

# Joash's Aunt Protects Him

## II Kings 11:1-2

Things were in an awful mess! The wicked queen had become very, VERY angry! The king was dead, so the queen ordered everyone in the king's family to be killed. But they hadn't done anything wrong: the queen was just mad. Oh, she was a very cruel queen.

Baby Joash was one of the king's sons. Joash's Aunt Jehosheba heard about the queen's wicked plan. She acted quickly to save baby Joash's life. She took baby Joash and his nurse from the palace.

Aunt Jehosheba was married to the priest in the temple. She knew Joash should be the king someday. She loved God and wanted to help her little nephew.

"You'll be safe hidden here in the temple," she said.

The Bible tells us that for six whole years Joash was hidden away. He couldn't run outside and play with other little boys. He had to be very quiet all the time. Nobody could come and play with him, or the secret would be discovered.

I'm sure Aunt Jehosheba visited Joash in his secret hiding place. Maybe she played with him. Maybe she helped him learn to talk. Joash had to learn to feed and dress himself – just as you did. But he had to do it in his secret hiding place. All through the years of hiding, Aunt Jehosheba taught Joash to love God.

When the little prince was seven years old, the people who knew he was still alive decided that he should be the king. But if the wicked queen knew, she would try to have Joash killed. How could they keep the queen from finding out?

The priest, Joash's uncle, called many, many guards to the temple. There were guards everywhere: inside and outside the building, and all around the little boy. NO ONE could come near to Joash to hurt him.

At last, it was time! Uncle Jehoiada brought the beautiful crown and placed it on the head of Joash. All the people clapped their hands and said, "God save the king!"

Even though King Joash was not very old, he loved God and tried to do what God wanted him to do. "He did that which was right in the sight of the LORD."

### Bible Verse to Learn

"Be ye kind one to another" (Ephesians 4:32)