

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Now More than Ever - Week of August 3

## Introduction

What can happen in a generation? Today's story of young King Josiah on the throne of Judah at eight years old is nothing short of incredible *and* it was a fulfillment of prophecy. Josiah's heart to follow God led him to clean house for God – indeed the entire land of Israel and Judah. Today's message reminds us the LORD can use anyone whose heart turns fully to him. Josiah's national and spiritual reform was prophesied years before he was born.

When Rehoboam, son of Solomon, had unwisely followed the counsel of his peers, and ruled God's people harshly instead of accepting the advice of his elders and ruling with love and justice, God allowed the nation of Israel to become divided. This had been foretold when Solomon, in his later years, forsook the LORD his God for all the idols of the foreign women he had married (1 Kings 11:9-13).

However, for the sake of God's covenant to David, God allowed Rehoboam to continue ruling Judah. But ten tribes broke away from Judah... and the northern territories of Israel were given to Jeroboam son of Nebat. Jeroboam was given an opportunity to devote himself to the LORD, the God of Israel, and rule righteously (see 1 Kings 11:29-39). Would Jeroboam follow the LORD?... or would he instead follow his own desires and lead Israel away from God? Jeroboam led the people of Israel away from God. He set up two calf idols in the north of Israel – one in Dan and one in Bethel, at either end of his kingdom – and the people of Israel never recovered from this apostasy.

Jeroboam allowed anyone to serve as priest and further mocked God's Word by instituting a demonic religious festival in imitation to the Festival of Shelters in early fall. In one generation both Rehoboam and Jeroboam led God's people to near ruin – (1) Rehoboam to irreparable national division and (2) Jeroboam to detestable worship of self and idolatry (for background see 2 Chronicles 10:1-19; see also 1 Kings 12:25-33). One day, as Jeroboam is offering sacrifices on one of his pagan altars, God sends a prophet from Judah to Bethel:

“...O altar, altar! This is what the LORD says: A child named Josiah will be born into the dynasty of David. On you he will sacrifice the priests from the pagan shrines who come here to burn incense, and human bones will be burned on you” (1 Kings 13:2).

## Background

God has the power to raise up whomever he chooses for his name to be honored, even a child. What do you do when all hope seems lost? When in one generation, devotion to God goes sideways and God's Word is scorned, ignored, and replaced with devotion to evil and demonic practices? God moves and ... ‘a little child will lead them all’ back to God (Isaiah 11:6). Jesus said: “Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children” (Mark 10:14). God is still on the throne of Heaven (Psalm 103:29) and he will fulfill his Word in his timing. The psalmist declares: “You have taught children and infants to tell of your strength, silencing your enemies and all who oppose you” (Psalm 8:2). We must pay attention to what our Lord Jesus Christ says, for he rules in uncontested authority in the unseen realm:

“Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority”  
(1 Peter 3:22).

If Jesus says, *Let the little children come to me*, then we must value the children he is raising up.

## Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-18, 29-33

Christ Church lives by six core values. These core values are in the acronym **C-H-R-I-S-T**. The first letter, C – *Children matter to Jesus so we will provide with excellence ministry with children and students so they might know Christ personally and become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ*. Scripture does not say who specifically invested in young Josiah, except that upon his father's assassination after ruling Judah only two years, “... the people of the land killed all those who had conspired against King Amon and made his son Josiah the next king” (2 Chronicles 33:25). Kings tells us his mother was ‘Jedidah’ (2 Kings 22:1). And both accounts in Kings and Chronicles tells us Josiah did *what was pleasing in the LORD's sight and followed the example of his ancestor David and did not turn from doing what was right* (2 Kings 22:2; 2 Chronicles 34:2).

Surely someone invested in young Josiah; perhaps several persons ... maybe his mother, godly leaders or a priest like Hilkiah, perhaps someone who knew of his grandfather's radical repentance and God's mercy after ruling many years ruthlessly and wickedly (2 Chronicles 33:1-20). Whomever it was, one thing is for sure: Josiah *chose* to honor the LORD and *live* for truth when he heard the warnings in the scroll of the Law of the LORD. He tore his clothes and repented, which in turn influenced the people to follow his lead in ridding the entire land of Judah *and* Israel of every trace of idolatry and pagan worship.

## Discussion

- Josiah put God first. What is the difference in being a *hearer* of the Word and a *doer* of the Word? (James 1:21-22)
- Josiah practiced repentance. To repent means *to turn* in thought and practice. When we humble ourselves before God in true repentance, we will go in a new direction. Others will follow our lead, as with King Josiah. How does James 4:7-10 shed light on how King Josiah responded to the truth of God's Word, as recorded in 2 Kings 23:12-20; what is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through these scriptures?
- True repentance means 'Cleaning House for God'! How does your spiritual house – your heart, mind, thoughts, will need cleaning?
- What about your physical house? Is your physical home in chaos and disorder, as though it were a living metaphor of the garbage in your soul?

In early Methodism, John Wesley instructed his lay pastors to ask all participants of the Class Meetings: *"How is it with your soul?"*

- Appropriate confession leads to healing and restoration: "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16). Close in a time of prayer. Allow this to be a time of recommitment and cleaning house, so you are freed up to invest into the young people of Christ Church. God is calling us to repent, and he may very well raise up an eight-year-old to blaze the trail. What can happen in a generation when a young person chooses to do what is right? An entire nation can experience revival!

## One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

August 3: 2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33, Romans 16:10-27, Psalm 26:1-12, Proverbs 20:19  
August 4: 2 Chronicles 35:1-36:23, 1 Corinthians 1:1-17, Psalm 27:1-6, Proverbs 20:20-21  
August 5: Ezra 1:1-2:70, 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5, Psalm 27:7-14, Proverbs 20:22-23  
August 6: Ezra 3:1-4:23, 1 Corinthians 2:6-3:4, Psalm 28:1-9, Proverbs 20:24-25  
August 7: Ezra 4:24-6:22, 1 Corinthians 3:5-23, Psalm 29:1-11, Proverbs 20:26-27  
August 8: Ezra 7:1-8:20, 1 Corinthians 4:1-21, Psalm 30:1-12, Proverbs 20:28-30  
August 9: Ezra 8:21-9:15, 1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Psalm 31:1-8, Proverbs 21:1-2

# Now More Than Ever

**Text: 2 Chronicles 34:1–13, 29–33; Mark 10:13–16**

C - Children matter to Jesus so we will provide with excellence ministry with children and students so they might know Christ and become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

## PLAIN TRUTH

\_\_\_\_\_ in the next generation is how  
God uses us to \_\_\_\_\_.

1. God can use young people to \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Someone \_\_\_\_\_ in Josiah - So will you \_\_\_\_\_ in this \_\_\_\_\_?

- Showing up.
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ in someone's \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ with someone for the \_\_\_\_\_ - through mess and immaturity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a 3rd grade children's ministry class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ over a teenager when you see them in our church building.
- \_\_\_\_\_ a single mom who is in a bind and needs help with her kids.

3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ the young—and so should \_\_\_\_\_,



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**August 3, 2025**