



## LESSON 41

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Principle:** Leadership and humility.

**Bible Character(s):** King Hezekiah, King Josiah

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



**PERSONAL PREPARATION:** Before this weekend, please read through 2 Kings 18-20, 22-23. King Hezekiah and King Josiah provide us with great examples of good leadership. King Hezekiah clung to the Lord and always followed Him. The first thing he did in times of trouble was pray to God. He was also humble and did not become prideful about the things he was accomplishing for God. King Josiah was crowned king at age eight. He wanted to know how God wanted him to live because he valued God's Word and obeyed it. He did right in God's sight. Both of these kings submitted to God's authority, and they wanted God to get all of the glory.

How are you a leader to those around you? Do your actions and words match how God wants you to live? Do people learn how to be more like Jesus through your example? In what ways do you struggle with being a leader? Spend some time reflecting on the leadership example you set and ask God to help you to become a stronger leader.

### PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival, meet their parents, and welcome and introduce all visitors.

### A King's Closet Worksheet

Supplies:

Worksheet – A King's Closet side (1 per camper)

Have campers turn to the "King's Closet" side of the worksheet and ask them to circle items that would belong to a king. As they work on the worksheet, you can talk about past kings we have studied (Saul, David, Solomon). Discuss other items a king might have.



## BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

**\*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

### The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will define and review the characteristics of leaders. We will look at the good leadership characteristics of Hezekiah and Josiah to see the type of leaders God wants us to be. We will also focus on our King of Kings.



## SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

### Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

**What did you learn about in Big Group? What did you learn about being a leader? Do you have to be a king to be a leader? Who does God want to be a leader? What did the king learn about what God wants him to do? (Cling to the Lord, be humble, follow Him, do the right thing.) How can we be leaders? (By clinging to the Lord and doing right in his sight.)**

**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 among 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 (1 set/sheet per camper)  
Binder ring/zip tie (1 per camper)  
Hole punch

Give each child a set of leadership keys and a binder ring/zip tie. 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 for each camper). 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 onto the zip tie. (They may need help securing the zip tie once all five keys are in place.)

Leadership characteristics:

1. Cling to the Lord. Always follow Him.
2. Pray in times of trouble & 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 & 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. The bronze serpent was called Nehushtan.*

*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. He revolted against the king of Assyria and refused to pay him tribute.*

**While Hezekiah was king, whenever he went through hard times, what did he do? (Allow responses.) He trusted God and never stopped 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 sent a threatening letter to Hezekiah. They were 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 prayed, he was not looking for glory for himself. Did he want to win the battle with the Assyrians so that he could be the greatest king ever? (*Allow responses*) No. Why did he want to win? (*Allow responses.*) He wanted to win so that "all the kingdoms on earth will know that you alone are, O Lord, are God." Hezekiah wanted all the glory to go to God. He was humble and did not brag about the things he was accomplishing for God. He knew it was only through God's power that Israel could win. God defeated the Assyrians by killing 185,000 of them during the night. God heard the prayer of Hezekiah and was faithful to the children of Israel.

After Hezekiah's death, there were two kings who once again did evil in the sight of the Lord. Then Josiah became 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. His mother was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah from Bozkath. 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.*

Who can 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 was Josiah when he became 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 told his men to rebuild the temple. As they began, they found 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 found out about these scrolls, he wanted to know how God wanted him to live.

- (5) He valued God's Word & obeyed it. We can add our last label to our keychain.

God heard the cries of Josiah and responded 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 submitted to God's authority. In verse 19, God says that Josiah, a king, humbled himself before the Lord. He was submitting to God. He wanted God to receive all the glory. He did 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 your 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.

## Tie It Together



In Big Group, we were reminded 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, 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 campers 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.

**1 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.

As time allows, you can review the keys of leadership on their key rings.

## I Can Be A Leader!



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

### Supplies:

Worksheet – “I Can Be a Leader!” side

Markers/pens

As a class, 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.

## Tie It Together



God wants each of us to be a leader. He surrounds us with people whom 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 model our behavior or repeat what we do and say. We can be good leaders by modeling the way that God would want us to live. Jesus was 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.

## Follow the Leader



The purpose is to review that we can each be leaders.

Choose one camper to be the leader. He/she can walk around the room doing different actions, and the rest of the cabin will follow him/her and copy the actions. As time permits, allow different campers a chance to be the leader.

## Prayer Time

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.



