

King Joash Repairs God's House

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Scene Summary

“King Joash Repairs God’s House” presents the story of how a good king led his people to give money to restore God’s house that had been in ruins for many years. Scenes include: The king inspects the ruined Temple...he tells the high priest to collect money to repair the Temple...the people gladly give money...stonecutters cut and polish marble blocks...carpenters make new furniture...metalworkers polishes a new brass bowl...the people are pleased when the Temple is finished.

Scripture

(2 Chr 24:5-14 NIV) He called together the priests and Levites and said to them, "Go to the towns of Judah and collect the money due annually from all Israel, to repair the temple of your God. Do it now." But the Levites did not act at once. {6} Therefore the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest and said to him, "Why haven't you required the Levites to bring in from Judah and Jerusalem the tax imposed by Moses the servant of the LORD and by the assembly of Israel for the Tent of the Testimony?" {7} Now the sons of that wicked woman Athaliah had broken into the temple of God and had used even its sacred objects for the Baals. {8} At the king's command, a chest was made and placed outside, at the gate of the temple of the LORD. {9} A proclamation was then issued in Judah and Jerusalem that they should bring to the LORD the tax that Moses the servant of God had required of Israel in the desert. {10} All the officials and all the people brought their contributions gladly, dropping them into the chest until it was full. {11} Whenever the chest was brought in by the Levites to the king's officials and they saw that there was a large amount of money, the royal secretary and the officer of the chief priest would come and empty the chest and carry it back to its place. They did this regularly and collected a great amount of money. {12} The king and Jehoiada gave it to the men who carried out the work required for the temple of the LORD. They hired masons and carpenters to restore the Lord's temple, and also workers in iron and bronze to repair the temple. {13} The men in charge of the work were diligent, and the repairs progressed under them. They rebuilt the temple of God according to its original design and reinforced it. {14} When they had finished, they brought the rest of the money to the king and Jehoiada, and with it were made articles for the Lord's temple: articles for the service and for the burnt offerings, and also dishes and other objects of gold and

silver. As long as Jehoiada lived, burnt offerings were presented continually in the temple of the LORD.

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Players

- **Narrator** – The play's "catechist" or teacher, should be a good reader with a clear voice.
- **King Joash** – Clothed with royal robes and commanding everyone's attention.
- **Jehoiada** – An older person with great authority.
- **Priest 1, 2** – These characters are concerned and serious, somewhat sad about the temple.
- **Workers** – Characters that will repair and clean the temple.
- **Person 1, 2** – Characters who are awestruck at the beauty of the remodeled temple.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- A box with a hole in the lid that can be used for offerings.
- Tools for the workers.

Script – King Joash Repairs God's House

Narrator: The king shook his head. God's house did not look beautiful anymore. The doors were falling off. The walls were broken. King Joash decided to call together the priests and their helpers.

King Joash: God's house should be beautiful. We must have it repaired.

Priest 1: Yes, but we have no money!

King Joash: Go to the people in the city, go to the country, go to all the people and ask them for money to pay for the new walls, floors and doors.

Priest 2: [pausing] That is a good idea. The people can bring offerings. We can save the money until we have enough to buy what we need to make it beautiful again.

King Joash: I think the people will be glad to give.

Narrator: Jehoiada the priest watched as the carpenter made a hole in the top of the chest so that the people could drop their money inside. He knew that they would have to fill the chest many times before they had enough money. [pause] From Jerusalem and towns far away, rich men and princes came to give money to help repair God's house. [NOTE: the director could make several non-speaking, or speaking roles where people are coming to give their money; improvising the dialog would be ideal] They smiled as they dropped their coins into the chest. Jehoiada smiled too. Day after day the people came, young and old, men, women and children. Everyone wanted to help. Every offering was important, no matter if it was just one small coin. When the chest was filled, the priest and several others counted the money and placed it into bags, and then they put the empty chest in place again. Every day people brought money for God's house.

Jehoiada: King Joash, the people have given much money. There is enough to fix up God's house.

King Joash: Good! Hire stonecutters and carpenters and people who can work with metal. Give them the money to buy what is needed.

