

Bible Point ▶

We can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word.

Bible Verse

Tell everyone the good news about Jesus (adapted from Mark 16:15).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- search for the Bible,
 - learn that Josiah read God's Word to the people in Judah,
 - share God's Word and a snack with each other, and
 - thank God for the Bible.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- Tell everyone.

**2 Kings
22:1–23:3**



When King Josiah discovered that his people were in violation of God's law, he knew he had to do what he could to correct the wrong that was being done against God. If reading God's Word helped him see the error of their ways, Josiah knew that his people needed to hear it, too.

Josiah's reading of God's Word to all his leaders and his people was a commitment to change. We don't know why Josiah chose to stand by a particular pillar, but it may have been considered a place to make significant announcements and decrees. It may have been a bronze pillar that was located just outside the Temple.

Today's passage is devoted to telling about the reforms made in Josiah's kingdom as a result of reading God's Word. Josiah's concern for sharing—and obeying—God's Word led to the honoring of God in ways that hadn't been done in Judah for many years.

Prayer

- Read Mark 16:15.
- How important is it to you to tell others the good news of Jesus?
- Who in your life do you need to tell about Jesus?
- Pray: Lord, as I teach my preschoolers, help me not only to tell them about Jesus but to see how important it is that we...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Hide God’s Word —Search for the Bible stamp, and remember that Josiah found God’s Word in the Temple.	Wooden blocks	
	Option 2: Hidden Treasure —Look for a treat, and discover that Josiah found a special surprise.	Paper cups, chocolate candy	
	Option 3: Snappy Scrolls —Make scrolls like the ones used in the Old Testament.	Paper towel tubes, paper, tape	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Guess who’s hiding the Bible, and remember that Josiah found God’s Word in the Temple.	Bible	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Do a finger play, and learn what happened when Josiah read God’s Word to the people of Judah.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Sing a song, and talk about ways to tell people about God.	CD player	
Closing 	Too Young to Read —Encourage Whiskers to tell others about God’s Word even though he can’t read.		
	B-I-B-L-E —Make a snack to show how sweet God’s Word is.	Honey, bread or tortillas, damp paper towels, paper plates	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Ask questions such as "How did you take care of God's house?" and "What did Josiah find in God's house?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► we can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

◀ BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What story do you love to hear over and over again?" or "What's your favorite Bible story?"

■ Option 1: Hide God's Word

SUPPLIES: wooden blocks



Before this activity, hide the *Bible stamp* and *ink pad* underneath a pile of wooden blocks. Invite children to search through the blocks for the *Bible stamp*. When a child finds the stamp, stamp his or her hand with it. Then allow that child to hide the *Bible stamp* under the blocks while the other children close their eyes. As children play, remind them that Josiah

found God's Word when he was cleaning up the Temple. Explain that ► we can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word.

◀ BIBLE POINT



■ Option 2: Hidden Treasure

SUPPLIES: paper cups, chocolate candy

Form pairs and give each pair three paper cups and two chocolate candies. Have partners decide who will be the Hider and who will be the Finder. Instruct each Finder to close his or her eyes while the Hider turns the cups upside down and hides a piece of candy under one of the cups. Allow the Hiders to move the cups around before telling



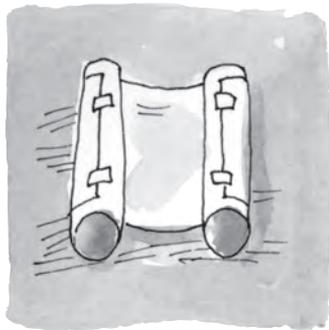
the Finders to open their eyes. Then have each Finder try to guess which cup is hiding the candy. Encourage partners to trade roles so they each have a turn to look for the candy. As children play, remind them that King Josiah found something special when he found God's Word in the Temple. Allow partners to eat their chocolate when it's time to clean up.

■ Option 3: Snappy Scrolls

SUPPLIES: paper towel tubes, paper, tape

Set out paper towel cardboard tubes and 8½x11-inch paper. (Or make tubes by rolling and taping construction paper.) Give each child two tubes and a sheet of paper. Help each child tape the tubes to the end of the paper and then roll the tubes to the center to create scrolls. Explain that today's story tells about Josiah reading God's Word from a scroll and that books were written on scrolls in Bible times.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.



