

Family Lesson 41

Principle: Leadership and humility.

Bible Character(s): King Hezekiah,
King Josiah

Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 18-20, 22-23

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

What do you know about being a leader? Do you have to be a king to be a leader?

Are kings and queens the only leaders? (No, a leader can be anyone who shows or tells others how to do right. Your actions and words can be an example to others.) **Do you think that you can be a leader? You are a leader every day. If you have younger brothers or sisters, you lead by example. When you misbehave, your brother or sister might copy what you are doing and misbehave as well. This is an example of bad leadership. You can also be a leader around your friends. You can lead by acting the way you know God wants you to act. You can decide to include a new friend in a game. This is being a good leader. All of you are leaders to someone in some way.**

Today we're going to look at what it means to be a good leader by reading about King Hezekiah and King Josiah.

Keys of Leadership

The purpose is to examine the characteristics of good leadership.

Supplies:

[Set of leadership keys](#) per child (found on the Kids Resource Page.)

Binder ring, zip tie, or paper clip (1 per child)

Hole punch

Give your child a set of leadership keys and a binder ring, zip tie, or paper clip. Have them cut out each of their keys (they can cut closely along the line or just cut in a straight line to make a rectangle – whatever is easiest). Have them punch holes in the key where the hole is marked. Explain to them that as you read through the Scripture and talk about each leadership characteristic, they will put the corresponding key on the binder ring or string it onto the zip tie.

Leadership characteristics:

1. Cling to the Lord. Always follow him.
2. Pray in times of trouble and triumph.
3. Give all the glory to God; do not look for glory or praise for yourself. Be humble.
4. Do right in God's sight. Do not turn from doing what is right.
5. Value God's Word and obey it.

Let's begin reading the Bible in 2 Kings 18 [NLT].

2 Kings 18:1-7

Hezekiah son of Ahaz began to rule over Judah in the third year of King Hoshea's reign in Israel. ... ³ He did what was pleasing in the Lord's sight, just as his ancestor David had done. ⁴ He removed the pagan shrines, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke up the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices to it...

⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before or after his time. ⁶ He remained faithful to the Lord in everything,

and he carefully obeyed all the commands the Lord had given Moses. ⁷ So the Lord was with him, and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did.

While Hezekiah is king, what does he do when he goes through hard times? (Allow responses.) He trusts God and never stops following him.

(1) We can add that key – “Cling to the Lord. Always follow Him” – to our key rings.

Let’s read more in the Bible and take a look at one of those hard times in 2 Kings 19. The Assyrians send a threatening letter to Hezekiah. They are planning to attack the Israelites.

2 Kings 19:15-19

¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the Lord: “O Lord, God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth. ¹⁶ Bend down, O Lord, and listen! Open your eyes, O Lord, and see! Listen to Sennacherib’s words of defiance against the living God...

¹⁹ Now, O Lord our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you alone, O Lord, are God.”

What leadership keys can we find in this passage? (Allow responses.)

(2) Pray in times of trouble and triumph (or pray in good times and hard times).

(3) Give all the glory to God; do not look for glory or praise for yourself. Be humble.

Let’s add those to our key ring.

When Hezekiah prays, he is not looking for glory for himself. Does he want to win the battle with the Assyrians so that he can be the greatest king ever? (Allow responses) No. Why does he want to win? (Allow responses.) He wants to win so that “all the kingdoms on earth will know that you alone, O Lord, are God.” Hezekiah wants all the glory to go to God. He is humble and does

not brag about the things he is accomplishing for God. He knows it is only through God’s power that Israel can win. God defeats the Assyrians by killing 185,000 of them during the night. God hears the prayer of Hezekiah and is faithful to the children of Israel.

After Hezekiah’s death, there are two kings who once again do evil in the sight of the Lord. Then Josiah becomes king. Let’s read the Bible and take a look.

2 Kings 22:1-2

Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years... ² He did what was pleasing in the Lord’s sight and followed the example of his ancestor David. He did not turn away from doing what was right.

Can you pick out the leadership key from that passage? (Allow responses.) It says that Josiah “did what was pleasing in the Lord’s sight... He did not turn away from doing what was right.”

(4) Do right in God’s sight. Do not turn from doing what is right.

How old is Josiah when he becomes king? (Eight years old! He was about the same age as all of you!) How would it make you feel if you became the leader of a nation right now? (Allow responses.) Josiah tells his men to rebuild the temple. As they begin, they find the Scroll of the Law, or the first five books of the Bible (called the Torah). This book may have been lost, set aside, or hidden during the wicked reigns of the two evil kings before Josiah. When Josiah finds out about these scrolls, he wants to know how God wants him to live.

(5) He valued God’s Word and obeyed it. We can add our last label to our keychain.

God hears the cries of Josiah and responds with mercy towards him. Let’s read more in the Bible.

2 Kings 22:19

¹⁹ You were sorry and humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I said against

this city and its people—that this land would be cursed and become desolate. You tore your clothing in despair and wept before me in repentance. And I have indeed heard you, says the Lord.

Hezekiah and Josiah both submit to God’s authority. In verse 19, God says that Josiah, a king, humbles himself before the Lord. He submits to God. He wants God to receive all the glory. He does not want to be praised for any of this.

Hezekiah and Josiah are two good examples of leaders. God wants us to be good leaders as well. Each one of you is a leader. You can use these keys to help you be a good leader, someone who brings glory to God through their leadership. Both of these kings knew what kind of leadership example they should set, and they knew who their true King was (God). We need to look to God as our King and as a perfect example of leadership.

We have learned that we cannot be kings, but we can all be leaders. We can do this by looking to God to guide us and by remembering the keys of leadership. God is our perfect example of a leader; he is our King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Hezekiah and Josiah showed us great examples of how to be a leader, but God shows us the best way we can be leaders. (Read the verses below and remind your child that God is our perfect example of leadership.)

Revelation 19:16

On his robe at his thigh was written this title: King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

I Timothy 6:15

For at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for providing us with a perfect leader to follow in Jesus, and ask God to help each of us be the leader he wants us to be.

Activity

I can be a leader!

The purpose is to examine how the children can each be a leader.

Supplies:

[Worksheet](#) – “I Can Be a Leader!” (Found on the Kids Resource Page.)

Markers/pens

As a family, brainstorm ways kids can be leaders. **Where can you be a leader?** (At school, home, on a sports team, at church, in Big Group, in your cabin, on a field trip, etc.) **How can you be a leader in these places?** (Listen to mom and dad right away, clean up toys without being asked, do chores cheerfully, obey class rules, help a friend, participate in Big Group worship, listen in class and ask questions, listen when a friend is talking, etc.) Have them list some people who are leaders for them and the leadership characteristics they see in these people.

God wants each of us to be a leader. He surrounds us with people we can lead and others who can lead us. All of our actions and behaviors are seen by the people around us. Our brothers and sisters might imitate our behavior and repeat what we do and say. We can be good leaders by modeling the way that God wants us to live. Jesus is our greatest example of how to be a leader. He followed God, prayed, never turned from doing right, obeyed God’s commands, and always gave God the glory. Jesus loved those around him and wanted them to come to know God. We can be like Jesus in leading others towards God.

