

General Church Education



Joash, King of Judah

2 Kings 11-12

Lesson 22

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

Joash, King of Judah

2 Kings 11-12

Teacher Background

Following the death of Ahab's sons, his power-hungry daughter Athaliah killed her grandsons to keep the throne. However, one child, Joash, escaped. Jehosheba hid her infant nephew in a bedroom. Later on, Joash was moved to the temple and cared for by Jehoiada, the priest, who taught him about the Lord. When Joash was seven Jehoiada carefully prepared to remove Athaliah and anoint Joash king. On hearing the noise in the temple Athaliah was angry, and Jehoiada ordered that she be put to death. With Jehoiada's advice, Joash restored the temple so people could once more worship the Lord.

Joash was one of the few good kings of Judah. He was raised by a caring aunt and a good priest. Once he was made king he was advised by the priest. This story illustrates the idea that children do not have to follow in an evil parent's footsteps if there are other people to mentor and teach them.

Focus Points

- Athaliah wanted power and killed her grandsons to keep the throne.
- Jehosheba and Jehoiada hid Joash, the son of Ahaziah, saving his life.
- Jehoiada arranged for Joash to be anointed king and ordered the death of Athaliah.
- Joash repaired the temple so people could return to worshipping the Lord.

Readings from the Writings

"The rational ground of innocence and peace in parents with respect to their little children is that the little children know nothing and can do nothing of themselves, but are dependent on others, especially on their father and mother; and this state also gradually recedes as the children gain knowledge and are able to act on their own independently of their parents.... The atmosphere of a love for little children is an atmosphere of protecting and maintaining those who cannot protect and maintain themselves." *Conjugal Love* 399.11

"Truths concerning charity toward the neighbor and concerning love to the Lord, must first be learned before a person can be regenerated.... And insofar as those truths are acknowledged and believed, and are endowed with life, that person is also regenerated.... They are first implanted there through the instruction received from parents and teachers, then from the Word of the Lord, and after that from personal reflection on them. But ... they are still not acknowledged, believed, and received unless life is led in accordance with them, in which case the person enters into an affection for them." *Arcana Coelestia* 3762.2

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.” (2 Kings 12:2)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Sequence the Story of Joash

Read through a list of events that are out of order. Place them in order by writing the numbers 1-20 in front of them.

Jehoiada—Teacher and Mentor

Joash was lucky! Even though Joash’s grandmother wanted to kill him, two people protected and cared of him. Think about the people who have taught or mentored you. Describe why these people are special to you.

Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Character Analysis—Joash, King of Judah

Read 2 Kings 9:1-37, 10:15-36. Use the information you learn to analyze the character traits of Joash, Athaliah, Jehoiada and Jehosheba. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-character-analysis-joash-king-of-judah-2-kings-9-2-kings-10.pdf>

The Lost Prince

Write a story about what may have happened to young prince Joash when he was hidden for the first seven years of his life. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-the-lost-prince-2-kings-11-2-kings-12.pdf>

Read *Lost Prince Almon* by Louis Pendleton

Read a story about what might have happened to the lost prince. Available in full view at <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008589955>

A Chart of the Kings of Israel and Judah

As you learn about the kings of Israel and Judah, complete a chart. As you fill in the spaces, think about whether the king is good or evil. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-a-chart-of-the-kings-of-israel-and-judah-1-kings-2-kings.pdf>

Joash, King of Judah

2 Kings 11-12

Vocabulary

concealed—kept secret, hidden

reared—brought up

momentous—of great importance or significance

The Evil of Athaliah

Jehu, the only king of Israel who worshiped the Lord, was not perfect. Yet he did destroy the house of Ahab and the temple of Baal. This story is about Joash, who became a good king.

Soon after the deaths of Ahaziah, king of Judah, and his brothers, a terrible thing occurred. Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, "destroyed" her grandsons—her sons' royal heirs. She enjoyed being the queen, and had such a strong desire to rule that she could not conceive of losing her power. We can better understand how she could have done this when we know that she was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, two of the most evil people in the Word. Like her parents, Athaliah worshipped Baal and was without honor.

