

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Josiah the Boy King

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 2 WEEK 7

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Bible chart (printed out)
- Bible names (printed out)
- Scissors
- Pencil

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- 2 Kings 22:1-7
- 2 Kings 22:8-14
- 2 Kings 22:15-20

2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

If you were in church on Sunday, you would have learned about good king Hezekiah. Hezekiah used his reign as king to change things and turn the hearts of the people back to God. Manasseh, his son, started out as a very wicked king. He rebuilt the places where people were worshiping idols or false gods. He encouraged his people to worship these idols and he himself did the same. He even put an Asherah pole in the Lord's temple! He did many other evil things, including murdering innocent people and the worst thing he did was killing his own son to worship a false god.

Eventually Manasseh realised what he did was wrong. He repented of his wicked ways before God and God forgave him. He worked to remove the wicked, idolatrous things he had built during his reign. After Manasseh's death, his son Amon was a wicked king who worshiped idols and only reigned for 2 years.

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed the ways of King David. As a young king, someone who was caring for Josiah must have taught him about God. Someone was sharing the Word of God with Josiah so that he would know how to live a life that pleases God.

When Josiah was 16 years old he began to seek God. Over the next 4 years Josiah could see that the way God's people were living did not represent the God he was following. When Josiah was 20 years old, he started tearing down all the high places, Asherah poles, idols, altars of the Baals, and any other places or things used for idol worship. Once again we see a Godly king tearing down the wicked altars and carved idols that the people worshiped false gods with. Josiah wanted to purge (cleanse) the kingdom of the wickedness that did not please God.

The next thing we learn about King Josiah's reign is that when he was 26 years old, he sent Hilkiah to hire men to repair the temple. While the temple was being repaired, Hilkiah found the Book of the Law. It is possible that when Solomon had the temple built, the Book of the Law was placed in the cornerstone of the temple.

If Hilkiah 'found' the Book of the Law, it makes us realise that in many ways God's people had 'lost' the Book of the Law. Their lives did not reflect the life that God told them to live. Hilkiah sent the Book of the Law with Shaphan to show the king. Hilkiah instructed Shaphan to read from the Book of Law in the presence of the king. When Josiah heard the words from the Book of Law, he humbled himself and tore his robes. He told Hilkiah and the other attendants to ask of the Lord about what was written in the Book. Josiah said that God was angry with his people because they had not obeyed His Word and lived according to His laws.

3

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Next, Hilkiah and those the king had sent with him went to speak to the prophet Huldah. She said to them that they should tell Josiah that God would bring disaster on the Israelites - all the curses written in the book that had been read in the presence of the king of Judah. But because king Josiah's heart was open to God and because he humbled himself before God, tore his robes and wept in God's presence, Josiah would die before any of this destruction happened.

After Hilkiah gave King Josiah the message from Huldah, the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. They went up to the temple of the Lord with all the people of Judah and the priests. There, Josiah read the Book of the Law found in the temple, to all the people and then he renewed the promise to keep the Lord's commands with all his heart and soul and to obey the words written in the book. For the rest of Josiah's life, the people followed and obeyed the Lord.

King Josiah's family did not set a very good example to him. They rejected God and worshiped false gods and did many evil things. Josiah tried to do what was right, but he only really realised how bad things were in Israel when he found God's Word and read it (the Book of Law they found in the temple). In Psalm 119:105 it says that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. God's Word shows us right from wrong and it shows us how to follow and obey God.

Are you as a family reading God's Word (The Bible)? Or is your Bible like the Book of Law that was "lost" in the temple - forgotten and unread? Are you reading God's Word and allowing it to show you as a family right from wrong? Are you allowing God's Word to show you as a family how to follow and obey God?

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- Which kingdom was Josiah king of? (*Judah, the Southern Kingdom*)
- Were Josiah's father and grandfather good kings or bad kings?
- How old was Josiah when he became king?
- What did Josiah order his servants to do to the temple?
- What did the workers find when they were repairing the temple?
- What did Josiah do with the Book of Law?
- What did Josiah do with all the items they used to worship false gods?

LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

- What does Psalm 119:105 say God's Word is like?
- What does God's Word show us?
- Why is it important to read our Bibles?
- How are you as a family going to make sure that you spend time reading God's Word as a family?

