The Authority of the Word of God

**Anchor command.** “Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.” James 1:22

**Anchor promise:** “Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man. Matthew 7:24-25

**Anchor story.** King Josiah’s obedience to God’s Word, 2 Chronicles 34

**Anchor verse.** “Josiah … made all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the LORD.”2 Chron. 34:33

**Learning goals**. Respect, honour and obey God’s holy Word.

**Growth goals**. Read and meditate on God’s word daily, including with one’s family.
Gain a profound appreciation for the infinite value of Scripture.
Find how joyful learning God’s word can be.

**Skill goal.** Become able to teach and apply God’s word skilfully.

**Outcome goal.** All believers in one’s church come to love and obey God’s word.

**Basic Study**

1. **Learn from** Josiah how to respond to God’s Word.
2. **Prayer**: “Holy Spirit, illuminate our minds to learn and obey your Word with all our hearts. Help us make it clear to others, so they can share in our joy.”
3. **Read 2 Chronicles 34 and find in it**:
* How Josiah broke with some human religious traditions, in order to obey God.
(*Answer*: See verses 3-7. Josiah rejected the people’s idols. We, too, must shepherd God’s flock in the way that God requires, not according to human traditions.)
* Find how hard Josiah’s people worked to find the Word of God.(*Answer*: See verses 8-15. The Word of God had been lost in the neglected temple.)
* Find the authority that God’s Word had for Josiah, and what he did.
(*Answer*: See verses 30-33. We receive God’s revelation with faith and obey it.)
* Find how Josiah sought God’s help as he studied the Scriptures.
(Answer: See v. 21-28. The Holy Spirit dwells in us believers and guides us into truth, [John 16:13](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2016.13). We ask Him to illuminate us as we study God’s Word, [Eph. 1:15-18](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph.%201.15-18).)
1. **Plan with coworkers activities to do during the week.**
* With your co-workers, help families to study the Word of God carefully during the week.
* Find how you can support translation and literacy in your area.
* Announce to the believers what you and they will be doing during the week.

*
King Josiah listens to the Law of the LORD*

5. **Plan with coworkers the upcoming worship time**.

* Praise God for the truth revealed in His Word.
* Ask for testimonies and reports of how the Holy Spirit used the Bible last week to help people find joy and holiness.
* Prepare helpers to tell or act out the story of King Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34.
* Ask all to listen to find how the God’s Word changed the lives of the Israelites.
* After relating the story, ask the believers what they discovered.
* Have the children also present the story of King Josiah, from children’s study #25.
* To add some exciting drama, do the brief skit under #3, in the Advanced Study, below.
* To introduce the Lord supper, read 2 Chronicles 30, verses 5-6 and 25-27.
Explain: Before Jesus came, God’s people sacrificed a lamb and ate it to recall how God had saved them from slavery in Egypt. Now, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away our sins.
* Gather in groups of two or three. To pray, confirm plans, and encourage one another.

Advanced Study

**1. Main instruction**

Find in [Matthew 4:1-11](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matthew%204.1-11) how Jesus resisted Satan.

* In what three ways did Satan tempt Jesus?
* What did Jesus quote, to answer Satan after each temptation?
* Who came to care for Jesus after His temptation?
* You might want the group to memorize

**2. Background**

* The Holy Spirit inspired devout men to write God’s Word ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Timothy%203.16-17)). They wrote the Old Testament in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek:
* Hebrew is read from right to left:



* Greek is read left to right.



* You will understand a Bible passage better if you know:

**Who wrote it**, to whom and why.
**Where** and **when** the events happened.
**Who was speaking** in the passage?
**What it prepares us to do.**

You will also understand some parts of the Bible better, if you know the customs, history and geography of ancient Israel. Learn these in other *Paul-Timothy* shepherds and supplementary studies (see the P-T *User Menu)*.

**3. Dramatize** how the Holy Spirit uses God’s Word to illuminate our minds.
Two persons act out this brief skit, **Learner** and **Deceiver**.

Learner: Light a candle on a table, then look the other way.

Deceiver: Sneak up to the candle, blow it out, and lasts evenly.
Then say the following *(If you translate the demon’s poem, you do not need to preserve the rhyme)*:

You fools obey my Enemy! I will stop your bold sedition!

I will turn you from His Word, you will see, by teaching man’s tradition!

You mortals dare with Him to sup, whose cup delivers from hell’s fire?

I warn you, stop opposing or you will feel the sting of hell’s hot ire!”

Learner: Light the candle again and hold it over the Bible in front of Deceiver.

Deceiver: take that horrible light away! I can’t bear it!

Learner: Jesus said, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.” John 8:12

God’s Word is hidden from many people today, wherever no one has yet translated it correctly into their language. Many translators work hard to provide accurate translations.

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| *In Old Testament times, Jews copied their Scriptures by hand on scrolls that rolled up.* |  *In New Testament times, Christians started making books that they copied by hand.* |