Joash, the Son of Ahaziah, Is Protected

Joash, one of Ahaziah's sons, was hidden from Athaliah's destruction. His aunt, Jehosheba, a sister to Ahaziah, stole the infant prince so he would not be murdered. The Word sometimes calls him Jehoash.

The Word does not tell us why Jehosheba saved him. However, she was probably a good woman who could not bear to see the princes killed and would have saved more if she could. She may also have known Joash better or loved him in a special way. Since he was a baby, he was



easier to hide, and would not be missed. Like most kings of Israel, Ahaziah probably had many wives. Joash's mother may not have been as important as other wives, and Athaliah may not have noticed the birth of her baby. Most importantly, it was in the Lord's providence that Joash be spared and become king of Judah.

Joash Is Hidden

At first, Jehosheba, the woman who saved him, hid Joash in a bedroom with a someone to take

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care of him. Such arrangements were common for important people and would have made it easier to hide Joash from Athaliah. Later, Joash was hidden in the temple with Jehoiada, the priest. Jehoiada taught Joash about the Lord. So Joash lived a sheltered life and did not see the atrocities that happened. He knew he needed to hide due to his grandmother's ambitions.

The years in which Joash was concealed are a mystery, but what is known of him later makes people think that he must have been reared differently than his parents and other members of the royal family.

Joash Is Made King of Judah

When Joash was seven, Jehoiada prepared to remove Athaliah and anoint Joash king. First, he brought the captains of the army, the bodyguards and the royal escorts into the temple. Then he made them promise not to reveal what he was about to tell them. When they swore to it, he allowed them to see Joash, the future king of Judah.

Then Jehoiada told them what they would do so Joash could safely be made king. He assigned guard positions in and around the temple to protect Joash on every side. He asked for all guards to come so many would protect the young prince. He even gave them the shields and spears that had belonged to King David to hold in readiness.

Try to imagine the feelings of the people in attendance at this momentous gathering. When all was ready, Jehoiada brought Joash out before the guards and the people. He put a crown on his head and gave him the Testimony of God, reminding him to obey of God's laws as king.

Then Jehoiada anointed Joash king. This caused great rejoicing as people clapped their hands and shouted, "Long live the king!" (2 Kings 11:12)

Athaliah is Slain

When Athaliah heard the noise she went to the temple and saw what was happening. She tore her clothes and accused the people of treason. Jehoiada ordered that she be taken away from the temple and put to death. So the army officers insulted Athaliah by leading her through the horses' gate to the palace and killed her.



Quiet in Jerusalem

Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord on one hand, the king and the people on the other, saying that the king and the people of Judah would follow the Lord. Then people destroyed the temple of Baal and killed its priest. Next, they honored Joash by escorting him through the front gates to the king's house, where he sat on the throne. He was just seven, but the people rejoiced because Athaliah was gone and there

was peace in Judah.

Joash Repairs the Temple

Jehoiada continued to advise the young king to follow the Lord and take care of His temple. Joash told the priests that the money brought into the temple was to be used to repair the temple. But as Joash became a young man, he noticed the repairs has not been made.

So Joash called all the priests and told them that they were not to take the money people gave, but were to save it for repairing the temple. Since Jehoiada could not trust the priests, he

made a chest with a small hole in the lid. The priests put the money directly into the chest. Each time the chest was full, the money was taken out and given to the people working on the temple, and the temple once again became worthy for worshiping the Lord.



Joash Is Crowned King

Joash Is Killed

While Joash reigned in Judah, Hazael, king of Syria, prepared to attack. He took Gath, a city near Jerusalem. Rather than fight the great army, Joash sent Hazael sacred objects from the temple and his own house as a peace offering. It worked—Hazael stopped advancing on Jerusalem.

In spite of the good that Joash did during his forty years as king, his servants conspired against him and killed him. His son, Amaziah, became king.

Raising a Good King

Are there times when you wish adults would give you more freedom? Are there other times when you are thankful they keep you safe and provide the things you need? One of the biggest responsibilities a person can have is raising a child. It can also be one of the most rewarding.

Jehoiada and Jehosheba took raising Joash seriously. Not only was his life in danger, but he was destined to be the king of Judah. They were always looking out for danger, and training him to become king.

