

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**24**

**THE EIGHT YEAR OLD KING**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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**24**

## **THE EIGHT YEAR OLD KING**

### **Memory Verse:**

I enjoy obeying your commands, which I love. (Psalm 119:47 NCV)

### **Lesson Goals:**

#1 - Understand how ordinary Josiah was

#2 - Discover what faith led Josiah to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

### **Audience:**

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

### **Scripture to Study:**

2 Kings 21-23

2 Chronicles 33-35



# 24

## THE EIGHT YEAR OLD KING

2 Kings 21-23, 2 Chronicles 33-35

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Josiah

**His Heroic Feat:** Loves what is written in the Lord's teachings

Loving what is written in the Lord's teachings may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Do you remember good King Hezekiah from our last lesson? After Hezekiah, there were two really bad kings and then a good one. The good one was Hezekiah's great-grandson! His name was Josiah and he was only eight years old when he became king. The Bible tells us that, "Josiah did what the Lord said was right. He lived as his ancestor David had lived, and he did not stop doing what was right." (2 Kings 22:2 NCV)

King Josiah obeyed God. He removed the foreign gods his ancestors had worshipped. And then, like his great-grandfather Hezekiah, Josiah removed idol worship from the land. Once all of this had been done, Josiah began to purify and repair the Temple that King Solomon had built. This had to be done again "because the kings of Judah had let the buildings fall into ruin." (2 Chronicles 34:11b NCV)

Construction workers and those who worked in the Temple were busy with a lot of work. While they were working, they found "The Book of the Lord's Teaching." This was probably the Temple copy of the first five books of the Bible, the books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.\* It had most likely been lost when the disobedient kings used the Temple for things other than worshipping God.

The book was taken to King Josiah and read to him. What Josiah heard really upset him. "When the king heard the words of the Teachings, he tore his clothes to show how upset he was." Josiah loved God's word. He believed what he heard. Josiah obeyed what he heard. But from hearing it read, Josiah knew that God was angry at him and the people of Judah. None of them, nor their ancestors, had obeyed the words of God that he had just heard.

In that book that was lost in the Temple, it is pretty clear what God thinks about that kind of disobedience - punishment! It is only a life of obedience that God blesses. God would punish the nation of Judah, but, because of Josiah's obedience, God would wait until after Josiah's death to bring about that punishment. God told Josiah,

"When you heard my words against this place and its people, you became sorry for what you had done and humbled yourself before me. I said they would be cursed and destroyed. You tore your clothes to show how upset you were, and you cried in my presence. This is why I have heard you." (2 Kings 22:19 NCV)

When Josiah was sorry for what he did and turned away from it, God honored Josiah's repentance. Repentance is turning away from one thing toward another. Josiah turned from his sin toward God. Have you done the same?

Do you realize that you are a sinner? We all are. (Romans 3:23) The Bible says we deserve punishment for our sin—death. (Romans 6:23) But, just as God showed mercy to Josiah when he repented of his sin, God is offering you the gift of life . . . if you, too, will repent of your sins and turn to Him. What are you waiting for?

\*Jamieson, Robert; A.R. Fausset; and David Brown. "Commentary on 2 Kings 22." . Blue Letter Bible. 19 Feb 2000. 2012. 1 Jun 2012.  
<[http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm\\_view.cfm?AuthorID=7&contentID=2216&commInfo=6&topic=2%20Kings&ar=2Ki\\_22\\_8](http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=7&contentID=2216&commInfo=6&topic=2%20Kings&ar=2Ki_22_8)>

### **YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!**

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Josiah loved what was written in the Lord's teaching.

Do you love God's Word, the Bible? Our memory verse says, "I enjoy obeying your commands, which I love. (Psalm 119:47 NCV) When you realize who God is and how much He loves you, it is a natural thing to love reading this love letter (the Bible) that He has given us. That, in turn, naturally leads to obedience. In fact, our obedience shows our love for Him. (John 14:15, 21, 23, 24)



**NEXT WEEK**  
Daniel Spends the Night  
with Hungry Lions

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

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What do you do when you hear the Bible read and taught? Do you love God's Word? Are you upset at your disobedience? Do you stop disobeying and begin obeying God? Let's talk to God right now and ask for His help.

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make large hearts from oversized construction paper. Print the memory verse on the heart, remembering to include the reference. Encourage your students to decorate their hearts.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," "I Will," "Amazing Love," "Better is One Day" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Enlist your students to help clean your Bible Study area, even if it's outside.
- **For more training:** Read Matthew 1:10-11. Discuss the ancestors found in Jesus' family tree. Make your own family tree.
- **For more training:** Read 2 Kings 21: 10-15 and 23:25-27. Then read the fulfillment of those verses in 2 Chronicles 36.
- **For more training:** Read 2 Chronicles 34:1-33 and 35:18-19. Make a time line of the important events in Josiah's life and time as king.
- **For more training:** Read 2 Chronicles 35:26-27. Then read Psalm 119 and mark all the references to the love of God's word, or law, and obedience.

