



Dear Teacher,

This week we take a brief look at the kingdom of Judah. Most of our time has been spent following God's prophets in Israel (Elijah and Elisha), but Joash is a story like those we've read the last few weeks. Joash is the rightful heir to the throne of David – a promise God intended to keep – and begins his reign in faithful devotion to the Lord. So faithful he intends and does repair the Lord's temple. Eventually Joash succumbs to pressure to worship the false god, Baal. This sin requires the Lord's discipline upon Joash and Judah. God will not be rivaled for the worship of His creatures. This obscure lesson in the Old Testament shows us the truth about the God we worship.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Split:* Joash

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God wants us to trust Him and obey His commands.

Scripture: II Kings 11-13; II Chronicles 22-24

Story: Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 88 (Pages 203-206).

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- Because of Solomon's disobedience, God tore the kingdom apart. There was the southern kingdom of Judah and the northern kingdom of Israel.
- God will not tolerate the worship of anyone or anything else. Only the Lord is truly deserving of worship and praise.
- The southern kingdom of Judah had followed the Lord for many, many years. However, a wicked queen led the people astray in worshipping the false god, Baal.
- The wicked queen killed all her relatives except for a young boy named Joash. Joash hid in the temple for many years. The High Priest at the time announced that Joash was the rightful heir to the pleasure of many in Judah.
- Joash was crowned king. The wicked queen was overthrown and thus began the rule of Joash. Joash became king at the age of seven and ruled faithfully for some time.
- Joash was responsible for repairing the Lord's temple. It was in poor condition and in need of repair by the time he became king.
- Joash though became influenced by the princes of Judah. He instituted idol worship again. This idolatry and sin led God to discipline Joash and the people of Judah.
- God sent the army of Syria to Judah. Joash appeased the invading force by handing over all the treasures of the Lord's temple. This act sealed Joash's fate. He was killed by two servants who were angered by his actions.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see "Sunday Schedule for Preschool" found in Handbook on the teacher's table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: King's Scepter

Supplies: Straw, gold strips (2 per child)

Instructions: Place one end of both gold strips onto straw sliding down to flexible part of straw (glitter side down), slide opposite ends of strips onto straw creating a circle that goes over tip of straw, separate strips to form each side of scepter.

Snack



11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Temple Chest

Supplies: Tan chest template, crayons/markers, stapler, coins, cross stickers

Instructions: Fold chest template in half, place cross stickers on chest and color if desired, staple sides of chest, add coins.



Story: *Split:* Joash

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Boys and girls, our story today is about a little boy not much older than you that becomes king. Our story is about Joash, the seven-year-old king! Let's find out how the seven-year-old king rules...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Jonah 4:2b)

Catechism Questions (1-14)

Hymn of the Month: O Worship the King (Trinity Hymnal, Page 2)

Free Play

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was the little boy in our story?
- Who protected Joash?
- Where did he hide?
- How old was he when he became king?
- What did Joash want to do?
- How did Joash collect money to repair God's temple?
- Who lead Joash to worship the false god, Baal?
- Who did God use to discipline Joash and the people of Judah?

Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- Why was it important to repair the temple?
- What does Joash's story tell us about friends and those we listen to?

Scripture Memory for February:

"...I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love..."

Jonah 4:2b

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- Question 13 – Can God do all things? *Yes. God can do all His holy will.*
- Question 14 – Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, our story today is about a little boy not much older than you that becomes king. Our story is about Joash, the seven-year-old king! Let's find out how the seven-year-old king rules...

A Baby Kept Safe

In the ancient times of the Old Testament, a kingdom could have many kings and queens in a very short time. In the southern kingdom of Judah such a thing happened [**Teacher's Note:** you may have to stop and refresh on the split of the two kingdoms. Judah is in the south made up of two tribes; Israel in the north with ten tribes]. A wicked queen became ruler of the kingdom of Judah overnight. This wicked queen was a foreigner and not an Israelite. This made the people of Judah both angry because she was not an Israelite and scared because they did not know what she would do. The wicked queen wanted to be the only ruler in Judah, so she got rid of anyone she thought could overthrow her and become the ruler. That meant getting rid of her own relatives! But one little baby survived and stayed in the kingdom of Judah. The little baby's name was Joash [**pronunciation:** jo-ash]. Joash was kidnapped by a distant relative before the wicked queen found him. The relative took Joash and hid him in God's Temple. This was a very big secret to keep and only one other person knew about it: the High Priest of God's Temple, Jehoiada [**pronunciation:** jay-hoi-ada].

Joash hid for six long years from the wicked queen. No one ever knew that the rightful king was alive or even hiding in the temple. During those six long years many people in Judah wanted a king from the royal line of David, just as God had promised! Many people wondered how could God keep His promise if there was no one from David's family around to rule. But God had a plan and God was going to keep His promises!