■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: Bible



Remind children of your attention signal: When you shake the *clapper*, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Form a semicircle and ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (I looked for the *Bible stamp*; I looked for candy under a cup; I made a scroll.)

Say: **Some of you looked for the *Bible stamp*. Some of you looked for candy under a cup. Some of you made scrolls. All of you were learning important things about our Bible story. Today we'll learn that *we can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word*. Last week we heard how King Josiah found God's Word in the Temple. Let's play a game and see if we can find God's Word.**

Set a chair in front of the semicircle, and place a Bible on the floor underneath it. Choose a volunteer to sit in the chair, facing away from the semicircle. Ask the volunteer to close his or her eyes.

Say: **If I point to you, sneak forward, take the Bible, return to your place, and hide the Bible behind your back. Then we'll all clap three times and say, "Find God's Word!" Then the person in the front will open his or her eyes and make three guesses as to who took the Bible. The person who's hiding the Bible will sit in the front next time. Ready?**

When several children have had a turn hiding and looking for the Bible, put the Bible away.

Ask: • **What was it like to find the Bible?** (Neat; exciting; I was glad.)

• **Why is the Bible so important?** (Because it's about Jesus; because it's God's Word; because it has stories about how much God loves us.)

Say: ***We can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word*. That's why it's important that we listen to and know the stories in the Bible. We've heard how King Josiah found God's Word after it had been lost for many years. Let's find out what happened when Josiah read the Bible to the people in his kingdom.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
I'm so glad for God's book today.
I'm so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
Let me hear 'bout God's love—
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *Bible stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
I'm so glad we're all here today.
I'm so glad we're together.
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who's here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Before class, take out the two posters related to the story of Josiah from the *Poster Pack*. You will use the "Temple Reconstruction" and "Josiah Reads God's Word" posters as you tell the story.

Bring out the "Temple Reconstruction" poster, and have the children gather around you. Open your Bible to **2 Kings 22**, and show it to the children.

Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible. Our posters show us pictures of our Bible story.**

Hold up the "Temple Reconstruction" poster.

Say: **Last week we learned that King Josiah wanted to fix the Temple. When the workers were cleaning up the Temple, they found God's Book of the Law. When the royal secretary read the book to Josiah, Josiah felt very sad because he realized that his people weren't obeying God. Josiah wanted his people to change and start following God.** Hold up the "Josiah Reads God's Word" poster, and show Josiah reading the scroll to the people.

Say: **In this finger play, let's pretend we're Josiah talking about what happened after he found the scroll.**

Lead children in the motions of the following finger play.

When I was just a little boy (*hold hand low to the ground*),
I became a king! (*Circle fingers around head like a crown.*)
And in the land of Judah (*shield eyes with hand*),
I ruled over everything! (*Outstretch arms.*)

I loved the Lord with all my heart (*fold hands and look to heaven*)—
I wanted to obey.
And as I grew and grew and grew (*move hands higher on each “grew”*),
I followed God each day. (*Point to heaven.*)

God’s Temple was all broken down (*give thumbs-down sign*)
And dirty as could be. (*Shake head.*)
So I gave orders to fix it (*give thumbs-up sign*)—
It’s God’s special house, you see. (*Put fingertips together to form roof.*)
And so the builders went to work (*pound fists together*)
To fix things on the double! (*Snap fingers.*)
Then one day they found God’s Word (*pretend to open scroll*)
Buried in dust and rubble! (*Brush hands together, and blow “dust” from hands.*)

When I heard what God’s Word said (*cup hand to ear*),
I felt sorry and sad. (*Frown and scratch chin.*)
My people weren’t obeying God (*shake head*)—
For a long time, they’d been bad. (*Shake finger.*)

I called the people and read God’s Word (*hold hands like a book*)
So everyone could hear. (*Outstretch arms, and then cup hands to ears.*)
I said, “I’ll follow God’s commands,” (*point to self and then to heaven*)
And then the people began to cheer! (*Hold arms up.*)

They said, “We want to serve the Lord (*point to heaven*)
Starting right now—today!” (*Pound fist on open palm.*)
Because their young king shared God’s Word (*open hands like a book*),
They learned to walk in God’s way. (*Point to heaven.*)

Say: **After the people promised to follow God, Josiah tore down all the statues of fake gods. Then everyone gathered at the Temple to celebrate God’s love.**

Ask: • **Why was Josiah sad at first?** (He wanted his people to worship God; he knew they weren’t loving God.)

