
GOD AWAKENS

SERIES: ONE TRUE GOD

Join us throughout the month of January as we hear stories that show that God is the ONE TRUE GOD! We will be reading from the books of 1 & 2 Kings and Daniel!

REMEMBER VERSE

LUKE 4:8—Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

SCHEDULE

All Services

0:00—0:35	Small Group (Respond Activity/Lesson)
0:35—0:40	Transition to Large Group
0:40—1:00	Large Group (B100)
1:00—1:05	Transition to Small Group
1:05—1:15	Bless and Dismiss

NOTES

LEADER RESOURCES

SERIES OVERVIEW

WEEK 1: God Is the One and Only

King Ahab and Elijah

CURRENT WEEK: God Awakens

King Josiah

WEEK 3: God Rescues

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

EQUIP

When Josiah heard the Book of the Covenant read aloud, God awakened Josiah's heart to mourn for the fact that God's people had neglected Him. God also awakened Josiah's heart to renew the covenant, cleanse the nation of idolatry, and celebrate a nationwide Passover (2 Kings 23:1–3).

Josiah led a nationwide renewal by destroying the articles of pagan worship scattered around the nation. In 2 Kings 23, we read that God led Josiah to remove things made for false gods, animals dedicated to false gods, and pagan priests serving in the high places, among many other things. We also read that Josiah desecrated Topheth, which means "place of fire"—a worship site where children were sacrificed to the god, Molech.

Throughout the chapter, we read that Josiah removed, desecrated, and destroyed seemingly every idol, altar, and place of pagan worship, including the places King Solomon had built for the false gods Ashtoreth and Chemosh as well as Molech.

Josiah was so thorough in his cleansing process that he "covered the sites [of ruined relics, etc.] with human bones" (v. 14). By doing this, he made sure the area would never again be used for idol worship because no Jew would want to become ceremonially unclean by coming into contact with the bones of dead people (Numbers 19:16). After this, Josiah took his crusade into Bethel, in Samaria, which had once taken over the nation of Israel.

After what must have been a grueling process, Josiah ordered the people to "celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant" (2 Kings 23:21). Passover reminded the Israelites of their deliverance and God's covenant relationship with them, which they'd sealed at Mount Sinai. At this Passover, Israelites from both sides of the divided kingdom came together.

ENCOURAGE

It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us His Word and prepares our hearts to be awakened by it. It is the Holy Spirit who leads us to want to obey Him. This week, ask God to prepare your heart to receive His Word, to teach you through it, and to inspire you to respond. Ask God to awaken you to what He wants to show you. Then open your Bible and read Ephesians 5:8–16.

How is God speaking to you through these verses? How does this make you want to obey Him? What needs to be done for you to make "the most of every opportunity" (v. 16) in your church, home, town, community, or neighborhood? Ask God to show you how to respond to His Word. Ask Him to awaken in your heart a desire to obey Him and to grow in close relationship with Him.

WELCOME

Some fun ideas to welcome kids as they check-in to your room at the beginning of service.

Invite the kids to color on the provided coloring page or work on the provided activity page.

As kids arrive, feel free to ask them this week's Connect Question. Feel free to write the question on the board and encourage some fun dialogue before you start your lesson.

QUESTION: What would you do if you found a lost treasure?

RESPOND

A chance for kids to respond to what God is putting on their hearts through creative expression.

When we choose to trust in Jesus, we're saved from our sins, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us, and we enter into a relationship with God. The Holy Spirit inside us helps us to obey God's commands. God desires for us to obey Him because we love Him and want to please Him.

INSTRUCTIONS: Hand each child a Scroll Template. Instruct them to color the box with the verse. Then, have them cut out the shape on the dotted line. For an added effect, to make the paper appear older, you can encourage them to crinkle it up before the next step. Now, using pencils, craft sticks, real sticks, pipe cleaners, or another item, have them glue or tape one of the items that they've chosen (pencil, stick, etc.) to each side. Have them roll the paper over the pencils (or otherwise) until they come together in the center, creating a scroll.

SUPPLIES:

- Scroll Template
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Two pencils (or two of the other suggested options: craft sticks, real sticks, pipe cleaners, etc.)

REFLECT

A chance to reflect on what kids have just learned about The Big God Story.

When we're in relationship with God, he awakens us to obey His laws. He doesn't leave us to obey Him on our own! When God awakened Josiah's heart, the king may have felt like a light turned on.

