

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to study and obey the Bible.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that heroes study and obey God's Word.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 22:1-4, 8-11, 23:1-5, 21-23, Josiah

MEMORY VERSE:

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

The people had forgotten God and his commandments. They made idols and began worshiping false gods. When the Book of God's Law was found, King Josiah lead the people back to following the one true God and celebrating Him.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the wisdom we can find in the Bible.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NirV)

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NIV)

"So those who are last now will be first then, and those who are first will be last." Matthew 20:16 (NLT)

"So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen." Matthew 20:16 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Write each word of the verse on a poster board. Bring enough kids on stage so each kid can hold one of the words. Then have the kids unscramble the words and put them in order on stage so it can be read by the audience.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

SKIT

THE YOUNG KING

ITEMS NEEDED:

A "BibleCon" sign (see description below)
A table and chair set up for autographs
An autograph book

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

2M

CHARACTERS:

Ernie - A Bible fan
Josiah - A king

Josiah sits at the autograph table with a sign in front that say, "BibleCon Welcomes Josiah."

Ernie enters with his autograph book.

ERNIE: Excuse me? When is Josiah coming back to the table?

JOSIAH: You want an autograph from Josiah?

ERNIE: Sure I do!

JOSIAH: Wow. Most people who come to these conventions skip right past this table. They want to meet the Davids and Solomons. The big kings, you know?

ERNIE: I know, I know, but I have a fondness for these lesser known heroes like Josiah.

JOSIAH: Really? What is it about Josiah you like so much?

ERNIE: Are you kidding? What's not to love about the boy king who brought his people back to God?

JOSIAH: You admire that, huh?

SKIT

ERNIE: I love that about him. Josiah's forefathers had all been wicked kings who led the people away from God. Josiah was only eight when he became king, and what did he do?

JOSIAH: Go on, you're doing great!

ERNIE: When he first heard the words of God, he felt horrible. He begged God's forgiveness, and he dedicated his life to bringing the people back to God.

JOSIAH: He sure did.

ERNIE: Josiah inspires me.

JOSIAH: How so?

ERNIE: He shows me that anyone can be a hero. Even a kid!

JOSIAH: And how do we do that?

ERNIE: We study God's Word, and we apply it to our lives.

JOSIAH: You got it!

ERNIE: When we obey the Word of God, we can set an example others will follow.

JOSIAH: Easier said than done, but yes. When we obey God, it does set the example for others.

ERNIE: So where is he?

JOSIAH: You're looking at him.

ERNIE: What? You? You can't be Josiah! You're an adult!

JOSIAH: Hey, I didn't stay eight years old forever. And I was eighteen when I first heard the word of God.

ERNIE: Oh.

JOSIAH: But from that day forward, I obeyed God's Word and led my people back to a relationship with God.

ERNIE: That is awesome! Can you sign my book?

SKIT

JOSIAH: Be happy to!

Josiah signs the book.

ERNIE: Thanks, your majesty.

JOSIAH: There's only one King over all of us, my friend, and that's the Lord. Study the Word and obey Him.

ERNIE: I will, Josiah. Thank you.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Sheet music

There's an old joke about a man who met the conductor of the orchestra in New York City. The man asks the maestro, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" The maestro replies, "Practice, practice, practice!"

Anyone who has ever taken music lessons will tell you practice is crucial to learning your instrument. Whether it's the piano, the trombone, the flute, or even the drums, the more we study our music and practice, the better we will get.

The same thing happens when we study God's Word. The more we know the Bible, the more we will apply it to our lives. When we obey God's Word, we set an example for others. It doesn't matter if you're eight, eighteen, or eighty, you can be a hero by setting the example through a life that honors God.

If you're a musician, keep practicing daily. Whether you're a musician or not, study God's Word daily. It will change your life, and it will make you a hero to others.

