

“Joash: The Hidden Baby King” Curriculum

Learning Centers:

Video: Watch “Joash: The Hidden Baby King” video and review Bible story with “Temple Detective Challenge”

Art Center: Create Temple diorama to retell the story of hidden baby Joash and create Hidden Door Promise Plaque

Bible Games: Play 2 games: “Protect the King Relay” and “Covenant Matchup Challenge”

Cooking Center: Create “Joash Crown Cookies” and share a feast at “The King’s Covenant Celebration”

Bible Memory Verse: “The Lord is faithful to all His promises.” Psalm 145:13



Bible Background

2 Chronicles 22:10–23:21

Historical Setting

The events of this lesson take place around **835 B.C.** during one of the darkest periods in the history of the kingdom of Judah. King David's royal family had nearly been wiped out. The northern kingdom of Israel had already fallen deeply into Baal worship under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, and through political marriages that spiritual corruption spread into Judah.

King Jehoram of Judah married **Athaliah**, the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel (2 Chronicles 21:6). Their son, King Ahaziah, continued the sinful practices of Ahab's family. When Ahaziah was killed during Jehu's revolt against Ahab's dynasty (2 Chronicles 22:7–9), Athaliah seized the opportunity to take the throne herself.

To eliminate every rival, she ordered the execution of all the royal princes.

The Genealogy of the Kings of Ancient Israel and Judah

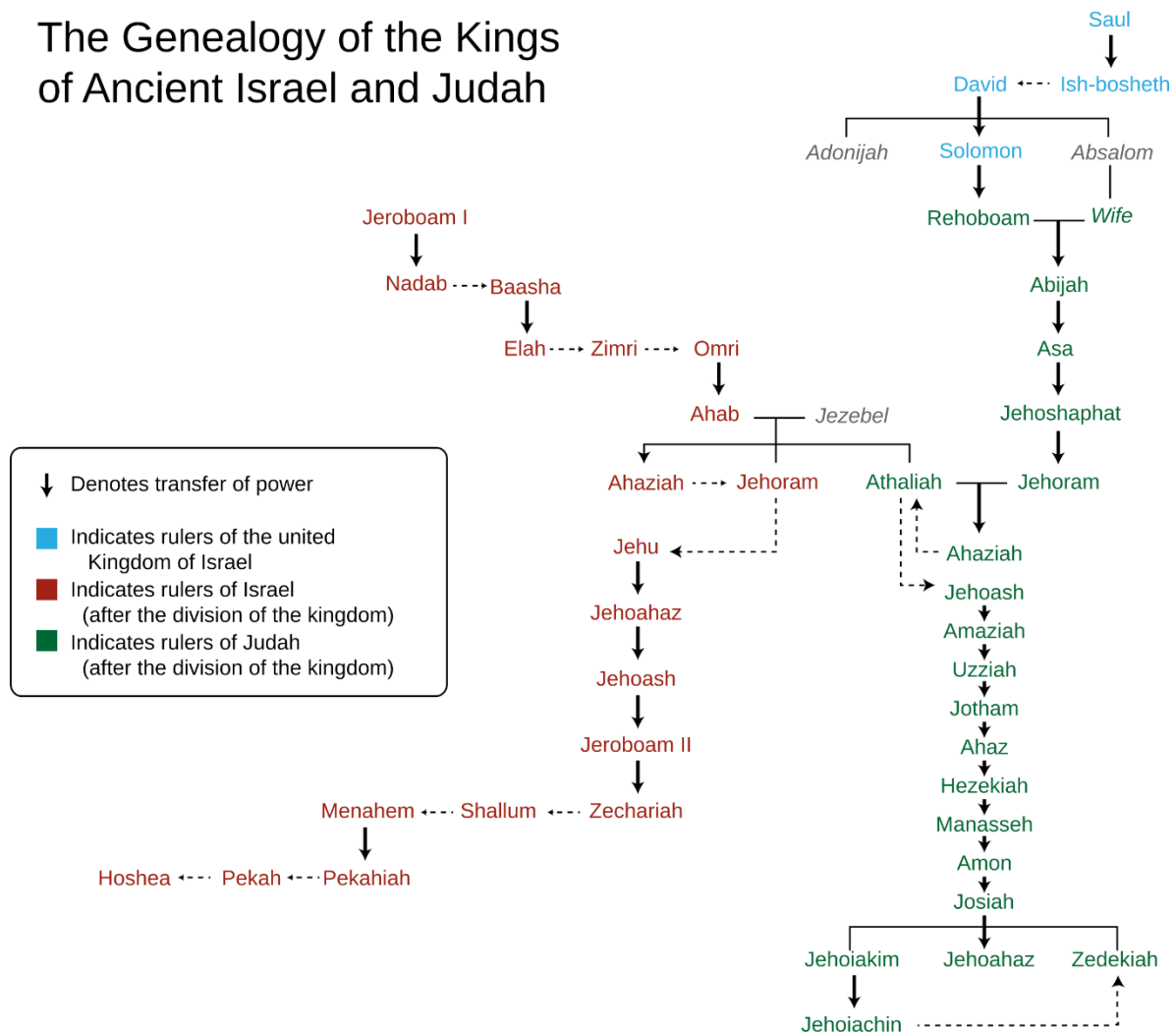


Image: Wikimedia Commons / Public Domain

The Main Characters

Joash

Joash was only an infant when his grandmother Athaliah attempted to destroy the entire royal family. He became the last surviving heir of King David.

Had Joash died, the Davidic royal line would have ended.

Instead, God preserved him for six years inside the Temple until the proper time came for him to become king.

Jehosheba

Jehosheba was Joash's aunt (2 Chronicles 22:11).

Risking her own life, she secretly rescued baby Joash and hid him inside the Temple.

Without her courage, God's promise to David would have appeared to fail.

Jehoiada

Jehoiada was the high priest and Jehosheba's husband.

For six years he quietly protected Joash, taught him God's Word, and carefully planned the restoration of David's kingdom.

Rather than leading a military rebellion, Jehoiada organized priests, Levites, and faithful leaders around God's covenant.

His wisdom demonstrates how spiritual leadership can change an entire nation.

Queen Athaliah

Athaliah was one of the few women to rule Judah.

Sadly, she became known not for faithful leadership but for attempting to destroy David's royal family.

She was the daughter of the evil King Ahab and Queen Jezebel of Israel. She promoted Baal worship in Jerusalem and tried to eliminate God's covenant line.

Her story reminds us that evil often appears powerful, but it cannot overturn God's promises.

The Priests, Levites, and People

The success of Jehoiada's plan depended on many ordinary people.

Priests guarded the Temple.

Levites stood watch.

Trumpeters announced the new king.

The people shouted,

"Long live the king!"

Together they renewed their covenant with God and removed the worship of Baal from Jerusalem.

Why This Story Matters

At first glance, this may seem like a dramatic rescue story.

In reality, it is much more.

This chapter protects one of the greatest promises in all of Scripture.

In **2 Samuel 7:12–16**, God promised King David that one of his descendants would reign forever.

That promise ultimately pointed to Jesus Christ.

If Athaliah had succeeded in killing every descendant of David, the royal family through which the Messiah would come would have been destroyed.

Yet God had already promised:

"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:16, NIV)

God's promise could not fail.

Through Jehosheba and Jehoiada, God quietly preserved the single remaining heir.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus Christ was born into David's family exactly as God had promised (Matthew 1:1–17; Luke 3:23–38).

Joash's rescue therefore becomes one of the most important preservation stories in the Old Testament.

God was not only saving one little boy.

He was preserving the family line through which the Savior of the world would come.

God's Faithfulness Behind the Scenes

One theme appears repeatedly throughout these chapters:

God often works quietly.

No miracles are recorded.

No angels appear.

