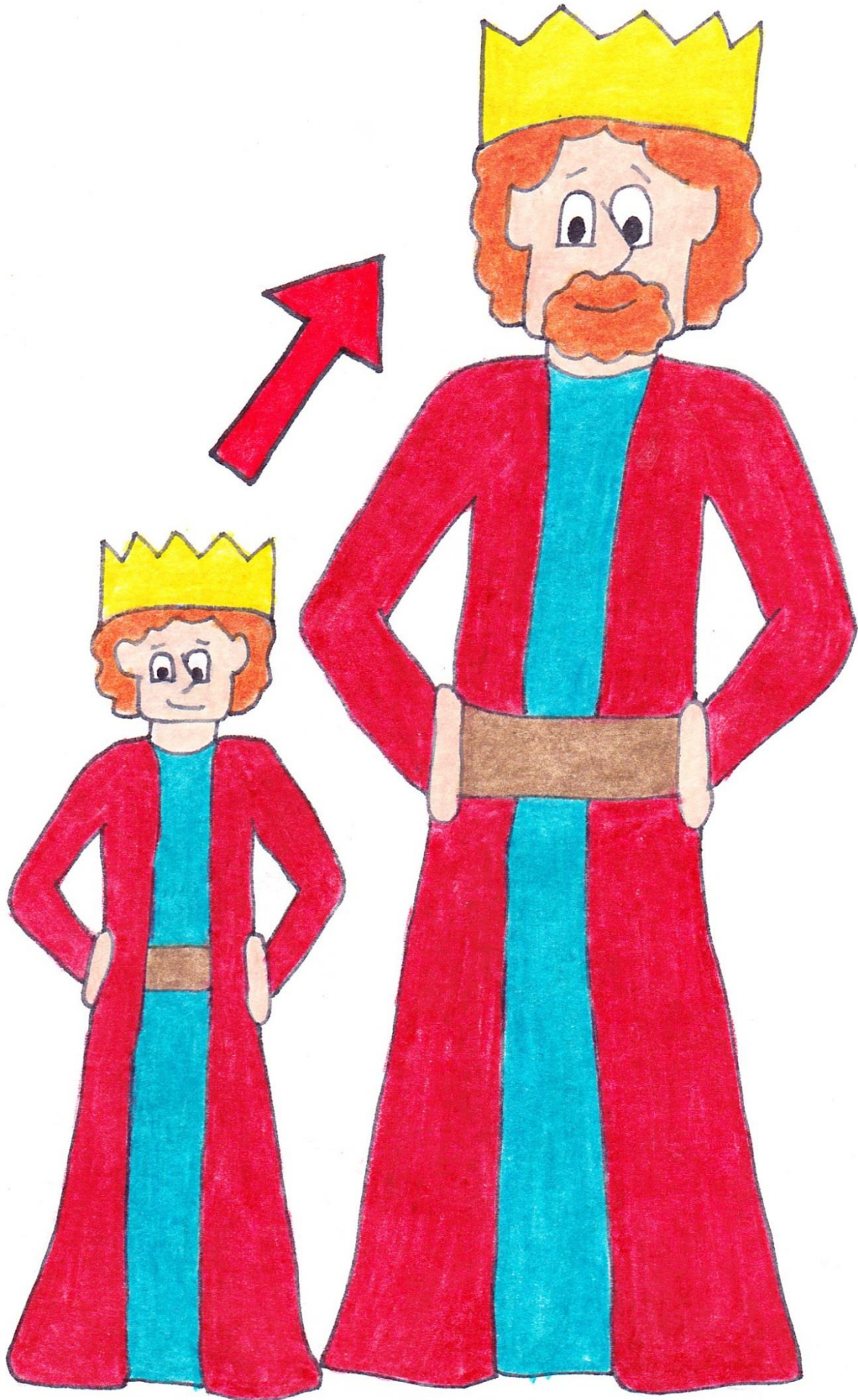


Josiah chooses God
2 Kings 22:1-23:30
2 Chronicles 34:1-35:27





Hezekiah died and his son Manasseh reigned for 55 years. He was the worst king Judah had. He worshipped many idols and did many despicable things.

When he died his son Amon ruled for 2 years. He followed the same path as his father and his servants rebelled and made his son Josiah king.

Josiah was eight years old when he became king.

Despite what he had learned from his father and grandfather, Josiah loved God.

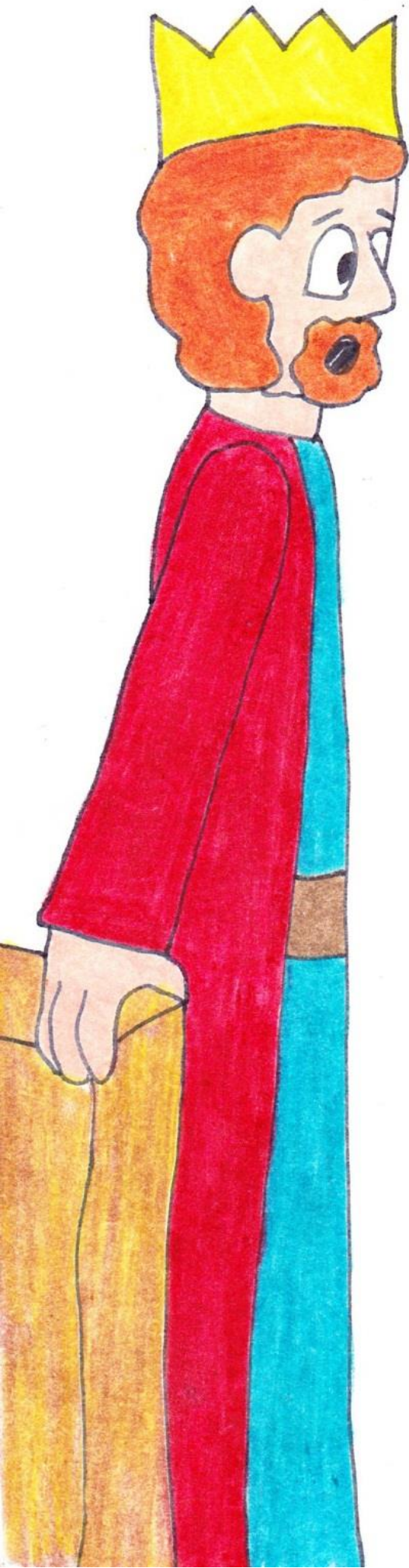
Josiah looked at the Temple and was sad. It was broken and dirty. It was not a place to worship God. For 18 years he saved and when he turned 34, Josiah sent word to the high priest, Hilkiah.



