

## Josiah: Never Too Young

by Deaconess Faith Swenson

*Josiah was eight years old when he became king. He ruled in Jerusalem for 31 years. His mother's name was Jedidah. She was the daughter of Adaiah. She was from Bozkath. Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He lived the way King David had lived. He didn't turn away from it to the right or the left.*

—2 Kings 22:1-2 NIV

When Kate was 12 years old, she was asked to play the piano for a really large crowd of people. Her friends and relatives thought she was too young to play in front of thousands of people. Kate believed her family and became very scared.

- Have you ever been told you can't do something?
- If so, were you told you couldn't do something because of your age, or was it for some other reason?
- How does it feel when you are told you can't do something?

In today's Bible passage, we learn about a king named Josiah. Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. Can you imagine being in charge of thousands of people when you were only eight years old?!

- Do you think Josiah was scared to rule his people?
- Do you think people were worried to have such a young leader?

Even though Josiah was young, he stepped up to the challenge and became the king of Jerusalem.

- What do you do when you think you can't do something?
- Do you still try? Or do you give up?
- Give an example of a time you tried to do something hard.

Josiah stepped up to the challenge and succeeded! (Reread the Bible verse.) The Bible verse said Josiah was a good king like the famous King David. Josiah did what God saw as right. There were many kings who were much older than Josiah who did not do what was right. But, Josiah trusted God and His Word, and God helped him be a great King.

Let's go back to our story about Kate the piano player. Kate was scared to play piano in front of so many people. Instead of running away from the challenge, Kate asked her parents to help by encouraging her, instead of warning her about the huge crowd. So her family encouraged her. Kate practiced really hard for months to prepare, and her piano performance was a success.

- How do you think Kate felt about her piano concert?

In the Bible, Jesus also had something really hard to do. Jesus had to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Death is scary; but Jesus prayed and trusted in God. Jesus died and rose from death so we can be forgiven and live in heaven one day.

### Prayer

Dear God,

Sometimes I am very scared when I have to do something hard.

Help me face the challenge!

Thank You for sending Jesus to do something really hard for us.

Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross to save us from our sins.

In His name we pray. Amen.