Instead, God works through faithful people:

- a courageous aunt
- a faithful high priest
- obedient priests
- loyal Levites
- ordinary worshipers

This reminds teachers that God frequently accomplishes His greatest purposes through everyday acts of courage and obedience.

Archaeological Background

One fascinating archaeological discovery provides important historical background for these chapters.

The Tel Dan Stele

In 1993–1994, archaeologists excavating the ancient city of **Tel Dan** in northern Israel discovered fragments of a ninth-century B.C. victory monument now known as the **Tel Dan Stele**.



The inscription was written by an Aramean king, probably **Hazael of Aram**, who boasted of victories over Israel and Judah.

Most importantly, the inscription contains the phrase:

"House of David."

This is the earliest known extra-biblical reference to King David's royal dynasty.

For many years, some scholars questioned whether David had been a historical king or merely a legendary figure.

The Tel Dan Stele dramatically changed that discussion by showing that neighboring nations recognized Judah as "**the House of David**" within about 150 years of David's reign.

This provides independent archaeological confirmation that David's royal dynasty was a recognized historical kingdom.

Connection to 2 Chronicles 22:2–9

The Tel Dan Stele also fits remarkably well with the political events described in **2 Chronicles 22:2–9**.

Those verses describe the alliance between King Ahaziah of Judah and King Joram (Jehoram) of Israel during conflicts involving **Hazael**, king of Aram.

Ahaziah traveled to visit the wounded King Joram after fighting Hazael at Ramoth Gilead. During that visit, Jehu carried out God's judgment against Ahab's dynasty, killing both kings.

The Tel Dan Stele records victories over both Israel and the **House of David** during this same turbulent period. While the biblical account attributes Ahaziah's death to Jehu acting under God's command, and the stele credits the Aramean king with victories, the inscription vividly confirms the international conflicts, political upheaval, and existence of David's dynasty during the very era in which Joash's story unfolds.

Thus, the Tel Dan Stele serves as valuable historical background, placing the events of 2 Chronicles 22–23 firmly within the world of ninth-century B.C. Near Eastern politics.

Gospel Connection

The Bible is one connected story.

The rescue of Joash points beyond itself to Jesus.

- Athaliah tried to destroy David's royal line.
- Herod later tried to destroy the newborn King Jesus (Matthew 2:13–18).
- God protected Joash.
- God protected Jesus.

- Joash became king over Judah.
- Jesus is the eternal King over all creation.

The faithfulness of God in preserving Joash assures us that God always keeps His promises. From Genesis to Revelation, He sovereignly guided history so that the promised Messiah would come at just the right time (Galatians 4:4–5).

Teacher Takeaway

As you teach this lesson, help children see that this is far more than the story of a hidden baby. It is the story of a **hidden promise**. For six years, almost no one knew that God's covenant with David was resting in the life of one little boy hidden behind the walls of the Temple. Yet God had not forgotten His Word.

That same God continues to work in ways we often cannot see. Just as He quietly protected Joash until the right time, He is still faithfully accomplishing His purposes today. This truth beautifully supports the theme of your curriculum: "**God is always working—even when we cannot see it.**"



VIDEO CENTER (40 Minutes)



30 minutes Watch Video “Joash: The Hidden Baby King”



10 min — Video Learning Center Follow-up Activity

"Temple Detective Challenge"

Based on 2 Chronicles 22:10–23:21

Time: 10 Minutes

Theme: Can you remember how God protected His promised king?

Objective:

Children will review the animated Bible story by working together to solve a series of "Temple Detective" clues. Instead of simply answering questions, they'll become Bible detectives who must reconstruct the events of the story in the correct order.

Supplies

- Large detective hat (optional)
- Magnifying glass (real or toy)
- Six clue envelopes numbered 1–6
- Story Picture Cards (attached below)
- Plastic crown
- Toy trumpet
- Baby doll
- Bible
- Take Home Paper “Joash: God Keeps His Promises”



Introduction (1 Minute)

Walk into the room wearing a detective hat or holding a magnifying glass.

Say:

"Temple Detectives, we have a mystery to solve! Someone has mixed up the story of King Joash. We need to put everything back in the right order before the coronation can happen!"

Hold up the crown.

"Think carefully about what you just watched. Let's see if we can solve every clue!"

Clue 1 – The Missing Baby (1½ Minutes)

Hold up the baby doll.

Ask:

Who is this baby?

(Expected answer: Joash)

Then ask:

- Why was he in danger?
- Who rescued him?
- Where was he hidden?

After children answer correctly, open Envelope #1 and reveal a picture of **Jehosheba carrying Joash into the Temple**.

Place it on a timeline.

Leader says:

"Excellent! God's rescue plan begins!"

Clue 2 – Six Years of Waiting (1½ Minutes)

Hold up six fingers.

Ask:

How long did Joash stay hidden?

Choices:

- 6 days
- 6 months
- **6 years**

After answering:

Ask:

Why didn't Jehoiada reveal Joash sooner?

Possible answers:

- God had the right timing.
- It wasn't safe yet.
- They waited for the right moment.

Add the next picture to the timeline.

Clue 3 – The Surprise King (2 Minutes)

Place the crown on the table.

Ask:

Who placed the crown on Joash?

(Expected: Jehoiada)

Ask:

What did the people shout?

Children respond loudly:

"LONG LIVE THE KING!"

(Optional)

Have everyone pretend to blow trumpets.

Add the third picture.

Clue 4 – The Angry Queen (1½ Minutes)

Show a picture of Queen Athaliah.

Ask:

How did Athaliah react?

Children answer:

She shouted,

"Treason! Treason!"

Ask:

Was it really treason?

Explain:

No.

Joash was the rightful king because he was from David's family, and God had promised David that his family line would continue.

Add picture four.

Clue 5 – The Covenant (1½ Minutes)

Hold up your "**We Choose to Follow the Lord**" poster.

Ask:

What promise did the people make?

Allow several answers.

Then read together:

"We choose to follow the Lord."

Ask:

What is a covenant?

Guide children to understand:

A covenant is a very special promise or commitment.

Place picture five.

Clue 6 – Happy Ending (1 Minute)

Ask:

What happened after Joash became king?

Possible answers:

- The people rejoiced.
- The city became peaceful.
- They worshiped God again.
- Baal's temple was destroyed.
- The Temple worship was restored.

Place the final picture.

Grand Review (1 Minute)

Point to each picture on the timeline.

Ask the children to tell the story together using just one sentence for each picture.

Example:

1. "Jehosheba hid baby Joash."
 2. "Joash stayed hidden for six years."
 3. "Jehoiada crowned Joash king."
 4. "Athaliah was removed."
 5. "The people promised to follow God."
 6. "Everyone celebrated because God kept His promise."
-

Closing Challenge

Leader asks:

Who protected Joash?

Children:

God did!

Leader:

Who always keeps His promises?

Children:

God does!

Leader:

Who is our forever King?

Children:

Jesus!

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for protecting Joash and keeping Your promise to David. Thank You for sending Jesus, our forever King. Help us remember that You are always working, even when we cannot see it, and help us choose every day to follow You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Take Home Paper

Pass out the take home paper "Joash: God Keeps His Promises" to kids before they depart to give them something to remember the key points of this Bible Story.

Teacher's Notes

This review activity is intentionally built around **story sequencing rather than trivia**. Children remember narratives better when they reconstruct the events themselves. The use of **props from throughout your Joash curriculum**—the baby doll, crown, trumpet, "We Choose to Follow the Lord" poster, and character cards—also creates continuity between your Art, Bible Games, Cooking, and Video learning centers. It reinforces the same key truth from multiple angles: **God quietly protected Joash so that His promise would ultimately be fulfilled through Jesus, the eternal King**.