• **How do you think he felt when the people said they’d follow God’s rules?** (Happy; glad.)

Say: **When Josiah read God’s Word to the people of Judah, they changed their wicked ways and began to follow God.** Show children the Bible verse, **Mark 16:15**, in your Bible. **Just as they wanted to tell people about God, we can ►tell everyone the good news about Jesus. Let’s sing a song about Jesus.**

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: CD player



Have children form a circle and sit down. Give one child the *mini groan tube* from the Learning Lab, and encourage the child to shake the tube.


BIBLE POINT ▶

Say: **We're going to sing a song right now about helping others learn about God. As we sing, we'll pass this tube around the circle. When I pause the CD, whoever is holding the tube should stand up and tell something he or she knows about Jesus! We're going to ▶ help others learn about God by sharing God's Word.**

Lead children in singing "Tell About Jesus" (adapted from Mark 16:15) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy" with the CD (track 14).

Encourage children to continue passing the *mini groan tube* as they sing as if they were playing the game "hot potato." Be ready to pause the CD at the end of each section of the song. On the word *happy*, encourage the child with the *mini groan tube* to shake it. If a child who has already had the tube ends up with it again, ask the child to pass it to a child who hasn't had a turn to stand up. If you have a large class, you might want to repeat the song until each child has had a turn to stand up and say something about Jesus.


SING

I'm gonna tell everyone about Jesus today. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

What? (*Put hands behind ears.*)

Jesus today. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

What? (*Put hands behind ears.*)

Jesus today. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

I'm gonna tell everyone about Jesus today. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

Why? (*Hold out hands to side with palms up.*)

Because Jesus loves us. (*Cross arms in front of body.*)

It makes me happy (*hug yourself*),

Really happy,

To tell everyone about Jesus. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

It makes me happy (*hug yourself*),

Really happy,

To tell everyone about Jesus today. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)

(Repeat.)

When you're finished, ask: • **How can we help others learn about God?** (With our words; by being kind; by telling them about the Bible.)

• **Why is it important to help others learn about God?** (So they can be in heaven, too; because God loves everyone and wants everyone to love him.)

• **Who would you like to tell about God this week?** (My dad; my friend; my aunt.)

Say: **Great job telling one another about God!**



Say: **Jesus is the most important thing in the whole world! When you know something that important, you shouldn't keep it a secret. Jesus wants everyone to know about him and his love. He wants us to know him first and then go tell everyone else about him. It's an important job Jesus has given us.**


BIBLE POINT ▶

▶ **We can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word, which is what you just did! Each week, we tell our friend Whiskers something new about God to help him learn more about God. Let's see what we can teach Whiskers this week. Whiskers! Whiskers!**

Closing

■ Too Young to Read

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: (*Sounding discouraged*) Hello, everyone.

Teacher: Whiskers, what's wrong?

Whiskers: I heard what you said about sharing God's Word with others, so I took my Bible over to my cousin Joey's house to share it with him.

Teacher: That's a great idea. What went wrong?

Whiskers: Well, we opened up the Bible, and I was going to tell him the stories. (*Sadly*) But I couldn't read my Bible to him. I haven't learned how to read yet.

Teacher: That does sound like a problem, Whiskers. But I think we can help you.

Whiskers: (*Excitedly*) You're going to teach me to read?

Teacher: That's not quite what I had in mind. You can share the Bible with Joey even though you can't read.

Whiskers: I can? How?

Teacher: You already know a lot of things that are in the Bible. All you have to do is remember them! Children, what do you know about God and the Bible that you can tell Whiskers?

