

Josiah Finds the Scroll

Unit 4: Our Sin, God's Faithfulness

LAST WEEK

Isaiah uses the image of God as a planter, while Israel and Judah are the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5).

THIS WEEK

King Josiah's faithful reforms bring the people of Judah back to the worship of their God (2 Kings 22:1-10, [11-20]; 23:1-3).

Story Summary

Unlike most other kings of Judah, Josiah is a faithful king. He proves his faithfulness when he is given the scroll containing God's law, found by the high priest Hilkiah. When he hears the reading of this scroll, he is upset, knowing that the people have abandoned their God. He asks the prophetess Huldah about God's will. Josiah then reads the scroll to the people and leads them in renewing the nation's covenant with God. Moved by Josiah's words and deeds, the people recommit themselves to serving God.

Practice: Fellowship

One important way that we can build fellowship is to read the Bible together and to encourage others with God's Word. Share the Word of God with others as Josiah did. Memorize the Key Verse and recite it to someone.

The Point

We are called to repent when we discover our sin.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

What Is a Covenant?

A covenant is an agreement made between individuals, groups of people, or between God and people. The Bible contains a record of covenants made between God and individuals or nations. One covenant in the Bible is God's promise to humankind that God will never again destroy the earth with a flood. Another covenant in the Bible is a promise that God will create a nation out of Abraham's descendants. God made the most important covenant in the Old Testament by giving the people the Torah on Mount Sinai. The New Covenant, found in the New Testament, promises eternal life and forgiveness for those who believe.

NEXT WEEK

The prophet Jeremiah looks to the future with hope, even though the destruction and disaster prophesied by Huldah is about to happen (Jeremiah 33:14-18).

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2 Kings 22:1-10, [11-20]; 23:1-3

Going Deeper

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? Consider the following basic pattern as a way of forming family devotions:

- ✞ Light a candle to help you focus this time as "God time." Pray a simple prayer together.
- ✞ Take a moment to check in with each other; what are each person's "highs" and "lows" today?
- ✞ Read aloud from the Daily Bible Readings from below. Discuss the questions following each.
- ✞ End with a blessing, by simply tracing a cross on each other's forehead. The Lord's Prayer is a good way to end your devotion time. If you used a candle, extinguish it as a sign of the end of the devotions.

Note: *This is only a suggested pattern. It will vary with your household's context and patterns. What works best for you? First thing in the morning? Over breakfast? Bed time? Be creative and flexible with how you practice and keep your devotions!*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday—Read 2 Kings 22:1-10

Josiah is presented with the scroll.

- What does it mean to do what is right in the sight of the Lord?
- Imagine going for an extended time without reading the Bible. How might that lead a person to forget God's ways?

Monday—Read 2 Kings 22:11-20

Huldah the prophetess shares a message from God.

- What are some results of abandoning God?
- What are some results of repenting?

Tuesday—Read 2 Kings 23:1-3

Josiah renews the covenant.

- Is it possible for humans to keep a covenant perfectly?
- Reread verse 3 and write your own commitment to following God.

Wednesday—Read 2 Kings 23:4-6

The temple is purged of items meant for other gods.

- Why was it important to clean the temple?
- What do you need to purge from your heart, thoughts, or behavior?

Thursday—Read 2 Kings 23:21-25

The Passover is reinstated.

- What religious holidays do you celebrate? How much focus do you have on the religious aspect versus the secular aspect?
- What is the significance of the Passover? Read Exodus 12 for more information.

Friday—Read 2 Kings 25:1-7

The city of Jerusalem falls to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

- In what ways have you experienced correction that was hard but necessary?
- When has it seemed like God was not present only for you to later see God's loving hand in what was happening?

Saturday—Read 2 Kings 25:8-17

The commander of Nebuchadnezzar's imperial guard destroys the temple.

- What is the significance of the temple's destruction by the enemy?
- What might happen to the people when their place of worship is gone?

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