

## STORY 5: ACTION

**J**osiah was eight years old when he became the king of Judah. Both his father and his grandfather had been evil kings, and had not followed the Lord. The people of Judah worshipped all kinds of idols and even sacrificed their children to these idols. Josiah, however, tried to obey God in all things.

When he was 26 years old, he sent his royal secretary to the Temple of the Lord to authorize some restorations. When he came back, he brought a book that had been found by the high priest. This book, which was the Book of God's Laws that God has given Moses, had been lost for years.

So the royal secretary read it aloud.

When Josiah heard what was written in the Book of God's Laws, he tore his clothes in despair. He called for his advisors and told them, "Go and speak to God for me and for all of Judah! Find out what we must do in response to what is written in this book that has just been found! God must be furious with me and everyone else in Judah, because we have not been following the laws in this book!"

So his advisors went to the prophetess of the Lord, and she gave them this message "The Lord, the God of Israel, has spoken! Go and tell the man who sent you this is what the Lord says: 'I will destroy this city and its people, just as I told them in the book. They have abandoned me and disobeyed my commands in the book of law. My anger burns against them. But as for Josiah, since his heart was responsive and he humbled himself before me, I have heard him. So I will let him die in peace, before I destroy this place.'"

After hearing this, Josiah called together all of the people of Judah for an assembly. There he read the entire Book of God's Laws to them.

After he finished reading, he made a promise before the people and the Lord to follow God with all of his heart and soul. Then he began to destroy all the idols in Jerusalem.

Throughout his reign as king, Josiah continued to obey the Lord. He destroyed all the idols throughout Judah and Samaria and he re-instated celebrations to the Lord that the people had neglected for hundreds of years.

## STORY 5: ACTION

- **review:** re-tell the story
  
- **dialogue:** discuss the story
  - What do you like or not like about this story?
  
  - What can we learn about how to relate to God from this story?
  
  - The Bible says that faith without action is dead. What do you think that means and how does it relate to the story?
  
  - What can we learn about God from this story?
  
- **application:** live the story
  - Why don't we always apply what we learn from the Bible?
  
  - If we were to apply all of God's commands to our everyday lives, what would our lives look like?
  
  - What is one action you can take to apply this story to your life?
  
- **notes:**