



October 17, 2024

Messy People – Josiah: Breaking Messy Family Cycles

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought Treats!

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymns

- ELW 521 – *O Day of Rest and Gladness*
- ELW 781 – *Children of the Heavenly Father*
- ELW 618 – *Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer*

Bible Study Business

Preparing for Discussion

Look through your book and notice any scriptures that stick out for you. Make note of them here:

Also notice any stories that struck you, quotes that prompted you to think, questions this raised, or insights you gained over this past week that you might like to share. Make a note here:

Discussion

1. The examples that had been set for Josiah were poor ones. His father and grandfather had forsaken the Lord. After he became king, Josiah took action to turn the country back to God.
 - What prompted him to break from the family patterns that he was born into?
2. Rediscovering God's Word was an important turning point for Josiah.
 - What role has scripture played in guiding your life decisions?
3. Josiah assembled a team of people to assist in prompting his nation to worship the Lord.
 - How did the team of people help him?
4. What scriptures or stories in this week's readings made the biggest impact on you?
5. What kinds of family messes have you seen passed on from generation to generation?
 - How have people been able to stop destructive patterns and turn things around? Or not?
6. On page 81 the author tells a story about her husband sensing God calling them to quit their jobs and start a church from scratch.
 - How might you have felt in her situation?

7. How do you know when God is calling you to do something?
 - How do you distinguish God’s voice from your own?
8. Do you believe that God has a plan for your life?
 - What does it take to trust God’s plans?
9. Think of a time when you took a risk and trusted God’s plan.
 - How did that go for you?
10. On page 89 the author writes, “The key to overcoming sin is the power of God’s Spirit at work in our lives.”
 - How does this relate to your experience?
11. The author says on p. 97, “My friend, you need a God squad, a spiritual posse, who will help you live into your best version of yourself.”
 - What experiences do you have with the support of other Christians helping you in your life and faith?
12. What lessons can we learn from Josiah’s story?

Key Take Away

When we take time to sort through life’s messes, examine our lives, and put things in order, the future holds the promise of new blessings.

For next time

Read and reflect on *Messy People*, pages 102-129

Birthdays

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for new beginnings. Thank you that you continue to call us out of our mess and into the future you have prepared for each of us. Help us not to make excuses but to follow where you lead. Give us the faith to trust you and live into your gracious will for us.

Lord’s Prayer

Schedule for *Messy People: Life Lessons from Imperfect Biblical Heroes*

Date	Topic	Prior to the Session Read and Reflect on:
9/26	Introduction to Messy People	
10/3	Rahab: Changing Your Messy Story	Pages 10-35
10/10	The Prodigal Son: Restoring Messy Relationships	Pages 38-64
10/17	Josiah: Breaking Messy Family Cycles	Pages 68-98
10/24	Mary: Surviving Life's Messy Plot Twists	Pages 102-129
10/31	David: Overcoming the Mess of Criticism	Pages 132-165
11/7	Daniel: Thriving in Messy Circumstances	Pages 169-199