

Dear Church Family,

The evangelistic presentation entitled “The 3 Circles” includes a depiction of our broken world. Honestly, when presenting this part of the story, it seems unlikely we will get much pushback as we describe the current state of affairs. We hardly get through a week in this country without news of another school shooting, a terrorist attack, or another well-respected leader being exposed for a secret, sinful lifestyle that disqualifies them. The evidence of moral decay in our nation is everywhere, and yet we remain dumbfounded that we can’t seem to fix it. People try anything and everything to escape from all that is wrong around us but seem oblivious to the real problem.

In 1962, the first case about public prayer in school appeared before the Supreme Court. Over the next decade, a series of cases resulted in the court outlawing mandatory corporate prayer in public schools. In 1980, the Supreme Court ruled that the Ten Commandments, the accepted moral code of our land, be removed from the walls of the classrooms of public schools all across the nation. In essence, we have raised our children for the last 60 to 70 years without consistent instruction regarding the Judeo-Christian moral boundaries. And now, as if shocked by the results of this deficiency and desperate for a scapegoat, we hear a loud outcry for gun control laws. Blaming guns for school shootings makes as much common sense as blaming cars for auto accidents, planes for aircraft crashes, and trains for derailments. Guns are not the problem; the problem is our lack of a moral compass for the nation.

In recent days, our nation has also mourned the passing of Rev. Billy Graham. He was the most notable personality connected with Christianity on the planet. As far as we know, he finished well. He proclaimed the message of the cross of Jesus to literally hundreds of millions of people around the world over the last 70+ years. He was a voice of righteousness amidst a decaying moral foundation. He was doing right when all seemed wrong.

For the next couple of months, we will be studying the life of King Josiah. He was the great-grandson of King Hezekiah, who was a very faithful, reforming king. However, by the time Josiah came to power, Judah had endured great moral and religious damage under the reign of two evil kings. The nation was in desperate trouble and needed a good and faithful follower of God to lead them with integrity and righteousness. In 2 Kings 22:2 it says, "*He did what was right in the LORD's sight and walked in all the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn to the right or the left.*"

Let us pray that we will be a people in our country today who will learn to follow Josiah's example of doing right, walking after the Lord, not turning aside or being led astray by the foolishness of this generation. We desperately need leaders and citizens who will do right when all seems wrong. Please join me in this study and in prayer that we will be people like that.

Committed to seeking with you,
Pastor Daniel <><

Week One



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WEEK ONE – DAY ONE

The Story of King Josiah | Reign & Responsibility of Royalty

Who was King Josiah? I'm glad you asked...

Let's start by reading 2 Kings 18:1-9 and 2 Chron. 29:1-2.

You may remember our study of King Hezekiah, a leader who accomplished great reform in Judah, bringing his people back to worship in the temple. This was Josiah's great-grandfather. How is he described in these verses?

If you were here, how much about Hezekiah do you remember from our study about him? If you don't recall too much detail and have a bit of time, pour another cup of coffee and skim through **2 Kings 18-20** and **2 Chron. 29-32**. What were some of his accomplishments?

Now, put yourself in the shoes of 8-year-old Josiah when he became king. How do you think the accomplishments of his great-grandfather impacted this young leader?

If these were the only lessons Josiah learned from his family history, do you think he'd have gotten off to a good start when assuming the role of king of Judah?

How much real impact did your parents have on your life? If you are a parent, how much impact do you think you'll have in the lives of your children?

WEEK ONE - DAY TWO

The Story of King Josiah | Reign & Responsibility of Royalty

Let's pick up a little more history by reading 2 Kings 21:1-6 and 2 Chronicles 33:1-6.

Manasseh was Hezekiah's son (Josiah's grandfather). List some of the statements about Manasseh from these passages:

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Based on **2 Chron. 33:6**, how would you describe the relationship between Yahweh and Manasseh?

Once again put yourself in Josiah's shoes when he became king at eight years old. If these were the only lessons Josiah learned from his family history, how do you think they'd have impacted him?

WEEK ONE – DAY THREE

The Story of King Josiah | Reign & Responsibility of Royalty

Read 2 Kings 21:19-24 and 2 Chronicles 33:21-25.

King Amon, Josiah’s father, is described in these verses. List the events that took place in these six verses and those involved in each event:

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-
-
-

What does it say about Amon that his servants and the common people would take action to remove him, a 24-year-old king, and replace him with an 8-year-old?

