

# The Lost Prince

## The Story of Young Prince Joash 2 Kings 11-12

For many years young prince Joash (or Jehoash) was hidden for his own safety—probably from the time he was an infant until he was 7 years old when he became king.

Many years ago, a New Church man named Louis Pendleton took the beginning and the end of the story of Jehoash from 2 Kings and Chronicles and made up a story about what might have happened between the first few months of Jehoash's life until he was seven and took over the throne from his grandmother—Queen Athaliah. His book is called *Lost Prince Almon*.

Write your own story about the hidden prince. You might focus on some of the things that might have happened while Joash was hidden, or write about the dramatic events that happened when he became the king. How might Joash have felt at different times? Illustrate some of the events using a comic book format.

Below are some questions to help you think of what life might have been like for Joash. You may want to re-read 2 Kings 11 to help you.

1. Joash was very young when he was hidden. He did not become king until he was seven. What kinds of things might have happened during the first years of his life?
2. Do you think Joash felt afraid while he was hidden? Or do you think the people around him kept him feeling safe? Do you think being hidden might have been frustrating?
3. Have you ever seen a movie or read a book in which someone is trying to escape from something or someone dangerous? What were some of the problems that person experienced in trying to stay hidden?
4. How do you think Joash felt when he suddenly became king? How would you feel if this happened to you? Do you think that Joash's being hidden for several years affected the kind of king he became? How? What might be some specific challenges for a child to rule a country? Would there be any advantages to being a child?