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

6

Pray together:

- Thank God for His Word that is a lamp - showing us right from wrong and showing us how to follow and obey God.
- Pray that God would remind you as a family to spend time reading His Word.
- Pray that God would help you as a family understand what you read from His Word and make it part of your lives.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

7

Bible Challenge

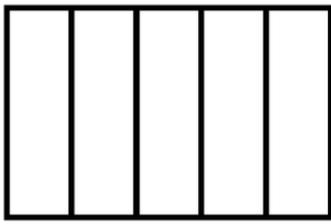
Ask your family these questions and see who knows the most about the Bible:

- How many books are in the Bible? (66)
- What are the names of the 2 parts of the Bible? (*The Old Testament and The New Testament*)
- Who can write down or say the most Bible book names in 30 seconds (doesn't have to be in order)?
- Pick a book name from the Bible and ask your family to say if the book is from the Old or New Testament (do this with a few different book names).

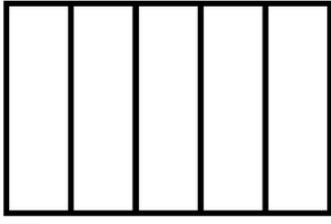
When you have finished your Bible Challenge, show your family the Bible chart and Bible names. Cut out the names. AS we work through the Bible this year, stick the names on the chart in order according to where we are in the story (*at the moment, we've gone through Genesis - 2 Chronicles*). Stick your Bible chart up where your whole family can see it.

OLD TESTAMENT

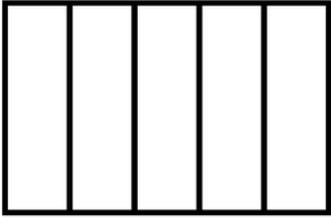
LAW



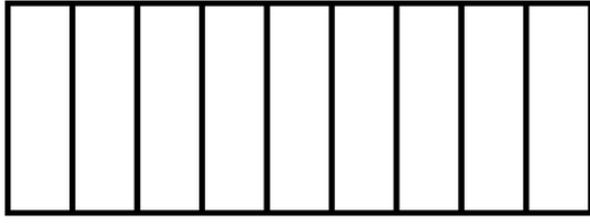
POETRY



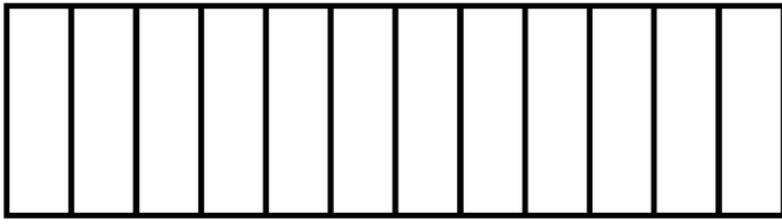
LONG
PROPHET
BOOKS



HISTORY

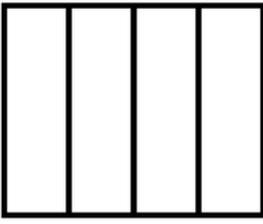


SHORT
PROPHET
BOOKS



NEW TESTAMENT

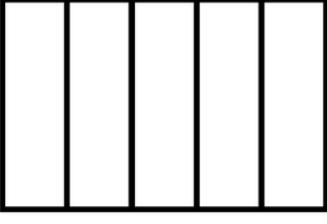
GOSPELS



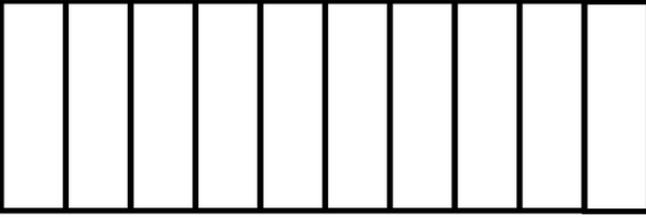
CHURCH
HISTORY



LETTERS
FROM
OTHERS



THE END



LETTERS
FROM
PAUL

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Acts

Hebrews
James
1&2 Peter
1,2&3 John
Jude

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1&2 Samuel
1&2 Kings
1&2 Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

Romans
1&2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1&2 Thessalonians
1&2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon

Revelation
