

# INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... AT SCHOOL

**II KINGS 23-25**  
**II CHRONICLES 34-36**  
**JEREMIAH**  
**LAMENTATIONS**  
**EZEKIEL, DANIEL**

**5TH GRADE**  
BIBLE CURRICULUM  
UNIT 2



# USING THIS TEACHER'S GUIDE

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## OVERVIEW

*Investigating God's Word...At School* is a Bible curriculum designed for Christian schools, grades 1st-5th. Each unit provides material for 9 weeks, divided into four lessons each week. More specifically, each lesson is designed to be taught over two days, in 30-40 minute teaching blocks. This Bible curriculum also includes Scripture memory.

## DISTINCTIVES

This Bible curriculum is unique in the following ways:

- (1) It teaches the entirety of God's Word, from Genesis to Revelation, over the course of five years.
- (2) It teaches the students how to study God's Word for themselves.
- (3) It includes daily quizzes in order to help the students build their Bible knowledge.
- (4) It teaches the students a Word of the Week each lesson to build their vocabularies.
- (5) Each lesson puts the texts of Scripture in historical context, teaching the children that the Bible is real history.
- (6) It trains the students to apply God's Word to their lives.
- (7) It systematically inculcates a Biblical worldview, training children to think Biblically.
- (8) It gives the students tools to defend their faith in Christ.

## COMPONENTS—DAY ONE

Each 2-day lesson begins with a lesson overview to give you the "big picture" of the Scripture being studied. It also includes a brief preparation section and a teaching encouragement to help get you started.

**Introduction.** Each "Day One" starts with an introduction to the lesson. Younger children will be asked a question to provoke their thinking. Older

children will be taught a Psalm or Proverb of the day to "call" them to study.

**Quiz Time.** Next, the students are quizzed in order to train them to remember what they have learned. These quizzes will often cover what they learned the day before, but sometimes will cover material elsewhere in God's Word that they should already know. Major knowledge areas like the Ten Commandments, Days of Creation, etc., may be quizzed more often. **It is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

**W.O.W!** The W.O.W! is the Word of the Week. Each lesson will introduce the students to a vital Biblical vocabulary word. These words are either found in the Scripture text itself, or they are important theological words that the children need to learn. The W.O.W! often provides the theme for the entire lesson.

**Historical Context.** Each lesson, the Scripture text is placed in historical context by use of a timeline. It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.

**Bible Investigation.** The Bible Investigation time is the heart and soul of each day's lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story. All Scripture texts included in the curriculum are from the English Standard Version (ESV). The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of discussion, questions, and application points. This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

**Scripture Memory.** At the end of each Day One of the two-day lesson, the students will be taught a Scripture memory verse. These memory texts will be connected to what was studied that day. And, since you will cover two lessons each week, the students will be memorizing two passages a week—twice as much as most memory programs.

## COMPONENTS—DAY TWO

Day Two components include several Day One components, and add two very exciting sections to the study.

**Quiz Time.** Day Two begins with a quiz. These quizzes are most often an intensive review of Day One material. **Again, it is recommended that your children write out the answers to the quiz and keep them in a Bible study journal.**

**Historical Context.** As you prepare to read the Scripture, you will again have the opportunity to put it in historical context for the students. The timeline will visually demonstrate where you are in God's Word.

**Bible Investigation.** Again, this is the heart and soul of each day's Bible time. Your students will learn how to study God's Word for themselves, as they read, answer questions, discuss, and apply the Bible to their lives.

**Worldview Builder.** This component is found only in Day Two of each lesson. It has been created because of the need for our children to develop Christian worldviews. Developing a Christian worldview is the task of learning to look at everything in life through the lens of Scripture. It is being trained by the Holy Spirit and the Bible to think Biblically for the glory of God.

The Worldview Builder section helps the students to connect what they are studying to a "pillar" of a Christian worldview. The four main pillars that are used in this study are: Creation, Providence, Rationality, and the Fear of God. After putting the

particular pillar on the board, the students will be asked to list things about that truth that they learned in the lesson.

**Defend the Faith.** A necessary component of a Bible curriculum is training our children how to defend the Christian faith. It is not good enough to give them Bible knowledge—they must learn how to answer questions about what they believe and why they believe it.

To that end, this section will present the students with a question that they will have to answer. You will also teach them the right answer after they have a chance to share their thoughts. This will begin the training of answering the skeptics and their attacks on Christianity.

**Scripture Memory.** The day's lesson ends with a review of the Scripture memory passage. You may use any method to help the students put it to memory.

