

## **11<sup>th</sup> Grade Devotional 1**



### **2 Kings 21:19-23:30**

Does your family have that "black sheep" that no one wants to talk about? If their name is brought up at a family event, is it accompanied by rolling eyes and tones of disapproval? What if your family had a long list of those characters that went back generations, creating a legacy of evil?

The kings of Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord for decades. Then, an eight-year-old named Josiah replaced his assassinated father as king. In the eighteenth year of his reign, at age twenty-six, his high priest, Hilkiah, found the Book of the Law in the temple. The book had been hidden or lost for so long that no one really knew what it said. When Josiah heard the contents of the Book of the Law, he was so moved that he tore his clothes and enacted reforms to return Judah to a place where the one true God was honored and revered. **2 Kings 22:18-20** records the LORD'S response.

*<sup>18</sup>Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the Lord, 'This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: <sup>19</sup>Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people-that they would become a curse[b] and be laid waste and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the Lord.*

*<sup>20</sup>Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not see all the disaster I am coming to bring on this place.'"*

Though Josiah's legacy is a long line of evil kings, when confronted with the truth of God's Word, his heart is touched, his mind is changed, and he takes steps that only he can to bring his nation the truth he has learned and attempt to bring about the same change for his kingdom that he has experienced. And although Judah returned to their wickedness upon Josiah's death, he postponed God's judgment for the length of his reign and gave his entire kingdom the opportunity to know God.

Because a young man responded to the Word of God, he was able to break from a legacy of evil and influence a generation for good. Regardless of the bad you may already know about or the surprises you may discover, God's grace is sufficient. He will use every situation to grow you into the person He created you to be if you will respond to His Word in faith and obedience.

### **Parents:**

Share with your student the impact that your parents had on your walk with God either for the good or the bad.