

THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 05 October 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Children of the Bible / Josiah, the boy king
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** 2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35
- **CONCEPT:** God wants me to obey

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that the Bible, God's Word, teaches us the importance of right and wrong, and tells us how much God loves us.
- To challenge kids to remember to read their Bibles and obey God's Word.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure Chest – with Lucas the lamb inside (from last week's story)
- ✓ Map or globe
- ✓ Josiah graphic
- ✓ Scroll (if you can't lay your hands on an authentic-looking scroll, make one by staining paper with tea, and fixing dowelling rods to either end to roll the scroll)
- ✓ Prayer Net
- ✓ Prayer cards and pen
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>A. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>This is the Day / I Am Not Forgotten</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Supernatural</i>)</p>
<p>B. Message 15 minutes</p> <p>1. Recap (2-3 minutes) Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out Lucas the lamb whom you placed there last week. Ask for someone to explain where Lucas lived and who looked after him. Recap last week's story of David, the shepherd boy, by asking a few follow-up questions. Finish by eliciting the Bible concept: God wants me to help others.</p> <p>You could also ask if anyone remembers last week's memory verse and have them recite it, individually and as a group. Or refer kids to the verse if you displayed it following the last session – <i>"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me."</i> John 10:27</p> <p>2. Set the scene Boys and girls, we have been learning over the past few weeks about children who God chose for special jobs. Remember Miriam who took care of her baby brother, Samuel who heard God's voice, the little girl who helped Naaman – the soldier with leprosy, and last week we heard how David – the shepherd boy – was chosen to be the next king of Israel.</p> <p>Today we are back in Israel ... but many years after David was king, there were a lot of evil kings. They didn't love God and they didn't want to live God's way. Because of this, the people in Israel started fighting against each other, and the country divided into two. The northern kingdom was still called Israel, but the southern kingdom was called Judah.</p> <p>I want to tell you about a boy who was only eight years old when he became king of Judah. His name was Josiah (<i>show picture of Josiah on screen</i>). Unlike the kings before him, Josiah loved God and he tried to obey God. What does that word 'obey' mean? – It means to do what somebody tells you to do. Children are often told to obey their parents, right? So if your mum or dad tells you to go to bed at 7 o'clock, or eat your vegetables, then you should do it because they know what's best for you! Well, little Josiah tried to obey God and do what God wanted.</p> <p>3. Tell the story When Josiah was 20 years old, he saw that people in his country were worshipping statues and pictures instead of worshipping God. Josiah knew this was wrong and he made sure that all the statues and pictures were pulled down, destroyed and ground down to powder so that they couldn't be fixed. He did this in every city, trying to get rid of the bad behaviour in his country.</p>	<p>You'll need ... <i>Treasure chest with Lucas the lamb inside (from last week's story)</i></p> <p><i>Globe / map</i></p> <p><i>Graphic – Josiah portrait</i></p>

A few years later, when Josiah was 26 years old, he realised that the church wasn't in such good condition. It needed to be cleaned and it needed a lot of repairs on the walls and the roof. This was not a good thing because the church is God's house and so it must be looked after so that people can go there to worship God. Well, Josiah got the money that the people had collected at church, he got some workmen together, and he made sure that these workmen were paid to finish the repairs on the church. They needed wood and stone and bricks to fix the church building ... and so, the work began.

One day, when the men were cleaning and tidying the rubble in the church, they found something. It was dirty and dusty, buried underneath the bricks and rubbish lying on the floor. What was it? They cleared a space and pulled out a scroll. Do you know what a scroll is? (*Show kids your scroll*) This is what people had before there were books. The men opened up the scroll to see what was written in it. Guess what? This scroll was the Bible! It was so dusty and dirty and hadn't been read in years because it was hiding underneath all the rubble in the old run-down church. In those days, people didn't have their own personal Bible at home. They went to church to listen to the pastor reading the Bible to them ... that's why this was such a terrible thing. The Bible had been buried and forgotten about, and the people in Judah were not living by God's teaching.

