

Investigating

God's Word...

YEAR FIVE

**II Kings 1-12,
II Chronicles 21-24,
Joel, Jonah**

Sunday School Curriculum

Spring Quarter

Lesson Sequence

Spring Quarter

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	II Kings 1-2
Week Two	II Kings 3
Week Three	II Kings 4:1-37
Week Four	II Kings 4:38-5:27
Week Five	II Kings 6
Week Six	II Kings 7:1-8:6
Week Seven	II Kings 8:7-24, II Chronicles 21
Week Eight	II Kings 8:25-9:29, II Chronicles 22:1-9
Week Nine	II Kings 9:30-10:31
Week Ten	II Kings 10:32-11:21, II Chronicles 22:10-23:21
Week Eleven	II Kings 12, II Chronicles 24
Week Twelve	Joel
Week Thirteen	Jonah
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Summer Quarter:	Acts 1-14



Lesson Ten

II Kings 10:32-11:21, II Chronicles 22:10-23:21

Overview

II Kings 10 ends with a reminder of one of Elisha's prophecies—Hazeal of Aram is taking away chunks of Israel's land. King Jehu of Israel also dies at the end of this chapter, reigning over God's people for twenty-eight years.

II Kings 11 takes us back to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Since Jehu eliminated King Ahaziah, there is now a void of leadership in Judah. Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, ascends to the throne on her own, seeking to kill all of her children and grandchildren. Thankfully, God uses unknown Jehosheba to rescue baby Joash from this murderous queen. Jehosheba even hides Joash from Athaliah for six years! In the seventh year, Jehoiada the priest steps in and puts Joash on the throne. He commands hundreds of soldiers to guard Joash, protecting him from Athaliah. Finally, Athaliah is put to death and the nation rejoices. As the boy-king Joash ascends the throne, Jehoiada makes sure that the king and the people renew the covenant with the LORD. The people are now also motivated to destroy the rest of the Baal worship that still existed in Judah.

II Chronicles 22:10-23:31 is a parallel passage to II Kings 11.

Preparation

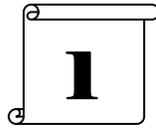
Read and meditate on II Kings 10-11 and II Chronicles 22-23 this week.

Teaching Encouragement

Here we have another story that most Christians have either never heard or won't remember. Jehosheba is clearly not a household name! Yet without Jehosheba saving Joash, there would be no birth of Jesus from the lineage of David. That's the main thing you want your children to remember about this story. The murder of Joash would have broken the Davidic line—and God's promise that a son of God would always be reigning in Israel. So this unknown woman accomplished a great thing for the people of God. That's how God works. Because He is so great, He can and does use small people to do great things. Thank the LORD for a woman named Jehosheba who followed God and allowed Jesus to be born!

Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Proverbs 22:17-18</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>Baby Moses</i>	5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Intervene</i>	5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>II Kings 10:32-11:21, II Chronicles 22:10-23:21</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Luke 2:10-11</i>	2-3 min.



Welcome

Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Proverbs 22:17-18.

¹⁷ Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, ¹⁸ for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips.

Say: *That's why we study God's Word, boys and girls! We want to have it in our hearts and always ready on our lips. This will only happen if we apply our hearts to what God teaches us in His Word. Are you ready to do that today?*



Drill Time

Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.

Today's questions: *When Moses was born, how long did his mother hide him in her house? What did she do when he was too old to hide? Who found baby Moses? Who suggested that Moses' mother nurse baby Moses? Why did Pharaoh's daughter name him Moses?*

Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.

Answers:

1. For three months.
2. She placed him in a papyrus basket and set him afloat in the Nile River.
3. Pharaoh's daughter.
4. Moses' sister, Miriam.
5. Because she "drew him out of the water."

Say: *The saving of this one baby was extremely significant for God's people, wasn't it? If Moses was killed as a baby, he would not have helped deliver the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. This saving of baby Moses was a huge event in the Kingdom of God!*

The answers to today's Drill Time questions come from **Exodus 2**.



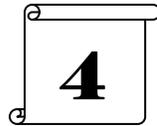
W.O.W!

Our *W.O.W!* (Word of the Week) this week is **INTERVENE**. Write it on the board. Does anyone know what this word means? Allow discussion.

To **INTERVENE** is to “come in between.” There are many ways to come in between, or **INTERVENE**. Maybe two of your friends are having a fight. You decide to **INTERVENE** so that they will stop fighting and be at peace again. You **INTERVENED** to stop a bad situation.

All sorts of people make it their job to **INTERVENE**. Firefighters **INTERVENE** to rescue people from burning buildings. Police officers **INTERVENE** to protect people from criminals. Your parents even **INTERVENE** in your life to prevent you from doing harm to yourself (or from being harmed by someone else).

