WETHERSFIELD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Sermon Transcript
March 15, 2020

God's One Story of Redemption
When the Word of God Meets a Willing Heart

2 Chronicles 34:1-21

This message from the Bible was addressed originally to the people of Wethersfield Evangelical Free Church on March 15, 2020 at 511 Maple Street, Wethersfield, CT, 06109 by David Rucquoi. This is a transcription that bears the strength and weaknesses of oral delivery. It is not meant to be a polished essay. An audio and video version of this sermon may also be found on the church website at www.wethefc.com

Sermon Text
2 Chronicles 34:1-21

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father; and he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. 3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek the God of David his father, and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, and the carved and the metal images. 4 And they chopped down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and he cut down the incense altars that stood above them. And he broke in pieces the Asherim and the carved and the metal images, and he made dust of them and scattered it over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 He also burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. 6 And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, and as far as Naphtali, in their ruins all around, 7 he broke down the altars and beat the Asherim and the images into powder and cut down all the incense altars throughout all the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

The Book of the Law Found
8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had cleansed the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God. 9 They came to Hilkiah the high priest and gave him the money that had been brought into the house of God, which the Levites, the keepers of the threshold, had collected from Manasseh and Ephraim and from all the remnant of Israel and from all Judah and Benjamin and from the inhabitants of Jerusalem.10 And they gave it to the workmen who were working in the house of the Lord. And the workmen who were working in the house of the Lord gave it for repairing and restoring the house. 11 They gave it to the carpenters and the builders to buy quarried stone, and timber for binders and beams for the buildings that the kings of Judah had let go to ruin. 12 And the men did the work faithfully. Over them were set Jahath and Obadiah the Levites, of the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to have oversight. The Levites, all who were skillful with instruments of music, 13 were over the burden-bearers and directed all who did work in every kind of service, and some of the Levites were scribes and officials and gatekeepers.

14 While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given through Moses. 15 Then Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the Lord." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. 16 Shaphan brought the book to the king, and further reported to the king, "All that was committed to your servants they are doing. 17 They have emptied out the money that was found in the house of the Lord and have given it into the hand of the overseers

and the workmen." [18] Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read from it before the king.

[19] And when the king heard the words of the Law, he tore his clothes. [20] And the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Abdon the son of Micah, Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, [21] "Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the Lord, to do according to all that is written in this book."

Introduction

Today we are looking at someone who could, arguably, be the greatest leader of all time: King Josiah. Considered the greatest Hebrew King, Scripture tells us that, "*Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him*" (2 Kings 23:25). And, when we look at the source of Josiah's impact, we will find that **when the Word of God meets a willing heart, wonderful things happen.**

When I was 16 I had a summer job in Maryland. Every week, on our day off, my friends and I would go to the ocean. It was a marvelous summer, and on our last day off, as I left the beach, I looked back for one last glimpse of that place where fond memories were created. I was looking at my footprints in the sand when a wave suddenly came up, and washed them away. In that instant, all evidence that I had ever been there was gone. This had a profound impact on me. Could it be that I made no corresponding, lasting impact to the place so indelibly etched in my heart? That was when I began to develop the notion that I did not want my life to be without impact; or, as Francis Schaeffer articulated in a college chapel, I wanted my life to have a significant impact on the course of history in whatever little corner of the world God placed me in. What we see in young Josiah's short life is that he left deep, lasting footprints across the path of history, showing us how to do the same.

If you're visiting today, we are engaged in a Bible study series that uses the unusual acronym "CASKET EMPTY." So far we have covered the "C" (which stands for Creation), the "A" (which stands for Abraham), the "S" (which stands for Sinai), and today will be our last message under "K" (which stands for Kings). We've learned that the children of Abraham, through civil war, had divided into two kingdoms. A Northern kingdom, called "Israel," and a Southern kingdom, called "Judah." This message covers a period of time between the fall of each kingdom, around 630 B.C..

One advantage of taking a broad overview of Scripture is that we notice recurring themes. This is true in Josiah's story, as his life highlights the priority of the Word of

God. The Psalmist captures this saying, "*How blessed is the man... who's delight is in the law of the LORD... which yields its fruit in its season*" (Psalm 1:1-3). Or, said another way, **when the Word of God meets a willing heart, wonderful things happen.**

Before Josiah

To appreciate Josiah's impact, we need to understand the point in history in which he arrived. Prior to Josiah, 19 kings governed Judah (from Saul through each Southern King), covering over 400 years. We can begin to fathom the scope of change that can evolve over 400 years by looking back 400 years before today (March 15, 2020), when English puritans were preparing to take a boat called "The Mayflower" to "The New World." Perhaps the most significant variable to 400 years of change in ancient Israel was that the majority of kings before Josiah "*did evil in the sight of the Lord,*" yielding historically deep layers of conformity with the surrounding cultures, and a continual alienation of the Hebrew's relationship with God.