JOASH: GOD PROTECTS HIS PROMISE

2 CHRONICLES 22:10–23:21

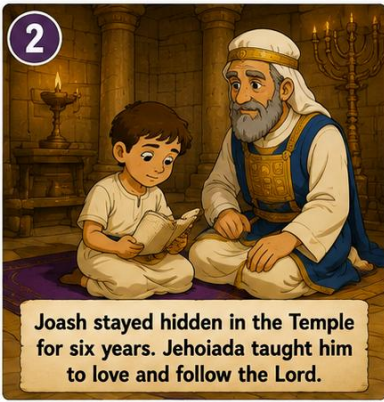
Story Picture Cards – Cut out each card. Use in your "Temple Detective Challenge" review game.





1

Jehosheba hid baby Joash in the Temple to protect his life.



2

Joash stayed hidden in the Temple for six years. Jehoiada taught him to love and follow the Lord.



3

Jehoiada crowned Joash as king. The people shouted, "LONG LIVE THE KING!"



4

Queen Athaliah was angry and shouted, "TREASON! TREASON!" She was removed from the palace.



5

WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THE LORD!
2 Chronicles 23:16

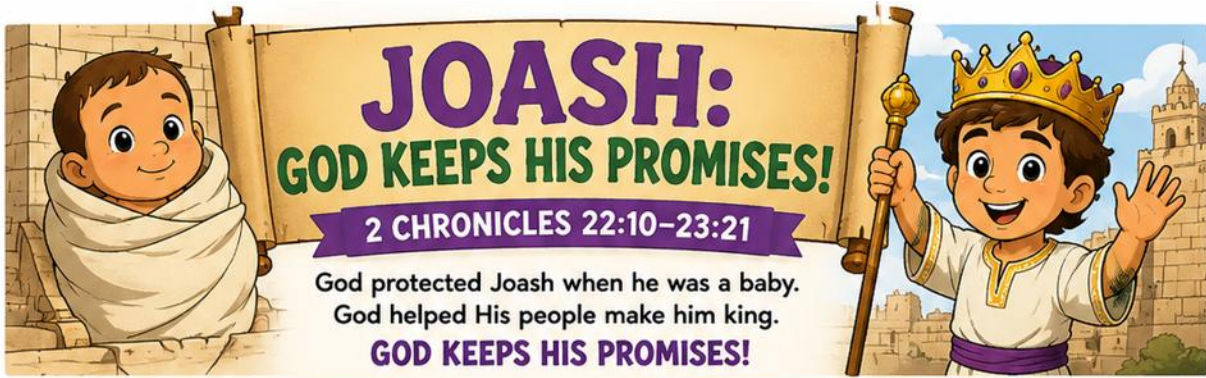
The people made a covenant with God. They promised, "We choose to follow the Lord."



6

Joash reigned as king. The people rejoiced, worshiped God, and He kept His promise!

★ God works in secret to keep His promises! ★



THE STORY IN 6 STEPS

- 1  Athaliah became queen and tried to kill all of the king's children. Joash was saved by his aunt Jehosheba and hidden in the temple.
- 2  Joash stayed hidden in the temple for six years. Jehoiada the priest took care of him and taught him about God.
- 3  Jehoiada put a crown on Joash's head. The people shouted, "Long live the king!"
- 4  Queen Athaliah was angry and shouted, "Treason!" She was removed from the palace.
- 5  The people made a special promise with God: "We choose to follow the Lord!"
- 6  Joash was king, and the people worshiped God. God's promise to David's family continued!

WHY THIS STORY IS IMPORTANT



Joash was part of David's family. God promised David that one of his descendants would always be king. (2 Samuel 7:16)



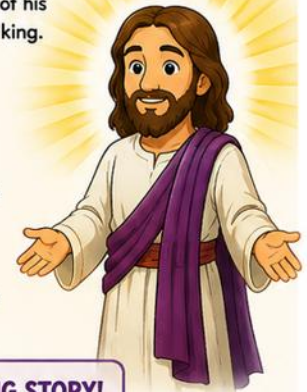
God kept that promise by protecting Joash.



Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born into David's family. Jesus is our forever King!



God is always working—even when we cannot see it!



THE BIBLE IS ONE BIG STORY!

Joash's rescue helped God's plan to send Jesus come true!

HOW THE TEL DAN STELE FITS INTO OUR STORY



The Tel Dan Stele was written by a king named Hazael.

It tells how he fought against King Joram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah (Joash's dad). Ahaziah was hurt in that battle and later died. That sad event is what led to the rest of our story!

The Tel Dan Stele tells the sad story of how Joash's dad died, prompting the rest of the story.

THE TEL DAN STELE



- The Tel Dan Stele is an ancient monument found by archaeologists.
- It was written about 800 years before Jesus was born.
- It mentions the "House of David."
- This shows that King David and his family really existed!

It helps us know that the Bible is true history!

WHAT CAN WE LEARN?



God protects His children.



God keeps His promises.



We can trust God's Word!

MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord is faithful to all His promises."
Psalm 145:13



ART CENTER (40 Minutes)

“Hidden but Protected”

Focus:

2 Chronicles 22:10–12

Big Idea:

God protects His promises—even when His work is hidden.

Art Learning Center (40 Minutes)

"Hidden in God's House"

Based on 2 Chronicles 22:10–12

Theme: God Protects His Promises

Big Idea:

Even when everything seemed hopeless, God was quietly protecting His plan.

Bible Truth:

God used Jehosheba and Jehoiada to protect young Joash so that God's promise to David would continue.

Life Application:

Even when we cannot see what God is doing, we can trust that He is working.

Memory Verse

"But Jehosheba... took Joash... and hid him."

2 Chronicles 22:11 (adapted, NIV)

Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, children will:

- Retell how Joash was rescued and hidden.

- Identify Jehosheba and Jehoiada as faithful servants of God.
- Discover that God often works behind the scenes.
- Create a keepsake that reminds them to trust God.

Supplies

Craft #1 – Temple Diorama

- Shoebox (one per child or pair)
- Brown construction paper
- Printable Temple image cardstock
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Markers
- Craft sticks
- Cotton balls
- Gold foil paper
- Printable character cutouts:
 - Baby Joash
 - Jehosheba
 - Jehoiada
 - Temple priest
 - Temple guards
 - Queen Athaliah
 - Queen's guards
- Small brads or tape for hinged door



Craft #2 – "God Is Working" Hidden Door Plaque

- Cardstock
- Popsicle sticks
- Brass fasteners or tape
- Stickers
- Star jewels
- Printable door and message



Room Setup

Decorate the room like the Temple.

Ideas:

- Stone wall backdrop
- Gold cloth
- Battery-operated candles
- Temple worship music
- Crown displayed on a table
- Large sign:

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

0–5 Minutes

Welcome

As children enter, whisper:

"Shhh... today we're helping keep a secret."

Show them a baby doll wrapped in a blanket.

Ask:

"What would you do if you had to protect a baby from danger?"

Allow discussion.

Then explain:

"Today we're going to discover how God protected one very special little boy."

5–10 Minutes

Interactive Bible Story

Tell the story dramatically.

Use props:

- Baby doll
- Crown
- Blanket
- Toy sword
- Temple picture

Invite volunteers.

Characters:

- Athaliah
- Jehosheba
- Jehoiada
- Baby Joash

As the story unfolds, hide the baby doll behind a "Temple wall."

Pause and ask:

Can anyone see Joash?

No.

But could God?

YES!

Teaching Point:

Sometimes we cannot see what God is doing, but He is always working.

10–25 Minutes: Craft #1

Build a Secret Temple Diorama

Children create a three-dimensional Temple scene.

Step 1

Cover inside of shoebox with brown or gray paper.

Add:

Stone walls

Curtains

Temple floor



Step 2

Glue in pillars.

Roll cardstock into columns.

Decorate with gold tops.



Step 3

Create the Hidden Room.

Glue a folded flap inside one wall.

