

## **Small Group Guide: Living Out Truth and Tearing Down Lies**



### **Summary:**

In this exploration of King Josiah's life, we're challenged to examine how we handle truth and lies in our own lives. The central question becomes: How long do lies live in our presence, and does truth thrive around us? Josiah's story, found in 2 Kings 23, serves as a compelling example of someone who actively tore down falsehoods and false worship while elevating God's truth. We're reminded that loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength isn't just about personal devotion - it's about actively confronting lies and promoting truth in our homes, communities, and even in hostile territories. This message encourages us to be bold in our faith, to stand against cultural lies, and to consistently uplift God's truth in all areas of our lives. It's a call to action for us to examine our own behaviors and attitudes, challenging us to be more like Josiah in our commitment to God's word and in our influence on those around us.

### **Opening Question:**

Share a time when you had to stand up for the truth in a difficult situation. How did it make you feel?

**Key Takeaways:**

1. King Josiah lived out his commitment to God by actively tearing down false worship and promoting truth throughout his kingdom.
2. Josiah's actions started in Jerusalem (his home) and expanded outward, even into enemy territory.
3. God considered Josiah the king who loved Him most fully - with all his heart, soul, and might.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. The sermon asks, "How long do lies live in your presence?" Reflect on this question. In what areas of your life might you be allowing lies to persist?
2. Josiah tore down false altars and worship practices, even those established by revered figures like Solomon. How can we apply this principle in our modern context?
3. The sermon mentions examples of standing up against bullying and gossip. Share a time when you've had to confront these issues. What made it challenging?
4. How does Josiah's example of cleaning up his "home" (Jerusalem) first before expanding outward apply to our spiritual lives?
5. The sermon contrasts tearing down lies with letting truth thrive. How can we actively promote truth in our daily lives, beyond just avoiding falsehoods?
6. Josiah reinstituted the Passover celebration. What spiritual disciplines or practices might we need to "reinstitute" in our own lives?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Truth Check: This week, pay attention to the media you consume, conversations you participate in, and thoughts you entertain. Identify any lies or half-truths you might be passively accepting.
2. Scripture Memorization: Choose a Bible verse about truth (e.g., John 8:32, Ephesians 4:25) to memorize and meditate on this week.
3. Positive Truth-Telling: Look for opportunities to speak encouraging, truthful words to others, especially in situations where negativity or gossip might be the norm.
4. Personal Inventory: Reflect on areas of your life where you might need to "tear down" false beliefs or harmful practices. Make a plan to address one this week.
5. Truth in Love: Practice sharing difficult truths with gentleness and respect in your relationships this week.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Lord, like Josiah, help us to be passionate about Your truth. Give us the courage to confront lies in our lives and in our world. Help us to not only tear down falsehoods but to actively build up and promote Your truth in all we do. May we love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Amen.

## 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



### **Day 1: Tearing Down False Idols**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 23:4-14

#### **Devotional:**

Josiah's zealous destruction of false idols and places of pagan worship reminds us of the importance of examining our own lives for things that compete with God for our devotion. These modern-day "idols" might be subtle - career ambitions, relationships, or even good things that we've elevated above God. Today, reflect on what might be taking God's rightful place in your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any idols in your life, and like Josiah, have the courage to tear them down. Remember, clearing away what is false creates space for truth to flourish.



## **Day 2: The Power of God's Word**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 22:8-13, Psalm 119:105-112

### **Devotional:**

The rediscovery of God's Word in the temple sparked a spiritual revival in Judah. When Josiah heard the Scriptures, he responded with deep repentance and a renewed commitment to follow God. In our lives, how often do we approach God's Word with such reverence and expectation? Today, as you read the Scriptures, ask God to give you fresh eyes and an open heart. Let His truth penetrate deeply, convicting where necessary and inspiring obedience. Consider how you can make Bible reading a more central part of your daily life, allowing it to guide your decisions and shape your character.

## **Day 3: Covenant Renewal**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 23:1-3, Joshua 24:14-27

### **Devotional:**

Josiah's public recommitment to God's covenant serves as a powerful example of spiritual leadership and personal dedication. Like baptism for Christians, this act was a public declaration of faith and allegiance to God. Reflect on your own spiritual journey today. Have there been times when you've needed to renew your commitment to God? Consider writing out a personal covenant with God, outlining your commitment to follow Him wholeheartedly. Share this commitment with a trusted friend or mentor for accountability and encouragement.

## **Day 4: Cleansing Our Spiritual Territory**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 23:15-20, Ephesians 6:10-18

### **Devotional:**

Josiah's reforms extended beyond his own kingdom into areas once controlled by Israel. This reminds us that our spiritual influence should reach beyond our immediate surroundings. Consider the different "territories" in your life - your workplace, your neighborhood, your online presence. How can you be a force for God's truth and love in these areas? Pray for discernment and courage to stand against spiritual darkness and to be a light wherever God has placed you. Remember, like Josiah, we are called to expand God's kingdom, not just maintain it.

## **Day 5: Wholehearted Devotion**

**Reading:** 2 Kings 23:25, Mark 12:28-34

### **Devotional:**

The Bible's assessment of Josiah is remarkable - no king turned to the Lord as he did, with all his heart, soul, and might. This echoes Jesus' teaching on the greatest commandment. Today, examine your own devotion to God. Are there areas of your life that you're holding back from Him? What would it look like to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? Pray for God to deepen your love for Him and to help you live out your faith with the same wholehearted commitment that characterized Josiah's life. Remember, God is not looking for perfection, but for a heart fully devoted to Him.