Dr. Kaminsky, who wrote the Old Testament portion of our CASKET EMPTY study, tells us "We cannot understand the depth of God's mercy unless we begin to grasp the extent of Israel's sin". Similarly, we cannot appreciate what Josiah accomplished until we understand the depths he came from.

One of Josiah's distant ancestors was David, and he is portrayed as a good king; but, Josiah's grandfather was King Manasseh. One of the most evil kings, he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, set up idols in the house of God, sacrificed his own children, practiced witchcraft...we are told he "*misled Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the sons of Israel*" (2 Chron. 33:9). King Manasseh was conquered by the Assyrians, who brought him to Babylon in chains. He repented, and was returned to Jerusalem. Humbled, Manasseh tried to invoke reforms; but, to no avail. After Manasseh died, His son (Josiah's father, Amon) became king.

Amon was just a boy himself (16) when Josiah was born. He was 22 when he became king, more evil than his father, and so despicable that his servants murdered him (in his house) within two years of his taking the throne. The nation responded by killing all of those household servants. Then Josiah was anointed king, at 8-years of age, after an undoubtedly intimate perspective of these gruesome events.

The Northern Kingdom (Israel) had been annihilated, and the conquering army had recently and successfully invaded Jerusalem, capital of the Southern Kingdom. What was left of the Southern Kingdom was in civil war. The concept of the Jewish monarchy under God (as it was with David and Solomon) was long perceived as a historical myth, with the covenant out of memory of the leadership (and the people). Spiritual darkness was perpetuated by generations of witches, sorcerers, mediums and spiritists, and the

people who relied on them. The Temple was in shambles, filled with pagan idols and practices, and they had no copy of the Word of God to guide them.

If you have ever felt like life is hard, and couldn't get worse, I suspect that's the place where young Josiah was, as he bore not only the pain of his past, but also the weight of his responsibilities. And, yes, this paints a very bleak picture; but, **when the Word of God meets a willing heart, wonderful things happen.**

The Word of God

In Genesis 1, all of creation happens with three simple words, "*And God said…*" From then on communication from God plays a central role in history. God spoke with Adam and Eve in the garden. He spoke with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. We're told God spoke with Moses, like one would speak to a friend (Ex. 33). God carved out the 10 commandments in stone, teaching us to rely on the written word, and he followed this with the books of the law. God called out to young Samuel, another child-leader (1 Sam. 3) whom Josiah was later compared to (2 Chron. 35:18).

Throughout the CASKET EMPTY study, watch for these references of God speaking to people, as they reflect how He whispers to you and me today. The story of Josiah, from 2 Chronicles 34, is known for the finding of the Book of The Law during the renovation of the Temple. As we read, a young King Josiah was passionately pursuing reform and restoration of the Jewish Nation. He sent people to restore the Temple, which was in grave disrepair; and, during the renovation, a copy of the Book of Moses was found (historians speculate this was a portion - or all - of Deuteronomy).

I suspect some of this congregation can appreciate the excitement of finding something old in the walls of your home. The government website for Wethersfield shows that this town was founded around 1633 and "has its niche in history, being 'Ye Most Ancient Towne' in Connecticut," with over 150 colonial homes in a town founded more than 375 years ago. So I have to believe the excitement of finding treasures in a wall is not unfamiliar to this community. In my own town, Darien, one homeowner opened the walls of their historic home, and found a Civil War uniform stuffed around a window for insulation!

So we can appreciate the excitement when Hilkiah, the high priest, found the book of the law (2 Chron. 34:14). Hilkiah immediately turns to the scribe, Shaphan, and tells him, handing him the text (which was likely a scroll). Shaphan goes right to the king, tells him about the found book, and reads it to Josiah. We are told, "*when the king heard the words of the law that he tore his clothes*" (2 Chron. 34:19). This visible sign of dismay reflects Josiah's understanding of how far they had strayed from their commitment to God. And, indicative of Josiah's heart, his immediate reaction was to seek God's guidance for what must be done. Josiah then assembled the leadership of Judah and

Jerusalem, and all the people, informing them of the discovery, and reading the word to them. Together, with the remnant of the Northern Kingdom, they renewed their vows of covenant with the Lord (2 Chron. 34:29-ff). Their response shows a high priority toward the written Words of God.