## AND FINALLY...

Teaching God's Word is unlike any other subject that you teach in school. It is the only book that is inspired by God! It is the only text that truly changes lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit. So teach it with great passion and excitement, as well as great care. When you teach the Bible you are giving your students the greatest treasure they can ever possess!

# LESSON SEQUENCE

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# LESSON 1 // II KINGS 23:1-30, II CHRON. 34:29-35:27

## OVERVIEW

King Josiah has a problem. The newly found Book of the Law teaches that Judah is slated for destruction because of their sin. A prophetess confirms that God's wrath is coming. What will the king do? II Kings 23 and II Chronicles 34-35 describe a king who is so convicted by the Book of the Law that he stages a massive reformation in Judah. Josiah desecrates all of the high places and places of evil sacrifices to idols. He continues to cleanse the temple and remove all worship of the gods of other nations. He will not allow pagan worship to continue in Judah—only the worship of the true God of Israel.

We also read of the amazing celebration of the LORD's Passover led by Josiah. The Passover hadn't been observed in this manner for many, many years! Josiah truly brought back obedience to the Word of God to Judah.

Yet our reading ends with God's wrath still poised to send Judah into slavery and destruction. Josiah dies in battle, as the enemies of God's people advance on Jerusalem. Is all of this reformation for naught? No way! Josiah gave Judah every opportunity to continue to follow God, even in the midst of their consequences.

## PREPARATION

Read and meditate on II Kings 23 and II Chronicles 34-35 this week.

## TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

Our children often grow up with the belief that if they do what is right then only good things will happen to them. So, when they read the lesson this week and see that Judah began to follow God yet STILL received His wrath and punishment, it will seem unfair. This only reveals the attitudes of their hearts. This shows that we often are motivated to obey God just to receive the blessings of God, or to avoid bad things happening to us. Use this lesson to teach the children that we obey God because He created us and saved us. Our obedience does not deserve reward; any reward is only by God's grace! Show the children that following God's way is simply the right response to a healthy fear and love for God. Obedience for other reasons only shows us our sinful hearts!

## LESSON SCHEDULE

### Day One

#### INTRODUCTION

*Psalm 143:10*  
2-3 mins.

#### QUIZ TIME

*The Passover*  
3-5 mins.

#### W.O.W!

*Desecrate*  
3-5 mins.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
2-3 mins.

#### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

*II Kings 23:1-13*  
12-15 mins.

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

*Psalm 19:7-8a*  
3-5 mins.

### Day Two

#### QUIZ TIME

*Josiah*  
3-5 mins.

#### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

*Timeline*  
3-5 mins.

#### BIBLE INVESTIGATION

*II Kings 23:14-30,*  
*II Chronicles 34:29-35:27*  
12-15 mins.

#### WORLDVIEW BUILDER

*Fear of God*  
5 mins.

#### DEFEND THE FAITH

*Do Christians prosper?*  
5 mins.

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

*Psalm 19:7-8a*  
3-5 mins.



## INTRODUCTION

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### Start by reading Psalm 143:10.

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

**Say:** *Does this verse describe your greatest desire in life? We should all long to do God's will, since He made us and saves us in Jesus Christ. If you ask God to lead you in life and show you His will, do you think He will do it? Yes! And, the best way He teaches us to do His will is through His Word. Let's learn His will today!*



## QUIZ TIME

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Now, let's move on to QUIZ TIME.

**Today's questions:** *What is Passover? What is another name for Passover? How often were the Israelites to celebrate Passover? How long did Passover last? What couldn't people eat during Passover? What do we celebrate today instead of Passover?*

### Answers:

1. A feast commemorating the night when the angel of death "passed over" the Israelites, sparing their firstborns.
2. Feast of Unleavened Bread.
3. Once a year.
4. Seven days.
5. Bread with yeast.
6. The Lord's Supper.

**Say:** *During the times of the kings, Israel and Judah had neglected to keep the feasts and festivals of the LORD, including Passover. They had forgotten what God had done for their forefathers in Egypt! The Passover was such an important feast because it was to remind the Israelites of their salvation.*



## W.O.W!

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **DESECRATE**. Write it on the board. Can anyone define this word for us? **Allow answers.**

The word *DESECRATE* is related to a Bible word we have learned before—consecrate. Do you hear how they both have the root “secrate” in them?

To consecrate something is to make it holy. So what do you think it means to *DESECRATE* something? That’s right—it is making something unholy or taking away its holiness.

