

SESSION TITLE: Israel Taken Captive

BIBLE PASSAGE: 2 Kings 17

STORY POINT: Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured.

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Peter 3:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.

SCHEDULE

Introduce the Story	
(1) Activity Page & Intro Question	5 minutes
(2) Session Starter Activity	5 minutes
Teach the Story	
(3) Big Picture & Timeline	2 minutes
(4) Watch Bible Story Video	4 minutes
(5) Bible Story Discussion	4 minutes
(6) Sing & Key Passage	4 minutes
(7) Prayer	1 minute
Apply the Story	
(8) Coloring Page & Reflection	10 minutes

PREPARE the Home Session

Set aside some time to prepare for your session. This is a special and unique opportunity and is likely different from what kids are used to, which may cause some challenges. Pray over your time and prepare the best you can.

1. Print this packet, activity pages and coloring sheets. *
2. Gather necessary materials*
 - a. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
 - b. Internet-capable device (with Bible video cued)
 - c. Bible
 - d. Snack
3. Verbally prep children for the Sunday School lesson. Let them know your expectations for participating.

*** If you do not have a printer or the materials needed,** Anthem Kids Lead Nicole Raden has packets of supplies you can pick up at her home. Let Nicole know if you'd like to come pick up a packet via email at nicole.raden@anthemchurch.org or text at (360) 383-6411.

INTRODUCE the Story

(1) INTRO & ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

To introduce the lesson, print out the appropriate activity page for kids to complete. As they fill them out, ask the intro question to get them thinking about the lesson you will be covering.

MATERIALS

- Preschool Activity Page – “Leaving Home”
- Younger Activity Page – “What Does it Cost?”
- Older Activity Page – “Tribes of Israel”
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils

QUESTION - Prompt kids to discuss a time they were grounded or given a time-out.

SAY - Sometimes parents or teachers discipline you by taking away privileges. When you disobey, you may have to sit out while fun things happen. In today’s story, we will learn about a time God disciplined His people in a similar way. They were captured because of their disobedience.

(2) SESSION STARTER ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Red Light, Green Light

MATERIALS

- None

Play a game of “Red Light, Green Light” using the traditional rules of moving on green and stopping on red. You may add in additional colors of light with different instructions attached to each, such as yellow lights for slow motion movement, blue lights for hopping, purple lights for moving backwards, or pink lights for dancing.

SAY - In that game, a red light meant you had to stop immediately or risk being sent away from the goal. In our story, we will learn about a time God's people did not obey even though God repeatedly warned them to. We will learn how God disciplined them for their disobedience.

/// TRANSITION TO TEACH THE STORY ///

TEACH the Story

MATERIALS

- Internet-capable device (Computer, laptop, tablet)
- Bible
- Key Passage Printable

****Note****

If your children are young, you may want to summarize some of the intro and story explanation. It does not need to be read in its entirety.

(3) Big Picture Question & Timeline (2 minutes)

SAY - As we learn about God's people being punished for their sin, it's tempting to say that we obey God to avoid punishment or to make life easier. But that's not a good way to explain it. Our big picture question and answer offers a much more complete explanation. ***Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.***

God knows everything about everything, including everything about us. He knows what will give us lasting joy, and He paid a great price to make the way to be free from sin. He always does what is best for us, even when it isn't what we think would be easiest.

Our story today is a great example of God's best being very different from what people think is easiest. From the story of Jonah we learned that **God loves all people and showed mercy to the Ninevites**. From Hosea's life we learned **God is faithful to His people even when they do not love Him**. This week we will see what happened when God's people still would not repent and obey God. It's a sad story, but even in the sadness there is hope.

(4) Bible Story Video (3 minutes)

VIDEO TITLE - "Israel Taken Captive"

(5) Bible Story Discussion & Review (4 minutes)

SAY - Sin is dangerous. It leads us away from God. Sin damages us, our relationships with other people, and our relationships with God. Sin prevents us from enjoying the goodness of God. God hates sin because it causes people to worship things that do not deserve worship and because sin hurts people, whom God loves.

