



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

4s-5s Lesson

Obadiah the Prophet

Bible Passage: Obadiah

Story Point: God promised to take care of His people.

Key Passage: “I know the plans I have for you ... plans ... 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? God speaks to us through Jesus.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 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)

The nation of Israel descended from Jacob (the younger), and the nation of Edom descended from Esau (the older). For centuries, the two families were at odds.

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 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: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

HUNT FOR ITEMS IN SAND

(2-4 sealed plastic bags with nature items inside per class)

Invite children to search for items in the sand while sharing about today’s Bible story.

SAY • What do you see inside the sand? We find all these things outside on the ground. God made these things. Today, we will hear about a man named Obadiah. Obadiah gave people a message from God. God said He would bring His people home and that God would make everything right. Listen to what else God said through Obadiah in today’s Bible story.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: JESUS LOVES ME, VIDEO: JEREMIAH 29:11)

Sing “Jesus Loves Me” and “Jeremiah 29:11.”

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Obadiah 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is a true book. It tells us everything we need to know about God. Our Bible story today comes from the Book of Obadiah in the Old Testament part of the Bible.

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.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: OBADIAH THE PROPHET, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)
(2 leaders cell phones per class - optional)

Ask another adult leader to call your phone without the children knowing. Answer the phone. Give the phone to a preschooler. Instruct him to tell the message he hears. The leader will say, “Obadiah had a message to tell,” and the child will repeat it to the group.

SAY • People tell us what they want us to know through their words and writings. God had a message for the people of Edom. He used a special messenger called a prophet. Obadiah was a messenger who spoke God’s words to the people. Let’s watch our Bible story to see what message God gave Obadiah.

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • Obadiah told God’s people a message. Obadiah said that God promised to take care of His people. God always keeps His promises. The people of Edom were not kind to God’s people. God told the people of Edom that they would be punished for hurting God’s people.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Later, God’s people hurt His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for people’s wrong choices. We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the key passage marker at Jeremiah 29:11. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Watch the key passage song for an example.

SAY • “I know the plans I have for you (*point to temples*) ... plans (*display arms in front*) to give you a future and a hope (*rainbow arms from left to right*)” Jeremiah 29:11. God’s plans are perfect. He knows exactly what will happen in the future—your future! God wants the best for you. God wants to use you in His plan!

LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • Obadiah was a prophet. A prophet spoke God's words. *How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.* Jesus is a better prophet than Obadiah. Obadiah told God's plan. Jesus came to *do* God's plan. When Jesus comes back to earth, He will make all the wrong things right.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Obadiah

Story Point: God promised to take care of His people.

Key Passage: "I know the plans I have for you ... plans ... 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? God speaks to us through Jesus.

HOPSCOTCH THE STORY POINT

(1 roll of masking tape per group or 5-7 sheets construction paper per group)

Make a hopscotch pattern on the floor using masking tape or pieces of construction paper. Show children how to hop in and out of the boxes. Say a phrase of the story point as they hop from square to square. Encourage them to say the story point with you.

SAY • Great hopping! What did we say as you hopped? [*Wait for a response from the children.*] God promised to take care of His people. God *does* promise to take care of His people because He loves them. God always keeps His promises.

DECIDE WHAT IS MISSING

(1 piece of paper per group or cloth per group, 5-8 small items per group (such as a crayon, small toy, Bible, toy car, cotton ball))

Display 5 to 8 different small items on the floor instructing preschoolers to only look at the items and not touch them. Invite preschoolers to examine the items. Cover the items with a piece of paper. Encourage preschoolers to close their eyes. While their eyes are closed, quickly remove one item and hide the item from view. Guide children to open their eyes. Lift the paper. Encourage them to guess the item you took away. Repeat several times. You may choose to add the removed item back or remove all the items one by one.

SAY • When God's people needed help, Edom did not help them. Some of the Edomites even took

things that belonged to God's people! Even though the people of Edom were unkind to God's people, God promised to take care of His people. Obadiah told God's message to the people of Edom. God was going to punish the people of Edom for hurting His people.

God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our wrong choices. One day, God will send Jesus back and make all the wrong things right.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

"I know the plans I have for you (*point to temples*) ... plans (*display arms in front*) to give you a future and a hope (*rainbow arms from left to right*)" Jeremiah 29:11.

REVIEW AND PRAYER

(1 Bible Story Picture Poster per group)

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

Who told the people of Edom God's messages? (*Obadiah*)

Did the people of Edom help God's people? (*no*)

Would the bad things that happened to God's people last forever? (*no*)

Who did God say would get the land that belonged to Edom? (*His people*)

Did God keep His promise and take care of His people? (*yes*)

Will God keep His promises to us? (*yes, God always keeps His promises*)

How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? God speaks to us through Jesus.

SAY • Obadiah had a message from God for the people of Edom. The people of Edom were not kind God's people. God promised to take care of His people. Later, God's people hurt His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to be punished for people's wrong choices. We can trust Jesus to make wrong things right.

Ask your group for prayer requests and pray together. If you can, pray for your preschoolers by name. Encourage them to talk to God in prayer throughout the week.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child and crayons)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.