Would you expect that an 8-year-old would probably follow in his father’s footsteps?

The fate of the nation of Judah is now in the hands of Josiah. Stop and consider that Josiah was familiar with his ancestors’ history as leaders of the country. Think about what has just happened to his father. At that young age, what do you think YOUR next step would be at this point?

WEEK ONE – DAY FOUR

The Story of King Josiah | Reign & Responsibility of Royalty

Read 2 Kings 22:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 34:1-2.

Finally, we meet Josiah. Compare what you just read about Josiah to what we read about Hezekiah on day one and list your thoughts below.

Now compare Josiah to Manasseh and Amon:

What must this change of leadership have been like for the people of Judah?

WEEK ONE – DAY FIVE

The Story of King Josiah | Reign & Responsibility of Royalty

Read 2 Kings 22:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 34:1-2.

What three statements about Josiah’s character are made in these verses?

1.

2.

3.

Also read Deuteronomy 5:32-33 and Joshua 1:7-8. Take five minutes to stop and think about these verses.

How would our lives change if we lived according to these verses? Jot down a few thoughts about that below.

For those of us who are parents, how can we ensure that these commands are entrenched in our children’s minds?

WEEK ONE – GROUP DISCUSSION

The Story of King Josiah | Reign & Responsibility of Royalty

Read 2 Kings 22:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 34:1-2.

From what you read about Josiah's ancestors on days one through three of this past week, what kind of examples were they for Josiah?

So, there were good examples and bad, right? What about us? Think back on your life. Did you witness or hear about some bad examples in your childhood? This account of Josiah's decisions is great evidence that we don't have to get trapped in the past and continue to make bad choices.

What sort of changes might come about in our lives if we follow Josiah's example? (Review **Deuteronomy 5:32-33** and **Joshua 1:7-8**.)

Do you think the changes in our own lives might have a similar impact on those around us? How so?

For those of us who are parents, if we can instill these commands in our children's minds early on, how might their own lives be impacted down the road?

Week Two



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WEEK TWO – DAY ONE

Religious Reforms

Read 2 Chronicles 34:3.

Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah. What does this verse say/imply about his age when he “began to seek the God of his ancestor David”?

Now, determine how old Josiah was when he began the process of cleansing Judah and Jerusalem. What might explain the delay?

Think back to when you first came to Christ. Did it take some time before you made significant commitments? Why do you think that’s the case?

Once you started acting on those commitments, were you still somewhat hesitant about them? Why? How have you grown in your decisions and actions since those early days of your faith?

WEEK TWO – DAY TWO

Religious Reforms

Read 2 Kings 23:4-20.

Describe Josiah's commitment at this point.

How hesitant is Josiah about acting to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem?

Why do you think that he is now beginning to actively destroy the high places? (Take a quick look at **2 Kings 23:1-3**, but don't spend a lot of time there, as we will look at that passage in depth in a few weeks.)

List the types of structures he removed:

List some ways in which he removed their power:

Would you say that Josiah is now being very deliberate about addressing idolatry in his country? Ask yourself, "Are there any idols I've allowed to linger in my life since I met Christ?" List them below and confess them to God in prayer.

WEEK TWO – DAY THREE

Religious Reforms

Read 2 Kings 23:4-20 and 2 Chronicles 34:3-7.

Yesterday, we focused on the structures Josiah eliminated. Now, list the people who were involved in this idolatry.

What sort of actions were taken against the people in this list?

How difficult do you think it was for Josiah in this cleansing to instruct his people to take such actions?

Are there times in your own life where you've had to make difficult decisions for the sake of holiness? (Let me be clear here. I'm NOT AT ALL implying that you should "remove" someone who might be a bad influence in the manner Josiah did in his time.)

Are there individuals in your life who continue to draw you into sin along with them? Consider if now is the time to make tough decisions and begin to limit your exposure to the people and/or idols pulling you into sin.

WEEK TWO – DAY FOUR

Religious Reforms

Read 2 Kings 23:12-20.

What does it mean that Josiah “defiled the high places” of idolatry?

What is Josiah’s intent for defiling these high places?

In what ways did he defile the high places in verses 15-20?

Josiah made sure that these high places were disqualified from further use by defiling them. By scattering the ashes of priests of the high places, those places were eliminated as sources of idolatry.

We use the word “reform” to describe Josiah’s efforts to destroy these high places and bring the people of Judah and Jerusalem back to the God of David. How does this concept apply to each of us as individuals today?

