allows.

SAY • To win that game, you had to listen carefully and obey as soon as you heard the command. In our story today, we will learn that God's people had been disobeying Him for a long time. As soon as a certain king saw how disobedient God's people had been, he made changes to help the people obey.

Lost without you

Select a volunteer to describe a person who is very important to them without saying who it is. Allow the kids a minute or two to ask yes-or-no questions about the person to figure out who the volunteer is describing. Whoever guesses correctly will describe an important person in the next round.

SAY • All those people sound very special! Certain people—such as our moms, dads, grandparents, or teachers—can have a really big impact on our lives. But no one has as big of an impact on our lives as God. God's people had wandered far from Him, and their nation was a mess. God's people needed God to help them love and obey Him. We need God in the same way. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us new life. Our hearts can then love and obey God. We'd be lost without God!

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils and crayons, paper, Bible Story Coloring Page (1 per kid)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to draw while answering the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?
- What can we pray for this week?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