Scroll

The workmen took the scroll Bible and went to see King Josiah. They read the scroll to Josiah, and he became very afraid. In fact, he was so afraid that he tore his clothes! That's what people did in those days to show that they were very sad or angry or scared. Why was King Josiah so upset? He realised that the people had forgotten about God and hadn't been living good lives like God wants for us. The people had forgotten to read the Bible to learn what is right and wrong, and so they were not obeying God. Josiah was very sad that this had happened for so many years.

King Josiah told one of his pastors to talk to God about everything the people had done wrong. Josiah was scared that God would be very angry with them because they had forgotten about Him. The pastor talked to God, and then she told King Josiah what God had said. God was angry with the people. He was angry because they had been worshipping statues and pictures instead of Him. He was angry because they had forgotten to read their Bible. He was angry because they had forgotten to take good care of their church. These people had completely forgotten about God and He wanted to punish them, so that they would know they had done wrong. But, even though the people were behaving badly, God saw that King Josiah loved Him. God saw Josiah's heart. He saw how sorry and upset Josiah was when he tore his clothes because he realised that the people had forgotten God. Because of King Josiah's good heart, God decided to let the people of Judah live in peace.

King Josiah brought his people together and took them to the church. He opened the Bible scroll and read every single word to

<p>the people. Josiah promised that he would always obey the laws written in the Bible, and that he would love and follow the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength. Then he made all the people promise to do the same.</p> <p>After making this promise to God at the church, King Josiah told all the people to have a big party to celebrate God and His goodness to them. There had never been such a great party before to celebrate God – and the people would remember it for a long, long time.</p> <p>Let's put King Josiah's Bible scroll into the treasure chest. We'll take it out again next week and see how much you remember about Josiah's story!</p> <p>4. Explain</p> <p>Boys and girls, sometimes we can be like the people of Judah. Sometimes we forget to read our Bibles and we don't come to church to hear what God has to say to us. Sometimes we forget to pray too. If we tell God that we're sorry for forgetting about Him, He won't be cross with us. He wants to be our friend and He wants us to get to know Him. The best way we can get to know Him is by reading His Word, the Bible, and by talking and listening to Him when we pray. Remember that we can't just read the Bible. God wants us to obey what He tells us there. He wants us to live good lives for Him, and tell other people about how good He is.</p> <p>Josiah was only eight years old when he became king, and he already loved God. That tells us that none of you is too young to love God and live for Him. If you want to live for God like King Josiah did, you can tell God that you're sorry for forgetting about Him and ask Him to come and live with you in your heart. You can ask Him to help you to pray and read your Bible, and to obey or do the things God wants you to do.</p> <p>If you already live for God, then that's wonderful! If you haven't made that decision yet, and you would like to ask Jesus to come and live in your heart, then you can talk to one of the leaders today before you go home.</p>	<p><i>Treasure chest</i></p>
<p>C. Prayer Net</p> <p>10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a child to explain what it means when we <i>pray</i> – We talk to God and He listens. 2. Explain that prayer / talking to God is very important because that's how we get to know Him. 3. Choose a child to retrieve the prayer net. Lift out the prayer cards you put there last week. Ask the kids for updates on those situations. 4. Explain that when we have worries or things to be thankful for, we need to tell God about those things. Remember that He hears all our prayers and He will answer us – maybe not with the answer we want, but He always knows best. 5. Tell kids that we are going to make a note of some special prayers today and put them in the prayer net. Next week they 	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>Net (with last week's prayer cards)</i></p> <p><i>Small cards / postcards</i></p> <p><i>A pen</i></p>