WEEK TWO – DAY FIVE

Religious Reforms

Read 2 Kings 23:4-20 and 2 Chronicles 34:3-7.

It is likely there have been hundreds of sermons based on the story of Hernando Cortez “burning the ships” on arrival in Mexico so that his men had no choice but to face battle and strive for victory. There is debate over the details and whether or not the majority of their ships were burned or merely scuttled/dismantled. Either way, you understand why the concept is considered inspirational, right?

In what way is Josiah “burning the ships” in this passage?

Do you think his reasoning for leaving no stone unturned while cleaning house in the land was to make it as difficult as possible for his people to turn back to those idols and high places?

Let’s apply this to our own situations. How many times do we intentionally leave remnants of connections to our past sins scattered along the road behind us, in case we decide to return to them later on?

Isn’t it time that we “burn our ships,” turn our backs on our idols, and push on by following the commands of the Lord?

WEEK TWO – GROUP DISCUSSION

Religious Reforms

Read 2 Kings 23:4-20 and 2 Chronicles 34:3-7.

Ask yourself, “In what way does this account of Josiah’s efforts to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, altars, and idols apply to me today?” Share your thoughts with the group.

How **intentional** have you been about removing idols in your life? In what ways can you be more diligent?

Are there individuals who continue to draw you into sin along with them? Is now the time to make tough decisions and begin to limit your exposure to them except for the purpose of sharing the gospel?

Is now the time for us to “burn the ships” (discussed on day five) by turning our backs on everything that prevents us from following the commands of the Lord? How will you be deliberate about making that happen?

SERMON NOTES:

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week Three



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WEEK THREE – DAY ONE

Repairs of the Temple

Read 2 Kings 22:3-7 and 2 Chronicles 34:8-13.

Last week we saw that Josiah removed high places, altars, and priests in order to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem. Now he turns to repairing the Lord's temple.

It appears that the people contributed willingly to the repair work. Why do you think that would be the case?

What does this say about the leadership of Josiah and those in charge of managing the funds and temple repairs?

List those who were involved in collecting, managing, distributing, and using the funds:

Why is it important that the people gave their money willingly? Is it important that WE give willingly?

Why is it easier to contribute when we are confident that those who manage the funds are accountable?

WEEK THREE – DAY TWO

Repairs of the Temple

This is not the first time that money has been collected and repairs made to the temple. **Read 2 Kings 12:4-15.**

Compare **2 Kings 12:4-15** with **2 Kings 22:3-7.**

Similarities

Differences

Similarities	Differences

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1-2.

This passage doesn't speak specifically about handling money with integrity, but what does it say about how those in leadership positions should behave?

What happens when this is not the case?

WEEK THREE - DAY THREE

Repairs of the Temple

Read 2 Kings 22:3-7.

We've been talking about the integrity of the leadership on this project, but what about those who actually did the work? Why did the workmen not have to account for the money they spent?

Go online and search for a definition of the word *integrity*. You'll likely find two basic definitions. Sum them up below:

How does the idea of "honesty" or "righteousness" apply to this repair project?

How does the idea of "unity," "togetherness," or "solidarity" apply?

Read 2 Timothy 2:15 and Proverbs 10:9.

Most of us serve in many roles each day. List a few of the roles in which you serve over the course of a month.

Are there any roles in that list which do NOT require that they be done with integrity?

WEEK THREE - DAY FOUR

Repairs of the Temple

Read 2 Kings 22:3-7 and 2 Kings 12:4-15.

Take a few minutes to imagine yourself in Josiah's place...in the place of the priest who oversaw the collection of the money...in the place of those who oversaw the repair project...in the place of the workers themselves. Explain how important it was that all of them were in agreement about the goals set before them.

Look back at **2 Kings 12:4-15** again. Does it seem that all started out in agreement regarding the goals Joash set for repairing the temple? Where is the gap?

What is the result of that lack of agreement/unity/cooperation?

What would you say is the source of the honesty, integrity, unity, and cooperation that we see in **2 Kings 22:3-7**?

WEEK THREE – DAY FIVE

Repairs of the Temple

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

Think of all of the roles involved at our church. What would happen if there was no unity, no agreement on our path, no shared goals?

What is the source of our unity? (See verse 13.)

Compare this explanation (in the Corinthians passage) about different members of the body to the list you made on day one of those who were involved in the temple repairs. In the temple project, who might be considered the “presentable”?

