



Sabbath Keeping Youth

Not A Typical King!

When you think of a king what comes to mind? A fancy castle, royal clothes, a jeweled crown, or maybe lots of servants? A king should give orders, have anything he wants and do anything he desires. Right?

There is a king who didn't have any luxuries and who many made fun of and laughed at. Jesus, our Lord and savior, came to this earth as a king. His castle was a manger (what cows use to eat out of.) His royal clothing was a blood soaked cloak. His crown was made of sharp thorns which pierced his forehead. His followers (not servants) ran away when He needed their support the most! When Jesus' life finally came to an end, a sign was hung on his cross proclaiming Him "King of the Jews."

Jesus wasn't a typical King who walked around in lots of royalty. Every day Jesus walked among His people. He reached out to them and loved them, even when they mocked Him and put Him on the stake. But the one thing which truly set Jesus apart from all other kings was His resurrection. Jesus died and came back to life! The King Jesus didn't stay in the grave. He didn't need a successor. He is the King of Kings. Most importantly He is our King and always will be! This Passover season, let the King your savior, Jesus, be glorified and praised!!!

Note: The activity that goes in this box is on page 2.

Josiah commanded the people to celebrate Passover. It was very successful. The people were happy. Draw their faces. Then draw a line to match the things on the table with those surrounding the table.



A Parent's Responsibility

There is no one who can replace you in the life of your child. A child is a treasure given by God. With this treasure comes an assignment to teach and train. Your challenge in meeting this assignment is not only to meet the daily needs of your child, but also the spiritual. What are you doing to meet the challenge set before you, which is to ensure your child knows and loves the Lord?

Begin your challenge by applying Deuteronomy 6:4-9. It is within these verses God has given clear instructions to parents about teaching their children. He tells you what to teach and when to teach it.

First you must teach, "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart" (Deuteronomy 6:5-6). To be successful, you need to spend personal time in prayer and study. When you do, you will be ready to teach. Studying the Word of God and praying will draw you close to Him and He will be in your heart. When you understand, appreciate and love who God is, you will be able to share with your child first hand knowledge of God.

Next God says, "you shall teach them [His commands] diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deuteronomy 6:7).

God does not want you to be a passive parent. He wants you to be on alert for each opportunity that arises to teach His truth to your child. Here are a few ideas to help you.

- There are the informal times of teaching like taking a walk and admiring God's creation.
- Respond appropriately to day-to-day events. Such as a job loss, death in the family, car accident, serious illness etc.
- Listen to what your child is saying and answer your child's questions. Do not give a lecture.

- A pattern of thinking, speaking and reacting is learned through your speech and behavior. Pray God give you guidance.
- Formal situations would be a scheduled time to read a Bible story. Children need to hear the Word of God. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).
- Remember to keep your teaching age appropriate.
- Memorize scripture together. Start with "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (I John 4:8). Then, "We love Him because He first loved us" (I John 4:19). Through the first scripture your child learns God is love and next he learns God loves him. Your child will respond to God in love and will internalize the message "I love God because He first loved me."
- Pray together. Pray for your country, for the leaders of the country, for your church, the ministry and family. Avoid reciting prayers. Teach that it is through prayer we have the opportunity to talk to God. Simple, sincere and from the heart is how you want your child to learn to talk to God.

Your child is a sponge waiting for you to fill his heart with the love of God. Teaching your child about God is a precious opportunity; don't let it pass you by.

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Josiah A Righteous King

At the age of eight, Josiah, (jo-SI-a) was crowned king of Judah after his father Amon was assassinated by the palace servants. Josiah was the king of Jerusalem for thirty-one years. He was one of the good kings who did what was right in the sight of the Lord.

Josiah's father was an evil king. He refused to obey God and worshipped idols instead. The people under Amon's rule built altars to pagan gods and had pretty much forgotten God. At the age of sixteen Josiah began to put an end to idolatry. His men were ordered to destroy all the images and altars to foreign gods.

