

UNIT 1: GOD'S WORD, GOD'S MESSAGE

Session 1: Josiah Obeyed God's Word

BIBLE PASSAGE

2 Kings 22:1–23:3

LIFE POINT

The Bible teaches how God wants people to live.

CHRIST FOCUS

The Bible tells about Jesus and God's plan for people.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Bible is God's message about Himself.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: June 4

BIBLE VERSE

Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.

Psalm 119:34 (CSB)

Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Psalm 119:34 (KJV)

Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.

Psalm 119:34 (NIV)

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

Psalm 119:34 (ESV)

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Psalm 119:34 (NKJV)

SCHEDULE AND PROPS**Huddle Ups** (optional)

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Ring Toss”—Bibles, chair, painter's tape, marker, 3 small hoops
- “Toss and Obey”—Bibles, poster board, 3 markers (red, blue, and yellow), masking tape, beanbag

Countdown Video (3 minutes)

Props: none

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)

Props: none

True2Life Drama (or *Mooseberry video*) (3-5 minutes)

Props: poster board, marker, pitcher, lemonade, package of cookies, tray, tape, table

Connection Point Game

(10 minutes)

Props: blindfold, painter's tape

Worship Song (3 minutes)

Props: none

Bible Story (10 minutes)

Props: 3-4 Bibles (different shapes, colors, and sizes)

Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)

Props: none

Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)

Props: none

MUSIC AND MEDIA

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“Oh, How You Love Us”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **True2Life Drama:**
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“Light in the Darkness”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides, Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides

HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies (for each small group):
 - “Ring Toss”—Bibles, chair, painter’s tape, marker, 3 small hoops
 - “Toss and Obey”—Bibles, poster board, 3 markers (red, blue, and yellow), masking tape, beanbag

HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION “RING TOSS”

Prep: Turn a chair upside down so the legs point up. Tape a tossing line several feet away from the chair. Tear 4 pieces of tape and number them, 1–4. Attach a numbered piece of tape on each chair leg.

- Form teams.
- Give each team a Bible.
- Name a book of the Bible.
- Lead teams to race to find the book you named.
- Invite a player from the fastest team to stand behind the tossing line.
- Give the player three hoops.
- Challenge him to toss each hoop onto a chair leg.
- Observe the numbers on which the hoops land.
- Tally the points and award them to the team.
- Call another Bible book and play again.
- Mention that the Bible is God’s message about Himself. The Bible tells about Jesus and teaches how God wants people to live.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.
- **Leader tip:** Cut the centers from heavyweight paper plates to make hoops.

HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION

“TOSS AND OBEY”

Prep: On the poster board randomly draw 6 circles or trace around a roll of masking tape. Color 1 circle red, 1 yellow, and 1 blue. Write 1 of the following Scripture references inside each of the remaining 3 circles: Hebrews 13:5; Colossians 3:23; Mark 16:15.

- Review the Life Point: **The Bible teaches how God wants people to live.**
- Invite volunteers to tell about a time when the Bible helped them make a right choice. Be prepared to share your own testimony if no child volunteers.
- Lead kids to sit in a circle.
- Place the poster in the center of the circle.
- Guide kids to take turns tossing a beanbag onto the poster.
- Observe the color on which the beanbag lands.
- Guide the tosser to answer a question:
 - Red—What is something you have learned from the Bible?
 - Yellow—When is a time someone might need the Bible’s correction? (*Kids might mention bad attitudes, disobedience to parents, and so on.*)
 - Blue—When is a time it might be hard to obey God’s Word?
- If a beanbag lands near a Scripture reference, lead the group to find it in the Bible, read it aloud, and discuss how it teaches people to live.
 - Hebrews 13:5—Be content with what you have! Discuss priorities, jealousy, thankfulness, and needs vs. wants.
 - Colossians 3:23—Always do your best! Talk about giving your best effort in all areas including talents, school work, athletics, chores, and so on.
 - Mark 16:15—Tell others about Jesus! Emphasize the importance of spreading the gospel to people in every part of the world.
- Play the game as your time allows, or play until each child takes a turn.
- **Leader note for older kids:** Show kids how to use the concordance in the backs of their Bibles. Challenge kids to find other verses that help people know how God wants them to live.

COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Countdown* video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Oh, How You Love Us” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Good morning *(afternoon/evening)*! It’s awesome that you’re here to worship and praise God. We have so many reasons to thank Him. God cares for us, teaches us what is right, and—best of all!—He loves us! Stand and sing with me about God’s love.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Hi, everyone! I’m happy to see you! I have a question for you. Why did you come to church today? *(Allow for responses.)*

We came to church for lots of different reasons. Some kids came because their parents brought them. A few kids came because they like singing songs and playing games. Other people came because they wanted to worship God.

There are lots of reasons to come to church, but one important reason is because the Bible says we should! The Bible teaches believers in Jesus to meet together and worship God!

The Bible teaches us to do what is right. It tells us how to live in ways that honor God.

(Show Life Point slide.)

The Bible teaches how God wants people to live. Say that with me: **“The Bible teaches how God wants people to live.”**

It’s important that we read the Bible, understand it, and obey its words. Read with me Psalm 119:34.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.
Psalm 119:34 *(CSB)*
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Psalm 119:34 *(KJV)*
- Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Psalm 119:34 *(NIV)*
- Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
Psalm 119:34 *(ESV)*
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Psalm 119:34 *(NKJV)*

The Bible is God’s message about Himself. It tells about Jesus and God’s plan for people. The Bible will always lead you to do what is right. Let’s pray and thank God for the Bible. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team *(or the Mooseberry kids)*.

God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You for giving us Your Word so we can know how to live in ways that honor You. Please help us understand the Bible and obey it. Teach us how You want us to live. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

TRUE2LIFE DRAMA

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Action* video (optional)
- ➔ People:
 - Ron (*a church kid who is learning about God*)
 - Dave (*Ron's neighbor who loves baseball*)
- ➔ Props: poster board, marker, pitcher, lemonade, package of cookies, tray, tape, table
- ➔ Prep: Pour some lemonade into the pitcher. On the poster write *Fresh squeezed lemonade \$1.00 Homemade cookies \$1.00 All money given to charity.*

Dave enters carrying all of the supplies and walks to the table at center stage. Halfway there, Ron enters and notices that Dave is struggling.

Ron: Hey, Dave! Do you need any help?

Dave: Thanks, Ron! This is a lot to carry. Can you take this poster for me?

Ron: Sure! What are you doing?

Dave: I really want a new baseball glove, so I decided to set up a lemonade stand to make some money.

(Dave takes cookies out of the package and places them on a tray.)

Ron: Oh! *(Looks at the poster)* Um ... Dave, this poster says: "Homemade cookies." Are you actually using cookies from a package?

Dave: Yeah, but no one will even notice. Hey, could you tape that poster to the table for me?

Ron: OK. *(Tape poster to the table.)* This poster says, "All money given to charity." I thought you were earning money for a new glove.

Dave: Yes, that's right. If I say it's for charity, more people will probably buy stuff.

(Dave continues arranging the lemonade and other items on the table.)

Ron: Hmm ... I'm guessing the lemonade isn't actually fresh squeezed.

Dave: No, it's from a can. Who has time to squeeze that many lemons? OK, I'm all set! How does it look?

Ron: I guess it all looks good, but nothing on this poster is true. It's all a lie.

Dave: I could add "Tips welcome." That would be the truth!

Ron: Dave, that's not my point. Don't you feel bad that you are lying?

Dave: Not really. None of my lies are hurting anyone.

Ron: I'm sure people would be upset to know that you're helping yourself instead of others.

Dave: *(thinking)* Maybe.

Ron: I'm learning that lying is not what God wants for people. God wants people to tell the truth.

Dave: How do you know that?

Ron: It's in the Bible. The Bible teaches how God wants people to live.

Dave: Isn't the Bible just a big book of rules?

Ron: No way! The Bible is God's message about Himself. The Bible is the way that people can learn about God and how to live in ways that honor Him. The Bible is much more than just a rule book. It is God's Word.

Dave: I never knew that. *(Looks at poster.)* I guess the Bible would tell me not to lie.

Ron: Definitely!

Dave: Hmm ... Let's go find a marker so I can fix this.

(They exit.)