Who might be considered the “unpresentable”?

In what way does verse 25 in the Corinthians passage give a good description of those involved in the repairs of the temple?

Pause for a few minutes to consider how the account of the repairs of the temple applies to us who are a part of Easthaven. Take a little more time to pray and ask God for help in finding your place in the body of Christ.

WEEK THREE – GROUP DISCUSSION

Repairs of the Temple

Read 2 Kings 22:3-7 and 2 Chron. 34:8-13.

The people of God voluntarily gave to the temple repair project. Why is it important that when/if we give, we do it willingly?

Think back to what you learned about integrity on day three. Do you feel that some of the roles you take on can be done without integrity? Why is that the case, and how can you be intentional about serving with integrity?

What impact do you think Josiah's example had on the people who contributed money and talent to the repair work?

What does **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** say about how those in leadership positions should behave?

Think of all of the roles involved at our church. What would happen if there was no unity, no agreement on our path, no shared goals?

What does **1 Corinthians 12:13** tell us about our source of unity?

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Week Four



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WEEK FOUR – DAY ONE

Recovery of God's Word

Read 2 Kings 22:8-13 and 2 Chronicles 34:14-21.

In last week's study, temple repairs were underway. We learn today that while the repairs were going on, the book of the law was found in the temple. The book of the law (the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament) had been hidden or at least forgotten.

What was the intent of the book of the law? What was the intended outcome for the king as a result of observing all the words of the book? (Read **Deuteronomy 17:18-20** for more detail.) List your answers below.

Who was it that found the book? What was his reaction to finding it?

To whom did he take the book, and what was his response to receiving it?

Think back over the last few weeks of this study. List the events that took place to put this book in Josiah's hands.

Have you experienced a time when God provided exactly what you needed at exactly the right time in your life, even though you had not been looking for it? Take some time to think about what that was like. This may make it easier to put yourself in Josiah's shoes.

WEEK FOUR – DAY TWO

Recovery of God's Word

Read 2 Kings 22:8-20.

What was Josiah's reaction when he heard this book read?

Whom did Josiah send to inquire of the Lord?

Who was the prophetess? It is not often that a prophetess is mentioned in Scripture. Who is another prophetess mentioned in the Old Testament? (Hint: Read **Exodus 15:20.**)

Josiah instructed five men to go to the prophetess in Jerusalem and have her inquire of God on behalf of him and all Judah. These guys were aware of what the book of the law said about the wrath reserved for their people. Now they were headed to inquire of the Lord. If you were one of them, would you be fearful at this point?

How did Josiah describe God's plan for Judah based on what he read from the book of the law (verse 13)?

WEEK FOUR – DAY THREE

Recovery of God's Word

Judah had abandoned the book of the law and would ultimately reap destruction as a result. Let's look at this from a New Testament perspective.

Read Hebrews 4:12.

The first ten verses of this chapter describe how Israel had abandoned the Lord's law. They had failed to trust it. They had heard the message but saw no value in it because they had no faith in it. Verse 11 compels us to "enter that rest," to trust the good news in faith, so that we don't abandon the Word of the Lord like Israel did. With that in mind, read **Hebrews 4:12** again and put it in your own words below:

Can you hear God calling you to embrace His Word...to believe His Word...to trust His Word and enter His rest? One reason to do this is because the Word is capable of assessing what is in our minds and hearts. Think of your "relationship" with God's Word. Describe that relationship **WITHOUT** faith in the mix:

Now describe that relationship **WITH** faith in the mix:

What is the difference between those two descriptions?

Turn off the TV. Shut down the iPad. Block out some time to review how you answered the last few questions. Ask God for help in assessing how much faith is involved in your relationship with Him.

WEEK FOUR – DAY FOUR

Recovery of God's Word

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

What is meant by “all Scripture is inspired by God”?
(Hint: This is not the same as an author writing a book that is “inspired by a true story.”)

What is meant by the word *profitable*?

What aspects of life are profited by God's Word according to this passage?

What is the goal for those who embrace Scripture?
(See verse 17.)

What is YOUR goal when you sit down to read Scripture?

Be honest with yourself. How frequently do you block out time and truly focus on reading your Bible? Would you say that amount is sufficient? If not, what can you change in your schedule to prioritize time in the Word?

WEEK FOUR – DAY FIVE

Recovery of God's Word

Read 2 Kings 22:8-13; 2 Chronicles 34:14-21; and James 1:21-27. How would you describe Josiah's reaction to what he heard when the book was read to him?