Thus, the word *DESECRATE* means to treat something with contempt or hatred, destroying its sacredness. We often use this word to describe when someone disturbs a burial site, since burial sites are usually considered sacred places.

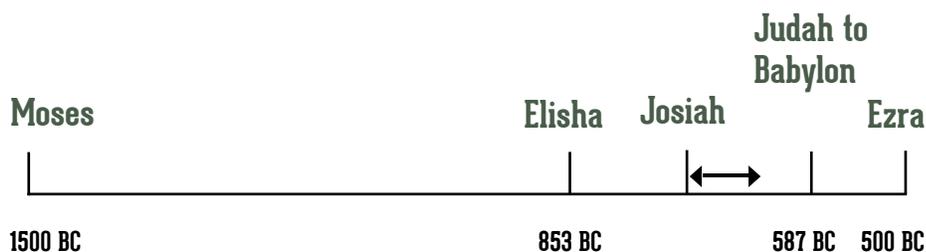
In our reading today, we will witness someone *DESECRATING* a few places. He will take away something’s holiness—and it will be a good work on his part! Pay attention for our Word of the Week!



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.**

### This Week’s Timeline





## BIBLE INVESTIGATION

**Have your students open their Bibles to II Kings 23.**

**Introduction:** *What did Hilkiah find in the LORD's temple? [The Book of the Law.] How did King Josiah respond upon reading the Book of the Law? [He tore his clothes in grief.] What did the prophetess say would happen to God's people because of their disobedience? [Judah would be destroyed.]*

*What will King Josiah will do now?* **Read II Kings 23:1-2.**

<sup>1</sup> Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. <sup>2</sup> And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD.

**Discussion:** *What did Josiah do? [He gathered all of Judah together and read the Book of the Covenant.] The Book of the Covenant is just another name for the Book of the Law—our Book of Deuteronomy. King Josiah was so convicted by God's Word that He immediately read it to all God's people—from the youngest to the oldest. Isn't that great leadership?*

*Let's continue.* **Read verse 3.**

<sup>3</sup> And the king stood by the 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 his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.

**Discussion:** *Why did Josiah need to renew the covenant in the presence of the LORD? [Because the people of Judah had been breaking the covenant for generations!] Josiah instructed the people to come back to the covenant and follow God with all their hearts. Did the people respond? [Yes.]*

**Application:** *This is a picture of what should happen every Sunday in church. The pastor reads God's Word. He calls the people to obedience to God. He confirms the covenant of God. Then, we should respond with renewed commitment and new obedience! We need to be reminded of the covenant each week!*

*Let's read more.* **Read verses 4-6.**

<sup>4</sup> And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order and the keepers of the threshold to bring out of the



temple of the LORD all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron and carried their ashes to Bethel. <sup>5</sup> And he deposed the priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and the moon and the constellations and all the host of the heavens. <sup>6</sup> And he brought out the Asherah from the house of the LORD, outside Jerusalem, to the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron and beat it to dust and cast the dust of it upon the graves of the common people.

**Discussion:** *Now the king resumes his purging and cleansing of the land. He is so convicted by the Book of the Covenant that he does away with all of the articles that were used to worship Baal and Asherah. He also had the priests removed. Was Josiah serious about following God? [Yes!]*

*Let's move on. **Read verses 7-10.***

<sup>7</sup> And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the LORD, where the women wove hangings for the Asherah. <sup>8</sup> And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from Geba to Beersheba. And he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on one's left at the gate of the city. <sup>9</sup> However, the priests of the high places did not come up to the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, but they ate unleavened bread among their brothers. <sup>10</sup> And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.

**Discussion:** *The word DEFILE is the same word as DESECRATE. What did Josiah DESECRATE? [The high places; the place where children were sacrificed to Molech.] Josiah DESECRATED places that the people thought were holy and sacred. Yet these were unholy and evil places that were used to worship false gods! So Josiah pleased God by destroying these things and places, knowing that only what God says is holy is truly holy!*

*Let's see what else Josiah does. **Read verses 11-13.***

<sup>11</sup> And he removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the LORD, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the precincts. And he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. <sup>12</sup> And the altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the



altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, he pulled down and broke in pieces and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.<sup>13</sup> And the king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.

