

Lessons for the Leader

When you hear the word *respect* what comes to your mind? How do you define *respect*? Whom or what do you respect? Do people respect you? Why? What about the Bible? How do people show respect for the Bible?

- Read 2 Kings 22:1–23:3. Picture yourself living during this time in history. What is the social climate like? What types of laws are utilized? Do people follow the laws? What about the religious climate? How important is God to you?
- Reflect on the efforts of the individuals working to rebuild the temple. How do you think they felt when the scroll was discovered? In what ways do you think the scroll encouraged them in their work? How does reading and applying the Bible inspire you in your work?
- In what ways did the words of the scroll contradict the societal norms of the time? What type of courage do you see King Josiah demonstrating? In what ways did Josiah and the people respect and obey God's Word?
- Think about the children in your ministry. In what ways do they hear God's Word shared with them? How receptive are they to hearing and following God's Word? Why? What can you do to help the children develop a greater respect and obedience for God's Word?
- Spend some time praying for each child by name. Ask God to speak individually to each child and help her develop a greater love for learning about and respecting God's Word.
- Josiah's efforts made a difference in the lives of the people he led. What type of difference will you make in the lives of the children you lead?

What do these symbols mean?

- 1 → Application Activities Format:** Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.
- 1** Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



Respect the Word

Focus Passage: 2 Kings 22:1–23:3

Key Bible Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16

Life Application

I can respect and obey God's Word.

Level of Biblical Learning (Bible)

The teachings in the Bible will last forever.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Welcome the Children

Send Morse Code Messages

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Whoa!"

Tell the Bible Story

Review the Bible Story

Sing "Ancient Words"

Apply the Bible Story

Show "Backyard Explorers" Video #1

Say the Key Bible Verse

Sing "I'm Gonna Bless"

Play "The Name Grab" Game

Sing "Almighty God"

Receive the Offering/Pray

Application Activities (20 minutes)

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

1 → Welcome the Children

2 → Send Morse Code Messages

Pull It Together

Flashlight, Worship Guides, pencils

- Distribute Worship Guides and pencils. Instruct the kids to complete the "Morse Code" activity.
- Review the answers for younger children (*temple, book, punish, promise*) and older children (*king, temple, book, death, punish, promise*).
- Use a flashlight to demonstrate how Morse code can be sent with light.
- Say: "Let's discover how God chose to send the people of Israel an important message."

Worship

3 → Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 3 minutes)

4 → Tell the Bible Story (6 minutes)

Pull It Together

Hide your Bible in a somewhat challenging location within the room.

- Pretend to search the room for your Bible. Say: "I can't find my Bible. Will you help me?"
- Thank the children for helping you find your Bible.
- Explain: "In today's story we will hear about a time when God's Word was lost and then found."
- Open your Bible to 2 Kings 22. Tell the story in your own words.

Josiah Heard God's Word

Based on 2 Kings 22:1-23:3

Josiah was only 8 years old when he became king. Unlike his father and grandfather who reigned before him, Josiah was a good king. He wanted to worship the one true God as his ancestor David had done.

When Josiah was a young man, he gave an order for the temple in Jerusalem to be repaired.

Respect the Word

During the work on the temple, Hilkiah [hil KIE yuh], the high priest, found the book of law. The book of law was the first five books of the Bible. They were written by Moses. Hilkiah gave the book to the court secretary who read it to the king.

When King Josiah heard the words of the book of law, he became so upset he tore his clothes. Tearing one's clothes was a way to show grief in that day. The king knew the people in his kingdom were not living the way God wanted them to live. King Josiah instructed the court secretary and a servant to go and see Huldah [HUL duh], a prophetess of the Lord. A prophetess was a woman who told God's message.

"Find out what God intends to do to punish us," said King Josiah.

Huldah gave the king's men this message from God: "I am about to bring disaster on your nation because the people have turned away from Me and worshiped other gods. Because King Josiah humbled himself before Me when he heard the words of the book of law, I will not punish the people until after his death."

The men reported the message to the king. King Josiah gathered the people at the temple. As they listened, he read the book of law. The king promised God that he would follow Him and keep His commandments. The people agreed to the promise.

5 → Review the Bible Story (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Flashlight

- Print "Josiah" Teaching Picture (CD). Attach to focal wall.

- Call attention to the teaching picture. Ask: "What is something you find interesting about this picture?"
- Give the flashlight to a volunteer. Instruct him to shine the light on the part of the picture he finds interesting while he shares his comment about the picture.
- Allow additional volunteers to shine the flashlight and share their comments.