What did he do as a result of hearing what was written in the book? (See **2 Kings 23:1-3.**)

In **James 1:21**, what is meant by "receive the implanted word"?

Write **James 1:22** in your own words:

What happens when we hear the Word but don't DO anything it says?

What happens when we hear the Word and act on what we've read?

How well would you say you are doing at...

- 1) consistently reading your Bible?
- 2) believing/trusting what you read in the Bible?
- 3) living life based on what you have read in the Bible?

Go to God in prayer and ask Him to help you improve in these three areas.

WEEK FOUR – GROUP DISCUSSION

Recovery of God's Word

Read 2 Kings 22:8-13.

Have you experienced a time when God provided exactly what you needed at exactly the right time in your life, even though you had not been looking for it? Take a moment to think about what that was like and then share with the group.

Consider how much faith is involved in your relationship with God and His Word. How can you assess your level of faith? (Look back to day three and **Hebrews 4:12.**)

How well would you say you are doing at...

- 1) consistently reading your Bible?
- 2) believing/trusting what you read in the Bible?
- 3) living life based on what you have read in the Bible?

Stop and think about sharing the gospel with a family member, neighbor, or coworker. How well do you think that would go if it is obvious you read your Bible and believe what you're reading, but you're not living accordingly?

Remember: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (**James 1:22**).

Week Five



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WEEK FIVE – DAY ONE

Restrained Judgment Foretold

Read 2 Kings 22:14-17 and 2 Chronicles 34:22-25.

When Josiah's men met with the prophetess Huldah, what message from the Lord did she pass on regarding the fate of the nation (2 Kings 22:15-17)?

Who was to blame for this wrath? (See 2 Kings 22:13.)

What does this tell us of God's character, His sense of justice, and His holiness?

Read Deuteronomy 29:24-29. What do the other nations begin to ask?

List what the Israelites have done to deserve this wrath:

What is the Lord's response to them?

Are you seeing the pattern? I read this and keep asking myself, "Why do they continue to abandon the covenant of their God?" But do we really manage to do any better? Let's stop for a minute and think back on our own lives. How many times have we gone right back to the same sin over and over again?

WEEK FIVE – DAY TWO

Restrained Judgment Foretold

Read 2 Kings 22:18-20 and 2 Chron. 34:26-28.

The prophetess had a message from the Lord intended specifically for Josiah. What was that message?

Josiah experienced the grace of the Lord. What was the Lord's explanation for why He would leave Josiah in peace until he was "gathered to [his] grave"?

Because one man grieved over the sins of the nation and showed a tender heart and humility, the wrath intended for his nation was delayed until after he had died. What does that tell us about the God we serve?

If we can show humility and a tender heart toward the Lord, what kind of impact might that have on our spouse and our children?

These men then returned to report to the king. Try to put yourself in Josiah's place. What must he have felt upon hearing the words of the Lord to him?

WEEK FIVE - DAY THREE

Restrained Judgment Foretold

Read 1 Kings 21:17-26.

Who was king of Israel at this time?

What was Elijah's message to Ahab in verse 20?

List each of the things that the Lord said He would do because Ahab had done what was evil in the Lord's sight:

Which of these things do you think were deserved?

In verses 25 and 26, Ahab was said to excel at what?

WEEK FIVE – DAY FOUR

Restrained Judgment Foretold

Read 1 Kings 21:27-29.

Upon hearing the Lord's message (verses 21-26), what did Ahab do?

How did the Lord respond when His word came to Elijah (verses 28 and 29)?

Why did the Lord decide to restrain his judgment during Ahab's lifetime?

What similarities are there between the account of Ahab and the account of Josiah?

What differences are there between those two accounts?

How did the Lord respond when each of these men sincerely grieved over the sins that had been committed and humbled themselves before the Lord?

In your own words, describe what the Lord did in these men's lives.

WEEK FIVE – DAY FIVE

Restrained Judgment Foretold

Read 2 Kings 22:14-20 and 1 Kings 21:17-29.

Does the Lord completely relent in executing judgment in these two passages?

At what time did the Lord bring disaster on his people based on the information in these passages?

Why did disaster still have to fall upon God's people, even though these two kings would not see it happen in their lifetime?

How amazing is it that even when an entire nation turns its back on the Lord, individuals who humble themselves before God are shown mercy? How have you experienced the mercy of the Lord?