I find a couple of interesting lessons from this story. First, they had this Scripture all along, they just didn't know it. It had been put somewhere for safe keeping; but, simply having possession of it meant nothing. Like a Family Bible in a glass case (that never gets read), having ink-stained paper in your home does no good. It was the reading and responding to the text that shed light on problem areas, provided direction, and produced unity.

Also, although Josiah and the nation had been purging idols for many years (and thought their work was done), once they found the scriptures they realized a greater depth of the problem. Their best intent could not fathom the extent of darkness they faced. This written Word of God exposed vulnerabilities and opportunities. And, it was after the Book was found that Josiah and the people were able to celebrate the greatest Passover of any Jewish King (2 Chron. 35:18). So, while Scripture pointed out darkness and sin, it also reminded of blessings, cause for celebration, and provided a power to unify the people.

The New Testament echoes this in the first verse my wife and I memorized together, telling us, "*if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin*" (1 John 1:7). This is what happened in Josiah's time. As they each moved toward the Lord (through the Word) they drew closer to each other, and the sin that divided them from God, and from each other, was overcome. This promise is the same for everyone here today.

Another lesson regarding the Word is recognizing that while discovering the Book fueled excitement, direction and hope, the revival had been well under way before the book was found. What fueled this is unclear; but, what is clear is that Josiah was pursing the God of David, without wavering, by the time he was 16 (2 Chron. 34:3). The Book was found after another ten years of purging the land, during the climactic renovation of the Temple.

Years ago a coworker of mine was struggling with the feasibility of God's existence. My wife and I spent hours answering questions to help he and his wife in their journey. One day he admitted that every question he's asked so far has been answered. He felt he hit a plateau, and that it was unlikely any more questions would be answered until he first acknowledged what was already revealed; and, like that, he acknowledged God must exist, and both he and his wife gave their lives to Christ. As we saw with Abraham, Josiah was prompted (early on) by God through what some call "whispers," and the more intimate encounter with God's Word was revealed after he responded to what had

already been revealed. This is what lead Josiah to find the Book in the Temple. The same applies to you and me today. The prophet Jeremiah (who prophesied during Josiah's life) spoke from God's perspective (Jer. 33:3) saying, *"Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."* Josiah never stopped calling. Have you?

A very sad point on the topic of the Word is that we are told God spoke to Josiah's grandfather and those around him, yet *"they paid no attention"* (2 Chron. 33:10). The challenge is not whether God is speaking (if you get nothing else from this series, understand that God is always reaching out, and speaking to us!). The real challenge is whether or not we are listening. It is so easy to hold these ancients in contempt for what appears to be foolish and ignorant behavior. But, what will *we* look like a few thousand years from now, or even to the next generation or two? What obvious leadings are *we* missing, what cultural sin are *we* embracing? Are *we* paying attention? All their idol worship shows us that these people were deeply and actively religious. Yet their religious activity was a distraction from hearing and following the living God of the Bible. Josiah ripped his cloths at hearing the Word because he realized how blind, how accustomed, how distracted and how distant from God he and the Jewish people really were. The difference between Josiah and his grandfather is that Josiah paid attention, and he taught others to pay attention. That's *how* the Word was found, that's why it was brought to him and read, that's why they responded as they did. Josiah's story begs the question of each of us, are we really paying attention to God's leading, or does the truth of God's word need to be rediscovered in our lives?

The Apostle John was so convinced of Jesus' identity that he introduces Jesus to the ages by declaring that *"... the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14). To John, Jesus was the very Words of God personified. When we talk about how the discovery of the Word brought the ultimate purging, direction, hope and reason for rejoicing, what we are ultimately talking about, is Jesus; for what we are reading about with Josiah is an Old Testament picture of what happens in a person's life when they find Jesus.

Before young Josiah had the written Word, he was obedient with what he knew. It was *this pursuit* that unveiled more intimate direction. In every instance, Josiah adjusted his life to God's leading, and God's Word. He didn't justify his behavior, ignore the obvious, nor disobey. We are told that he *"did not turn aside to the right or to the left"* (2 Chron. 34:2). Today we would say he was "laser-focused." Because of this we are able to see that **When the Word of God meets a willing heart, wonderful things happen.**

The Willing Heart

So how did this child became a great leader, in the midst of such dysfunction and chaos?

What attributes can we observe in him?

First, the willing heart clings to what is possible, without complaining about what is hard. Few people could bemoan inherited family "baggage" more than Josiah. Each generation before him provided ample reason to think he was inherently corrupt and destined for failure. But Josiah did not fixate on his inherited dark past. His identity was not based on the corrupt, mediocre, morally average, or seemingly successful kings in his lineage. Josiah focused on the leader who best fulfilled his responsibility: David. It may have been because David also started as a young boy; or, more likely (given how Josiah is later portrayed) it may have been David's love for God. Whatever it was, we are told Josiah "*walked in all the way of David his father*" (2 Kings 22:2). Of all the "fathers" Josiah could have identified with, early on he chose (as his only option) the best king before him.

