



UNIT 17 | SESSION 1 | JANUARY 4-5, 2020

## 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson

# Obadiah the Prophet

**Bible Passage:** Obadiah

**Story Point:** God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

**Key Passage:** “I know the plans I have for you”- this is the Lord’s declaration- “Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope” Jeremiah 29:11.

**Christ Connection:** We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

**Big Picture Question:** How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

**KID CONNECT:  
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:  
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:  
20 MINUTES**

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The conflict between Edom and Israel originates in the story of Jacob and Esau. The twins struggled in the womb, and their mother Rebekah asked God why. God explained that from her womb would come two nations, and the older would serve the younger. (Gen. 25:23)

For centuries, the two families were at odds. When Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, the king of Edom refused to let the Israelites pass through his country to get to the promised land. (Num. 20:14-21) Edom fought against Israel on several occasions. (See 2 Chron. 20:2; 28:17; 2 Kings 8:20-22.)

The Book of Obadiah is God’s message about Edom in response to their sin—specifically their gloating over the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem. When the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem, the people of Edom didn’t help. Like an envious brother, Edom was glad to see Judah overcome. In fact, Edom was a guilty participant in the action against Judah. (Obad. 11)

The prophet Obadiah detailed the charges against Edom, announced their guilt, and handed down the sentence from the Lord: Edom would be totally destroyed. No remnant of Esau’s family would remain. On the other hand, Obadiah said God’s people would be restored.

God said the people of Edom would get what they deserved. “As you have done, it will be done to you; what you deserve will return on your own head” (Obad. 15). God’s rule is just. The fate of the Edomites might as well be ours. But here’s the reality-as you have done, it was done to Christ; what you deserve was returned on His head. Jesus is King, and one day He will deliver His people from their enemies once and for all.

## 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. As kids arrive ask them how they would let their friends know when something really great happens to them.

SAY • We like to share good news. Telling other people about great things we have experienced comes naturally for us. Today we will hear about some news the prophet Obadiah shared. It was good news for some, but not so good for others.

## 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, SFX: FUN MUSIC)

### NILLA KNOCKDOWN

(Table, 2 Mini Nilla Wafers Boxes, Allergy Alert)

SAY • It’s game time again! We’re going to play a game called Nilla Knockdown. I need 4 volunteers - 2 boys vs. 2 girls.

Only one person per team can go at a time. Contestants must run from their box of Mini Nilla Wafers, while only carrying one wafer at a time, to the table. When you arrive at the table, you can begin to stack your wafers as tall as possible or attempt to slide your wafer across the table to knock the other teams stack of wafers down. If your stack gets knocked down, you have to start over stacking from the base. (You may only use new wafers from the box for stacking or sliding.)

After 1 minute, the team with the tallest stack of wafers is the winner!

## WORSHIP

(VIDEO: THIS IS LIVING NOW, VIDEO: WAVE WALKER)

SAY • Let's worship God!

## INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: THEME BACKGROUND)

(Suitcase)

### Leader enters with suitcase

SAY • Hey, kids! Guess where I'm going later on today. Yes! The airport! Raise your hand if you've ever flown in an airplane before. Where did you fly to? [*take a few responses from the kids.*] Whoa, those are some pretty awesome places! You guys remember the airport security you had to go through first? Yep, it's that place where you put your stuff in a plastic tray and send it through the machine while you walk through this really cool looking archway or tube. Sometimes you even have to stand like this! [*put your arms wide and feet apart.*]

All of that is so that we can all travel safely to our destination...wherever that might be. That actually reminds me of our Bible story today. Check it out.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • This story comes from the Book of Obadiah. Obadiah was a prophet of the Lord. Does anyone know what a prophet is? A *prophet* is someone who heard from God and told the people what He said. As we hear the story today let's think about this question: *How is Jesus the perfect Prophet?* We'll see what the answer is in a few minutes.

## GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

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

SAY • You may remember way back in the Book of Genesis we learned about Abraham's family. God had promised Abraham that his family would be so big, counting them would be like trying to count the stars in the sky. God's promises continued to Abraham's son Isaac. Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. God chose Jacob to inherit the promise. Esau was jealous of Jacob and the brothers fought. While the nation of Israel came through Jacob's family, the nation of Edom came through Esau's family. Many years later the people of Edom were cruel to the Israelites. They wouldn't allow them to travel safely through their land, and they fought with them. Today we will hear about God's judgment on the nation of Edom.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: OBADIAH THE PROPHET, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)  
(Bible)

Show the Bible story video “Obadiah the Prophet.”

