Lifegroup Kids Guide:
King Josiah

INTRO

We encourage family Lifegroups to do welcome & vision, Lifegroup house rules, and worship all together – then have the kids and adults separate for discussion.

WELCOME & VISION DANCE (5 MINUTES)

Who loves Lifegroup?!! Who can tell me why we do lifegroup?

We're going to teach you a simple way to remember why we do Lifegroup. It's called the vision dance. Are you ready?!

- Because Jesus loves us (point up, then point to yourself)
- We want to walk with Jesus (walk in place)
- Become like Jesus (cross arms over chest)
- Help others follow Him (point out to others, then point up to Him)

Do it again in slow motion or super fast. Have fun with it.

LIFEGROUP HOUSE RULES (2 MINUTES)

We have 3 Lifegroup rules.

1. Be kind and respect ourselves
2. Be kind and respect others and their things.
3. Listen and obey the first time.

Who can repeat these back to me?

Discipline Plan: 1st time is a warning, 2nd time you talk with kids leader, 3rd time we get your parents and you leave kids portion of lifegroup, but are welcome to come back next time

note to share any house specific rules
EX: No going into people's bedrooms, we take our shoes off at the door, etc.

GROUP ACTIVITY - King Says…(5-10 minutes)

- Toy Crown or make one out of paper

Encourage children to spread out in an open area of the room. Wear the crown and explain that you will play a game of "King Says!" Call out different movements for the children to follow, but remind them to ONLY follow if you start with "King Says." If you call out a movement and do not say "King Says," remind the children to keep going. Do not call for anyone to be out, just continue to remind them of the rules of the game.

"Friends, come gather here with me! Let's spread out so we have room to move. (Put on the crown.) What am I wearing? (Pause.) A crown! Who wears a crown? (Pause.) Yes, kings wear crowns. Let's play, 'King Says!' I'll be the king. In this game, it's important to listen carefully. I'll call out a movement for you to follow. But only follow if you hear me say, 'King Says' first. Ready? King says, pat your head. (Pause.) Great job! King says, blink your eyes. (Pause.) Fantastic! Touch your elbow. (Pause.) I didn't say King says . . . Let's keep going! (Continue with different movements, such as clapping your hands, touching your toes, shouting 'hooray,' saying your name, stomping your feet, etc.) You all are such great listeners! Thanks for playing 'King Says' with me. In our Bible Story today, we'll hear about a king named Josiah who was a very young king. Come with me and let's hear more about King Josiah."

BIBLE STORY (10-15 MINUTES)

- Bible (2 Chronicles 34)

"Hello, friends! I'm [your name], and I love telling you true stories from the Bible. (Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.) This true story from the Bible is about a king. This king was a young king, and his name was King Josiah. He was a VERY young king. Can you help me find out how old he was? Let's count together. (Hold up fingers and count slowly with the children.) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8! King Josiah was eight years old! Most eight-year-old kids are making artwork. Show me how you can use your hand to draw art in the sky. (Move hand in the air like drawing with a crayon.) Or, eight-year-olds are building with blocks. Let's pretend we are stacking blocks. (Pretend to stack blocks.) Or, eight-year-olds are playing at the park. Now, run in place like you are playing at the park. (Run in place.) Great running! You can sit back down now. King Josiah wasn't making artwork, building blocks, or playing at the park. Eight-year-old Josiah was KING. King Josiah loved God. And he wanted to hear from God. Who else wants to hear from God? Raise your hand high in the air if you do. (Raise hand in the air.) Me too! Well, one day some of King Josiah's workers found something very special! They found a scroll. Scrolls are like books, and the scroll King Josiah's workers found had God's words on it! King Josiah was SO excited! Show me your best excited face! (Make an excited face) Great job, everyone! You look very excited. King Josiah was so excited that he began reading God's words so he could hear from God. King Josiah wanted to do what God said because he loved God and he knew God loved him. God loves someone else too. God loves YOU, (point to kids) and God loves ME! (point to self) Can you point to yourself? That's right! God loves you so much. That's why God gave us a BOOK where we can hear from God too. Do you know what book I'm talking about? (Pick up the Bible) The Bible, yes! You're right. The Bible is full of stories and words from God about who God is, how we should live, and how much God loves us. The

Bible is like a big ‘I LOVE YOU’ from God! Give yourself a great big hug to show how much God loves you! (Hug yourself.) God loves me and God loves you! Who loves you? God loves me! Yes, God loves me and you! Our story time is over (pick up and close Bible), but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you! Dear God, thank You for sharing Your words with us in the Bible. Help us learn more about You and hear from You through these stories. Thank You for always loving us, God. We love You too! In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.”

GROUP ACTIVITY - Love Spills Out (5-10 minutes)

- Bible
- Paper
- Scissors
- Colors

Cut the paper into hearts small enough to be placed inside the Bible without sticking out and showing. Allow the kids to help color and decorate the hearts or have the older kids help you cut out heart shapes for the younger kids to decorate. Randomly place the paper hearts throughout the pages of the Bible to where they are hidden. Gather the children and ask them what it is you’re holding as you hold up the Bible. Share that this is the word of God and that there is something very important inside for us. Ask them all to lean in as you show them. Turn the Bible upside down and flip through the pages. As you do so, the hearts will fall out. Share that the Bible is full of God’s love for us! Hold up a heart and encourage everyone to say ‘God loves me.’ Repeat the activity as long as time and interest allow.

“Come here, everyone! In our Bible Story today, King Josiah’s workers found scrolls with God’s words on them. Scrolls are like books, and the scrolls King Josiah’s workers found had God’s words on them! King Josiah was so happy he could read the words and hear from God! (Hold up Bible.) The Bible has God’s words in it. When we read the Bible, we can hear from God too! Let’s open the Bible so we can hear from God and see what he has to say to us! (Open the Bible upside down and flip through the pages so the hearts fall out) Wow! Look at all those hearts falling out! That’s a lot of love!! God loves us! God loves you and God loves me. Say that with me. God loves me! (Repeat as desired.) Friends, that was so fun! Everyone, put your hand a heart/ the Bible. I’m so glad we can hear from God! God loves you and God loves me. Who loves you? God loves me!”

PRAYER TIME - (5-10 MINUTES)

Ask the kids to close their eyes and ask God to speak to them and bring someone to mind in their life that doesn’t know God or doesn’t read the Bible. After everyone has shared, take time praying for the names of the people they shared.

EXTRA IDEAS IF YOU STILL HAVE TIME…

PRACTICE MEMORY VERSE

Early Childhood
I (point up) will always (draw circles with finger pointing up) love you (cross arms over chest) Jeremiah 31:3 (Open hands like a book)

Elementary
The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” - Jeremiah 31:3

Share the importance of meditating on and memorizing God’s word! Do you have a kid appropriate story of when God brought to mind scripture you had memorized to help you or encourage you or remind you of truth that you can share with them?

PLAY!

- Simon Says
- Rock/Paper/Scissors
- Play the monkey video and dance along. Monkey video (if you’re trying to calm kids down - do not play this song 😂)