LARGE GROUP GAME

ALPHABETIZE YOURSELF

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Pick two groups of about ten kids. The groups will race to see which group can line themselves up in alphabetical order the quickest. First team to complete this task wins.

VARIATION:

You can play this game with the whole room, dividing the kids up into equal groups of about 10-15 each.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Just as the winning team got themselves in order, Josiah became a hero by listening to God and putting them back in order.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to study and obey the Bible.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that heroes study and obey God's Word.

KEY PASSAGE:

2 Kings 22:1-4, 8-11, 23:1-5, 21-23, Josiah

INTRO:

Super heroes do an awful lot in the pages of comic books. They chase villains. They search for clues. They do intensive research. They fall into traps. They throw punches. Some of them even find time to work another job and yes – go to high school. But there's one big unknown that you rarely, if ever see. We never see super heroes practice.

I suppose some heroes, like Superman, don't really need to practice skills like flying and deflecting bullets, but other heroes certainly need some rehearsal before they go into battle.

Batman didn't wake up one morning with the ability to throw batarangs with pinpoint accuracy. He spent hours practicing his skills, one toss at a time. Batman probably poured through journals and websites daily, learning new crime fighting techniques and new ways to solve crimes. He spent time testing and researching new gadgets, creating new, clever devices to add to his utility belt.

I guess comic book writers don't want to bore us with these details, but there's no doubt super heroes practice, practice, practice their most important skills so they can be on top of their game. Spending time honing your craft is essential to any skill, whether it's shooting a basketball, playing an instrument, or even drawing super heroes on paper. Heroes put in the time to practice, to study, to get better so they can be better heroes.

As Christians, we have been given a great gift. We have the Bible, God's Holy Word, that teaches us who God is, who we are, and how we can live a godly life. The power of God can be found in these pages, and when we take the time every day to read and study God's Word, we will find the wisdom, the courage, and the power to become heroes of the faith.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Such was the case with a young boy who, at the age of eight, became king. Josiah took the throne during a dark time. God's people had strayed far away from their faith, and when a teenage Josiah heard God's Word for the first time, he realized how far they had fallen. This is the story of a hero who used God's Word to bring God's people back to Him!

READ 2 KINGS 22:1-4, 8-11, 23:1-5, 21-23

MAIN POINT:

There's a reason Josiah became king at age eight. His father, a wicked and ungodly king, was killed by his own advisors. His grandfather had been an evil king as well, and the two of them had Judah far away from God. They worshipped false gods and idols, and they had greatly displeased the Lord. Being so young, Josiah had not yet learned to follow these false and wicked gods. He was fortunate to have godly men around him, and when Josiah learned about the one true God, he felt sorry for the sins of his ancestors.

God used Josiah to bring repentance to the land. Josiah did everything he could to stop people from worshipping false gods and renew the covenant with the Lord. He was a good king who had the courage to lead his people back to the Lord. Josiah shows us the power of God's Word. Not only did it stir the heart of a king, it changed the heart of his nation.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It's easy to think that you're just kids and that you can't do big things for God. You don't have power. You don't have authority. Some of you may have taken leadership roles in classrooms or on teams, but let's face it. Only adults have real power, right?

That doesn't mean you can't have a positive influence on others. Like Josiah, we can become followers of God who inspire others to worship the one true God. But before we do that, we must make Josiah's God our God. We must practice our faith by studying the Bible, meditating on God's Word, and obeying God's teachings.

Josiah had no idea there was one true God who had made a promise to watch over His people. He was horrified to learn how his father and grandfather had led the people away from God. The words of God inspired Josiah to set his own heart right and lead his people back to God. When we study God's Word, He will set our hearts right as well. He will show us how to set an example, to love as Jesus loved us, and to become a hero in our sinful times.

Of course none of this matters if we don't take the next step and obey God. The world is used to Christians who know and preach the Bible but do not practice it themselves.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

When we obey God's Word, avoiding sin and showing true love and compassion for others, God can use us to bring others to Him just like Josiah.

