



UNIT 14 | SESSION 1

## JOASH WANTED TO OBEY GOD

2 KINGS 12; 2 CHRONICLES 24

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Turn away from your wrong choices. Acts 3:19

### BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- King Joash did what God said was right.
- When the priest died, King Joash and the people stopped worshiping God.
- When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him.

### BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Joash (JOH ash) was 7 years old when he became the king of Judah. King Joash did what God said was right. Joash wanted to fix up the Lord's temple. He told men to collect money from the people to help fix the temple. Joash put a box outside the temple's gate. The box was filled and emptied every day. Joash and the priest used the leftover money on tools and instruments for the temple. When the priest died, King Joash and the people stopped worshiping God. Joash set up idols to worship. God sent warnings to the people, but the people did not listen.



## BABIES ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to 2 Kings 12. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

#### 1 SING A HYMN

Sing the chorus of “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy.” If you are unfamiliar with the tune, listen to it online before the session.

“I will rise and go to Jesus!  
He will save me from my sin.  
By the riches of His merit,  
There is joy and life in Him.”

**SAY** “ King Joash did what God said was right, but only until the priest died. No human king could follow God with his whole heart. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him. ”

#### 2 MAKE COIN SHAKERS

Before the session, place coins in empty, plastic spice jars. Seal the jars with duct tape. Invite babies to shake the jars to hear the coins clinking. Talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** “ King Joash did what God said was right. Joash wanted to fix up the temple, so he put a box near the temple where people could bring money for the temple. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him. ”

#### 3 KNOCK DOWN THE IDOL

Before the session, blow up an inflatable wobbling figure. Help babies sit in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Show babies how to tap or push the figure to knock it down. Talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** “ At first, King Joash did what God said was right. But when the priest died, King Joash and the people stopped worshiping God. They worshiped statues that could not move or talk, like these silly toys! When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



## TODDLER ACTIVITIES

### LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

#### 1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 12. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

#### 2 MAKE A KEY PASSAGE TURNER

Provide white paper plates (2 per child). Write the key passage phrase and reference around 1 plate. Provide crayons, washable markers, and stickers for toddlers to decorate the other plate. Place the verse plate under the decorated plate. Mark on the decorated plate where the verse is, and cut a rectangle large enough to reveal one word of the passage. Place the verse plate under the decorated plate and insert 1 metal brad in the center of both plates. Twist the decorated plate to reveal the verse. Read the phrase aloud.

**SAY** “ Our key passage reminds me of our Bible story. When the priest died, King Joash and the people stopped worshiping God. God sent prophets to tell them to turn away from sin. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us live for Him. ”

#### 3 SING A SONG

Invite toddlers to hold hands and stand in a circle with you. Slowly walk in a circle as you sing “Ring Around the Rosie.” Instead of singing, “We all fall down” say, “We all repent!” Guide toddlers to drop hands and turn in place. Play as time allows, and then retell the Bible story.

**SAY** “ When the priest died, King Joash and the people stopped worshiping God. God wants all people to repent, or turn away from sin, and turn to Him. ”

#### 4 PLAY OUT FIXING THE TEMPLE

Provide floral foam squares for toddlers. Demonstrate how to use toy hammers to pound golf tees into the foam. Monitor closely to ensure safety. Retell the Bible story as toddlers work.

**SAY** “ King Joash was only 7 years old when he became king of Judah. King Joash did what God said was right. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us live for Him, even when we are young. ”

#### 5 GATHER AN OFFERING

Place an empty tissue box within toddlers' reach. Hide toy gold coins in the room in plain sight. Invite toddlers to collect the coins and place them in the box. Empty the box and replay as time allows. Review the Bible story.

**SAY** “ King Joash did what God said was right. He wanted to fix the temple, so Joash and the people collected money in a box. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us live for Him. ”

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**CHRIST CONNECTION:** When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him.

**KEY PASSAGE PHRASE:** Turn away from your wrong choices. Acts 3:19

## 1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: CROWN A KING OR QUEEN

Provide a plastic or paper crown. Invite toddlers to sit in a circle. Call out a child's name. Invite him to stand and put on the crown. Encourage the other toddlers to call out, "Good [king or queen] [child's name]!" Show the toddlers how to bow or curtsy. Repeat with each child.

**SAY** “ King Joash was only 7 years old when he became king; that’s not much older than your age now! At first, King Joash did what God said was right. But when the priest died, King Joash and the people stopped worshipping God. God sent warnings to the people to turn back to Him, but the people did not listen. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him. ”

## 2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Are You Sleeping (Brother John)?”

“Turn from sin, turn from sin.

Turn to God, turn to God!

Jesus died to save you, Jesus died to save you.

Follow Him, follow Him!”

## 3 READ A BOOK

Provide age-appropriate books about children making wise decisions. Read the books aloud. Open your Bible as you talk about the Bible story.

**SAY** “ King Joash was only 7 years old when he became king of Judah. King Joash did what God said was right. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us live for Him, even when we are young. ”

## 4 TAKE CARE OF THE CHURCH

Use a walking rope to lead toddlers through a walk around the church according to your church's safety guidelines. Guide toddlers to spot bulletins, coffee cups, or other items that might have been left behind. Thank the toddlers for pointing out the trash as you place it in a small garbage bag. Remind toddlers that it is important to take care of the church building.

**SAY** “ King Joash did what God said was right. King Joash wanted to fix up the temple, so he collected money for the job. When we trust in Jesus, He helps us want to live for Him. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.