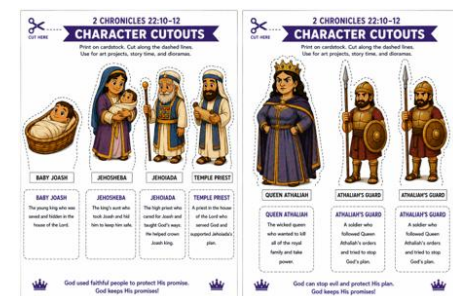
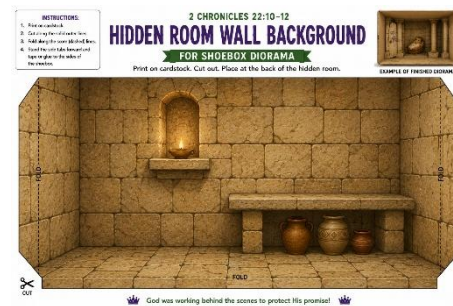
Behind it place Baby Joash.

Outside the flap write:

GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING

Inside write:

God Protected Joash



Step 4

Glue Jehosheba and Jehoiada, and the Temple priest and Temple guards nearby.

Talk about:

How brave they were.

How they trusted God.



Discussion During Craft

Ask:

Why did Jehosheba risk helping Joash?

What promise was God protecting?

How do we know God keeps His promises?

25–35 Minutes

Craft #2

Hidden Door Promise Plaque

Children make a reminder they can hang at home.

Front

Decorate with:

Temple

Stars

Gold crown

Write:

Sometimes I Cannot See...



Inside Hidden Door

When the flap opens:

Write:

...But God Is Always Working!

Add:

Romans 8:28

or

2 Chronicles 22:11

Decorate with:

Hearts

Crosses

Stars

35–38 Minutes

Gallery Walk

Place every Temple on tables.

Allow children to walk around.

Each child explains:

Where Joash is hidden.

Who helped him.

What the hidden room reminds them of.

Leader says:

"Every Temple looks different—but every one reminds us that God keeps His promises."

38–40 Minutes

Prayer & Reflection

Hold the baby doll.

Ask:

Can you think of a time when you had to trust God even though you couldn't see what He was doing?

Allow a few responses.

Object Lesson

Cover the baby doll with the blanket.

Ask:

Can you still see him?

No.

Is he still there?

Yes.

Explain:

Sometimes God works like that.

We cannot always see Him working...

but He never stops working.

Closing Prayer

"Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for protecting Joash.

Thank You for using brave people like Jehosheba and Jehoiada.

Help us trust You even when we cannot see what You are doing.

Thank You for always keeping Your promises and for sending Jesus, the forever King.

In Jesus' name,

Amen."

Take-Home Family Challenge

Give each child a small card to place inside the hidden flap of their diorama:

This Week's Secret Mission

- ★ Pray for someone every day.
- ★ Trust God when you're worried.
- ★ Do one kind deed without telling anyone.
- ★ Read one Bible story with your family.

When they open the hidden room at home, they'll be reminded that just as Joash was hidden in God's care, God is still quietly at work in their lives.

Teacher's Notes

This center is designed to feel like a **discovery experience** rather than simply a craft. The two projects complement each other: the **Temple Diorama** immerses children in the biblical story, while the **Hidden Door Promise Plaque** gives them a lasting devotional reminder. Both repeatedly reinforce the central truth of 2 Chronicles 22:10–12: **God's greatest work is often accomplished quietly, faithfully, and behind the scenes.**



 CUT HERE

2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12 CHARACTER CUTOUTS

Print on cardstock. Cut along the dashed lines.
Use for art projects, story time, and dioramas.

BABY JOASH

JEHOSHEBA

JEHOIADA

TEMPLE PRIEST

BABY JOASH

The young king who was saved and hidden in the house of the Lord.

JEHOSHEBA

The king's aunt who took Joash and hid him to keep him safe.

JEHOIADA

The high priest who cared for Joash and taught God's ways. He helped crown Joash king.

TEMPLE PRIEST

A priest in the house of the Lord who served God and supported Jehoiada's plan.

 God used faithful people to protect His promise.
God keeps His promises! 

 CUT HERE

2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12 CHARACTER CUTOUTS

Print on cardstock. Cut along the dashed lines.
Use for art projects, story time, and dioramas.

QUEEN ATHALIAH

ATHALIAH'S GUARD

ATHALIAH'S GUARD

QUEEN ATHALIAH

The wicked queen who wanted to kill all of the royal family and take power.

ATHALIAH'S GUARD

A soldier who followed Queen Athaliah's orders and tried to stop God's plan.

ATHALIAH'S GUARD

A soldier who followed Queen Athaliah's orders and tried to stop God's plan.

 God can stop evil and protect His plan.
God keeps His promises! 

TEMPLE GUARDS

PRINT, CUT & STAND!

 **1. PRINT**
Print this page on cardstock for best results.

 **2. CUT**
Cut around each guard along the dashed line.

 **3. FOLD & STAND**
Fold the tabs at the bottom and stand your guards in the temple!

God was working even when no one could see it.
HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES!
2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21

FOLD

FOLD

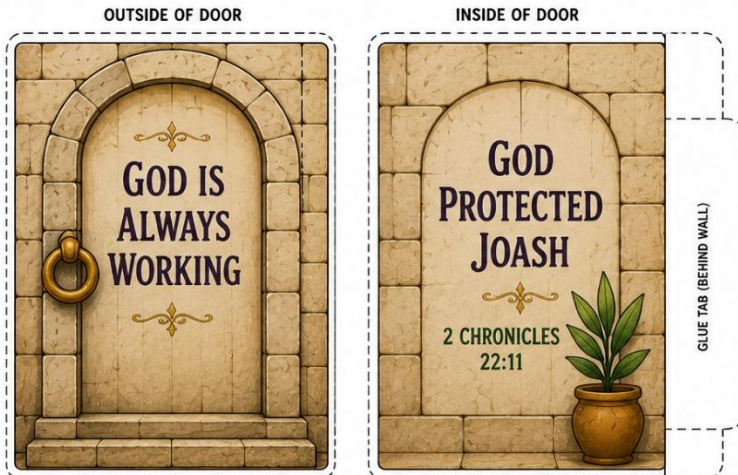
TIP: Print on cardstock and laminate for extra durability!

2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12

TEMPLE HINGED DOOR

FOR SHOEBOX DIORAMA

Print on cardstock. Cut out solid lines.
Use the tab to attach the door so it opens and closes!

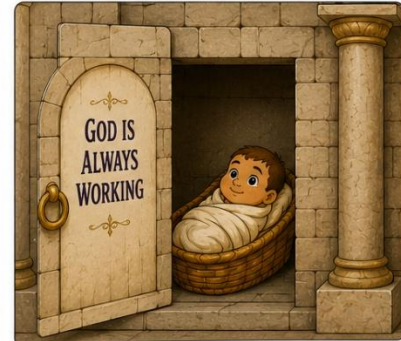


BIBLE TRUTH: Even when we cannot see what God is doing, He is always working behind the scenes to keep His promises.



HOW TO ASSEMBLE

1. Cut out the door pieces along the solid lines.
2. Fold the glue tab along the dotted line.
3. Glue the tab behind the wall opening in your diorama.
4. The door will open and close like a real door!



Place baby Joash or other items behind the door!



TEACHER TIP:

Use this door in your Temple diorama to remind kids that God was working even when Athaliah thought she had won.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Cut along the solid outer lines.
3. Fold along the score (dashed) lines.
4. Stand the side tabs forward and tape or glue to the sides of the shoebox.

2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12

HIDDEN ROOM WALL BACKGROUND

FOR SHOEBOX DIORAMA

Print on cardstock. Cut out. Place at the back of the hidden room.



EXAMPLE OF FINISHED DIORAMA



God was working behind the scenes to protect His promise!