Second, the willing heart is not passive. Josiah eventually realized God was the source of David's greatness. We are told that "*... in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet a boy, he began to seek* ***the God of David*** *his father*" (2 Chron. 34:3). This is the very heart of Josiah's identity and success. Jesus later taught, "*Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*" (Matt. 7:7). By 16, this is what Josiah was consumed with. The writer of Hebrews captures Josiah's character saying, "*without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him*" (Heb. 11:6). Other translations say "*diligently seek him*" (NKJV), "*sincerely seek him*" (NLT), or "*earnestly seek him*" (NIV).

Third, the willing heart is passionate, and not afraid. By the time Josiah was 20, he cultivated a perspective on the invisible God that far outshined the tangible, social or cultural influences (2 Chron. 34:3-5).

Fourth, the willing heart is thorough (2 Chron. 34:6-7). Josiah purged the land beyond his responsibilities, unbound by space or time. Josiah isn't simply reconciling the present. He's reconciling the past, purging the *United* Kingdom, not simply Judah. In details, he isn't satisfied with just removing the alters and images. He beats them into powder.

Fifth, the willing heart is undeterred by hardship or cost, as Josiah instructs, "*no accounting shall be asked from* [the workman] *for the money that is delivered into their hand*" (2 Kings 22:7). Here we see Josiah pursuing the restoration of the Temple at any cost. No wonder Josiah is best known for his love of God. Jesus taught (Matt. 6:21), "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

Sixth, the willing heart is not deterred by uncertainty; rather, it obediently acknowledges what is certain, and is satisfied to gain direction along the way (2 Kings 22:8-21).

Seventh, The willing heart is completely obedient. We read that "*the king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book*" (2 Chron. 34:31).

Eighth, the willing heart is infectious, as Josiah's commitment impacted all the leadership, all the people, even the people living in the previously alienated Northern Kingdom (2 Chron. 34:29-33).

What I am calling "the willing heart" Pastor Lloyd Stilley calls "wholehearted" stating, "By wholehearted, I mean the opposite of half-hearted. This is the stark contrast to the popular brand of Christianity these days that has divided loyalties; that operates on mild enthusiasm, partial obedience, and convenience-driven service. D.A. Carson defined the Christianity of our times. 'We drift toward compromise and call it tolerance; we drift toward disobedience and call it freedom. We cherish the indiscipline of lost self-control and call it relaxation; we slouch toward prayerlessness and delude ourselves into thinking we have escaped legalism; we slide toward godlessness and convince ourselves we have been liberated' (quoted in "Reflections," Christianity Today, 7-31-00)."

Stilley goes on to say, "Wholehearted means 'holding nothing back.' It is genuine, not pretending. It is fervent, not tepid. It is complete, not partial. Wholeheartedness toward God is single-minded in its pursuit, with no reservations, no compromises, and no excuses" (quoted in "Josiah – The Way Up is Down – 2 Chronicles 34, " LifeWay, 01-01-2014).

On Valentine's Day my wife and I watched the children of some friends, so they could enjoy dinner out. Since I was preparing for this sermon, I watched their son (who, like Josiah, was 8-years-old) eager to experience some profound insight to our main character. Soon after arriving that little guy looked at me, got real serious and said, "You don't have a hairline!" So, there you have it. In summarizing Josiah's character, I'm reminded of Jesus, saying, "*Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven*" (Matt. 18:2-4). As a child, Josiah honestly called things like he saw them, and always subordinated himself to the Father's will. That's what we see in his willing heart. May our hearts be so childlike as to grasp what is possible (and not complain about hard stuff), to never be passive, to be passionate and not afraid, thorough, undeterred by cost, undeterred by uncertainty, completely obedient, and infectious.

