

Joash Repairs The Temple

2 Kings 12:1-19

MEMORY VERSE

2 KINGS 12:2

“Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A large bowl, rice, chopsticks and some pennies.

White construction paper (1 sheet for each child), several small scraps of paper cut into small squares and/or triangles, scissors, glue and markers.

Masking tape, a balloon, a chalk or dry erase board.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Lost Coins

You will need a large bowl, rice, chopsticks and some pennies. King Joash and the priests were looking for money to repair the temple. This game will be a good introduction to the story. Before class fill a large bowl with rice and hide a few pennies inside the rice. Choose a few volunteers to help you find the pennies. Have the volunteers take turns. Give them the pair of chopsticks and ask them to try to find some treasure in the bowl of rice. Give each child a few minutes to find the pennies.

When they find the pennies encourage the kids to cheer and clap. Allow the children to play until all have had a chance, or the children tire of the game.

After completing the game explain to the children that God put it on King Joash's heart to rebuild the temple. He knew that God blesses those who cheerfully give so he made a big chest in the temple for people to give towards the repair of the temple. We're going to learn in our lesson today how God used King Joash and how He wants to use each of our lives also.

LESSON TIME!

Could you imagine being the king of an entire nation and only be seven years old? That's what happened to a boy by the name of Jehoash (or Joash)! We can learn a lot from this boy who became king at seven years old. We can especially learn that God can do amazing things through our lives. And the exciting thing is that we don't even have to wait until we are grown up to be used by God. **God can use children to do great things!**

2 KINGS 12:1-3

In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Zibiah of Beersheba.

Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the LORD all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.

How Joash became king is an amazing story (read chapter 11 for background). There used to be a king in Judah by the name of Ahaziah. He was killed in battle (2 Kings 9:27). He had a mother by the name of Athaliah. She was evil and refused to serve the Lord.

When she saw that her son the king was dead she decided that she wanted all of the power and would become the queen. But just to be safe and so that no one else would try to take away her throne, she decided to kill the entire royal family! How sad it is for someone to want to be powerful so badly that they would be willing to kill part of their own family. Sin had completely blinded her.

But God knew everything that was going on. God had promised that there would always be a king from the line of David to rule over Judah. If Athaliah had her way that promise would not be fulfilled, because all of the heirs would be dead. But God is always faithful to keep His promises. Satan wanted to destroy the line that would eventually bring Jesus (Jesus is a descendant of King David). But God will not allow Satan to destroy His promises.

God raised up a faithful priest by the name of Jehoiada. He knew that what was happening was very wrong. His wife was a godly woman and was a half-sister to Azariah, the former king. They got Joash who was just a baby when this happened and hid him away for about six years.

Meanwhile, Jehoiada the priest met with the rulers of Judah and the different leaders in the army and together they decided that they were going to make Joash the king. He was supposed to be the king all along. So one night they all got together and brought out Joash to crown him king of Judah.

It is very important to note that they gave him a copy of the Law and anointed him with oil (representing the Holy Spirit). They declared him to be king. He was only seven years old! **God can use children to do great things!**

Well, Queen Athaliah was not very happy about all of this and she started accusing them of treason. But Jehoiada commanded the army to seize her and take her away. She eventually received judgment for what she had done and was killed.

Jehoiada made a covenant (promise) with the Lord that King Joash and all of the people were to be the Lord's special people. This meant that they were making a commitment to follow Him. God used this time greatly to lead the whole nation to get rid of all of the idols and false gods that they were worshipping. The whole nation was turning to the Lord (this is what is called a revival). And God was going to use this seven-year-old boy by the name of Joash to lead it. **God can use children to do great things!**

We see that Joash reigned as king for 40 years. He did a lot of good things during his 40 years. We see that he did what was right in the sight of the Lord. He had a good teacher. The priest Jehoiada taught him in the ways of the Lord, which helped him to do what was right. Do you have someone that you look up to in the Lord? It is good to have heroes, but they should be examples of Jesus.

We also see that even with all of the good things that Joash began to do, there were still some people who were worshipping idols. It is sad to see people follow idols or false gods when God has such a wonderful life of blessing waiting for anyone who would trust in Him.

Maybe you are 7 years old or 9 years old or 11 years old. Did you know that God has a wonderful plan for your life, just like King Joash? How do you start? You can start by studying your Bible as much as you can and asking the Lord to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Ask God to give you the knowledge of His will for your life. God will hear your prayers! **God can use children to do great things!**

2 KINGS 12:4-8

And Jehoash said to the priests, "All the money of the dedicated gifts that are brought into the house of the LORD; each man's census money, each man's assessment money; and all the money that a man purposes in his heart to bring into the house of the LORD,

"let the priests take it themselves, each from his constituency; and let them repair the damages of the temple, wherever any dilapidation is found."

Now it was so, by the twenty-third year of King Jehoash, that the priests had not repaired the damages of the temple.

So King Jehoash called Jehoiada the priest and the other priests, and said to them, "Why have you not repaired the damages of the temple? Now therefore, do not take more money from your constituency, but deliver it for repairing the damages of the temple."

And the priests agreed that they would neither receive more money from the people, nor repair the damages of the temple.

There was a big problem! The beautiful temple that King Solomon built several years earlier was beginning to go into disrepair (getting old and falling apart). The sad thing is that it didn't have to be. It was falling apart because no one was taking care of it. For a lot of years everyone was so concerned with worshipping idols that they ignored God's house.

It was time for some repairs. King Joash decided to give the temple some attention. He commanded the priests to collect money from the different areas in Judah so they could have money to do all of the necessary repairs.