**Discussion:** *Did you notice how many different gods the people of Judah were worshiping? They worshiped the sun, the goddess of the Sidonians, the god of Moab, and even the evil god of Ammon. The sad thing is that it was Solomon who introduced a lot of this idol worship to Israel. Many, many years have passed; and the people are still following false gods.*

**Conclusion:** *When you do not follow the one true God, you usually end up worshiping a lot of idols. Think about that, and we'll continue our story next time.*



## SCRIPTURE MEMORY

**Read the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 19:7-8a) together.**

### **Psalm 19:7-8a (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

**Say:** *This was Josiah's attitude upon reading the Law of God. He knew that God's ways are perfect and holy. He knew that God's ways always bring joy. Do you know this fact? I hope you do!*

**Review the verses.**

**Close in prayer.**

# DAY TWO



## QUIZ TIME

Let's begin today with QUIZ TIME. Are you ready?

**Today's questions:** What is our most recent Word of the Week? What did Josiah read to all of the people? When Josiah stood by the pillar, what did he do? What did Josiah have Hilkiah do with all the things that belonged to Baal and Asherah?

**Answers:**

1. Desecrate.
2. The Book of the Covenant.
3. He made a covenant with the LORD and the people to follow the LORD again.
4. He made him burn them and destroy them.

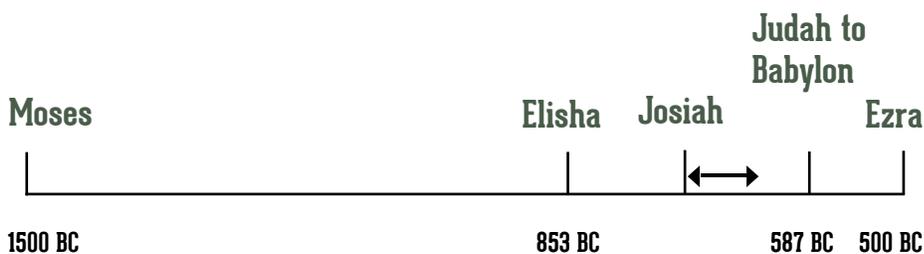
*Josiah acted out of his love for God and passion for His Law. Do you and I have that same desire to love God with all our hearts?*



## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

**Draw the following timeline on the board to give the students some historical context.**

### This Week's Timeline





## BIBLE INVESTIGATION

**Introduction:** *Let's get back to our study of II Kings 23. King Josiah continues to cleanse the land of idolatry.*

**Read II Kings 23:14-18.**

<sup>14</sup> And he broke in pieces the pillars and cut down the Asherim and filled their places with the bones of men. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, that altar with the high place he pulled down and burned, reducing it to dust. He also burned the Asherah. <sup>16</sup> And as Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount. And he sent and took the bones out of the tombs and burned them on the altar and defiled it, according to the word of the LORD that the man of God proclaimed, who had predicted these things. <sup>17</sup> Then he said, "What is that monument that I see?" And the men of the city told him, "It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel." <sup>18</sup> And he said, "Let him be; let no man move his bones." So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria.

**Discussion:** *This description of what Josiah did brings us back to I Kings 13. If you recall the story, King Jeroboam introduced his own calf religion to Israel. While he was sacrificing to his false god, a man of God told him that one day a man named Josiah would burn the bones of his prophets on the altar. Did the prophecy come true? Yes! And, now we read that Josiah spares the man's, as well as another prophet's bones from being burned. God always keeps His word!*

*Let's read more. **Read verses 19-20.***

<sup>19</sup> And Josiah removed all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the LORD to anger. He did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel. <sup>20</sup> And he sacrificed all the priests of the high places who were there, on the altars, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

**Application:** *Just as Josiah was moved by God's Word to cleanse the land of idolatry, you and I should be convicted to clean out our own hearts of idolatry! Our hearts are little idol factories, so we constantly have to be reminded to worship God and not ourselves!*

*Watch what Josiah does next. **Read verses 21-23.***

<sup>21</sup> And the king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover to the



LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.”<sup>22</sup> For no such Passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, or during all the days of the kings of Israel or of the kings of Judah.<sup>23</sup> But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this Passover was kept to the LORD in Jerusalem.

