

This was a great "find" for Hilkiah, the priest, for the king, and for all the people. Long, long before, as you may read in the thirty-first chapter of Deuteronomy, Moses wrote the law and placed it in the ark of the covenant. Once in seven years it was to be brought out and read to the people to keep them in mind of what God had commanded. But many changes had come to Israel since then. Through wars, defeats, sorrows, sins, and grievous wanderings from God, they had forgotten his law, which, if remembered and obeyed, would have kept them from these evils. Their ignorance of what God had said did not alter the truth. But how different it would have been with them if they had known and believed his word! Even Josiah, who was trying to do right according to his present knowledge, had quite a new view of his duty when Hilkiah read to him this wonderful book. Right and wrong stood out in clear light; his best endeavors and desires had been far from God's standard of righteousness, and with a sincere mind he set himself to study what was written. And what he was so eager to study and understand were the very same commandments and promises which you may read to-day in the first five books of the Old Testament. Where is your Bible? Have you "lost" it? Does it lie on your table unopened? Do you know more about all sorts of books than you know of this one? We might find some excuse for the ignorance of these people, for there was only one copy of the law, and they could not read it themselves. But we each have our own book, always at hand, open before us, fairly coaxing us to read it. But often it is lost quite as really as in the days of Josiah. It is possible that some even in our own Sunday school may know as little about it as he did. What would happen if you should "find" your Bible some day the way Jeremiah found it when he said, "Thy words were found and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." You would get light on questions vital to your usefulness and happiness.

The Teachers' Meeting.

Begin with the times in which Josiah began to reign—general neglect of God; idols worshiped; no Bible, etc.... Show the nobility of character which Josiah displayed. Let the Scripture texts be searched out and read by the scholars in turn, and explained by the teachers.... Josiah's example may be presented for imitation of the young, as given in the Thoughts for Young People.... Notice the hindrances in Josiah's way over which he triumphed: 1. His royal birth. Many think

noble birth and luxurious surroundings fortunate, but in reality they are obstacles to a pure and worthy character. 2. His wicked ancestry. Both his father and his grandfather were kings who "did evil in the sight of the Lord." 3. His evil surroundings. He lived in a wicked age, when the mass of the population was abandoned to idolatry and wickedness.... Notice how thorough was Josiah's devotion to God and his cause. He would have no halfway service. Every vestige of idol worship was swept away; the law was rigorously observed.

Before the Class.

BY GEORGE W. PEASE.

Introduction. After the disastrous reign of Manasseh, about whom we studied in Lesson VIII, his son Amon reigned for two years, and the record is, "He did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh did." Amon was succeeded by his son, Josiah, one of the best of the kings of Judah. Give the class some idea of the moral degeneration of the people at this time, as shown by the prophets Jeremiah and Zephaniah. Also briefly sketch the early life and probable training of the young king. It was during the temple repairs that the incident happened which is the text of our lesson for to-day.

Development of the text. Place upon the black-board the subject, "The Way of Success," and the following outline: 1. The unexpected discovery; 2. The king's inquiry; 3. The Lord's answer; 4. The promised blessing.

1. *The unexpected discovery.* While the high priest Hilkiah was engaged in some work connected with the temple repairs he found an ancient roll of the law which had been hidden away during a previous reign or had been thrown into the accumulated rubbish. Note that (a) Hilkiah was fulfilling his duty when the discovery was made. Added blessings come to one in the line of duty. (b) He shared his discovery with Shaphan, the scribe, who took it to the king. Be not selfish with discovered truth; give, and give freely. (c) The king was interested in the discovery and was ready to listen to this servant. Be ready to receive truth from any source. (d) The king accepted the word as revealed and humbled himself before God.

2. *The king's inquiry.* The reading of the book of the law had a remarkable effect upon the king, who immediately sent a special commission of five persons to inquire further of the Lord "concerning the words of this book that is found." Note that Josiah shows here (a) A spirit of inquiry. He wished to know more fully the meaning and consequences of the words which he had