- How old was King Josiah when he became king? *2 Kings 22:1*
- What had happened to the Book of the Covenant? *2 Kings 22:8*
- How did Josiah respond when he heard God's Word? *2 Kings 22:11*
- Why did Josiah destroy everything related to false worship? *2 Kings 23:1-15*
- When Josiah read God's Word to the people, how did they respond? *2 Kings 23:3*
- Has God ever awakened you through His Word? If so, how did you respond to Him?

BLESS

A powerful way to bless the kids and parents by sending them off with a benediction.

INSTRUCTIONS: Invite the parents into your room at the end of the service to say one last prayer together with the whole family. Instruct them to find their child and sit/stand by their side. Explain what their child learned today and read the verse below. Pray together and then dismiss.

EPHESIANS 5:13-16 – But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

BLESSING: May Christ's light shine on you so that you can see how God desires for you to live. May you obey Him and follow Him each day.

NOTES

This script serves as an outline of what your storytelling might sound like. Items written in italics are cues for the storyteller and are not meant to be read out loud. You are fully encouraged to make it your own and add a personal touch.

The script serves as an example, however if you would like to teach based on the script and are in need of any supplies mentioned, we would be happy to supply those for you! Storytelling images mentioned will always be provided in your basket each week, but if you need any other supplies for your lesson, contact a Grove KIDS Staff member beforehand so we can supply it for you! You are also welcome to bring in your own props if you would like!

RESOURCES PROVIDED:

- None

STORYTELLING

When you guys get up in the morning, you're awakened by something right? Maybe your alarm clock or your mom or dad. What does "awaken" mean? *Invite responses.* Right, it means to wake someone up. How many of you are awake right now? *Invite kids to raise hands.* All of you! When we sleep, we don't know what's going on in the world outside of our minds. Sleep is good for us, but life happens when we're awake. And sometimes, when God reveals Himself to us, it feels like waking up!

In The Big God Story, the Israelites sometimes stopped obeying God. It was sort of like their hearts fell asleep and they stopped paying attention to what God was calling them to do. King David loved God with his whole heart and led Israel to worship God, but the evil kings who came after David led the people to disobey God's commands and forget about His laws. The people started worshipping false gods and built altars to them instead of worshipping the one true God! So, God raised up a king to remind the people of His laws. Why? Because God awakens us to His Word so we can obey Him and be in relationship with Him.

This king, named Josiah, was only eight years old when he first became king. Just eight! Raise your hand if you're eight years old, or close to it. *Invite kids to raise hands.* That's crazy right? Can you imagine ruling an entire kingdom when you're not even in fifth grade yet? But Josiah was a good king and did the right things in God's eyes.

King Josiah sought after God and in his eighteenth year as king, he gave orders to have the temple repaired. The temple was where God's people went to worship Him, but it was worn down after many years of no one taking care of the building. As the high priest handled the repairs and cleaning, he found something that the Israelites had forgotten about: the Book of the Covenant, which contained God's laws. At that time, the people didn't have copies of God's Word like we have today. They kept God's Word, the Book of the Covenant, in the temple, where it had been forgotten for years.

The high priest sent the Book of the Covenant over to King Josiah. When Josiah heard God's Word, God awakened Josiah to who God is and what God desired for the Israelites. Josiah became very sad when he read God's Word, because he knew that the people had

disobeyed God's laws. *Invite kids to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 22:13 and follow along as you read.* God awakened Josiah to the truth that the one true God wanted His people to obey Him and stop worshipping false gods. God desired for the Israelites to follow Him!

Just as God awakened Josiah, God also awakened the people of Israel. *Read 2 Kings 23:3.* That day, King Josiah renewed the covenant that God's people had made with God many years ago. With this covenant, the Israelites had promised to follow God and keep all of His commands. How did the people respond when Josiah renewed this covenant? *Invite responses.* Yes, they promised to keep the covenant too. They promised to obey God's commands and follow after Him.

Once God awakened the Israelites, King Josiah led them to get rid of everything having to do with worshipping false gods. Josiah removed and destroyed statues, altars, and other things used to worship false gods. Why did all of these changes happen in Israel? God awakened the Israelites to obey His Word and live in relationship with Him.

After God awakened the Israelites to Him, the people celebrated the Passover feast. What is Passover? *Pause for responses.* Passover is the holiday that God set up for His people to remember and celebrate how He had freed them from the Egyptians. *Read vv. 21-23 while everyone follows along.* The Passover hadn't been celebrated for hundreds of years, but now King Josiah ordered everyone to celebrate it! The Israelites did this because why? Because God awakens!

Just as God awakened His people in the days of King Josiah, God awakens us today! When we hear God's Word, the Holy Spirit speaks to us through it. In this way, God "wakes us up" to His laws so we can obey Him and be in right relationship with Him. God loves us, pursues us, and awakens us to Him.