STEP 2

Bible Learning
(15–20 minutes)

Bible Basis:

Josiah's determination to please God helps others worship Him (2 Chron. 34:1—35:19).

Objective: That your students will learn that confession and commitment to God are part of worship.

Materials:
- ☐ *Bible Adventures* pp. 2–3
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ *Bible Adventures* p. 1, pencils

King Josiah followed the Lord while he was young even though many people in his country had turned away from God and were worshiping idols. In today's Bible study, we will find out what King Josiah did to help his country turn back to the one true God.

Bible Study

Give your students *Bible Adventures* and have them turn to page 2 and ask a student to read the introduction. Point out the footnotes as they appear in the study. Have students find 2 Chronicles 34:2-3 in their Bibles and select a student to read it aloud.

- **Which phrases describe how King Josiah lived?** *(Josiah did what was right in the eyes of the LORD; he followed the ways of his father David; not turning aside to the right or to the left; began to seek the God of his father David.)* Explain that David lived many generations before Josiah, but in Scripture earlier ancestors are often called father.
- **How would you explain the phrase "not turning aside to the right or to the left"?** *(Some students may be able to explain that Josiah tried to be as much like David as he could, instead of following someone else's example. Others may understand only that it meant Josiah went in a straight line.)* Help your students understand the phrase to mean following God wholeheartedly.

BIBLE STUDY BASED ON 2 CHRONICLES 34—35:19

LOST AND FOUND!

Josiah was eight years old when he became king of Judah.[1] When he was still young, Josiah began to worship and follow God, unlike most of the previous kings.

[1]Judah was the southern kingdom when the Israelites divided into two nations after the death of King Solomon.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:2-3. Which phrases describe how King Josiah lived? How would you explain the phrase "not turning aside to the right or to the left"?

When Josiah was 20 years old, he rid Judah of all false gods and

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Have a volunteer read aloud about Josiah's reign in the next paragraph. Ask other students to read the footnotes.

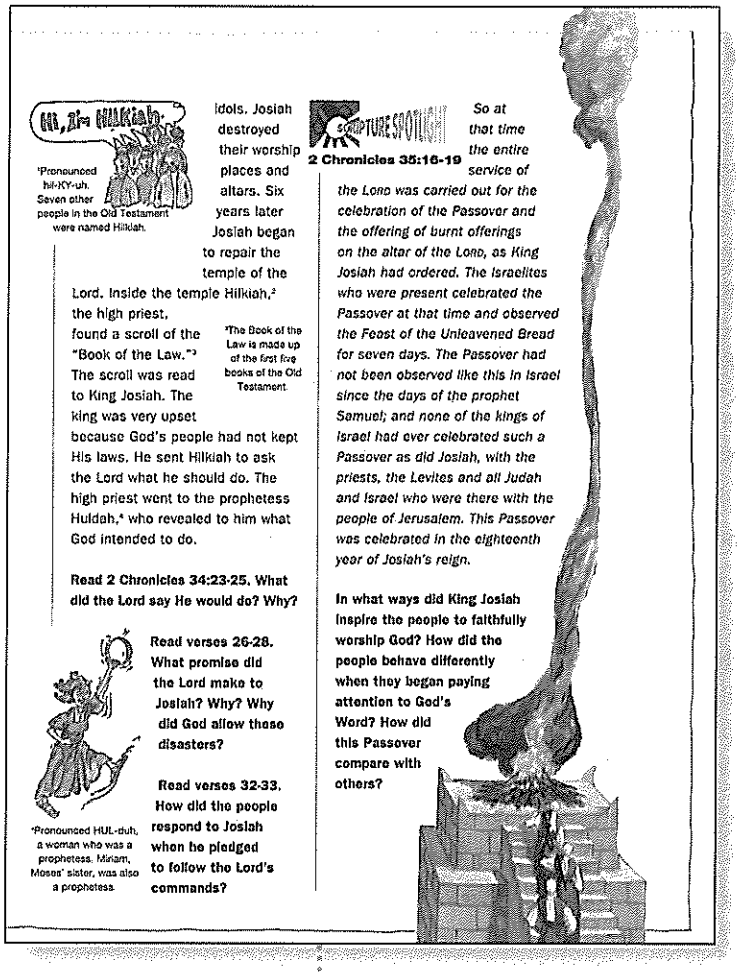
- **What project did Josiah start when he was 20 years old?** *(He started getting rid of false gods in the city and country.)*
- **What did Hilkiah find and what did he do with his discovery?** *(He found the Book of the Law of the Lord that had been given to Moses. He had the scroll read to King Josiah.)*

Continue the story by explaining: **When Josiah heard God's Word, he was deeply saddened and tore his robe because he knew that his people had not been following God's commands.**

Josiah then told Hilkiah to "inquire of the LORD" (2 Chron. 34:21) about the people's sin against God.

