



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

4th-5th 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. 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 & SEE)

SAY • Let's worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION & GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible)

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

SAY • The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

We have been learning about how God’s people repeatedly chose to disobey Him. Because of this He sent messengers called prophets to warn them. Most of the kings we have learned about were evil, but 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 covenant, 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. Today we are going to learn what happened next.

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT, CG: QUESTION 1, CG: QUESTION 2)
(Bible)

Tell the Bible story using the script below.

SAY • The last four kings of Judah came from King Josiah’s family. His three sons— Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, and Zedekiah—and his grandson Jehoiachin each ruled as the king of Judah for a short time.

Jehoahaz was not king for long. He did what was evil, and the king of Egypt came and made Jehoahaz a prisoner. Then he put Jehoahaz’s brother Jehoiakim on the throne. The king of Egypt took Jehoahaz to Egypt.

When Jehoiakim was king of Judah, he too did what was evil. The king of Babylon attacked Jehoiakim, made him a prisoner, and took him to Babylon. The king of Babylon stole some of the things from the Lord’s temple and put them in his own temple. When Jehoiakim was taken away, his son Jehoiachin became king of Judah.

Jehoiachin was king of Judah for just three months. He too did what was evil. The king of Babylon sent for Jehoiachin and brought him to Babylon. Jehoiachin’s uncle Zedekiah became king of Judah. Like his brothers, Zedekiah did what was evil. He led the people of Judah to do evil things too. The prophet Jeremiah warned Zedekiah that God would punish him, but Zedekiah did not listen.

God was angry with the people of Judah. They sinned and did not obey God. But God loved His people. He wanted them to turn back to Him. God sent prophets to warn the people, but the people did not listen. Finally, it was time to punish the people of Judah for their sin. God allowed the king of Babylon and his army to attack Judah. Many of the people died.

The king of Babylon took everything out of the Lord’s temple and carried it back to Babylon. Then the king and his army burned the temple. They tore down the wall around the city and burned the palaces. Anything they did not take with them was destroyed.

All of the people who were still alive were taken back to Babylon. The king forced them to be slaves. Everything the prophet Jeremiah had warned about happened, just like God said it would.

QUESTION 1: What does this story teach us about God?

SAY • 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. But God did not give up on His people. They had been unfaithful, but God is always faithful. He promised to restore the fortunes of His people and restore them to their land. (Jer. 30:3)

QUESTION 2: What kind of kings ruled Judah in its last days?

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.

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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • 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!

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

DISCUSSION

(Bible - 3-4 per group)

SAY • When we hear a story from the Bible, we need to remember that the story is part of the bigger story God tells us through the Bible—the story of God's plan to rescue sinners.

- How should you react to failing at something?
- What hope do we have in Jesus?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to 2 Chronicles 36. Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 36:15-16. Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. God corrects His people and disciplines them because He loves them.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. Why did God allow the Babylonians to capture Judah? Did God give up on His people?

Remind kids that God promised to bring a Messiah into the world through His people, and God always keeps His promises. Explain that the prophet Isaiah spoke about a remnant of God's people that would return to God, and like a small plant growing out of a tree stump, a righteous King would rise up and rule over God's people. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 10:33–11:1.)

2. How are we like the people of Judah?

Lead kids to discuss that we too deserve to be punished for our sin. But God loved us and sent His Son to take the punishment we deserve. 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.)

3. Can anyone's sin be too much for God to forgive?

Point out that for generations, God's people had rebelled against Him. They broke His laws and worshiped false gods. 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.)

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.

CAPTURE A KING

(slip of paper – 1 per kid, marker – 1 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 to complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: DESERT ISLAND

(paper - 2 per group, pencils)

Form two teams. Instruct the teams to sit on opposite sides of the group facing each other. Explain that they have just been stranded on a desert island. The only things they have to survive are the objects they can see in their classroom right now.

Provide paper and a pencil to each team. Challenge them to identify and list on their paper 10 things from their side of the group that would be beneficial to their survival. (Option: If your small group is short on supplies, allow kids to list items not found in the room.) Prompt them to rank the items based on necessity. After several minutes, allow each team to share its list.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Activity Page - 1 per kid)

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