

**Focus passage: 2 Chronicles 34:1-7, 14-21**

**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.

**14** While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiyah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given through Moses. **15** Then Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan. **16** Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. **17** They have emptied out the money that was found in the house of the Lord and have given it into the hand of the overseers and the workmen." **18** Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it before the king. **19** And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes. **20** And the king commanded Hilkiyah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, **21** "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book."

*What stands out to you from this passage?*

*What do you think it would have been like for Josiah, at such a young age, to stand against all the false idols of his land?*

*Have you ever lost track of something even though of it was of great value? How did that happen? If you then found it again, what was your reaction to seeing it?*

*How do you think God's people lost track of what was supposed to be so central to all of their life--the Book of the Law? What had been the result of its neglect?*

*Go back and read **Psalm 1** for a look at how we ought to treat God's word. Rather than looking to God, what are temptations (v1)? What is a result of delighting in the law?*

*Even though it appeared that Josiah was doing well as king, what is his reaction to discovering the Book of the Law?*

*What are steps we can take to make sure God's Word does not lose its proper place in our own lives? What do you think would be the result of that?*

*How can you apply this Scripture to your life?*

