Kingdom Divided

“Josiah”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

* The Kingdom of Israel divided after Solomon’s death
* Elijah called the kings and people of Israel back worship of God
* The story of Josiah, one of Judah’s good kings

Series Theme Verse: “Elijah went before the people and said, ‘How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him.’” – 1 Kings 18:21

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that some kings of the two kingdoms were good and led the people back to worship of God.

Lesson Passage: 2 Kings 22:1-2, 18-20

Materials Needed: Bibles, candy or donuts, Brown construction paper, yarn

Lesson Plan:

\*Before you start, place some candy or donuts on the center of the table. Do not let anyone eat anything, because this will come into the lesson later.

Talking Points: 2 Kings 22:1-2

* What was the king of Judah’s name? (Josiah)
* How old was he when he became king? (8)
* How long was he king? (31 years)
* Why was he a good king? (He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord)
* What king did he pattern his life after? (King David)

\*Explain to students that Josiah sent some people to the temple to pay the workers who were working on the temple. The workers found an early copy of Deuteronomy. When the book was read to Josiah, he sent priests to seek God’s guidance from the Prophetess Huldah.

Talking Points: 2 Kings 22:18-20

* The Prophetess Huldah gave the king’s people God’s words. What did God say was the attitude of King Josiah? (He was responsive and humble)
  + You may need to clarify these terms for the students.
  + Responsive would be like doing something a teacher told you to do.
  + Humble would be considering yourself more important than others.
* Did God ignore Josiah? (No, God heard Josiah because of his responsive and humble attitude)
* God had planned on punishing the Kingdom of Judah for worshipping other gods, but what did God decide because of Josiah’s response to God? (The punishment would not happen during Josiah’s life)
* Explain to students that because of God’s words to Josiah, he tore down all the temples and idols that had been built to other gods. He led the Kingdom to worship God only.

The Story Retold:

* Candy Bar or Donuts
  + Refer to the candy or donuts on the table. Ask the students how they have enjoyed the candy or donuts.
  + Allow students to give you responses, and maybe even push back a little bit, commenting on how much you have enjoyed looking at the candy or donuts through the lesson.
  + At some point, ask students what would help them enjoy the candy or donuts more? (If we get to eat them, because that is what they are meant for)
  + Explain to students that Josiah believed the same thing about the Bible. The Bible is not meant to be looked at, it is meant to be consumed, to be read and studied. That is why Josiah had the Bible read when it was found in the temple.
  + Allow students to eat the candy or donuts.
  + Ask students what are some ways and times they can read and study the Bible outside of Sunday Morning Classes?

The Story and Me:

* Give each student a piece of brown construction paper.
* Have them write the Series Theme Verse on the paper.
* Then have the wad the paper up in a ball to give it wrinkles, but not tearing it.
* Have them unwed the paper and then roll the paper up hotdog style.
* Give each student a piece of yarn to tie the paper roll up like a scroll.
* Explain to students that the book Josiah found in the temple was most likely in scroll form like what they have created from their Series Them Verse.
* Students can say the verse from memory if there is time.