



LESSON 5 **FOR LEADERS**

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Delights in Our Obedience

SCRIPTURE: [2 Kings 22–23](#); [2 Chronicles 34](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [Psalm 46:10a](#)

This week, you'll be exploring the narrative of King Josiah choosing to obey during years of disobedience. Take some time to read [2 Chronicles 34:1–3, 8, 14–21, 29–32](#).

I'm currently in a season of teaching my strong-willed, independent, and passionate three-year-old about obedience. We are using the phrase "make good choices" to help instill the principle of obedience in him. Sometimes I think this piece of parenting is more challenging than teaching him how to eat or complete other physical necessities. However, when he comes home from preschool with a report of a good day, he's so excited to tell me, "I made good choices today!" When I hear that, my heart is filled with a sense of love, pride, and overall delight in him. While I wouldn't love him any less if he made poor choices or disobeyed his teacher, as his mom, I want what's best for him, and I know that comes through obedience.

It is when we make good choices and choose to obey God, even as adults, God is delighted in us! Pause for a moment and reflect on your life. Are you being obedient in everything you do? The choices King Josiah had to make are vastly different from those we make each day. Even so, each choice is an opportunity to align ourselves with God's best—an opportunity to obey Him. How can you obey God this week? How will God be delighted in you?

—Ana Dutton

Children's Ministry Leader

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 5 **FOR LEADERS**
JOSIAH AND THE BOOK OF THE LAW

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Josiah was the grandson of Manasseh, the king who did the most evil in the sight of the Lord. Somehow, in spite of his family, Josiah had a heart that desired to serve God. When Josiah discovered God's Word, he immediately obeyed it.

WHAT?

The book of God's law, possibly the entire books of Genesis through Deuteronomy, was found in the temple. God's people had strayed so far from Him that they didn't even know God's law existed. The way to live for God and represent Him had been lost.

WHERE?

The beautiful temple that Solomon had built for the Lord had been ignored and filled with false idols. Josiah got rid of all the items in the temple that were dedicated to Baal (BAY-ul) and Asherah (uh-SHAIR-uh). He traveled throughout the land of Israel, cleansing it of idols.

WHEN?

After Solomon's reign, the kingdom of Israel split into two separate nations. Josiah was one of the last kings of Judah, reigning from 640–609 BC. In 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon completely conquered Jerusalem, destroying the temple and exiling God's people.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The law showed people how to represent God's character to the world. But by Josiah's time, that had been lost. Jesus, the Word made flesh, showed us how to perfectly live out God's law as He fulfilled it.

Object Lesson: Exploring Books

SUPPLIES: various toddler-appropriate hardcover books (grab some from book holders)

Welcome! I'm so glad to see you today. Would you like to look at some books with me? Let's explore what they look and feel like.

Encourage kids to explore books on their own. Help them explore the pages by pointing out textures and colors. Identify animals or shapes as they appear in the books. Let the kids choose a book for you to read to them. Ask questions about the pictures. Ask which book they like the best.

We're going to learn about people from the Bible who found a very important book—the Bible! The Bible is God's Word. We'll learn how the people made God very happy when they listened to Him and His Word.

Activity: Lost and Found (I would save this for the end of class and have it be a part of "cleaning up")

SUPPLIES: variety of items such as a spoon, block, stuffed animal, small ball; basket or bag

Ahead of time, scatter various items on the floor.

Have kids sit on the floor and put the empty basket or bag in the middle of your group. **I've lost some of my favorite things! Do you think you can help me find them? Once you find something, you can put it in the basket or bag.**

Guide kids to locate the items you have scattered around your space. Encourage them to put the items in the basket or bag.

Thanks for finding these things! In today's part of God's big story, we'll heard about a time when something very important was found, and it changed God's people. They learned to obey God. God was very happy! Another word for that is *delighted*. We learned how it makes God very happy when we follow and obey Him. Obedience is listening to God and doing what He wants.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

DELIGHTS—*Point to your smiling mouth.*

IN OUR OBEDIENCE—*Give a thumbs-up.*

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, [Bible Story Picture](#)

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Josiah.

Encourage the kids to say, "Josiah." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Josiah!**

Show the [Bible Story Picture](#) to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

God's people were not following God. It made God sad. They forgot all about God! Show a sad face. Pause to allow kids to respond. **Josiah became king when he was only eight years old. Josiah was a good king who made good choices. Can you make a happy face?** Pause to allow kids to respond.

One day, King Josiah told some leaders to clean up the temple. The temple was where people used to come to meet with God. When they did that, they found a scroll, or writings, that had God's words on it. Wow! Show a shocked face. Pause to allow kids to respond. **When someone read the words to Josiah from the scroll with God's Word, he was upset because he knew that he and God's people were not obeying God. Can you make a sad face?** Pause to allow kids to respond.

The words from God changed everything! Josiah changed his ways and led the people to make good choices and obey God. They worshiped God again. They did what God wanted. God was very happy with Josiah and the people's obedience. God delights when we obey Him just as He delighted in when Josiah and the Israelites obeyed God. Can you make a happy face? Encourage kids to show a happy face. **God delights in our obedience.**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, Kings and Prophets Word of Wonder [Slide](#)

WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God.

[—Psalm 46:10a](#)

Display the Word of Wonder [Slide](#). **Our Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series is from [Psalm 46:10a](#). Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together.** Open a Bible to [Psalm 46:10a](#) and practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **BE STILL,**—*Open your palms, facing down. Move your palms downward at the same time.*
- **AND KNOW**—*Point to your head.*
- **THAT I AM GOD.**—*Point up.*
- **[PSALM 46:10a](#)**—*Hold your hands open in front of you, as if opening a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. Dear God, thank You for loving us no matter what. Please guide us to obey You and help us make good choices. We love You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May God be delighted in your thoughts and actions this week as you seek to follow and obey His ways.

Activity: Simple Simon Says (you can save this to fill time at the end of class after cleanup!)

God gives us the Bible so we can know Him and know how He wants us to live. It can help us know what's right and wrong. His Word helps us know what to do. Let's play a game. You can listen closely to my directions to know what to do.

Gather the kids together and lead them in a game of Simple Simon Says. In this simplified version, don't say the phrase "Simon Says." Instead, simply give instructions for the kids to follow by using the examples below. Give the directions in quiet or loud voices and invite the kids to obey the directions.

Use the following directions:

- Raise your hand.
- Sit down.
- Touch your toes.
- Point to your head.
- Stand up.
- Spin in a circle.
- Go touch the wall.
- Make a silly face.
- Make a happy face.

The happy face reminds us of how God is happy when we trust and follow Him. We can obey God and do what He wants! Even if we do wrong things, God will forgive us, and He will help us obey.

Leader Tip: Many toddlers are testing boundaries and limits and may struggle to obey. Make sure the takeaway from this lesson is that living for God is doing certain things and obeying His rules. God loves us. He gives us grace and helps us. It's normal for toddlers to struggle with boundaries.