



King Josiah and Huldah

(based on 2 Kings 22)

Many years ago, before the time of Jesus, there lived a king called Josiah. Josiah was a good king, and he tried hard to follow in God's ways.

One day, Josiah noticed that God's temple was not looking very good. The walls and roofs needed fixing. They needed to clean and paint everything.

"I will repair the temple," declared Josiah. "I will make it look beautiful again. Then the people will have a special place to worship God."

Josiah hired carpenters and builders to do the work. During the repairs, one of the workers found something important in the temple. It was a special scroll that had been lost for years. He took it to the priest.

"It is the long-lost scroll of God's laws," The priest shouted. "We must tell the king at once!"

King Josiah was very excited that the priest had found the scroll of God's laws. What a terrific treasure! They brought the scroll to the palace at once. The king asked his royal secretary to read it.

The secretary began to read. The scroll told about the things God wanted his people to do. It told them how they should live.

As the king listened, he started to tremble. He discovered that they were God's children. He learned how they should have been living.

"We have not been following in God's ways," he cried. "We must change how we live."

Josiah sent for five of his helpers. "Go and find out what God wants us to do," he ordered. The five men went to find a woman called Huldah who lived in Jerusalem. Huldah was a prophet and passed on God's messages to the people.

Huldah told the men that God was going to punish the people because they had not followed in God's ways. The men took her message straight back to the king.

Josiah knew that they needed to change their ways at once. He sent out letters commanding the people to come to the temple. When everyone had gathered, Josiah read God's law aloud to the crowd. Then he stood before the people and promised to follow in God's ways. The people agreed and did the same.

From that day on, King Josiah and his people changed the way they lived. They turned and followed in God's ways.



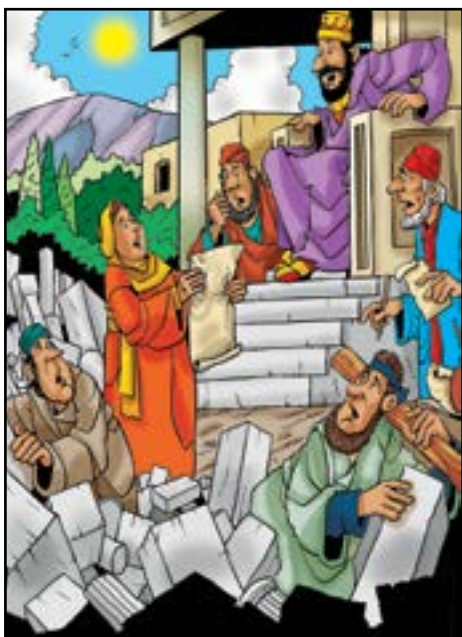
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Talk with your children about why there are laws. Wonder together what life would be like if no one obeyed the laws. Wonder if all laws are good.
- Find the Ten Commandments in the Bible, in Exodus 20 or Deuteronomy 6. Read the commandments aloud, taking turns reading. After you read the Ten Commandments, see how many you can name from memory.



Responding to God's Grace

- Look up the Ten Commandments on a computer. Enlarge the font and print them, then make a scroll by gluing them to a roll of paper. Use markers to decorate the edges of the scroll, and display it in your home where everyone can see it.
- Deuteronomy chapters 14—18 include ancient laws. Choose a few laws to talk about. Ask your children if they seem odd today.
- Ask your children to name your family's "laws" that are for everyone's welfare, such as picking things up when they fall on the floor, wearing seat belts, or washing your hands.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- The Law isn't lost any more. Josiah rediscovered part of the law about 2,600 years ago. That's a long time to keep track of information! How many generations can your family tell stories about your ancestors? How many years is that?
- Make a family time capsule to be opened in one year. Talk with your children about what to include. Pictures, artwork, handprints, and a grocery ad are some ideas.
- Pray:

God, we want to make you happy. Thank you for providing laws for us. Help us to live by your laws. Amen.