

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<<

JOASH WANTED TO OBEY GOD

2 Kings 12; 2 Chronicles 24



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- **Mornings:** Ask God to help you trust in Him in all situations today. Ask for His help in remaining faithful to Him as you interact with others. How did the people around Joash lead him away from God? Why is it important to trust in what God's Word says is true rather than trust in what others might say?
- **Evenings:** Thank God for His faithfulness to us even when we are not faithful. Praise Him for His patience toward the Israelites when they turned away from Him and for His patience toward your family. How was God patient with the Israelites? Why does God show patience to those who turn away from Him?

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY POINTS TO JESUS:

JOASH WANTED TO OBEY GOD. HE HONORED GOD AT FIRST, BUT IN TIME, HIS ACTIONS SHOWED THAT THERE WAS STILL SIN IN HIS HEART. *JESUS WANTS TO CHANGE OUR HEARTS. WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR, HE GIVES US NEW HEARTS THAT WANT TO LIVE FOR HIS GLORY.*

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is repentance?

Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.

Dear Families,

The mimic octopus is a very interesting creature. It has the amazing ability to change color and shape to look like other sea creatures. When the octopus feels threatened, it often mimics the appearance of a toxic animal like the lionfish or sea snake to scare away predators. When the danger has passed, the mimic octopus returns to her normal colors and goes on about her day.

As we learn more about the life of King Joash, **we see that he wanted to follow God, but the sin in his heart led him to worship false gods.** Joash turned away from God, so God turned away from Joash. Much like the mimic octopus, **a person's own ability to change their sinful heart is only temporary. We might try to do better and make wiser choices, but the sin in our hearts is too pronounced to hide.**

The only real, lasting change for our hearts must come from Jesus. His death and resurrection have broken the power of sin. Everyone who believes in Him is forgiven and has been forever changed by His grace!

Joash wanted to obey God. He honored God at first, but in time, his actions showed that there was still sin in his heart. Jesus wants to change our hearts. When we trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior, He gives us new hearts that want to live for His glory.

Pray: *God, help us not to trust in our own ability to change our hearts, but to trust in what Jesus has done to change our hearts. Help us to know the eternal forgiveness and joy that comes from knowing Jesus as Lord.*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES<<<

For Fun: Play hide-and-seek as a family. After the game, talk with kids about how we cannot hide our sin from God. The only hope we have is found in Jesus. When we place our trust in Him, He forgives our sin, changes our hearts, and gives us eternal life.

To Serve: Work as a family to plant evergreen shrubs in your flower beds or yard. You may also add seasonal plants or flowers to beautify the property. Afterward, talk as a family about the differences between plants and how evergreen shrubs will remain green throughout the year. Talk about the way our good words might make us feel better, but that is only temporary change. Jesus is the only one who can eternally change our hearts.



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

Therefore repent and
turn back, so that your
sins may be wiped out.

-Acts 3:19