Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello, everyone! Today, we are going to hear a very special story from the Bible about a young king named Joash. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to become a king or queen, especially when you are still a child? Well, Joash experienced something very similar, and his story teaches us some incredible lessons about God’s faithfulness and protection.

Let’s think about your favorite superhero. What do they do? They save people, help others, and stand up against evil, right? In our Bible story from 2 Kings 11, we're going to hear about some real-life heroes who helped protect young Joash so he could grow up and be the king God wanted him to be.

Now, imagine what it would be like to be in Joash's shoes. You are just seven years old when something amazing happens. Imagine playing with your toys, and suddenly you're dressed in royal robes, surrounded by important people shouting and cheering for you. It's like a big surprise party, but it's about an important plan God has for you!

By the end of today’s story, you’ll see how God uses people and events in amazing ways to carry out His plans, even when things seem really tough. So let’s dive in and see how God works through the lives of Joash and those around him. Let’s watch as courage, kindness, and faithfulness turn a young boy into a king!

Main Teaching Points

Now that we've set the stage, let's dive into the story of young King Joash. The book of 2 Kings helps us understand how God works through different people to fulfill His promises.

Point 1: The Brave Decision of Jehosheba

Our story starts with a brave woman named Jehosheba. She was the sister of King Ahaziah, and when her wicked mother, Athaliah, decided to do something terrible – to harm all her grandchildren to become queen – Jehosheba took action. Jehosheba was courageous because she saved her little nephew Joash from danger. She hid him and his nurse in the temple of God.

Think of Jehosheba like someone playing hide and seek but with a very serious purpose: protecting Joash. Her bravery reminds us of a hero who helps others, even when it’s risky. God used Jehosheba’s bravery to protect Joash, and because of her actions, Joash was safe from the evil plans of Athaliah.

Point 2: Growing Up in God’s House

Joash spent six years hidden in the temple. Imagine living in a place where you could learn about God every day! He was cared for by Jehoiada, the priest. Jehoiada not only protected Joash but also taught him about God and His ways. This was so important because Joash would grow up understanding God’s laws and His desires for His people.

During these years, Joash learned many things that would help him become a good king. It’s a bit like going to school and learning about what’s right and wrong. God was planting seeds of wisdom

and faith in Joash’s heart, preparing him for the future.

Point 3: The Big Reveal

When Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada and other leaders decided it was time for the big reveal – the secret that Joash was alive and ready to become king. They made a plan to protect Joash by bringing him to the temple surrounded by guards.

Imagine this moment: Joash is brought out, and Jehoiada places a crown on his head. All the people started shouting and clapping, “Long live the king!” It was a surprise party celebrating Joash becoming king and the beginning of a new chapter for God’s people. This shows us how God’s timing is perfect. He wanted Joash to become king at just the right time.

Point 4: God’s Plan Prevails

Athaliah, the wicked queen, was very upset when she heard the celebration and saw Joash crowned as king. But God had planned all along for Joash to lead His people. The people and Jehoiada stood firm, knowing they were following God’s plan, which Athaliah couldn’t stop.

God's plan is like a train on a track. Sometimes it seems slow, and other times it speeds up, but it always reaches its destination. In this story, God’s plan was to protect Joash and put him on the throne so He could lead His people back to God.

Point 5: Restoring Faithfulness

Once Joash became king, with the help of Jehoiada, he began to restore the true worship of God. They removed the things that Athaliah used for idol worship and helped the people focus on the one true God.

Think of it as cleaning up a messy room to find a favorite toy that was lost under all the clutter. Joash and Jehoiada were cleaning up the kingdom, removing the mess of false worship to make room for the real relationship with God.

Through all these events, the main teaching is that God uses those who are faithful and brave, just like Jehosheba and Jehoiada, to protect His plans and fulfill His promises. And even when we are young, like Joash, God has a special plan for each of us.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now that we know Joash’s story, let’s talk about what it means for us today. You might be wondering, "What does a story about a young king have to do with me?" Well, just like Joash, you aren’t too young to be a part of God’s plan.

First, learn to do what's right even if it seems challenging. Like Joash growing up in the temple, being in a place where you learn about God helps you make good decisions. It’s like filling your heart with kindness and courage.

Second, you can be like Jehosheba and Jehoiada in your own way. They saw someone who needed help and protection and did something about it. You can be mindful of your friends and family, helping them and encouraging them when they need it. Your kindness can make a big difference.

Third, remember that God has a timing and a purpose for everything. Sometimes you might have to wait for something you really want, but just like God had a perfect time for Joash to become king, He has perfect plans for you too. Trust God and pray for His guidance.

Lastly, think about how Joash helped the people turn back to God. You can also share God's love and kindness with others. Sometimes it's as simple as telling a friend about a Bible story you learned or just showing love through your actions.

Every little step you take towards kindness, courage, and faith makes a difference in God's eyes. Remember, you are part of His big story, and He has wonderful plans for you!

Interactive Discussion Questions with Teaching Guidance

Let's talk about some questions to help us think more about Joash's story and what we can learn from it:

1. What made Jehosheba a hero in Joash's story?
- Teaching Guidance: Encourage the students to recognize bravery in ordinary actions. Explain that Jehosheba showed bravery because she did what was right, even when it was dangerous. Ask them to think of someone they know who helps others, like a teacher or a parent.

2. Why was it important for Joash to be raised in the temple?
- Teaching Guidance: Help the students understand the role of good influences in our lives. Compare it to having friends and family who encourage us to do well and follow good examples. Discuss what kind of places or activities help them learn and grow.

3. How did Jehoiada's actions show he trusted God's plan?
- Teaching Guidance: Use this question to talk about faith and trust. Explain that sometimes trusting God means doing what's right even when it's hard. Ask them about a time they had to do something they knew was right, even if it was tough.

4. What are some ways you can be brave like Jehosheba and Jehoiada?
- Teaching Guidance: Encourage practical applications. Allow students to share personal experiences where they stood up for someone or showed kindness. Offer examples they might face at school, such as helping a friend who is being teased.

5. How can you be part of God's plan like Joash?
- Teaching Guidance: Guide them to think about their unique gifts and interests. Discuss how being a good friend, helping at home, or sharing God's love can be part of His plan. Encourage them to pray for God's guidance in their everyday lives.

Each of these discussions helps the students connect the story with their lives, reinforcing the lessons and encouraging them to live out their faith in tangible ways. Thank you for listening and learning about the story of Joash today!