WEEK FIVE – GROUP DISCUSSION

Restrained Judgment Foretold

Read 2 Kings 22:14-20.

Like Judah and Israel, do we sometimes turn our backs on the Lord again and again? What can we learn from King Josiah's attitude?

Because one man (Josiah) grieved over the sins of the nation and showed a tender heart and humility, the wrath intended for his nation was delayed. What does that tell us about the God we serve?

Read 1 Kings 21:17-29.

What words describe how the Lord responded when both Ahab and Josiah sincerely grieved over the sins that had been committed and humbled themselves before the Lord?

How amazing is it that even when an entire nation turns it back on the Lord, individuals who humble themselves before God are shown mercy? How have you experienced the mercy of the Lord?

Week Six



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WEEK SIX – DAY ONE

Resolved Renewal

Read 2 Kings 23:1-3 and 2 Chronicles 34:29-33.

In week one, we learned that Judah and Jerusalem had abandoned their covenant with the Lord. Briefly sum up what we've seen in Scripture from week one through week five:

King Josiah heard the report of the word of the Lord and brought his people together. What was his purpose?

Think back to week four. What was Josiah's reaction when he first heard the words of the book of the law read to him?

Imagine that you are one of those standing near the temple, listening to these words. What thoughts arise as you listen?

Maybe, like Judah and Jerusalem, you've been ignoring the words of the Lord. If so, take some time to return to Him in prayer.

WEEK SIX – DAY TWO

Resolved Renewal

Read 2 Kings 23:3; 2 Chronicles 34:31; 1 Kings 7:15; and 2 Kings 11:14a.

Josiah took his place “by the pillar,” where it was customary that the king would stand to speak to his people. The words found in the book of the law were read to the people.

Josiah stood at the pillar and made a covenant in the presence of the Lord to follow the Lord and keep His commandments. Exactly what is a *covenant*? Check the definition in an online dictionary. Write it below in your own words:

The general definition of *covenant* is an agreement between two or more people, such as a covenant in marriage. In this case, this is a covenant between the Lord and His people. Who originally initiated this covenant between God and man? (See Exodus 19:3-6; 24:3-8; 34:28.)

Why is it important we understand that *God* was the one who initiated this covenant with His people, not the people themselves?

WEEK SIX – DAY THREE

Resolved Renewal

Read 2 Kings 23:1-3 and 2 Chronicles 34:29-33.

Josiah personally made a covenant between himself and the Lord. What were the conditions of the covenant?

Apparently, Josiah was not familiar with this covenant until the book of the law was found. He hadn't heard these words from the law. Now he personally makes the covenant with the Lord before all his people. Why would it be important for Josiah to do this before asking his people to renew the covenant with the Lord?

The people heard the book of the covenant read to them, then Josiah made the covenant. How did they respond?

The people stood in agreement with Josiah in this covenant with the Lord. What would be the next step?

It is now that Josiah begins the reforms we discussed in week two. The commitments made in the covenant are being carried out. What might have happened if Josiah had not carried out the reforms called for in the book of the covenant?

WEEK SIX – DAY FOUR

Resolved Renewal

Read 2 Kings 23:1-3; 2 Chronicles 34:29-33; and Genesis 12:1-3.

What promises do we find in **Genesis 12:1-3**?

Who made the promises?

To whom were the promises made?

Abram was called by the Lord to go to the land that the Lord would show him and follow the Lord's commands. Based on what we've read in the last few weeks, what would have happened if Abram decided to ignore the Lord's commands?

There is a lot of history between the promises made to Abram and this renewed covenant between Josiah (and his people) and the Lord. However, the promises were still present with the expectation that God's people would follow His commands. That is the nature of a covenant.

Think about Judah and Jerusalem. What began to happen when they abandoned their covenant with the Lord?

Is the same true for us? Give that some thought, and we'll discuss more tomorrow.

WEEK SIX – DAY FIVE

Resolved Renewal

Read Hebrews 9:1-28.

Let's consider our own relationship with God. This relationship is ours because of the gospel, because of the sacrifice that Christ made for us. Does the gospel bring any expectations with it?

In today's passage we see that Christ is the mediator of a better covenant. Christ Himself is the sacrifice, and His one sacrifice is all that is required. However, there are commands in the New Testament that we are expected to uphold and obey. Pastor and author Kyle Idleman words it this way: "The Gospel makes some demands on us" as Christians. What might those demands be?

