



# Faith Adventures Youth Resource

Free to use – please acknowledge when using beyond local church children's and youth work so others can find and use the resource themselves.

*Embedded in Faith Adventures: Children Together, this youth resource is intergenerational in nature and designed to foster God-connection in church, home and beyond.*

For guidance on the purpose of the resource and how to use it as a launch pad for your engagement with children and families, please use this link: [www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR](http://www.bit.ly/How-To-FAYR)

## Title: 2 Kings 22: 1–2; 2 Kings 23: 1–3

**Theme:** Josiah the boy king

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**Introduction: What would be helpful to know in my planning? Please use this section as a reference and information guide for leaders only – we don't expect it to be read out to the children.**

As part of the Untold Stories of the Bible series, this session looks at King Josiah. It is rare to find a biblical king who completely obeyed God, but Josiah was such a king. What makes his story even more remarkable is that he became king when he was just eight years old. We would recommend reading both chapters 22 and 23 of 2 Kings to familiarise yourself with the life of Josiah before leading this session.

There are many ideas that could be explored from the account of King Josiah in 2 Kings. This session focuses on how young people can set an example to those around them, no matter what their age. King Josiah's people had not been reading God's word; in fact they had read it so infrequently that the book had been lost. When it was found; King Josiah had it read to him, and he realised that the people in his kingdom had failed to follow God's teachings. King Josiah tore his clothes in grief, and from that one reading set about changing the course of the nation.

The URC has highlighted the importance of intergenerational worship over the last few years, and this biblical account reminds us that young people, both then and now, can make a positive difference and be a force for good within their communities and churches.

## Together – prayer and games

Let's start our time with God and each other well

Use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

*All mighty God,*

*Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.*

*Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.*

*Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.*

*Amen.*

Alternatively, you may join with the widgeit prayer found in Faith Adventures: Children Together, or else the Lord's Prayer found at the end of this session.

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### Active game – Follow the leader

King Josiah wanted to follow God, and King Josiah enabled his nation to also follow the word of God. Play "Follow the leader" as a way to introduce the session.

Allow those gathered to take it in turns to be the leader, allowing them a set amount of time each. Everyone lines up behind the leader. As they move around the room, the leader creates actions for everyone else to copy e.g. jumping hands in the air, star jumps, turn around, on all fours.

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### Quieter game – Oldest to youngest

King Josiah was eight when he became king. As a quieter way to introduce this session, ask those gathered to line up shoulder to shoulder and without talking, change the order of the line from oldest to the youngest. The session leader will need to inform everyone which side is oldest/youngest. How right are they?

## Experience – Bible story and songs

Hear, watch and sing the Bible story

This link takes you to 2 Kings 22: 1-2; 2 Kings 23: 1-3 in the International Children's Bible

**For this story we recommend using the International Children's Bible**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Kings%2022%3A%201-2%3B%202%20Kings%2023%3A%201-3&version=ICB>

### 2 Kings 22:1-2: **Josiah King of Judah**

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He ruled for 31 years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah. Adaiah was from Bozkath. <sup>2</sup> Josiah did what the Lord said was right. He did good things as his ancestor David had done. Josiah did not stop doing what was right.

### 2 Kings 23:1-3: **The People Hear the Law**

<sup>1</sup>Then the king gathered all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem together. <sup>2</sup>He went up to the Temple of the Lord. All the men from Judah and Jerusalem went with him. The priests, prophets, and all the people – from the least important to the most important – went with him. He read to them all the words of the Book of the Agreement. That book was found in the Temple of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>The king stood by the pillar. He made an agreement in the presence of the Lord. He agreed to follow the Lord and obey his commands, rules, and laws with his whole being. He agreed to do what was written in this book. Then all the people promised to obey the agreement.

### ***International Children's Bible (ICB)***

*The Holy Bible, International Children's Bible® Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission.*

You may wish to research different versions of this reading on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)  
Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV



**Listen:** Build your kingdom here by Rend Collective

This song speaks of being brave and speaking out, that just like Josiah spoke out and encouraged others to build God's church in his place so we can too.

### **Questions for discussion**

- How could you help build the 'Church?'

## Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

### **A new way to explore the theme**

This is a new way to explore the Bible passage and the theme for this week.

Alternatively, you may wish to use the Explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

To explore the story today, let's all think about being a ruler for the day. Ask the children to write down on slips of paper one thing they would do as ruler. Put the slips in a hat, then take them out one at a time and explore then. Perhaps put them in order? Discuss if each suggestion would be something you would do or not.

