

The Book Of The Law Is Found

2 Kings 22:3-20

## **MEMORY VERSE**

2 KINGS 22:19

“Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,’ says the LORD.”

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Masking tape.

A copy of the enclosed template and a paper plate for each child, yellow construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, a hole punch, and glue.

Scratch paper or old newspaper to make paper wads and several questions relating to the lesson prepared before class.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Race of Confusion**

It is hard to get to where you are going without knowing how to get there! It is that way in our lives. We cannot do the things that God would have us to do without knowing His will and plans for us. How can we know His will and plan? Through the Word of God!

Here is a game to help us to understand that we can get much more accomplished when we listen to God’s instructions. Set up a goal line with masking tape at the end of the room. Form two teams of children and have them line up in two separate lines. To start the race, they must listen for your instructions and try to reach the finish line following your instructions.

Have the first two children in line go first. Make up instructions for them to follow, with them ultimately reaching the finish line. (Example instructions: “Take 2 steps to the left and stop, hop one hop, turn around and take two steps to the right and stop, hop on 1 foot backwards and stop.”) Keep them turning toward and away from the goal of the finish line several times. After they have struggled their way to the finish line, allow the next children in line to go and so on until everyone gets a turn. This is a lesson in listening to instructions. When everyone has had their turn, you can take the opportunity to share with the children how important it is to first have instructions and then to follow those instructions. God gave us instructions to follow! **God’s Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

## LESSON TIME!

How do you feel when you find something that has been lost for a long time? Do you become excited? You probably do. In our last lesson, we introduced King Josiah—a good king, one who was wholly devoted to following the Lord. Today, we will focus on an exciting event for Josiah and the nation of Judah—something lost for a long time had been found!

### 2 KINGS 22:3-7

Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying:

"Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.

"And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who are in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house;

"to carpenters and builders and masons; and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house.

"However there need be no accounting made with them of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."

Remember, Josiah determined to restore the temple. Manasseh, the wicked king who reigned for 55 years before Josiah had left the temple in much disrepair. Since Israel, steeped in idolatry, was not worshipping the one true God, the temple of God had probably been used to store things. It was a mess!

Josiah sent Shaphan, one of his aides, to Hilkiah, the high priest, with instructions to pay the builders the money that had been collected from the people for repairing the temple by the Levites. The Bible says the workmen "dealt faithfully." No accounting was necessary for the money given them to use in repairing the temple. They were faithful men who could be trusted with the resources God gave them. What a testimony to their godly character. May we always "deal faithfully," living a life above reproach.

## 2 KINGS 22:8-10

Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king Word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD."

Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

"I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD," Hilkiah declared. To those seeking to return to the worship of the one true God and follow His ways, no greater treasure could be found. The "Book of the Law" was the first five books of the Bible, also known as the Mosaic Law (because it was written by Moses) or the Pentateuch. Through the Bible, God is revealed. With joy, Shaphan brought the book to the king and read it.

It seems that God's Word had been missing for a long period of time, perhaps buried under things thought to be more important or necessary at the time, perhaps covered by a thick layer of dust. How sad that the Word of God had been lost to them in the first place! It is no wonder that the nation had become so corrupted; for without the Word of God, they had little instruction nor did they have defense against the temptations. They had made themselves vulnerable to be carried into the idolatry and the evil practices of the nations around them.

Where is God's Word in our heart today? Have we allowed dust to gather on our Bible? Has it become hidden under things (idols) that we deemed more important? If we neglect the study of the Word, over time the memory of God's Word will fade in our hearts. Without God's instruction, and guidance, and the understanding of who God is and who we are as revealed in His Word, we will become weak against our enemy, Satan, and vulnerable to be swayed by the temptations of world around us. For, God's Word is the Christian's

defense and offense in the battle we face. Hebrews 4:12 says, “The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword....” If God’s Word does not have an important place in your life today, it needs to be “re-discovered”-- for it is a great treasure! **God’s Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

## 2 KINGS 22:11-14

Now it happened, when the king heard the Words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.

Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,

"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the Words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the Words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

So Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. (She dwelt in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter.) And they spoke with her.