Choose a volunteer to read 2 Chronicles 34:23-25.

- **What did the Lord say He would do? Why?** *(The Lord would bring disaster on His people because they followed other gods.)*



Have another student read verses 26-28.

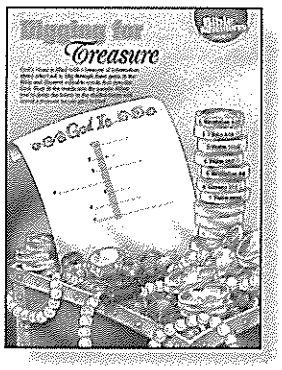
- **What promise did the Lord make to Josiah? Why?** *(The disaster wouldn't be in Josiah's lifetime because he followed God.)*
- **Why did God allow Josiah to escape these disasters?** *(Because Josiah's heart was responsive and he had humbled himself before God.)*

Choose another student to read verses 32-33.

- **How did the people respond to Josiah when he pledged to follow the Lord's commands?** *(The people pledged to follow God.)*

Choose one or two students to read the Scripture Spotlight (2 Chron. 35:16-19).

- **In what ways did King Josiah inspire the people to faithfully worship God?** *(Allow your children to share their responses. Help your students see that Josiah's example of faithfulness to God led the people to also be faithful to God. Josiah demonstrated humility, repentance, and a commitment to follow God's laws even when they had been neglected for many years by many kings.)*
- **How did the people behave differently when they began paying attention to God's Word?** *(They turned away from worshiping idols and began to serve God only.)*
- **How did this Passover compare with others?** *(There hadn't been any like it since Samuel. Some may sense from the wording that it was bigger and better than previous ones.)* Point out that one difference was that the king supplied thousands of animals for sacrifice, and it may have been a greater celebration than there had been in all those years. Students may be interested in knowing that Samuel had died about 400 years earlier.



Bible Review

Once King Josiah heard God's law, he wanted to obey it. He knew he held a valuable treasure in his hands. You see, God's Word is like a treasure chest we open to find out what God is like and why He alone is worthy of our worship and obedience.

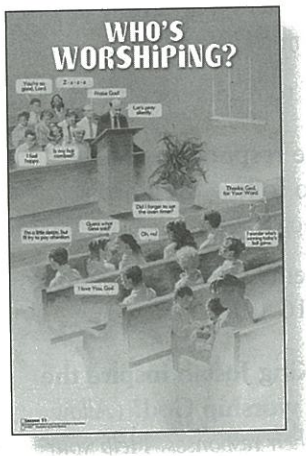
Read the instructions on page 1 of *Bible Adventures*. Allow your students time to look up the Scripture passages and complete the acrostic about characteristics of God. The correct answers are Revelation 4:11—God is *worthy*; 1 John 4:16—God is *love*; Psalm 111:4—God is *gracious*; Psalm 11:7—God is *righteous*; Revelation 4:8—God is *holy*; Genesis 17:1—*almighty*; Psalm 86:15—*compassionate*. The shaded letters spell *Worship*.

- **Which quality of God is your favorite "treasure," the one that helps you worship God?** *(You might want to give students an example such as this: "One of my favorite treasures is that God is almighty. He has the power to do anything, and no one is more powerful than He." Call on volunteers to share their answers. Stress to your students that because of who God is, He alone is worthy of their worship.)*

STEP 3

Bible Application

(5–10 minutes)



Objective: That your students will find ways people truly worship God in church.

