

## **January 17th - \*Unit 15 Session 5\* Elementary**

### **Judah Taken Captive**

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** 2 Chronicles 36

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

**KEY PASSAGE:** 2 Chronicles 7:14

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

#### **Opening Activity:** Plane Crash!

You are pretending that your plane crashed on a deserted island! Work together to find things around the house you will need to survive. Below is the answer key. Try to get all of these things around the house without looking at the answer key.

Answer Key: food, water, blanket, compass, flashlight/extra batteries or solar charged flashlight, canned food/can opener, umbrella, tarp, sunscreen, sunglasses, soap, clothes, printed pictures, hammock, scissors, first aid kit.

**Say:** Surviving on an island would be hard! You all had good ideas for making the best of the resources you had. Imagine being in a new land, far from home. Would you survive? We'll find out how God's people from Judah ended up so far from home.

## **THE BIBLE STORY**

The last four kings of Judah came from King Josiah's family. His three sons—Jehoahaz (jih HOH uh haz), Jehoiakim (jih HOY uh kim), and Zedekiah (ZED uh KIGH uh)—and his grandson Jehoiachin (jih HOY uh kin) each ruled as the king of Judah for a short time. Jehoahaz was not king for long. He did what was evil, and the king of Egypt came and made Jehoahaz a prisoner. The king stole silver and gold from Jehoahaz. Then he put Jehoahaz's brother Jehoiakim on the throne. The king of Egypt took Jehoahaz to Egypt. When Jehoiakim was king of Judah, he too did what was evil. The king of Babylon attacked Jehoiakim, made him a prisoner, and took him to Babylon. The king of Babylon stole some of the things from the Lord's temple and put them in his own temple. When Jehoiakim was taken away,

his son Jehoiachin became king of Judah. Jehoiachin was king of Judah for just three months. He too did what was evil. The king of Babylon sent for Jehoiachin and brought him to Babylon. The king of Babylon made Jehoiachin's uncle Zedekiah king of Judah.

Like his brothers, Zedekiah did what was evil. He led the people of Judah to do evil things too. The prophet Jeremiah warned Zedekiah that God would punish him, but Zedekiah did not listen. God was angry with the people of Judah. They sinned and did not obey God. But God loved His people. He wanted them to turn back to Him. God sent prophets to warn the people, but the people did not listen. Finally, it was time to punish the people of Judah for their sin. God allowed the king of Babylon and his army to attack Judah. Many of the people died. The king of Babylon took everything out of the Lord's temple and carried it back to Babylon. Then the king and his army burned the temple. They tore down the wall around the city and burned the palaces. Anything they did not take with them was destroyed. All of the people who were still alive were taken back to Babylon. The king forced them to be slaves. Everything the prophet Jeremiah had warned about happened, just like God said it would.

**Christ Connection:** God was right to punish His people for their sin, but He kept His promise to provide a king through David's family. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.

### **Key passage activity**

Lead your kids in reading 2 Chronicles 7:14 aloud together. Then see if they can say it in a pirate voice, a princess voice, a robot voice, and a doggie voice.

**Say:** God's people in Judah became captives in the land of Babylon, but that was not the end of their story. God's plan was not to leave them under their enemies. How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners.

### **Discussion & Bible skills**

Ask the following questions:

**1. Why did God allow the Babylonians to capture Judah? Did God give up on His people?** Remember that God promised to bring a Messiah into

the world through His people, and God always keeps His promises. Explain that the prophet Isaiah spoke about a remnant of God's people that would return to God, and like a small plant growing out of a tree stump, a righteous King would rise up and rule over God's people.

**2. How are we like the people of Judah?** Discuss that like the people of Judah, we deserve to be punished for our sin. But God loved us and sent His Son to take the punishment we deserve. Jesus never sinned. He died on the cross in our place, and He is alive!

**3. Can anyone's sin be too much for God to forgive?** Point out that for generations, God's people had rebelled against Him. They broke His laws and worshiped false gods. But when Jesus died on the cross, He died for all our sins—past, present, and future. No sin is beyond Jesus' forgiveness for everyone who trusts in Him.

**Craft:** Capture the Crown "Make-your-own-Game"

Draw 4 crowns on 4 slips (the dotted side of the paper). Make sure they are between the lines. You can also color the slips whatever you would like! Then cut out each slip. Flip them over so all you see is the white side. Then mix them up and see if someone can find all four crowns in just 5 turns!

**Say:** The kings in today's Bible story did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. God sent prophets to warn the people, but Judah ignored God's prophets and was captured. God sent Judah into captivity because of their sin, but He promised to gather them back together one day and give them new hearts and power to obey Him. How did God plan to fix what sin broke? Before He created the world, God planned to send the Messiah to save sinners. Ultimately, God punished our sin through His Son, Jesus, and made Him our King forever.

### **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**