The Call for Captains

When Joash was seven years old, the High Priest sent for all the captains of the army to come to Jerusalem and to the temple. The priest told the captains what happened and how the wicked queen became ruler of Judah. But then the priest brought the young seven-year-old boy before these mighty captains and said, "This is Joash, and he is from the line of David. He is the king's son and he will rule Judah. That is what the Lord promised about David's descendants." The priest made all the captains swear allegiance to the little boy. The men then shouted with excitement! The real ruler was alive and in front of them. The army stayed close to Joash to protect him from any harm. The High Priest called all the people of Judah to come and see their true king. People came from all over Judah and filled the city to see their new king. The high priest placed the little boy on a stool for all to see and then anointed him with oil. When someone was anointed with oil in the Bible it meant God's blessing was upon them. Joash was king! Trumpets blasted and the people shouted, "Long live the king! Long live the king!" The wicked queen heard the blaring trumpets and the shouting off in the distance. She came to the temple to see what the uproar was all about. When she saw the little boy crowned as king, she cried out "Treason! Treason!" But no one cared because the people of Judah wanted the little boy to be king. The soldiers quickly took the wicked queen away. The High Priest then stood before all the people, the soldiers and now King Joash. He had the people agree to be the Lord's people and to worship the Lord only. The people said they would only worship the Lord and not Baal, the false god. Then all the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols there.

To The Palace!

A great procession formed. Thousands of people lined up, horses and soldiers too, and they marched to the king's palace to watch Joash, the seven-year-old boy, become king. The procession made its way to the palace. Joash walked into the palace. Then several men lifted the little boy up and placed him on the king's throne. There he sat with the king's golden crown on his head and the king's scepter in his hand. At seven years of age Joash became king of Judah. For years Joash served the Lord only. The people of Judah were happy once again to have a king who followed the One, True God and not the idol, Baal.

Joash Repairs the Temple

When Joash grew up, it came into his heart to repair God's holy temple. The temple is where God's people went to worship Him. Many, many years had passed since the temple was built by King Solomon. The temple needed repairs. The gold and precious stones and metals had been taken out of the temple to make statues to false gods and to build temples for the false gods. The temple of God looked really bad. To repair the temple Joash brought back a law that Moses had commanded long ago. Moses told the people long ago that every man twenty years old and older should bring half a shekel to the Lord every year. This money would be used to take care of God's temple. This rule was neglected under the wicked queen's rule. So Joash said to the priests, "Take all the money brought as offerings to the Temple of the Lord. This includes the money each person owes in taxes. It also includes the money each person promises or brings to the Lord because he wants to. Each priest must take the money from the people he serves. Then the priests must repair any damage they find in the Temple."

To collect the offerings Joash had carpenters make a strong chest, or box, and they put a hole in the top of it. The carpenters set the chest by the gate of the temple. People would bring their half shekel, or even more money, to show their thankfulness to the Lord, and drop it in the chest. When the chest was full, the high priest and the king's treasurer took the money out and counted it. After counting the money, the priests would stuff all of the money into bags so they could weigh it. As the building began the priests would take the money to pay the workers who were repairing the temple. The money paid the carpenters and the builders who worked on the Temple of the Lord, and the stoneworkers and stonecutters too. Money was used to buy timber and cut stone, and to buy all the things that were missing from the temple. The temple was going to look splendid and a place that honored the Lord!

A Turn for the Worse

Eventually the faithful High Priest that helped Joash become king passed away. Many people were sad because this High Priest helped the rightful king, Joash, come back. It was not too soon after though that some princes of Judah came to Joash and said, "We want to worship Baal again. We're tired of worshipping the Lord!" Unfortunately, Joash agreed. Joash no longer wanted to worship God. So temples and statues were built to worship Baal, the false god. God sent prophets to warn Joash and the people of Judah to only worship Him. But Joash and the people of Judah did not listen to the prophets. Joash and the people of Judah continued to worship Baal. This angered God. God only wants His people to worship Him, and not anyone or anything else. God loved His people greatly and knew that he needed to discipline them. God sent a fierce army from the north, from the kingdom of Syria. This army marched into the land of Judah and surrounded Jerusalem and the king's palace. Joash was very scared of the Syrian army so he came up with a plan to get rid of the invading army. Joash went to the temple of the Lord and stole all the valuable things that were in it. He took all the gold, silver, precious stones and jewels and gave them to the Syrian king. Joash thought if he could pay them the Syrian's would leave. This made the people of Judah very angry! Some people still worshipped God in Judah and went to the Lord's temple often. Two servants decided that Joash should no longer be king, so they got rid of him.

Joash started out as such a good king who loved the Lord and worshipped Him. But Joash allowed others to lead him in worshipping Baal, and this led to Joash's demise. King Joash reigned for forty years.