

POINT ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.**

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 22, and show it to the children. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about a Mighty Mini king named Josiah, who was only 8 years old. Raise your hand if you have a brother or sister who is 8 years old.**

ASK: **Would you want your brother or sister to be a king or queen? Why or why not?**

Direct children to cup their hands behind their ears each time they hear the word *listen* as you read.

SAY: **Even though Josiah was probably one of the youngest people to ever be king, he was very important and special because he knew how to *listen* (pause) to God.**

➔ **WE LISTEN** (pause) **TO GOD.** There were kings before Josiah who didn't *listen* (pause) to God. These bad kings let God's house get messy. They even decided to worship lots of false gods instead of the one true God. People had

forgotten how important it is to *listen* (pause) to God. But now Josiah was king. And even though Josiah was very young, he wanted everyone to *listen* (pause) to God.

He gathered everyone together and told them it was time to clean up God's house and *listen* (pause) to God. One day while they were cleaning God's house, the workers found something very important. It's something that teaches us ➔ **WE LISTEN** (pause) **TO GOD.** They found God's Word, the Bible! After Josiah found the Bible, he read it to all the people so they'd know how to *listen* (pause) to God.

ASK: **What's the best thing you've heard from the Bible?**

Why is it important for us to listen to God?

How can the Bible help us listen to God?

SAY: **When the people didn't have the Bible, it was harder to listen to God. They forgot a lot of the things God said in the Bible! But we've got a lot of Bibles now, so ➔ **WE LISTEN** (pause) **TO GOD** by reading and obeying the Bible.**



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Have the children close their eyes while you hide a Bible somewhere in your area. Or, for an object that's harder to find, you may want to hide one of the *Mini Bears*.

SAY: God's house was so messy when Josiah was king! The workers found the Bible under a big pile of stuff. Give each child a piece of paper to crumple and throw on the ground.

SAY: Now our room is messy the way God's house was. God's Word, the Bible, is hidden somewhere in this room. We need to clean up so we can find it. Let's see if you can find the Bible and bring it back to me. While you're looking, clean up our room the way Josiah cleaned God's house.

As you look, we're going to play a game that will help you learn to listen. If you're getting close to the Bible, I'll say "hot," and if you're going away from the Bible, I'll say "cold." Let's go find God's Word.

After kids find the Bible and all the paper has been cleaned up, gather everyone back together. Have children give the Bible to you.

ASK: What are ways that we listen to God?

Tell about someone who can help you listen to God by reading the Bible with you.

SAY: Josiah was so glad to find God's Word again so that everyone could listen to God. Like King Josiah and his people, ➔ WE LISTEN TO GOD.

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SAY: I bet it would be hard to be a king or queen. One thing that might be hard is wearing that crown all the time! Have kids try to balance *Bible Buzz Cards* on their heads like crowns. Allow a few minutes for kids to walk around the room with their “crowns.”

SAY: Let’s all take turns being King Josiah and reading God’s Word. And remember, when we read the Bible, ➔ WE LISTEN TO GOD.

Let children take turns standing up and holding an open Bible, with their “crowns” still on their heads. Help children remember Psalm 85:8, “I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying,” and pretend that they are reading it from the Bible when it’s their turn.

ASK: What do you like about reading the Bible?

How can you help people listen to God?

SAY: Josiah read the Bible to everyone when he found it. That’s how he helped people listen to God. When ➔ WE LISTEN TO GOD by reading the Bible, we can tell others about what we read.

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SAY: Let's sing about reading the Bible as a way ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.** Play ● "Read Me My Bible" (track 24) on the CD two times so that children learn the words. Sing to the tune of "Give Me Oil In My Lamp." As the song plays, lead children in the motions in parentheses.

SING:

Read my Bible to me, keep me learning, learning, learning. (hold hands like a book; then tap head)

Read my Bible to me, I pray. (hold hands like a book)

Read my Bible to me, keep me learning, learning, learning. (hold hands like a book; then tap head)

Keep me learning about God all day. (point up)

Read God's Word, read God's Word, read God's Word and learn more of him. (hold hands like a book; then point up)

Read God's Word, read God's Word, all day. (hold hands like a book)

Read God's Word, read God's Word, read God's Word and learn more of him. (hold hands like a book; then point up)

Keep me learning about God all day. (point up)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

ASK: Why is the Bible a good way to learn more about God?

What made finding the Bible so special for Josiah?

SAY: One of the best ways to listen to God is to read the Bible. That's what Josiah did, and we can do it, too. There was only one copy of the Bible and Josiah found it. But now we have a lot of copies of the Bible, so we can read it all the time as ➔ **WE LISTEN TO GOD.**

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Have kids sit in a circle. SAY: **King Josiah loved God's Word and taught us that  WE LISTEN TO GOD. Let's sing a Bible verse together to listen to God's Word, too. While we listen and sing with the song, let's pass the Bible around the circle.** Play  "Listen (Psalm 85:8)" (track 16) on the **CD**, to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

SING:

I listen carefully to what the Lord is saying.

**I want to hear him talk to me,
And I want to obey him.**

I will listen with my ears.

I will listen with my heart.

I will listen as I grow

Because I know God loves me.

(Repeat from the beginning.)

After the song, have kids play a listening game. Each child will make a sound effect such as an animal noise or a car horn, and the other kids will try to guess what noise they've heard.

ASK: **What do you do to listen really carefully?**

What does it mean to listen with your ears? your heart? as you grow?

Why do you want to listen to God?

SAY: **When we listen to the Bible, we're listening to words that God wrote. Josiah was so excited when he found the Bible and could read God's message. Like Josiah,  WE LISTEN TO GOD.**