

LESSON PLAN

JOASH IS KING OF JUDAH

2 Kings 11-12

Lesson Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:15 “And that from a child you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

Lesson Aim: Good Bible teachers help us live right; so love and obey these people.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Children are like surprise packages. Sometimes they bring happy surprises to their parents and sometimes they bring disappointing surprises to them. There was a baby boy who was very sick in a farm home in Wales. His mother walked five miles in the night through heavy rain to get to a doctor. When she asked the doctor to see the baby boy, he hesitated about making the unpleasant trip. Would it be worth it? The family was poor and he would receive no money for his work, and if the boy did live, he probably would grow up to be no better than a poor farm worker. But he finally decided to go and, as a result, the little boy's life was saved. When the boy grew up he was in charge of all the money in his country, one of the most powerful leaders in his nation. The doctor never dreamed that he was saving the life of such an important man when he made his trip to that farm house that rainy night.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us about Timothy, a man who became a great leader for God. He was taught the Bible as a little boy by his mother and grandmother (cf. 2 Tim 1:5). They did not know that he would become a great leader for God, but they faithfully taught him the Scriptures. These Bible verses made him wise about salvation and when he was older he was saved by putting his faith in Jesus Christ. I am sure he was very thankful that his mother and grandmother faithfully taught him the Bible when he was a little boy. Our memory verse will remind you how important it is to learn the Bible while you are young so you can know for sure how to be saved by faith in Christ Jesus.

Phrases to explain:

The Scriptures “**make you wise unto salvation**” – the Scriptures will show you how to be saved
“**Through faith . . . in Christ Jesus**” – we are saved by believing Christ Jesus is able to do it

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our story today is about a little boy who was protected and taught by a faithful priest in the Lord's house. He was a double surprise because first, he brought happiness and, then, he brought sadness to those in his kingdom. His name was Joash.

I. Joash Concealed (2 Kings 11:1-3)

Joash was almost killed by his wicked grandmother when he was a little baby, but his aunt saved his life by hiding him in the house of the Lord. His uncle was Jehoiada, the priest in the house of the Lord (2 Chron 22:11). His uncle and aunt hid him and protected him and taught him for six years.

WE: We may not know it, but Satan is like Joash's wicked grandmother. He wants to hurt us. He wants to send us to be an enemy of God. But those who teach us the Bible are our best friends. They are helping us to escape from Satan by telling us about Jesus. If you accept Jesus as your Savior, you are safe, even safer than Joash was in the house of the Lord.

II. Joash Crowned (2 Kings 11:4-21)

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada decided it was time to make Joash the king of Judah. Careful plans were made to protect him from his wicked grandmother, who did not know he was alive. When everything was ready, Jehoiada showed Joash to the people and they made him their king. When his wicked grandmother found out what had happened, she was very angry and cried, “Treason!” She called the people betrayers, but she was the betrayer when she killed her grandsons so she could be the ruling queen. She had to be executed for her wickedness. Joash then smashed the false gods of Baal, the house of Baal and his altars. This was the false god that his wicked grandmother worshipped. It was a great victory for the Lord and His people.

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WE: We who know the Lord as our Savior will see something like this when Jesus comes back to rule the earth as the King of kings. The world will be astonished that Jesus is the King of the earth, but we who read the Bible know that this day is coming. All those who have received Him as their Savior will rule the earth with Him. Satan and all of his wicked followers and all of their idols will be removed from this earth. It will be a great victory for the Lord and for His people (Rev 19-20). Do you know Jesus as your Savior?

III. Joash Coached (2 Kings 12:1-3)

Joash was only seven years old when he became king (11:21), so Jehoiada, the priest, taught him what he should do. Jehoiada faithfully taught him how to obey and serve the Lord all the days that he lived, and Jehoiada lived 130 years (2 Chron 24:15).

WE: We have received godly help from Bible teachers, too. Some of you have parents who teach you how to obey and serve the Lord. Others have grandparents and church leaders and friends who teach you how to live for the Lord. I hope you thank God for them, love them and obey them, just as Joash loved and obeyed his uncle, Jehoiada.

IV. Joash Concerned (2 Kings 12:4-16)

Joash was concerned about the house of the Lord because it needed to be repaired. He tried one plan to collect money, but that did not work. At last, Jehoiada had a plan that did work. He took a chest and bored a hole in the lid and put it beside the altar. When the people came to the house of the Lord they put their money for fixing the Lord's house in the chest. Soon they had enough money to pay for all the repair work.

WE: We should be concerned for the house of the Lord, too. It is important that His house is kept in good repair, but this takes money. The leaders of the church usually have a plan as to how to collect enough money to keep the Lord's house repaired. I hope that you will listen to these leaders just as Joash listened to Jehoiada, because they are trying to help you to do what is right with the Lord's house.

V. Joash Corrupted (2 Kings 12:17-21; II Chron 24:15-27)

Joash did right all the while Jehoiada, his godly teacher, was alive (12:2), but when he died, Joash changed and stopped obeying the Lord. Instead, he listened to the princes who were wicked, and he joined with them in worshipping idols (2 Chron 24:17-18). As a result, the Lord was angry with Joash and He sent prophets to warn him, but he would not listen to them. Finally, the Lord sent Zechariah, the son of Jehoiada, to warn him, but Joash had him killed (2 Chron 24:19-22). That was a very wicked thing to do to anyone, especially to Jehoiada's son. Jehoiada had protected and taught and helped Joash become king, but when Jehoiada's son gave him God's message, he killed the son. God was very angry with Joash for doing this, so He sent much trouble to him and finally two of his own servants killed him.

WE: Do we think Joash deserved to die? (Yes) The sin of Joash should be a warning to us. We must not forget the things that our parents and our leaders have taught us from the Bible. Love these people and obey them because they are showing you the ways that please the Lord. If you do not, you will be punished by the Lord just like Joash was. I hope you will not make the same mistake as Joash.

BE (for Action): Who protected Joash when he was a baby? (His uncle and aunt – Jehoiada and his wife) Who made it possible for Joash to become king? (Jehoiada) Who taught Joash and helped him to do right after he become king? (Jehoiada) Who did Joash listen to after Jehoiada died? (The wicked princes) What wicked thing did Joash do when he was warned by God through Zechariah, Jehoiada's son? (He had him killed.) What happened to Joash at the end of his life? (The Lord sent much trouble to him and finally he was killed by two of his own servants.) Do not be like Joash was at the end of his life. Be like he was when he loved and obeyed Jehoiada. If you want to love and obey those who teach you God's Word, I want you to stand to your feet before I pray. Do not stand if you do not mean it. This is serious business. If you love those who teach you God's Word you will thank the Lord for them and you will pray for them. (Give children an opportunity to stand). Pray for those who stand up that they might continue to love the Lord and to obey Him even after their teachers die and go to Heaven.