I enjoy  
obeying your  
commands,  
which I love.

Psalm 119:47

**HEROES**

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

The Eight Year Old King

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** 2 Kings 21-23, 2 Chronicles 33-35

**Memory verse:**

I enjoy obeying your commands, which I love. (Psalm 119:47 NCV)

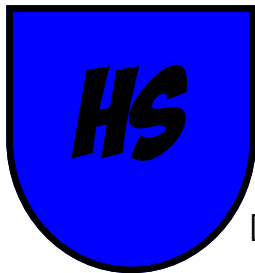
**Our Hero:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our heroine do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

\_\_\_\_\_

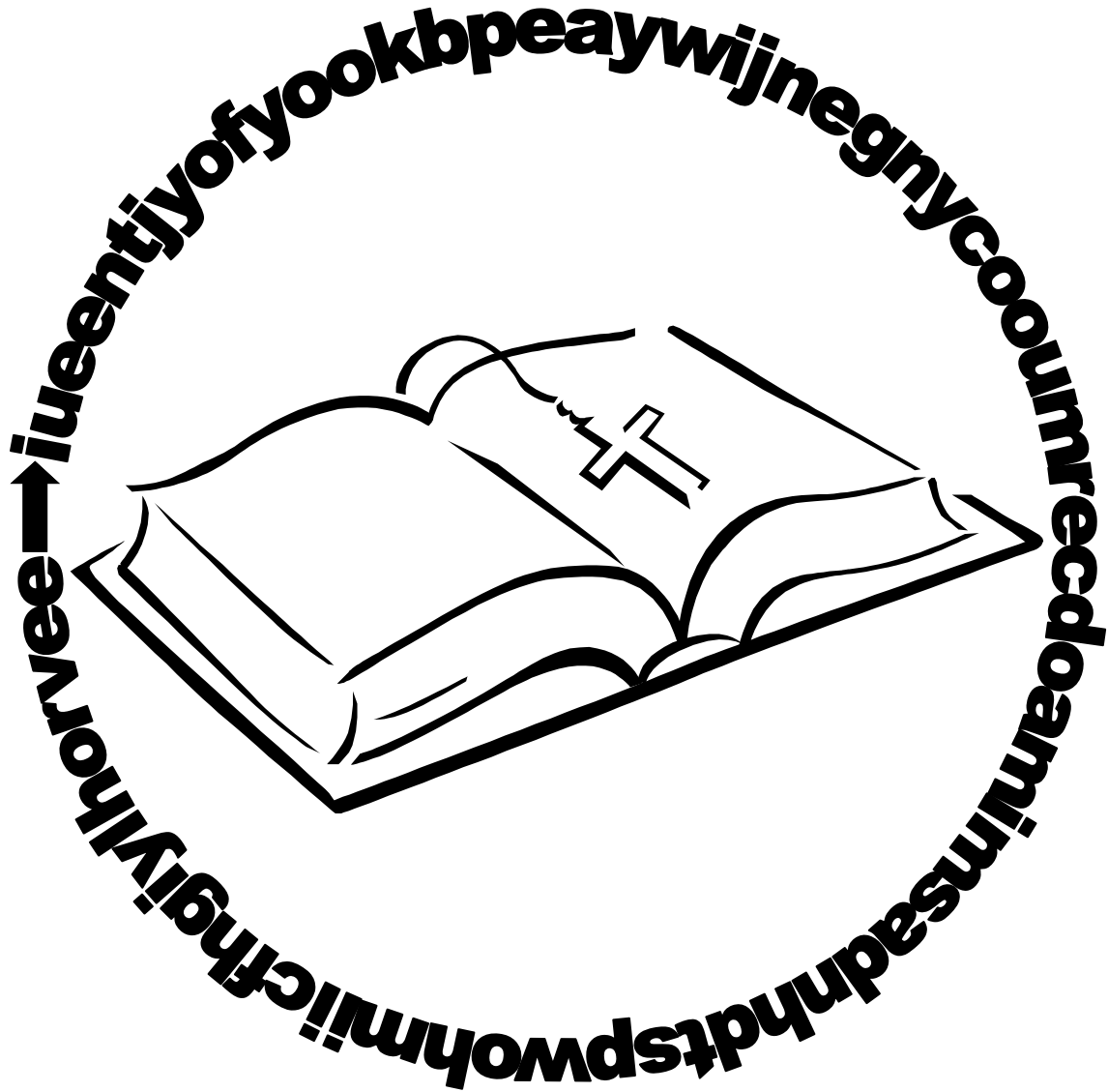
Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_

Read 2 Chronicles 35:26-27 along with the memory verse. What does it mean to love God's Word? What will be the evidence of that love?

