

UNIT 1: LEARNING FROM THE BIBLE

Session 1: Josiah Heard God's Words

BIBLE PASSAGE

2 Kings 22:1–23:3

LIFE POINT

The Bible tells what God wants us to know.

CHRIST FOCUS

The Bible teaches about Jesus.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

The Bible teaches us what God is like.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: June 4**BIBLE VERSE**Teach me Your words, God.
Psalm 119:34 (*Paraphrase*)Help me understand your instruction,
and I will obey it. Psalm 119:34 (*CSB*)Give me understanding, and I shall
keep thy law. Psalm 119:34 (*KJV*)Give me understanding, so that I may
keep your law. Psalm 119:34 (*NIV*)Give me understanding, that I may
keep your law. Psalm 119:34 (*ESV*)Give me understanding, and I shall
keep Your law. Psalm 119:34 (*NKJV*)**SCHEDULE AND PROPS****Huddle Ups** (*optional; time varies*)
Supplies (*for each small group*):

- “Play with Blocks”—marker, 9 index cards, tape, 9 large blocks
- “Josiah Heard God’s Words”—crayons, coloring sheets (*1 per child*)
- “Obey Crowns”—yellow construction paper, scissors, tape, markers or crayons, stickers (*optional*), self-stick gems (*optional*)

Countdown Video (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Welcome and Prayer** (*5 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Game**
(*10 minutes*)
Props: 3 chairs, 3 Bibles,
painter’s tape**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Bible Story** (*10 minutes*)
Props: Bible**Worship Song and Offering**
(*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Bible Verse**
(*5-8 minutes*)
Props: Bible**Connection Point Missions**
(*5-8 minutes*)
Props: none**Real Life Connections**
(*3-5 minutes*)
Props: none**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“That’s Right”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and *Bible Verse* slides
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“The 10 Commandments”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and *Christ Focus* slides; *Bible Story Time* 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; “North African and Middle East Intro” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections 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):
 - “Play with Blocks”—marker, 9 index cards, tape, 9 large blocks
 - “Josiah Heard God’s Words”—crayons, coloring sheets (1 per child)
 - “Obey Crowns”—yellow construction paper, scissors, tape, markers or crayons, stickers (optional), self-stick gems (optional)

Huddle Up (Before the Session)

“PLAY WITH BLOCKS”

Prep: Number the index cards, 1–9. Tape each card to a block. Hide the blocks around your Huddle Up area.

- Explain that there are nine hidden blocks.
- Challenge preschoolers to find the blocks.
- Help preschoolers to put the blocks in numerical order.
- Point to each number and count aloud with the children.
- Ask a child: “How old are you?”
- Help the child point to the correct number to indicate her age.
- Invite several other children to tell their ages.
- Re-hide the numbered blocks, enlisting the help of a few preschoolers.
- Challenge preschoolers to find the blocks, put them in order, and name each number.
- Mention that preschoolers will hear a Bible story about a boy who became king when he was just 8 years old!

Huddle Up (Before or After the Session)

“JOSIAH HEARD GOD’S WORDS”

Prep: Print this session’s coloring sheet (available on the DVD-ROM).

- Tell preschoolers that King Josiah heard God’s words and learned what God wanted him to know.
- Distribute crayons and coloring sheets.
- Invite preschoolers to color on their pages.

Huddle Up (After the Session)

“OBEY CROWNS”

Prep: Cut a sheet of construction paper in half length-wise. Tape the ends together to make 1 long paper strip. Write on the paper I WILL OBEY GOD. Make 1 per child.

- Review the Life Point: **The Bible tells what God wants us to know.**
- Remind preschoolers that Josiah became king when he was just 8 years old!
- Mention that after Josiah grew up, he read the Bible scroll and knew what God wanted him to do.
- Comment that King Josiah promised to do the things that God wanted him to do. All of the people agreed, and they promised to obey God, too.
- Show one of the paper strips and read aloud the words: “I will obey God.”
- Explain that to *obey* means “to do what someone says to do.” Emphasize that preschoolers should always obey God.
- Encourage the children to use markers, crayons, stickers, and gems to decorate their crowns.
- Measure each child’s paper to fit his head.
- Tape the ends together so the child can wear his crown.

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: “That’s Right” *(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

I am so glad you are here! Are you ready to worship and hear a Bible story today? *(Allow for responses.)* The Bible tells what God wants us to know. It helps us know how to live and tells us about God.