The Writings say that little children depend on their parents for their upbringing. As children learn and are able to think for themselves, they depend on their parents less and less until they can act responsibly. The desire to care for a child comes from a love that is like no other love. It is given to parents and guardians by the Lord.

Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him.” (2 Kings 12:2)

Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

Sequence the Story of Joash

Read through a list of events that are out of order. Place them in order by writing the numbers 1-20 in front of them.

Jehoiada—Teacher and Mentor

Joash was lucky! Even though Joash’s grandmother wanted to kill him, two people protected and cared of him. Think about the people who have taught or mentored you. Describe why they these people are special to you.

Sequence the Story of Joash

2 Kings 11-12

Read through a list of events that are out of order. Put them in order by putting the numbers 1-20 in front of them.

- () Jehosheba saved Joash from his grandmother, Athaliah.
- () Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people of Judah.
- () Joash was anointed king.
- () Athaliah went to the temple.
- () Joash commanded the money brought to the temple be used to repair it.
- () Jehoiada put the crown on Joash and gave him the Testimony.
- () Joash was hidden for six years.
- () Joash was brought to the king's house to sit on the throne.
- () The people clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"
- (**1**) Athaliah commanded all royal heirs be destroyed.
- () Jehoiada showed Joash to the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, and the escorts.
- () Jehoiada gave the spears and shields which had belonged to David to the captains.
- () Joash gave sacred things from the temple and all the gold in the treasuries to Hazael.
- () Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"
- () Athaliah was killed, but not near the temple.
- () The people of the land tore down the temple of Baal.
- () Joash was killed in the house of Millo.
- () Jehoiada made a box to save the money for repairing the temple.
- () Hazael, king of Syria, took Gath and set out to take Jerusalem.
- (**20**) Amaziah, Joash's son, reigned in Judah.

Jehoiada—Teacher and Mentor

2 Kings 11-12

Jehoash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the priest instructed him. (2 Kings 12:2)

Joash was a very lucky boy in some ways. Although his grandmother wanted to kill him, two people protected and cared for him. This meant that he could grow up to become a good king in Judah. One of those people was his aunt, Jehosheba, and the other was Jehoiada, the priest in the temple of Jerusalem.

Jehosheba was like a mother to Joash, while Jehoiada was like a father, teacher and mentor. While parents are the most important teachers for children growing up, teachers and mentors are also influential.

- At this point in your life you have had many teachers. Think about a teacher who has made a special impact on your life. Describe why this person is special to you.
- Mentors are like teachers, but have a more informal relationships with children than teachers do. A mentor might be a babysitter who shares his or her ideas and helps you understand and live your life better. Or a mentor might be an older sibling, or an aunt, uncle, cousin or neighbor. Your parents might be able to help you identify the mentors in your life. Write about a mentor and how he or she helps you.
- Priests, like Jehoiada, teach some of the most important ideas you will ever learn— ideas from the Word. Think about the influence a priest has had on your life and write about it. If you have not met any priests or ministers, ask an adult you know to tell you about his or her relationship with one.

Answers

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Sequence the Story of Joash

- (2) Jehosheba saved Joash from his grandmother, Athaliah.
- (5) Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people of Judah.
- (8) Joash was anointed king.
- (10) Athaliah went to the temple.
- (15) Joash commanded the money brought to the temple be used to repair it.
- (7) Jehoiada put the crown on Joash and gave him the Testimony.
- (3) Joash was hidden for six years.
- (14) Joash was brought to the king's house to sit on the throne.
- (9) The people clapped their hands and said, "Long live the king!"
- (1) Athaliah commanded all royal heirs be destroyed.
- (4) Jehoiada showed Joash to the captains of hundreds, the bodyguards, and the escorts.
- (6) Jehoiada gave the spears and shields which had belonged to David to the captains.
- (18) Joash gave sacred things from the temple and all the gold in the treasuries to Hazael.
- (11) Athaliah tore her clothes and cried out, "Treason! Treason!"
- (12) Athaliah was killed, but not near the temple.
- (13) The people of the land tore down the temple of Baal.
- (19) Joash was killed in the house of Millo.
- (16) Jehoiada made a box to save the money for repairing the temple.
- (17) Hazael, king of Syria, took Gath and set out to take Jerusalem.
- (20) Amaziah, Joash's son, reigned in Judah.