



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

4th-5th 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. Prompt kids to think of some good news or bad news they have heard. As each kid shares news, give a thumbs-up if it is good news and a thumbs-down if it is bad news.

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: FAMOUS SIBLINGS SLIDES 1, 2, 3)

(no supplies needed)

Show the Famous Siblings slides one after the other when instructed by the Large Group Leader.

SAY • Hey guys! Great job worshipping. Ok, before we get started, I want to quiz you guys on something. I am going to show you some pictures of some famous siblings and you tell me who they are.

Famous Siblings Slide #1 - Elsa and Anna (Frozen)

Famous Siblings Slide #2 - Thor and Loki (Marvel)

Famous Siblings Slide #3 - Luke and Leia (Star Wars)

Good job! Those are some famous brothers and sisters. Let me ask you something, did these siblings always get along? No. Definitely not! Raise your hand if YOU have siblings. Keep them raised if you have NEVER had a disagreement or argument with them. Yeah, we all have.

Well, that leads us to today's story. It's a story about God's people—the people of Judah—and the people of Edom. Both groups were descendants from two brothers a LONG time before. Their names were Jacob and Esau. Jacob and Esau are talked about in Genesis – the very first book of the Bible – and the Bible tells us that these two brothers *a/so* didn't get along.

Ok, fast forward to our story today. The people of Judah were descendants of Jacob, and the people of Edom were descendants of Esau. Though they were related, they did not treat each other like family. The Edomites mistreated God's people, so God sent a message through the prophet Obadiah. He had a message with bad news for the people of Edom because of the way they treated His people. The messenger had good news for God's people, too. Check it out.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: OBADIAH THE PROPHET, CG: STORY POINT, CG: QUESTION 1, CG: QUESTION 2)

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "Obadiah the Prophet."

SAY • The two groups were practically family, yet the people of Edom refused to help another nation. The people of Edom trusted in their own strength. [Read Obadiah 1:3-4] Edom was so far from God that they chose to laugh at the pain of another nation instead of helping them.

[Read Obadiah 1:12-13] God sent His messenger—the prophet Obadiah—to deliver bad news. God would make the wrong things right. Edom was about to learn the hard way that their opinion of God didn't change the truth about who He is. God is God whether or not people choose to worship Him. God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

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

SAY • Edom was so far from God that they chose to laugh at the pain of another nation instead of helping them. God sent His messenger—the prophet Obadiah—to deliver bad news. God would make the wrong things right. Edom was about to learn the hard way that their opinion of God didn't change the truth about who He is. God is God whether or not people choose to worship Him. God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

QUESTION 2: Was Obadiah a perfect prophet? Is there any such thing as a perfect prophet?

SAY • Although God had chosen Obadiah to share His message, Obadiah was not perfect. Jesus is the perfect Prophet! How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

KEY PASSAGE (CG: KEY PASSAGE) (Bible)

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

SAY • God's people found themselves in a difficult situation. Their country had been invaded and their brother nation did nothing to help them. Our key passage is found in the Book of Jeremiah. This Scripture reminds us that God knows everything we go through, and He has a plan. The verse doesn't promise that life will be easy, but it does show us that God's plans are good.

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's people were treated unfairly by their brother Edom. In a similar way, Jesus was mistreated by His own people. Like Edom, we too are guilty of idolatry—trusting in and worshiping things or people that are not God. This is sin and 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.

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.

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.

DISCUSSION

(Bibles)

SAY • God’s people were in trouble, but we are learning that God rescues His people. He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us! The Lord is faithful.

- Is it OK to pray for God to punish those that do bad things?
- How could praying for your enemies or showing kindness to them change how you feel about them?

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Obadiah. Choose a volunteer to read aloud verse 21. God saw that His people needed help that only He could give. God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

Choose another volunteer to read aloud Obadiah 21 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

- 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 death 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 eternal life. (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 did not get along. What could you do this week to get along with 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.)

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.

TURN THE TARP

(1 tarp per group)

Spread the tarp flat on the ground and guide group to stand on top of their assigned tarp. Challenge kids to turn the tarp completely over to the other side without any group members stepping off the tarp. Kids will need to plan and work together.

SAY • I saw quite a few creative solutions to this challenge. You all huddled close together, jumped and twisted and turned, and worked hard to solve this challenge! One thing's for sure, you were much more successful when you worked together. When God's people were under attack and the Edomites did nothing to help, it might have seemed like the people were doomed, but God was still with them.

God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King. When God is on your side, that's all you need! God punishes all sin. Everyone has sinned. Jesus died on a cross for our sin. Everyone who believes that Jesus died for sin and rose again will be forgiven!

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: BIBLE STORY CHARADES

(8-10 index cards per group, pencils, markers)

Ask for volunteers to act out a story from the Bible while the others guess which story or person it is.

Write descriptions of Bible stories on index cards for volunteers to read. Use this list or choose other Bible people your group would know: *God created the world; Noah built the ark; Moses parts the red sea; David and Goliath; Jonah was swallowed by a fish; Daniel in the Lions' Den; Jesus died; Jesus rose to life.*

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?

If time allows, have kids complete the Journal Page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Older Kids Activity Page, 1 per kid)

Hand each 4th-5th grade kid an Older Kids Activity Page and encourage them to do it at home with their family this week.

OPTIONAL TAKE HOME:

(Preteen Learner Guide Option)

For 5th Graders that would like some additional God Time this week.