**Discussion:** *The Book of the Law also had instructions on celebrating the Passover. Did Josiah take those instructions seriously? [Yes!] The Passover had not been celebrated for years, because of Israel’s rebellion. Josiah not only brought back the Passover, but he celebrated it better than it had been celebrated in many, many years!*

**Summary:** *In II Chronicles 35, we read even more details about how Josiah celebrated the Passover. He provided thirty thousand goats and sheep, as well as three thousand cattle for the people to sacrifice to God. Can you imagine? He not only led the people in the right worship of God, he provided them what they needed to worship God. This Passover celebration demonstrated that Josiah loved God with all of his heart and soul.*

**Application:** *When God gives us commands, do we do them with all of our might, or only in a half-hearted way? We are often people who do just enough to get by, instead of the MOST we can do. This demonstrates a very self-centered heart!*

*Let’s continue in II Kings. **Read verses 24-25.***

<sup>24</sup> Moreover, Josiah put away the mediums and the necromancers and the household gods and the idols and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, that he might establish the words of the law that were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD.<sup>25</sup> Before him there was no king like him, who 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, nor did any like him arise after him.

**Discussion:** *What a great way to be described! Since David, there was no other king like Josiah. He turned to the LORD in all that he did. Josiah is a picture of Jesus Christ, the only King who did God’s will perfectly! The people of Judah had a glimpse of Jesus as they watched King Josiah. So would God now relent from His anger towards Judah?*



Let's see. **Read verses 26-27.**

<sup>26</sup> Still the LORD did not turn from the burning of his great wrath, by which his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked him. <sup>27</sup> And the LORD said, "I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and I will cast off this city that I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there."

**Discussion:** *Is Judah still going to receive God's wrath? Yes! Just as God rejected Israel, He is now rejecting Judah, turning them over to their enemies. Even though Josiah has them on the right track, it's too late. God has chosen to discipline His people by sending them back into slavery.*

Let's finish our reading. **Read verses 28-30.**

<sup>28</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Josiah and all that he did, are they not written in the Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Judah? <sup>29</sup> In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates. King Josiah went to meet him, and Pharaoh Neco killed him at Megiddo, as soon as he saw him. <sup>30</sup> And his servants carried him dead in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's place.

**Conclusion:** *Josiah was spared having to see Judah being led off into captivity. But was all of his obedience to the Book of the Law really worth it? After all, even after all the purging and cleansing and destroying of idols, Judah was still punished for their sins. Is this fair? **Allow answers.** The truth is that God's people are simply required to obey God because He has created us and saved us. If we obey God simply to get His blessings or so only good things happen to us, we have the wrong heart attitude. Josiah obeyed God because He truly feared God and loved God. Why do you obey God?*

*Think about that this week and we will continue our lessons next time.*



## WORLDVIEW BUILDER

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**Say:** Now, it's time to use what we have learned in God's Word this week to build our Christian minds. God has given us minds to think rightly and to believe the TRUTH. So, each week we will connect what we learn from God's Word to HOW we are to think about all of life!

**Draw the "Fear of God" pillar on the board.** We will be building on our "Fear of God" pillar today. To fear God is to love Him, honor and worship Him, and obey Him. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom!

So, what things did we learn about the FEAR OF GOD in II Kings 23? **Assist your students to think of the following truths (connect them to the pillar on the board):**

1. King Josiah feared the LORD.
2. King Josiah made a covenant with the LORD to follow His ways.
3. Because he feared God, Josiah destroyed all the idols in Judah.
4. Josiah restored the right worship of God!

*We have the choice to serve God and obey Him, or serve idols and end up destroying ourselves!*



## DEFEND THE FAITH

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**Say:** Now, it's time to build our "defenses" up. You and I must always be prepared to defend and protect our faith in Jesus Christ. Just remember what the apostle Peter said:

### **I Peter 3:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> ...Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...

*Let's get more PREPARED to give answers about the hope we have in Jesus Christ! Let me ask you a question and see how you do...*



### **Q: Do Christians always prosper?**

*There are people who teach that Christians will always prosper if they put their faith in Jesus. They will always have good health, plenty of money, and success in life. If that is true, how do we understand what happened to God's people AFTER they started following Him again? **Allow answers.***

**Make sure the children have these elements in their answer:**

**A: Christians enjoy spiritual blessings from the LORD. But we are not promised prosperity in this life. The LORD chooses whom He will bless with material and physical things. Our responsibility is to trust and obey God. Seeking after prosperity often leads to idolatry.**

**Say:** *Christians are to obey God's commands out of our love for Him, not to get blessings in return. God knows when we need success as well as when failure is good for us. Suffering is often necessary to make us more dependent on Him!*



## **SCRIPTURE MEMORY**

**Review the Scripture Memory verse (Psalm 19:7-8a) with the students.**

### **Psalm 19:7-8a (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart.

**Use any method to review the memory work with the students.**

**See if any student can say it from memory.**

**Close in prayer.**