

Small Group Guide: Josiah Week 2: The Moment that Changed Everything



Summary:

The story of King Josiah's transformation reminds us of the power of God's Word to change lives. At just 16, Josiah began seeking truth in a world steeped in paganism. But it wasn't until he heard the long-lost Book of the Law that his life truly changed. This narrative challenges us to consider: How do we respond when we encounter God's truth? Like Josiah, are we moved to tears, repentance, and action? The discovery of Scripture in the temple symbolizes how God's Word can be hidden in plain sight, waiting for us to uncover its life-changing power. Josiah's immediate response - tearing his clothes in grief and seeking God's guidance - reminds us that encountering God's truth should provoke a deep, transformative reaction in our hearts. As we reflect on this, let's ask ourselves: Are we allowing God's Word to penetrate our hearts and change our lives as profoundly as it did Josiah's?

Opening Question:

Share a time when you encountered a truth or piece of information that significantly impacted your life. How did it change you?

Key Takeaways:

1. King Josiah, despite his tragic background, sought after God and truth.
2. The rediscovery of God's Word (the Book of the Law) in the temple was a transformative moment for Josiah and the kingdom.
3. Josiah's response to hearing God's Word was one of deep repentance and immediate action.
4. Our response to God's Word can impact not only our lives but also those around us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What strikes you most about Josiah's story? How can you relate to his experiences or reactions?
2. The sermon mentions that the Book of the Law had been lost in the temple. In what ways might we sometimes "lose" God's Word in our lives or churches today?
3. How did Josiah respond when he heard God's Word read? Why do you think he reacted so strongly?
4. The pastor shared his personal experience of encountering Scripture for the first time. How does this compare with your own experience with the Bible?
5. Why do you think some people who grow up in Christian environments might take God's Word for granted? How can we guard against this?
6. Josiah not only responded personally to God's Word but also shared it with others and lived it out publicly. What challenges might we face in doing the same today?
7. The sermon emphasizes the importance of not just hearing God's Word but also sharing and living it out. What practical steps can we take to do this in our daily lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, choose a passage of Scripture you're unfamiliar with and read it as if for the first time. Journal your reactions and any new insights you gain.
2. Identify one way you can be more intentional about sharing God's Word with others this week (e.g., sharing a verse on social media, having a spiritual conversation with a friend).
3. Reflect on areas of your life where you might be taking God's Word for granted. Commit to approaching Scripture with fresh eyes and an open heart.
4. As a group, brainstorm ways you can hold each other accountable in living out God's Word more visibly in your community.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the gift of Your Word. Like Josiah, help us to respond to Your truth with tender hearts and a willingness to change. Give us the courage to share Your Word with others and to live it out boldly. May our lives reflect Your love and truth to those around us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: Rediscovering God's Word

Reading: 2 Kings 22:8-13

Devotional:

Just as Josiah rediscovered the Book of the Law, we too can experience the transformative power of God's Word. When we approach Scripture with an open heart, it can feel like discovering a hidden treasure. Reflect on a time when a particular Bible verse or passage deeply impacted you. How did it change your perspective or actions? Today, approach your Bible reading with fresh eyes, asking God to reveal new insights and truths. Consider how you might be taking God's Word for granted, and commit to engaging with it more intentionally.

Day 2: A Heart Tender Towards God

Reading: 2 Kings 22:14-20

Devotional:

Josiah's response to hearing God's Word was one of humility and repentance. His tender heart moved God to extend mercy. How often do we approach God's Word with such reverence and responsiveness? Today, examine your heart. Are there areas of hardness or resistance to God's truth? Ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart and make it receptive to His leading. As you read Scripture, pause to consider how it might be calling you to change or grow. Remember, a tender heart towards God can bring about personal transformation and even impact those around us.

Day 3: Covenant Renewal

Reading: 2 Kings 23:1-3

Devotional:

Josiah didn't keep his spiritual awakening to himself; he shared it with his people and led them in renewing their covenant with God. Consider your own commitment to God. Have you fully embraced the new covenant established through Jesus Christ? Reflect on what it means to live as a covenant people today. How can you lead others in deepening their relationship with God? Take time to reaffirm your commitment to God and consider ways you can encourage others in their faith journey.

Day 4: Living Out Loud for God

Reading: Matthew 5:13-16

Devotional:

Josiah lived out his faith publicly, influencing an entire nation. Jesus calls us to be salt and light in the world. How visible is your faith to those around you? Reflect on ways you can more boldly live out your faith in your daily life. This doesn't necessarily mean grand gestures, but consistent, Christ-like behavior in your interactions with others. Ask God for courage to stand firm in your convictions and for opportunities to share His love with those around you.

Day 5: Responding to God's Word

Reading: James 1:22-25

Devotional:

The sermon emphasized not just hearing God's Word, but responding to it. James echoes this, urging us to be doers of the Word, not just hearers. Reflect on your typical response to Scripture or sermons. Do you actively seek ways to apply what you learn? Choose one truth from God's Word that has impacted you recently and make a specific plan to act on it today. Remember, true spiritual growth comes not just from accumulating knowledge, but from putting that knowledge into practice in our daily lives.