

NOTES



PRAYER

“Lord, we invite You into this moment, asking Your Holy Spirit to ignite a passion within us for Your plans and purposes. Help us to see the next generation through Your eyes, full of destiny and potential. Empower us to walk in our own calling and lead others into theirs. May we seek Your will in every season of our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

“What’s the worst advice you’ve ever received from someone who had good intentions? Share the story!”



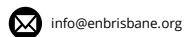
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WORD

1 Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. 4 And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. 6 And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, 7 he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem. 8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had cleansed the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God.

[2 Chronicles 34:1-8 \(ESV\)](#)

King Josiah is an inspiring figure for all leaders - but more specifically young leaders, especially because he began ruling as a child. He was only eight years old when he became king, yet he showed great maturity by seeking God early in his reign. Josiah's life highlights the importance of a solid foundation in God, as he modelled seeking God is the first step in bringing change to the world around us. One of Josiah's greatest acts was purging the nation of idolatry and restoring true worship. His actions remind us that standing for righteousness often requires confronting cultural norms that are contrary to God's ways. Josiah's ability to make tough decisions at a young age challenges us to think critically about the influences shaping our lives today. Whether it's social media, peer pressure, or modern idols, Josiah teaches us that we must be bold and resolute in our stand for Christ.

In Josiah's leadership, we also see a deep desire for revival and transformation. He didn't just stop at destroying the altars to false gods; he rebuilt the temple, bringing his people back to worship the one true God. For us in an urban city in Australia, we can follow Josiah's example by creating spaces where God is honored, whether that's in our homes, workplaces, or communities. Additionally, Josiah's youth didn't limit him from fulfilling his God-given purpose. This is a message to the younger generation: your age does not disqualify you from being used by God. In fact, it positions you to bring fresh vision and energy into the Church and society. The way Josiah led his people to righteousness can be likened to Christ, who leads us to repentance and restoration, making all things new in our lives.

Finally, when we reflect on Josiah's life, one of the most striking aspects is his willingness to personally involve himself in the reform process. He didn't just issue commands from his royal throne for others to remove the idols of false worship from Judah and Jerusalem. Instead, he went out, led the charge, and took part in destroying these altars and idols with his own hands (2 Chronicles 34:4). This distinction between "commanding others" and being "involved personally" is crucial for understanding what true leadership looks like.

Commanding others is a top-down approach that often requires minimal personal sacrifice. It relies on authority and delegation to bring about change, but it risks lacking the heart and conviction necessary to inspire real, lasting transformation. Josiah could have easily instructed his servants or officials to deal with the nation's spiritual decay, but he knew that true leadership demands personal investment. If he had merely commanded others to act, he might not have modeled the same level of conviction, leaving the reforms incomplete or half-hearted.

On the other hand, **being involved personally** requires a deeper level of commitment. It shows that the leader is willing to experience the same hardships and make the same sacrifices as those they lead. Josiah's personal involvement inspired a greater sense of urgency and seriousness in the reforms. He wasn't just issuing orders; he was living them out. This is a Christ-like model of leadership, one that calls us to engage in both word and deed. Jesus Himself didn't just instruct His disciples to love others from afar—He demonstrated that love through His life, sacrifice, and service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Josiah began his reign at just eight years old, and by his mid-teens, he was already tearing down idols. Today in our country and time, what are some "idols" or cultural trends that young people and adults alike might face? How can Josiah's courage to go against the grain inspire us to stand firm in our faith amidst these influences?
2. Josiah didn't just criticize the old system—he actively restored the worship of God by repairing the temple. In Queensland today, what would it look like for us to "repair the temple" in our context—whether that's within our families, communities, or even church culture? What practical steps can we take to revive authentic worship in our own circles?
3. Josiah was both bold and humble, seeking God's guidance even though he held significant power. For those of us in positions of leadership or influence (whether at work, in ministry, or within our families), how can we practice boldness and humility simultaneously? What might that look like practically in a city like Brisbane?
4. Josiah's leadership was Christ-like in that he led his people to repentance and renewal. What specific opportunities do you see for us, as a group, to model this type of Christ-like leadership in our communities or workplaces? How can we help others experience repentance, healing, and renewal in their personal lives through our actions?

"Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as King and Saviour over all things. We thank You for the example of Josiah, a leader who sought after You with all his heart. Help us to follow his example, by standing for righteousness, confronting the idols in our lives, and leading others towards You. Lord, we submit ourselves to Your will and Your design for our lives. May we live in a way that honours You, laying down our lives for You and for others. For those here who are seeking a deeper relationship with You, may they trust You as the Creator of the universe and the Lover of their souls. Empower us by Your Spirit to live boldly for You. In Jesus' name, Amen."