(END SCENE)

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, at least 5 kids (*or play as a large group*)
- ➔ Props: blindfold, painter's tape

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Leader note:** *If your space allows, play as a whole group. Designate each wall of the room as a different direction. Instruct each child to stand next to the wall of her choice.*
- *Designate each wall of the play area as a different cardinal direction (north, south, west, east). Use the tape to create large letters N, S, W, E on the floor or walls. (If your play area does not have 4 walls, designate 4 areas by using cones or hoops.)*
- *Choose at least 5 kids.*
- *Blindfold 1 volunteer.*
- *Lead the volunteer to stand in the center of the game area.*
- *Instruct each player to quickly go and stand next to the directional wall of her choice.*
- *Direct the blindfolded player to announce a direction (north, south, west, or east).*
- *Explain that all of the players standing at the called direction are out of the game.*
- *Tell the remaining players to choose a different directional wall and go stand next to it.*
- *Continue the game until only 1 player remains.*
- **Leader Note:** *If the blindfolded player calls a direction that no player selected, simply tell him to call a different direction.*

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Today's game is all about choosing the right direction. Some of you may go north, a few may go south, and others will head east or west. You never know which way is the right way! Who would like to play? *(Choose several kids or invite the whole group to play. Blindfold a volunteer and lead him to stand in the center of the game area.)*

Players, you'll notice that each wall of the game area is labeled either north, south, west, or east. All you need to do is choose which direction to go!

When I say to begin, choose a direction and go stand next to it. *(Name of blindfolded child)* will call out a direction. If he calls the direction where you are standing, you're out of the game.

We will keep playing until there is only one player left. Do all of you understand how to play? *(Answer any questions and play the game.)*

Our players had no idea which direction they should go. They made their choices and hoped to make it to the next round. Do you think the game would have been easier if the players had known ahead of time which direction to choose? *(Allow for responses.)* Of course! Knowing which way to go would have made the game much easier!

God gave us the Bible to help us know which direction to go. He tells us how to live and how to make right choices. We don't have to guess what is the right thing to do. We can read the Bible and know how God wants us to live.

Let's sing another song. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about people who heard God's words and chose to obey them.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: "Light in the Darkness" *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Hebrews 4:12 says that God's Word is alive! The Bible is more than an old book with lots of words. The Bible is God's message to people! God's Word teaches us how to live in ways that honor Him.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus* and *Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: 3-4 Bibles (*different shapes, colors, and sizes*)

Option 1: Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story.

Option 2: Play the *Notebook Bible Story* video.

Option 3: Tell the *Optional Bible Story* available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "Ezekiel Offered Hope," Ezekiel 37.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

I brought several Bibles with me today. Each one is a little different than the others. (Lead kids to name the obvious differences such as shapes, sizes, and colors. You also may mention the inclusion of maps in one Bible, red letters in another Bible, and so on.)

These Bibles look a little different, but all of them are God's Word. The message inside is the same, and all of the words came from God. The words in the Bible teach us the things that God wants us to know about Him and how to live.

Today's Bible story is about a king who led his people to obey God's Word.

(Open the Bible and read 2 Kings 22:1-2.)

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. ... He did what was right in the LORD's sight and walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left.

One day King Josiah sent Shaphan (*SHAY-fan*) to the temple. Shaphan was the court secretary, a helper to the king. Josiah told Shaphan to meet with the priest. The king wanted to be sure that the builders and workers at the temple were paid for their work.

Shaphan obeyed the king and went to the temple. While he was there, the priest told Shaphan some surprising news.

(Read 2 Kings 22:8).

The high priest Hilkiyah told the court secretary Shaphan, "I have found the book of the law in the LORD's temple," and he gave the book to Shaphan, who read it.

Shaphan gave a report to the king. "Your servants have paid those doing the work at the temple," he reported. Then Shaphan told the king, "The priest gave me a book."

Shaphan read the book of God's laws to King Josiah. When Josiah heard the words, he was upset and tore his clothes. He sent the priest, Shaphan, and other leaders to pray and ask God about the words in the book. "Our ancestors did not obey God's laws," Josiah explained. "God must surely be angry with us!"

The men went to Jerusalem to the prophetess Huldah (*HUHL-duh*). She told them to tell the king what God said.

(Read 2 Kings 22:16-17.)