In a way, you can think about it like this: would your mom or dad buy you a fully grown, hungry tiger as a pet? If that tiger was certainly going to hurt you and try to eat you, would your parents say it was OK to own it as a pet? Of course not!

Your parents love you and want to protect you from things that can hurt you. If you kept going to a place where you were in danger, they may even ground you to keep you from going back to get hurt again. That's a little bit like what God did to the Israelites. They kept ignoring God's warnings and sinning against Him.

The Israelites may not have realized how badly their sin was hurting them, but God did. He loved them too much to allow them to keep sinning. He wanted something

better for them. **Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured.** Even in that sadness, God was working things together to bless His people.

[Christ Connection]

When the Israelites disobeyed God again and again, God punished them by removing them from His presence. We disobey God, but Jesus took the punishment for our sin upon Himself. Jesus brings us into God's presence and keeps us there.

Jesus' death was the final sacrifice for sin. It was enough to cover all sin, and His resurrection proved it. As a result, God forgives sinners who repent and turn to Jesus. God declares them righteous and adopts them into His family. We still choose sin sometimes, and we still have to deal with the consequences of sinful choices, but Christians will never again have to face separation from God as punishment for sin.

(6) Key Passage and Songs (4 minutes)

Note – the music videos have hand motions to move along with! Kids are more likely to participate if you do, so get ready to move. 😊

Show the key passage printable or find it in the Bible. Lead the kids to repeat it. Then sing the Key Passage songs to help commit these to memory.

MUSIC VIDEO TITLES (OPTIONS) -

1. The Lord Does Not Delay (Elementary – Key Passage Song)
2. The Lord is Patient with You (Preschool – Key Passage Song)
3. Come Thou Fount (Elementary)

(7) Prayer (1 minute)

SAY - Lord, Help us trust You and Your timing. Help us obey You out of love. Give us courage to share the gospel with everyone we meet. Thank You for sending Jesus to take our punishment and give us new life. We love You. Amen.

APPLY the Story

(8) Coloring Page & Reflection (10 minutes)

MATERIALS

- Printed coloring page (1 per child)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

As they color, guide kids to think about and answer questions reviewing and reflecting on the story. Rewatch the Bible Story video if needed.

PRESCHOOL REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- **Whom did God send to tell the people to stop doing wrong things?** (*men called prophets*)
- **What did the Assyrian army make all the Israelites do?** (*leave their homes and walk to Assyria*)
- **Why did God let the army make the Israelites prisoners?** (*They would not stop sinning.*)
- **Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He made us, He loves us, and His plans are good.**

ELEMENTARY REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find 2 Kings 17.

- **Who was the final king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom?** (*Hoshea, son of Elah; 2 Kings 17:1*)
- **Why did Hoshea turn to Egypt for help?** (*Hoshea did not want to pay money to Assyria, 2 Kings 17:4*)
- **Why did God allow Assyria to defeat and capture Israel?** (*The people would not listen to the prophets or obey God, 2 Kings 17:13-18*)
- **How is God's discipline a sign of His love?** *Guide kids to understand that sin hurts us and everyone around us. If God did not discipline His people for their sin, it would show that*

He does not want what was best for them. God's discipline helps teach His people to obey Him, which is for their own good.

- **What is the difference between consequences of sin and punishment for sin?** *Guide kids to see that sin still carries a price. When we make sinful choices, it still hurts us and those around us. Those are the consequences of sin. But the punishment of sin—death and separation from God forever—was laid on Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, His sacrifice covers our sin and makes us new.*
- **How do we know that believers in Jesus will never be punished for sin?** *Help kids see that Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate and final sacrifice. It was sufficient for all our sin. He rose from the dead, proving that sin no longer has power. When we believe in Jesus, we are declared righteous and united to God forever.*