When Josiah heard the Words of the book, he tore his clothes expressing deep emotion at the shame of their sin. When people would tear their clothes in Bible times, it was a sign of deep sorrow or mourning. The light of God’s Word reveals the darkness of one’s sin and rebellion. Without God’s Word, the people did not realize how far they had strayed from God’s truth. In Psalm 119:105, the psalmist declares, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light unto

my path.” In the light of God’s Word, we see where we are, and we know where to go. Until this time, the people had been focusing on the repair of the physical temple; now they would focus upon the “repair” of their hearts before the Lord.

Josiah sent a delegation to the prophetess Huldah to request that she inquire of the Lord for the people of Judah concerning the things he had learned from the Book of the Law. Josiah realized the nation had turned away from God, neglected His Word, and deserved God’s judgment. Now hearing God’s Word, he was eager to make things right—to turn from sin and do what God required.

### “A Lamp Unto My Feet”

For this craft, you will need a copy of the enclosed template and a paper plate for each child, yellow construction paper, crayons or markers, scissors, a hole punch, and glue.

The children will be making a candle picture with Psalm 119:105 written below it. Have the children cut out the candle from the enclosed template. Glue the candle to the paper plate. Allow the children to color the candle. With a marker, write out Psalm 119:105, “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” below the candle.

Next, have children cut out small strips of yellow construction paper to represent the glow of the candle and glue them to the plate above the flame. Punch a hole at the top of the plate and tie a loop of yarn through the hole to allow the picture to hang.

### 2 KINGS 22:15-20

Then she said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘Tell the man who sent you to Me,

“Thus says the Lord: ‘Behold, I will bring calamity on this place and on its inhabitants—all the Words of the book which the king of Judah has read—

because they have forsaken Me and burned incense to other gods, that they might provoke Me to anger with all the works of their hands. Therefore My wrath shall be aroused against this place and shall not be quenched.’”

But as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, in this manner you shall speak to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Concerning the Words which you have heard—

because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I spoke against this place and against its inhabitants, that they would become a desolation and a curse, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the Lord.

Surely, therefore, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; and your eyes shall not see all the calamity which I will bring on this place.”” So they brought back Word to the king.

Galatians 6:7-8 tells us, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Judah had been steeped in idolatry, sin, and rebellion. What a man sows, what a nation sows, will be reaped. Unless the nation turned to God with



genuine repentance, judgment for Judah would surely come. In His mercy, God gave Judah a good King, Josiah, who stood in the gap and sought to revive and renew the hearts of a people hardened through years rebellion.

When Josiah heard the Word of God, he repented and genuinely sought God. Josiah's heart was tender and humble before the Lord. The Bible says God *heard* him. He would not be judged with the nation. God promised he would be gathered to his fathers in peace. King Josiah would be spared seeing the destruction and captivity of Jerusalem. James 4:10 says, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." Matthew Henry has said, "Those that most fear God's wrath are least likely to feel it."

Judah had forgotten God's Word. How important is God's Word in your life? Do you spend time reading God's Word daily? In Psalm 1:1,2 we read: "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates *day and night*." **God's Word should have an important place in our hearts.**

God's Word is powerful. In the light of God's Word, our sin is revealed and restoration through faith in Jesus Christ is made possible. God's Word sown in the fertile ground of our hearts bears good fruit. As we grow in His grace and knowledge, we are changed "from glory to glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18) to be more like our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are made strong against the attacks of the enemy and the pressures of this world (1 John 2:14; Psalm 119:11). Consider the effects of God's Word upon your life—do not let your Bible gather dust!

## **“Remember” Toss**

This game will help us to remember that we should never take the Word of God for granted. Assign each child a number, either 1 or 2. Next form two teams, the ones and the twos. Set the “ones” on one side of the room and the “twos” on the opposite wall.

Give each child a piece of scratch paper or a half sheet of newspaper to wad up. Pick a child from one side to answer a question regarding the lesson that you prepared before class. If they answer the question correctly, they get to throw the wad to the other team. If they can’t answer the question after two tries the other team can have a try. But that is only after the original team has been given the opportunity to try answering the question at least two times.

Keep asking questions back and forth. At the end of the game, count the number of paper wads for each team. The team with the least number of paper wads wins!

## **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to know and obey God’s Word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

Template – A Lamp unto My Feet