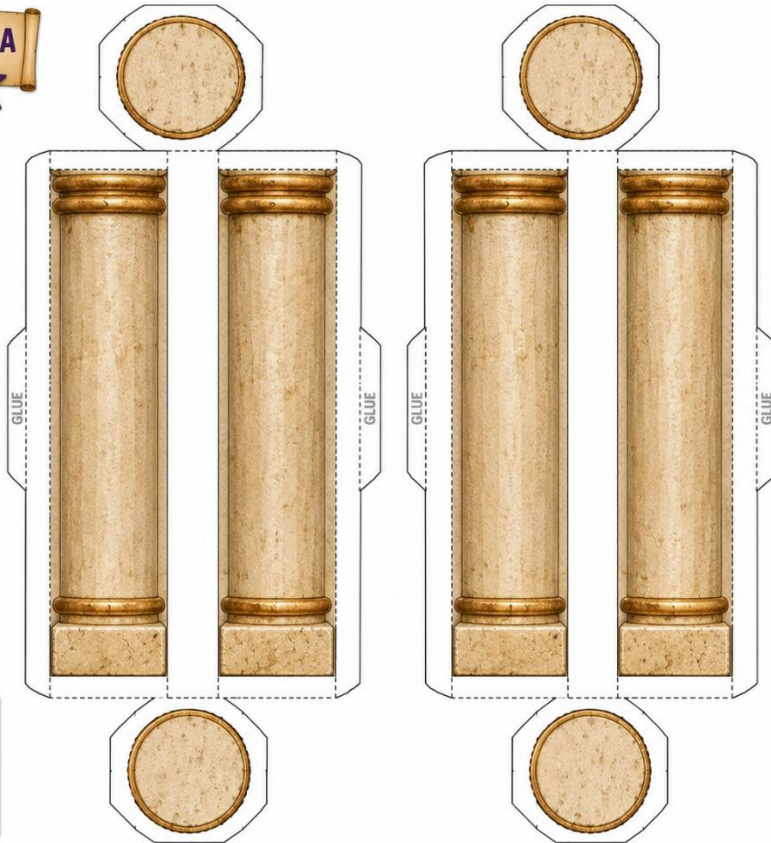
TEMPLE DIORAMA COLUMNS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Cut out the columns along the solid lines.
3. Roll each column into a tube.
4. Secure the edge with tape or glue.
5. Attach the top and bottom pieces.
6. Place the columns on your diorama floor!




God was working even
when no one could see it.
HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES!
2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21



INSTRUCTIONS:

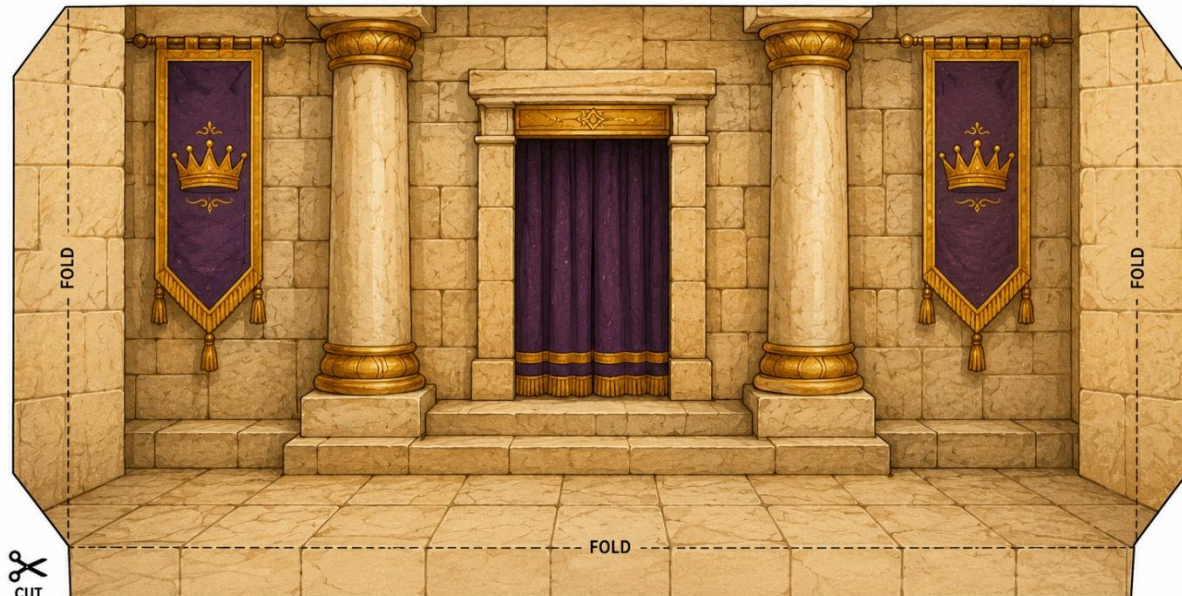
1. Print on cardstock.
2. Cut along the solid outer lines.
3. Fold along the score (dashed) lines.
4. Stand the side tabs forward and tape or glue to the sides of the shoebox.

2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12 TEMPLE WALL BACKGROUND FOR SHOEBOX DIORAMA

Print on cardstock. Cut out. Place against the back wall of your shoebox.



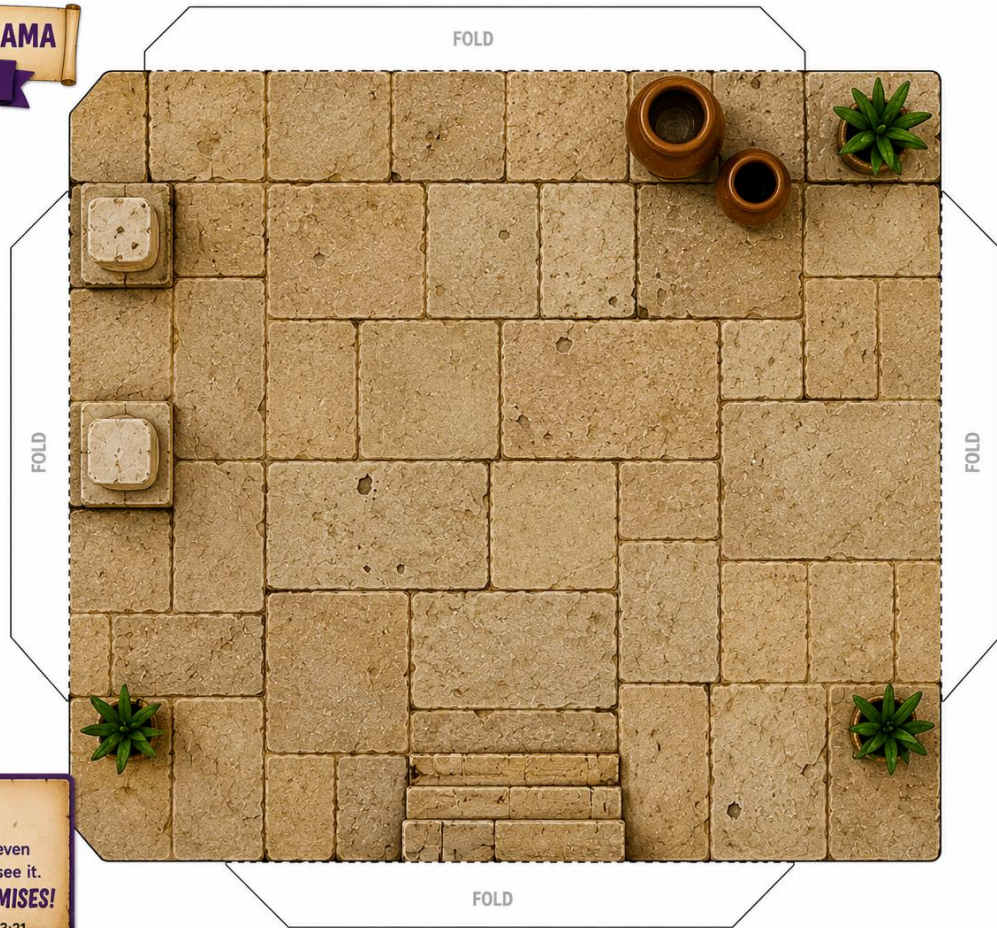
EXAMPLE OF FINISHED DIORAMA



TEMPLE DIORAMA FLOOR

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Cut out the floor along the solid lines.
3. Fold up the tab edges.
4. Place the floor inside your diorama as the base.



