

date: **2/18/18****Bible Passage: 2 Kings 22—23:30**
(Josiah)

God's Word Has Power

REMEMBER VERSE

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your
good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

Psalm 143:10

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

I was eight years old and I had two glorious summer weeks to spend with my grandparents! The Martellos had been best friends with my grandparents for years. When I reached her house, Mrs. Martello greeted me warmly and invited me inside. I noticed some things were different since my last visit. There was a wooden fish—with some weird-looking letters on the inside—hanging on the wall. On the kitchen counter sat a ceramic loaf of bread with the words “daily bread.” “Why do you have a fish on your wall, and what do the letters inside mean?” I asked. She smiled, and for the next couple of hours we sat and talked about Jesus.

You see, I grew up in a Catholic family and had heard about Jesus. I went to Mass with my grandparents from a very young age and marveled at the beauty that surrounded me. My soul understood there was something sacred about the candles, music, prayers, incense, holy water, crucifix, and stained-glass windows, but my heart didn't connect with why. But on this day, I heard from God's Word that He created me to be in a relationship with Him! This God knew everything about me and loved me with a fierce and eternal love. This same God wanted me to know *Him!* That afternoon in Mrs. Martello's living room, I prayed and asked Jesus to be my God and my Savior. I knew—even then—that everything had changed, forever!

As I look back, I see how people who knew God were instrumental in my life. They shepherded my heart to connect in relationship with God through His Word. They knew the power of God's Word.

Cristi Thomas
Tru Team

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

Josiah became king of Judah when he was eight years old. His reign followed that of his father, Amon, and his grandfather Manasseh—horribly evil and detestable men. Innocent blood was shed across the nation, altars were built to the gods of foreign lands, sorcery and divination were practiced, and people consulted mediums. They placed idols constructed for the worship of pagan gods in the Lord's temple and rebuilt the high places where they would present offerings and sacrifice their children to pagan gods. Manasseh repented and turned to the Lord at the end of his life. However, he could not undo the effects of evil on the heart of his son Amon.

King Josiah did not follow the example of his father, Amon. Instead he looked to the example of the great kings of the past. "He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left" (2 Kings 22:2). Josiah had a heart like David's and a rule like his great-grandfather King Hezekiah's. At the age of 26, this king put a team of people together to clean out and restore the temple so it would once again be dedicated to the worship and service of the one true God.

With the newfound knowledge in finding the Book of the Law, King Josiah called together the elders, the priests, the people, and the prophets. All the people from the least to the greatest were gathered together at the temple of the Lord. In the presence of this assembly, Josiah read all the words in the Book. He then renewed the covenant before the Lord—vowing to follow the Lord and keep His commands, regulations, and decrees with all of his heart and soul. Following the lead of King Josiah, the people then did the same.

The celebration of Passover was once again reinstated. King Josiah ordered that idols and anything associated with the worship of the pagan gods be destroyed. Under the rule of King Josiah, Israel would follow the law of the Lord. "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses" (2 Kings 23:25).

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

Throughout Scripture, we clearly see how faithfulness to God's Word is a blessing to the generations that follow. Think about those who came before you. How did these individuals, or their experiences, shape how you know God? What have you come to know about God in greater ways through His Word? Spend time reflecting on what you know to be true of God, and offer thanksgiving for the ways He has revealed Himself to you through His Word—and through others.

Now take a journey through your family tree. Whether it's a short or a long journey, look at the people who came before you. Do you know their stories? How did they know God in their lives? How did their relationship with God mold who they were and who their children became? Then, take a look ahead ... to the empty spaces on your family tree. Whether you're from a long line of faith or you're the spiritual pioneer, how do you want your faith to impact future generations? Take a few moments and pray for a strong and relentless faith for those who will come after you.

EXPLORE::: 10 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about

the day's portion of The Big God Story.

I'll Hide and You Seek

Later in The Big God Story, the Book of Law is found during the cleaning of the temple. King Josiah and the people's lives are changed through the power of God's Word.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Paper (1 sheet)
- Yarn or string

SET UP

Roll the sheet of paper and tie it with a piece of yarn or string. Optional: For extended learning, consider writing some verses from the book of Psalms, the Remember Verse, or other portions of Scripture on the scroll. Then each time the scroll is found, you can read a verse to the children.

