



Lesson Five

Obey God Always



Growing as a Teacher

Scripture

2 Chronicles 22:10–24:25

Bible Truth

Joash obeyed God for a while, then turned away from God.

Lesson Aim

To choose to obey God every day, trusting in his love and goodness.

Think of the people in your life who have influenced you. You probably can point to quite a few significant mentors who have helped you grow to be the person you are—perhaps a parent, an aunt or uncle, a pastor, a Sunday school teacher or a good friend. What if these people had been a terrible influence instead of a godly example? You might not be reading these words or preparing to teach children in Sunday school.

We are all influenced by those around us, but there is the danger of being too easily swayed by the opinions and example of others. This was the case with Joash. Under his uncle Jehoiada's influence, Joash did well and honored the Lord. But when his uncle died, Joash succumbed to pagan influence and turned toward evil.

Ultimately, each of us is responsible for our choices and actions. Of course, we can and should be willing to listen to advice. But we must choose to obey God and do what is right, no matter what others say or do.

As you prepare to teach the children about daily obedience and the love of God, read John 15:10–11. Thank God for his assurance that we are always on the right path when we follow the teaching of the Bible, and pray that your students will learn to rely on God's Word for direction.

Bible Background

Athaliah was the daughter of wicked King Ahab and Queen Jezebel; she was the mother of Ahaziah, king of Judah. When Ahaziah was killed by Jehu, Athaliah seized the throne. She immediately exterminated all claimants to the throne in the royal family. Only Athaliah's grandson—the infant Joash—was saved and hidden from his murderous grandmother. Six years later, the child Joash was crowned king by those who remained loyal to the Davidic line. Athaliah was killed, and the temple of Baal she had erected was destroyed (2 Chronicles 22–23).

Too young to rule, Joash relied on the guidance of the priest Jehoiada and his wife, Jehosheba. A number of years later, still under Jehoiada's influence, Joash took care of repairing the temple of God and restoring his worship there. But after Jehoiada's death, Joash turned away from the Lord to worship Canaanite gods.

When Zechariah, Jehoiada's son, spoke out against the wayward Joash and his pagan kingdom, the treacherous ruler had the prophet stoned to death. For this wicked act, many turned against Joash, and Joash himself was murdered. The king who had begun his reign in obedience to God ended his life in shame, under God's judgment.

Memory Verse

REVIEW:

PSALM 23:1–3

Lesson Five at a Glance

Step	Minutes	Children's Activities	Supplies (complete list, p. 11)
1 Welcome	5–10	Play <i>Temple Tasks</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 5a Tasks* <input type="checkbox"/> Brown paper bag
2 Bible Time	15–20	Hear the story of Joash: how he started to rule in obedience to God and what happened when he turned away from God.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 5b Joash*
3 Memory Verse	5–10	2 Review Psalm 23:1–3. Sing “I Will Follow” (Songbook, p. 7). <i>Optional:</i> Glue cotton balls to the sheep on the poster.	<input type="checkbox"/> TA 2b Psalm 23 poster** <input type="checkbox"/> SA 5 Psalm 23 poster (also TA 2b)** <input type="checkbox"/> Songbook* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Optional:</i> cotton balls, glue, <i>Younger Elementary Vol. 2 CD</i>
4 Activities	10–15	Complete activities that show ways to obey God. Listen to the story about Jenny and obedience.	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>At Home 5</i> ** <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or crayons
5 Final Focus	5	Pray, asking God for help to continue to obey him every day.	

Total time: 40–60 minutes

* *Younger Elementary Teaching Aids Pack*
 ** *Younger Elementary Student Activities Pack*



Enrichment

Ask the students to make a list or draw pictures of at least five people who are very important and helpful to them. The list may include parents, aunts and uncles, teachers and so on. Have each student share the list with the class and give one reason why each person is important.

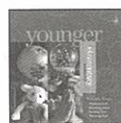


“I Will Follow”
Younger Elementary Vol. 2 CD



Practical Preparation

Look at the chart above and gather the materials you need to teach the lesson. Ahead of time, separate **TA 5a Tasks** and place the slips in a paper bag. Separate the figures and objects on **TA 5b Joash** (see sidebar, p. 7). Store them in a zip-lock bag to save them for class time. Go over the Bible story several times; be familiar with the characters, the pronunciation of their names and the details of the story. Practice telling the story aloud and pacing it: Speak slowly and deliberately for sad parts; speak faster for happy or exciting parts. Learn the song “I Will Follow” (sung to the tune *Frere Jacques*). Consider making a song poster (see p. 10).



