



UNIT 15 | SESSION 5 | NOVEMBER 16-17, 2019

2nd-3rd Lesson

Judah Taken Captive

Bible Passage: 2 Chronicles 36

Story Point: Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured.

Key Passage: "If my people, who bear my name, humble themselves, pray and seek my face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

Big Picture Question: How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

God patiently waited for His people to turn from their sin. But the people of Judah did not change their ways. The kingdom had been declining for years, despite King Hezekiah's—and later, Josiah's—efforts to prompt nationwide repentance. When King Josiah died, the people went back to their old ways, worshiping idols and disobeying the Lord.

The time of judgment had come. Many of the people in Judah were taken, along with treasures from the Lord's temple. Nebuchadnezzar put Zedekiah on the throne in Jerusalem.

The people of Judah were unfaithful to God. Zedekiah rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar, and God poured out His wrath on Judah. Nebuchadnezzar showed no mercy to the people of Jerusalem. The Babylonians set fire to the Lord's temple and the king's palace. They destroyed the wall around Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar's armies carried most of the people away to Babylon as prisoners. The people were held captive in Babylon, serving the king for 70 years.

Yet God did not abandon His people. The prophet Jeremiah told what would happen next: "The days are coming ... when I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel and Judah" (Jer. 30:3). God

was going to save His people from captivity and raise up a new King—a forever King—from the line of David. (See Jer. 30:9.)

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to talk about a time they lost something special or had something important to them taken away.

SAY • It's never fun to lose things or have things taken away. Today we will learn about a time God's people had their home taken away because they would not obey Him.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME

(SFX: GAME INTRO MUSIC, CG: GAME SLIDES)

REVERSE CHARADES

(no supplies needed)

Select 2 Small Group Leaders - one male and one female. Explain that that they each will have to take turns standing on the stage, facing away from the screens while their team (boys vs. girls) faces the screens. Then an action or activity will be put up on the screens (for example: Riding on a Bus) that their entire team reads and has to act out without making any sounds or saying anything. They then guess what the activity is and once they get it right, they get a point and a new activity is put up on the screens. Whoever gets the most points after 1-minute wins.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: WAVEWALKER, VIDEO: O TASTE AND SEE)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: THEME BACKGROUND)

(mailbox, letter, Bible)

Leader enters and walks over to the mailbox and pulls a letter out.

SAY • Hey everyone! How's it going today? [*Look at letter.*] Huh, what's this? It seems I've got a package that couldn't be delivered, so it's being held at the local post office.

I heard them knock on the door earlier today, but I didn't feel like answering cause I was watching my favorite show on TV. Often, they will leave the package on the doorstep for me to grab whenever I can, but I guess in this case they felt that wouldn't work.

I'm upset that I have to go all the way to the post office to get the package; it feels like they are holding it hostage! But the truth is, this is my fault. If I had answered the door like I'm supposed to when people knock, I wouldn't have this problem.

Actually, this kind of reminds me of our Bible story. God's people continued doing the wrong things, and eventually they were taken captive. I'll tell you all about it.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • As we get into our story, let's review the big picture question. Do any of you remember it? [*Allow responses.*] Great job! *How did God plan to fix what sin broke?* And who can tell me the answer? [*Allow responses.*] Right again! *Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.* That means that God wasn't surprised by sin. He chose to create the world and allowed Adam and Eve to sin because it was all part of His wonderful plan to show His love and goodness through Jesus!

GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • God's people repeatedly chose to disobey God, so He sent messengers called prophets to warn them. And though most of the kings were evil, some actually loved God. Hezekiah and Josiah led the people back to God, but their changes didn't last. The people needed new hearts. Jeremiah told God's people about a new and better promise, and Habakkuk learned to have faith and trust in God. But God's people still ignored His prophets and disobeyed. God loved them too much to let them keep disobeying. Let's watch our Bible story and see what happened next.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: JUDAH TAKEN CAPTIVE, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "Judah Taken Captive".

SAY • The last four kings of Judah all did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. The people of Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. God allowed Nebuchadnezzar (NEB yoo kad NEZ uhr), the king of Babylon, to attack Judah. The Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and burned the temple to the ground. Any people who had not been killed were taken back

to Babylon as slaves. This all happened in 597 B.C. and was a major event in the history of the Israelites.

When God's people were taken away to Babylon, they might have thought their lives were over—that the story of God's people was over. They had a chance to be God's special people and they had blown it, right?

Well, God did not give up on His people. Yes, they had been unfaithful. But God is always faithful. He had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "Look, the days are coming when I will restore the fortunes of my people. I will restore them to the land I gave to their ancestors and they will possess it" (Jer. 30:3).

CHRIST CONNECTION

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • God was right to punish His people for their sin, but their story wasn't over. God kept His promise to provide a king through David's family. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open Bible and lead the kids to read together 2 Chronicles 7:14.

SAY • This key passage shows us God's heart for His people. He wants us to turn from our sin and turn to Him. The Lord hears, forgives, and heals.

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Session Title: Judah Taken Captive

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KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key passage poster – 1 per group, paper & pencils – 1 per kid, numbered cube/die – 1 per group)

Have kids sit in a circle and display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Then distribute paper and pencils. Give one kid a numbered cube. Explain that when you say "go," kids will begin writing the key passage on their papers.

The player with the die will roll until he rolls a 4. When he rolls a 4, he shouts "Pass!" and passes the die to the player on his right. Other players pass their papers to the right and pick up writing where the previous player left off. Continue rolling and passing. The first player to finish writing the passage on the paper in front of him wins.

SAY • God's people in Judah became captives in the land of Babylon, but that was not the end of their story. God's plan was not to leave them under their enemies. Long before Judah was captured, God had a plan to rescue His people. He would keep His promise by sending Jesus, the Messiah, which means special king.

DISCUSSION

(1 Bible per group)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 36:15-16. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why did God allow Judah to be captured? Did God give up on His people? *Remind kids that God loved His people and would not allow them to keep disobeying Him. He sent prophets to warn them, but each time they turned away from God. He promised to bring a Messiah into the world through His people, and God always keeps His promises.*

How are we like the people of Judah? *Lead kids to discuss that like the people of Judah, we all disobey God and deserve to be separated from God for our sin. But God loved us and sent His Son to take the punishment we deserve and bring us back to Him. Jesus never sinned. He died on the cross in our place, and He is alive!*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 3:21-24.)

Can anyone's sin be too much for God to forgive? *Point out that for a very long time, God's*

people had disobeyed Him. They broke His laws and worshiped gods that people made. But when Jesus died on the cross, He died for all our sins—past, present, and future. No sin is beyond Jesus' forgiveness for everyone who trusts in Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:8-11.)

CAPTURE A KING

(1 slip of paper per kid, 1 marker per group)

Count a slip of paper for each kid in your group. Draw a small crown on half of the papers and leave the rest blank. Form two teams and instruct them to sit across from each other. (Tip: Reduce or increase the number of kings to capture based on the size of your group.)

Distribute one slip of paper to each kid, instructing kids to look at their papers but to not let anyone else see what is on their paper. Explain that kids with a crown on their papers are kings. Each player from one team will get to select one player from the opposite team by saying their name. If a player called is a king, that player sits behind the team who called them.

If a player called has no crown, play passes to the other team. The first team to capture four kings is the winner.

SAY • The kings in today's Bible story disobeyed the Lord. God sent prophets to warn the people, but Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. God sent Judah into captivity because of their sin, but He promised to gather them back together one day and give them new hearts and power to obey Him. [See *Ezek. 11:14-21*.]

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

Send home the Activity Page and encourage kids to complete it with their family.