<p>will tell us what happened in those situations.</p> <p><i>Today it may be appropriate to thank God for His Word, the Bible, and for our church building – just as Josiah realised how important those were for his people, we should take care of our church building and we should look after and read our Bibles. You could talk about persecuted churches in countries where owning a Bible is illegal, where believers cannot meet, etc. We can read our Bibles freely to learn about how good God is. We should be thankful and not let our Bibles get dusty!</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Ask a few kids if they have a prayer to put into the net. As they tell you, write their name and the topic of their prayer on a small card. Ask the child to say a prayer aloud (help them to do so) before they place their card into the prayer net. 7. Finish by leading a prayer for the whole group. 	
<p>D. Conclusion (with puppets) 5 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Challenge kids to remember to be like King Josiah – to love God with all their heart, and to obey God's Word, the Bible. Ask kids to let you know if they don't have a Bible at home – perhaps your church could provide children's Bibles for them. 2. Remind kids to come back this evening. 3. Sing a closing song. <i>(This is the Day)</i> 4. Ask kids to put their mats away and put their name tags in the box before they leave. 	<p>You'll need ... <i>DVD player / projector</i> <i>Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i></p>

THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 05 October 08
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by learning a related Scripture verse.
- To internalise today's story and concept by making King Josiah's scroll.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Memory Verse Activity: 3 scrolls
 - Make these from sheets of A3-sized paper, tea-stained to look old.
 - Write a part of the verse on each scroll, e.g. 1. Jesus said, "If you love me ...; 2. "... you will obey what I command."; 3. John 14:15.
 - Fix a rod of dowelling to each of the short ends of each scroll.
 - Roll up the scrolls and tie a ribbon around each.
 - Hide the 3 scrolls in your room to be found during the memory verse section of your lesson.
- ✓ Activity: sheets of A4 paper, pre-printed with open-font memory verse (see photo below)
 - Drinking straws
 - Tape
 - Colouring pens/pencils
 - Lengths of wool (to tie around and secure the scrolls)
- ✓ Small prizes (selection of bookmarks, stickers, pencils, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box

<p>E. Worship through Music (with puppets) 10 minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing. 2. Sing 2 songs together. (<i>This is the Day / I Am Not Forgotten</i>) 3. Open in prayer. 4. Ask kids to get a mat and sit down. 	<p>You'll need ... DVD player / projector Song DVD (<i>Hillsong Kids – Supernatural</i>)</p>
<p>F. Memory Verse (with puppets) 10 minutes <i>Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command." John 14:15</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask a few questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who was the boy in today's story? <i>Josiah</i> - How old was Josiah when he became king? <i>8 years</i> - What did he tell his workers to do at the church? <i>destroy the idols and repair the church</i> - What did the men find under the rubble? <i>A scroll Bible</i> - Then what did the King do? <i>He read the Bible and promised to obey God. He read the Bible to the people and they made the same promise. Then everyone had a party to celebrate God and remember their promise to Him.</i> 2. <i>Explain:</i> The story of Josiah should help us to remember that our Bible is important because it is the Word of God. We learn about God by reading the stories from our Bibles. That's where all <i>The Island</i> stories come from. The Bible also tells us what is right and wrong, and how we can live to please God by doing good things for him. In fact, Jesus said something very important to explain this ... but you're going to have to help me find out what Jesus said. 3. Choose 3 kids. <i>Explain:</i> This is a game of hide and seek. There are 3 scrolls hiding on <i>The Island</i>, and these 3 kids must each find a scroll to discover Jesus' words for us today. I will say 'warm' and 'cold' as the 3 kids search to help them find the scrolls. 4. When the kids find the scrolls, help them to open them up. Together, the 3 scrolls make up the memory verse. Have the kids hold the scrolls up high for the others to see. Repeat the verse a few times as a group and individually. 5. Take a scroll away and ask if anyone can say the verse with the missing scroll. Take away another scroll, and finally the third, having kids repeat the verse each time, individually and as a group. 6. Reiterate that we can show our love for the Lord by doing what is right. We can learn to do what is right by reading our Bibles and learning to follow and trust God. 7. Finish with a group repetition of the verse. <p>Idea: After the session, you could display the memory verse scrolls in your room. This will add to your decoration as well as reminding kids of the Bible concept. Then you can also refer to it in later sessions of this series.</p>	<p>You'll need ...</p> <p><i>3 scrolls with a section of the memory verse written on each – these should be hidden in your room beforehand</i></p>

Jesus said, "If you
love me, you will
obey what I
command."
John 14:15