One of the most stunning events in history came to pass when Josiah was twenty-six. There were repairs being made on the temple when Hilkiah, the high priest, found the book of the law in the temple. Hilkiah gave the book of the law, which is Deuteronomy and is also known as the Law of Moses, to Shaphan the scribe who read it to King Josiah. The book of the law had not been read for many years. When Shaphan finished reading the book, Josiah tore his clothes because he was overwhelmed with shame and sadness. He knew his father had not listened to the words of this book nor followed them.

With tremendous zeal Josiah set out to remove idolatry from the land. He had taken to heart the Law he read and began to apply it to his life. First, he commanded Hilkiah to remove all the goblets from the temple that were made for Baal and next he had all the idols in Jerusalem burned. He also removed all the priests who had been appointed by earlier kings to burn incense to these

false gods in the high places. When he was through, Josiah eliminated idol worship, which had been established by the generations that had come before him. Josiah had made up his mind to do all the book of the law commanded.

Josiah commanded the Passover be held again. The Passover had not been observed for hundreds of years. "Not since the days of the judges who led Israel, nor throughout the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah, had any such Passover been observed" (2 Kings 23:22). "Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the Lord as he did--with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses." (2 Kings 23:25). Take the time to now to read what it says in Deuteronomy 6:5. Compare it with 2 Kings 23:25.

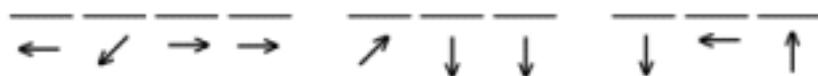
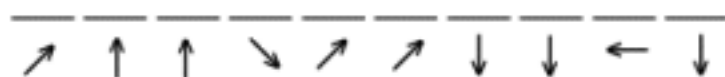
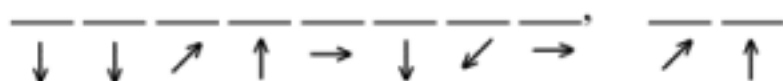
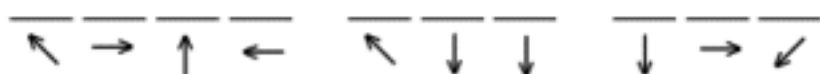
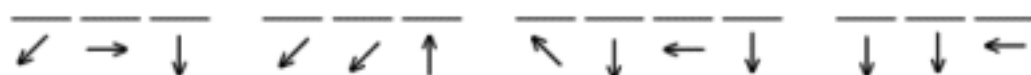
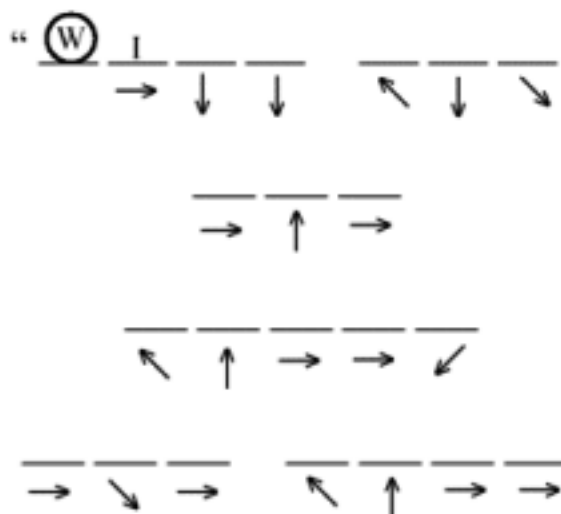
Josiah was killed when he was thirty-nine years old while battling against Egypt. Once he was gone, many returned to their old ways and forgot about worshiping the one true God.

There is a long list of kings who ruled Israel and Judah before both kingdoms ultimately fell. Josiah was one of the few kings who obeyed the Lord. It is important to remember that Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. During the first eighteen years of his rule he obeyed God completely. Based on what he learned from the book of the law, he made major reforms in Judah. From Josiah's story, take this to heart; you may have to wait till you are an adult to be used by God, but you can never be too young to obey the Lord. In Josiah's youth he seriously obeyed the Lord, which prepared him for his adult task of reforming Judah.

Sabbath Keeping Youth

Josiah turned to the LORD

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