(Allow children to tell some of the Bible Points from previous lessons or share what they remember about favorite Bible stories.)

Whiskers: Hey! I know those stories, too. I guess I don't have to know how to read to share the Bible with my cousin Joey. I'm going to go back over to his house and tell him what you just told me. First, I'll start with the story of David and Goliath! Oooh, that's a good one! Then maybe I'll tell him about the time Jesus healed a sick man... (*Exits, talking about favorite Bible stories.*)

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■ B-I-B-L-E

SUPPLIES: honey, bread or tortillas, damp paper towels or wet wipes, paper plates

Say: ► **We can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word. Let's make a sweet snack to remind us of God's Word, the Bible.**

Distribute damp paper towels so children can wash their hands. Then give each child a piece of bread or a tortilla, and a paper plate. Set out two or three squeeze bottles of honey, and allow children to “write” on their bread by making rows of honey squiggles. Encourage children to share the squeeze bottles.

While children are making their snacks, say: **When you're finished writing, fold your bread as if you were closing a book.** Pause and help children fold their slices of bread. Then allow them to eat their snack. As they eat, have children tell someone else about different ways to share God's Word with others, such as telling Bible stories to friends or saying each week's Bible Point to their families.

When children finish their snack, pray: **Dear God, thank you for giving us the Bible. We like to hear stories and learn about you. Help us remember to share your Word with other people. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

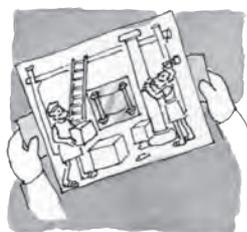
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Module Review**



Bring out the four posters from the *Poster Pack* for this module. Have children form a circle, and place the posters around the circle. Play a CD of praise music, and have children skip, hop, or tiptoe in the circle. Pause the CD, and instruct children to “freeze” in place. Have children closest to each picture tell something they remember about that story. Then start the music again and have children move in a new way. As children play, remind them that ► *we can help others learn about God by sharing God’s Word.*

■ **Make to Take: Scroll Finder**



Make a photocopy of the “Scroll Finder” handout on the next page for each child. Cut along the dotted lines to make two slits. Then cut off the bottom edge to make a paper strip. Have each child thread the paper strip up through the left slit and down through the right slit. Show them how to pull on the paper strips until the scrolls are visible. As children color their handouts, remind them that ► *we can help others learn about God by sharing God’s Word.*

■ **Treat to Eat: Scrumptious Scrolls**

Give children small tortillas and jelly to spread on them. Show children how to roll their tortillas into scrolls. As children eat their snacks, encourage them to tell a favorite Bible story. Explain that ► *we can help others learn about God by sharing God’s Word.*

