

Feb 28th - *Unit 17 Session 1* Elementary

Obadiah the Prophet

BIBLE PASSAGE: Obadiah

STORY POINT: God promised to restore Israel and rule the earth as King.

KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 29:11

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How is Jesus the perfect Prophet? Jesus perfectly reveals God the Father and fulfills what the prophets spoke.

Opening Activity: Guess that Bible Story

Have everyone take a turn and act out a story from the Bible while the others guess which story it is. Use this list or choose other Bible people your family would know: God created the world; Noah built the ark; David killed the giant Goliath; Jonah was swallowed by a fish; Jesus was born; Jesus died; Jesus rose to life.

Say: Today we will be going through another bible story, but listen closely to what is interesting about Obadiah's story. He's a prophet.

THE BIBLE STORY

God sent a message to Obadiah (oh buh DIGH uh) the prophet in a vision. God had news about a country called Edom (EE duhm). The people who lived in Edom were like brothers to the people in Judah. Both groups were descendants of Isaac's twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The people in Edom came from the family of Esau; God's people came from the family of Jacob. The people of Edom didn't love God. They worshiped false gods. They lived in the mountains and trusted the mountains and their own strength to protect them. The people thought they were better than everyone else. The Edomites didn't get along with God's people in Judah.

When the Babylonians took over the city of Jerusalem, the people in Edom just sat back and watched. They didn't try to protect Judah. The people of Edom even went into Jerusalem and took things that didn't belong to them. God said He was going to punish Edom. "Listen up!" God said. "Out of all the nations, you will be the least important. No one will like you. You were proud, and I will punish you. You thought you were safe, but I will bring you down."

Obadiah's message for the people of Edom was bad news. God was going to allow Edom's enemies to take away everything they had. Even the people who were their friends would steal from them. Many people would be killed. God said to Edom, "You were cruel to the people in Judah, so you will be punished. When Judah needed your help, you stood back and did nothing. You laughed and were happy that they were attacked. Every bad thing you did to others will be done to you."

"The Day of the Lord is near," Obadiah warned. "Every evil thing you did to others will be done to you." God said that the bad things that were happening to His people in Judah were only for a little while. God would deliver His people. "But when I punish you, Edom," God said, "everything will be destroyed." Obadiah's message from God had good news for God's people. "My people will have the land that belongs to Edom," God said. God's people would return to their homes and God would take care of His people, but Edom's punishment was forever.

Christ Connection: 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 activity

Read over the key passage Jeremiah 29:11. Say the new key passage in different fun voices! Examples: Dog voice, cowboy voice, cartoon voice.

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.

Discussion & Bible skills

Ask the following questions:

1. What consequences did Edom face for their mistreatment of Israel? Will we face what we deserve for our sin? Why? Lead your 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.

2. 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 your 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.

3. Do you think God can fix this broken world? Why? Allow your 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.

Craft: What would it look like?

Draw a picture on the paper provided of what you think the world will look like when Jesus returns! Jesus will make all things new, what does that look like?

Say: Jesus will return one day, but today we can do our best to love others, pray, and help others know who God is.

Reflection and prayer

Ask your kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

End by praying together