Order CD and/or extra Songbooks from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.



Younger Elementary Vol. 2 Songbook

All the songs for this quarter and the entire year are in the Songbook (included in the Fall Teacher's Kit).



Welcome

5–10 minutes

Play *Temple Tasks* to prepare your children for today's lesson. To play the game, let children close their eyes and take turns pulling a task out of a paper bag. After each turn, the child turns the task toward the class so that everyone can see it. The teacher reads aloud the words. The child must then decide whether to obey the advice or not. *Say You are all temple builders. Let us find out what your task is. If it is good advice, then you should obey and do it. If it is bad advice, then you should not do it. You must decide if it is good or bad.*

When everyone has had a chance to play, discuss some of the commands. Help the children understand that it is not always easy to know the right thing to do. Remind the children that just as God gave Solomon wisdom to help him know and do the right thing, so he will give us wisdom to follow and obey him.

Say Today we are going to find out about a man who followed good advice and obeyed God for a time. But then he followed bad advice and turned away from God for the rest of his life.



Bible Time

15–20 minutes

As you get ready for the story, open your Bible to 2 Chronicles 22. Athaliah (*ATH-ub-LI-ub*) wanted to be queen. Her son King Ahaziah (*AY-bub-ZI-ub*) was dead, and she decided to kill all of his children so that she could be queen. What a wicked grandmother! Athaliah's daughter was angry and horrified that her mother wanted to do such a terrible thing. "Quick, if we hurry," Jehosheba (*jub-HAHSH-ub-bub*) said to her husband, "we can hide baby Joash in the temple. Mother will never find him there."

For six years, Jehosheba and her husband, the good priest Jehoiada (*jeh-HOY-ab-dub*), took care of little Joash. *Show the children Jehoiada and Jehosheba on TA 5b.* Joash lived and played in the temple, and his aunt and uncle kept him away from Grandmother Athaliah, who was now queen. She didn't even know Joash was alive.

When Joash was about your age, Jehoiada called the priests and the people to the temple. He told them that it was time to make Joash king. God had made a promise to King David that someone from his family would always be king and that the Savior would come from his family. Since Joash was from David's family, it was right for him to be king. God would keep his promise of a Savior through Joash.

5a



Early Arrivals



Before class begins, have paper, pencils, crayons or markers available so that students may design and color their own temples. Show the children pictures of the temple of God in Jerusalem, first built by Solomon. Illustrated children's Bibles and Bible storybooks are good sources for pictures.



Teaching Tip

Children learn in three ways: by seeing, by hearing and speaking, and by moving and doing. As you teach, it is important that the children can see the story, that they can tell you what they hear and that they can do something to become involved in the story.

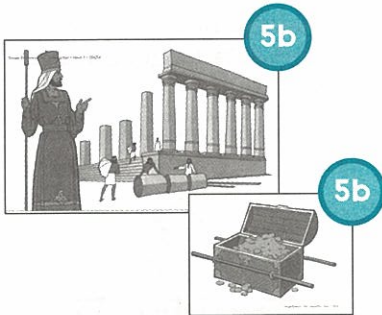
5b





Something Extra!

To add student involvement and interest, have the children act out the part of the story where Joash is crowned king at the age of seven. Bring to class a cape (a towel will do), a homemade paper crown and any assortment of musical instruments (a recorder, child's horn, shaker or tambourine, and so on). Select students to play the parts of Joash and Jehoiada. Narrate what happens as they pantomime the actions. The rest of the class can celebrate the coronation by singing, dancing about and playing instruments.



Keep TA 5b for Lesson 13.

All around the gates of the temple stood guards with swords, ready to stop anyone who tried to harm young Joash when he appeared before the people. Jehoiada and the priests anointed Joash with oil, put a crown on his head, gave him a copy of God's law and shouted, "Long live the king!" Everyone clapped and cheered. There was singing and the blowing of trumpets—it was a great celebration.

Athaliah heard the music and voices, and she ran to the temple. When she saw Joash crowned king, she tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!" (meaning "He cannot be king! I am the leader!") But the soldiers took her away for good.

Of course, Joash was too young to rule all by himself, so Jehoiada helped him. The wise priest told the people that from now on they would all follow and obey God. They agreed to do so, and then the people went out and tore down the temple of Baal, the false god, and smashed the altars and idols.