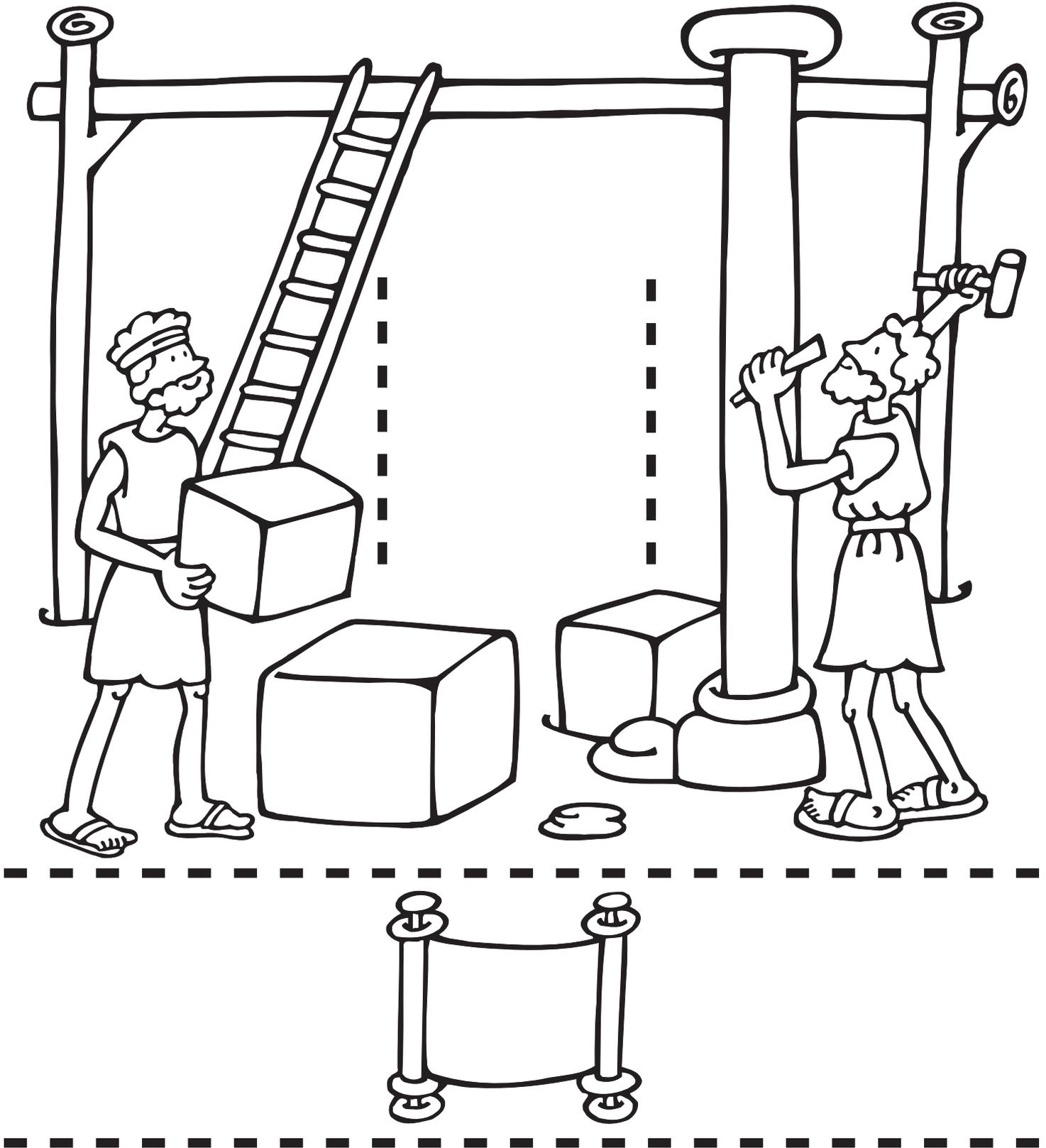


■ **Story Picture: Josiah Reads God’s Word**

Hand each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Give each child two sticky notes and a pencil. Show children how to curl the edges of the sticky notes around the pencils to look like the curled edges of scrolls. Then have each child place the notes on the picture of the scroll, with the sticky end in the middle. As they work, ask children what stories they think Josiah read to the people. Remind them that ► *we can help others learn about God by sharing God’s Word,* just as Josiah did.

Scroll Finder

Photocopy the handout. Cut along the dotted lines to make two slits. Cut off the bottom strip of the handout. Help each child slide the strip through the slits.



Today i learned... @

@ We can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word.

Lesson 13

Today your child learned that **WE CAN HELP OTHERS LEARN ABOUT GOD BY SHARING GOD'S WORD.** Children discovered that the people of Judah followed God when Josiah read God's Word to them. They also thanked God for the Bible.

Help me learn this:

Tell everyone the good news about Jesus (adapted from Mark 16:15).

Ask me:

- What did Josiah read to the people?
- What's your favorite Bible story?
- How can we share the Bible with other people?

Family Fun

- Hide a Bible somewhere in your child's room. When your child finds the Bible, have him or her tell you a favorite Bible story. Then encourage your child to hide the Bible in your room so you can tell your favorite Bible story.
- Help your child staple several sheets of paper together to make a book. Each time your child hears a new Bible story, have him or her draw a picture about the story in the special book.

Josiah Reads God's Word (2 Kings 22:1-23:3)

