



K-Ist Lesson

Introduction

Refer to Lesson 103 Flip Chart. Last week we took a break from the kings of Judah to look at prophecies about Jesus written by the prophets Micah and Isaiah. Both of these prophets wrote about a ruler who would come to save us from our sins. We saw in the New Testament how these prophecies happened many years later when Jesus was born and then when he died.

- ? Micah wrote that the coming ruler would be eternal. How can Jesus be eternal? Who is he? *He is God.*

Jesus is one of the three Persons of the Trinity: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Remember that Jesus was with God in the beginning; he has always been living and always will be. But he came to be born as a baby so he could grow up as a man and die to save sinners.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. Let's go back to the kingdom of Judah. We're going to skip over two evil kings to talk about the last good king—King Josiah.

We'll start with a game. One of you will search for a hidden object while the rest of the class guides you by telling you if you're hot or cold. Show the object you brought and briefly discuss its importance. (For example, without a door key, you would not be able to lock your house and re-enter.) Pick one student to leave the room while you hide the object. When the student returns, the rest of the class will guide him to the hidden object by saying "hot" when he's close, "warm" when he's on the right track, or "cold" when he's far away. Play until the student finds the object.

In today's lesson, something even more important than a key (or other object) was lost and forgotten for many years. When someone found it again, it made a big difference to the whole kingdom of Judah!

Josiah's Reforms

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We can read about Josiah in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, which are books of history in the Old Testament.

2 Chronicles 34:1–3

Listen to this verse from 2 Chronicles 34. Have the student bring up the Bible and turn to the sticky note. Read verse 1.

- ? How old was Josiah when he began to reign as king? *Eight years old.*
- ? What kind of king was Josiah? What did he do? Listen for the answer. Read verse 2. *He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord.*

Even though he was very young, Josiah must have been wise for his age.

- ? He walked in the ways of whom? *David.*

Josiah decided to follow God just like King David did—with his whole heart. He did not let anything lead him away from God. Josiah really wanted to do what was right.

- ? When did Josiah decide to seek God and follow him? Listen to the next verse. Read verse 3. *While he was yet a boy.*

Josiah wanted to know and obey God while he was still young—just a boy about 16 years old. Then a few years later when he was 20, Josiah began to clean up the kingdom.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Josiah chopped down altars to false gods, broke idols into pieces, and even beat them into dust and powder! He wanted to get rid of all the idols and places of false worship.

King Josiah also wanted to clean out the temple. This was the same building that King Solomon had built in Jerusalem for worshipping God. Even though the temple had been repaired and cleaned out many years before, the people had not taken care of it. After good King Hezekiah died, two evil kings ruled. They led the people away from God and into idol worship again. Now the temple needed to be repaired once

more, and all the idols left from these two bad kings needed to be thrown out.

Many people helped with the temple project. And one day, something important was found there. It had been lost for many years.

- ? What do you think it was? *Allow guesses.*

2 Chronicles 34:14

Let's find out! Read 2 Chronicles 34:14.

- ? Who was Hilkiah? *A priest.*
- ? What did he find in the temple? *The Book of the Law.*
- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Which books in the Old Testament are the books of the law? Recite the names of the books, Genesis through Deuteronomy.

We're not sure if Hilkiah found all of these books or just the book of Deuteronomy. But Hilkiah knew it was the law of the Lord and that this book was very important. He gave it to the king's secretary, who read it to Josiah. The book told of God's commands for the people and how God wanted to bless them when they obeyed. But it also told how God would have to punish them if they chose to disobey.

Josiah's Response

- ? What do you think Josiah did when he heard these words from God? *Allow guesses.*

2 Chronicles 34:19

Let's find out in 2 Chronicles 34:19. Listen to this. Read the verse.

- ? What did Josiah do when he heard the words of the Law? *He tore his clothes.*
- ? Refer to Lesson 102 Flip Chart. Do you remember another king who tore his clothes? *King Hezekiah.*

Hezekiah tore his clothes when he heard that the king of Assyria was planning to attack Judah. Tearing their clothes was how people showed great sadness when something terrible happened.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. When King Josiah heard the words of God's Law and tore his clothes, he was showing great sadness because of the sins of his people. He knew that they

had not obeyed God and that they deserved God's punishment.

Then Josiah made a very wise decision. He wanted to find out more, so he sent Hilkiah and some other men to a woman prophet named Huldah.

2 Chronicles 34:24

Remember, prophets spoke for God. Let's read what Huldah told them. Read 2 Chronicles 34:24.

- ? What did God say he was going to bring on Judah and its people? *Disaster.*
- ? Is a disaster a good thing or a bad thing? *A bad thing!*

God said he would bring all the curses, or punishments, that were in the book the king had heard. The people had forsaken God. That means they had left him and turned away from him. Instead of worshipping God, they had been worshipping false gods and idols made of wood and stone.

Because God is holy and just, he doesn't let sin go unpunished. He said his anger would come on the people of Judah because of their sin.

This was a frightening message, but there was more. God said he had seen how Josiah had torn his clothes and cried over the sins of the people. God saw how sorry Josiah was that the people had turned away from the Lord. Because Josiah wanted his people to turn back to God, the Lord gave him a promise.

God promised to show mercy to Josiah. Even though disaster would still come to punish the people of Judah for their sins, Josiah would not have to see it. God said he would wait until after Josiah died before he sent the punishment.

Josiah could've said, "Oh good, I'm safe from punishment. I don't need to worry if the people disobey God." But he didn't say that. Josiah cared about his people. He wanted them to hear God's Word just as he had. So, he gathered everyone together and read the Book of the Law to them. Then he and all the people made a promise to follow the Lord and keep his commandments. Josiah was faithful to God his whole life, and the people followed God as long as King Josiah lived.

Josiah obeyed God his whole life.



Josiah got rid of idols.