

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, balloon, 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. God used King Joash, and He wants to use each of us! **God can use children to do great things!**

LESSON TIME!

Can you imagine being the king of an entire nation at seven years old? That's what happened to a boy by the name of Jehoash (or Joash)! God can do amazing things through our lives. And, we do not need 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.

The story of Joash becoming king is an amazing story. (Read II Kings, Chapter 11, for background.) There was 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, King Ahaziah, was dead, she decided that she wanted to become queen. Just to be safe (so 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.

Now, God knew what was happening. 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. Satan wanted to destroy the line that would eventually bring Jesus (Jesus is a descendant of King David). But, God is always faithful and will keep His promises. Satan could not defeat the plan and promise of God.

God raised up a faithful priest by the name of Jehoiada. He had a godly wife who was a half-sister to Ahaziah, the former king. Jehoiada knew what was happening was very wrong. He and his wife took Joash, a son of Ahaziah (just a baby at the time), from among the sons of Ahaziah who were being murdered. They hid him away for about six years.

Meanwhile, Jehoiada the priest met with the rulers of Judah and the different leaders in the army. Together, they decided that they were going to crown the rightful king of Judah--Joash. Joash was only seven years old at this time! Declaring him to be king, they gave Joash a copy of the Law and anointed him with oil (representing the Holy Spirit). **God can use children to do great things!**

As might be expected, Queen Athaliah was not very happy about all this--she accused 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, a people committed to following Him. The people tore down their temples to false gods and broke apart the altars and images. They would worship God alone. What a revival! And a seven-year-old boy, King Joash, was leading it. **God can use children to do great things!**

In verse three, we note sadly that, even during this time of revival, some people still worshipped idols: "But the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places." How sad that a person or a nation would leave a foothold for the enemy to their own eventual destruction.

Joash did many good things during his reign. The Bible tells us "he did what was right in the sight of the Lord." One "right" move on the part of Joash was the move to repair the temple.

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.

The beautiful temple that King Solomon built several years earlier was beginning to go into disrepair (getting old and falling apart). For many years, the people had given their time and energies to the worship of idols and ignored God's house.

King Joash desired to give the temple some much needed attention. He commanded the priests to collect money from the different areas in Judah so they could 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 something that God forces us to do. God will reward us when we purpose in our heart to give to Him.

But after a long time, by the 23rd year of King Joash's reign, the repairs had not been done. King Joash called all of the priests to come together to find out what was going on. Perhaps, after the support for the priests and Levites, there was not much money left for the temple repairs.

Temple Mosaic

You 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 to 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 to collect offerings from the people. Instead of the money for the repairs coming out of the regular offerings the people gave, they would come from people who desired to give extra from their heart. Most of the people in Israel had destroyed their idols and were now serving the Lord; they desired to see God's house repaired. What a blessing it was for them to give from their heart for this special project.

God desires that we give freely to Him from our heart. The Bible says that God loves a "cheerful" giver: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:7). To give to God's work is a joy.

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?

Though King Joash had a great beginning, his life did not have a good ending. For, we learn from II Chronicles 24 that, after the death of the good priest Jehoiada, King Joash listened to wicked leaders of Judah. He began to turn away from the one true God and even began to worship idols himself. He refused to heed the warnings of God's prophets, and even had Zachariah, the son of Jehoiada, put to death. King Joash brought God's judgment upon himself and the nation. For within a year of the death of Zachariah, the Syrians were threatening to invade Judah and Jerusalem. Joash sought to pay the Syrian king with the valuable things from the temple in order to keep him from attacking. The Syrians plundered Jerusalem.

Joash reigned as king for 40 years. He did a lot of good things during the early part of his reign. He had a good teacher, the priest Jehoiada, who taught him in the ways of the Lord and helped him to do what was right.

We learn from King Joash that we are never too young to serve the Lord. God accomplished great things through Joash in his early years. 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!**

We also note, as we see the tragic end of King Joash's life, that we must keep our eyes on the Lord. Though it is great to start well, it is important to *end* well. May we not be swayed by evil counsel as King Joash was in his latter years. May we keep our eyes on the Lord and allow God 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.