



Lesson #8

Who's the "BOSS" of the Church?



Scripture Reference: 2 Kings 22-23



Goal: God is the true BOSS of the church, but He asks people to help Him.

Daily children, and adults alike, come into contact with authority figures (bosses so to speak). Some of those figures are good role models; some are not. How do you tell the difference? By looking to the Bible – that's how! This lesson is designed to help children become acquainted with the hierarchy of power within the local church. By taking part in the interactive activities listed, the children will understand that while God is the ultimate BOSS of the church, He appoints people on Earth to lead for Him. Furthermore, the children will show support for these leaders by praying for them.



Opening Activity:

(For this activity, you will need a marker, small slips of paper, balloons, a garbage bag, yarn, scissors, a blackboard, chalk, and an eraser.

Ahead of time, cut enough slips of paper to have one for each child in the classroom. On four of the slips, write the letters from the word "BOSS", one letter per slip. Place the slips, those with and without letters, into individual balloons,

so there will be a balloon for each child. Blow them up, tie them, and store them in a garbage bag for transport.)

Help the children attach a balloon to one of their ankles using a piece of yarn. When everyone is ready, give the following directions: **The object of this game is to break your neighbor's balloon by stepping on it while at the same time trying to protect your own balloon. Once your balloon is broken, you will find a slip of paper. You need to pick up the slip of paper and have a seat. The winner is the last person with a balloon.**

Play the game. When a winner has been decided, have all the children clean up the scraps and throw them away. Then have the children gather around you with their slips of paper.

Say: **Some of the slips of paper have letters on them; some do not. If yours has a letter, hold it up in the air.** Ask the children to call out the letters. Write them in random order on the blackboard. **Can someone come up here and arrange these letters to make a word?** Have a child do so.

What does a boss do? In your house, who's the boss? At school, who's the boss? Who's the boss of our country? Today we're going to learn about some bosses in the Bible and some bosses in our church.



Bible Experience:

(For this activity, you will need a crown and a Bible.)

Say: **A long, long time ago, before Jesus was even born, the country we call Israel had a "boss," too. Their boss was a king. Usually when we think of a king, we imagine a grown man. But one time Israel had a king who was only 8 years old. His name was Josiah, and we can read about him in the book of 2 Kings in the Old Testament.** Open the Bible to the scripture reference to show the children where it is located.

Call three children forward and place a crown on one child's head. **If you were a king (or queen), what kind of rules would you make for the people living in your kingdom?** Repeat with other two children, then have them return to their seats.

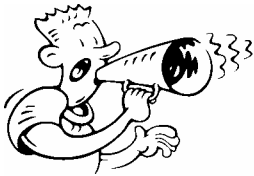
Before Josiah became king, there had been many evil kings. They didn't love God. Instead of praying to Him, they prayed to statues. They

didn't take care of God's temple either; the temple was like a church. Because the kings did these bad things, the people living in their kingdom also did these bad things.

When Josiah became king, he was very unhappy with the way people were behaving. He wanted them to learn to love God again. He had all the statues smashed and ordered that the temple be cleaned.

While the temple was being cleaned, a special scroll was found. When the Bible was first written, it was written on pieces of paper and rolled into scrolls. This particular scroll talked about how the people had disobeyed God and how angry that made Him. It made Josiah angry, too. Josiah read the scroll to the people. They were sorry for the way they been acting, and once again, they began loving and serving God.

Even though Josiah wasn't very old, he was a good "boss." He was a good boss because even though Josiah was the king, he knew GOD was really the BOSS.



Life Application:

(For this activity, you will need to make arrangements ahead of time for a couple members of the Church Council to visit your classroom to talk to the children about what the Council does.)

Say: **We've talked today about bosses at home, at school, in our country, and in the Bible, but who's the boss of the church? Responses. Ultimately, God is the BOSS of the church, but He chooses some people here on Earth to help Him. The pastor is one of those people; he helps to make decisions about what happens at the church. But the pastor alone is not the boss.**

In our church, there are (# of council members) special bosses who help the pastor make decisions. These bosses work together as a team; we call them the Church Council (or whatever name your church uses). Today some members of the Church Council have agreed to talk with us about what they do. Introduce members and turn the classroom over to them. After they finish, have a question and answer time.

When all questions have been answered, say: **Earlier we learned that King Josiah was a good boss because he loved God and knew that God**

was the real BOSS. The pastor and members of the Church Council are good bosses because they, too, love God and know that He is the true BOSS of our church. Have the children thank the council members for sharing with them.



Closing Activity:

(For this activity, you will need masking tape and an old sheet torn into 3-ft. long strips.)

Have the children line up shoulder to shoulder. Using the strips of cloth from the old sheet, tie their legs together as you would for a three-legged race. All the children should end up connected to form one whole. Several feet in front of the children, place a long strip of masking tape on the floor. The object is for the children to work as a team to walk forward until they are able to cross the masking tape line.

Ask: **Was it easy or hard to get across the line? Why? What would have made it easier? Just as you had to work together as a team to cross the line, the pastor and church council must work together as a team when making decisions for our church. And sometimes it's hard. How can we make their job easier? One way we can help is by praying for these special bosses in our church.** Lead the children in a circle prayer where each child prays a one sentence prayer either thanking God for the pastor and the church council, asking Him to help them as they do their job, or asking Him to help them remember that He is the true BOSS.