

The Book Of The Law Is Found

2 Kings 22:3-20

## **MEMORY VERSE**

2 KINGS 22:18-19

“Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,’ says the LORD.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Masking tape.

A copy of the enclosed template and a paper plate for each child, yellow construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, a hole punch and glue.

Scratch paper or old newspaper to make paper wads and several questions relating to the lesson prepared before class.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Race of Confusion**

It is hard to get to where you are going without knowing how to get there! It is that way in our lives. We can't do those things that God would have us to do without knowing His will and plans for us. How can we know what that is? Through the Word of God!

Here is a game that will help us to understand that we can get much more accomplished when we listen to God's instructions. Set up a goal line with masking tape at the end of the room. Form two teams of children and have them line up in two separate lines. To start the race they must listen for your instructions and try to reach the finish line following your instructions.

Have the first two children in line go first. Make up instructions for them to follow, with them ultimately reaching the finish line. (Example instructions: Take 2 steps to the left and stop, hop one hop, turn around and take two steps to the right and stop, hop on 1 foot backwards and stop".) Keep them turning toward and away from the goal of the finish line several times. It will be interesting to see who finally makes it to the finish line. Allow the next children in line to go and so on until everyone gets a turn. This is a lesson in listening to instructions. When everyone has had their turn you can take the opportunity to share with the children how important it is to first have instructions and then to follow those instructions. We are going to learn more about that in our lesson today. **God's Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

## LESSON TIME!

How do you feel when you find something that has been lost for a long time? Do you become excited? You probably do. Today we will see what happens when something very special was found that had been lost for a long time. **God's Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

### 2 KINGS 22:3-7

Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying:

"Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.

"And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the

LORD; let them give it to those who are in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house;

"to carpenters and builders and masons; and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

"However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."

Josiah was a young king who began to rule when he was only eight years old. He was a godly young man who walked in the ways of the Lord. Apparently the temple was not in use when Josiah became king. It seems that it was used to store many things, but not for the worship of the Lord. Here we see Josiah restoring the temple of the Lord.

He sent Shaphan, one of his aides, to Hilkiah, the high priest, with instructions to pay the builders the money that had been collected from the people for repairing the temple by the Levites. It appears that the workmen didn't need to have any of the money accounted for when it was given to them. These verses tell us, "They dealt faithfully."

What a blessing that the men who repaired God's holy temple were faithful men. They could be trusted with God's resources. It is important that when we are blessed with abundance that we use it for God's purposes. Are we faithful with the things God places into our hands? God wants us to be faithful with the things that He entrusts to us.

## 2 KINGS 22:8-10

Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king Word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD."

Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

Here we see Hilkiah, the high priest, declaring that he had found the Book of the Law, meaning the first five books of the Bible or what is also known as the Mosaic Law (because it was written by Moses). Another name for it is the Pentateuch.

It seems that God's Word had been missing for a long period of time. Perhaps they stumbled across the scrolls as they were cleaning the temple and found that it had dust covering it. They may have blown off the dust to discover a priceless treasure, God's Word. It is truly sad that the Word was lost to them in the first place. It was there in the temple all the time, but perhaps it was buried under all of their idols.

It is good for us to stop and ask ourselves, "Where is God's Word in our heart today?" Is it buried under different idols that might be in our heart? Are there things that are more important? If so, then God's Word needs to be "discovered" again by us, for it will bring great joy to our heart.

We all need to find the Word of God and allow it to have an important place in our lives. It is one of our weapons against our enemy, for it is alive and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). It is no wonder that the nation had become so corrupted with the Law missing. They had little defense or instruction without it; yet God in His mercy raises up a king whose heart is after God's own, and brings back the law to them. In his joy, Shaphan brought the book to the king and read it to him.

## 2 KINGS 22:11-14

Now it happened, when the king heard the Words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,

"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the Words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the Words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her.

When Josiah heard the Words of the book, he tore his clothes expressing deep emotion at the shame of their sin. In Bible times when people would tear their clothes it was a sign of deep sorrow or mourning. God's Word cut the very depths of Josiah's heart. Why? What did God's Word reveal to him? It was the depth of their

sin. Without God's Word, they did not realize how far they had strayed from God's truth. Whereas they had been focusing on the repair of the physical temple, now they would focus upon the "repair" of their hearts before the Lord. **God's Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

Josiah next sends a delegation to the prophetess Huldah, to make inquiry of the Lord through her concerning the things that he had learned from the law. He is very serious at this time because he realizes that they deserve God's judgment for their sins. He knew that the entire nation of Judah had turned away from God and had neglected His Word. Josiah immediately wanted to make things right.