Narrator: Stonecutters cut out large blocks of marble with their hammers and chisels. They cut and chopped until the block was smooth. Then carefully, they polished the beautiful marble. Carpenters chose the best wood that they could find. They sawed boards and made them smooth. Carefully they made tables and other pieces for God's house. Every day there was much sawing and pounding. The priest chose men who knew how to make beautiful designs in metal. For many weeks they worked on the big metal doors for God's house. At last they were ready and they fitted them into place.

Jehoiada: Well, at last, the work is finished. God's house is completely repaired.

King Joash: Yes, look at the walls! They are strong and straight again. The carpenters made beautiful tables. The doors are beautiful. It is beautiful on the outside and the inside too.

Jehoiada: And we have money left over.

King Joash: Then use this money to make candlesticks and bowls for God's house.

Narrator: The priest hired a person to make golden bowls, spoons and candlesticks. Carefully a new bowl was crafted and when it was just the right size, then it would be polished so that it shined like a mirror. [pause] When everything was ready, the people came to God's house.

Person 1: [in awe] This place is clean and neat.

Person 2: [admiring] God's house is beautiful as it should be.

Narrator: Everyone was glad that they had given money to repair the place where they could come and worship God.

The End

Supplemental Information

Joash was the son of Ahaziah the ninth king of Judah. After just one year on the throne, Ahaziah died. His mother's name was Athaliaha and she seized control of the government. Athaliaha was evil. To make sure that she would rule as queen, she ordered that all of the king's family be killed. But, baby Joash was rescued by his kind aunt Jehoshabeath. Jehoshabeath was married to the chief priest.

Joash became king when he was only seven years old. Years before, Joash's uncles had taken the lovely furnishing from the temple and had used them in the worship of Baal. The temple itself was badly damaged

After Joash was firmly established as king and had married, he became determined to restore the temple so that the people could worship there. Perhaps it was the influence of his uncle, the high priest Jehoiada, which prompted the king to restore the temple. He asked the Priests and Levites to go throughout the country and collect money for the rebuilding of the temple. The Levites didn't seem much interested in this endeavor so the king took matters into his own hand. He scolded the Priests for not directing the Levites to collect the money. Then the king asked that a chest be made with a slot in the top where the people might place their offerings.

The people were glad for an opportunity to give. Soon there was enough money to buy materials and hire workers to repair the temple. In fact, the people gave more money than was needed and the priest had to tell the people to stop giving. The extra money was used for making candlesticks, bowls and other items for the temple.

If your church has a special building fund, you might asked your children to bring a special offering, just like king Joash asked the people to give, or you may want to use this lesson to teach your students the importance for regular giving to God's work.

Extra Time

After performing the play about the people giving to restore the Temple, children will better understand why we should give money to the church. But, while children may want to contribute toward the upkeep of the church and for other needs, it is all too easy for them to spend their money during the week. To remind them to give part of their money for God's work, help children make a church bank.

For each child you will need a one-quart milk carton. On two opposite sides, draw a straight line parallel to and 2-inches from the bottom. On the two remaining sides, draw a line 3-inches from the bottom, and cut along these lines. Mark the center of the cut on the 3-inch sides and draw lines from the center top to the 2-inch line at the sides, forming an inverted V. Cut along these lines.

Next, on the unused top part of the carton, mark off three inches along one section; draw parallel lines 1-3/4 inches long on both sides of the fold. Draw vertical lines joining the sets of lines you have just drawn. Cut along these lines to form the roof. Cut a slot in the fold large enough for a quarter to slip through. Center the roof on the church and attach at sides with cloth tape. If you like, leave one side open for easy removal of coins. Children may paint their church bank in a desired color. Add a teaspoon of detergent or soap flakes to watercolor paint to make it adhere to the waxy service. Or, roughen the waxy service with sandpaper and cover with a thick mixture of soapsuds for a stucco look.

Beat with rotary beater 2 cups of soap flakes or detergent granules and ½ cup of water. Add more water, if needed, to get meringue texture. Coat the church banks with flat sticks of table knives. Let dry. Doors and windows may be painted on. Coins may be dropped into the bank during the week. On Sunday, the child may remove their money by gently shaking coins through the slot, or by lifting up one side of the roof.