**SAY** • I don’t know about you, but when I was a kid, I often fought with my siblings. We argued, and our arguments often got one or both of us in trouble with Mom and Dad. But if I ever saw someone outside our family treating my little brother badly, things would always shift.

It didn’t matter how angry I had been at my brother, I would always try to protect him. It’s silly to think that I didn’t mind being mean to him as long as no one else was, but in some ways that was true. Edom was like Israel’s older sibling. When the people of Judah faced Babylon, Edom should have helped Judah, but they chose not to.

In the Book of Obadiah, we see that the nation of Edom was going to deal with the consequences of their choice to ignore Judah’s trouble. The people of Edom were not faithful to the people of Judah. God planned to punish them for their unfaithfulness.

Obadiah’s message for Edom was not happy news for the Edomites. They would have bad things happen to them, just as they had done bad things to Judah. But Obadiah’s news was happy for the people of Judah. Though Edom failed to protect Judah, God would protect Judah. God was going to give Edom’s land to Judah and make them a kingdom again. God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

## 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** • The Book of Obadiah points us to Jesus. *How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.* When we decide to follow Jesus we become part of God’s promise to Abraham! We do not face the punishment our sin deserves, but instead, we are welcomed into God’s kingdom forever! Like God’s people were mistreated by the people of Edom, Jesus was mistreated by His own people. God will punish sin. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sin. We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

## KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)  
(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open the Bible and lead the kids to read Jeremiah 29:11 together.

**SAY** • God promised to do good things for His people, and He did just that. When we trust in Jesus, we experience a similar promise. God gives us everlasting life with Him. No matter what hard times we face now, someday Jesus will return and fix everything sin has broken.

At that time, we will fully experience all the joy of being with God forever; God's plans are good, and He is faithful to keep promises.

## PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

### SMALL GROUP

**Bible Passage:** Obadiah

**Story Point:** God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

**Key Passage:** "I know the plans I have for you"- this is the Lord's declaration- "Plans for your well-being, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" Jeremiah 29:11.

**Key Passage:** We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

**Big Picture Question:** How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

### KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(1 key passage poster per group, 2 sets of key passage phrase cups)

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading Jeremiah 29:11 aloud together. Then form two groups. Hide or cover the key passage poster. Give each group a set of key passage cups and challenge them to build a tower with the words of the key passage in order. The first word should be at the bottom, and groups can build their verse upward.

As groups finish, invite them to say the key passage aloud together. For an added challenge, remove some of the cups and let kids say the key passage, supplying missing words from memory.

SAY • Building that tower revealed an important message from God's Word. God has a plan. In today's Bible story, God revealed His plans to people through the prophet Obadiah. God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

### CHRIST CONNECTION PUZZLES

(2 large pieces of paper per group, markers, crayons, and 2 pairs of scissors per group)

Form groups of three to five kids. Give each group a large sheet of paper with the Christ Connection written on it. Invite the kids to decorate their papers, illustrating the Christ Connection in their own way. Then give each group a pair of scissors to cut their paper into a few puzzle pieces. The groups will then trade puzzles and try to assemble a different team's puzzle.

SAY • We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right. Our story today reminds us that God always keeps His promises. God kept His promise to restore Israel. Though they had been sent away from their land, God brought them back home. God has promised that Jesus will

come back and fix everything that is broken. We can trust God to keep that promise too.

## DISCUSSION

### (Bibles)

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Obadiah. Explain that Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament—just one chapter! Obadiah wrote the book, and his name means “worshiper of Yahweh.” Choose a volunteer to read aloud verse 21.

**SAY** • God saw that His people needed help that only He could give. God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What consequences did Edom face for their mistreatment of Israel? Will we face what we deserve for our sin? Why? *Lead kids to recall that God said the people of Edom would get what they deserved. (Obad. 15) We deserve to be separated from God for our sin, but Jesus took the punishment we deserve by dying on the cross. On the third day, He rose from the dead. When we trust in Him, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 3:19-20.)

A lot of the problems from today’s story happened because the families of two brothers didn’t get along. What could you do this week to get along with your brothers, sisters, or friends? *Invite kids to share their ideas. Point out that not only does God call us to love our siblings, He even wants us to love our enemies.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 5:44.)

Do you think God can fix this broken world? Why? *Allow kids to share their thoughts. Then emphasize that we do live in a broken world where many unfair things happen, but God promises in His Word that one day, Jesus will return and make all things new.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rev. 21:5.)

## 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 Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

### (Older Kids Activity Page, 1 per kid)

Hand each 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade kid an Older Kids Activity Page and encourage them to do it at home with their family this week.