Materials:

- ☐ Who's Worshiping?" Teaching Aid
- ☐ Bibles

Ask your students to think about your church's worship service for a moment. **What really goes on during worship? Are people truly worshiping God? Or are they off in their own world?**

Hold up the teaching aid poster "Who's Worshiping?" **Here are people in a church worship service. Look at this poster carefully.**

- **Which of these people are truly worshiping God?** *(Have students give their answers.)*
- **Why did you choose these people?** *(In your discussion, mention that these people were focusing their thoughts and attention on God and taking part in the worship service.)*
- **What's keeping the other people from worshiping God?** *(One mother is thinking about cooking dinner, a man is wondering about the ball game, two girls are whispering and gossiping, one choir member is dozing, and another is worried about her looks, one man didn't get enough sleep.)*
- **These people are being distracted. What might help these people to worship the Lord in the right way?** *(Let your students give their suggestions. Some ideas might be for these people to close their eyes to eliminate distractions; get a good night's sleep on Saturday; or ask God to help them focus on worshiping Him.)*
- **Suppose we didn't know what these people were thinking or feeling. Would we be able to tell who was truly worshiping God?** *(Probably not.)*

As it did with Josiah, true worship begins from the inside out. Worship starts when we love and obey God above all else.

Reading a Scripture passage, such as Psalm 100, can get us ready for worship by helping us concentrate on God rather than on ourselves. Let's read this worship psalm together.

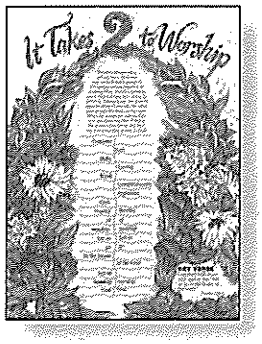
Have the class turn to Psalm 100 and read it in unison. Call on volunteers to mention phrases that describe ways to worship God (with gladness, with joyful songs, with thanksgiving, with praise).

STEP 4

Life Response
(5–10 minutes)

Bible Truth:

When we faithfully worship God, we influence others to do the same.



Objective: That your students will express worship to God.

Materials:
- ☐ *Bible Adventures* p. 4, pencils
- ☐ Bibles

Memory Work

Have students look up Psalm 122:1 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together. Have students say the verse a few times together. You may have the boys recite it, then the girls, then together. Or you may divide up the verse into three parts, and divide your students into three groups, each saying their part. Then the class can recite the verse together once they know it.

Why do you think the writer of this verse was happy to go to the house of the Lord? *(He was glad to worship the Lord. He also rejoiced that he could worship the Lord with God's people.)*

Worshiping God on our own and worshiping Him with other Christians like in a church worship service are excellent ways to thank God for who He is and what He's done for us. Let's take a few minutes to say the poem on page 4 of *Bible Adventures*. as a worship prayer to God.

Explain that this poem calls for two different readers. As the directions explain, one person says the lines on the left, and the other says the lines on the right. When the lines are side by side, the readers say them together. If you can find a willing volunteer, you might want to practice the poem ahead of time and give an example for the class.

Have students work in pairs to practice and recite the poem. Encourage students to read with expression. After a couple of minutes, get your students' attention and divide them into two large groups to say the poem. Go through the poem a couple of times, pointing to the groups when it's their turn to read.

Closing Activity

Ask students to complete this sentence: God is worthy of our worship because He is _____. They can choose words from the acrostic on page 1 or the worship poem on page 4 of *Bible Adventures*.