Let's think about those demands. What if we decide that we will not fulfill those demands? Does that mean we turn our backs on God, so he turns His back on us?

That is where the New Covenant is different. Our relationship with Christ is eternal because of Christ's sacrifice, not because of our performance. That said, the gospel is different, so we should be different. Take a few minutes to pray and dwell on what the demands of the gospel look like for us.

WEEK SIX – GROUP DISCUSSION

Resolved Renewal

Read 2 Kings 23:1-3 and 2 Chronicles 34:29-33.

Have we, like Judah and Jerusalem, ignored the words of the Lord? If so, what can we do to renew our commitment and remember God's covenant with us?

Why is it important we understand that *God* initiated the Old Covenant with His people, not the people themselves?

Think about Judah and Jerusalem. What began to happen when they abandoned their covenant with the Lord? What changes for us if we do the same?

The gospel is different, so we should be different. Pastor and author Kyle Idleman says, "The Gospel makes some demands on us" as Christians. What do those demands look like for us?

Week Seven



WEEK SEVEN - DAY ONE

Reinstituted Passover

Read 2 Kings 23:21-23.

Think back to week two of this study (Religious Reforms). Today's passage follows immediately after the passage we studied then. The book of the law has been found. Josiah has read it and, along with his people, has renewed the covenant with the Lord. He has initiated massive reforms. Now he is following the Lord's commands by keeping the Passover.

What stands out to you in verse 22?

Why have the people not kept the Passover during the whole time of the kings of Israel and Judah?

What would be the equivalent for us today? What things have we abandoned that should have remained?

Take some time to stop and look back. What has fallen to the wayside since you became a believer? Have you stopped reading the Bible? Have you not spent time in prayer lately? What are those things you knew were beneficial for you spiritually, but have somehow just "disappeared" in your life?

WEEK SEVEN - DAY TWO

Reinstituted Passover

Read 2 Chronicles 35:1-19; Joshua 5:10-11; and 2 Kings 23:22.

When was the last time the Passover had been observed? (See **2 Chronicles 35:18.**)

No Passover since kingship was established in Israel. So they had to get this thing back on track, and Josiah led the way. He started by observing the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, when it should actually be observed. In preparation for this, Josiah started appointing responsibilities to the priests and Levites, based on the book of the law. What instructions were given to the Levites regarding the Holy Ark?

Why was there now no need for the Levites to carry the ark on their shoulders?

What did Josiah instruct them to do instead? Why was consecrating themselves important at this point?

How were the Levites' tasks organized? What was their reference for how it should be done?

Josiah committed himself to following everything written in the book of the law. How does it look like it is going so far?

WEEK SEVEN – DAY THREE

Reinstituted Passover

Read 2 Chronicles 35:7-9.

Who appeared to be the first to donate animals for the Passover sacrifice? (Notice how he didn't tell others to do it; he first did it himself. Why was that a good example for the Levites, priests, and the rest of Judah and Israel?)

For whom were the animals donated?

What did Josiah's officials contribute?

For whom were those animals donated?

In what spirit were the donations made (verse 8)?

Does it appear that all who renewed the covenant willingly participated in the Passover?

The details for the Passover started falling into place. Do you think that was a coincidence? Why or why not?

WEEK SEVEN – DAY FOUR

Reinstituted Passover

Read 2 Chronicles 35:10-14.

In this passage, all the preparations for Passover are set. Who was the organizer for this event (verse 10)?

Why do you think Josiah was so “hands-on” for this celebration?

What tasks were given to the Levites (verses 11-14)?

Who received the burnt offerings (verse 11-12)?

Note that this was done in accordance with what was written in the book of the law. It is impressive to see the level of detail incorporated in this event, all because of their attention to the words of the book found in the temple.

Our events are not scripted quite so much these days, but what does this passage say about how well each of us should do his or her job when we assist with events at our church? I once heard it put this way: “If it is worth doing for the Lord, it is worth doing well.” What are your thoughts?

WEEK SEVEN - DAY FIVE

Reinstituted Passover

Read 2 Chronicles 35:15-19.

The singers and musicians, as well as the gatekeepers, were all at their stations and never had to leave them. Why was that the case?

What is the “Festival of Unleavened Bread”? (Read Exodus 13:3-10.)

Consider all the preparation and execution of tasks for this celebration. It must have been a tremendous effort. Why were the people of Judah and Jerusalem doing this?