Notice how the king said that people should give what they purpose in their heart. It is a blessing to be able to give to God's work. It is never anything that God forces us to do. When the Lord puts something on our hearts we should be faithful to do it and then He will be faithful to bless our obedience.

But after a long time (23 years) it appears that the repairs hadn't been done yet. So King Joash calls all of the priests to come together to find out what is going on. What may have been happening is that after the support for the priests and Levites there wasn't a lot of money left for the temple repairs so the work wasn't getting done.

It is important that we are faithful to what God wants us to do for Him. God wanted King Joash to repair the temple so he wanted to be faithful to do it. What has God called you to do? Some things we definitely know He wants us to do are to grow in our knowledge of Him through the Bible and coming to church. He wants us to obey our parents. He wants us to do everything that we do to glorify Him and He wants us to tell other people about Him. Let's be faithful to do what He wants us to do. **God can use children to do great things!**

Temple Mosaic

You will need a sheet of white construction paper and several small scraps of various colored paper cut into small squares and/or triangles. You will also need scissors, glue and markers.

Have the children make a temple by first drawing an outline of a temple onto the white construction paper. Next have the children glue the small scraps of paper to make a colorful temple. You may have the children cut out a large starburst from yellow paper so that they may write the theme or verse on it to take home with them.

Use this craft as a means to review and reinforce the story of how God used King Joash to repair the temple.

2 KINGS 12:9-16

Then Jehoiada the priest took a chest, bored a hole in its lid, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who kept the door put there all the money brought into the house of the LORD.

So it was, whenever they saw that there was much money in the chest, that the king's scribe and the high priest came up and put it in bags, and counted the money that was found in the house of the LORD.

Then they gave the money, which had been apportioned, into the hands of those who did the work, who had the oversight of the house of the LORD; and they paid it out to the carpenters and builders who worked on the house of the LORD,

and to masons and stonecutters, and for buying timber and hewn stone, to repair the damage of the house of the LORD, and for all that was paid out to repair the temple.

However there were not made for the house of the LORD basins of silver, trimmers, sprinkling-bowls, trumpets, any articles of gold or articles of silver, from the money brought into the house of the LORD.

But they gave that to the workmen, and they repaired the house of the LORD with it.

Moreover they did not require an account from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to be paid to workmen, for they dealt faithfully.

The money from the trespass offerings and the money from the sin offerings was not brought into the house of the LORD. It belonged to the priests.

King Joash decided to have a large chest made. Instead of the money for the repairs coming out of the regular offerings that the people gave, they would come from people who desired to give extra from their heart and put money into this chest. What a blessing it was for them to give from their heart for this special project.

The people once again had a desire to serve the Lord. Most of the people in Israel had destroyed their idols and were now serving the Lord. They had a desire to see God's house repaired so they gave freely from their heart.

God always wants us to give freely from our heart. The Bible says that God loves a "cheerful" giver. To give to God's work is a joy. We also see that God supplied enough to get the work done. They would pay the worker and buy the materials that they needed. Also it was a blessing that the people handling the money were faithful. They didn't try to steal anything, but were good stewards of God's money.

God wants us to be good stewards of His things. A good steward is someone who takes really good care of someone else's things. God has entrusted all of us with certain things. We need to be responsible to use them in such a way that God receives the glory. **God can use children to do great things!**

2 KINGS 12:17-19

Hazael king of Syria went up and fought against Gath, and took it; then Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem.

And Jehoash king of Judah took all the sacred things that his fathers, Jehoshaphat and Jehoram and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own sacred things, and all the gold found in the treasuries of the house of the LORD and in the king's house, and sent them to Hazael king of Syria. Then he went away from Jerusalem.

Now the rest of the acts of Joash, and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?

Unfortunately it seems that King Joash didn't have as good an ending as he did a beginning. We learn also from the book of Chronicles that eventually the good priest Jehoiada dies. After he dies, King Joash begins to turn away from the Lord. He even begins to worship idols himself. It is especially sad because he knew the destruction that idol worship brought to the people before.

Once Jehoiada died Joash started to listen to very bad advice from others who turned his heart away from the Lord. We need to learn from King Joash's example. We need to always be careful to listen to good, godly advice. Listening to those who do not love the Lord will only lead to sin and problems for us.

Later in his life, the king of Syria invades Jerusalem. Joash then tries to pay the Syrian king to keep him from attacking. He uses valuable things from the temple to pay him. Instead of going to the Lord for help he uses the things that God had provided for him several years earlier to rebuild the temple. How sad it was for him to turn from the Lord.

We can learn from King Joash that when we start off with the Lord at a young age, God will do wonderful things through our lives. But it is important to always keep our eyes on the Lord through our entire lives. Let's always keep our eyes on Jesus! **God can use children to do great things!**

Bible Balloon Pass

You will need masking tape, a balloon, and a chalk or dry erase board. Write the verse or theme on the board. Have kids form two groups, and using masking tape make a line on the floor across the center of the classroom. Have each group of children stand on opposite sides of the masking tape. Blow up and tie off a balloon.

In this game, the children will be passing the balloon, similar to volleyball. Toss the balloon into the air to begin the game. The children will hit the balloon back and forth across the tape line. If the balloon touches the ground, the group that let it touch must repeat the Bible verse on the board. Each time a group recites the verse or theme, erase one word. It will get harder each time. Keep playing until one group says the entire verse with no words on the board to help.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to look for how the Lord wants to use their lives and then to go for it! If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.