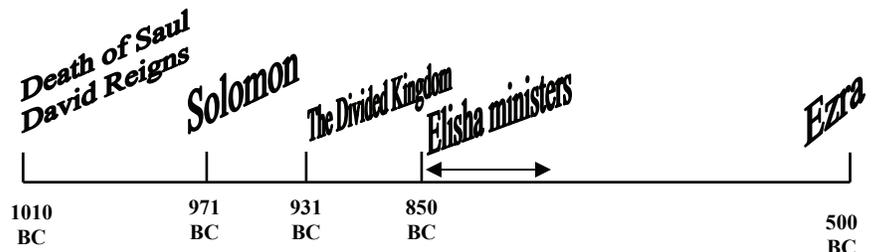
You won't see this Word of the Week in our reading today, but we will see someone **INTERVENE** to save the life of an important child. Moses had to have someone **INTERVENE** for him, or he would have been killed, right? Watch for someone to be saved just like baby Moses was...



Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board. Remember that the students need to understand God's Word in its historical context.

When events in II Kings 1-12; II Chronicles 21-24 took place





Bible Investigation

Have your students open their Bibles to II Kings 10.

Introduction: *Last time, we finished reading about King Jehu's SLAUGHTER of all of evil King Ahab's family. He even went so far as to wipe out the priests of Baal too. Jehu may have gone too far, but God did use him to AVENGE all of the evil that Ahab had brought into Israel and Judah. Now, we will finish the last few verses of II Kings 10.*

Let's read. Read II Kings 10:32-33.

³²In those days the LORD began to reduce the size of Israel. Hazael overpowered the Israelites throughout their territory ³³east of the Jordan in all the land of Gilead (the region of Gad, Reuben and Manasseh), from Aroer by the Arnon Gorge through Gilead to Bashan.

Discussion: *Do you remember Hazael? Elisha prophesied that he would become king of Aram and then wipe out much of Israel. So God's promise is coming true! Israel's land, the glorious promised land, is greatly decreasing. Why is God using Hazael to take away Israel's land? [Because of Israel's sins of idolatry. They are reaping God's covenantal curses.] This is very sad, isn't it?*

Application: *When we continue in sin against the LORD, there are consequences in our lives too. No, we may not lose our land, but we will lose other blessings of the LORD! Turning our backs on God and worshipping idols will bring God's discipline in our lives, just as it did for Israel.*

Let's finish this chapter. Read verses 34-36.

³⁴As for the other events of Jehu's reign, all he did, and all his achievements, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? ³⁵Jehu rested with his fathers and was buried in Samaria. And Jehoahaz his son succeeded him as king. ³⁶The time that Jehu reigned over Israel in Samaria was twenty-eight years.

Discussion: *As we already said, King Jehu of Israel was used by God to wipe out all of Ahab's family and Baal worship. Jehu still worshipped Jeroboam's idols, which meant he didn't follow God's laws with all of his heart. Now, we switch back to what is going on in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Now that Ahaziah is dead, who will be the next king in Jerusalem?*

Let's see. Read II Kings 11:1.

¹When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she proceeded to destroy the whole royal family.

Discussion: *We first read of Athaliah in II Kings 8. She is a daughter of Ahab and was the wife of Jehoram. Remember King Jehoram? He was so evil that he killed all of his brothers. As we are reminded here, Athaliah and Jehoram's son was Ahaziah, the same Ahaziah that Jehu killed because of his connection to Ahab. So evil Athaliah goes on a killing rampage too. What will happen to the light in Jerusalem? God promised that a son of David would continue to reign in Judah. This promise won't come true if Athaliah kills all the royal sons!*

Let's keep reading. Read verses 2-3.

²But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Jehoram and sister of Ahaziah, took Joash son of Ahaziah and stole him away from among the royal princes, who were about to be murdered. She put him and his nurse in a bedroom to hide him from Athaliah; so he was not killed. ³He remained hidden with his nurse at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land.

Discussion: *How did Jehosheba INTERVENE in this horrible situation? [She hid Joash from Athaliah for six years.] Sounds sort of like what happened to Moses, doesn't it? But Jehosheba had to keep this child hidden for six whole years. Wow! So have you ever heard the name JEHOSHEBA before? Probably not. This seemingly insignificant daughter of King Jehoram INTERVENED and saved Joash from certain death.*

Application: *It is easy for us to think that one person doesn't make a difference in the Kingdom of God. Wrong! God uses everyday people to do important things in His Kingdom. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, God will also use you in this world to accomplish His purposes. Jehosheba INTERVENED in a very important way, as we will discuss later on.*

Now, let's keep reading. Read verses 4-8.

⁴In the seventh year Jehoiada sent for the commanders of units of a hundred, the Carites and the guards and had them brought to him at the temple of the LORD. He made a covenant with them and put them under oath at the temple of the LORD. Then he showed them the king's son. ⁵He commanded them, saying, "This is what you are to do: You who are in the three companies that are going on duty on the Sabbath—a third of you guarding the royal palace, ⁶a third at the Sur Gate, and a third at the gate behind the guard, who take turns guarding the temple—⁷and you who are in the other two

companies that normally go off Sabbath duty are all to guard the temple for the king. ⁸ Station yourselves around the king, each man with his weapon in his hand. Anyone who approaches your ranks must be put to death. Stay close to the king wherever he goes.”