Years later, when Joash was a man, he decided to repair the temple of God. *Show the picture of Joash and the temple on TA 5b.* Carpenters, bricklayers and metalworkers were hired to make the temple like new again. A chest was placed at the gate of the temple so the people could give money to repair the temple, make new furnishings and pay all the workers. Everyone gladly gave money and all the work was done. *Show the picture of the chest on TA 5b.*

For as long as Jehoiada was alive, King Joash and the people praised and worshiped God at the beautiful temple. But when Jehoiada died, everything changed.

Joash soon forgot about Jehoiada, and he listened to the men of Judah. Joash and the people turned away from God and his temple, and worshiped false gods. God sent Zechariah, Jehoiada's son, to speak to the people. "Why are you disobeying God?" he asked. "Since you have stopped following him, he will no longer be with you." *Show the picture of Zechariah speaking to the people on TA 5b.*

King Joash and the Israelites did not want to hear the words of Zechariah, and they did a terrible thing—they stoned (killed) Jehoiada's son right in the courtyard of God's house. But even as Zechariah was dying, he continued to warn Joash, "The Lord will see what you have done and he will punish you."

And God did punish the king who had turned away from him. God sent a small army to punish Joash and the people of Judah. Joash was wounded in battle, and then his own servants killed him because of what he had done to Zechariah.

Ask What would have happened to Joash if he had continued to obey God? (*God would have blessed him instead of having to punish him.*) Help the students understand that it was not enough for Joash to follow the Lord for a time. He needed to obey God and follow his law every day. Instead, Joash followed bad advice, he turned away from the Lord for the rest of his life and paid a huge price for his sin.

In spite of Joash's rebellion, God used him to preserve the family line leading to Jesus. Joash was the great-great-great (lots of greats) grandfather of Jesus. This story again shows us how much

we need the One who would do God's will when he was young and continue to do God's will always. Only One has ever done that. Who is it? Jesus!



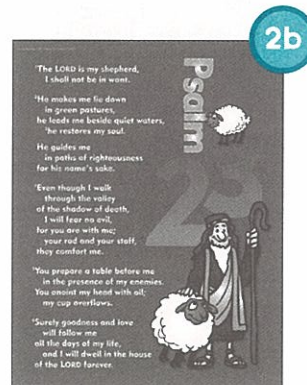
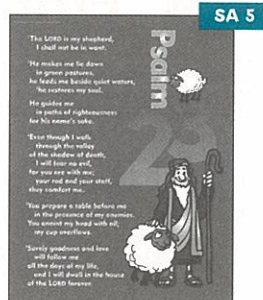
Memory Verse

5–10 minutes

Gather the children about TA 2b Psalm 23 poster. Ask a student to lead the class in reviewing Psalm 23:1–3. Then divide the class into three groups and have them say the memory work in sections (verses 1; 2–3a; 3b).

Sing “I Will Follow” to the tune *Frere Jacques*. The words are repetitive and the children will learn them easily. Go over the song once or twice. Singing the song will help the children affirm their commitment to follow and obey Jesus.

Hand out SA 5 Psalm 23 posters (same as TA 2b; found in *Student Activities Pack*). Tell the children that they will learn the rest of the psalm in the weeks ahead during Sunday school. *Say Today you will take a poster home. Where do you think you will post it? Listen to their responses, then say Remember to say the verses you know during the week. They will help you think about Jesus, your Good Shepherd. They will remind you that he loves you very much, and that he wants to be your leader every day.*



2 “I Will Follow”
Songbook, p. 7



Optional Activity

As you practice saying the memory verses, let the children glue cotton to the sheep on the poster.

4

Activities

10–15 minutes



Give each child a copy of *At Home 5*. Make sure that there are pencils and crayons or markers for everyone. Read aloud the title and directions for the part(s) you choose to do.

In *Obedience Counts*, read aloud the words on each treasure. Talk about times or ways that we can do those things. This would be a good time to ask the children to tell about a time when it was hard to follow Jesus. Encourage children to tell about the pictures they draw at the bottom.

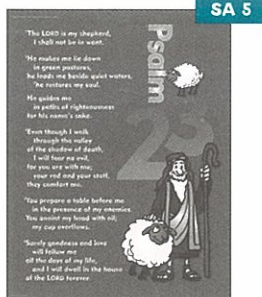
In *I Want to Trust and Obey God*, provide any help necessary.

Read and talk about the story on the back page of *At Home 5*.

5

Final Focus

5 minutes



Close with prayer, thanking God for his love and goodness, and for leading his children. Ask him to help us obey him every day.

Make sure the children have their **SA 5 Psalm 23 posters**, take-home papers and any drawings they might have done before the lesson.

Remind them to share *At Home 5* with their families.



Items to Send Home

- At Home 5*
- SA 5 Psalm 23 poster