God was working even
when no one could see it.

HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES!

2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21

TEMPLE DIORAMA WALLS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Print on cardstock.
2. Cut out the walls along the solid lines.
3. Fold along the dotted lines.
4. Secure the tabs with tape or glue.
5. Build the walls of your diorama as shown in the example photo.

EXAMPLE:



(Rear wall includes door.)

God was working even
when no one could see it.
HE KEEPS HIS PROMISES!
2 Chronicles 22:10–23:21

REAR WALL (With Door)



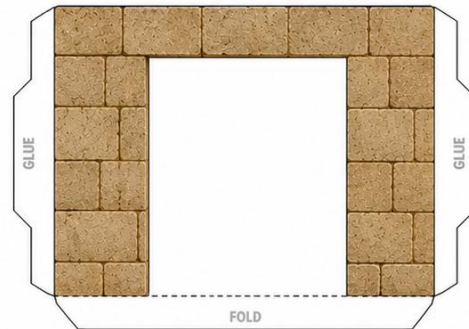
LEFT SIDE WALL



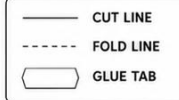
RIGHT SIDE WALL



FRONT WALL (Open)



SHORT SIDE WALL (for Hidden Room)



TIP:
Print on cardstock
for best results!



2 CHRONICLES 22:10-12



HIDDEN DOOR PROMISE PLAQUE

Sometimes I cannot see... but God is always working!

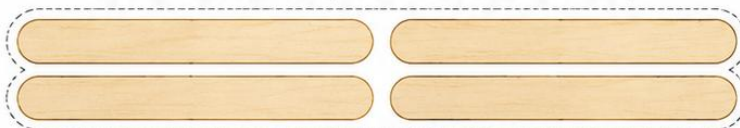
Print on cardstock. Color, cut, and assemble.



INSIDE MESSAGE (BEHIND THE DOOR)



POPSICLE STICK BORDER (OPTIONAL - PRINT ON TAN CARDSTOCK)



HOW TO ASSEMBLE

1. Color your pieces.
2. Cut along the solid edges.
3. Attach the inside message piece behind the front piece using a brass fastener (paper brad) on the purple tab.
4. Open and close your hidden door!



WHAT YOU NEED

- Printed templates
- Cardstock
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Brass fastener (paper brad)
- Glue stick
- Popsicle sticks (optional frame)
- Yarn or ribbon for hanging



TIP FOR TEACHERS

Talk about how Joash was hidden by Jehosheba and Jehoiada. God was always working to keep His promise to David! ♥



BIBLE GAMES CENTER (40 Minutes)



Theme:

God protects His king and restores His people



18–20 min — GAME 1: Protect the King Relay

Bible Games Learning Center
Game 1: Protect the King Relay
Based on 2 Chronicles 23:1–11

Length: 18–20 minutes (within a 40-minute Bible Games Center)

Age: Grades K–6 (adaptable)

Big Idea: God used faithful people working together to protect Joash and fulfill His promise.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the game, children will:

- Retell how Joash was protected until the right time.
- Explain why Jehoiada organized the guards.
- Recognize that God often accomplishes His plans through ordinary, faithful people working together.
- Practice teamwork, communication, and encouragement.
- Memory Point

Leader: "Who protected Joash?"

Children: "God protected Joash through faithful people!"

Repeat this before every relay round.

Supplies:

- Plastic crown
- Baby doll (or wrapped baby blanket)



- Toy trumpet or paper trumpet
- Four traffic cones
- Painter's tape
- Four chairs (to represent Temple pillars)
- Two cardboard boxes (Temple gates)
- Pool noodles or cardboard tubes (spears)
- Small Bible
- Stopwatch
- "Temple Guard" badges (optional)

Room Setup

Create a relay course with five stations.

START

↓

Station 1
Hidden Room

↓

Station 2
Temple Gate

↓

Station 3
Temple Pillars

↓

Station 4
Trumpet Station

↓

Station 5
Coronation Platform

FINISH

Introduction (5 minutes)

Gather everyone around the baby doll.

Ask: "Why would someone want to hide a baby?"

Allow responses.

Tell the story:

"Queen Athaliah wanted to destroy every member of David's family. But God had made a promise that one day the Savior would come from David's family. God used Jehosheba and Jehoiada to hide baby Joash in the Temple for six years. When the time was right, brave guards protected Joash while he was crowned king."

Show the crown.

Ask:

"Today YOU are the Temple guards!"

Demonstrate the Relay (2 minutes)

Walk through the course slowly. Explain each station.

Station One: The Hidden Room

Children crawl under a table or through a tunnel carrying the baby carefully.

Leader says:

"Keep the king safe!"

Teaching Point:

God protected Joash while he was hidden.

Station Two: Temple Gate

Children zig-zag between cones without dropping the baby.

Explain:

The guards carefully watched every entrance.

Station Three: Temple Pillars

Children stop behind two chairs.

Leader asks:

"Who hid Joash?"

Correct answer:

Jehosheba and Jehoiada.

If answered correctly, continue.

Station Four: Trumpet Station

Set baby safely down.

Blow trumpet three times.

Everyone shouts:

"Long live the king!"

Children pick up the baby again.

Explain:

The people celebrated because God's king had returned.

Station Five: Coronation Platform

Place baby on chair.

Put crown on Joash.

Lay Bible beside him.

Raise pool noodle "spears."

Say together:

"God keeps His promises!"

Run back and tag next teammate.

Relay Rounds

Round One

Practice Round

No timing.

Focus on learning the course.

Round Two

Temple Guards

Race two teams.

If baby is dropped:

Stop.

Pick him up carefully.

Talk briefly about protecting the king.

Round Three

Silent Guards

Nobody may talk.

Only hand motions allowed.

Discuss afterward:

Was it harder?

Why?

Explain:

The priests had to keep the plan secret.

Round Four

Night Watch

Dim lights slightly if possible.

Children move more slowly.

Explain:

Much of the planning happened quietly.

Round Five

Whole Team Challenge

Instead of racing:

Entire team moves together.

No one may move ahead.

Everyone must protect Joash together.

Teaching Point:

God's people serve together—not just individually.

Discussion (8 minutes)

Gather around the crown.

Ask:

Observation

Who wanted Joash to become king?

Why did they wait six years?

Why didn't they rush God's timing?

Interpretation

Why do you think God used many people instead of just one hero?

How did each person help?

Application

Who protects children today?

Parents

Teachers

Police officers

Pastors

Church family

How can YOU help protect someone?

Gospel Connection (3 minutes)

Hold the crown.

Explain:

"Joash wasn't just any little boy."

"He belonged to King David's family."

"Many years later another baby was born into David's family."

Show a picture of Jesus if available.

"God protected Joash because God was protecting His promise to send Jesus."

Closing Prayer

"Lord, thank You for keeping every promise You make. Thank You for protecting Joash so Your plan of salvation could continue. Help us to be faithful, courageous, and willing to work together just as Jehosheba, Jehoiada, and the Temple guards did. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Optional Extensions (if your group finishes early)

Temple Guard Freeze Tag (5–10 minutes): Two children are "guards" protecting Joash while others try to gently tag the crowned king. Guards may block but not touch other players. Rotate roles so everyone participates.