I’m happy that God gave us the Bible! Let’s stand and sing to God.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

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

BIBLE STORY LEADER

Hi, friends! Coming to church is special! I’m really glad that you came today. What are some things that you like to do at church? *(Allow for responses.)*

We do so many things at church! We talk to friends, pray to God, and sing songs. An important thing we do at church is listen to Bible stories. Do you have a favorite Bible story? *(Allow for responses.)*

The Bible is very special because the words in the Bible are from God. The Bible teaches us what God is like and tells us about Jesus!

(Show Life Point Slide.)

The Bible tells what God wants us to know.

Say that with me: **“The Bible tells what God wants us to know.”**

Today’s Bible verse is about understanding God’s words and doing what He says to do. Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Teach me Your words, God.
Psalm 119:34 *(Paraphrase)*
- Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it. Psalm 119:34 *(CSB)*
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law.
Psalm 119:34 *(KJV)*
- Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law. Psalm 119:34 *(NIV)*
- Give me understanding, that I may keep your law.
Psalm 119:34 *(ESV)*
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law.
Psalm 119:34 *(NKJV)*

We can read the Bible to learn what God wants us to know. It is good for us to do what God says to do. Let’s pray and thank God for the Bible.

God, thank You for parents and church leaders who help us learn about You. Thank You for the Bible. Thank You that the Bible tells us what You want us to know. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 12 kids, 3 adult helpers
- ➔ Props: 3 chairs, 3 Bibles, painter’s tape

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Tape a start line on the floor.*
- *Set 3 chairs several feet away from the start line.*
- *Place a Bible on each chair.*
- *Invite 3 adult leaders to stand behind the chairs.*
- *Choose 12 kids.*
- *Form 3 teams.*

- Guide each team to form a single file line behind the start line.
- Tell the first player in each line to run to the chair, pick up the Bible, and stand in front of the chair.
- Instruct adult leaders to whisper 1 statement from the Bible that people can obey (“Be kind,” “Obey your parents,” “Love God,” “Do what is right,” and so on).
- Lead the child to shout the statement, put the Bible back on the chair, run to his team, and tag the next player.
- If your group enjoys competition, name the first team to finish the relay as the winner.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Today we heard that the Bible tells what God wants us to know. Let’s play a game and name some things the Bible tells us to do. Who would like to play? (Choose 12 kids. Form 3 teams. Lead teams to form lines behind the start line.)

(Demonstrate as you give instructions.) When I say to begin, the first person on each team will run to the chair and pick up the Bible. Then listen carefully. A leader will whisper something to you that the Bible tells us to do. Shout the statement, put the Bible back on the chair, hurry back to your team, and tag the next player.

Does everyone know what to do? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

What a great race! Does anyone remember a statement that your friends shouted? (Allow for responses.) The Bible tells us important things that God wants us to know. It tells us to obey our parents, be kind to others, and to love God. Do you think people should do the things that God says to do? (Allow for responses.) Yes! People should always obey God!

Let’s sing another song. After we sing, we will hear a Bible story about King Josiah. The king wanted all of the people to hear God’s words and obey them.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: “The 10 Commandments” (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

The Bible teaches us to do what is right! Let’s sing a song about the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are ten things that God said people should do. Can you help me count to ten? (Hold up fingers as you lead the children to count aloud to ten.)

Wow! Can you sing as well as you count? Let’s find out! Everyone, stand and sing with me.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus*, and *Bible Story* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible

Option 1: Show the *Bible Story Time* video and conclude with a short prayer.

God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You that it teaches us to do what is right. Please help us do the things that You want us to do. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Option 2: Tell the following Bible story. Hide your Bible before the session begins.

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

Friends, I’m afraid that I have some bad news. I was excited to tell you a Bible story today, but I can’t find

my Bible. I know it was here ... somewhere. (*Pretend to look for the Bible.*) Would one of you help me look for my Bible? (*Choose a child to help. Search until the child locates the Bible.*)

Thank you, (*Name of child*)! Now I can read today's Bible story. It's about a king and a missing Bible scroll!

(*Open the Bible. Read 2 Kings 22:1-2.*)

Josiah was eight years old when he became king He did what was right in the LORD's sight.

Whoa! Did you hear that? Josiah was only eight years old when he became king! That's not much older than some of you!

King Josiah loved God and obeyed Him. When Josiah grew older, he had workers repair the temple. The temple was the place where people worshiped God.

Builders worked to fix the temple. As they worked, a man named Hilkiah (*hil-KIGH-uh*) found a Bible scroll. King Josiah's helper took the scroll to the king and read it to him.

It made King Josiah sad that the people had not obeyed God's words. Josiah tore his clothes and called all of the people together.

(*Read 2 Kings 23:2.*)

Then the king went to the LORD's temple [and] read ... all the words of the book ... that had been found in the LORD's temple.