It is good for us to see sin in the light of a holy God. It is His light and glory that makes the blackness of our sins even darker. His Word reveals truth to us, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14). Jesus came to reveal the Father's heart to us, to show us the horror of our sins, making a way of salvation for each of us who will accept His sacrifice for us. If you have not received His gift of salvation you can right now. Just ask Him to come into your heart.

When we read God's Word we should first pray and ask the Lord to speak to our hearts. Perhaps there is some sin in our hearts that we need to confess and ask forgiveness for. Perhaps there is a lesson from His Word that He would have us to learn. Perhaps He wants to reveal His will and plans for our lives through His Word. God's Word is alive and He continues to speak to us today through His Word as the Holy Spirit gives us understanding.

This is why it is so important as we grow in Jesus to make sure that our devotional lives are growing. We need to spend time in God's Word and in prayer everyday so we can learn to be more and more like Jesus. **God's Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

## **"A Lamp Unto My Feet"**

For this craft you will need a copy of the enclosed template and a paper plate for each child, yellow construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, a hole punch and glue.

The children will be making a candle picture with Psalm 119:105 written below it. Have the children cut out the candle from the enclosed template. Glue the candle to the paper plate. Allow the children to color the candle. With a marker, write out Psalm 119:105, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" below the candle.

Next, have children cut out small strips of yellow construction paper to represent the glow of the candle and glue them to the plate above the flame. Punch a hole at the top of the plate and tie a loop of yarn through the hole to allow the picture to hang.

## **2 KINGS 22:15-20**

**Then she said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Tell the man who sent you to Me,**

**"Thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the Words of the book which the king of Judah has read—**

**because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My**



wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.’”’

But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Concerning the Words which you have heard—

because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the Lord.

Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.”’” So they brought back Word to the king.

Galatians 6:7-8 tells us, “Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap. For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” We see in these verses a vivid picture of sowing and reaping. The people had sinned for so long that they were about to suffer the consequences. Judgment was about to come to Judah. The people deserved judgment because they rejected God. Yet we still in these verses see the mercy of the Lord.

The Prophetess Huldah confirmed Josiah’s fear that the anger of the Lord was against Jerusalem and the people because of their idolatry. God told them that He would bring upon Jerusalem all the punishments that the Book of the Law promises those who reject the Lord.

How sad that the people had forgotten the God who created and loved them. They burned incense to other gods. With their own hands they angered Him. It is a somber warning to all of us to never forget the God who is always thinking of us.

Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” He is always thinking good of us. Let us not allow ourselves to turn away from the Lord and follow after sin. May we always praise Him and serve Him because He is the awesome God who made us.

But God has some Words specifically for Josiah. His Words are more tender and merciful because the king’s heart became soft or tender towards the Word of God. He despaired at the punishment with which the sinners are threatened and he humbled himself before God. “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.” James 4:10.

Matthew Henry has said, “Those that most fear God’s wrath are least likely to feel it.” God always promises to hear our prayers and our cries. He heard Josiah’s and was merciful and gracious to the king. Because of his repentant heart, King Josiah would be spared seeing the destruction and captivity of Jerusalem. God promised that he would die before all the “evil, which I (God) will bring upon this place.”

Josiah died in a battle, but God promised him peace no matter what the circumstances of his death were, which nothing could change. As we give our lives to the Lord, He always promises us peace – peace that passes all understanding in our lives.

Josiah was a righteous king, he heard the Word of God and it had an affect upon him, an affect for good. He repented and sought the Lord. Though he was a king, he still had control over his own heart. We all have control over only one heart – our own. We must

always ask ourselves the question, “How do I respond to God’s Word?” **God’s Word should have and important place in our hearts.**

Let’s consider God’s Word and its’ effect in our lives. Are we spending time daily in God’s Word? Do we live our lives according to the Lord’s Word? Are we being changed by God’s Word? It needs to have an important place in our hearts. Let’s not forget about it and allow it to collect dust like Judah did. May we always respect and live out God’s Word in our lives.

## **“Remember” Toss**

This game will help us to remember that we should never take the Word of God for granted. Assign each child a number, either 1 or 2. Next form two teams, the ones and the twos. Set the “ones” on one side of the room and the “twos” on the opposite wall.

Give each child a piece of scratch paper or a half sheet of newspaper to wad up. Pick a child from one side to answer a question regarding the lesson that you prepared before class. If they answer the question correctly, they get to throw the wad to the other team. If they can’t answer the question after two tries the other team can have a try. But that is only after the original team has been given the opportunity to try answering the question at least two times.

Keep asking questions back and forth. At the end of the game, count the number of paper wads for each team. The team with the least number of paper wads wins!

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to know and obey God’s Word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template – A Lamp unto My Feet