Now, let's look at what **wonderful things happened when the Word of God met Josiah's willing heart.**

The transformation under Josiah's leadership is nothing short of staggering. Let's discuss Josiah's accomplishments, and their implications for us:

- By age 16: Josiah had clear direction of where he was going, what he wanted to be like, who he was, who he was not, and was in full pursuit of a clear and healthy life goal. Let's just stop there and get real. Josiah shows us age is no variable for significance. Young or old doesn't matter; but, there are personal things of great significance. Have you inherited dark family secrets that weigh you down? Are you struggling with value, purpose or direction? Do you hear a spectre of shame constantly whispering, "you're not good enough" or "you're a failure?" Your life need not be encumbered by the identity of previous generations, or your own past choices. You can shut that demon down, and choose to follow the God of David. Scripture tells us that "*if anyone is in Christ* [they] *are a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come*" (2 Cor. 5:17). Josiah knew the story of the Passover, and how the blood of the lamb protected the Jewish households, and God delivered them from bondage to be His chosen people. Josiah knew the story of David, and how an insignificant boy overcame all odds to defeat his limitations and lead God's people to victory, by God's strength. Josiah didn't have the story of Jesus, the cross or the resurrection. You do. Don't let yourself be handicapped by shame or any lie that keeps you from fulfilling God's best plans for your life; because, you know that **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

- By age 20: Josiah was on a role, purging Jerusalem, all of the Southern Kingdom, then he went on a purging spree to the farthest corners of the Northern Kingdom. Rejecting the shadows of his ancestors, he sought to conquer the demons they fell victim to. And He wasn't just overcoming his personal demons, he was working to return the Jewish state to where it was intended to be, to overcome history. I have to believe he took flack, but he was ambitious to restore David's unified kingdom under God.

- By age 26: He restored Solomon's temple, after over 300 years of neglect. His ambition was not for Solomon's glory; rather, for the God of David. And the purity of his intent was evident when the word was uncovered. He wasn't concerned about the beauty of the facility; his passion was a broken heart for a nation so separated from God, and a loving God so separated from the people he cared for.

It was this unwavering commitment to God that overcame Josiah's past, that unified the nation, and everyone in it. And the result wasn't just non-sin, or a guilt-ridden repentance. No, it was a national celebration, bigger than any before, held every year. We need to realize that the festival of Passover commemorates the origin of the Jewish nation, when they were set free as God's own people. The Passover celebrates deliverance. Following God's design, Josiah removed hundreds of years of spiritual

bondage, and an economy dependent on pagan practices, replacing it with an economy and culture dependent on the covenant of love. This was truly a renewed national identity.

Josiah had a God-shaped self-awareness that produced a God-sized ambition, with a God-sized passion, for a God-sized objective, resulting in God-sized accomplishments. And through this he learned that **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

Conclusion

This story of Josiah has taught us that:

- Our hard-Internal battles can be overcome, because **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

- And our life need not be a reaction to the world around us; rather, the world around us can be a reaction to our life because **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

- And we can be unrestrained by scale, boundaries, cost, human nature, or even history, because **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

- And, we can achieve unprecedented unity in our family, church and community, and rejoicing beyond reasonable expectation, because **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

- Finally, we can know that our life has made a deep and lasting impact on the world around us, that no waves can wash away, because **when the Word of God meets a willing heart wonderful things happen.**

Josiah models fulfillment of the greatest commandment. We are told, *"Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him."* (2 Kings 23:25).

In this, Josiah shows us **that when the Word of God meets a willing heart, wonderful things happen.**

© by David Rucquoi - All rights reserved

Sermon Title: When the Word of God Meets a Willing Heart
Sermon Text: 2 Chronicles 34
Sermon Date: March 15, 2020

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Getting To Know Me Questions

1. Time to "get real." Is there a nagging, recurring notion in the back of your mind that tells you that you "can't" do something, or that you're "not good enough"? Share a story or example of an intimidating notion or fear that replays itself in your own mind [remember three simple rules: 1) what's said here, stays here; 2) don't offer advice unless it's asked for, 3) when it's not your turn to share, listen.].

Diving Into The Word

2. Read 2 Chronicles 34-35. What, to you, was the hardest thing Josiah had to overcome? What made that thing the most difficult?
3. In 2 Chronicles 34:3 we are told that Josiah began to see, the God of David. What do you think it was about God that stood out the most to Josiah? Can you (or anyone in your group) think of any scripture (Old or New Testament) that sheds light on this aspect of God?
4. In 2 Chronicles 34:19 we see how distraught Josiah was at hearing God's Word. For the first time, the Word of God opened his eyes, and he was deeply challenged. If you can think of a time where you experienced God's word coming alive to you, share it with the group.
5. What do you do to make sure you have a regular "diet" of God's Word in your life?
6. Have someone in your group read 2 Corinthians 5:17. How does this apply to Josiah's journey? How can it apply to your journey?? How do you calibrate your heart to worship God?

Taking It Home

7. What is one thing you are taking from your study?
8. As a group, pick one verse from this lesson that stands out to you the most, and memorize it together. Help each other in the week(s) to come, and celebrate when you've all finally got it committed to memory.