King Josiah read the Bible scroll to the people. He promised to do the things that God wanted him to do. All of the people agreed, and they promised to obey God, too.

(*Close the Bible.*)

Josiah was a good king. He read God's words and led the people to obey them.

(*Show Christ Focus slide.*)

We can read the Bible and do what it says, too. The Bible tells what God wants us to know and teaches us about Jesus! We can hear Bible stories about the wonderful things Jesus did and how much He loves us!

I love to read the Bible, and I like telling you Bible stories! Together, we can learn the things that God wants us to know. Let's pray and ask God to help us.

God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You that it teaches us to do what is right. Please help us do the things that You want us to do. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

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

The helpers at the temple found a lost Bible scroll. When the king read God's words from the scroll, he was very upset. He knew the people had not obeyed God's words.

It is important to hear Bible stories and learn what God wants us to know. I'm glad we can read the Bible!

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money that people give at church helps people have Bibles. If you would like to give an offering today,

(*Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After you collect 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: Bible

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*

- Lead kids to stand in a circle. (If your group is very large, form several circles.)
- Give a Bible to a child in the circle.
- Instruct him to pass the Bible to the friend next to him.
- Lead the group to say aloud the verse as preschoolers pass the Bible.
- Stop passing the Bible when children complete the verse.
- Guide the child with the Bible to shout the reference: “Psalm 119:34!”
- Restart the verse and begin passing the Bible around the circle.
- Continue as your time allows.

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- Teach me Your words, God.
Psalm 119:34 (Paraphrase)
- Help me understand your instruction, and I will obey it. Psalm 119:34 (CSB)
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law.
Psalm 119:34 (KJV)
- Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law. Psalm 119:34 (NIV)
- Give me understanding, that I may keep your law.
Psalm 119:34 (ESV)
- Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law.
Psalm 119:34 (NKJV)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.)

It’s time to say our Bible verse! Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

We should do what the Bible says! Can you name someone who teaches you about the Bible? (Allow for responses.) God gives us parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, pastors, and other church leaders to teach us what God wants us to know!

(Lead the activity.)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides, “North African and Middle East Intro” missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)

(Show the Connect to Missions slide.)

Look at the picture on the screen. Can anyone name the animal? (Allow for responses.) You’re right! It’s a giraffe! You can see giraffes at the zoo, but you probably won’t see one in your backyard! Many giraffes live in Africa!

Some places in Africa and the Middle East are difficult for missionaries to tell about Jesus. Let’s watch a video to see how missionaries do their work.

(Show the missions video, “North African and Middle East Intro”)

Being a missionary is hard work! They want all people to hear that Jesus loves them. Let’s pray for missionaries who work in Africa and the Middle East. Pray that they will find ways to tell the people there about Jesus.

God, thank You for sending missionaries to Africa and the Middle East. Thank You for the work they do to tell others about Jesus. We pray that You will show them ways to answer the people’s questions about Jesus. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Real Life Connections and Life Point slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- Explain that you will ask a question about the Bible.

- *Instruct preschoolers to answer yes or no by doing the following:*
 - *Yes—Jump up and shout: “Yes!”*
 - *No—Cross arms and say: “No way!”*
- *Lead preschoolers to respond to each of the following questions:*
 - *Does the Bible say to love God? (yes)*
 - *Does the Bible say to obey your parents? (yes)*
 - *Does the Bible say to argue with friends? (no)*
 - *Does the Bible say to be kind? (yes)*
 - *Does the Bible say to take things that do not belong to you? (no)*
 - *Does the Bible say to do wrong things? (no)*
 - *Does the Bible say to do what God says? (yes)*

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Real Life Connections slide.)

Today we heard about King Josiah. Josiah became king when he was only 8 years old! Would you like to be a king or queen? *(Allow for responses.)* I think that being a king or queen would be a hard job! What rules would you make if you were the king or queen? *(Allow for responses.)*

King Josiah was a good king. He loved God and wanted to do what was right. Josiah promised to obey God, and he led the people to obey God, too!

How do we know what God wants us to do? *(Allow for responses.)* We can read the Bible! **The Bible tells what God wants us to know.** Let's play a game to think about some of the things we can learn from the Bible.

(Lead the activity.)

(Show Life Point Slide.)

The Bible tells what God wants us to know.

Say that with me: **“The Bible tells what God wants us to know.”**

I'm so glad that God gave us the Bible. The Bible is special because the words are from God! We can read the Bible and hear Bible stories to know what God wants us to do.

Thank you for coming to church. It makes me happy to sing songs and hear Bible stories with you. I hope you will come again next time.

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