



ISRAEL TAKEN CAPTIVE



2 KINGS 17

Instructions


The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

God had done so many good things for the Israelites. He had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and had taken care of them in a new land. He made a covenant with them and promised to be their God. Even though God loved them like a father, the Israelites forgot about God. They acted in the same way as the nations who did not know and love God. They worshiped things that were not God, and they did exactly what God told them not to do.

So God sent prophets to warn the people to stop doing evil things. Did Israel listen? No. The prophets said bad things would happen if they did not obey God. Did Israel obey? No. In fact, they sinned even more!

God finally had enough. He loved His people too much to let them continue in their sin and rebellion. So God punished the people of Israel by letting their enemies take over. Hoshea (hoh SHEE uh) was the last king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom. King Hoshea did evil things like the kings before him.



At this time, the people of Assyria and the people of Israel did not get along. Assyria's army was bigger and stronger than Israel's army, so King Hoshea paid the king of Assyria to leave Israel alone. But Hoshea had to do whatever the king of Assyria told him to do. Instead of asking God to help His people, Hoshea secretly asked the king of Egypt to protect Israel from Assyria. Now that Hoshea had a deal with Egypt, he stopped giving money to the king of Assyria.

One day, the king of Assyria and his army attacked Israel. King Hoshea was thrown into prison. The Assyrian army surrounded the city of Samaria, the capital of Israel. Samaria had a strong wall around the city. For three years, the Assyrians attacked the city. They did not let anyone bring supplies into the city.

Finally, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and forced the people to leave their homes. He bound them together with ropes and hooks, and he made them walk hundreds of miles to Assyria. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was destroyed.

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.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Guide Your kids to open their Bibles to 2 Kings 17. Remind kids that the last king of Israel was Hoshea.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did God allow the Assyrians to capture Israel? Did God give up on His people?
Help your kids understand that Israel's exile was God's judgment on their sin, but God was not finished working among His people. God was still working out His plan to keep His covenant promises through the people of Judah.
2. How is God good for disciplining His people?
Guide your kids to recognize that a good father does not let his children continue in disobedience. Discipline guides and trains a person in the right way to live. Point out that

God's discipline is proof of His love for us. God knows the best way to live and wants us to have life in Him

3. How did God punish our sin?

Lead your kids to discuss that the right punishment for sin is death. Instead of punishing us, God sent His Son. Jesus took the punishment we deserve. He died on the cross for our sin and rose again so we can have forgiveness and life with God forever.

SAY:

God allowed the Assyrians to take over Israel, and the Assyrians destroyed the city of Samaria. The people of Israel were taken to Assyria and scattered throughout the land. The Northern Kingdom was destroyed.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Help your kids find 2 Kings 17.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Who was the final king of Israel, the Northern Kingdom?

Hoshea, son of Elah; 2 Kings 17:1

2. Why did Hoshea turn to Egypt for help?

Hoshea did not want to pay money to Assyria, 2 Kings 17:4

3. 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

4. How is God's discipline a sign of His love?

Guide your 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.

5. What is the difference between the consequences of sin and punishment for sin?

Guide your 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.

6. How do we know that believers in Jesus will never be punished for sin?

Help your 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.

SAY:

Israel ignored God's prophets and was captured. Even so, God was faithfully keeping His promise to send a Messiah. At just the right time, Jesus came to pay for sin.