

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 46:10–11](#)

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

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 WHEN? 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.

Welcome & Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: [Josiah Welcome Question Slide](#)

At your start time ...

Welcome everyone and tell them that you're delighted to see each of them. Ask for volunteers who would like to share their answers to the Welcome Question:

What is something that makes you really happy?

These are all great examples of what makes us happy! Today we're going to learn about what makes God happy or what brings Him great delight. But first, it's time to be curious!

Ask the following "I'm curious" questions. Say, "I'm curious ..." before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one.

I'm curious ...

- **What do you think makes God happy?**
- **Who are some people you obey? Why do you obey them?**



Preteen Interactive Game: Moonwalk!

SUPPLIES: [Moonwalk! Slide](#), [Josiah Wonder Truth Slide](#)

Display the [Moonwalk! Slide](#). **Let's play a game called Moonwalk! It's quite simple. I'll tell you what to do when you hear certain key words, then you'll do the matching action.** Invite kids to stand up and spread out. **Here are the first two key words and their actions:**



When you hear "Moonwalk," you'll walk in place with exaggerated big, slow movements, like you're walking on the moon. Let's try that now. Pause for kids to practice the action.

When you hear "Asteroid," you'll drop to the floor. Let's try that now. Pause for kids to drop to the floor and then stand up again.

Let's begin! Alternate between saying, “Moonwalk” and “Asteroid” several times, pausing for kids to do the matching actions. Then introduce two more key words or phrases and their actions:

When you hear “Flying Saucer,” you’ll spin in a circle. Pause for kids to practice this action.

When you hear “Saturn,” you’ll do giant arm circles with both arms. Pause for kids to practice this action.

Continue the game. This time, alternate relatively quickly and in random order among the four prompts: Moonwalk, Asteroid, Flying Saucer, and Saturn. Give kids several seconds to do each action, then move to the next prompt. At this point in the game, it will become difficult (and possibly frustrating) for some kids. Keep it lighthearted and even silly, encouraging kids to do their best to keep up with all the actions!

After about one minute, pause to teach kids the final two key words and their actions:

When you hear “Sun Walk,” tiptoe quickly in place as though you’re walking on the very hot surface of the sun! Pause for kids to practice this action.

When you hear “Earth Walk,” walk leisurely in place and hum a little song of your choice. Pause for kids to practice this action.

Continue the game, alternating in random order among all six prompts: Moonwalk, Asteroid, Flying Saucer, Saturn, Sun Walk, and Earth Walk. If kids seem to have it down, speed the game up to make it more difficult for them to keep up with all the actions. Laugh with them as they try their best to obey each prompt—keeping the atmosphere fun!

If time allows, play several rounds and invite kids to take turns as the leader.



Gather the kids back together. **Obeying all the instructions in this game was difficult, but I think we all still enjoyed the game! In fact, I found it delightful to watch you obey (or try to obey)**

my instructions! Display the [Josiah Wonder Truth Slide](#). In God's big story today, we'll learn about a king named Josiah who followed God's instructions—and God delighted in his obedience! Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD DELIGHTS IN OUR OBEDIENCE**.

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Josiah Declaration Slide

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You know what's best! (Kids repeat.)

And I will obey You! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Belief

Guide kids into knowing God, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Josiah Title Slide](#)



Display the [Josiah Title Slide](#). Guide kids to open their Bibles to [2 Chronicles 34](#).

Help kids recall that 2 Chronicles is in the Old Testament among the books of history that tell of real events that happened long ago. The books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles both tell the true story of King Josiah.

Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Invite three or four volunteers to take turns reading [2 Chronicles 34:1-3, 8, 14-21, 29-32](#) aloud to the group while the other kids follow along in their Bibles.

Leader Tip: *For Younger Kids.* The read-aloud verses from today's passage skip around some. Invite younger kids to put a finger on [2 Chronicles 34](#) and leave it there as they listen carefully to the verses.

In Awe of God's Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God's story.

What surprised you most in this part of God's big story? What questions do you have about it?

Allow kids time to think and share their thoughts. It's OK if you don't have answers for their questions. The act of asking questions can lead us to deeper places of wonder and discovery!

When King Josiah first heard God's Word read from the scroll, he tore his clothes because he was so upset that God's people had ignored His law! How do you think you would have responded? Why? Allow kids time to imagine and share openly.

Word of Wonder Activity

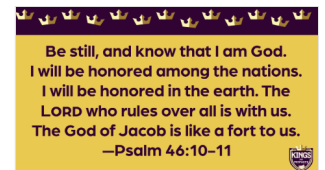
WORD OF WONDER

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be honored among the nations. I will be honored in the earth. The Lord who rules over all is with us. The God of Jacob is like a fort to us.