“Take the money I have saved and use it to repair the Temple,” Josiah said. “You do not need to account how it is spent. I trust you.”

Hilkiah searched through the temple for all the money collected. In a far corner he found an old box. Gently he opened it and found the Book of the Law.

“I must tell the king,” he cried. Hilkiah ran to the King.



Josiah read the Law, and tore his clothes in dismay when he heard everything there.

The kings of Judah had not followed these laws for more than 50 years. God could not overlook the idolatry of the people forever.

“Go, ask God for me and for Judah, what should we do? God’s wrath is great because of our sin.”
Josiah said.



Hilkiah went and talked to Huldah, the prophetess.

Huldah sternly answered them. “God says, ‘Tell Josiah, I will punish this place and all who live here. They will be punished for their idol worship.’”

As their faces paled, she held her hand up. “But, God is merciful. He has seen your heart and your repentance. He has seen your anguish at Judah’s sins. You will die in peace. You will not see this tragedy.”

They brought the news back to Josiah, and he closed his eyes in prayer, “Thank you God.”



Josiah gathered all the leaders of Judah together and read the law to everyone.

“I swear to God and to you that I will follow God and His laws. I will follow His commands and lead His people to follow them.” Josiah swore before all of the people of Judah.



Josiah led the people in destroying all of the idols in Judah. He went from city to city breaking and smashing statues.

He killed the priests of the idols and desecrated the altars. Throwing dirt, ashes, and bones on the false altars to destroy them.

Josiah and his soldiers traveled up to Israel and destroyed the idols Jeroboam made 200 years ago, just as God had said would happen.

Josiah turned to the gravesite nearby to pull bones to desecrate the altar.

“Wait!” screamed the people of the town, “That is the prophet of God who warned Jeroboam of his folly. Do not desecrate his bones.”

“Thank you,” Josiah said and honored the prophet who followed God.



As Josiah studied the Book of the Law, he discovered one more thing they still needed to do.

“Passover, what is that?” Josiah muttered. “I’ve never heard of this, and there’s no record of any king holding one.”

He called the priests together and they studied God’s word and prepared for the first Passover in years.

Despite all Josiah did God was still angry. One man’s righteousness cannot atone for generations of sin. It would take God’s son to atone for sin.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. Who taught Josiah about God? Was it his parents? Who else teaches you about God besides your parents?
2. What did Josiah do when he found out he was sinning?
3. What festival did Josiah start celebrating again? How do you celebrate big holidays? Why do you celebrate them?

Middle Kids

1. Read 2 Chronicles 34:3. When did Josiah start following God? Read 1 Timothy 4:12. What is God's advice for young people?
2. How did Josiah learn more about God? Read 2 Kings 22:11-12 and 2 Chronicles 34:3, 8, and 18-19. Josiah kept growing in his knowledge of following God. How have you grown in your faith? What has helped you grow?
3. Why did God want the Israelites to celebrate Passover? Read Exodus 12:17. What do we celebrate as Christians? Why do we celebrate it?

How do your celebrations help you remember what God has done for you?

Older Guys

1. Read 2 Kings 23:3. What is Judah's response to Josiah's call? The people of Judah followed after Josiah as their leader. Scan the passage of Josiah. What leadership qualities do you see in Josiah?
2. Compare Hezekiah and Josiah. Read 2 Kings 20:16-19 and 22:15-23:3. What is the difference in responses to God's news to them? Does Josiah seem resigned or proactive?

Activities

1. Stack blocks and throw a ball at them to knock it down, just like Josiah destroyed the altars to idols.
2. Make a scroll of the Torah to find, this can be a fun game of find the scriptures.
 1. Cut a sheet of typing paper in half.
 2. Crumple the pieces up to create wrinkles
 3. Dip the paper in strong tea or coffee for about 30 seconds.
 4. After the paper has dried put a small line of

glue on the top and bottom.

5. Put a popsicle stick over the glue to create ends to the scroll.

6. Write a favorite verse on your scroll.



Online

1. Josiah lesson plan-

<http://sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/OT/dividedkingdom/Joash.htm>

2. Josiah video to watch-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0VLy_1CxWY

3. Josiah lesson and bulletin board-

<http://handsonbibleteacher.blogspot.com/2013/09/king-josiah-law-found-in-temple.html>

4. King Josiah visuals and worksheets-

<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2014/04/king-josiah.html>