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Beginning at the arrow, cross out every other letter. Copy the letters  
that are left into the spaces below.



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----- . Psalm 119:47

WORD

SEARCH!

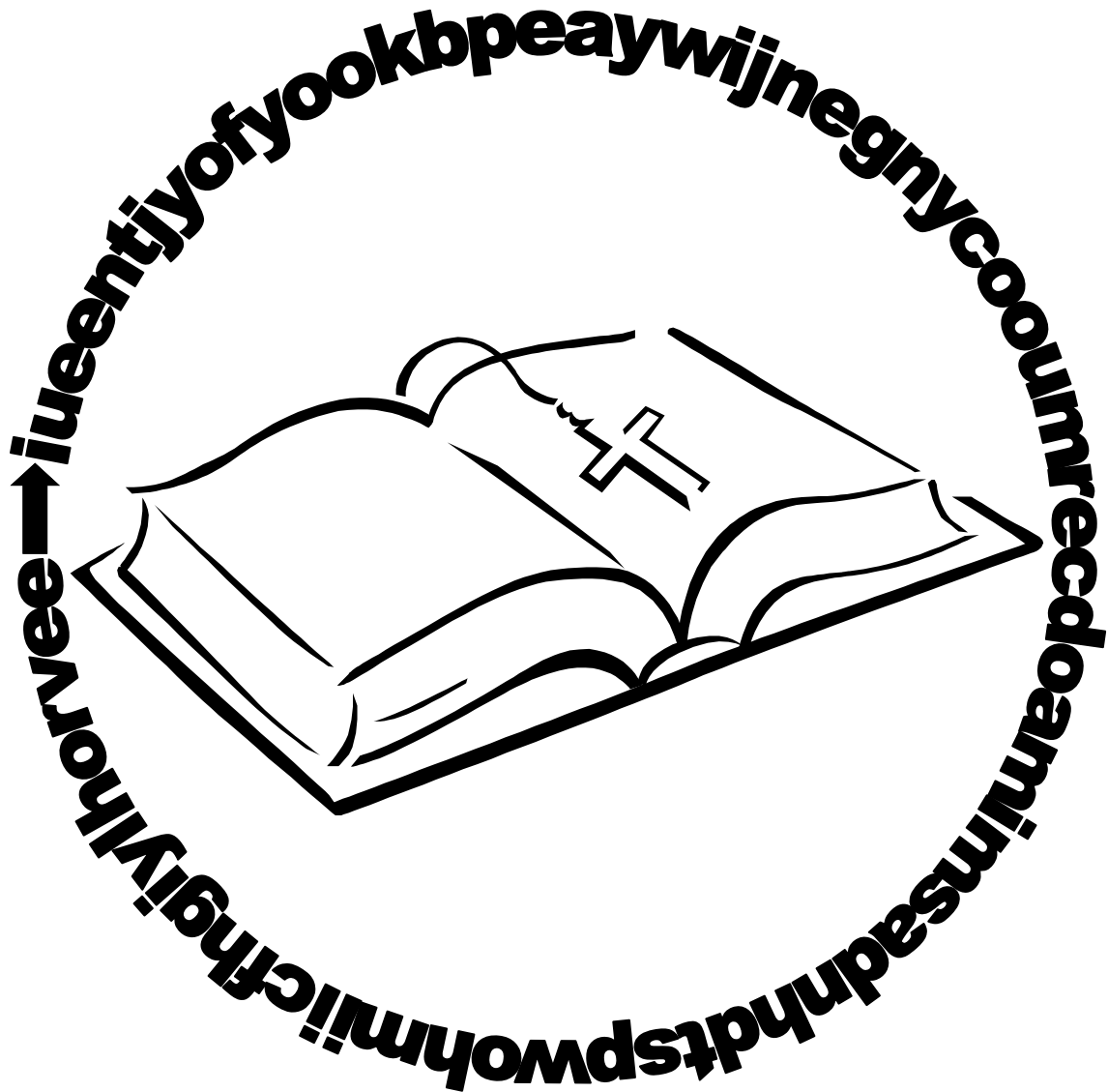
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S E L B I B D N U O F E N  
D J V L S Y T D E R V H A  
O T E E A Y F A S D I U E  
G N R N S B I E V O D P L  
H T B U I L F T E G P L C

- Josiah
- eight years old
- removed idols
- cleaned temple
- found Bible
- repented
- loved God's word
- obeyed
- God's mercy

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Beginning at the arrow, cross out every other letter. Copy the letters  
that are left into the spaces below.



I enjoy obeying your commands,  
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# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page

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| H | E | L | J | E | V | S | N | N | E | L | O | L |
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