Stop and look back at the beginning of this study. If not for Josiah, would any of this be happening?

In your own words, what can we learn from what we've studied about King Josiah these last few weeks?

WEEK SEVEN – GROUP DISCUSSION

Reinstituted Passover

Read 2 Chronicles 35:1-19.

What are your thoughts about this concept: “If it is worth doing for the Lord, it is worth doing well”?

What value was there for the people of God in returning to the observation of the Passover?

At Easthaven, are there any events we might consider the equivalent to the Passover celebration for the Israelites?

Take some time to stop and look back. What has fallen to the wayside since you became a believer? Have you stopped reading the Bible? Have you not spent time in prayer lately? What are those things you knew were beneficial for you spiritually, but have somehow just “disappeared” in your life?

Week Eight



SMALL GROUP
ministry

WEEK EIGHT – DAY ONE

Reputation of Righteousness

Read 2 Kings 23:24-30 and 2 Chronicles 35:20-27.

After the Passover had been reinstated, what were Josiah's next steps?

Read Leviticus 19:31 and Deuteronomy 7:26.

Was the additional cleansing of these things justified by the Word of the Lord?

Josiah was committed to following the Lord and was not satisfied with less than total reform. How do we compare? Are we sometimes halfhearted in our efforts?

Hit the pause button on your day. Ask the Lord where you might be halfhearted in your commitments to follow Him and seek His guidance to help you live wholeheartedly for Him.

WEEK EIGHT – DAY TWO

Reputation of Righteousness

Read 2 Kings 23:25; Mark 12:30; and Deut. 6:5.

Because of Josiah's zeal to do what was right in the Lord's sight, Judah and Jerusalem experienced a lot of changes. What is said about him in **2 Kings 23:25**?

High praise, right? What is said about his level of commitment to the Lord?

Is there any doubt that Josiah turned to the Lord with all his mind, heart, soul, and strength?

A man asked Jesus which command is most important. Jesus responded, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). If we attained that level of love and dedication for the Lord, what would our lives be like?

Stop and meditate on that verse for a while. How can we truly accomplish such dedication?

WEEK EIGHT – DAY THREE

Reputation of Righteousness

Read 2 Chronicles 35:20-27.

“All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah” (verse 24). The people held Josiah in high regard. He had established a reputation of righteousness.

Let’s take some time to think about that term. Check an online dictionary for the definition of “righteous” or “righteousness.” What do you find?

Based on the definition, would you say that Josiah was a righteous man? List your reasons:

It is remarkable that “all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah.” Think about your family, those closest to you. Would they call you a righteous person? What about those who sit next to you on Sunday morning at church? The people you work with? Your classmates at school? Dedicate some time to think and pray about your answers to this question.

WEEK EIGHT – DAY FOUR

Reputation of Righteousness

Read Proverbs 10:28; 13:21.

Does Josiah fit these verses? How so?

Do our actions make us righteous, or does our righteousness compel us to act? Is our righteousness based on what we do or on who we are?

Read Romans 3:21-25.

Now think about that last question again after reading these verses. Does this change your answer?

Read Romans 5:1.

Define the relationship between righteousness and faith:

Using a Bible app or concordance, search the book of Proverbs for the word “righteous.” Pick a few of those verses to read and ponder.

WEEK EIGHT – DAY FIVE

Reputation of Righteousness

Read Romans 5:6-11.

Who is our example of righteousness?

What action did He take because of His righteousness (verse 8)?

What brings righteousness to us (verse 9)?

Are there days when you don't "feel" very righteous?

Read 1 John 1:5-9.

Where can we find help on those days when we feel unrighteous?

What two things are provided for us in this passage?

How important is it that your children see the righteousness of Christ living in you? How can we model this righteousness to our family?

WEEK EIGHT – GROUP DISCUSSION

Reputation of Righteousness

Read 2 Kings 23:24-30; 2 Chronicles 35:20-27; and Romans 5:6-11.

Because of Josiah's zeal to do what was right in the Lord's sight, Josiah and the people of Judah and Jerusalem were spared destruction during his reign. How might our own commitment to do what is right in the Lord's sight impact our family, friends, or coworkers?

It is remarkable that "all Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah." Think about your family, those closest to you. Would they call you a righteous person?

Do our actions make us righteous, or does our righteousness compel us to act? Is our righteousness based on what we do or on who we are?

How important is it that your children see the righteousness of Christ living in you? How can we model this righteousness to our family?