Build the Guard Formation (5 minutes): Using masking tape on the floor, challenge teams to recreate the protective circle described in 2 Chronicles 23:6–10 around "King Joash." Discuss why every guard had an important place.

Bible Detective Challenge (5 minutes): Give pairs of children Bibles and ask them to find answers such as:

Who hid Joash?

How many years was he hidden?

What did the people shout?

Who placed the crown on Joash?

These extensions help fill the full learning center while reinforcing the biblical account through movement, teamwork, and Scripture discovery.

20–35 min — GAME 2: Covenant Match-Up Challenge

Based on 2 Chronicles 23:16-21

Length: 18–20 minutes

Age: Grades K–6

Theme: God's People Choose to Follow the Lord

Learning Objective

By the end of this activity, children will:

- Understand what a **covenant** is.
- Discover that Jehoiada led the people to renew their commitment to God.
- Learn that following God means making choices every day.
- Practice recognizing actions that honor God and actions that do not.

Key Bible Passage

Read aloud:

2 Chronicles 23:16 (NIV)

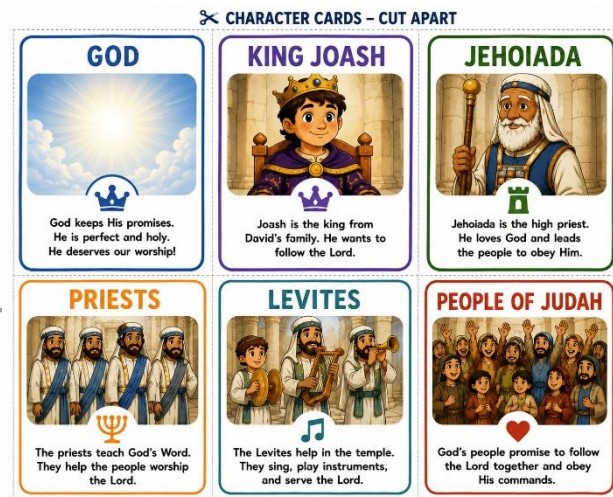
"Jehoiada then made a covenant that he and the people and the king would be the Lord's people."

Explain:

"A covenant is a very special promise. God had always kept His promises to His people. Now the people promised that they would follow God again."

Big Idea

God always keeps His promises, and His people choose to follow Him.



Use these cards in the Covenant Match-Up Challenge. Cut apart before your lesson.



Memory Response

Leader:

"Who keeps every promise?"

Children:

"God does!"

Leader:

"What do God's people choose?"

Children:

"To follow the Lord!"

Repeat throughout the game.

Supplies

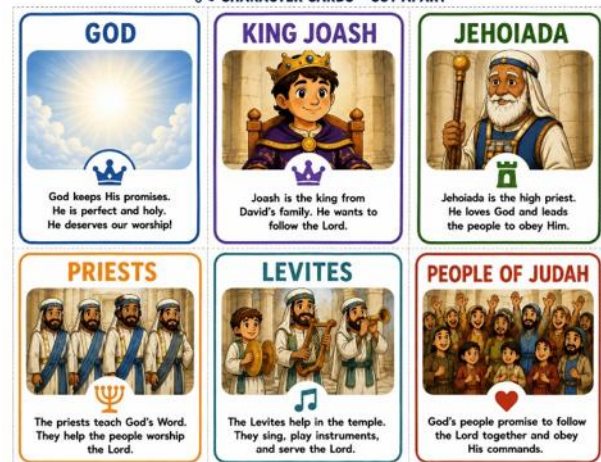
Character Cards

- God
- King Joash
- Jehoiada
- Priests
- Levites
- People of Judah

Covenant Cards

- Worship God
- Pray
- Read God's Word
- Obey God's commands
- Help others
- Love God
- Trust God
- Give offerings
- Care for God's house

✂ CHARACTER CARDS – CUT APART



Use these cards in the Covenant Match-Up Challenge.
Cut apart before your lesson.



Wrong Choice Cards

- Worship idols
- Lie
- Cheat
- Be selfish
- Refuse to obey
- Break God's commands
- Ignore God
- Destroy God's house
- Make fun of others

Optional

- Velcro board or magnetic board
 - Masking tape
 - Stopwatch
 - Small prizes or stickers
-

Room Setup

Create three areas:

Area 1

God's Side

Place a large sign:

FOLLOW THE LORD

Area 2

Scatter all action cards face up.

Area 3

Place character cards.

Introduction (5 Minutes)

Show two signs:

✓ KEEP MY PROMISE

✗ BREAK MY PROMISE

Ask:

"What is a promise?"

Allow discussion.

Then explain:

"When someone always keeps promises, we learn we can trust them."

Ask:

"Who always keeps His promises?"

Children:

"GOD!"

Now explain the Bible story.

After Joash became king, Jehoiada gathered everyone.

He didn't simply celebrate.

He helped everyone make a promise.

Not just the king.

Everyone.

They promised:

"We belong to the Lord."

Round One

Match the Good Choices

(5 Minutes)

Choose one child to hold the

"GOD"

card.

Another holds

"KING"

Another

"PEOPLE"

Spread all GOOD action cards across the floor.

Examples:

Pray

Read the Bible

Love others

Worship God

Trust God

Children take turns running to collect one card.

When they return they must explain:

"Why does this belong to someone who follows God?"

Examples:

"I chose Worship because God wants us to worship Him."

"I chose Help Others because Jesus teaches us to love people."

Continue until every good card has been collected.

Teaching Moment

Ask:

"What do all these cards have in common?"

Answer:

"They help us follow God."

Explain:

The people weren't earning God's love.

They were responding to God's love.

Round Two

Find the Wrong Choices

(5 Minutes)

Mix the GOOD cards together with WRONG cards.

Now teams race.

Goal:

Find only the cards that belong to God's people.

Examples to reject:

Idols

Cheating

Lying

Selfishness

Ignoring God

Destroying God's House

Each time a child rejects a wrong card they must say:

"That does NOT belong to God's people!"

Teaching Moment

Read

2 Chronicles 23:17

Explain:

The people destroyed Baal's temple because they wanted to worship only God.

Ask:

"What are some idols people might have today?"

Possible answers:

Money

Popularity

Video games

Sports

Phones

Explain carefully:

"These things are not wrong by themselves. They become idols when they become more important than God."

Round Three

Covenant Relay

(5 Minutes)

Place the following stations around the room.

Station 1

Pick up a Bible

Say:

"I choose God's Word."

Station 2

Kneel briefly.

Say:

"I choose prayer."

Station 3

Carry a toy offering basket.

Say:

"I choose to give."

Station 4

Help another teammate complete a simple task.

Say:

"I choose to serve."

Station 5

Stand beside crown.

Everyone says:

"We belong to the Lord!"

Tag next teammate.

Bonus Challenge

Real Life or Not?

Leader reads situations.

Children move to one side of room if it honors God.

Other side if it does not.

Examples:

Helping your brother.

Ignoring someone who is lonely.

Telling the truth.

Stealing candy.

Praying before bed.

Laughing at another child.

Inviting a new student to play.

Being thankful.

Speaking kindly.

Complaining all day.

After each answer discuss WHY.

Discussion (5 Minutes)

Ask:

Why did Jehoiada ask everyone to make a covenant?

Could one good king change the nation by himself?

How did everyone work together?

What promises has God made to us?

Can we trust Him?

What promise can YOU make this week?

Examples:

"I will pray."

"I will read my Bible."

"I will obey my parents."

"I will be kind."

Gospel Connection

Say:

The people promised to belong to God.

But the wonderful news is that God loved us first.

God kept His promise by sending Jesus—the greatest King descended from David.

Because Jesus died and rose again, everyone who trusts Him becomes part of God's family.

God always keeps His promises, and He invites us to respond by following Him with our whole lives.