Super heroes become super through practice, through study, through hard work. When we study God's Word and obey what He commands, we become real heroes who can change our own world and lead others to Jesus. Let's make a commitment to study the Word of God, and let's ask for obedient hearts so we can become true heroes like Josiah.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all the wisdom we can find in the Bible.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

If you became king or queen, what's the first command you would give?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 20:16

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pick one kid to lead the group in some exercises - jumping jacks, toe touches, push ups, etc. Whatever the leader does, everyone must listen and follow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Kings 22:1-4, 8-11, 23:1-5, 21-23

How old was Josiah when he became king?

What book did they discover when Josiah was eighteen?

What did Josiah do when he heard God's Word for the first time?

What makes Josiah a hero?

Why is it important to study the Bible?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to study your word and to obey your teachings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

If you became king or queen, what's the first command you would give?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Matthew 20:16

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pick one kid to lead the group in some exercises - jumping jacks, toe touches, push ups, etc. Whatever the leader does, everyone must listen and follow.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 2 Kings 22:1-4, 8-11, 23:1-5, 21-23

Why did Josiah become king at such a young age?

What did Josiah do when he heard God's Word for the first time?

Why did Josiah want to bring his people back to God?

Why is it important to study the Bible?

Can you commit to reading the Bible every day in the coming week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to study your word and to obey your teachings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

FILL IN THE BLANK

_____ was eight years old when he became king.

JOSIAH

When Josiah was _____, the book of the law was found in the temple.

EIGHTEEN

When Josiah heard the Word of God, he tore his _____.

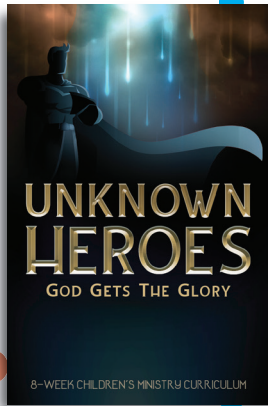
ROBES

Josiah is a _____ because he listened to and obeyed God's Word.

HERO

God wants us to study the _____ and do what it says.

BIBLE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Unknown Heroes Lesson 4

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JOSIAH



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The people had forgotten God and his commandments. They made idols and began worshiping false gods. When the Book of God's Law was found, King Josiah lead the people back to following the one true God and celebrating Him. 2 Kings 22:1-4, 8-11, 23:1-5, 21-23, Josiah



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Open the Bible with your kids this week. Read the story of Josiah, or read one of your favorite Bible stories to them.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Who was Josiah?
- Why is Josiah a hero?
- Why is it so important for us to study the Bible?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last." Matthew 20:16 NIV



PARENT TIME:

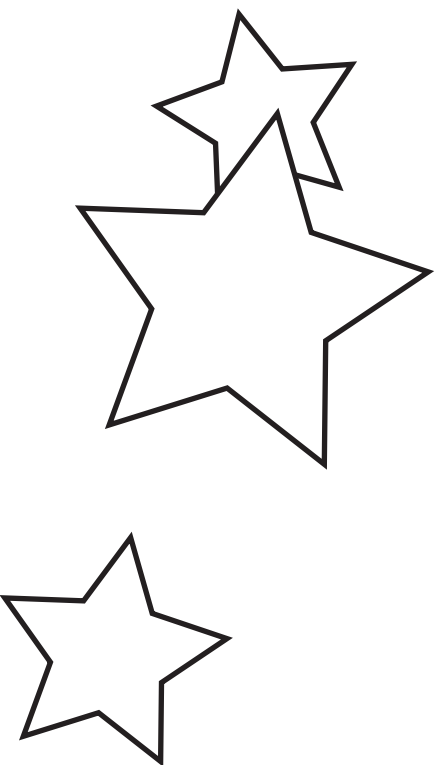
What you need to know:

God wants us to obey His Word. The more we study the Bible, the better equipped we will be to do His will. Encourage your kids to spend time reading the Bible daily. If it's not already a habit for you, try making that same habit for yourself. Pray for your kids and with your kids that God will speak to all of you through the Bible.

