

# LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE KID KING

## WHAT 8-YEAR-OLD JOSIAH CAN TEACH US IN A POST-CHRISTIAN CULTURE

### Lesson 1—Persona: Being the King's Kid

- Rationale
  - Studying King Josiah to learn leadership principles for a post-Christian culture
- Romans 15:4
  - For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.
- Josiah
  - 1 of 8 godly kings out of Judah's 20 rulers
- 2 Chronicles 34:1-2
  - Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.
- Persona
  - People's perception of your character (identity, image, or public face)
- Josiah's persona
  - Like ancestor David, not grandfather Manasseh or father Amon
- Leaders & persona
  - It's not about your family; it's about Jesus
- Christian leaders are the King's Kids
- 1 Peter 2:9
  - But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- Born & situational leaders (Tim Elmore)
  - 10-15% are born leaders; 85-90% are situational leaders
- Leadership defined (Peter Northouse)
  - A process by which a person influences others to reach a common goal
- Dr. Sean McDowell's student
- Post-Christian culture—not dominated by a Christian worldview
- Example of a post-Christian culture
  - 89% of US teenagers talk about pornography in a "neutral, accepting, or encouraging way" (Barna)
- Dr. Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries
  - Leaders are ordinary people with ordinary talents put into leadership situations to make an impact on the world for Jesus.

## Lesson 2—Pattern: Imitating Jesus

- Josiah's pattern: King David  
1 of 4 kings compared to David
- 2 Chronicles 34:1-2  
Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.
- Why David? Attitude and action
- Acts 13:22  
"[God] testified concerning him: 'I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"
- 2 Samuel 9:3  
And the king (David) said, "Is there not still someone of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God to him?"
- Pattern: Disciples copying their rabbi  
Jewish proverb: "Follow a rabbi, drink in his words, and be covered with the dust of his feet."
- Luke 6:40  
"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."
- Mark 9:35  
Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."
- Philippians 2:5-7  
Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
- Servant leadership (Peter Northouse)  
Placing the good of followers over a leader's self-interest and emphasizing follower development
- Generation Z (1999-2015--Barna)  
13% are atheists (6% among all adults)
- Generation Z's reasons for atheism  
Hypocrisy; suffering; science "refuting" God
- Jordan Whitmer's HowToLife Movement  
Reaching lost in Gen Z with other students' drama, testimonies, prayer, and worship, addressing need for personal connection to Christ and other believers in a disconnected digital age
- Dr. Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries  
A leader is a person who views the world from God's perspective...and who strategically plans to serve others.

## Lesson 3—Prudence: Seeking God

- 2 Chronicles 34:3  
In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David.
- Seeking God  
Inquire, require, or seek
- Prudence  
Wisdom in the management of affairs
- Prudence & knowledge (Peter Northouse)  
Knowledge is inextricably linked to...problem-solving skills in organizations...it allows people to use prior cases and incidents in order to plan for needed change. It is knowledge that allows people to use the past to constructively confront the future.
- What are you downloading?  
Take inventory of reading, listening, watching, discussions; all 168 hours of week
- Moral relativism  
Each person decides right and wrong
- Cultural relativism  
Each culture decides right and wrong
- Romans 12:2  
Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Moral absolutism  
God declares what is right and wrong
- Proverbs  
For skill in living according to God's design
- Proverbs 1:1-3  
The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair...
- Leaders with prudence seek God  
Read a chapter of Proverbs every day for a month (31 chapters)
- Post-Christian culture and life issues  
Post-birth abortion & child killing
- Dr. Jeff Myers, Summit Ministries  
The more responsibility you are willing to take for the lives of others, the more of a leader you will be.