



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

K-1 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 • Facing the sad consequences of sin is never fun, but God loves His people too much to allow sin to separate them from Him forever. You see, our sin always causes damage. It hurts our friends and families, it hurts us, and it breaks God's heart.

God created us to love Him and be filled with joy. When we choose to disobey God, we cannot experience the best God has for us. God loves us, but He hates sin. The Bible

teaches that God will always punish sin. For the people living in Judah, that meant being defeated by their enemies. Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured.

Thankfully, we no longer have to be afraid of God punishing us for sin. God sent Jesus to take the punishment we deserved. Jesus died for our sin and rose again. Now, we have a way to live forever with God.

Our sinful choices still have consequences. Our sin still hurts us and those around us. Our sin still makes God sad. But if you believe in Jesus, His death covers your sin. Jesus took the punishment for those who follow Him.

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 • When we believe in Jesus, God forgives our sin and begins fixing the damage sin has caused in our lives. Someday, Jesus will come back again and fully fix all the brokenness caused by sin.

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 • God made this promise to Solomon many years before Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. God's people did not humble themselves or cry out to God for forgiveness and help. In a way, this promise points to Jesus. When we ask forgiveness for our sin and ask Jesus to save us, God forgives us! God then fills us with the Holy Spirit and begins to heal the damage sin causes.

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)

Invite volunteers to say the key passage from memory. Praise each kid's effort and encourage all kids to continue practicing the verse using the motions below from the previous week.

[If] my people [*Hold arms as though placing them around friends' shoulders.*]
pray and seek my face [*Fold hands as in prayer.*]
and turn from their evil ways [*Face left, then turn to face right.*]
then I will hear from heaven [*Cup one hand over your ear.*]
forgive their sin and heal their land. [*Place hands on heart, move hands downward to gesture to the earth.*] 2 Chronicles 7:14

SAY • Great job! Our key passage helps us understand God wants us to turn away from sin and toward Him. Our sin hurts us, the people around us, and even the world.

DISCUSSION

(1 Bible per group)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

How did God's people treat His messengers and prophets? (*they ignored them, 2 Chron. 36:16*)

How were God's people punished? (*Jerusalem was destroyed and taken captive, 2 Chron. 36:17-20*)

What happens when we disobey God? *Help kids understand that followers of Jesus cannot lose their salvation, but that sin still has consequences and will hurt our relationships with God and other people.*

(example: Parents told a child not to play ball in the house. The child lies to his parents about breaking a window while playing ball in the house. Sin: Lying and disobeying parents.

Consequence: Lying will cause the parents not to trust the child and child will feel shame.

Disobeying his parents caused the child to break the window. Note: Followers of Jesus cannot lose their relationship with God, even though their disobedience to God has consequences.)

When will sin be gone forever? *Help kids see that if we follow Jesus, we are free from the punishment of sin, but we still live in a world broken by sin. When Jesus comes back, He will fix all that is broken and make it right again.*

SAY • Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. Without Jesus we are captured by our sin. Only when we trust in Jesus, are we freed from sin.

BAD, BAD, GOOD

(no supplies needed)

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Select a kid to start the game by walking around the outside of the circle, lightly tapping the other kids' heads one at a time. Each time she taps a kid, she will say "bad king." After a few taps, she may choose a kid by saying "good king" when tapping his head. The "good king" will then hop up and chase her around the circle. If he catches her, she will sit in the center of the circle. If she reaches his spot around the circle before he catches her, she is safe. The "good king" will now walk around tapping kids.

SAY • Judah had kings who trusted God and led His people to obey Him. However, most of Judah's kings were evil men who led the people away from God. After years of disobedience, God disciplined His people.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Coloring Page - 1 per kid, crayons)

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 Bible story coloring 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.