CRAFT ACTIVITY

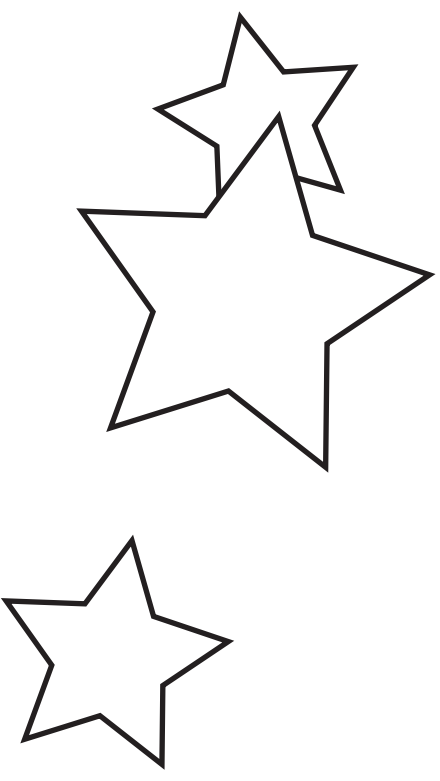
Have the kids draw and color Josiah as a super hero. You can give them templates of a human shape to start with, or let them do it freehanded.

As an option to weekly drawings, you can have the kids work on one piece of artwork for eight weeks, in which they will draw all 8 heroes onto a comic book cover of their own design.



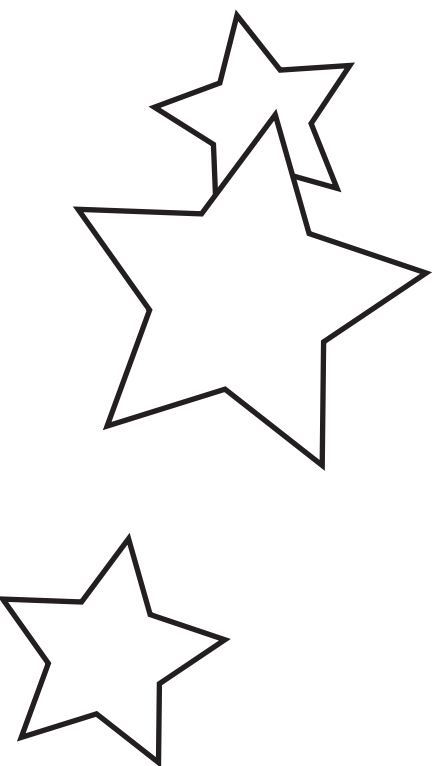
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- Matthew 20:16 (NIV)



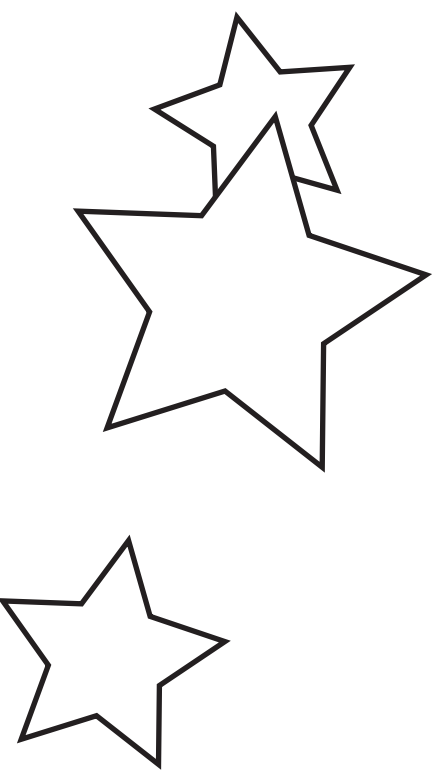
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