- Remind the children of the “Morse Code” activity they completed earlier.
- Mention each of the words from the activity, one at a time. Ask for volunteers to share how the words were used in the Bible story. Shine the flashlight on a volunteer’s feet and let him explain the words.

6 Sing “Ancient Words” (DVD, 3 minutes)

7 → Apply the Bible Story (6 minutes)

- Guide the children to complete the “Crown Jewels” activity in their Worship Guides.
- Invite a volunteer to share the decoded answer. (*I can respect and obey God’s Word.*)
- Lead the children to locate the definition of *respect* written on their Worship Guides.
- Ask: “How did Josiah show that he respected God’s Word?” (*He tore his clothes in grief; He read it to the people; He promised to obey it.*)
- Say: “Let’s show respect for God’s Word by reading it, listening to it, and speaking it.”
- Read aloud Psalm 119:9-16 to the children. Encourage them to repeat each verse loudly after you.

8 → Show “Backyard Explorers” Video #1 (DVD, 8 minutes)

- Ask: “How do maps help us? What happens when we do not follow maps? Let’s see what happens when Carter decides he does not need a map.”
- Show video.
- Continue: “Carter thought he knew all about the cave. His unwillingness to read the map put his life and the lives of his friends in danger. How did reading the map help?”
- Conclude: “How is the Bible like a map for our lives?”

9 Say the Key Bible Verse (3 minutes)

- Say: “I’m thinking of a Bible book. What book is it?” Allow the children to guess until someone says, “2 Timothy.”
- Acknowledge that 2 Timothy is correct. Say: “Now I’m thinking of a chapter in 2 Timothy. What is the chapter number?” Allow guesses until someone says, “Chapter 3.”
- Continue: “Now I am thinking of a verse in 2 Timothy, chapter 3.” What is the verse number?” (16)

- Acknowledge 2 Timothy 3:16 is the verse. Invite several volunteers to read aloud the verse.
- Invite volunteers to share what they believe the verse means. Affirm their responses.
- Say: “Because of God’s message, the Bible, we can know what is right and wrong, and we can live lives that are pleasing to God.”

10 Sing “I’m Gonna Bless” (DVD, 3 minutes)

11 Play “The Name Grab” Game (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Pack of index cards, pencil, large paper bags (one per team)

- Write the following names for the Bible on separate index cards: *The Scriptures, The Word, The Word of God, The Holy Bible, The Good Book.*
- Shuffle all the index cards together.
- Spread the cards facedown over a large central area of the floor.

Teacher Tip

Add an additional pack of index cards if you have a very large group of children.

- Create teams of 8 to 10 children.
- Gather the teams around the index cards. Distribute bags.
- Guide team members to form single file lines.
- Say: “On my signal, the first team member in each line will run and pick up one of the cards. Without looking at the card, he will place it in his team’s bag. He will go to the back of the line, and the next member will take a turn retrieving a card. We will play until you collect all the cards.” Signal the children to begin.
- Conclude: “Look through your bag and remove the cards with names on them.”
- Congratulate the team that found the most names. Praise both teams for their participation.
- Review each of the names on the cards and why the names are sometimes used to refer to the Bible.

12 Sing “Almighty God” (DVD, 3 minutes)

13 → Receive the Offering/Pray (2 minutes)

14 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

15 Play “Shine on Me” (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Flashlight

- Say: “Think of something you learned today. When I shine the flashlight on your feet, tell the group what you learned. Let’s see how many different things we can mention.”
- Shine the flashlight on as many children as possible. Affirm each response.

16 Pray (2 minutes)

- Encourage the children to share prayer requests. Be prepared to share your own needs and some needs of your church.
- Lead the children in prayer for the needs mentioned. Ask God for His help to be obedient to His Word.

17 Sing “Our God Reigns” (DVD, 3 minutes)

Teacher Tip

Looking for additional resources to enhance your teaching? Check out the *Levels of Biblical Learning* resources available at www.lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicalllearning.

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

15 → Review Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite the children to share their Application Activity experiences.
 - Arts and Crafts—Craft Stick Signs
 - Dramatic Play—Scenarios
 - Games—Word Reveal
 - Exploration and Discovery—Gravity Experiments

16 → Pray (2 minutes)

- Encourage the children to share prayer requests. Be prepared to share your own needs and some needs of your church.
- Lead the children in prayer for the needs mentioned. Ask God for His help to be obedient to His Word.

17 → Sing “Our God Reigns” (DVD, 3 minutes)

* *Giant Game Floor Mat* (001114564) may be ordered through LifeWay Christian Resources Customer Service Center at 1.800.458.2772 or online at www.lifeway.com.