RELATE

Invite children to sit on the floor in a circle. Explain how the game is played. **Today we're going to play a game of hide-and-seek. One person will hide the scroll and another person will find it. Does everyone know what a scroll is? A scroll is a rolled-up piece of paper with writing on it. That's how people used to write down important things long ago, before we had books. While the scroll is being hidden, the person chosen to be the finder has to make sure to cover his eyes—no peeking. Then after the scroll is hidden, all of you will help the finder by playing a game of hot and cold. When the finder gets close to the scroll, we'll all say "warmer," or "hot." If he's far away we'll say "cold." When the scroll has been found, the finder gets to choose a new hider and finder to play the game again.**

Play as many rounds as time allows.

DISCOVER::: 25 min.

Host/Worship Leader/Storyteller

Children participate in discovering God's Word through Bible verse memorization, interactive storytelling techniques, and worship as response.

Ponder Point

God's Word Has Power

Chloe's Rules

Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules videos](#)
- worship music (suggestions: "Everybody, Everywhere" and "Thank You," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

RELATE

Welcome children as they're entering the large group meeting area. *Tech: Cue Chloe's Rules video.* The theme song will play as the Worship Leader/Host enters and makes his way up front, welcoming and greeting children along the way. This should be a high-energy entrance. *Tech: Cue preschool program theme song.* Choose and play two upbeat worship songs of your choice from a worship album that complements the theme and focus of the lesson.

Mail Time

Host/Worship Leader**SUPPLIES**

- [Mail Time intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)
- [Mail Time](#)
- Bibles (your personal and large children's)
- Mailbox

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Mail Time envelope art and attach to a large envelope. Print or copy one Remember Verse card and put it inside the envelope.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the Mail Time intro clip and image. Choose one volunteer to hide the mail and another to find the mail. Have the "Seeker" close her eyes while the "Hider" finds a good place to hide the Remember Verse. Once the mail has been hidden, the Seeker will begin to look for the mail while the children give clues to its whereabouts by calling out "hot" and "cold."

Once the Seeker finds the mail, the Host invites her to pull out the enclosed Remember Verse. Next, the Host should find the Remember Verse in his Bible and read the words aloud. Talk about the meaning of the verse while interacting with the children.

Lead the children in reciting the Remember Verse several times together using a variety of engaging methods. Hand motions, different voices, various speeds, and character integration are all great ways to help commit the Scripture to memory. For longer verses, approach the verse one section at a time, increasing what the children repeat back each week.

REMEMBER VERSE

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your
good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

Psalm 143:10

REMEMBER VERSE DEFINITIONS

Will: order or command

Level: even or flat

REMEMBER VERSE MOTIONS

Teach me: Point thumbs to self.

to do your will: Place right hand over middle of chest and move outward.

for you are my God: Point index fingers to the sky and then cross both arms over chest.

may your good Spirit: Spread arms out wide.

lead me on level ground: Pull arms back in, palms facing down, and push arms forward.

Wardrobe of Wonder

Storyteller/Host/Worship Leader

SUPPLIES

- [Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [What'slt: Bible \(see optional image in Resources\)](#)
- Wardrobe of Wonder
- Small stools or chairs (2)

What'slt: Bible

When Josiah heard God's Word from the Book of the Covenant, he and the nation of Israel were transformed. God uses His Word to speak to our hearts. His Word helps us know Him, and because of that relationship, it changes and transforms us.

RELATE

Tech: Cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder intro clip and image*. Invite a child volunteer to “spy” on the What'slt by peeking into the wardrobe. Each time the wardrobe door opens, cue the *Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect*. Have him whisper the identity of the What'slt in your ear to ensure he knows what it is.

Invite your assistant to sit on the stools with you. Then lead the group in asking the assistant yes-or-no questions about the What'slt. Once the children have guessed correctly, ask your assistant to retrieve the What'slt from the wardrobe and bring it to you. Thank your volunteer and encourage him to sit with his small group.

ASK

Why do you think there would there be a Bible in the Wardrobe of Wonder? Interact with children's responses. **Friends, where do we find The Big God Story?** Children answer. **In the Bible, that's right! Then how is this a clue? Does anyone have any idea? I think it's time that we found out, don't you?**

The Big God Story

2 Kings 22—23:30

God's Word Has Power

Storytelling Technique: Hand Motions

SUPPLIES

- [The Big God Story intro clip and image \(see Resources\)](#)
- [What'slt: Bible \(see optional image in Resources\)](#)
- [King Josiah image \(see Resources\)](#)

RELATE

Tech: Cue *The Big God Story intro clip and image*. **Hello, everyone! It's good to see you here. There are so many exciting things we get to discover today in The Big God Story. Before we get started, let's invite God into our time and ask Him to teach us.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet

their hearts and minds.