Optional Activities

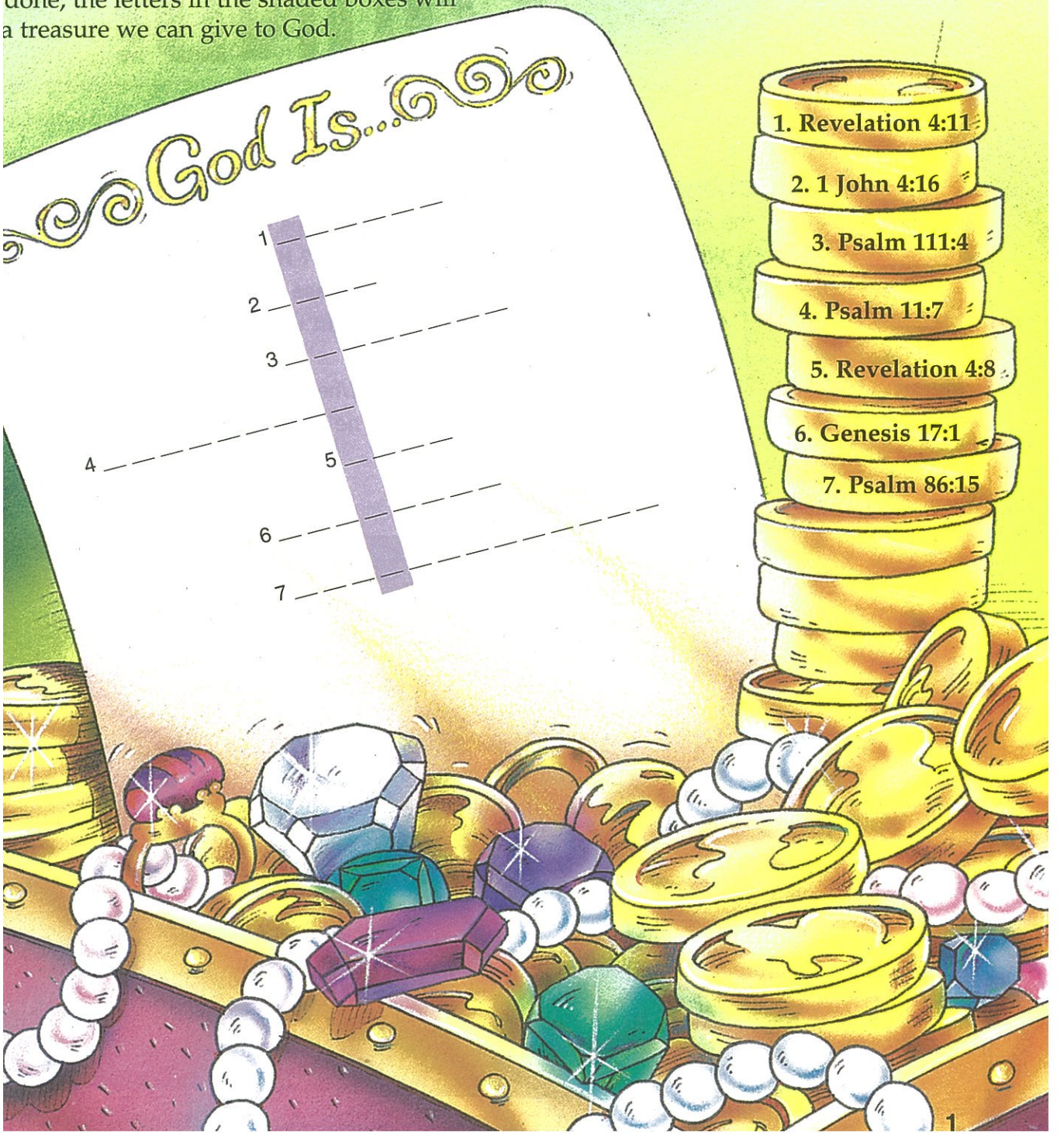
If your students enjoyed this "poem for two voices," let them work in pairs to write their own two-voice poem about worshiping God.

In your prayer journal this week, write your own short poems about worshiping God.

Bible Adventures
LESSON 2

igging for Treasure

Word is filled with a treasure of information
who God is. Dig through these gems in the
nd discover valuable words that describe
hen fit the words into the puzzle. When
done, the letters in the shaded boxes will
a treasure we can give to God.



LOST AND FOUND!

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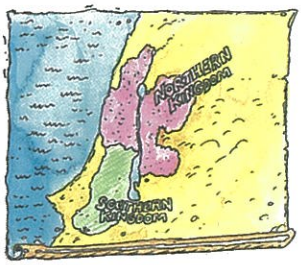
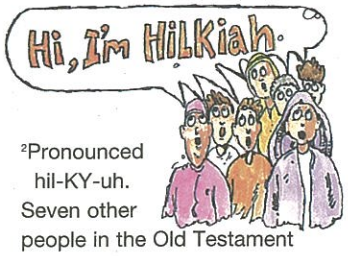


[1]Judah was the southern kingdom when the Israelites divided into two nations after the death of King Solomon.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:2-3. Which phrases describe how King Josiah lived? How would you explain the phrase "not turning aside to the right or to the left"?

