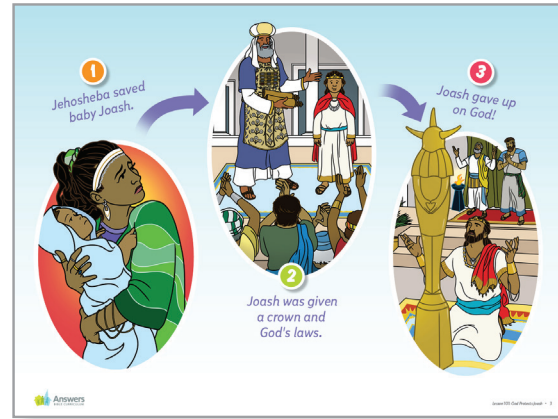


God Protects Joash



K-Ist Lesson

Introduction

Refer to #24 on the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We have been learning about the nation of Israel after it was divided into two kingdoms—the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.

All the kings of Israel did evil things, and they led the people to do sinful things like worshipping false gods and idols. God sent prophets like Elijah, Elisha, Amos, and Hosea to warn the people to stop sinning.

? Did the people listen to the prophets and turn back to God? *No.*

No, they didn't. God had to punish their sin by bringing the Assyrian army against Israel, and the people were taken away far from home. Point to #27 on the timeline where the Israel path ends.

Point to the Judah path at #24 on the timeline. Now let's learn about some of the kings of Judah. Remember, Judah (the southern kingdom) was ruled by the descendants, or people in the family line, of King David. Many years earlier, the Lord had given David a special promise that the Savior, Jesus, would come from his family line someday.

However, in today's lesson, we'll see how an evil woman tried to get rid of the people in David's family line! What did God do? Let's find out.

Joash Is Rescued

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from 2 Kings 11. This is a book of history in the Bible. Have the student with the Bible bring it up and turn to the sticky note.

2 Kings 11:1-3

Listen to verse 1 so you can tell me who the evil woman was. *Read the verse.*

? Who started destroying the royal family? *Athaliah.*

Athaliah was married to a king of Judah. Then when he died, her son Ahaziah became the next king. But later, he was killed. Athaliah decided that she didn't want another king to take the throne—she wanted to take over herself and be the queen over all Judah.

But first, she had to get rid of all the boys in her family so that none of them could become king. So Athaliah killed her own grandsons so she could rule Judah!

? Isn't that terrible? Raise your hand if you think God could take care of this problem. *Show of hands.*

God made sure one of the grandsons was rescued. Let's read about him now. *Read verses 2 and 3.*

? Which of Athaliah's grandsons was rescued? What was his name? *Joash.*

Show Illustration #1 or a baby doll. I have a few pictures (or objects) to help us learn some important things about Joash's life. This first one reminds us that God saved baby Joash from being killed. As you continue, attach the Illustrations to the board or set the objects where they can be seen.

? What did the woman named Jehosheba do? *She took Joash and stole him away.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Joash's aunt Jehosheba was very brave. She took baby Joash and his nurse away and hid them from Athaliah.

? Where did Joash stay hidden? *Verse 3. In the house of the Lord.*

Show Illustration #2. The house of the Lord is the temple where the people worshipped God. Jehosheba was married to the high priest Jehoiada, who was in charge of the temple. That's probably why she hid Joash there so Jehoiada could help keep him safe.

? How many years did Joash stay hidden? *Six years.*

During the six years Joash lived in the temple, Jehoiada the priest taught him the laws of God and how to be a good king. Finally, when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada decided it was time for him to become king. But what about his evil grandmother, Queen Athaliah? How could they crown Joash without her knowing about it?

Joash Becomes King

Jehoiada had a plan. First, he called the captains of the guard and showed them that Prince Joash was still alive! The guards all promised to protect Joash and help make him king. Together, they would secretly crown Joash before the queen found out.

2 Kings 11:12

Let's see if their plan worked. Listen to 2 Kings 11, verse 12. *Read the verse.*

? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Jehoiada brought Joash out to the people. What did he put on Joash? *A crown.*

Show Illustration #3 or a toy crown. Right. A crown. Joash became king that day.

? What else did Jehoiada give to Joash? *The testimony.*

Show Illustration #4 or a piece of paper rolled up and tied like a scroll. The testimony was the laws of God. Joash needed God's laws to help him understand how to obey God. Knowing these laws would help him be a good king and please the Lord.

? When Jehoiada brought Joash out to the people, they were glad to see him. They clapped their hands and shouted. What did the people shout? *"Long live the king!"*

Queen Athaliah heard the people shouting, so she went to find out what was going on. And guess who she saw standing there with a crown on his head—her grandson Joash!

Athaliah was so surprised she tore her clothes and shouted angrily. But Jehoiada commanded the guards to take her out of the temple and put her to death for all the terrible things she had done.

Whew! Athaliah came close to wiping out David's royal family line. But God was still in

control. He was faithful to keep his promise he had made to David long ago by saving Joash and making him king so the family line would continue.

Joash was taken to the palace where he was seated on the throne. He was just a little older than you—seven years old—when he became king. What a big responsibility! But Joash didn't have to do it by himself.

Jehoiada the priest was a faithful friend who helped Joash do things that were pleasing to God. But when Jehoiada was 130 years old, he died. That's when things changed.

Joash Turns from God

King Joash began to listen to bad ideas from people who did not love the Lord. Soon, he gave up on God! Joash turned to idols and began worshipping false gods.

Show Illustration #5 or if using a figurine, explain: this figurine is just a decoration, but we'll use it to remind us of the idols people worshipped.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This was terrible! Joash listened to these people and chose to follow what they said instead of following God.

? How do you think God felt about this? *Angry; sad.*

God was angry with Joash and the people of Judah for their sin. He chose a priest named Zechariah to remind the people that they were breaking God's laws by doing these evil things.

But King Joash and his people didn't want to listen to him. They wanted to keep sinning. So Joash commanded the people to do a terrible thing—he told them to kill Zechariah!

Show Illustration #6 or toy soldier. When God saw what Joash had done, he sent an army to attack Judah as punishment. Joash was badly wounded in the battle and was later killed by two of his own servants.

Refer to the Illustrations/objects. Isn't it sad that King Joash's life ended this way? Joash started out being rescued by God, becoming king, and obeying the Lord. But in the end, Joash was punished because he chose to do terrible things. He turned away from God by following people's bad ideas instead of following God's good laws.

1

Jehosheba saved baby Joash.



2

Joash was given a crown and God's laws.



3

Joash gave up on God!

