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## **Bible Study**

2 Kings 22:1-23:7, 21-25

The Bible has transformed more lives than any book in the history of the world. It has shaped the course of Western civilization. Even amid rising secularism its indelible imprint remains. In 2 Kings 22-23:30 Josiah and the nation of Israel experienced the transforming power of the Word of God. For fifty-seven years prior to King Josiah's reign, the Book of the Law (the Scriptures) had been neglected. Spiritually, the nation of Israel was in shambles.

**1.** Imagine that all the Bibles on earth were destroyed one hundred years ago. How might your life be different than it is now?

**2.** Read 2 Kings 22. Why does King Josiah send his secretary, Shaphan, to the temple of the Lord (2 Kings 22:3-7)?

**3.** Why is it ironic that the Book of the Law is found during temple repairs (2 Kings 22:8-10)?

In what ways are we guilty of engaging in a flurry of religious activities while neglecting God's Word?

**4.** How does Josiah respond when he hears the words of the Book of the Law (2 Kings 22:11-13)?

**5.** How does Huldah's prophecy summarize the two attitudes we can have toward God's Word (2 Kings 22:14-20)?

What are the ultimate consequences of these attitudes?

**6.** Read 2 Kings 23:1-7. What do we learn in 2 Kings 23:1-3 about Josiah's commitment to the Scriptures?

**7.** Describe the condition of the temple before Josiah's reforms (2 Kings 23:4-7).

What does the condition of the temple reveal about what happens when we neglect God's Word?

**8.** How does Josiah's commitment to the Scriptures affect the nation of Judah (2 Kings 23:4-7)?

**9.** Read 2 Kings 23:21-25. Compare your attitude and obedience to God's Word with Josiah's.

**10.** If you had Josiah's commitment to Scripture, how might your life be different?

**11.** How can we allow God's Word to have a greater impact on our lives?

## Leader's Notes

Study 3. Bible Study (2 Kings 22:1-23:7, 21-25)

Bible Study.

2 Kings 22:1-23:7, 21-25.

*Purpose:* To realize the serious consequences of neglecting God's Word and the transforming effect it can have when studied and obeyed.

**Question 3.** The Book of the law was probably the book of Deuteronomy or a substantial portion of it. It was read twice in one day, and many of the reforms are closely related to material in Deuteronomy.

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If people don't know the meaning of *ironic*, tell them irony is a contrast between what might be expected and what actually occurs.

**Question 9.** In the book of Kings, Josiah and his great-grandfather Hezekiah are the only kings who receive God's unqualified approval.

**Question 10.** Encourage the group to give examples of how Scripture has made a significant impact on their lives and relationships. Positive and practical examples here will reinforce the teaching of the passage.

**Question 11.** You may want to suggest some resources for Bible study and memorization. IVP publishes a number of other study guides for individual and group use. For Scripture memory, you might recommend *Scripture Memory 101* (IVP) and the *Topical Memory System* (NavPress).