"This is what the LORD says: I am about to bring disaster on this place and on its inhabitants, fulfilling all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read, because they have abandoned me and burned incense to other gods in order to anger me with all the work of their hands. My wrath will be kindled against this place, and it will not be quenched."

Huldah explained that because King Josiah was upset and humbled himself when he heard God's words, the disaster would not come until after the king had died. "King Josiah will not see the disaster that I will bring," God promised.

The men reported everything to the king. Then King Josiah sent a message to all of the people in the land and gathered the people. Josiah explained that God's law had been found, and he read it aloud so that all of the people could hear what it said.

(Read 2 Kings 23:3.)

Next, the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant in the LORD's presence to follow the LORD and to keep his commands, his decrees, and his statutes with all his heart and with all his soul ... ; all the people agreed to the covenant.

(Close the Bible.)

King Josiah was very upset when he heard God's Word. He realized that he and the people had not obeyed God's commands. Josiah gathered the people and read to them the book of God's laws. Both the king and the people made a promise to obey God and do what was right.

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

The Bible is important for people who lived long ago and for people who live today. The Bible tells about Jesus and God's plan for people. It teaches us about our sin and our need for the Savior. The Bible leads us to understand God's love for people and teaches how God wants us to live.

It is so important that we obey the words in the Bible. Do you read your Bible each day? It is difficult to obey God's words if you don't read them! Set aside time each day to read the Bible and pray. Ask God to teach you through His Word and to help you obey His commands.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

God wants people to love and honor Him. One way we do that is by reading His Word and obeying it. God's way is always the best way! The Bible teaches us God's perfect plans and how to do what is right. Let's pray and ask God to help us obey His words in the Bible.

God, we love You. Thank You for the Bible and for teaching us what is right. Please help us obey Your Word. Teach us to honor You with our lives and to tell others what we know about You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps others have Bibles in

their own languages. If you would like to give an offering today,

(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Form groups of 5-6 kids.*
- *Lead each group to stand in a circle.*
- *Guide 1 child in each group to say the first word of the Bible verse.*
- *Instruct the person on the child's right to say the second word.*
- *Continue around the circle, saying 1 Bible verse word at a time.*
- *Explain that the person who says the Scripture reference is "out" and must be seated.*
- *Play the game until only 1 child remains standing in each group.*
- **Leader note:** *Encourage kids who are out of the game to say the verse along with their groups.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart.
Psalm 119:34 (CSB)
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Psalm 119:34 (KJV)
- Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. Psalm 119:34 (NIV)
- Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
Psalm 119:34 (ESV)

- Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
Psalm 119:34 (NKJV)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

It's time to say our Bible verse! Stand and say with me Psalm 119:34.

(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)

(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)

Have you ever read something in the Bible that you didn't understand? *(Allow for responses.)* This is a great verse for you to pray to God! You can pray for God to help you understand His Word so you can obey His commands.

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

The Middle East and North Africa consist of many different countries. The area is composed of desert land where little rain falls.

(Show Connect to Missions slide.)

(Direct the children's attention to the Connect to Missions slide. Point to and name several different Middle Eastern and North African countries.)

There are many different people groups who live in the Middle East and North Africa. One group is the Rashaida people in Sudan. Their everyday lifestyle makes it difficult for Christians to meet and live among the people.

Pray that God will provide a way for Christians to live among the Rashaida people and build relationships with them. Pray that the people will want to know God and follow His Son, Jesus.

(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)

God, we pray for the Rashaida people. Please provide a way for Christians to live among them and tell them the good news about Jesus. We pray the Rashaida will be willing to listen and believe that Jesus is the Savior. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

Lead a conversation with your kids about today's Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.

BIBLE STUDY LEADER

(Show Real Life Connections slide.)

Today you've heard a lot about the Bible and how it teaches us to live. Let's talk some more about the Bible and why it is so important.

(Show the Real Life Questions slides.)

- Tell about a time when you obeyed the Bible.
- Why should people do what the Bible says?
- When and where do you read your Bible?
- What has the Bible taught you about God?

(Show Life Point slide.)

The Bible teaches how God wants people to live. Say that with me: **"The Bible teaches how God wants people to live."**

I hope you will make time this week to read your Bible. It is God's plan for you and teaches you how to do what is right.

Come again next time, and we will hear more about God's Word, the Bible.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*