—[Psalm 46:10–11 \(NirV\)](#)

SUPPLIES: Bible, Word of Wonder Slide [NirV](#)

The Word of Wonder for the Kings and Prophets series reminds us that God rules over the whole earth, and He is with us! We know that when we obey God, it brings delight to Him! Let's say the verses together! Open your Bible to [Psalm 46:10–11](#). If possible, display the Word of Wonder Slide [NirV](#). Read [Psalm 46:10–11](#) several times together.



Elementary Questions

- **In the beginning of today's story, God's people were not being obedient. What were some of the ways they disobeyed God?** (Possible answers: worshiped false gods, filled God's temple with idols of false gods, rebuilt altars to other gods all over the hills)
- **Who was the young boy who became king at the age of eight?** (Josiah)
- **King Josiah was a good king who made good choices. What were some of the good choices he made while he was king?** (Possible answers: told priests to fix up the temple and clean out idols, listened to God's Word, read God's Word to the people, tore down statues to false gods, celebrated Passover; Josiah followed God with his whole heart!)
- **Why do you think King Josiah decided to be different and follow God?**
- **What happened to King Josiah and the people of Judah because they obeyed God?** (They were protected from the consequences for the disobedience of the people who lived before them.)

- **What are some ways we can obey God? Why do you think our obedience delights God?**

We saw in God's big story that God delights in obedience. This doesn't mean that God stops loving us when we're disobedient. God loves us always, no matter what! But He's sad when we don't follow Him because He wants His best for us. Just like Josiah made a hard choice to obey when others were not, we can choose to obey and follow God too!



Identity

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

Elementary Responding in Worship: Day by Day Obey

SUPPLIES: Bible, highlighter (optional), sticky tabs (optional), [Day by Day Obey Slide](#)

Ahead of time, consider highlighting the following verses in your Bible and marking them with sticky tabs so you can flip to them quickly during this activity: [Deuteronomy 6:5](#), [Matthew 22:39](#), [James 1:19](#), [Ephesians 4:29](#).

Display the [Day by Day Obey Slide](#) and gather the kids. **God delighted in King Josiah's obedience, and He delights in our obedience too! Josiah chose to go against what others were doing and turn back to God. Obeying and following God isn't something that comes easily all the time. It's a choice we make, and sometimes it can be hard to do.**



Hold up a Bible for kids to see. **God's ways are always good, and He always wants what's best for us. The Bible—God's Word—includes many wonderful instructions from God.** Invite kids to stand up and spread out.

There are many ways we can obey God every day. Let's practice some of them now! I'll read some of God's instructions to us from the Bible. After each one, I'll give you a chance to silently act out one way you can follow His instruction. Are you ready? Pause for kids to respond.

Read [Deuteronomy 6:5](#), directly from the Bible if possible: **"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your strength."**

How can you obey God and love Him with all your heart? Silently act out one way you can love God! Pause for kids to quietly act out (like charades!) one way they can obey and love God.

Next, read [Matthew 22:39](#), directly from the Bible if possible: **"And the second is like it. 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "**

Our neighbors are the other people in our lives. How can you obey God by loving other people? Silently act out one way you can love others! Pause for kids to quietly act out one way they can love others.

Next, read [James 1:19](#), directly from the Bible if possible: **"My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry."**

When can you listen before speaking? Silently act it out! Pause for kids to quietly act out calm listening.

Next, read [Ephesians 4:29](#), directly from the Bible if possible: **“Don’t let any evil talk come out of your mouths. Say only what will help to build others up and meet their needs. Then what you say will help those who listen.”**

How can you obey God by speaking kind words to others? This time, act out one way you can show kindness to someone by saying one kind sentence out loud! Pause for kids to say something kind out loud.

Make It Inclusive: Kids who are especially energetic, including some with ADHD, often do well when given opportunities to help lead. Inviting a few kids to the front to demonstrate the actions can support their engagement and help others follow along.

Day by day, we can trust that God’s ways are good and obey Him! Let’s close this time by praying together! I will read a prayer to God, and at the end of every line, I’ll point to you, and you’ll say, “Day by day, I will obey!” Let’s practice it now. Point toward the kids and have them say, “Day by day, I will obey!”

Pray the following prayer, pointing toward the kids each time it’s their turn to pray:

God, You love me always and no matter what!

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

You always want what’s best for me!

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

The Bible is filled with Your good instructions.

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

And You delight in my obedience!

Kids pray: **Day by day, I will obey!**

Amen.

Kids repeat: **Amen.**

Blessing Your Kids

SUPPLIES: [Josiah Blessing Slide](#)

Speak this blessing over your group.

Blessing: You are deeply loved by God, always and no matter what! May you obey Him this week as He delights in you!