Next, ask each child that wants to choose a role. It may be:

- King or Queen of a Country
- Prime Minister
- The Moderator of General Assembly or Youth assembly
- The church secretary
- The youth and children's worker
- A teacher

Take it in turns to sit on the hot seat, here are some suggested questions.

- What one thing would you change in your time in this role?
- What one thing would you stop doing?
- How would you make a difference?

Don't spend too much time with each child as you may not have long, so maybe set a time limit to two mins each.

Round up by reminding the children that they are important and can do incredible things even though they may be young. Encourage them to share their ideas and opinions in church, as their voices should be heard in just the same way as the adults'.

If you have time, maybe even show them the charter for children in church and explore it together: <https://urc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Children-and-Youth-Charter-for-Children-with-simplified-text.pdf>

## Modern parables

This section includes references to TV programmes, films, books, TED talks, TikTok etc aimed at this age group that will have been widely seen, or where a clip is available to use as a stimulus for discussion. You may also enjoy the picture book recommended for Faith Adventures: Children Together and explore the relevance of the story to the theme of the session in more depth – young people and adults are often well tuned in to the deeper meanings in materials aimed at younger people and the authors are often very aware of the adults reading the books to or with younger ones.



*La Luna*, by iuproduction

[https://youtu.be/CCQ9v6XMC6c?si=CJ\\_-TDvt7VDfZqqW](https://youtu.be/CCQ9v6XMC6c?si=CJ_-TDvt7VDfZqqW)

This short film is a story of three different generations working together to clear up the stars on the moon.

What do you think are the benefits of working with people of different ages?

## Group discussion

- What is the Book of the Agreement?
- As Josiah was only eight, I wonder if he had others advising or telling him what to do.
- I wonder if Josiah really never stopped doing “all things” right.
- How did Josiah know what the Lord wanted him to do?

## Personal reflection

- I wonder if you've ever led anything.
- I wonder where you have responsibility.
- I wonder if you would like to have the sort of responsibility Josiah had.
- How do you feel about taking orders from someone younger than you?
- I wonder what a good king looks like.
- I wonder if it's easy or hard to do what is right.

# Express – prayer and creative activities

Praying together: enabling your group to respond spiritually

## Praying together

**Prayers** Respond to the theme by writing or saying a short prayer. Alternatively, use the creative prayer from Faith Adventures: Children Together for this session, or use the prayer activity below. Alternatively, light a candle and play some music while you listen and talk to God together.

## Post-It note crowns



Ensure everyone has access to Post-It notes and pens. Give some time to write or draw a prayer on a Post-It note. You may want to suggest the types of prayers to focus on – maybe ones which would focus on what purpose God has for each of us. Then pass around a crown (either buy one or make one before the session) and encourage everyone to stick their Post-It note prayer onto the crown and to pass the crown on. When everyone has stuck their Post-It note onto the crown, say “Amen” together. Perhaps at the same time use hands to mimic placing crowns on their heads.

## Spoken prayer

Encourage those gathered to know that God hears all voices, whether young or old. Let them know that today they are going to say their own prayer to God. Allow them time to think of a prayer. When they are ready, the children should cup their hands in front of their mouths. When everyone is ready, ask everyone to whisper their prayers at the same time, and all say “Amen” when the last person has finished their prayer.

## Responding together

This is an opportunity for a social justice challenge, some research, craftivism, or a craft or STEM activity. You may have a specific activity chosen but free choice is also an option. Here are some suggestions for this week's theme. Choose whatever will work best for your group.

## Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today. If not, here are some suggestions:



This link takes you to a story about two young people who petitioned McDonalds to stop using plastic to make toys. What did they do to get this petition up and running? Who helped them in their campaign? Is there something you are passionate about that you could campaign for? Who could help you make this plan a reality?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-49069522>

- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions or the question below to talk with someone of a different generation or from a different setting and share your questions, thoughts, insights together. **I wonder if we can learn from those younger than us and those older than us.**
- Research something suggested by JPIT Resources ([jpit.uk](http://jpit.uk)) or *Commitment for Life* ([cforl.co.uk](http://cforl.co.uk))
- I wonder what purpose God has for your life? God can speak to us and direct us in a variety of ways. Spend some time chatting to God, asking for that purpose to be revealed to you.

Thank you for exploring the **2 Kings** passage with us.

Please let us know what you liked or what you would find useful by emailing [sharon.loyd@urc.org.uk](mailto:sharon.loyd@urc.org.uk) or by sharing it on [www.bit.ly/FACT\\_FB](http://www.bit.ly/FACT_FB)



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins As we forgive those who sin against us

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

For ever and ever . Amen

