



date

2.8



“ ONCE GOD GETS MY ATTENTION, I AM NEVER THE SAME AGAIN. ”

Inspire (for parents)

As a parent, you know the feeling: Our children are so excited about a special day that they can't sleep. In the middle of the night, they come creeping into our room and hover over us, just waiting for us to wake up. Once in a while, they might speak with a faint whisper, "Mommy, is it time yet?" or "Daddy, are you awake?" But more often than not, they just stand there—silently willing us to open our eyes. What often awakens us is that uncanny sense of a presence near—and then we open our eyes to see a face filled with joy and anticipation of a grand adventure to be shared together.

I sometimes think of God like this. He hovers over us and waits for our hearts to wake up to Him. He waits for our hearts to hear His truths; He hovers over us until we are ready to open our eyes to Him and all He wants to share with us.

I never want to miss the opportunity to commune with

God. When God hovers over me, waiting for me to awaken to His presence, I don't want to miss the chance to listen to Him. I want to live in joyful anticipation each time He draws near.

I've seen throughout my own life that once my heart awakens to Him, I am changed. Once God gets my attention, I am never the same again. I want to sing with the psalmist, "My heart has heard you say, 'Come and talk with me.' And my heart responds, 'LORD, I am coming'" (Psalm 27:8 NLT).

☪ by Debbie Guinn

Getting Started <

Scripture: 2 Kings 22—23 (King Josiah)

Main Point: God Awakens Our Hearts to Him

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **before your children attend church**. Because God's plan is for parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

Josiah's heart was awakened to God when he first heard the "Book of the Covenant" read out loud. His heart mourned for how His people had neglected their God. God also awakened Josiah's heart to ask the question, "What needs to be done?" For Josiah, the answer to that question was to renew the covenant, cleanse the nation of idolatry, and celebrate a nationwide Passover.

Josiah led a nationwide renewal of the ancient covenant, destroying the articles of pagan worship scattered around the nation. In 2 Kings 23, we read that God led Josiah to remove articles made for false gods, animals dedicated to false gods, and pagan priests serving in the high places, among many other things.

Josiah was so thorough in his cleansing process that he "covered the sites [of ruined relics, etc.] with human bones" (v. 14). By doing this, he made sure the area would never again be used for idol worship because no Jew would want to become ceremonially unclean by coming into contact with the bones of dead bodies (Numbers 19:16).

Josiah then ordered the people to "Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant" (v. 21). Passover reminded the Israelites of their deliverance and God's covenant relationship with them at Mt. Sinai. ☪



Support

(for parents & kids)

Some time this week, gather your family and read the account of King Josiah in **2 Kings 22:1-11 and 23:1-14, 21-24**. After reading this part of The Big God Story, ask your children what happened when King Josiah heard God's Word for the first time. Share with them that he actually did three things; he renewed the covenant with God, he cleaned the temple of everything that was not honoring to God, and then celebrated with his people.

You might want to use King Josiah's response as a pattern for a time of family worship. First, remind each other what it means to be in a covenant relationship with God—what it means to be His people. Next, confess to one another ways you may not be obeying God's Word or are allowing something else to be more important than God. Finally, celebrate together that through Jesus we can be in relationship with God forever, and rejoice that He gives us His Word and awakens our hearts to Him.

Remind your children that what you have just read in the Bible is part of The Big God Story, and they will hear more about King Josiah in church this week. ☪