Closing Prayer

"Dear Lord, thank You for always keeping every promise You make. Thank You for protecting Joash and for sending Jesus, the forever King. Help us choose each day to follow You, worship You, obey Your Word, and love others. May our lives show that we belong to You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Teacher Tip

One small enhancement that works especially well is to conclude the game by having each child sign a large poster titled:

"We Choose to Follow the Lord"

Emphasize that **signing the poster doesn't save us or make us God's children**—only faith in Jesus does. Rather, like the people in 2 Chronicles 23, it serves as a visible reminder of our desire to love and obey the God who has already been faithful to us. This gives children a memorable takeaway while keeping the gospel at the center of the lesson.

WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THE LORD!

Like the people in Judah, we promise to belong to the Lord.
We will worship Him, obey Him, and serve Him with all our hearts!

2 CHRONICLES 23:16

Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name
Name	Name	Name	Name	Name

You are my people,
and I will be
your God."
— LEVITICUS 26:12

**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES,
AND WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW HIM!**

✂ CHARACTER CARDS – CUT APART

GOD  God keeps His promises. He is perfect and holy. He deserves our worship!	KING JOASH  Joash is the king from David's family. He wants to follow the Lord.	JEHOIADA  Jehoiada is the high priest. He loves God and leads the people to obey Him.
PRIESTS  The priests teach God's Word. They help the people worship the Lord.	LEVITES  The Levites help in the temple. They sing, play instruments, and serve the Lord.	PEOPLE OF JUDAH  God's people promise to follow the Lord together and obey His commands.

Use these cards in the Covenant Match-Up Challenge.
Cut apart before your lesson.

✂ COVENANT CARDS – CHOICES THAT HONOR GOD

Use these cards in the Covenant Match-Up Challenge (2 Chronicles 23:16-21)

WORSHIP GOD



We worship God with all our hearts.

PRAY



We pray to God every day.

READ GOD'S WORD



We read the Bible and learn from God.

OBEY GOD'S COMMANDS



We obey what God tells us to do.

HELP OTHERS



We help others with love and kindness.

LOVE GOD



We love God more than anything else.

TRUST GOD



We trust God in good times and bad.

GIVE OFFERINGS



We give cheerfully to support God's work.

CARE FOR GOD'S HOUSE



We help keep God's house clean and beautiful.



"Jehoiada made a covenant that he, the people and the king would be the Lord's people." 2 Chronicles 23:16



✂ COVENANT CARDS – CHOICES THAT DISHONOR GOD

Use these cards in the Covenant Match-Up Challenge (2 Chronicles 23:16-21)

WORSHIP IDOLS



We put other things
before God.

LIE



We tell lies
instead of the truth.

CHEAT



We cheat to get
what we want.

BE SELFISH



We think only
about ourselves.

REFUSE TO OBEY



We refuse to listen
to God and others.

BREAK GOD'S COMMANDS



We choose to do
wrong things.

IGNORE GOD



We ignore God
and what He says.

DESTROY GOD'S HOUSE



We hurt or damage
what belongs to God.

MAKE FUN OF OTHERS



We treat others
with mean words.



"Jehoiada made a covenant that he, the people and the king
would be the Lord's people." 2 Chronicles 23:16





COOKING CENTER (40 Minutes)

“The King’s Covenant Celebration”

Focus:

2 Chronicles 23:1–21

Theme:

The people celebrate God's faithful King.

Big Idea:

God's people celebrate when they choose to follow Him.

Bible Truth:

After Joash became king, the people made a covenant with God and celebrated His goodness.

Memory Verse

"Jehoiada then made a covenant that he and the people and the king would be the Lord's people."
2 Chronicles 23:16 (NIV)



Objectives

Children will:

- Retell the crowning of King Joash.
- Learn what a covenant is.
- Experience a "celebration feast" similar to the joyful celebration in Jerusalem.
- Discover that worship includes thankful hearts.

Supplies

Crown Cookie Ingredients

- Large round sugar cookies (and triangle cut sugar cookie pieces)
- White frosting

- Yellow frosting
- Fruit Roll-Ups
- M&M's candy
- Gold sprinkles
- Small red candy jewels

Feast Menu

- Graham crackers
- Honey
- Apple slices
- Grapes
- Goldfish crackers
- Paper plates
- Plastic knives
- Napkins
- Disposable gloves

Room Decorations

Play joyful instrumental worship music.

Decorate with:

- Gold streamers
- Paper trumpets
- Crowns
- Purple tablecloths
- Temple picture
- "Long Live the King!" banner

0–5 Minutes

Welcome

As children arrive, greet them by saying:

"Welcome to King Joash's Coronation Banquet!"

Hand each child a paper crown.

Ask:

"What kinds of celebrations have you attended?"

Birthday?

Wedding?

Graduation?

Church picnic?

Explain:

Today we're celebrating something even bigger.

God kept His promise.

5–10 Minutes

Bible Story

Tell the story dramatically.

Pause throughout.

Whenever you raise the crown...

Children shout:

"LONG LIVE THE KING!"

Whenever you raise the Bible...

Children say:

"We choose to follow the Lord!"

When you finish reading verse 16...

Explain:

"A covenant is a promise."

God always keeps His promises.

The people promised they would belong to God."

10–25 Minutes

Activity 1

Make "King Joash's Crown Cookies"

Each child decorates a cookie.

Ingredients

- 🍪 A **large round sugar cookie** (the base)
- 🟡 White frosting
- 🍌 **Fruit Roll-Up band** wrapped around the outside edge
- ▲ Crown points made from **triangular cookie pieces**
- 💎 Colorful M&M candy jewels
- ✨ Gold sprinkles
- 🔴 Small red candy jewels on the tips



Directions

- A **thin continuous band of Fruit Roll-Up** wrapped around the cookie (or cut into neat rectangular segments if that's easier for children).
- The crown points attached above it.
- Frosting acting as the "glue."
- Candy jewels placed on the crown.
- Gold sprinkles to finish it.

Spread white frosting on cookie.

Use additional white frosting as glue for headband and crown points to make the crown.

Cut cookie triangles become points.

Gold sprinkles become jewels.

Fruit Roll-Up strips become the royal headband.

While Decorating

Discuss:

Why wasn't Joash just any king?

Who protected him?

Who crowned him?

Do you think Jehoida got nervous (a bit scared) when he prepared to crown Joash as king?
Why?

Has there ever been a time when you got a bit nervous (scared) as you prepared to do something?
When was that?

Who deserves to be our forever King?

Jesus.

32–36 Minutes

Celebration Feast

Serve:

Apple slices

Grapes

Crackers

Water or juice

Explain:

2 Chronicles 23 verse 21 says: "All the people of the land rejoiced."

Today we're having a small celebration too.

Ask:

Why were the people so happy?

Possible answers:

A good king

Peace

God kept His promise

False worship ended

They belonged to God again

36–39 Minutes

Covenant Conversation

Bring out the poster:

WE CHOOSE TO FOLLOW THE LORD

Review the Covenant Cards.

Ask:

How can YOU follow God this week?

Children answer.

Invite them to sign the poster if they haven't already.

39–40 Minutes

Closing Prayer

Children stand in a circle wearing their crowns.

Leader holds the Bible.

Everyone repeats:

"We choose to follow the Lord."

Pray:

"Dear Lord,

Thank You for keeping every promise.

Thank You for protecting Joash.

Thank You for sending Jesus, our forever King.

Help us worship You with joyful hearts.

Help us obey You every day.

We choose to follow You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen."

Teacher's Note

I would conclude this station by having the children leave wearing their paper crowns and carrying their decorated **King Joash Crown Cookie** on a napkin. It creates a memorable visual: every child leaves the station looking like they have just attended Joash's coronation. It also ties beautifully into the next station, especially if they've already signed the **"We Choose to Follow the Lord"** poster, reinforcing that God's people celebrated not merely because they had a new king, but because they had returned to worshiping the true King.
