

Unit 14 • Session 3
October 12-13, 2019
2-3's Lesson
Israel Taken Captive

Bible Passage:
2 Kings 17

Story Point:
Israel did not listen to God's warning.

Key Passage:
2 Peter 3:9

Big Picture Question:
Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Kid Connect
(30 minutes)

Large Group
(15 minutes)

Small Group
(15 minutes)

LEADER Bible Study

God's people had a history of disobeying God. Sin separated them from God. But man was created to know and love God, and God was working out a plan to bring His children back to Himself. Like any good father, God knows that disobedience needs to be punished. "For the LORD disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights" (Prov. 3:12).

After the tribes of Israel split into the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom, God sent prophets to both kingdoms to warn the people to turn from their sins and obey God. Over the course of 200 years, the prophets Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Amos, and Hosea spoke to Israel and warned them of the consequences of their idolatry. They called for Israel to repent and turn back to God. But Israel did not listen.

God had been very patient with the Israelites. He had helped them in times of trouble and delayed their punishment because He is gracious and compassionate. (See 2 Kings 13:23.) But God knew His people would not love Him with all their hearts.

Finally, God had had enough. Evil King Hoshea ruled over Israel, and God allowed Israel's enemies to send the people into exile. The king of Assyria attacked Israel and laid siege to Samaria. Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave the city. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the people were scattered, just as God had said it would be. (See 1 Kings 14:15.)

Israel's exile was God's judgment on their sin, but God was not finished working among His people. God was still working out His plan to keep His covenant promises. As you teach, point preschoolers to Jesus, the answer to God's promises. We too disobey God, but Jesus took God's judgment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus changes our hearts, brings us into God's presence, and keeps us there.



The BIBLE Story

Israel Taken Captive

2 Kings 17

God had done so many good things for the Israelites. Do you remember that God saved His people from Egypt when they were slaves? He sent Moses to lead them. God took care of them and gave them a new home. **But** after a while, the people forgot about God. **Instead of loving God, they loved other things.** This is exactly what God told them not to do!

God had warned His people. He sent men to tell them to stop doing wrong things. Did the people listen? No. In fact, they did even more wrong things!

Hoshea (hoh SHEE uh) became the king of Israel. King Hoshea did many bad things.

Assyria's army was bigger and stronger than Israel's army, so Hoshea gave money to the king of Assyria to leave Israel alone.

One day, Hoshea stopped giving money to the king of Assyria. Instead, he asked the king of Egypt to protect Israel. This made the king of Assyria mad! He liked getting money from Hoshea. So the king of Assyria attacked Israel with his big, strong army and Hoshea was thrown into prison.

The king of Assyria took over the city, and the army made all of the people leave their homes. They started walking. They walked and walked and walked. The army made God's people walk to a faraway land.

What a sad thing to happen to God's people! God's people were prisoners in another land, **but God was still in control.** God let His people be taken away from their homes because they had disobeyed Him. They had broken **God's** rules and forgotten about Him. This is why God said, "Enough!" His **people were hurting Him and themselves by continuing to disobey.**

God loved His people too much to let them keep living this way, so He let an army attack them and take them far away from home.

Christ Connection: God's people disobeyed Him over and over again, so God sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but Jesus when Jesus is our friend, He brings us back to God. People who love Jesus will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Travel with the story:** Identify a space on one side of the Large group area to begin telling the story. When you come to the part of the story where the Israelites walked to Assyria, walk to the other side of the Large Group area. Finish telling the Bible story there.
- **Use props:** Tell the story using the Large Group props to help the children visualize what is happening (King Hoshea, Army, and Israel puppets).



KID CONNECT

Welcome time

[Arrival Music](#)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures.

Play follow-the-leader

Invite preschoolers to line up behind you as you lead them around the room. Preschoolers must mimic your facial expressions. First, walk as if you are proud like the Israelites. Then, walk as if you are sad. Talk about how Jesus brings us back to God and walk with joy.

Say • **GOD'S PLANS ARE GOOD**. An army captured God's people, but when Jesus comes back, He will bring people together again.

Transition to Large Group

[VIDEO: Countdown](#)

Show the countdown video to gain the attention of all the preschoolers and move them to Large Group.

Worship

[VIDEO: You are Good](#)
[VIDEO: Return](#)

Sing the songs "You are Good" and "Return".



LARGE GROUP

Introduce the Bible story

Bible

Bookmark

[CG: Giant Timeline](#)

Place a bookmark at 2 Kings 17 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • There is no other book like the Bible in the whole world. The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true. Our Bible story today is from 2 Kings.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible story

Tell the Bible story using the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

[CG: Bible Story Picture](#)

[CG: Story Point](#)

SAY • God's people disobeyed Him over and over again. **They did not listen to God's warning.** God loved His people too much to let them keep living this way, so He sent them away from their home. We disobey God over and over again too, but if Jesus is our friend, we will never be sent away but have a home with God forever.

Practice the key passage

Bible

Key Passage Marker

[CG: Key Passage](#)

Place the key passage marker at 2 Peter 3:9. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Review the key passage using the motions you created. Guide the children to say the key passage together. Repeat several times.

SAY • God wanted His people to obey Him. God was patient and gave them many chances to obey, but they did not listen to Him. When we disobey, we can tell God we are sorry. God forgives us because Jesus took our punishment when He died on the cross.

Learn the big picture question

[CG: Big Picture Question](#)

SAY • Our big picture question reminds us why we should obey God the first time. Say it with me.
Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Pray and transition to small groups



SMALL GROUP

SESSION TITLE: Israel Taken Captive

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Big Picture Question: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

March in a circle

No supplies needed

Lead preschoolers to march in a circle. As you march, talk about how God's people must have felt walking away from their homes.

SAY • An army made God's people walk far away from their homes. God let this happen because His people disobeyed Him over and over again. God loved His people too much to let them keep disobeying Him. God loves us and wants us to obey Him too. *Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.*

Listen and do

No supplies needed

Encourage children to listen to you and follow your request such as, "Jump three times", "Touch your toes three times, pat your head three time, and touch your nose three times." After a few minutes, say, "Freeze." Ask the children to be seated quietly while you choose another leader.

SAY • Great job listening and obeying my directions friends! God's people did not obey God's directions. God said to love only Him, but they loved other things. **They did not listen to God's warning.** We disobey God too, but if Jesus is our friend, we can live with God forever.

Review

Bible Story Picture Poster

Have children sit in a circle and remind preschoolers that **God's people did not listen to God's warning.** The people did not listen and continued to disobey God, so God sent them away from their home. We disobey God too, but Jesus brings us back to God.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

Did God's people in the story obey Him? (*no*)

What did the army make God's people do? (*walk/leave their homes*)

Who did God send to be our friend and bring us back to Him? (*Jesus.*)

Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

Connect with Parents/Influencers

Big Picture Card

At pickup or drop off, hand this week's Big Picture Card to each child's influencer. Encourage them to discuss the *Big Picture Question & Answer* with their preschooler this week.

