

SUNDAY SCHOOL ADULT STUDENT COPY

LESSON 1

FOLLOWING GOD'S LEADERSHIP MANUAL

CENTRAL TRUTH: The bible is the best source of insight for good leadership principles.

MEMORY VERSE: Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. [Psalm 119:105](#).

2 Kings 23:2-5; 21-25

2. And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

3. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all *their* heart and all *their* soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

4. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the LORD all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.

5. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

21. And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the passover unto the LORD your God, as *it is* written in the book of this covenant.

22. Surely there was not holden such a passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

23. But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, *wherein* this passover was holden to the LORD in Jerusalem.

24. Moreover the *workers with* familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD.

25. And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there *any* like him.

INTRODUCTION

At the time that Josiah became king of Israel the word of God had been neglected for many years and the temple was being used for idolatrous worship instead of the worship of God. When the high priest discovered the word of God eventually and read it to the king, he was amazed and being a righteous king began immediate steps to lead his people back to God. This week's lesson will help us to make God's word a priority in our lives.

LESSON

During the eighteenth year of his reign as king, Josiah ordered the reconstruction of the temple which by that time was in ruins. It was during that time that the book of the Law (the word of God) was discovered and read to the king. When he heard the judgments of God for idolatry, he began a campaign to remove idol worship from the land.

The king led a great reform and the people responded positively. When national leaders seek the righteousness of God, he blesses the nation and its people can then live peaceable lives (**1 Tim. 2:1-2**).

We learn from this experience that for the people to obey the word of God, they first must know it. Josiah and the priests took turns to read the written law to the people. They were then called upon to make public commitments. Similarly in our churches today it is important to have altar calls for people to come and renew their vows to God. The king, as a good leader led by example by first making a pledge to follow the words of God.

After the pledge Josiah and the people took action by removing everything that defiled the land. Worship of idols such as Baal, Asherah and heavenly bodies were widespread in the land so they had to get rid of all those idols. Today God is calling on us also to seek him and get rid of anything that would hinder our relationship with him.

Aside the idol worship that had taken over the land, gross immorality was also widespread in the land to the extent that living quarters of male prostitutes were situated next to the temple. These also, the king ensured, were all destroyed. Such spirit of being doers of the word and not hearers only is that we need in this present day of spiritual decay and wickedness.

After all these actions the king instructed the celebration of the Passover feast which had not been done for many years. This emphasized God's covenant with the Israelites which he sealed with the blood of the sacrificial lamb. So also, the Christian life in obedience to God's word must be a continual celebration of our deliverance from the slavery of sin through the shed blood of the Lamb of God- Jesus Christ.

LIFE APPLICATION

The Bible has guidance for every situation we encounter in life. It instructs for individuals and families, for the young and old, for men and women. It is important to read the scriptures so we will have a solid foundation on which we build our lives. More importantly we must obey what it says so we will receive the blessings promised therein.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Monday: Commandments (Deuteronomy 5:17-22)

Tuesday: Covenant Renewal (Joshua 24:14-26)

Wednesday: Blessings of The Word (Psalm 119:1-8)

Thursday: The Living Word (John 1: 14-18)

Friday: Power of The Word (2 Timothy 5:1-5)

Saturday: Obey The Word (1 John 2:3)