Discussion: *Now Jehoida, the priest of God, takes charge. He too is INTERVENING to make sure Joash actually becomes the next king of Judah. What does he have these three groups of soldiers do? [They are to station themselves around the king to protect him.] That’s a lot of bodyguards! Anyone who approached the child-king will be killed.*

Let’s read on. Read verses 9-12.

⁹ The commanders of units of a hundred did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each one took his men—those who were going on duty on the Sabbath and those who were going off duty—and came to Jehoiada the priest. ¹⁰ Then he gave the commanders the spears and shields that had belonged to King David and that were in the temple of the LORD. ¹¹ The guards, each with his weapon in his hand, stationed themselves around the king—near the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the temple. ¹² Jehoiada brought out the king’s son and put the crown on him; he presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him, and the people clapped their hands and shouted, “Long live the king!”

Discussion: *Did the soldiers do as Jehoiada commanded? [Yes.] So now Jehoiada unveils King Joash to all the people. What did Jehoiada give to King Joash? [A copy of the covenant.] That is the book of the covenant that was presented to Joash. It contained all of the law of God, as well as the blessings and cursings that God proclaimed to Moses and Israel. It was God’s Word! What in the world will Athaliah do now?*

Let’s see. Read verses 13-14.

¹³ When Athaliah heard the noise made by the guards and the people, she went to the people at the temple of the LORD. ¹⁴ She looked and there was the king, standing by the pillar, as the custom was. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets. Then Athaliah tore her robes and called out, “Treason! Treason!”

Discussion: *What is TREASON? [The attempt to overthrow a ruler.] Athaliah had made herself queen of Judah, yet God saved Joash, a son of David, so that he could reign over Judah. So was this really treason? [No!] Athaliah was just angry that she hadn’t been able to kill Joash too.*

Let's continue. Read verses 15-16.

¹⁵ Jehoiada the priest ordered the commanders of units of a hundred, who were in charge of the troops: "Bring her out between the ranks and put to the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "She must not be put to death in the temple of the LORD." ¹⁶ So they seized her as she reached the place where the horses enter the palace grounds, and there she was put to death.

Discussion: *That's great news, isn't it? Evil Athaliah is no more. Now Joash will be safe. But will he follow God, or will he be like his father and grandmother?*

Let's read more. Read verses 17-18.

¹⁷ Jehoiada then made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people that they would be the LORD's people. He also made a covenant between the king and the people. ¹⁸ All the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols to pieces and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. Then Jehoiada the priest posted guards at the temple of the LORD.

Discussion: *Jehoiada is not only a priest of God, but also Joash's chief advisor. So Jehoiada makes a covenant renewal with the people after all these years of evil kings. It was time to now turn back to God. The boy king also made a covenant to follow God. What was the proof that the people were now willing to follow the LORD again? [The destruction of the temple of Baal and all of the idols.]*

Application: *When we commit ourselves to God, we also must destroy the idols of our heart—like greed, pride, covetousness, etc. We need God to change us in order to do that!*

Let's finish our reading for today. Read verses 19-21.

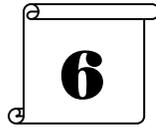
¹⁹ He took with him the commanders of hundreds, the Carites, the guards and all the people of the land, and together they brought the king down from the temple of the LORD and went into the palace, entering by way of the gate of the guards. The king then took his place on the royal throne, ²⁰ and all the people of the land rejoiced. And the city was quiet, because Athaliah had been slain with the sword at the palace. ²¹ Joash was seven years old when he began to reign.

Discussion: *Wow! Can you imagine being seven years old and being king of a nation? Notice how the people rejoiced and the city was peaceful again. Wicked Athaliah had been vanquished and a son of David was on the throne again.*

Conclusion: *But don't miss the most important point of this true story (I said we would come back to it!). If Joash had been killed, then the line of David's sons would have ended. Do you realize what that means? If Joash had been killed, **Jesus, a son of David, would not have been born!** An insignificant woman named Jehosheba was used by God to not only save Joash but to ensure that Jesus would be born as a son of David.*

So what if God hadn't used Jehosheba to INTERVENE and Jesus was never born? You and I wouldn't be here today talking about the LORD. And, we would have no opportunity to go to heaven if Jesus had not been born. So you see how this is not just some interesting story. It is a vital part of YOUR history. The rescue of Joash meant the preserving of the lamp in Jerusalem as well as the coming of the Light of the World—Jesus.

And, since Jesus was born, He too INTERVENED to save His people from sin and death. Praise God for Jehosheba, Joash, and Jesus!



Lesson-At-Home

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Luke 2:10-11) together.

Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Say: *Because God saved Joash through Jehosheba, we have the birth of Jesus. As the angel said, this is good news of great joy! Jesus is born!*

Repeat the verses a couple of times.

Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.