

How to Use Sermon Resources

- **READ AHEAD TOGETHER** - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- **SIT UNDER THE WORD** - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- **APPLY TRUTH** - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer [2 mins]

Use the Overview [5 mins]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

Scripture Deep Dive [30-40 mins]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

Close in Prayer

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

Split Time (if applicable)

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

SERMON OVERVIEW

"Marks of Renewal" 2 Kings 22-23

Sermon Summary: Pastor Kirk examines the life of King Josiah from 2 Kings 22-23 as a model for spiritual renewal in the believer's life. The message emphasizes three crucial aspects of renewal: taking God's Word seriously by submitting to its authority, dealing seriously with sin by rooting it out completely, and engaging in genuine worship that remembers God's mighty acts. While Josiah serves as an excellent example of a reforming king who turned to God with all his heart, soul, and strength, the sermon ultimately points to Jesus Christ as the greater King who lives forever.

Key Points:

- Taking God's Word seriously means submitting to its authority rather than trying to make it submit to our preferences
- Sin must be dealt with radically and completely, not merely managed or relocated
- Josiah destroyed high places, altars, and sites of false worship, even desecrating them to prevent future use
- The biblical principle is "be killing sin or sin will be killing you" - there is no middle ground in the battle against sin
- The Passover had not been properly observed for approximately 800 years, from the time of Joshua until Josiah
- Corporate worship reminds us of God's mighty acts and allows believers to teach and admonish one another through song
- As the king goes, so goes the nation - Josiah's death left Israel needing a greater, eternal King
- Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of what Josiah foreshadowed: He takes Scripture seriously, deals with sin definitively through the cross, and deserves our complete worship

Scripture Reference:

- 2 Kings 22-23 (primary focus on Josiah's reforms)
- 2 Kings 23:21-25 (Passover celebration and description of Josiah's devotion)
- Matthew 5 (Jesus teaching on adultery and dealing radically with sin)
- Colossians 3 (teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs)
- Exodus (reference to the original Passover and tenth plague)
- Joshua 5 (last recorded observance of Passover before Josiah)

Stories:

- The historical account of the Passover celebration under Josiah, the first proper observance in 800 years since the time of Joshua
- The exodus story and original Passover event when the angel of death passed over homes marked with lamb's blood
- Reference to John Owen's work "The Mortification of Sin" and the principle of actively killing sin

Scripture Deep Dive

Opening Question

Read Deuteronomy 8:11–14 – In what specific ways does forgetting God (as described here) show up in a modern Christian’s life, and how does that “forgetting” set the stage for the kind of spiritual decline we see in Josiah’s day?

Point 1 – Taking God’s Word seriously

1. Read 2 Kings 22:8–11; Hebrews 4:12

When Josiah hears the Book of the Law, his immediate reaction is grief and repentance; how does this response show that God’s Word is functioning like Hebrews 4:12 says it should, and what does that imply is wrong when we can read Scripture and remain largely unmoved?

2. Read 2 Kings 22:13; James 1:22–25

Josiah immediately seeks to understand and obey what God has said; using James 1:22–25, explain the difference between merely “hearing” a sermon/Bible passage and responding like Josiah, and identify one concrete sign that a person is a “doer” rather than a “hearer only.”

Point 2 – Taking sin seriously / “mortifying” sin

3. Read 2 Kings 23:4–14; Colossians 3:5–10

Josiah doesn’t just remove idols; he destroys and desecrates the places of false worship so they can’t be used again; based on Colossians 3:5–10, what is the New Testament equivalent of this kind of radical action, and why is simply “cutting back” on sin usually ineffective?

4. Read Matthew 5:27–30; Romans 13:14

Jesus’ command to “gouge out” and “cut off” is figurative but extremely strong; in light of Romans 13:14, how does “making no provision for the flesh” help explain what practical obedience to Matthew 5:27–30 looks like, and why is there “no middle ground” in our battle with sin?

Point 3 – Taking worship seriously

5. 2 Kings 23:21–23; Joshua 5:10–12; Exodus 12:24–27

Israel neglected Passover for centuries; comparing these passages, explain why God tied Passover to remembrance, and how the long neglect of this command logically contributed to Israel’s drift into idolatry.

6. Read Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18–20

According to these verses, how does congregational singing actually “teach and admonish” other believers, and why is this kind of mutual ministry impossible if we approach worship as a passive, “me-and-God-only” experience?

Point 4 – Needing a living King, not just a good example

7. Read 2 Kings 23:25–30; Luke 1:31–33; Hebrews 7:23–25

2 Kings 23:25 calls Josiah uniquely faithful, yet his reforms don’t last after his death; using Luke 1:31–33 and Hebrews 7:23–25, explain why only a never-dying King can secure lasting renewal for God’s people, and how this truth should reshape the way we think about spiritual change in our own lives.