When Josiah was 20 years old, he rid Judah of all false gods and



[2]Pronounced hil-KY-uh. Seven other people in the Old Testament were named Hilkiah.

idols. Josiah destroyed their worship places and altars. Six years later Josiah began to repair the temple of the Lord. Inside the temple Hilkiah,[2] the high priest, found a scroll of the "Book of the Law."[3] The scroll was read to King Josiah. The king was very upset because God's people had not kept His laws. He sent Hilkiah to ask the Lord what he should do. The high priest went to the prophetess Huldah,[4] who revealed to him what God intended to do.

[3]The Book of the Law is made up of the first five books of the Old Testament.

Read 2 Chronicles 34:23-25. What did the Lord say He would do? Why?

[4]Pronounced HUL-duh, a woman who was a prophetess. Miriam, Moses' sister, was also a prophetess.

Read verses 26-28. What promise did the Lord make to Josiah? Why? Why did God allow these disasters?

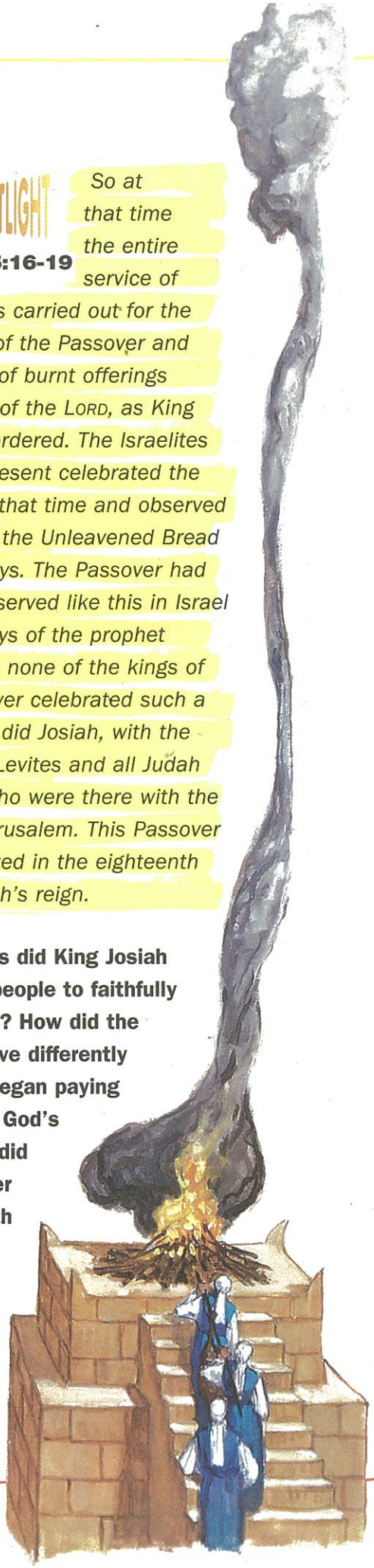
Read verses 32-33. How did the people respond to Josiah when he pledged to follow the Lord's commands?

SCRIPTURE SPOTLIGHT

2 Chronicles 35:16-19

So at that time the entire service of the LORD was carried out for the celebration of the Passover and the offering of burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, as King Josiah had ordered. The Israelites who were present celebrated the Passover at that time and observed the Feast of the Unleavened Bread for seven days. The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel; and none of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah, with the priests, the Levites and all Judah and Israel who were there with the people of Jerusalem. This Passover was celebrated in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign.

In what ways did King Josiah inspire the people to faithfully worship God? How did the people behave differently when they began paying attention to God's Word? How did this Passover compare with others?



It Takes 2 to Worship

Worship always takes at least two—God and you, or God and a group of Christians coming together to worship Him. Here's a worship poem that will take two of you to perform. Taking turns, one person says the lines on the left; the other person says the lines on the right. When the words are side by side, you say them together. Practice the poem a few times, and then say it as a worship prayer to God.

Gracious	
	God.
Holy,	
	Loving,
Kind,	
	Compassionate,
	Righteous
God.	
Worthy	*Worthy*
of	*of*
worship.	*worship.*
Let us	*Let us*
go	*go*
to the house	
	of the Lord.
Let us	
worship	*worship*
God.	*God.*

KEY VERSE

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psalm 122:1