What did you find in the Wardrobe of Wonder today? Children respond. **A Bible! What is the Bible?** Children answer; interact with their responses. **The Bible is God's Word, and His Word has power. It's about His plan for all people. It's through His Word that we know God and how much He loves us. I wonder ... why do you think the Bible was our clue for The Big God Story?** Pause for responses. **Those are all really good thoughts! Let's take a look in The Big God Story and find out.** Open the Bible.

Many years ago, in the land of Israel, a young boy named Josiah became king. Josiah was just eight years old when he was made the king of Judah. Can you hold up your hands and show me eight fingers? Allow children to hold up fingers. **Good job. He wasn't that much bigger than you! Well, King Josiah wanted to worship God with all his heart and all his strength. That means he wanted to worship God on the inside with his heart and on the outside with the things he did. Now, when I say "heart," I want you to put your hands on the center of your chest, covering your heart. And when I say "strength," you can make the strongest arms you can, showing everyone your big muscles. All right, let's try it together. Josiah wanted to worship God with all his heart (everyone cover hearts) and all his strength (everyone make strong arms). Great!**

One day, when Josiah was grown up (*Tech: Cue King Josiah image*), a man who worked for Josiah came to him and said, **"King Josiah! I was at the temple of the Lord, and the priest found this book. He told me to bring it to you right away!"** The book they'd found was God's Word. The man began to read God's Word to King Josiah. It was filled with God's promises to His people. In this book, God told the people the best way to live—how to take care of each other, how to know Him, and how to worship Him. *Tech: Cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect.* **Wait a minute ... I think we found our clue from the Wardrobe of Wonder. What was brought to King Josiah?** Children answer. **It was God's Word, and we know God's Word has power!**

When the king heard God's words, he looked around at the people of Israel and was very sad. You see, the king knew the people weren't living the way God had planned. So Josiah gathered everyone together at the temple of the Lord. In a very loud voice, he began to read the book. He read everything to the people so they could know the truth and know God! Then Josiah promised before the Lord, and all the people, that he would follow the Lord God and do all the things God said in His Word. He said he'd worship God and follow Him with all his heart (heart motion) and all his strength (strong arms motion). God's words in His book are very powerful. After the king made this promise, God's people made a promise to follow God's Word too.

As soon as the king made his covenant to God, he began to keep his promise. First, he ordered the people to knock down the altars and buildings where they worshipped the pretend gods. Then, he made sure the temple of the Lord was cleaned out and given back to God's people for the worship of the Lord. Josiah got rid of everything that didn't help them know and honor God. Why? Because he wanted to worship God with all his heart (heart motion) and all his strength (strong arms motion)! For the rest of King Josiah's life, he and God's people worshipped the Lord God.

We have something just like King Josiah and His people had. What is it? Children answer. **The Bible, that's right! When we read the words in the Bible, we come to know God and how to worship Him. God's Word helps us to know all the things that are true about Him. When we know what's true about God, we can know God more and more! God's Word has power.**

Wonder Questions

Small Group Enhancements, coloring pages, and discussion questions help your group go deeper into today's portion of The Big God Story.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Wonder Questions coloring pages \(see Resources\)](#)
- [TruWonder Small Group Enhancements timeline and images \(see Resources\)](#)
- Crayons

RELATE

Today in The Big God Story, we heard about the first time King Josiah read from God's Word. When the king read it, he knew what was true about God. He wanted to worship God and obey Him.

I wonder ... How does God speak to us from His Word, the Bible?

I wonder ... How else does God talk to me?

I wonder ... What do I want to know about God?

BLESS::: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- [Remember Verse cards \(see Resources\)](#)

RELATE

As you end today, speak the paraphrase of Deuteronomy 30:14 (below) over your children. Demonstrate that at the end of each phrase, children will have an action to correspond with the line. After speaking the paraphrase over them once, read it a second time—allowing children to reply with their actions more freely.

May God's Word always be near to you (wrap arms around yourself).

May you learn to love it as you hear it with your ears (touch ears),

and say it with your mouth (touch mouth),

and know it in your heart (touch heart).

Close your time with a group blessing:

Children, may you see the power of God's Word in your lives this week.