

# King Josiah Script

*Optional Props: crowns for those playing King Amon and King Josiah, simple costumes, a throne for King Amon and King Josiah (a chair with material or a plastic tablecloth draped over it), a scroll for the Book of the Law, and a messy area to represent the temple (possibly with papers, clothes, photocopied pictures of idols strewn around).*

*Tell the kids that together you're going to act out a Bible account. Have your Bible ready to show. Assign roles and pass out cards and nametags, letting them know before they commit that the main parts require reading. (Some children struggle with reading.) The teacher is the narrator. Explain that they should listen carefully and act out what you're narrating. Give them verbal prompts as needed, such as, "King Amon, sit down on the throne and give an evil grin!"*

*Parts: Narrator (Teacher); wicked King Amon; King Josiah; Shaphan, the king's secretary; Hilkiah, the high priest; Huldah, the prophetess; crowd (two or more kids); servants (two or more kids)*

**Narrator:** At the time of this Bible account found in 2 Kings (hold up your Bible), about 700 years before Jesus came to earth, there was a nation called Israel. The Israelites were God's chosen people. Israel was ruled by a wicked king named Amon. Have King Amon sit down on the throne and give an evil grin/laugh.

As a result, the whole nation was not doing right. They were not obeying God's commands. Have the crowd go near the temple and silently pretend to be arguing and fighting with each other.

The temple, which was called the house of the Lord, was falling apart. The people quit caring about God, so they quit caring about his house. Have the crowd shrug their shoulders at the temple and walk away as if they don't care about it. Have them sit down.

Then wicked King Amon died. Have King Amon fall off the throne and pretend to die, then return to his seat.

In 640 BC, Amon's young son, Josiah, became king. Have Josiah walk up and sit down on the throne. Put a crown on his head if using props.

He was just eight years old when he became king. Can you imagine being a king when you're eight? Have Josiah hold up eight fingers.

The Bible records that Josiah did right in the sight of the Lord. He didn't turn aside to the right or the left but stayed on God's good path. Even though he was only about your age, he made a choice in his mind that he wanted to be a good king and do right by following God. Have Josiah give a thumbs up sign.

Well, some years went by, and King Josiah decided to tackle a big project.

**Josiah:** Read CARD 1. Our temple is in bad shape. We need to repair it!

**Narrator:** King Josiah sent for his secretary, Shaphan. Have Shaphan come to the throne and have Hilkiah stand by the temple. King Josiah told Shaphan to go to the house of the Lord and speak to Hilkiah, the high priest. Shaphan told Hilkiah to give all the offering money to carpenters and builders so they could buy wood and stone to repair the temple.

Hilkiah did what the king commanded. He gave money to the workers, and they began fixing up the temple. Then Hilkiah made an important discovery! Have Hilkiah pick up the scroll from the temple area, then dance and cheer with joy.

He called for Shaphan to come. Have servants and Shaphan go to Hilkiah at the temple.

**Hilkiah:** Read CARD 2. I've found the Book of the Law, God's Word! Take it and read it! Hand the scroll to Shaphan.

**Narrator:** This was a real treasure because everyone didn't have their own copy of God's Word back then. So Shaphan and the servants took the precious words from God back to King Josiah. Do so.

**Narrator:** When they came to the king, Shaphan read to King Josiah from God's Word. Have Shaphan unroll the scroll and pretend to read it.

When King Josiah heard it, he tore his clothes and wept, showing how terribly upset he was. Have Josiah fall to his knees, pretend to tear his clothes, and cry.

Josiah was upset because he knew that his father and his people had not obeyed God's commands and done what was right.

Josiah realized that everything they needed to know for life was found in God's Word, but they hadn't been reading it. It was a scary and horrible feeling to know God's Word had just been sitting there, not being used. So Josiah said to Shaphan the secretary:

**Josiah:** Read CARD 3. Go and ask Huldah the prophetess what is to be done.

**Narrator:** Shaphan and the others hurried off to Huldah the prophetess. Have Huldah come up and Shaphan and the servants go to her.

**Huldah:** Read CARD 4. Those who have not obeyed God's Word will be very sorry. But as for you, King Josiah, you want to do right and obey God with all your heart. God knows that, and God will not let you see all the trouble that will come on this place. Your life will be peaceful, and the trouble will come after you've died.

**Narrator:** Then King Josiah gathered all the people, both small and great. Have the crowd, servants, and characters come to Josiah. King Josiah told them that he was going to read all the words of the Book of the Law so they could hear it. Have Josiah take the scroll from Shaphan and pretend to read it to the people.

And when he finished, he said:

**Josiah:** *Read CARD 5.* I'm making a promise before the Lord to obey God's commandments with all my heart and all my soul and to do everything written in this book. *Have the crowd cheer.*

**Narrator:** And that's exactly what King Josiah did. He chose to do right all the days of his life. *Hold up the KING JOSIAH POSTER.* He read God's Word and obeyed God's commands. *Have everyone return to their seats.*

**Narrator:** So you see how important reading God's Word is to living right and wearing that breastplate of righteousness. But it's not just about reading the Bible. We need

to show our love for God by obeying what we read. Let's take a minute and try to think of as many commands as we can from the Bible. *Take responses.*

God knows it's hard for us to obey all these commands. That's why he's given his children the Holy Spirit and the armor of God. Putting on the armor of God is all about loving God and showing our love for him through obeying his Word. We're open to Satan's attacks if we don't obey. Let's make a commitment right now to ask the Holy Spirit to help us do right in God's sight. *Hold up the DAY 3 RHYME TIME POSTER and have them repeat the phrase after you.*